

Take steps and make change,
urged Minister Nel
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“Traditional leaders are leaders by
birth not choice”, Nkosi Matanzima
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EDITORIAL COMMENT



Editor : Ms Thando Sonjica

South Africa commemorates Women's Month in August as a tribute to the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in protest against the extension of Pass Laws to women. Our country will always be indebted to these women and their actions have set the tone for gender equality and empowerment in a democratic South Africa.

In recognition of this effort and many strides women have engaged in to assist in the liberation of the country, the government of South Africa declared August Women's Month and 9 August is celebrated annually as Women's Day.

As part of the Department of COGTA's efforts to advance women empowerment activities were organised throughout the month. These ranged from Round Table discussions with Daughters of the Eastern Cape, session with municipal officials that deal with gender mainstreaming and transformation,

Women's Day event and Imbumba Yamakhosikazi Akomkhulu (IYA) dialogues. Read about these inspiring stories on pages 6 and 8.

Linked to these empowerment stories was another inspiring story of the Mandela Day activity held in Cala in the Sakhisizwe Municipality where Deputy Minister Nel for Cogta asked everyone to take a step and make change in remembrance of the late President Mandela. Read more about this on page 3.

Another thorny issue that is close to the hearts of many South Africans is the reality of young men who continue to face uncalled death during the initiation season in the Eastern Cape Province. In trying to address this scourge the department organised a manhood summit and find out more about this on page 5.

Please take time to read more about the programmes that the department has undertaken during this quarter and enjoy the read.

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PARENTS, COMMUNITY AND CIVIL SOCIETY NEED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN INITIATION PROCESS, SUMMIT TOLD

By Welile Jack

“As long as parents, community, and civil society are not taking an active role in this old age ritual, young men will continue to face uncalled death. These were the words of the Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Chief Ngangomhlaba Matanzima during a two day manhood summit. The summit held in Mthatha in September was organised by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

The overriding objective of the summit was to respond to the perpetual outcry of parents, communities and the South African nation at large at the serious challenges tearing this important custom apart. The summit was graced and honoured by the presence of King Mpendulo Sigcau, Deputy Minister for COGTA, Obed Bapela, MEC for COGTA Fikile Xasa, Nkosi Matanzima and attracted young people across the Provinces.

The summit unpacked the meaning of manhood and the values that underpin it and also sought to assess and review the impact of the current strategies as well as to complement those that are still functional and relevant. It also focused on the misbehaviour and lack of respect by some young men especially after having undergone the initiation process.

Speaking at the summit Deputy Minister Bapela said “we need to bring back pride in our culture and tradition by changing our youngster mind set and the way they look at the outside world. The communities need to

get rid of syndicate that are there to commercialize and make quick money of the custom. He said the role of the families is to embrace customs of the family.

The MEC for EC COGTA Fikile Xasa said other objectives of the summit is to preserve the reverence attached to the practice of ulwaluko in the midst of serious man made challenges. The death of young initiates is due to septicaemia, assault, hypothermia, acute respiratory distress and subcutaneous haemorrhage as cause of death, gangrene, dyspnoea and kidney failure.

Nkosi Matanzima said the custom must be owned and controlled by communities not government. He said criminals who use the custom for their own agendas must be brought to books for prosecution.



Amakrwala



MEC Xasa



Nkosi Matanzima

Deputy Minister Bapela

GENDER TRANSFORMATION IN MANAGEMENT POSITIONS NEEDS TO SPEED UP

By Dumisani Lindi



Municipal Officials

Municipal Officials that deal with gender mainstreaming in different municipalities gathered at East London in August at the request of Head of Department for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) Ms Nombulelo Hackula to discuss issue around gender transformation and listen to the report on Commission on Gender Equity (CGE).

Ms Hackula explained that the department of COGTA's mandate is to support all 45 municipalities in our province. HOD further revealed that at the moment there are only three municipal managers out of forty five municipalities in the Eastern Cape Province. "We will have to work on this issue of transformation in municipalities and the scenario above needs to change. The issue of gender transformation is a problem nearly everywhere even in our department females in top management stand at 34%, she added.

She explained that because of the equity plan COGTA will be looking at hiring more women in institutions, and "we are going to have to find ways of attracting these women to those post" said HOD Hackula, "We will take this equity plan and discuss it in the Munimec meeting with Mayors and Municipal Managers. To maximise the productivity of this

Province we need to concentrate on young people and woman. Let us face it women rarely leave the Province because of the families they look after", "We also need to make them understand that change is not an option it has to happen for the good of the Province," she said.

Presenting the state of gender equality and transformation at COGTA, Special Programmes Unit Manager; Ms Nombasa Nkomana said her Unit has looked at way to mainstream gender equality and transformation so that they can empower women into leadership positions. She said they were planning to assess all 45 municipalities when it comes to pillars of Back to Basics and "we shall zoom in the need of each municipality".

"We have programmes that target youth and women and some create work opportunities like Municipal Infrastructure Unit as well as Community Work Programme". She said at COGTA they are progressing in empowering communities especially women and youth. "Let us understand that for freedom to be really achieved we need to liberate our women and stop oppressing them", explained Ms Nkomana.

Also speaking at the CGE session Mrs Nomsisi Bata from the Commission for Gender Equality said that the Commission was established to fight for women's rights. "Even our Charter is tailor made to fit issues that affect African women, like polygamy and arranged early childhood marriages. We are here to fight these issues because in all of this women suffer the most," said Ms Bata.

Ms Bata explained that the Commission has the power to contest unfair decisions taken against women. "We once had a case of a woman who was married under customary law and was forced to marry the brother of her late husband or risk losing everything. We fought that battle for her and won," said Ms Bata.

She further said as the Commission they fight to ensure that women are treated equally as their counterparts especially in positions of management. She said the CGE has been established in all Provinces and empowering women is its sole mandate, "because we believe that when you empower a woman you empower the nation," said Ms Bata.

Mrs Hackula said vacant positions of Municipal Managers and Chief Financial Officers post in the municipality should be filled by women who are competent to do the job.



Miss Nombasa Nkomana of Special Programmes Unit at COGTA



COGTA HOD, Ms Hackula



Ms Bata

TAKE STEPS AND MAKE CHANGE, URGED MINISTER NEL

By Nowethu Goniwe

“Take steps and make a change”. This was the message of the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Mr Andries Nel during the Mandela Day event held at Sakhisizwe Municipality at Cala.

Minister Nel visit was as a result of the request by the Presidency for all Deputy Ministers to visit various Local Municipalities across the country in celebration of all Thematic and Institutionalised months. COGTA Deputy Minister Andries Nel, selected Sakhisizwe Local Municipality as his area of responsibility for the International Nelson Mandela Month.

“The Deputy Minister's focused on mass social mobilisation, highlighting a collective responsibility by government, in the establishment of the Community Work Programme (CWP), and the success thereof said Mr Thozamile Faba who is the Deputy Director General at Cogta who also formed part of the entourage from National Cogta.

Welcoming guest at the event Mayor of Sakhisizwe municipality Mr Jentile said he appreciated the visit by government as they were providing services regularly in their area. “We have Expanded Public Works Programme that is working well in this municipality and more than 10 000 people benefit from these programmes, said Mayor Jentile.

Highlighting the purpose of the CWP the Executive Mayor of Chris Hani, Councillor Koyo stated that it was designed to give skill to the people and also to give them some stipend that will eliminate poverty. “This is a

temporary job of 2 two days a week which is also meant to assist people of South Africa. This programme is from National Department of Cogta,” said, Mr Koyo.

Speaking at the event Minister Nel said “We have gathered here to celebrate the month of Tata Mandela, and therefore we need to take steps and make a change”. He said poverty could be eliminated through good deeds and assured people of Sakhisizwe that as government they were committed to eradicating poverty. He said that he was pleased that CWP in Cala had youth participating. “Our government gives youth work and experience”, said Deputy Minister.

He also reminded people that Tata Mandela loved children and “therefore we have to follow in his steps of taking good care and look after our children. “Masigcine sikhusele abantwana”, meaning we must look after our children, Minister Nel added.

After the speeches the Deputy Minister with other political leaders visited various CWP projects such as Cala Community School where CWP assisted by cementing the school and painting walls. Mr Ntsikelelo Nohashe who is the Principal of the refurbished school expressed heartfelt gratitude for the work done by CWP.

The entourage proceeded to the Training centre where there were students who were trained by ITEC Training in Basic computer skills and the Deputy Minister handed over certificates.

The entourage further proceeded to Tsengiwe Community garden where political principals planted different seedlings and the Department of Agriculture donated the community with seedling as well. There was also a structure build next to a clinic which would be used a soup kitchen by members of the community who would be visiting the clinic.



Deputy Minister Nel and Mayor Jentile ploughing vegetables,



Mayor of Chris Hani District, Councillor Koyo, Deputy Minister Nel and Councillor Jentile painting a school.



Deputy Minister Nel - inspecting a mudhouse



Community work programme participant speaking at the event.



Minister Nel and two Mayors during a handing over of certificates to the participants.

EMPOWERMENT IS AN INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY, WOMEN ADVISED

By Nowethu Goniwe



Ms Sindiswa Nyaba - Senior Manager for District Coordination at Chris Hani District Municipality

Know yourself, mind your language, be an agent of change and learn to fight your own battles. These were the pillars of the speech delivered by the guest speaker Mrs Mohammed during a woman's day event held by the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta).

The event organised by Special Programme's Unit was held at Skenjana Roji hall at Bisho in August.

Welcoming and giving purpose of the day Ms Thembeke Ncume, the General Manager –Corporate Services said Women's month is the only time that women have the opportunity to engage and reflect on challenges facing them in the work place and socially. "So it is up to us to find a way of addressing these challenges and that requires tremendous courage and determination.

Ms Ncume reflected back to the previous year's themes starting from 2012-to this current year's celebrations theme and said in all those themes there was common word which is empowerment. "It starts with you to take responsibility of your own empowerment and to ask ourselves what have we been doing about the information that has

been shared with us all these years", said Mrs Ncume.

Explaining her perspective of the day, the Head of Department Mrs Nombulelo Hackula said as women we are leaders in our own right. "Mothers are always there for their children and homes, we must not underestimate our role as heads of our families.

She further highlighted that one of the things that hinder our progress is confinement. She also emphasised the importance of working as teams "since you learn from one another in a team", said HOD. She also talked about holistic development of a woman. "You need to feed the soul, pray for your children, take your program to God, plan for the steps to follow and then operationalise", HOD added.

She further advised the attendees to think out of the box, appreciate one another and to move away from a place that is delaying. "We are servants, let us go to work and make it happen, we are here to help people of Eastern Cape", she said.

HOD urged everybody to utilise bursaries that are available in the department saying that one's first degree is only a key and that development is everybody's responsibility.

Mrs Mohammed further said it was difficult when one was dealing with people who do not know who they are. "When you know who you are you are able to develop yourself and it's easy to overcome problems. "Know your strong points, run in your own lane and be wise", said Mrs Mohammed.

She also advised the attendees to mind their language since there is power in the tongue and that words are irreversible. She said women must be agents of change and that they must shine in the corners where they are. "Let the people know you have arrived, live a mark in whatever you do" Mrs Mohammed added.

Talking about learning to fight one's own battles she said that life is not a beauty contest, it is about war and fights and when you fight use the right tools. Life is war you fight your own way. She also highlighted that life is spiritual. "Know something about your maker (God) and keep faith because this is a spiritual fight. She said people should learn to finish the race, speak positive words, do things to the best of their abilities and learn to adapt to changes", said Mrs Mohammed.



Ms Thandeka Dlamkile and Ms Nomuyiselo Ngqame both general workers at COGTA



L-R: Ms Boniswa Sakhele, Ms Thamie Mosehana and Ms Nonkululeko Kweyama

FIVE (5) UNVIABLE MUNICIPALITIES DUE FOR MERGER

By Mamnkeli Ngam



Municipal Managers and Senior Officials of the Department of COGTA

Cogta Head of Department (HOD) Nombulelo Hackula announced that five (5) non-viable municipalities in the Eastern Cape have been identified by the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) for merger with the viable municipalities. Speaking during a two day technical MuniMEC meeting held at the East London IDZ recently, Hackula said these municipalities were identified due to their low revenue base, service delivery backlogs, poor audit performance and the fact that they are dependent on grant funding.

The MuniMEC meeting is a quarterly session attended by Municipal Managers, representatives of sector departments and state owned enterprises to thrash out issues of service delivery and learn best practices.

In the Chris Hani District Municipality area the proposed mergers are Lukhanji, Inkwanca and the Tarkastad part of Tsolwana. The Hofmeyer part of Tsolwana goes to Inxuba Yethemba. In the Amathole District, Nxuba and Nkonkobe will be merged whereas in the Sarah Baartman District, Bavians, Ikwezi and Camdeboo will be merged subject to MDB consultation processes. In Joe Gqabi Gariep and Maletswai will be merged.

Hackula added that work still needs to be done to establish the political and technical Change Management Committees (CMC) composed of all key stakeholders including District Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers of the affected municipalities, traditional leaders, South African Local Government Association (SALGA), etc. The CMC will be chaired by the Executive Mayor of the District Municipality.

“The political CMC will provide overall support and guidance within the context of the 55 restructuring and amalgamation processes. The committees will also exist to unblock blockages as well as ensure compliance with regard to laid down time frames and legislative requirements.” “The technical CMC on the other hand must ensure that although municipalities are still autonomous entities when the restructuring process starts, municipalities must work towards a new structure that will be functional by the election date in 2016,” she said.

Hackula said the political CMC has a responsibility to drive public participation sessions to take the affected communities on board the merger process and its implications. Meanwhile, Hackula appreciated the 96% expenditure on the 2014 Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). She said the R126 million roll over is noted with concern given the backlogs the huge infrastructure backlogs that exist in the Province.

“We must join hands to provide the necessary support jointly to avoid roll over of funds and turn things around. Equally important is visible monitoring of the impact of our service delivery programmes on the ground.”

“We need to lead with a conscious mind to create better communities in an integrated fashion. We also need to master the role of local government and change the face of the EC Province,” said Hackula. She also encouraged municipalities to enforce by-laws to curb lawlessness, promote cleanliness and implementation of good trading principles.

She was further pleased with state of readiness on the upcoming local government elections by various Municipalities and promise the Eastern Cape will deliver credible, free and fair 2016 elections. Hackula also proposed that an “early warning system” should be put in place as a proactive response to complaints and queries from communities before they escalate to service delivery protests.

MEC XASA TAKES OUTREACH PROGRAMME TO ELLIOTDALE

By Siphiwo Stemele

During September 2015, MEC for the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Fikile Xasa took his outreach program to Emadwaleni hospital (Elliotdale) in Amathole District Municipality in an effort to consolidate, monitor and respond swiftly to public service delivery concerns.

Mr Thabo Mdukiswa senior manager for Municipal Public Participation at COGTA said the purpose of the outreach was to give government opportunity to interact with people. “It is a government policy to bring government closer to the people. The principal aim is to minimise poverty and take development to a higher level,” said Mr Mdukiswa. At a meeting held at Madwaleni Hospital government departments tasked to deliver services directly to communities were given a platform to update or inform the residents about the expected services in their community.

Addressing the community at the meeting, MEC Xasa said the country has been divided into wards to bring the services closer to the people better. “We have Community Development Workers (CDWs), Community Health Workers, Chiefs and others whose duty is to render services to the people.

He further said Dr Mandela taught them that people needed roads, electricity, houses and other services. “We are still on track and we have not forgotten our mandate, though at times the pace may not be of required standards. We take responsibility for all service delivery needs you have raised here. We are not just listening but we know that we need to respond to your needs and take you out from poverty,” said MEC.

He explained that war rooms in the ward was about visiting people in their back yards to listen to their needs. “Municipal councillors should be available amongst people to hear your needs. He added that half the population of our country have their houses electrified and the government have plans to supply more households with electricity. He explained that school nutrition was not mean to buy votes but to feed the nation. “A hungry nation can easily sell the country. Our government is prioritising countries needs”, MEC continued.

However he voiced his dissatisfaction about poor workmanship of the government projects by service providers. He urged the community to report people who are defrauding the government to law enforcement agencies. He further appealed to people not to destroy government structures when they need something else.

IYA HOLDS COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

By Nowethu Goniwe



Ms Mpushe



Community members from Tabalesoba

The Rural Development and Community Facilitation Directorate of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs hosted the Imbumba Yamakhosikazi Akomkhulu (IYA) community dialogue with the community of Tabalesoba Administrative Area and the stakeholders of that area.

Highlighting the purpose of the day, Mrs Tikiso the Chieftainess of that area said they were there to share the best practises and come up with solutions of how to deal with issues such as crime, poverty, alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, youth unemployment and high rate of diseases. "We as IYA members have a duty to look after the welfare of this community. We called this meeting because we have seen that things are getting out of hand in this community. She said women were drinking heavily, abandoning their children and their wifely duties. She further said women were exchanging strong words with each other and also abusing each other. "We therefore want to restore the dignity of women in this community. Our youth are degenerating into gangsterism such that there is group called Mahatamo that are raping and killing people," said Mrs Tikiso.

Among the stake holders invited were Department of Social Development, Department of Health, Commission for Gender Equality, South African Police Services Eastern Cape Legislature and Department of Arts and Culture. All the stakeholders explained about the services they are rendering and promised to come back to conduct door to door campaigns so as to find solutions to the problems that existed in that area.

Mr M. Cuba from the department of Social Development explained that they were there to ensure welfare of people and their development. He also explained about the services that are being offered by his

department such as Child support grant, Foster Care grant and old age pension. He also promise to come back at Tabalesoba and do door to door campaign to hear what has happened " Social workers and Health visited schools to make awareness about the use of drugs, and next time I will talk with older people about crime prevention and victim empowerment program , said Mr Cuba . He also promised that Tabalesoba will be made a pilot project for family based model of social services that has been recently introduced by their MEC.

Mrs Mbolekwa from the Department of health explained the meaning of being a mother and also shared with the attendees that in the statics of that area Women have high rate of HIV, TB and High Blood pressure and urged people to make use of clinics that were built for them by the government and also said that there is malnutrition in children yet they are getting grant.

Ms Phumeza Mpushe of the Eastern Cape Legislature said they in the area to find out about issues and give assistance where possible. Let us take care of our lives and show love and loyalty to each other" said Ms Mpushe. She also urged that all stake holders must be taken on board and that there must be follow ups where victims will talk for themselves. "Let us do things that will change our lives for the better", said Ms Mpushe .

Mrs Nozizwe Somfongo, the Acting General Manager of Traditional Affairs said the department of COGTA was there to coordinate things to happen and to empower communities to have access to information. She promised to have programme of action to address the challenges at Tabalesoba. She expressed appreciation of the relationship between the Councillors and Traditional Leaders of that area. "Development is not a one man show," said Mrs Somfongo.

OUR CORE BUSINESS IS TO SUPPORT MUNICIPALITIES

By Siphiso Stemele



MEC Fikile Xasa told senior officials of the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) that it cannot be right for the department to spend 52% of budget on travelling. "That must come to an end as our core business is to support municipalities," said MEC. This he said during a two day strategic planning and review session held at Border Cricket Stadium in East London in September 2015.

MEC told officials that government was not financially sound and the extravagance in spending will not be tolerated. He also cautioned on deviations which he said do not reflect good on government. "We want clean audit and we will deal with officials who are hell bent to work against that" said MEC.

He further advised the gathering that their planning must be guided by the vision of the department which strives to become "an integrated, capable, responsive and accountable local government and traditional institution system focussing on the needs of the community."

He said there was a need for all public servants to perform their official duties with fresh vigour to create better communities and a better life for all. We are beginning to see professionals not being professionals but wanting to be politicians and wanting to get into factions. Im the only politician in the department and let us ensure that we leave politics to politicians," he warned.

MEC said the department has taken the next steps towards achieving the priorities of the Developmental State, improving public services and strengthening democratic institutions through functional Ward Committees, the establishment of Service War Rooms, as well as the Back to Basics(B2B) implementation structures at District levels. "We are turning the corner in strengthening the local government system and transforming traditional leadership institutions to become vital cogs in the wheel of service delivery," he said.

He pointed out that as a coordinating department we cannot plan without service delivery oriented departments such as human settlement, water and sanitation, roads and public works, "as they have direct impact in changing lives of our people for better," said MEC Xasa.

However he said if Cogta is a co-ordinating department, there must be a form of authority that is given to the department. "We need a stronger name than co-ordinating so that we get some authority," said MEC.

He requested the meeting to assess the skills levels of the department in implementing back to basics. He said Cogta's policy speech reflects that gradually district offices will be re-opened. "I therefore urge you to speed up the process and revamp the offices to boost the public respect for the front offices," he said.

MEC urged the officials to strengthen support to municipalities and traditional institutions. "That is our core business and the implementation of the District Support Centre Model is critical, in this respect, he said. He also said the process of restructuring the department needs to be speeded up. He said some municipalities will be amalgamated and that process will not be outsourced because there are people employed to that (function). If they do not have that skill they must be capacitated,said MEC.

Speaking at also at the session,Head of department (HOD) of Cogta, Ms Bea Hackula said before the department strategizes it needs to first reflect on how it had performed previously. "The fact that we have deviations in the first quarter means we are not planning properly, she said.

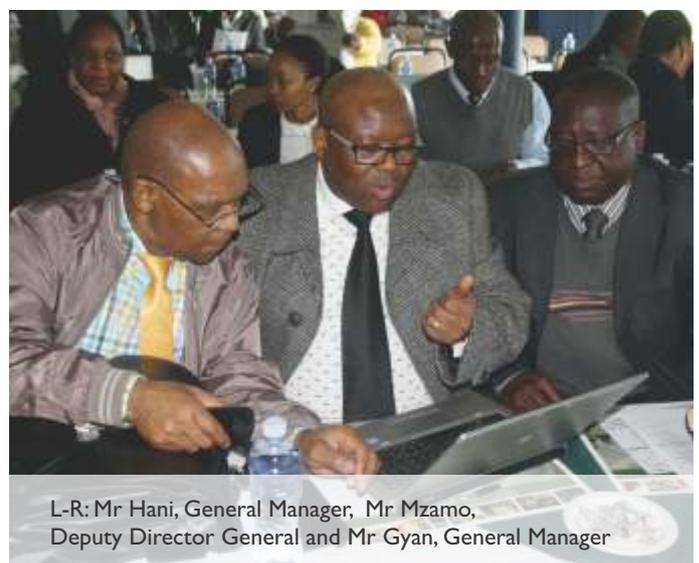
He called upon the Chief Financial Officer to establish a committee to deal with irregular expenditure and said there must be consequence management for such (irregular expenditure). He said Cogta should do an analysis of where most money is spend so that it develops contracts for such.

She further said as Cogta we need to be on track with our Information Communication Systems (ICT) before we advise municipalities on ICT. "This needs to be prioritised," she advised.

She said as Cogta we should position the six Kingdoms in our province as service delivery hubs.

Prince Zolile Burns- Ncamashe of the House of Traditional leaders (HoTL) highlighted the functions of the HoTL which amongst others is to discuss Traditional Bills , initiation programme, resolve disputes etc. He said if the HoTL continues to be underfunded then they would not be able to perform their constitutional duties.

Prince Burns Ncamashe urged government to utilise the multipurpose centres that are located in Traditional Councils to bring services closer to the people.



L-R: Mr Hani, General Manager, Mr Mzamo, Deputy Director General and Mr Gyan, General Manager

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH DAUGHTERS OF THE EASTERN CAPE

By Dumisani Lindi



L-R: Ms Mokgadi, MS Xasa and Ms Hackula

Daughters of the Eastern Cape campaign which is a call on women who are game changers to support programmes and projects of the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) was held in East London at the end of August.

The purpose of the session according to the hostess, Ms Bea Hackula, the head of department of Cogta was to focus on initiatives towards women emancipation, with particular focus on young women and rural women within the Eastern Cape.

Amongst those who attended the discussion was the Deputy Minister for Tourism Mrs Thokozile Xasa, Ms Rachel Mokgadi and business women and senior government females.

“The purpose of this session is to discuss amongst us as women what is needed to empower other women in the province” said HOD. She said women need to stick together to make the difference in our province. She explained that two weeks back she had a session with Imbumba Yamakhosikazi Akomkhulu (IYA) where they discussed ways to use all six Kingdoms to develop women in rural areas”, “You know when you develop a woman you develop a nation, she said.

She further said women needed to sit in board meetings making decisions that will see the development of our province. “We need to stop this thinking that women are good for catering and decorations business. We want women who will venture into construction, be a suppliers to big companies, run big companies and not be sub contracted. We need women who are strong, willing to take the baton and run with it and as government we will try by all means to empower them,” said HOD Hackula.

Speaking also at the event Mrs Mokgadi who a business woman said women needed to change the situation the province was in (always at the bottom of things). “Remember this province was the most vocal and produced many leaders for it to be so neglected and poor” she added. She said women need to stand for themselves, “We need to stop being victims and push for gender transformation. As women we need to associate ourselves with relevant people, be a lioness and go after the thing you want, push till it happens. Remember even if you fail I believe that is when you get innovative”, she said.

Ms Mokgadi encouraged women to take charge and have the I will attitude no matter what.

She said woman should start working together and build what is called trust. “Trust might seem like an easy word but you know when the trust is built it is easy to do things, doors get opened and opportunities come through. She said women of the Eastern Cape need to accelerate local economic development for the betterment of the Eastern Cape.

Giving a key note of address Ms Xasa said “when our parents call us daughters we feel proud and the pride make us want to achieve more.” I am sure all women here are pioneers in their fields but most important they are daughters of the Eastern Cape. She said our province was once respected in the era of struggle and we had leaders of stature then. “We still do but they scattered all over South Africa looking for greener pastures.” she said.

She said the Eastern Cape Province has women leaders and “we need to rope them in to empower others in our province. We have women who are Company Executive Officers (COEs) running huge companies. Why can't we just entice them back to bring those companies in the Eastern Cape” asked Ms Xasa.

Deputy Minister urged women to start on working towards improving economic development and put women in the forefront of this transformation stage. She further encouraged them to produce their own goods and not depend on outside investors who might decide to disinvest leaving the people of the province without jobs.



Daughters of the Eastern Cape who are in Business, Private and Public Sectors.

“TRADITIONAL LEADERS ARE LEADERS BY BIRTH NOT CHOICE”, SAYS NKOSI MATANZIMA

By Dumisani Lindi

The 4th of September 2015 was a monumental day for the clan of AmaQwathi as the day marked the anointment of Somidaka Zweloxolo Stokwe as their Chief. The ceremony took place at Seplan at EmaQwathini homestead near Cala, in the Sakhisizwe municipality.

Amongst those who attended the ceremony were King Siyambonga Matanzima, Queen Noloyiso Sandile, Chief Ngangomhlaba Matanzima and Mr Gwede Mantashe. Welcoming the guests, Mayor of Sakhisizwe municipality, Cllr Mlamli Jentile congratulated the Chief and said “We hope that you lead our people the way those before you did. He said since September is the Heritage month, at Sakhisizwe they were embarking on processes of name changes to coincide with their roots. “Very soon the town of Elliot will change its name to Ikhowa” added Mayor Jentile.

The Mayor emphasised that traditional leaders were needed by the municipality to assist in matters of service delivery. “We are lucky that Chief Stokwe serves with us in the council and his inputs are valuable in the running of the municipality. These are the kind of leaders we need for the betterment of our communities” said Cllr Jentile.

Giving a message of support at the same event on behalf of the House of Traditional Leaders Chief Ngangomhlaba Matanzima said traditional leaders were leaders by birth not by choice. He further said amaQwathi have a rich history of how they fought to preserve their land and that history should be gazetted as it played vital part in the freedom we have today. We need to remember that even before the African National Congress (ANC) was formed we had resistance against colonialism hence it was decided that an organisation should be formed and that is how the ANC was born.

He further explained that people need to know and understand that the ANC's heritage is intertwined with Traditional Leaders. “It is because of the Traditional Leaders that the ANC is what it is today hence we have two Legislative Houses in South Africa, the Parliament and the National House of Traditional Leaders.



Chief Stokwe receiving certificate of recognition from MEC Xasa

He called upon Chief Stokwe to be strong, vigilant and be the leader he was born to be. “Lead your people, never divide them. We are here to place you in your fathers seat and you will keep it for those to come. Take care of your nation and they will take care of you. Remember to go back to basics never let your people go hungry, plough fields, raise herds and remember a listening leader is a good leader” said Chief Ngangomhlaba.

Giving a key note address MEC for the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Fikile Xasa said as government they have a responsibility to assist traditional leaders so they can lead with outmost passion. “Remember Traditional Leaders were born to lead so that is what is expected of them” said MEC Xasa.

MEC said he needed to caution traditional leaders on the abuse of alcohol. “No leader can lead a nation drunk so we as government we would appreciate if our traditional leaders can stay away or when they do drink they do it responsibly” said MEC Xasa in.

In his reply Chief Stokwe thanked the department of COGTA and the municipality for the support they have given to Amaqwathi clan. “I promise to lead my people with respect they deserve and to take care of them and never divide them,” he said

EVERYBODY NEEDS TO ACCOUNT”, MUNIMEC TOLD

By Siphiwo Stemele

“Everybody needs to account from National, Provincial and Local sphere of government. These were the opening remarks of MEC for the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), honourable Fikile Xasa during a quarterly political MuniMec meeting held at Cala, in Sakhisizwe municipality recently.

He said the MuniMec was an important platform to share information and an opportunity for them as politician to engage one another. “This is a political platform for all of us to deal with service delivery issues facing us,” said MEC Xasa.

MEC Xasa and HOD Hackula He further explained that Munimec is a platform where service delivery issues are channelled through political office bearers like councillors and accounting officers (Municipal Managers) to the relevant MECs.

He added that if there was no authority to coordinate it would be difficult to make various departments to account about service delivery issues. MEC Xasa shared that the Minister of Cogta was planning a summit for B2B. He said the Minister was concerned that not all municipalities are reporting on B2B, because if that was the case that that would mean a positive change.

He further announced that there was a moratorium in appointing Headmen in the department of Cogta. “Infact we have also stopped appointing chiefs as we are auditing what we have in our system,” he added.

On the other hand MEC spoke about small towns which he said were suffocated with land claims and this he said hinders negatively to development. “People should be told that land around towns is for development and the government should be willing to respond to those claims. He then urged mayors to strength by-laws in their respective municipalities to regulate business in their space.

MEC Xasa also highlighted the fact that War-rooms will be a reality only when the ward councillors are dirtying their hands with service delivery issues. He also said those collecting service fees like refuse removal on behalf of government (service providers) should have human face.

MEC said municipalities should share and learn best practises from other municipalities within the province, or nationally and other neighbouring countries.

QUEEN CALLS ON WOMEN TO HAVE SELF CONFIDENCE

By Dumisani Lindi & Thando Sonjica



L-R: Deputy Speaker of EC Legislature Ms Tunyiswa, Queen Madosini Ndamase and MEC Xasa.

Women need to get educated and have self-confidence to play their roles in their communities. This was the message from Queen Madosini Ndamase, the President of Imbumba Yamakhosikazi Akomkhulu (IYA) during a gala dinner to celebrate their 10th anniversary. The two day event in line with August being the Womens Month was hosted by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) at Mngqesha Great Place, outside King Williams Town last month. IYA, a forum of Queens and wives of Traditional Leaders was formed in 2005 with a vision to champion programmes and projects to improve the lives of women and children in rural communities.

Reflecting on the life of IYA Queen Ndamase said, "We stood up because we were not recognised and were discriminated. Some people saw us a baby making machines. I urge women to have confidence in themselves, we have big roles to play in society. We must get educated because if you educate a woman, you educate the nation," said Queen Ndamase. She added that as IYA in their respective traditional councils they get involved in youth dialogues about negative issues that affect the youth such as pregnancy, drug abuse and HIV/Aids issues.

"We also participate in cancer awareness campaigns with the support from the department of health and in male initiation awareness programmes. We know our role as women in the initiation process and we do not want to take over from men and go to the initiation schools

(amabhoma)," she said. Welcoming the guests at the celebrations Queen Noloyiso Sandile of the Rharhabe Kingdom said It is in our nature as women to take care of our children, we carry them for nine months, raise them and guide them to the direction so that one day they can become assets to empower mankind. IYA is like that child to us," said Queen Noloyiso.

Speaking at the same event MEC for COGTA, Fikile Xasa said traditional leadership institutions should be at the heart of the economic development of their communities utilising Amakomkhulu as "economic-hubs" to resuscitate development of infrastructure to create job opportunities.

"If we are to achieve the objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030, we have no choice but to go back to basics wherein Amakomkhulu become nerve centres for rural development and moral regeneration programmes."

MEC Xasa added that, "Whether we like it or not women are the backbone of this country or every country for that matter and assisting them in what they need can result in good things and thus making our country strong. The purpose of this event is to say thank you for the job well done in the past ten years and wish that this will go on for years to come," said MEC Xasa.

In his key note address the Deputy Minister of Traditional Affairs, Obed Bapela praised IYA for the work they have done during the ten years of their existence. "Women like you need to be commended for the great job they are doing. I would love to see other provinces around South Africa forming the same organisations as IYA. These women organisations like IYA need all the support they can get (from government) as they are pillars of strength to rural women and children," said Deputy Minister.



L-R: Miss Peters, Ms Gcilitshane, HOD Hackula and Chieftainess Mhlauli.

MASIBUYELE KUNDALASHE: MABAYE BEPHILA, BABUYE BEPHILA, SIYAZINGCA NGESIKO LETHU



“BACK TO BASIC MEANS BETTER LIFE FOR THE COMMUNITIES” SAID MEC XASA

By Dumisani Lindi

The MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Honourable Fikile Xasa together with the Head of Department (HOD) Ms Nombulelo Hackula and senior officials visited Sarah Baartman District Municipality to engage with stakeholders and the municipality on the Back to Basics (B2B) campaign. The two day session took place at Kirkwood Correctional services on 04-05 August 2015.

Explaining the purpose of the meeting on day one to stakeholders from the local municipalities, HOD Hackula said, “We are here to explain B2B programme to the stakeholders and as the department we were mandated to implement the B2B programme and make sure that it is understood”.

Ms Hackula clarified that they were there to listen to issues of service delivery. She explained that one of the pillars of B2B is Good Governance and said they wanted all municipalities to implement good governance. We are here to check on the condition of the municipality and will assess the municipality administratively as well as on service delivery issues. We want each and every municipality to perform well administratively and on issues of delivery of services,” said HOD.

Speaking to ward committees, ward councillors and community development workers (CDWs) during the same meeting MEC Xasa said B2B was launched in the province last year so that there could be better life for our communities. He said when they speak better life they should speak to ward committees, councillors and CDWs because communities reside in wards. “So we need you to play your role for the betterment of the people's lives”, he said.

He further explained that the B2B campaign would assist communities in understanding the role of the CDW and their relevance to communities. “To be honest people don't know the role of some CDWs so to CDWs B2B is the opportunity to show the communities how relevant you are” said MEC Xasa.

MEC reminded the attendees that the Local Government elections were around the corner so all in the municipalities will be held accountable to the people. “We need to assess what has been done and talk to the people about what needs to be done together” added MEC Xasa.

He emphasised that communication with communities is the key to avoid problems like protesting. “We are urging Ward committees, Councillors, and CDWs to talk to their communities explain to them

every process taken by the municipality to better their lives. Especially the CDW because unlike us (politicians) they are permanent employees so am challenging them to put extra effort in ensuring that service delivery take place,” said MEC Xasa.

MEC Xasa urged the municipalities to put the need of the people first which was the first pillar in the B2B campaign. “What we need to know and understand is that delivering services to our people is the most important thing because when you look at it the purpose of a municipality is to deliver service to the people” said MEC Xasa

Stakeholders were given an opportunity to express their challenges and most common issues were housing problems, water and sanitation, jobs and how to share resources that the municipality have. MEC addressed some of the issues and said, “Remember we are a department that coordinates so all these concerns will be forwarded to the relevant departments”



Mayor of Sundays River Valley Municipality Councillor Mbulelo Kebe



**BACK TO BASICS:
ENSURING THE SAFE PASSAGE
OF OUR BOYS TO MANHOOD,
WE ARE PROUD OF OUR TRADITION**

MAYOR JORDAAN URGES COMMUNICATORS TO EMBRACE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

By Thando Sonjica

Addressing municipal and government communicators at the City Hall in September, the Executive Mayor of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM), Councillor Danny Jordaan called upon municipal communicators to embrace social media platforms or be left behind.

This he said during a two day Local Government Communicators Forum (LGCF) meeting organised by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in conjunction with the provincial office of the Government Communications and Information Systems (GCIS).

The objectives of the quarterly forum are to assess progress made on the review and implementation of Communication Action Plans in Municipalities as well as get updates on a number of topics including the upcoming local government elections.

“This a strategic platform to share information and best practises,” says Mr Mamnkeli Ngam the Senior Manager for Corporate Communication at COGTA.

Mr Jordaan said municipal communicators must be “armed with the right skills” because opposition parties are using many social media platforms, like twitter, facebook, instagram, etc

“If you are not in the social media space, you will be left behind. On a minute by minute basis communicators need to know what is happening in their municipalities. Wherever I go in the Nelson Mandela Bay I ask

whether communications team is aware. Their presence is key to communicate with the outside world,” he said.

He encouraged communicators to have the right tools to communicate as we are moving towards the Local Government elections. “If you have only the pen and paper then you have lost the communication war”. He said communicators must make their presence felt everywhere. Councillor Jordan advised the forum to leverage on the famous people coming from their communities to attract more traffic to their websites.

He said decisions taken by municipal Councils must be communicated so that people know the facts as well as “ the distribution of accurate information at all times,” he said.

“As members of the forum you must strive to be effective, accurate, regular and consistent in your communication programmes,” said Jordaan.

Mr Ngam who is the convenor of the forum thanked Mr Jordaan for his inspiring and wise words and promised that the forum will implement his advices.

“You have elevated the status of this forum and have enriched our deliberations here today. Your advice and guidance will assist us to navigate through the challenges of the communication war to serve our communities better,” said Mr Ngam.



L-R: Mr Ngam, Mayor Jordaan, Deputy Mayor Ndani and Mr Pinyana

CHIEF ADVISED TO RESPECT HIS PEOPLE

By Dumisani Lindi



Chief Mthwa holding certificate of recognition flanked by an elder and his wife

On September 24 the community of Ngqwara near Mqanduli celebrated the heritage day by witnessing the anointment ceremony of Chief Tina Mthwa.

This monumental event was attended by dignitaries including the Xhosa Nation King Zwelonke Sigcau, General Bantubonke Holomisa and Dr Somadoda Fikeni of AmaXesibe to mention a few.

Opening the ceremony, Mayor of King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality Cllr Nonkoliso Ngqongwa, "We are here to celebrate the anointment of Chief Mthwa and it is with joy that this function happens on this day as it reminds us of our heritage" said Cllr Ngqongwa, "traditional leaders should be proud and treasure the gift that the Lord Almighty has given them to lead people and as KSD we promise to support Chief Mthwa in developing his community. Luckily this community has got a great leader who believes in developing the community so working with him will ensure that development comes to the community of Ngqwara, added Councillor Ngqongwa.

Giving a message of support at the ceremony on behalf of Nkosi Ngangomhlaba Matanzima, Nkosi Jezile a member of House of Traditional Leaders as well as member of Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (CONTRALESA) "We are here to give you words of support so that you can be the leader you were born to be. Chief as a leader you need to be patient with your people, listen to them because you never know where the good idea will come from, advised Chief Jezile.

He said the chief must always be seen by doing good not bad things. "Respect your culture, your nation and your family" added Chief Jezile. Now that we are here to witness this anointment we need to be reassured that the community of Ngqwara will be in good hands. Remember the royal house is the place where your community will come to cry when they need help so please welcome them with open arms

General Bantu Holomisa also giving a message of support urged the Chief to take care of his people, love, respect, be humble and be consistent. "Never favour others over others" said General Holomisa, "You are lucky to start your reign in the time of democracy, so be a good leader, be vigilant, support development and the betterment of your community" added the General.

Speaking also at the event, MEC for the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Fikile Xasa said the anointment of the Chief should mean a lot to the community", "This

means now that they have someone to stand for them, who will voice their concerns and bring development and betterment to their community" added the MEC.

He emphasised to Chief Mthwa that being in power doesn't mean one should abuse it. "A leader is a leader by taking care of his people, make sure that their lives will improve for the better. A leader should not be a joke to its community. A leader should listen and when he speaks he speaks with wisdom," said MEC.

MEC explained that as government they have structures put in place to ensure that traditional leaders have platforms to express what is needed by their communities. "Some Traditional leaders are now participating in municipal councils and structures like the House of Traditional Leaders which is the Legislature for traditional leaders. "So Chief Mthwa you have platforms you can use to ensure that development does come to your community" said MEC Xasa. "I am happy that young Chiefs are taking power as they will bring today's technology in improving lives of the community. The Chiefs will also need to network and build relations with stakeholders so that services can be brought to the communities.

He reassured the community that as government they will work together with traditional councils and royal houses to ensure that dignity and culture is restored.

In his reply the Chief Mthwa said the he was overwhelmed and has listened to every word of advice given to him." Believe me each and every word said here is taken into heart. He further thanked the department, municipality and the community for supporting him. Through this I promise I will do the best I can to be the best leader," said Chief.



Seated in front are COGTA Officials and community members



L-R: Chief Mthwa, King Zwelonke Sigcau and a Chief



VISION

An integrated, capable, responsive and accountable local government and traditional institution system focusing on the needs of the community.

MISSION

To promote a developmental local state and traditional institutions that are accountable, focused on citizen's priorities; capable of delivering high-quality services consistently and sustainably through Local Government and participatory democracy.

VALUES

Our values are people orientated and are based on the Batho Pele Principles.

VALUES	DEFINITION
Consultation	We always consult our customers on the level, quality and choices of the services we offer.
Quality	We set high standards geared towards effective and efficient service delivery.
Equality	We shall give equal access to our services to all, with special emphasis on targeted groups.
Professionalism	We believe that our customers are entitled to be treated courteously and with the highest level of professionalism.
Highest ethical standards	We shall always maintain zero tolerance towards fraud and corruption.
Staff our greatest assets	We believe that our employees are integral to the success of the department and we will at all times endeavour to ensure that their organizational needs are satisfied.
Responsiveness	We pledge to respond speedily and effectively to the needs of stakeholders and communities.

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