



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

COGTA NEWS

OFFICIAL QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017



**TAKE A GIRL/BOY
CHILD TO WORK
CAMPAIGN**

EDITORIAL COMMENT



Editor Ms Thando Sonjica

Every year on 16 June South Africa commemorates the 1976 Soweto uprising to pay tribute to learners who stood up against the apartheid government. They stood together and laid down their lives fighting for freedom and the right to equal education.

Observed as a public holiday, the day serves as a reminder that young people in the country were at the forefront of

our struggle. The day also provides us with an opportunity to take stock of the strides we have made in addressing issues facing the youth.

In our country we not only commemorate Youth Day but dedicate the entire month of June to the youth.

As the department of Cogta we also participated in the programme that aimed at exposing young girl and boy learners to the world of work. The Programme called take a Girl / Boy Child to work is in line with Goal number three of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) to promote gender equality and empower women. Read more about this heart warming story on pages 4-5.

Linked to the Youth Month event the department launched the Winter Initiation Campaign in East London wherein MEC Xasa urged communities to work with government to ensure zero deaths of Initiates. The event which was also attended by MECs for Health

and Education, Mayor of Buffalo City Metro as well as Non- Governmental Organisation among others saw dignitaries pledging their support to the attainment of zero deaths of the Initiates. The report of this launch event can be found on page 6.

Other important events which took place in the department during the quarter was the Premier of the Eastern Cape, Phumulo Masualle and MEC Xasa's visit to Nqadu Great Place as well as MEC's visit to other Great Places in Qamata and Nyandeni. These Outreach Programmes were part of MEC's consultation with Kings as well as listening to their challenges with regard to delivery of services in their areas.

Read more about the stories and other programmes that the department was engaged with throughout the quarter.

Enjoy the read.

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MUNIMEC MEETINGS MUST BECOME A PROVINCIAL WAR ROOM.

By Mamnkeli Ngam

Speaking at a one day political MuniMEC meeting hosted by department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Leaders (COGTA) MEC Fikile Xasa said it must become a Provincial War Room that discusses serious challenges affecting municipalities and service delivery in general. For that reason, he said, it is important for political (MECs, Executive Mayors and Mayors) and administrative leadership in the Province to attend the session.

The meeting was attended by Provincial MECs, Executive Mayors and Mayors, Heads of Department, Municipal Managers and the SA Local Government Association (SALGA).

MEC Xasa said political leadership in municipalities must exercise their responsibilities to lead and govern without fail to create a better life in communities through sustainable development.

“I suspect that there are some political leaders amongst us who do not rise to the occasion hence we are pulling towards different directions. We are starting a new term in municipalities, with a new approach and new demands from our communities.”

In this regard, said MEC Xasa, our constituencies demand to be involved in the process of development in their areas. For that reason, there is a need to strengthen Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) structures at all levels through the War Rooms to come closer to community challenges and resolve them.

MEC Xasa said his department will also extend its support to the newly amalgamated municipalities through strategic interventions to sustain development in that space.

The areas of support include the filling of vacant posts, development of organograms, development of Human Resource policies and job evaluation. An amount of R10m was transferred to the amalgamated municipalities during 2016/2017 financial year namely Dr Beyers Naude (R3m), Enoch Mgijima (R3m), Raymond Mhlaba (R2m) and Walter Sisulu (R2m). In the new financial year R15 million will be transferred to all amalgamated municipalities.

He further announced that he will visit all Eastern Cape Kingdoms in the near future to communicate Operation Masiphathisane and the establishment of War Rooms. Operation Masiphathisane is a government programme meant to enhance integrated service delivery by the Eastern Cape government.

MEC Xasa said the first visit will focus at Nqadu to meet with King Mpendulo Sigcawu and communities in his area of jurisdiction. “We have agreed with Premier Phumulo Masualle of the need to visit Nqadu Kingdom first as part of our broader outreach programme to all Kingdoms in our Province. We

expect our government to interact with communities through War Rooms to enhance communication and the delivery of services,” said MEC Xasa.

The Premier will indicate a date for the visit which will be attended by MECs to deal with issues of development in the area amongst other things. Thereafter, he will visit all Kingdoms, said MEC Xasa.

Meanwhile, in the same meeting MEC Xasa said the implementation of the Customary Male Initiation Practice Act should be prioritised throughout the Province before the start of the winter initiation season.

“The establishment of initiation structures guided by the Act should be established by end of May 2017,” he said.

The Act was approved by Premier Masualle last year for implementation in the new financial year. The main objectives of the Act amongst other things are as follows;

- provide for the protection of life, the prevention of injuries and all forms of abuse experienced by initiates before, during and after the customary practice of male initiation,
- provide for traditional leadership to take primary responsibility for the practice of male initiation within their areas of jurisdiction, in partnership with the Provincial government and all the other stakeholders,
- ensure that initiation practice is not exploited as a commercial enterprise used purely for personal enrichment, and ensure that the teachings and rituals that are part of male initiation are aimed at character building to prepare the young for adulthood.



MEC Xasa

OPERATION MASIPHATHISANE IS AN INTEGRATED SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL OF GOVERNMENT. LET US MAKE IT HAPPEN!

REPORT FRAUD AND CORRUPTION ON THE NATIONAL FRAUD AND CORRUPTION HOTLINE

0800 701 701

CHIEFS ADVISED TO BRING DEVELOPMENT TO THEIR PEOPLE

By: Siphwo Stemele

As part of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs's mission to restore the dignity of traditional leaders, MEC Fikile Xasa descended to Nkosana Administrative Area in Maluti near Matatielle to officiate in the installation ceremony of Chief Mhlabuzolile Nkosana.

Councillor Sandile Sello who was representing the Mayor of Matatielle in his welcoming address said that the installation of Chief Nkosana was the fulfilment of a promise of their forefathers who refused to allow apartheid regime to establish Traditional Leadership and wrote their history incorrectly.

"Our Constitution never abolished Traditional Leadership that is why the MEC is here. Traditional Leaders are not voted into their position and we are here to witness the installation of a chief," said Councillor Sello.

MEC Xasa said it is not their responsibility as government to choose chiefs, but government's duty is to recognise them. "Our country is governed by the Constitution as from 1996 and Chiefs should know that," said MEC.

He said in the Nkosana Administrative Area the Chieftainship consists of three villages and since the area was at developing stage, chiefs were alternating and there were disputes which courts tried to sort out until the Commission on Traditional Leadership Claims and Disputes (CTLCD) was established.

"We moved around the Province in December 2015 with the Premier announcing the results of the Commission and we also issued a Government Gazette to tell those who had to step down, some were happy and some were not," said MEC.

He said the main problem for government was to pay chiefs as a result everybody wants to become a chief. He said that after a dispute has been resolved, Traditional Communities have to install a chief in line with their historic background.

He further said that the (CTLCD) was supposed to finish its job by 31 May 2017 but due to a number of disputes a three months extension had been granted.

He said the message from government was that rural people believed in customs and culture and in return, chiefs should bring development to their people, said MEC Xasa.

He said government has learnt that the main problem for people of Maluti is stock theft allegedly by Lesotho neighbours

MEC appealed to Chiefs to assist government to minimise the death of initiates and that Chiefs will be answerable to government for the escalation of death in their respective areas.

In reply Chief Mhlabuzolile requested his subjects to assist him to bring development to them. He also said that government has promised to build traditional council for them. "If that promise can be fulfilled we will be happy," he said.



L-R: MEC Xasa and Chief Mhlabuzolile Nkosana

CAMPAIGN PROMOTES GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

By Tembisa Potelwa

Dream, Believe and Achieve was the theme for the Taking a Girl and Boy Child to Work Place Campaign this year. The event hosted by the Special Programmes Unit (SPU) took place recently in the department in the recent past. School children from various schools around Bhisho participated in the event.

Welcoming the school children Mr Vuyo Mlokothi, the Deputy Director General (DDG) for Corporate Management in Cogta said he was "excited to be amongst the youngsters" who were going to participate in the deliberations.

He urged the youngsters to "grab opportunities presented to them" by department as there were no such opportunities in the olden days. Mr Mlokothi said the name of the department derives from certain Chapters of the Constitution of the

Republic of South Africa. He said Chapter 3 of the Constitution forces government to be cooperative and the three spheres of government to work together.

He further explained that on the other hand Chapter 12 of the Constitution deals with the issue of Traditional Affairs and Chapter 7 speaks with local government issues as the department supports municipalities.

"I encourage you to read the Constitution including Chapter 2 which talks about the Bill of Rights. Where ever you go the Constitution will always be your defender," said DDG Mlokothi. Outlining the purpose of the programme, Ms Nondumiso Ntshakaza, an Assistant Manager for SPU said the Take a Girl and Boy Child Campaign was initiated in 2003. "The aim of the campaign is to expose young girl learners to the world of

MASUALLE ON MASIPHATHISANE VISIT TO NQADU G/PLACE

By Namhla Kondlo-Magada.

Making a call to traditional leaders and residents of Mbashe Local Municipality, the Premier of the Eastern Cape Province, Mr Phumulo Masualle during his recent visit to Nqadu Great Place, said Operation Masiphathisane (OM) aims to bridge the gap between traditional leadership, government, local government and citizens

The purpose of the visit, amongst other things was to discuss the provision of services, challenges facing Traditional leadership institutions, development local government, as well as explain the establishment of War Rooms in the context of Operation Masiphathisane.

The Premier first had a private meeting with King Mpendulo Sigcawu together with MECs for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Fikile Xasa, Finance and Provincial Treasury Sakhumzi Somyo and the Mayors of Amathole, Mquma and Mbashe municipalities.

Chiefs and the community also got the opportunity to voice out their issues, tapping on the issues raised by the King during the meeting.

The issues ranged from what some called “constitutional injustice” against chiefs, the payment of headmen, demolished houses along the coastline, sand mining, bad roads, issues of land, education, hospitals and clinics infrastructure, etc.

The Premier accepted the criticisms and said “it does not discourage government but creates enthusiasm to improve.”

He said these are complex issues that require distinct care and that they cannot be tackled in one day.

He said none of the programmes initiated by government are there to replace traditional leadership, instead bring development.

Premier Masualle said government’s visit was important to engage traditional leadership and communities on planned programmes to bring development to communities.

He said government’s aim is to strengthen relations with all leadership, institutions to be able to know the needs of communities.

“Operation Masiphathisane is meant to see to it that services

are brought to the people. This is a programme led by my office to bridge the gap between people, government and communities,” he said.

MEC Xasa said government has a responsibility to deliver services to the people.

“We all need to make a difference. The gap between councillors and traditional leaders’ needs to be closed to make progress,” said MEC.

“Most matters need government to act and we cannot meet and debate all the time. Let us put words into action through government programmes,” he said.

Touching on the establishment of War Rooms, the MEC said these were structures of engagement between Community Development Workers, (CDWs), Councillors and members of the community about service delivery.

In closing MEC said the issues that were raised in the public meeting will be looked into once they have been escalated to the national government. MEC made a commitment to come-back to clarify more issues.



Premier Masualle and MEC Xasa



Learners who participated in the campaign

work. It was later decided to also include boy children,” she explained. Ms Ntshakaza said the campaign was in line with Goal number 3 of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) to promote gender equality and empowering women. “We expose girl and boy children to opportunities that will assist them to make informed decisions as well as enhance their self-



L-R learner, Mr Mlokothi and Ms Asanda Braweni

esteem,” said Ms Ntshakaza. One of the learners Ms Sisipho Majiki from Nosizwe High School in Phakamisa township said she got to know that in the Supply Chain Management (SCM) Directorate all transactions had to comply with legislation in. Other learners said they learnt a lot and promised to dream, believe and achieve for them to be better citizens.

COMMUNITIES URGED TO ENSURE ZERO DEATHS OF INITIATES

By Namhla Kondlo –Magada

Speaking at the launch of the Winter Initiation season, MEC Xasa said June was the Youth Month in the South African calendar and therefore no young man should lose life during Initiation. “We need to work together, Masiphathisane, hand in hand and ensure that no initiate gets injured or dies in initiation schools because as government we cannot do it on our own”, said Fikile Xasa the MEC Cooperative governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta).

The launch held at Buffalo City Municipality (BCM) in East London was attended by MEC of Health, Dr Phumza Dyantyi and MEC of Education Mandla Makhupula, Traditional leaders, initiation surgeons, Mayors, Councillors, South African Police Service and Non-Governmental Organisations.

MEC Xasa added that integrated plans, forums and initiation monitoring structures have been put in place towards the institutionalization of the Male Customary Initiation Practice Act that has been established by the Department of Cogta and the House of Traditional Leaders.

He said district municipalities around the Eastern Cape have been visited to conduct awareness campaigns about the Act. MEC said he was quite sure that the law was known and the law was not negotiable.

“Everyone will have to abide and arrests have been made already to those who do not comply. Moreover partnerships with departments, traditional leaders have been made to ensure that the tradition is not put to shame and it does not lose dignity,” explained MEC.

MEC Xasa, further highlighted that with the Winter season campaign, the department has partnered with the media and made intense awareness campaigns and emphasized that the boys must go alive and return alive. The MEC advocated that there be supply of water for initiates and medical supply.

MEC Xasa reminded people that they need not to forget that in the mist of bad there is good work that has been done. “Those traditional nurses and initiation surgeons who truly work hard to ensure that there are no deaths, need to be recognised and applauded,” he said.

The BCM Executive Mayor Xola Pakathi made a call to

communities including parents of the young boys to work together with government officials and traditional leaders to report and fight the immoral acts that cause collapse of the Initiation tradition. The Mayor announced that all resources needed by the Metro for the winter initiation season were to be made available to avoid all injuries and deaths in initiation schools.

All municipalities declared that they were ready to commence the season and all safety precautions have been taken. Some activities undertaken included the roll out of the new Act, by visiting schools and talks shows on Community Radio Stations.

Mr Nkululeko Nxesi from the Community Development Foundation for South Africa (CODEFSA) an NGO which partners with government and traditional leaders in reducing the number of deaths in initiation schools vowed that they will assist in initiation centres with catering as well as to hold an initiation camp for young boys in a form of a dialogue to capacitate boys on initiation.

Partners such as South African Police Services (SAPS) and Department of Health also made commitments and declared their readiness for the Winter Initiation season.

The launch ended with the handover of cars to be utilised to monitor initiation schools around the Province.



Chieftainess Nosiseko Gayika, a member of the House of Traditional Leaders



MECs, Speakers, Members of Legislature, Chiefs and Drivers at the launch event

OUTREACH PROGRAMME TO GREAT PLACES

By Dumisani Lindi

On 7-8 June, MEC Xasa descended to Nyandeni and Qamata Great Places on a mission to consult with the Kings as well as to get first hand information on their challenges in terms of the delivery of services. "We are here to rectify what we should have done in the beginning which is to consult with our Kings," said MEC at Nyandeni Great Place in Libode. The purpose of these visits is to talk to our Kings and discuss with them what we planning to do about their Kingdoms with the assistance from them" said MEC Xasa. MEC Xasa discussed issues which concerned mostly traditional institutions and especially the matter of Masiphathisane. "Masiphathisane as the name say is a programme where government, traditional institutions and the municipality work together in ensuring that our communities get the tailor made services for that particular area" said MEC.

He continued to say that in the past government had encountered challenges when it comes to the establishment of War Rooms which is part of Masiphathisane Programme. "Let me assure you that these War Rooms are not established to take away the authority of Traditional Leaders but to assist them with their service delivery challenges," explained MEC Xasa. "I know in some instances the Traditional authorities are undermined by Councillors and it is not supposed to be like that. Councillors should be working hand in hand with tribal authorities and where such instances exist they will be rectified," MEC assured traditional leaders. Other issues discussed at the meetings were matters of Initiation, infrastructure and services from the municipalities. With regard to Initiation, MEC Xasa explained that there is a new Act called Customary Male Initiation Practise Act.

He said the Eastern Cape Province continued to lose boys during Initiation seasons due to among other things botched circumcison and some lost their manhood. "This new law will assist us to take those who break the law with regards to the practise of Initiation and put them behind bars. This law will protect our children from illegal initiation schools, no one will perform this custom without correct documentation if one doesn't follow this they will be persecuted" said MEC, "I am pleading with our Chiefs to take this act seriously and inform those they are heading about the seriousness of this act" added MEC Xasa.

In both visits MEC emphasised that no King or Chief should oppose the Act. "You are the one in authority so please enforce this Act to save lives of our children" said MEC Xasa "This is our custom we must ensure that it is no tainted by the number of deaths every year. MEC said although the numbers of Initiates dying is improving but he said every death is painful and called upon the traditional leaders to work together in fighting the scourge.

Delivery of services such as water provision, construction and fixing of roads, fencing of arable land, sports fields, electricity provision were amongst issues discussed. Officials from different government departments as well municipalities were given an opportunity to respond to the issues raised. MEC assured the Traditional leaders that the issues raised would be followed up and would receive feedback. Both Kings from Nyandeni and Qamata Great Places promised that they will support the enforcement of the Initiation Act and that they would do their outmost best to make sure that none of the initiates in their areas will die.



MEC Xasa and King Matanzima



MEC Xasa and King Ndamase Ndamase

FORENSIC INVESTIGATION ON THE CARDS IN GREAT KEI

By Mamnkeli Ngam

Flowing from his second leg visit to the Great Kei Local Municipality recently, COGTA MEC Fikile Xasa announced that he has enlisted the support of the National Treasury to conduct forensic investigations in the municipality.

In the recent past the municipality has been faced by community protests demanding better service delivery in the area. As a result, the community under the leadership of the Great Kei United Forum handed a petition of grievances over to MEC Xasa. "The forensic investigation will focus on unfinished projects in the area. For the investigation to succeed and yield the desired results, I encourage members of the community to come forward with evidence of wrong doing to back up their allegations," said MEC Xasa.

The unfinished projects include Komga, Kweletha, and Chintsa sport fields, Chintsa and Happy Valley Community Halls, toilets and houses in Zone 10. During the question and answer session, members of the community welcomed the investigation. He added that he has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Special Investigative Unit (SIU) to conduct investigations in Great Kei and other municipalities. During his visit MEC Xasa

conducted a walkabout of the area through bad roads and also came across some damp houses due to overflowing sewerage water when people flush their toilets. "Houses have been built in what appears to be a wetland hence the area is waterlogged consistently. Families live in unbearable and hazardous conditions at a great cost to their lives. The situation requires immediate attention," said MEC Xasa.

Already officials from the department of Human Settlements have visited the affected areas to provide solutions to the longstanding challenges. Issues of water and sanitation are also receiving attention from Amathole District Municipality (ADM) and the Department of Water and Sanitation. The Municipal Infrastructure Agency (MISA) will assist with drawing up the Electricity Master Plan for the municipality.

MEC Xasa said in the context of Operation Masiphathisane officials from COGTA and the Office of the Premier will come up with a plan to establish War Rooms in the municipal area. "We need integrated solutions to all the challenges to make the desired impact and create a better Great Kei community," said MEC Xasa

NEWLY APPOINTED CDWs EXPOSED TO DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

By: Siphwo Stemele

Municipal Public Participation (MPP) and Rapid Response Chief Directorate in collaboration with Human Resource Utilisation and Capacity Building Directorate at COGTA hosted a five day Orientation Program, for the newly appointed Community Development Workers (CDWs) of Joe Gqabi District Municipality in Aliwal North.

Speaking on the first day of the session, Chief Director for MPP, Mr Thabo Mdukiswa said CDWs should understand the Policy Speeches of the President, the Premier and the MEC for COGTA.

“You should note anything that has to do with development of the people,” he said.

He advised CDWs to align the CDW Handbook with Operation Masiphathisane which is service delivery model of Government. He said that one of the duties of a CDW is to call various government departments to the War Room where they should report about the service delivery plans of their respective departments for various municipal Wards with the aim of bringing government to the people.

Mr Mdukiswa said that CDWs would undergo another 18 months training to capacitate them to do their job diligently. He also advised CDWs to differentiate between government work and politics as this would compromise their work.

Mr Rhulani Manganye from Department of Public Service and Administration said government decided in 2003 to employ a layer of public servants called CDWs.



Newly employed CDWs

“Their role is premised on enabling communities to make better use of public sector services and benefits. CDWs also exists foster community development to improve the quality of lives of citizens,” said Mr Manganye.

He also said that the CDW Programme seeks to strengthen integration and coordination between services provided by government and access to these services by communities. “The objectives of the CDWP are to improve and fast track service delivery and accessibility of services and support participatory democracy through public participation approaches including community meetings and Imbizo meetings.”

Several Departmental Policies were also presented at the session and amongst those was the one on Dress Code which was presented by Ms Lungiswa Mlatha from the Directorate of Human Resource Development. She cautioned them to dress professionally and avoid wearing T-shirts of their political organisations whilst on duty.

UNITY AND COHESION OF COGTA ON THE SPOTLIGHT

By Siphwo Stemele

Delivering his Policy Speech in March 2017, MEC Fikile Xasa committed to “modernise the Department’s workforce, enhance training and development opportunities, career progression to improve leadership and management skills at all levels,”

The MEC’s promise came into fruition through a two day training session held in King Williams Town for members of the Senior Management Service (SMS). The session was organised in collaboration between the Directorates of Human Resource Development and for Employee Relations. In his opening remarks the Deputy Director General (DDG) for Corporate Management, Mr Vuyo Mlokothi said he hoped that the session would assist to empower the new managers who had just joined the department to be “on the same page with all of us.”

Mr Mlokothi said in February this year management resolved to organise a team building session specifically for SMS members so that managers start to complement one another. “We have picked up that there is unfair or perceived unfair labour practises in the department. We should reach a stage where everybody knows what is right and wrong for the organisation to grow,” said Mr Mlokothi. “We hope to cascade the lessons learnt from this engagement to the employees of the department. The instability that has engulfed the department has affected the unity and cohesion of the SMS members. We have a responsibility to turn the situation around in line with the MEC’s Policy Speech pronouncements,” added Mr Mlokothi. He said that the high number of grievances and misconduct cases in the department indicate that “the rule of law is the victim of the circumstances.” Mr Edward Harris from Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) in his presentation on Discipline and Dispute Management said

“discipline was a management responsibility.” He said the process of disciplining employees is initiated by the employer. Upon an identification of a case of misconduct, there must be immediate investigation which must be finalised within 90 days and that charges be preferred where there is a prima facie case of misconduct.

Mr Harris said matters that involve suspension of an official must be treated with urgency and care in terms of compliance. “Maximum support by management to designated officials who deal with discipline management should be provided and full compliance with the law should be ensured,” said Mr Harris. He said non-compliance with relevant legislation results in the public service being taken to courts of law. Mr Harris said the non resolution of grievances results in disputes which escalate into conciliation and arbitration.

“Therefore grievances that are confined to the department need management to be attended to timeously within the stipulated time frames. Failure will result in them escalating into disputes and which becomes costly to the state as in some instances government may employ the services of legal practitioners,” he said.



L-R: Senior Managers of Cogta, Ms Tswakai Luke, Ms Nonkululeko Kweyama and Ms Noluvo Maki

MBSA, BCM METRO AND COGTA RENEW WORKING RELATIONS

By Bathandwa Diamond

In an effort to renew their working relations, the Buffalo City Metro (BCM) municipality together with the Mercedes Benz of South Africa (MBSA) and the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Wednesday 14 June at the East London City Hall.

Speaking at the event Executive Mayor Xola Pakati said, "MBSA has demonstrated over the years the commitment they have for the City. The economy of this region is centred on the automotive sector and as a result MBSA has contributed immensely and as the city we are very grateful."

The ties between the City and MBSA are visible with various projects that have already kicked off including the Green City Initiative which recently launched the Call 2 Action campaign last week. The campaign is a strategic initiative aimed at improving the image of the City through greening and preserving the environment.

"I wish for other industries to be part of the campaign but as the City we must meet our end of the bargain by creating a conducive environment for investors.

We must also retain the current investment and investor base in the city so that we can all together continue with the commitment to grow the economy and to better the lives of the people of this region."

Another campaign linked with the MoU is the Invest in Buffalo initiative which is aimed at marketing the City as an investment and tourism destination of choice.

Lastly, the Skills Development initiative is another leg of the MoU that has proven to be a success. MBSA together with Jobs Fund has a joint venture that provides a world class technical training. "The learning academy offers a world class technical training and in that way contributing to the



Mr Craig Goliath – Senior Manager for Local Economic Development at Cogta, Mayor of BCM Xola Pakathi and MBSA CEO Mr Engling

development of the skills base in the region," added Corporate Services Manager Feliciano Jannekke.

"We appreciate Cogta for proving the necessary support mechanism to the municipality as we all know the role of the state is to create and provide a conducive environment for business to invest," said Pakati.

MBSA also introduced the newly appointed CEO Andreas Engling to BCMM leadership, following the departure of the previous one, Arno van der Merwe to their plant based in China. Pakati welcomed Engling and said that the City is happy to renew the relationship with MBSA and also "hope that our City and MBSA will continue with sharing ideas and best practices to take the city to better heights."

MEC XASA DELIVERS ON HIS RECRUITMENT PROMISE

By Thando Sonjica

In line with his Policy Speech pronouncements, MEC Xasa has delivered on his commitment to "restore order and stability for a conducive work environment" in CoGTA.

Delivering his Policy Speech in March 2017, MEC Xasa said "our department has been under pressure due to internal challenges which translated to instability and a negative narrative in the media space."

His promise of implementing the recruitment plan, based on a crafted project plan, has borne fruits with the appointment of members of the Senior Management Service (SMS) including prioritised and advertised posts in the lower levels of the department.

Of the advertised 16 SMS posts in the 16/17 financial year, 14 have since been appointed. 81 CDW's out of the advertised 89 have been appointed. 23 secretaries of Traditional Authorities have been appointed from the advertised 25. For the levels below SMS, progress has been registered on 20 from the advertised 88 posts. Most of the new appointees have, staggeringly, been reporting for duty in the last few months. These appointments will certainly contribute in the department's journey to remodel and re-imagine itself as a trusted leader in service delivery co-ordination in the province.

As stated in the Policy Speech "We commit to recruit the best in the market and not the most preferred in the circle of friends and colleagues. We do not want to compromise on the competence of candidates as one of the prerequisites to ensure that the process to professionalise COGTA proceeds unhindered," said MEC Xasa.



L-R: Some of the newly appointed SMS members: Mr Don Nyathela-General Manager District Coordination and IGR, Mr Mthunzi Njomba-Senior Manager Budget Planning and Management Accounting, Ms Zandile Mnyandu, Senior Manager Security Management and Anti-Corruption Services, Mr Mawethu Pinyana Senior Manager: Alfred Nzo District

EMPLOYEES STIMULATED TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR WELLNESS.

By: *Nowethu Goniwe and Namhla Kondlo-Magada*



Cogta employee Ms Lathiswa Somsila getting a massage



Mr Ngcai during the Wellness event

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs through the Employee Wellness Directorate hosted a wellness day event June 2017 at Roji Skenjana Hall in Bhisho.

The event was attended by stakeholders such as Old Mutual, Sanlam, Metropolitan, ZIJA, Gems Medical Scheme and Capitec Bank.

Opening the session Corporate Services General Manager Mr Malibongwe Ngcai said that work of employees is to improve people's lives and "therefore the work needs our minds to be effective, thus the term a healthy mind in a healthy body". He encouraged everybody to take care of their own wellness for the sustainability of the organisation "since it depends in the sustainability of our lives. Wellness should be our daily lives," said Mr Ngcai. He invited all people to participate in the activities during the session.

Outlining the purpose of the day Mr Mpumelelo Madikane, the Senior Manager of Employee Relations at Cogta said that employees were celebrating Men's Health Wellness month and it was by the grace of God that officials were alive amongst all health problems that exist." Please prioritize your health by doing health screening. He also said that the primary purpose is to assist people to mitigate challenges and conquer negative experiences.

Also speaking at the session, Sister Khanyisa Guzana, a nurse at the GEMS Group spoke on popular killer diseases amongst young and old which she said was diabetes, high blood pressure resulting to cholesterol problems, stroke and heart diseases. She outlined the risks involved when not eating healthy and said diabetes diet simply means eating the healthiest foods in moderate amounts and sticking to regular meal times which is also found true and applying on most illnesses like blood pressure and cholesterol.

Sister Guzana said a healthy-eating plan that's naturally rich in nutrients and low in fat and calories is important with fruits, vegetables and whole grains is the best eating plan for almost everyone. The plan helps control blood sugar (glucose), manage weight and control risk factors for heart disease, such as high blood pressure and high blood fats.

Sister Guzana gave a list of recommended foods that are fiber rich, healthy carbohydrates and good fats foods. Foods containing monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats that can help lower your cholesterol levels. These include avocados, almonds, pecans, walnuts, olives, and canola, olive and peanut oils, but don't overdo it, as all fats are high in calories, said sister Guzana.

Concluding the presentation Guzana touched on types of foods to avoid, food containing saturated fats, high-fat dairy products with sources of cholesterol include high-fat dairy products and high-fat animal proteins, egg yolks, liver, and other organ meats as foods that can accelerate the development stroke, heart disease.

All stakeholders present on the day gave brief presentations explaining about their products, how they support people and the benefit there after. Competition draws by Old Mutual, Metropolitan and Sanlam were conducted, where employees won prizes. Employees then were allowed to visit different stalls to acquire information on their health then assisted and advised on what to do.

Stalls contained HIV tests, blood pressure evaluation, body fat range measurement, physical ratings, MBI and cholesterol checks. For relaxation employees enjoyed an upper body massage done by massage therapists from the GEMS Medical Scheme. The day ended with an engagement in aerobics by the direction of a fitness coach from the Range Group Mhlabi Rasmeni better known as Coach.

PROVINCIAL DIALOGUE APPLAUDS THE NEW ACT

By: *Welile Jack*

In a recent provincial dialogue hosted by the House of Traditional Leaders and multi-stakeholders the Eastern Cape Male Customary Initiation Practice Act of 2016 and in particular the prescripts of law that are based on age, arrests, prosecution and role of stakeholders was applauded. Brigadier Ntandane from Mthatha Central Police Services (SAPS) said they were pleased with the Act and they will not waste time to visit regularly amabhoma, open cases and arrest all culprits as the law permits them to do so. "It has been long overdue that SAPS has been operating without the Act and law is to

be enforced with immediate effect", said Brigadier. He said the prescripts of law clearly states that there is no person under the age of 18 years who is permissible to undergo the rite to a customary initiation school and no affidavit to be used for the age of 18 years.

The Act further clarifies the role of Traditional Leaders as the custodians of the custom to give permission for initiation schools failure to that and penalties to be imposed to those committed offences is R20 000 or 12 Months imprisonment.

MONITORING VISIT TO NEWLY AMALGATED MUNICIPALITIES

By : Siphiso Semele

As part of monitoring the functioning of the newly amalgamated municipalities in the Eastern Cape Province, MEC Fikile Xasa, took a trip to the two newly formed municipalities namely Walter Sisulu and Enoch Mgijima respectively.

Explaining the purpose of his visit in the municipalities, MEC Xasa said the Executive Council (EXCO) of the Eastern Cape Province agreed that he must visit all newly amalgamated municipalities and report back on what needs to be done in each municipality.

“The visit is also meant to check and bring stability to the newly established municipalities,” added MEC.

He said that a municipality was another sphere of government but the aim of various levels of government was to improve delivery of services which he said was non-negotiable.

“In 2014 we launched Back to Basics which is a programme to help us deliver services to various communities. In terms of Pillar 1 of B2B we launched War Rooms to improve governance, response to challenges and identify weakness.

“In our War Rooms we need to listen to our people and there after create programmes and plans to deliver to their needs,” MEC continued.

He explained that the EXCO has agreed that there should be a coordinated team that deals with all challenges faced by newly amalgamated municipalities. “By that we mean all forms of resources should be given to them”, MEC added.

MEC Xasa, said he has observed that the Walter Sisulu Municipality lacked a sense of urgency in certain areas like

finishing the organogram in a way running away from tackling human resource and labour issues.

Speaking during the meeting the Municipal Manager of Walter Sisulu Local Municipality, Mr Thembinkosi Mawonga said their municipality was stable as it was just above other municipality in the district in terms of energy delivery. “Delivery of water is 98% and the municipality is not making profit on refuse removal as we charge R 116.00 per month per household.

Meanwhile in Enoch Mgijima, Mayor Gunuza - Nkwentsha requested the department to assist them in developing municipal policies.

Acting Municipal Manager of Enoch Mgijima Municipality Mr Nkonki said the staff morale was low due to uncertainties about the amalgamation and that employees from former small municipalities like Tsolwana and Inkwanca felt they were being swallowed by former Lukhanji municipality.

Wrapping up the meeting at Lukhanji municipality MEC requested the municipality to prioritise the development of the organogram.

He advised the municipality to minimize the use of consultants especially for functions like revenue collection. He said for any misuse of public funds the law should take its course and the Auditor General will check any form of irregular activities with the aim of restoring clean governance.

MEC Xasa further requested Municipal Leadership to prioritise the Initiation programmes as there were high deaths of Initiates in the area.



L-R Mr William Tau, Senior Manager of Valuation Services and Mr Thabo Mdukiswa, General Manager Municipal Public Participation and Rapid Response from COGTA

“Any person who approves or admit a child below the age of 18 years to an initiation school is guilty and upon conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding R10 000 or 6 months imprisonment per initiate, the Act states. Speaking also at the dialogue, Advocate Vuyani Gewu from the National Prosecuting Authority said the might of the law is to take its cause without hesitant and they will follow all cases that have not been prosecuted and bring them to books.

The dialogue of great minds held in Umthatha was broadcasted live through Umhlobo Wenene radio show.

According to Mzwethemba Nkantsu, General Manager of the House, the Provincial Initiation Task team, Provincial initiation coordinating committee, initiation working committee, districts and local working committees had been formed and were operational in the province .

Nkosi Bakhanyisele the Leader of the House said linkosi must act without fear as the law is within their support as well as educate their communities about the contents of the Act its application and implications . “linkosi must move with courage and determination to see that there is no death in their traditional jurisdictions,” said Nkosi Bakhanyisele.

GOGTA

THROUGH PICTURES



L-R Ms Ziphovuyo Manzi, Ms Matlale Masemola Manager Employee Wellness and Mr Patrick Mayase, Sanlam



Ms Sinoyolo Rode of COGTA during the Wellness Event



Ms Siviwe Ntsabo of COGTA during the Wellness Event



L-R Mr Lonwabo Kowa, Mr Gcobani Msindwana and Ms Sandisa Gcobo at the LGCF meeting



Mr Ayongezwa Lungisa, Acting Head of Communication at O.R. Tambo DM making a point during the Local Government Communicators Forum meeting



L-R Ms Sandi Mahlangabeza from SALGA and Mr Tom from SABC during LGCF meeting



Ms Sisipho Majiki from Nosizwe High School, sharing what she had learnt during the Campaign



L-R: Mr Ongama Mtimka lecturer at Nelson Mandela University, Mr Mammkeli Ngam- Director Corporate Communication at Cogta and Mr Ndlelantle Pinyana –GCIS Provincial Head at the LGCF meeting held at BCM municipality



Mr Siyabulela Makunga-Communications Manager of Amathole District Municipality



Councillor Xola Pakathi Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Municipality welcoming communicators at the LGCF meeting