



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

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COGTA *Newsletter*



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AND KING NDLOVUYEZWE NDAMASE: READ MORE
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Editor: Ms Thando Sonjica

Welcome to the December issue of our quarterly newsletter. In this issue we bring you a variety of news articles which reflect on the programmes and projects that the department had undertaken as per its mandate.

One of those important programmes were several stakeholder meetings held in the Wild Coast Sun in Alfred Nzo District Municipality where the Minister for Cogta, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and MEC Xolile Nqatha briefed stakeholders. The meetings were

meant to brief the stakeholders which included the business sector and Traditional Leaders about the District Development Model (DDM) and the Eastern Seaboard Development (ESBD) in the Wild Coast.

MEC Nqatha said the ESBD will improve the lives of the people. Read more about these meetings on pages 3 and 5.

Also in this quarter, Cogta supported the successful and peaceful Local Government Elections in the Province held on 01 November 2021. Subsequently the elections were followed by Induction Programmes of the newly elected Councillors and first Council meetings inaugurated. You can read about this on page 6.

Further on we reflect on the work of a critical partner of the Governance and Support Programme (GSPII) Cooperation between the South Africa government and Germany which started in October 2017 and phased out in December 2021. Read more about the objectives of this programme on page 4.

The Department continues to hold events to create awareness, persuade and educate communities about thorny issues such as Traditional Initiation Programme (Ulwaluko).

As the festive season is upon us, we call upon all sectors of society to collaborate with government to create safer communities and protect victims of Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). We also urge each one of us to stay safe, observe Covid 19 Protocols as well as get vaccinated to protect yourself and your loved ones.

We would like to wish each and every one a joyous, peaceful festive season and a Happy New Year. Those who would be travelling should observe the rules of the road, drive safe and Arrive Alive.

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BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ON BOARD THE SEABOARD DEVELOPMENT

By Vuyani Sibene

As part of the principles of inclusive development informed by active citizen participation, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), led a business and community stakeholder session, recently. The stakeholders came from the OR Tambo and Alfred Nzo District Municipalities with the purpose of engagement towards the realisation of the District Development Model (DDM) and the Eastern Cape Seaboard Development (ECSD) in Wild Coast.

Speaking during the session, Minister Dlamini-Zuma said the ECSD was interwoven with the historic underdevelopment of the geographical and political economy of the Province.

“It has also been seeded in the discussions and plans for the development of what became known to be the Wild Coast Corridor starting from the Amathole, OR Tambo and up to the Alfred Nzo District municipalities. The essence of the Wild Coast Corridor Development (WCCD) plans remains being the realisation of socio-economic development and unlocking the potential of the WCCD through appreciation and beneficiation of its natural endowments,” said Minister Dlamini-Zuma.

She added that the ideas of the WC Spatial Development initiative conceptualised in the 1990s were now getting traction in the 6th administration through the DDM and the ECSD.

Minister Dlamini-Zuma said the ECSD was ‘a great initiative which unites people as it cuts across borders in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu/Natal along a secure coastline.

“It is a big economic frontier, but we have not really taken advantage of that for years except for some tourism infrastructure, hotels and so on. It is up for Traditional leaders collaborating with business stakeholders to develop this venture for employment of the rural community and the development of economic infrastructure,” said Minister Dlamini-Zuma.

Also speaking at the session, MEC for Cogta Xolile Nqatha said the ECSD or Smart City Development (SCD) was the first of its kind in the country and to some it may seem impossible to achieve.

A great legend of our Province, country, Africa and the World, (the late) Dr Nelson Mandela, once said, “it always seems impossible until it is done.”

“As a Province we welcome the ECSD and commit to work with various stakeholders towards its realisation to improve the lives of our people. The collaboration amongst government and non-government actors is critical to achieve the development imperatives of our country. Together, we can surely do more,” said MEC Nqatha.



Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Nkosikazi Mhlauli, member of the National House of Traditional Leaders



MEC X Nqatha



National Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Leaders Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma



Business Stakeholders at Wild Coast

MEC NQATHA APPLAUDS THE GIZ GOVERNANCE SUPPORT PROGRAMME COOPERATION

By Thando Sonjica



L-R: Ms Nandipha Sondati: Manager GCIS, Ms Nonceba Madikizela-Vuso: Manager Communication at Amathole DM, Ms Thando Sonjica: Manager Communication at Cogta. The three officials shared experiences on the partnerships they had with GIZ on Social media and Digital citizen engagement training



MEC X Nqatha

Giving an overview of the Governance Support Programme (GSP II) Cooperation in the Eastern Cape and also reflecting as one of the partners, MEC for EC Cogta Xolile Nqatha said the partnership was a critical opportunity which laid the foundation to renew the state of Local Government. The learning and sharing event for GSP II Cooperation, held in East London was attended by Municipal Managers (MM), senior government officials and partners.

Ms Sandra Lehmann, a Technical Advisor Citizen Engagement at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), said GSP II Cooperation is a partnership programme between the Governments of South Africa and Germany. She said the GSP II Cooperation commenced in October 2017 and will phase out in December 2021.

"It is a technical cooperation programme co-steered at national level between the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), the National Treasury (NT), the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) and the GIZ. We are responsible for the implementation of the development contributions on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The GSP II Cooperation is co-financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

MEC Nqatha speaking through a virtual platform said he was honoured to join the gathering in which people were sharing notes on specific experiences of the programme. He regarded the programme as the one providing an opportunity that prepared government for the next term of local government.

"It further prepares for renewal and at the same time ensured opportunity for continuity and change. The learning and sharing event should provide an opportunity to identify those matters and aspects of our work that we must change and those that we must strengthen and continue with as we enter the next term of local government. We need to build on those foundations so that we have more functional and effective local government that is able to deliver services in a more effective and efficient way. I value this partnership quite clearly as I have seen its benefits in the Province. I am convinced that this a partnership that we must continue with, going forward," said MEC Nqatha



Mr Sabelo Tini: Director Municipal Development Finance reflecting on the impact of the MPAC course

Ms Lehmann explained that the programme provides technical, policy and process advice to support the South African government to remedy systemic shortcomings.

"The GSP II Cooperation has as its objective that public institutions and selected municipalities implement the Back to Basics principles for more transparent, accountable, effective and efficient delivery of public services on local level," she said.

She said Learning and Knowledge Management (LKM) are a key factors to sustain the insights, good practices and products of the programme beyond its lifespan.

"The documented and shared information shall help the South African government, other bilateral and multilateral development partners, international and local NGOs, as well as the German Development Cooperation to profit from the gained knowledge for context analysis, replication, upscaling and further development of know-how," said Ms Lehmann

NKOSI MAVUSO APPEALS FOR REALISATION OF THE THUMA MINA DREAM

By Vuyani Sibene

Acting Chairperson of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders (ECHOtL) Nkosi Langa Mavuso in his opening remarks during the DDM stakeholder engagement held in the Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality (WMMLM) said the session was meant to launch the project that President Cyril Ramaphosa committed to deliver as part of his dream.

“We have a visionary leader hence we are gathered here to be witness the realisation of that dream of Thuma Mina (send me) hence wen regain trust and confidence in government. There are many other projects of this nature that were promised more especially for this region namely, Umzimvubu Dam, the N2 Gateway, the Cannabis and the revitalisation of our small towns,” he said.

Nkosi Mavuso pointed out that Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo Districts were mainly rural and unemployment was high hence people had to relocate to other Provinces ‘for we are not economically viable.’

“Unfortunately, that (urban migration) has a negative bearing to the fiscal allocation by national government. We remain the poor Province despite the many opportunities that are here. Alfred Nzo is the poorest district in the country, yet it is the home to Oliver Reginald Tambo and Winnie Madikizela Mandela,” said Nkosi Mavuso.

He added that the ECHOtL was working closely with EC Council of Churches in an attempt to revive schools that produced the Province’s finest leaders including the Holy Cross School in Flagstaff where OR Tambo studied. “We need to broaden our developmental approach and education is still central in our Province. That is what we are bequeathed with by our forefathers,” said Nkosi Mavuso.

Nkosi Mavuso said there was a water crisis in the area and that UMzimkhulu Dam had the potential to bring economic development through the provision of water and job opportunities. “There has to be consensus on the construction of the N2 connecting this place to East London for such a national road is to benefit all of us. AmaMpondo have a long history of growing cannabis and we are saying the legislation governing cannabis should not ostracize AmaMpondo in particular, it would not be right for local businesses not to benefit.

He explained to Minister Dlamini-Zuma that he was raising all these issues because they are linked to the noble idea of smart cities. “There

is a tendency though of launching projects here and implementation done elsewhere. Please President ensure that a strong and efficient team is deployed to work on this project until it is finished,” pleaded Nkosi Mavuso.

He called for unity so that noble projects get implemented for the benefit of the people. Infighting prolongs development and that leads to unnecessary delays at your expense. I’m calling upon all of us to rally around this project ensuring that its successfully implemented,” said Nkosi Mavuso.

Speaking at the same event, the Acting Chairperson of the Nation House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders (NHTKL) Nkosikazi Nosandi Mhlawuli said that it was a pleasure to be afforded the opportunity to be part of the important stakeholder engagement session.

“As traditional leaders, we fully pledge our unconditional support to the ECSD and equally expect government and other role players to also support the Invest Rural Programme, as the two Programmes complement one another.”

Both programmes are geared towards fighting poverty, unemployment and inequality and bring about development in our communities, said Nkskz Mhlawuli.

“What still needs to be done is to intensify consultation with more traditional leaders, their communities and other role players, as the success of any progra mme depends on common understanding and unity in purpose,” said Nkskz Mhlawuli.



Nkosi Langa Mavuso

RECOGNITION OF NKOSI NDAMASE

Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Xolile Nqatha handing over certificate of recognition to Nkosi Bukhosibakhe Jongisizwe Ndamase in Dumasi Administrative Area in Ngqeleni. MEC Nqatha further spoke out strongly against infighting in royal families, saying it created instability in the institution of traditional leadership in the province.



MEC Nqatha handing over certificate of recognition to Nkosi Ndamase

MEC CONGRATULATES NEWLY-ELECTED COUNCILLORS

By Makhaya Komisa

Cogta MEC Xolile Nqatha congratulated all the newly elected Executive Mayors, Mayors, Deputy Executive Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Speakers, Chief Whips and all Councillors.

MEC also welcomed the peaceful election process of councillors and the smooth transition to councils across the province. The province has 31 Local Municipalities, six District Municipalities and two Metropolitan Municipalities.

He further commended the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) on successfully conducting free and fair Local Government Elections. MEC Nqatha urged the newly elected councillors to work hard to better the lives of the people of the province.

"I am looking forward to working with all the newly elected councillors. One of the tasks that councillors must ensure is effective oversight

and to ensure that there is clarity of roles so that those who are in the political leadership do not interfere with administrative processes and administrators do not put their noses in the political sphere," said MEC Nqatha.

The MEC urged all spheres of government (including councillors) to safeguard the rule of law and ensure that due processes are always adhered to. He called on all councillors to abide by a Code of Conduct that requires them, among other things to declare their financial interests and to report back to their constituencies at regular intervals.

The MEC concluded by compelling all councillors to strictly adhere to the principles of cooperative governance as enshrined in Chapter three (3) of the Constitution.



MEC Nqatha assisting Speaker of ORTambo District Municipality Cllr N Capa to wear her robe



Backrow L-R: Cllr F Phumaphi, Cllr B. Ketelo, Exec Mayor N. Ndikinda, Cllr K. Maneli, Cllr X. Mngxaso
Seated in front L-R: Cllr N. Nyatela, Cllr B. Madikana and Cllr N. Rulashe (Picture supplied)

QAMATA MEETING DISCUSS SOCIAL ILLS

By Vuyani Sibene



L-R: King Dalimvula Matanzima, Nkosi Matanzima, Mr Stofile and MEC Nqatha

Recently CoGTA MEC Xolile Nqatha met with the King of Western Thembuland, Siyabonga Dalimvula Matanzima at Qamata Great Place. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss widespread social ills which undermine the culture and customs of the area including the St Marks Administrative Area (AA) and Cofimvaba.

MEC Nqatha said it is important for him to have an ear to listen first then consult before engaging in discussions on issues concerning to culture, custom and tradition. "We all have a role to promote and preserve the history and political contribution of traditional leaders in the democracy that we all enjoy today," said MEC Nqatha.

King Matanzima expressed delight by the MEC's visit which showed leadership and intelligence on his part.

"When the MEC heard about the crisis that is brewing in St Marks, he took the lead to investigate it whilst we were also trying to sort it out in our little corners," said King Matanzima.

Nkosi Ngangomhlaba Matanzima thanked MEC Nqatha for addressing their issues in the St Marks A/A relating to headmanship within traditional leadership and the community before these matters get out of hand. "We thank MEC Nqatha and hope all we have requested will be answered and a report be made available in good time," he said.

NOTHENGA VILLAGERS RECEIVE COMMUNITY HALL THROUGH MIG FUNDING

By Thando Sonjica

The Community of Nothenqa village near Stutterheim in the Amahlathi Local Municipality were joyful when the MEC for Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Xolile Nqatha handed over a multimillion rands Community Hall in October 2021.

This was as a result of the department in the 2019/2020 financial year setting aside over R7 million through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) allocation for the construction of a Community Hall, with graveled parking.

The MIG allocations are aimed to eradicate municipal infrastructure backlogs in poor communities as well as ensure the provision of basic services such as water, sanitation, roads and community lighting. The department of Cogta in the Eastern Cape Province is responsible for managing and transferring the MIG funds and provide support to municipalities to implement such MIG projects.

Speaking at the handover event Councillor Nicholas Monti said there were a lot of challenges during the building of the Hall but was happy that it was finally handed over to the community of Nothenqa village.

"The Hall is of good standing and will be used to benchmark other Halls to be constructed in future."

A community representative Mr Mhlawenkosi Sizani said the building of the hall was started in 2014 and got stalled because of many challenges in the community. At some point the material was stolen and sold to the community.

"We even engaged in community protests and blocked the R63 road demanding the hall to be rebuilt. Nonetheless, we are thankful that the hall is finished and is being handed over today," said Mr Sizani.

Outgoing Mayor of Amahlathi LM, Councillor Agnes Hobo said she felt good when they go from one Ward to the next to hand over projects because it is their responsibility to deliver services to communities.

"I am happy that during our term we have left a legacy of community development. It also gives me pleasure that communities have come to witness the handing over so that they can tell others that government has fulfilled its promise of delivering services to its community, said Mayor Hobo.

Handing over the project MEC Nqatha said he was also happy that the budget had been put to good use with no additional expenses incurred. He said it was the responsibility of Cogta to assist municipalities and that responsibility was embedded in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

"We need to encourage cooperative governance so that what we do has an impact on the lives of our communities," said MEC Nqatha.

He called upon the community to look after the Hall so that it does not get vandalised.

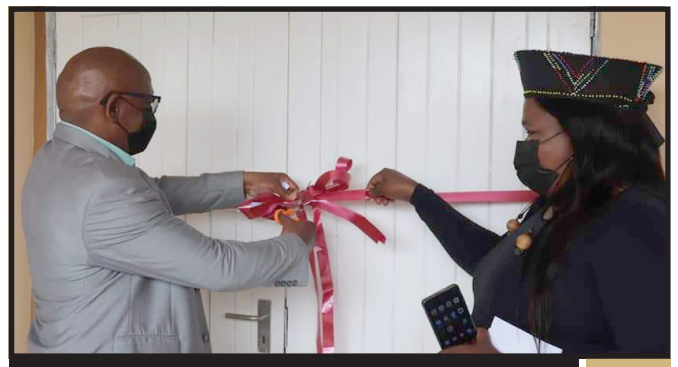
"We are all aware about the destruction of infrastructure in Amahlathi municipality which was uncalled for. As people of Amahlathi we are the ones who now suffering because of that unfortunate incident. People in this community must never destroy what they already have no matter how dissatisfied they are," said MEC.

Meanwhile, MEC Nqatha encouraged people to vaccinate against Covid 19 so as not to get sick, admitted in hospital or die.

Certificates were handed over to ten (10) people who got training in building and civil skills during the construction period.



MEC handing over certificate to one of the trainees



MEC Nqatha cutting a ribbon of the new hall with Mayor Hobo



One of the villagers speaking at the handover event



Newly built Nothenqa Hall



MABAYE BEPHILA BABUYE BEPHILA SIYAZINGCA NGESIKO LETHU

SUMMER TRADITIONAL INITIATION SEASON OFFICIALLY OPEN FOR TWO MONTHS FROM 12 NOVEMBER 2021 UNTIL 12 JANUARY 2022

TO GUARANTEE THE SAFE PASSAGE OF OUR CHILDREN TO MANHOOD PARENTS AND FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING:

- Subject their kids to medical screening 14 days before undergoing the rite of passage to manhood.
- All boys must be tested for COVID-19 including ingcibi and ikhankatha
- Parents to provide masks and other PPEs for abakhwetha.
- Sanitisers are not allowed emabhumeni.
- Wearing of masks by ingcibi, ikhankatha and umkhwetha must be done at all times.
- Visits to emabhumeni are restricted to families only to mitigate the spread of Covid 19.
- Drinking water is allowed emabhumeni
- Parents to provide soaps and water.

• Vaccination of boys is encouraged, but is not a prerequisite for ulwaluko. Those who are not vaccinated will still undergo initiation practice.

• Traditional leaders are expected to take all the necessary steps to guarantee compliance in their areas.

• Any deviation from the provisions of the Risk Adjusted Strategy will result in the closure of the amabhuma and initiation schools by the monitoring teams and any relevant authority.



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SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES BETTER



KOUGA LM CLEANING CAMPAIGN



MEC Nqatha leading the cleaning campaign in Hankey



MEC Nqatha with Community Work Programme participants cleaning the streets of Hankey