



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

COGTA *Newsletter*

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EDITORIAL COMMENT



Editor: Ms Thando Sonjica

Welcome to Cogta News last edition of the 2022/23 financial year. In this edition we bring you summarised stories of the Policy Speech as delivered in the Eastern Cape Legislature on 28 March 2023.

The Policy Speech is the highlight on the departmental calendar as it sets the tone for the year ahead wherein the MEC outlines the plans and focus areas of the department. In his speech Cogta MEC, Zolile Williams said the budget was meant to strengthen the functioning of municipalities and traditional leadership institutions. I invite you to read the stories on pages 2 and 7 and the full speech on <http://www.eccogta.gov.za>

In this issue we also bring you stories about various sessions held by the Local Government Branch to empower

Councillors on Municipal Regulations and Municipal officials on Staff Regulations held in East London and Port Alfred respectively. These two stories can be found on page 3 and 6.

Also of significance during this quarter was the opening of the 2nd session of the 6th Term of the House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders by Premier Oscar Mabuyane at Bhisho. The Premier urged traditional leaders to defeat the rising tide of sexist tendencies and gender based violence in rural areas. Read more about the story on page 5.

Take time to read about other programmes that the department undertook during this quarter and enjoy the read.

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This is a quarterly newsletter published by the Directorate: Corporate Communications of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

COUNCILLORS AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS ARE SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE-REMINDS MEC WILLIAMS

By Mamkeli Ngam

The R1 050 901 Budget for Cogta for the 2023/2024 Financial Year was tabled at the Eastern Cape Legislature last month. In his speech Cogta MEC Zolile Williams said the budget was meant to strengthen the functioning of municipalities and traditional leadership institutions.

He said, the mandate of the 55th Conference of the ruling party, “is loud and clear that we must make municipalities work for our people.”

“I must make this clarion call to Councillors and traditional leaders that our people deserve more and theirs is to listen to them, work with them and be their servants. At this critical time in the development of our nation, our people deserve leaders that humble themselves and understand that theirs is a privilege that must be used to benefit ordinary people of our Province,” said MEC Williams.

The MEC added that it is government's intention to change the face of the Province is the implementation of the non-negotiables as announced by Premier Oscar Mabuyane in his State of the Province Address (SOPA).

He said government will make municipalities respond to basic needs of communities in a much more holistic manner by setting clear non-negotiable standards.



MEC Zolile Williams

MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS OUTLINED FOR COUNCILLORS

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

A session meant to workshop Councillors on Local Government Municipal Regulations was recently hosted by Cogta in Port Alfred.

Outlining the purpose of the session Mr Andile Sidinile, Director for Municipal Capacity Building said research on the performance of municipalities revealed that some municipalities are still experiencing governance and institutional challenges in meeting their obligations. The challenges, he said include “incoherent human resources practises, poor skills development, poor planning, under expenditure by municipalities on capital budgets and ineffective revenue collection strategies to mention a few.”

He said the Minister of Cogta has promulgated regulations and issued guidelines setting uniform standards, procedures and staff systems and procedures for all staff and senior managers.

“It is our support role to conduct a training session for Councillors to ensure an accountable local public administration that is responsive to the needs of local municipalities,” said Mr Sidinile.

The Deputy Director General (DDG) for Developmental Local Government, Mr Vuyo Mlokothi the regulations are meant to create a career (focussed) local public

administration that is fair, efficient, effective and transparent.

“It is also meant to create a development oriented local public administration governed by good human resource management and career development practices. Likewise, the Regulations are to safeguard an accountable local public administration that is responsive to the needs of local communities,” said Mr Mlokothi.

In addition, he said the regulations are also destined to strengthen the capacity of municipalities to perform their functions through recruitment and appointment of suitably qualified and competent persons.

“In the final analysis we seek to establish a coherent Human Resource governance regime that will ensure adequate checks and balances, including enforcement of compliance with the legislation,” explained Mr Mlokothi.

Mr Majavu

Presentations on the Regulations included staff establishment, job description and job evaluation, recruitment selection and appointment, competency framework for occupational streams, performance management and development system, skills development and dispute resolution.



DDG Mlokothi



Attendees at the Seminar

FALLEN HEROES AND HEROINES REMEMBERED AT THE 8TH ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION SEMINAR IN GQEBERA

By Vuyani Sibene

The National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), in collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality hosted the 8th Annual Fire Safety and Prevention Seminar in Gqeberha, this quarter.

The two-day seminar was attracted delegates from high-ranking officials and experts in fire services from across South Africa, as well as fire safety and fire prevention practitioners from municipalities and private exhibitors.

The seminar focused on thrashing out the transformation agenda of the country's fire departments from response-based fire management methodologies to proactive fire risk reduction through safety and prevention initiatives, Mr Andile Fani, Head of Department (HoD) for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, (Cogta) in the Province.

Delivering the keynote address Mr Fani honoured "our first responders who put their lives on the line to protect us and our communities as our fallen heroes and heroines."

"I refer to our fallen heroes of the fire that engulfed a 24-story Gauteng Provincial building in downtown Johannesburg, killing three (3) firefighters and injuring many in the line of duty on the fateful day of 05 September 2018. We must learn lessons from this and other tragedies that befall us. Almost every year we have to experience fire disasters including the Tsitsikamma area. It is high time that we get to the bottom of the causes of such disaster situations through our research agenda so that we prevent a recurrence of such," said Mr Fani.

He announced that officials from the PDMC were attending a meeting organised by NDMC on the national research agenda at the same time as this summit.

Mr Fani committed to encourage partners to do the same to improve the disaster protection activities currently underway.

Mr Philela Mabandla, Director of the PDMC said he was confident that the seminar would create a body of knowledge that will advance the overall agenda of safe communities.

"Undoubtedly, the negative impact of fires bring great devastation to the most vulnerable communities. Fire disasters disrupt the people's daily lives, bring illness and inconvenience which can also result in their inability to provide normal services to families," he said.

Mr Mabandla said the seminar was one of the ongoing initiatives of the NDMC to create platforms for dialogue among firefighters and contributed to the improvement of fire departments in the country. The breakaway sessions addressed collaboration and partnership in the implementation of the fire and safety strategy, said Mr Mabandla.

Dr Elias Sithole, the Head of the NDMC said, it was a great honour for them to partner with the Eastern Cape partners to host the seminar.

"(This is) A great example of good cooperative governance and government joining hands to fight the scourge of fires in our communities. The seminar will assist participants to respond to fire incidents and to provide mutual aid in cross-border incidents, as well," said Dr Sithole.

Dr Sithole added that the seminar was just one of the starting points towards safer communities are safer from the scourge of fires.

"We have achieved the goals of the workshop and am confident that the friendship and solidarity among the participants has been fostered. Let us now take a look at some of the key projects that the various Fire Directorates will

undertake to assist Provinces and municipalities to address some of the challenges identified."

Mr Paul Wappinger of VW and Audi sharing his expertise and the latest trends in fire safety and prevention for electric vehicles with the first responders, said their fire prevention professionals were familiar with the latest methods and technologies to reduce fire risk, which is important for the country to be on the cutting edge in the profession.



Dr Sithole



Fire Drill



HOD Fani



Fire Demonstration

PREMIER URGES TRADITIONAL LEADERS TO DEFEAT RISING TIDE OF SEXIST TENDENCIES AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN RURAL AREAS

By Vuyani Sibene

At the official opening of the 2nd session of 6th term of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders (ECHTKL) in Bhisho, last month, Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane thanked traditional leaders for the role they played in helping people during the recent disasters.

"You were in the front lines of the disasters and we are indebted to you for your quick response. Government is strengthening (its) disaster management (capabilities) at the district level to ensure quick responses," said Premier Mabuyane.

He added that when addressing the transformation of traditional leadership institutions, there is a need to attend to the role of women and children in those institutions.

"The problem of sexism must be addressed directly and if we do not confront these sexist tendencies, we will see a rising tide of gender-based violence."

The Premier urged the traditional leadership collectively to address the real issues like drug abuse and rising crime in rural areas.

"Help our country move forward and defeat these alien tendencies that are somehow present in our communities. Rural areas used to be the most peaceful environment to live in, but now people in Mqhekezweni, Majola, Quthubeni, Bityi and Chafutweni live in fear. Gender-based violence and femicide continue to be a dark stain on our democracy. The voice of traditional leaders must be loud on this issue. The good news is that our Province now has a forensic laboratory in the Nelson Mandela Metro that will engage in DNA and ballistics testing to find the people who rape and shoot other people in our Province," said Premier Mabuyane.

The Premier said the Province in 2022, government made a commitment to address some of the challenges raised by the members of the House including hosting the strategic planning session for the term.

"Government looks forward to working with you to implement the plans that you have developed, because they are also aimed at building the Eastern Cape we want. In wish to also appeal to members of the House to participate in the development of the Eastern Seaboard Development (ESD) because it will be implemented in their land," he said.

Government officials, said Premier, have told him that they made a presentation in the House on the ESD and that members of the House have embraced the concept.

"This is wonderful news and we will make sure that Abantwana Begazi participate in the work streams to implement the project. Your presence will also strengthen the social facilitation with the communities to avoid delays in the implementation of projects," he said.

The Premier said the issue of benefits like medical aid and retirement annuities which he said were receiving attention as they are a national competence. he called on traditional leaders to be patient with this process which will definitely be responded to by the Presidency.

Regarding the maintenance of the Kingdoms, Premier Mabuyane said there we ongoing contacts with the National Department of Public Works and awaiting a report on what to do with these assets.

He said if such assets needed to be maintained by the Provincial Public Works department, that will be done by exercising flexibility on the matter.



Left to Right: MEC Williams, Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadiso, and Premier Mabuyane



Nkosi Gwadiso



Traditional Leaders



Traditional Leaders and Invited Guests

POLITICAL MUNIMEC FORUM A STRATEGIC PLATFORM TO IMPROVE INTEGRATED SERVICE DELIVERY

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

The MEC for the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Zolile Williams recently hosted a two day Political MuniMEC Forum in Mthatha, in the quarter under review.

MEC Williams described the MuniMEC Forum as “a strategic platform” to address service delivery issues in particular the implementation of infrastructure projects in the Eastern Cape Province.

He said the Forum pursues “a common agenda to improve integrated service delivery” as mandated by the IGR Framework Act No13 of 2005.

“This Forum precedes the Premiers Intergovernmental Forum (PIGF) to enhance linkages and cross pollination of service delivery issues within the Province,” said MEC Williams.

The MEC introduced what he termed “Non Negotiables” for municipalities in relation to attend to the under-expenditure of Municipal Infrastructure Grants (MIG) to improve service delivery.

He said the package of initiatives includes the introduction of the Balanced Scorecard Performance Management System. However, these have not produced results instead most municipalities remained in a state of decay especially on service delivery. Additionally, there is no clear accountability mechanism for Mayors and Executive Mayors on their instrument for oversight. There is generally poor service delivery, community protests and unhappy consumers due to the state of service delivery. What is the nature of the problem and what must be done about it?”

MEC Williams said the non-negotiables is an attempt to do simple things which when done have major impact and do not require new budgets.

“We want to make service delivery an overarching focal point as the basis for the existence of municipalities and consolidate all the deliverables in a clear and practical way to strengthen oversight.”

Ms Portia Makhanya from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Eastern Cape said that access to reliable basic services remains a challenge despite significant strides that have been made to bridge the inequality gap since 1994.

“This is exacerbated by climate change threatening water security in the Western part of the Province hence the drought situation. Other challenges include the inability to eradicate historical water and sanitation service backlogs, increased demands especially in former homeland areas, high levels of dysfunctional infrastructure due to poor asset management, illegal yard connections, vandalism and high level of non-revenue water due to the rural nature of the Province,” said Ms Makhanya.

The Head of Department (HoD) for Provincial Treasury (PT), Mr Daluhlanga Majeke on the financial viability and governance of municipalities called on Municipal Managers (MM) to take ownership and hold management accountable to improve the financial control environment and also instill a culture of good financial governance in municipalities.

Mr Sabelo Mavundla from the AG South Africa applauded municipalities and entities that achieved clean audit results which included Joe Gqabi District, Joe Gqabi Development Agency, Mquma, Nelson Mandela Bay Development Agency and Winnie Madikizela Mandela.

The MuniMEC Forum is attended by the Executive Mayors, Mayors, Departmental HoDs, MMs, amongst other senior government officials.



Councillor Janda of Mbashe Local Municipality making a point



MEC Williams

MUNICIPALITIES TO ENTRENCH PROTOTYPE STAFF ESTABLISHMENTS TO AVERT BLOATED STRUCTURES

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

Recently the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) through its Municipal Governance and Support Chief Directorate held a workshop to empower municipal officials on the legal steps towards the Prototype Staff Establishment (PSE) in line with the Staff Regulations of 2021.

Highlighting the objectives of the session Ms Charity Sihunu, Chief Director for Municipal Governance and Support said that during the 2018/2019 financial year the department commissioned a study to develop a PSE in line with the powers and functions of different categories of municipalities.

“The PSE has been completed and the municipalities are expected to implement it hence this workshop to give them the way forward on this regard,” said Ms Sihunu.

She added that there is an increasing number of municipalities that have adopted bloated staff structures that are not aligned to the constitutional principles and their service delivery obligations. As a consequence, such municipalities spend the large proportion of their operational budgets on salaries thus resulting in not prioritising the needs of the communities, she said.

“The situation is also compounded by the calibre of staff employed by these municipalities which have found themselves in precarious financial and service delivery situations which is evident in smaller municipalities,” she said.

Ms Sihunu concluded that to address the challenge of the bloated structures, municipal leadership must follow the staff establishment procedures when developing and populating their organisational structures in different categories of municipalities.

“Organisational Design Norms as highlighted in the Staff Regulations of 2021 should be complied with,” she said.

The facilitator of the session Mr Andile Sidinile, Director for Municipal Capacity Building said that in previous years, Auditor General (AG) raised recurring findings about the issue of bloated structures in municipalities.

“To respond to AGI findings we have, in collaboration with key stakeholders the development of a Generic Prototype Organogram to suit the three categories of the Municipalities. The sample was taken from all Provinces and thirty-seven municipalities were selected. In our Province four municipalities were sampled to participate in the project,” explained Mr Sidinile.



Mr Sidinile



Bafo Sigenu Chris Hani DM



Akhona Dabula Amathole District Municipality

POLICY SPEECH 2023/24 IN SUMMARY

Theme: 'The year of decisive action to advance the people's interests.'

INTRODUCTION

The 2023/24 Budget Vote constitutes an act of advancing people's interests to change the face of our municipalities and simultaneously build indigenous African institutions of traditional leaders capable of managing their own affairs, exercise their powers and perform their functions.

A PROFESSIONAL, ETHICAL AND STABLE ADMINISTRATION

- More investment in the information technology systems for district offices and traditional leadership institutions and ensure the stability of the network and accessibility to our clients.
- 24-hour counselling services for all our employees to fulfil our intention of becoming an employer of choice.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL

- Department will support the coordination and implementation of the DDM in six (6) Districts and two (2) Metro in the Province.

CUSTOMARY MALE INITIATION PRACTICE

- Committed R3.7 million to support customary initiation programme.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRADITIONAL AND KHOI-SAN LEADERSHIP ACT (TKLA), NO. 3 OF 2019

- R2.7 million has been set aside for the reconstitution of Traditional Councils be reconstituted in line with the determined formula.
- R13.078 million earmarked for recruitment of support staff, operations and furniture for these houses.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- R2.3 million for bursaries targeting ten (10) traditional leaders to advance their studies.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

- R3.5 million for municipal interventions.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

- R292 877 to monitor and support targeted municipalities in the process of amending the Provincial Spatial Development Framework to address specific provincial growth and developmental planning needs.
- R515 198 set aside to guide and monitor prioritised municipalities in various districts to comply with the Local Government Municipal Property Rates Act (MPRA).
- Having observed the slow spending on conditional grants in municipalities we have adopted a risk adjusted approach to strengthen their capability'. In

our quest to address perennial underspending of municipal infrastructure grants in the province, we developed a Municipal Conditional Grants Management Policy Framework (MCG-MPF), which embeds the risk adjusted strategy. This framework has been presented for consultation to municipalities and sector partners. It will be implemented during the 2023/24 financial year and contains non-negotiable terms that will improve the currently experienced infrastructure under expenditure.

Urban and Small-Town Development

- R2,8 million is reserved to support small towns namely, Port St Johns, Maluti, Port Alfred, Stutterheim, Engcobo, Mt Fletcher and Qumbu through the implementation of cleaning, repairs and maintenance of infrastructure.

Local Economic Development

- R2,260 million set aside to support creation of 180 Expanded Works Programme (EPWP) job opportunities across the province in line with the National Development Plan.

Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC)

- R125 829 000 is allocated through the Municipal Disaster Response Grant (MDRG) to attend to the state of disaster in the prioritised municipalities.
- R1 437 million has been set aside for the Audio Visual and Video Conferencing project.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Programmes	Medium-term estimates		
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	'000		
1. Administration	275 469	274 886	287 510
2. Local Governance	262 342	276 193	285 398
3. Development and Planning	123 051	125 892	129 459
4. Traditional Institutional Management	357 425	377 277	388 885
5. House of Traditional Leaders	32 614	33 433	34 629
Total payments and estimates	1 050 901	1 087 681	1 125 881

Source: 2023 MTEF Database and MTEF Allocation letter



MEC Zolile Williams

GOVERNMENT TO PARTNER WITH TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS TO BUILD RESEARCH AND EVALUATION CAPACITY

By Thando Sonjica

The Eastern Cape Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs (Cogta) convened for the first time, a two-day Provincial Evaluation Seminar for Local Government (ESLG). The session held last month in East London comprised of various participants from national and provincial departments, municipalities, civil society, academia and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

Outlining the objectives of the seminar, Deputy Director General (DDG) for Local Government (LG) in Cogta, Mr Vuyo Mlokothe said the seminar amongst other things was to facilitate the institutionalisation of evaluation in municipalities for sustainable implementation of plans for effective delivery of services.

"The seminar provided a platform for sharing of good practices on how to go about evaluating the work of government to create better communities. It was also a networking platform of key stakeholders thus tapping into various skills to develop and strengthen evaluation capacity," said Mr Mlokothe.

Head of Department (HoD) of Cogta Mr Andile Fani said from the Evaluation Audit and Assessment exercise that has been undertaken, it is evident that the majority of municipalities "struggle to institutionalise evaluation."

"For this reason, there has been no evaluation function performed, making it difficult to measure and determine the impact of service delivery in municipalities. Moreover, technical evaluation skills as well as budget constraints make the institutionalisation of evaluation almost impossible. We converged over two days to come up with alternative mechanisms to advance this important policy function," he said.

Mr Fani added that the involvement of institutions of higher learning in the Province is one vital element to be looked into, on areas of technical evaluation, research capacity building as well as formal courses offered by these institutions.

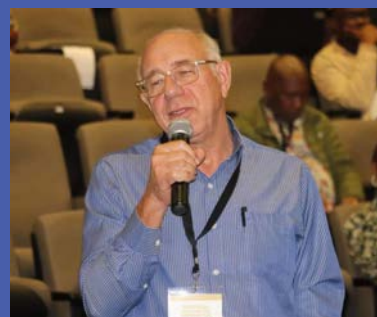
He added that there was a need to create a focused Local Government M&E Network to advance evaluation as well as establish Provincial Task Team for Evaluation & Research, going forward.



Mr Tafadzwa Mwangolela from OTP



Mr Basile Mase of COGTA



Mr Robert J. Mulder



Dr Siviwe Mditshwa of COGTA

EVALUATION KEY SCIENTIFIC TOOL FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY PROGRAMMES TO THE PEOPLE

By Thando Sonjica

Opening the ESLG the MEC for Cogta, Zolile Williams said the aim was to determine whether the manifesto of the ruling party was being translated into tangible action plans by administrators in government.

"The evaluation of a government performance is vital as it implies the success or failure of government in delivering services to the people using scientific tools. In our context, we seek to evaluate the ability of local government to deliver services to communities not in abstract terms rather in a practical way. From the government's point of view, assessment, measurement and evaluation are indispensable. We want to know the impact of government services to create better communities and a better life for all," explained MEC Williams.

He pointed out that the idea behind the seminar was to discuss, dialogue, debate, engage and finally come up with one scientific tool that will measure and evaluate the performance of our municipalities in the delivery of services.

"Our convergence is to promote public participation, transparency and accountable government who delivers services to the people. At the same time, we are enjoined by Section 154 of the Constitution to coordinate and support municipalities to deliver services to communities. This includes the coordination and development of the Provincial Evaluation Plans (PEP) to reflect alignment of all evaluations. To this end, we shoulder the responsibility to support local government," said MEC Williams.

In the Province there are less than five municipalities with Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Directorates focussing on Performance Management System (PMS) of the Integrated Development Plans (IDP).

"Good as that might be, it is not enough as a tool to gauge the performance of the municipalities to deliver services to our communities. In government evaluation serves as an indication of service delivery or lack thereof to our communities. We are proud to be among the pioneers to undertake this scientific work after the Provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape," he said.

From the expertise of the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA), we have been afforded with an opportunity to gain rich information and in-depth understanding in respect of the various evaluation methods and techniques, he added.

"Without evaluation, we will not be able to ascertain whether we are translating the manifesto of the ruling party into tangible government service delivery success stories. The seminar, in my view was long overdue. Deprived of such a scientific tool, government will be unable to discover misconceptions, backlogs or targets hence evaluation is the basic essential tool for good governance," said MEC Williams.