



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

COGTA *Newsletter*

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EDITORIAL COMMENT



Ms Thando Sonjica

The year 2023 marks the 47th anniversary of June 16 since the 1976 Soweto student uprising befell South Africa, hence in 1994, the was officially designated as the National Youth Day (NYD) in memory of the students who died on the day. Government commemorates the day, annually during June, the Youth Month. This year's NYD was celebrated under the theme: "Accelerating Youth Economic Emancipation for a Sustainable Future" to draw more young people into the mainstream of the economy.

It is in this context that on 13 June 2023, Cogta in partnership with the Joe Gqabi District and its local municipalities hosted a Youth in Business and Career awareness at Khwezi Naledi Hall in Lady Grey, Senqu Local Municipality. This was the initiative of Cogta MEC, Zolile Williams. Find out more about how this event unfolded on page 7.

Linked to the Youth Month, the department also held an Imbizo on Ulwaluko in Nyandeni Local Municipality in the OR Tambo District Municipality to stem the tide of deaths and injuries in the area. Read more about this story on page 6.

Another important event in the quarter under review was the visit of Deputy President, Mr Paul Mashatile to OR Tambo District and Buffalo City Metro Municipalities as part of his political oversight to accelerate service delivery and feedback on the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM). The pictures on the visit are on page 8.

Take time to read more about other departmental programmes that took place in the period under review 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.

NKOSI MDITSHWA IS OFFICIALLY THE HEAD OF AMAMPONDONMISE

By Vuyani Sibene

It was a proud moment for AmaMpondomise ka Ketani when Nkosi Vulindlela Nkosemntu Mditshwa was coronated as the head of AmaMpondomise Traditional Council (TC). This momentous event took place on 01 June 2023, at Bele Administrative area kuTsolo.

The coronation was graced by honoured guests including the King of aMampondomise, Luzuko Zwelozuko Matiwane, MEC for Cogta Zolile Williams, Chairperson of the House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadiso, Member of Parliament (MP) and United Democratic Movement (UDM) leader General Bantubonke Holomisa.

Giving the message of support, General Holomisa said the coronation came at the right time because they needed a leader who would serve the people of the area with respect.

“The dismissal of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders Act by the Constitutional Court seeks to ensure the recognition of traditional leaders at all levels. This is an opportunity to speak with one voice from the King downwards,” said General Holomisa.

Handing over the certificate of recognition, MEC Williams, said, the certificate was proof that Nkosi Mditshwa was officially the Chief of Ketani TC.

“Matters of Kings and Chiefs must be discussed by (Royal families) and not government officials because that is when it becomes a problem,” said MEC Williams.

Giving words of wisdom, King Matiwane said the coronation does not make Nkosi Mditshwa better than his people.



MEC Williams handing over a certificate of recognition to Nkosi Mditshwa

“This is a hot seat and make sure you look after AmaMpondomise. The road is long, give them advice and ideas in economic development,” said King Matiwane.

Responding, Nkosi Mditshwa said he was “lost for words” to thank all the people who attended and supported the event.

“AmaMpondomise fought more than hundred and sixteen (116) years only to have their Kingship recognised in courts (of law) in the last three years. Today the bones and spirits of our forefathers are happy,” said Nkosi Mditshwa.

LET US WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE PROVINCE GREAT - NKOSI GWADISO

By Dumisani Lindi

The Chairperson of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders (ECHOTKL) Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadiso advised Members of Executive Council (MECs) that working together can make the Province great. Nkosi Gwadiso was presiding over a three-day, second sitting of the second session of the Sixth Term of the House in Bhisho. The MECs who tabled their speeches in the House were MEC for CoGTA, Education, Human Settlements, Agrarian Reform, Safety and Community Liaison and representatives from SALGA and an official from the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), where their speeches concentrated on developing rural communities.

“The approach of working in silos does not benefit our Province. I am sure if we can work together a lot can be achieved because we have a rich Province. The problem with our departments is the duplication of services in one community. I suggest and plead with departments to embrace an integrated approach to address service delivery challenges,” said the Chairperson.

After each address the members of the House made comments and posed questions concerning each speech. MEC for the department of Transport and Community Safety (DoT) Xolile Nqatha was asked about the condition of roads, condition of transport carrying rural communities and what his plan was for the future.

His response he said his department has purchased the yellow fleet and both public and private transport users will benefit, “Ensuring the safety of our communities and the condition of the roads is our main priority. Funds are allocated for the quick construction of roads,” said MEC Nqatha.

The MEC for the department of Education (DoE) Fundile Gade was asked about the high number of dropouts and why as the grades go up, the numbers drop. He said at Grade R, the DoE registers two million (2 million) kids and

when they get to Grade 12, the number drops to 800 000 learners. Some children dropout due to drug abuse and others get pregnant.

“I am asking Inkosi to assist and groom children from the early stages and monitor them every step of the way. Let us give them incentives like certificates at Grade 9 to encourage them to keep on going,” said MEC Gade.

In concluding the three-day sitting, Nkosi Gwadiso thanked the organisers of the sitting the administrative staff and members of the House.



Mr Vuyo Stofile, Nkosi Gwadiso and Mr Mziwethemba Nkantsu

COGTA MUST ASSESS THE IMPACT OF SUPPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

Speaking at a recent Provincial Technical Intergovernmental Relations Forum (IGRF) in East London, the Head of Department (HoD) for the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Mr Andile Fani, said there is a need to assess the impact of support provided to municipalities.

He said the countdown to the 2024 national and provincial elections will start soon hence people need to experience real delivery of services on the ground. "Are we doing enough to support municipalities to create better communities? If not, we need to do things differently. Our meetings must yield positive outcomes that are life changing to our communities. This Forum strives to pursue a common agenda towards integrated and aligned service delivery as mandated by the IGR Framework Act No. 13 of 2005," said HoD Fani.



Mr Jiyose of Cogta making a point at the session

HoD for Cogta, Mr Fani

The Forum is convened by Cogta attended by all Municipalities of the Province, Sector Departments and Government Entities to address service delivery issues facing the local state. Presentations of the Forum are then recommended for tabling in the political MuniMEC meeting.

Presenting on the state of municipal finances, Ms Nokwanda Tungata the Deputy Director General (DDG) from Provincial Treasury (PT) said urgent attention is required by Municipal Managers (MM) to implement the Audit Action Plans (AAP) to adhere to the process of crafting Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for the 2022/23 Financial Year.

"Accounting Officers must pay attention to the weak internal control environment and backlogs on key reconciliation in their municipalities. Another issue to be looked at is the poor document management, incomplete Fixed Asset Registers (FAR), lack of oversight by Internal Audit (Units), Audit Committee and (Municipal) Councils," she said.

She warned MM against the dependency on consultants which bring no value for money in the audit process of municipalities.

Also presenting at Forum, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB), Mr Manye Moroka said that in 2022, they proceeded with the minor technical process to re-determine municipal. They considered all views and predetermined the minor municipal boundaries by publishing a Notice in the EC Provincial Gazette. Members of the public and (key) stakeholders were also invited to submit objections within 30 days from the publication.

"All objections received were analysed and considered by the Board and the final decision published in the EC provincial gazette on 06 February 2023," said Mr Morake.

DSRAC SHARES LIGHT LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE PROVINCE

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

The HoD for the Department of Sport Recreation Arts and Culture (DSRAC), Ms Sibongile Mpofu speaking at the IGR Forum in East London, said rendering library services in the Province is shared between her department and local municipalities. However, there is "no long-term agreements" except the annual signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the two spheres of government.

She said the Provincial government derives its mandate on library services from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996 which assigned libraries other than national libraries as an exclusive legislative competence of the Provincial governments.

"Before the adoption of the new Constitution in 1996 the library services existed as part of the Cape Provincial library services consistent with the assignment of the library function as an exclusive legislative function of Provinces. The Eastern Cape Libraries and Information Service Act No 6 of 2003 repealed the previous legislation, said Ms Mpofu.

She added that as the Provincial governments were assigned this responsibility, no adequate costing of the library services was done.

"As a result, no budget provision was made to the department to carry out the responsibility of the newly added function," said Ms Mpofu.

She said municipalities continued to provide library services as part of their responsibility, without a formal delegation defining the expectations of the department in relation to the transfer that the department would make to the municipalities for them to deliver the services on behalf of the department.

"Library services is a Provincial mandate, therefore municipalities do not budget for this service in their IDPs. For this reason, library services become an unfunded mandate when they provide services over and above the funding allocated to them as per the service level agreement with the DSRAC," she said.



HoD for DSRAC, Ms Mpofu

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS WITH BUSINESS HELPS MUNICIPALITIES

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

A collaborative effort between the business sector and government in the Eastern Cape has improved water security and service delivery capacity in local municipalities. This was demonstrated in a joint government and business event held this quarter in Gqebera in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM). The event was to celebrate the achievements of the collaborative efforts realised through the establishment of the Programme Management Unit (PMU) in partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) in August 2019.

Setting the scene at the event the Deputy Director General (DDG) of Developmental Local Government, Mr Vuyo Mlokothi said the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) said through the PMU, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the National Business Initiative (NBI) to support joint efforts by Cogta and DBSA on the agreed deliverables.

The NBI subsequently also signed an MoU with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and extended its support to include a COVID-19 emergency water project as well as technical assistance to the Drought Mitigation Plan (DMP) in NMBM.

Mr Mlokothi added that the Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA) funded the capacity building program in Cogta and various municipalities across the Province.

"BLSA also supported the drought mitigation interventions in NMBM, in partnership with the United States (US) Government through the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Retired engineers as well as financial and technical experts were deployed, through NBI's Technical Assistance Mentorship and Development (TAMDEV). These experts identified and executed impactful projects to improve service delivery," said Mr Mlokothi

He added that other funders, including Vodacom, Shoprite, Grundfos Foundation and PepsiCo, have also supported this important work.

"The collaborative efforts focused on strengthening the capacity of government for a functional PMO, improved Financial Management and effective Infrastructure Planning and Management. The impact of the support was measured in tangible outcomes and improved service delivery in the participating municipalities," said Mr Mlokothi.

In addition, he said the support in the NMBM was integrated into the DWS Ministerial intervention and focused on the Adopt-a-School public awareness, infrastructure planning and maintenance projects.

"The adopt-a-school initiative involved partnering with local business chambers to fix leaks in hundred (100) high-user schools. Through Cogta's Community Works Programme (CWP), participants were trained and sent to schools under the supervision of a professional plumber."

Mr Mlokothi said through public awareness campaigns there was reduction in water demand and vandalism of water infrastructure. The skills of the Operations and Maintenance Unit were enhanced to reduce turnaround times for repairs and realise uninterrupted water provisioning to communities.

"Technical mentorship was also provided to young engineers in the NMBM's on projects related to wastewater treatment works and pump stations," explained Mr Mlokothi



CWP participants showing certificates

Mr Mlokothi

DEPUTY MINISTER MAHLOBO CONVEYS GRATITUDE TO PARTNERS

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

Deputy Minister of the DWS, Member of Parliament (MP) David Mahlobo conveyed sincere gratitude to partners who responded positively. TDM Mahlobo was speaking at an event hosted to celebrate the achievements of the collaborative efforts realised through the establishment of the Programme Management Unit (PMU) in partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) in August 2019.

"We are heartened that you responded to the call by his Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa for a social compact to work together as partners. We are certain that the capacity you have built in the Metro will give us sustainability to respond to any issues of climate change", said Minister Mahlobo.

He was pleased that the Metro worked with National Treasury and DWS and that the Provincial government will increase the availability of water through several projects.

Ms Ruth Troskie, the Head of TAMDEV at the NBI, emphasized the importance of long-term sustainability of achieved community projects.

"The success of our collaborative efforts led to the achievement of our objectives including capacity building. This partnership showcases the positive outcomes when Business and Government work together towards a common goal, ultimately improving water security and service delivery in the region," said Ms Troskie.



Ms Troskie



Deputy Minister, David Mahlobo

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HELD FOR WINTER INITIATION SEASON

By Vuyani Sibene



MEC Williams with Mayor of Nyandeni, Cllr Viwe Ndamase



Chiefs and Community Members

An Imbizo on safe Winter Initiation season, in the form of community engagement roadshows was mounted to raise awareness for parents, guardians, school learners, iingcibi, amakhankatha in the Nyandeni Local Municipality. The official launch took place at kwaMbhange village in the Rhabhe Church this quarter. led by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) for the safe Winter Season of Ulwaluko.

The Imbizo was a collaboration between Cogta and its partners such as the Departments of Social Development, Education and Health, South African Police Services (SAPS), National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) including Right to Care, South African Health Solutions, United Nations Population Fund (UN FP), Ikamva leSizwe, OR Tambo District and Nyandeni Municipalities.

Speaking, MEC for Cogta, Zolile Williams said in the past the custom was not for monetary gain.

“Ulwaluko needs to be honoured by parents, guardians and all stakeholders such as linkosi and Councillors so that our kids come back alive. Customary Male Initiation is the key to manhood and must be respected and not treated as by the by the way custom. Amabhuma are not for those who go there to drink and cause chaos,” said MEC Williams.

MEC Williams added: “Parents must ensure that their sons are registered to the local Chief, get screened by health officials and must be eighteen (18) years. If underage he must have a consent letter from the parent,” he said.

He also reminded the parents that when the child is in the bush, fathers must make sure that they visit regularly and be given them water. All of these will lead to a safe passage to manhood,” said MEC Williams.

He called upon the members of the community to work with government and its partners and unite against this pandemic of initiates dying.

“We cannot let the custom to kill our children. Together we can come up with ways to drop the numbers of dying initiates or even achieve zero deaths” said MEC William in closing.

The community at large discussed the challenges they are facing including amakrwala influencing boys to go to the initiation schools at a young age. Mr Singaphi Nyathu a member of the community said kids were taught prison language in the initiation school.

“Some of the boys before they go to the bush, they do not smoke dagga, but when they come back, they drink, smoke and use drugs”, said Mr Nyathu.



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TRADITIONAL MALE INITIATION

Your Right to Know

WHAT IS TRADITIONAL MALE INITIATION?

- 🔴 Male initiation in South Africa refers to a cultural practice that marks the transformation of young men to adulthood.
- 🔴 The cultural practice of male initiation involves circumcision.
- 🔴 Male initiation prepares young men to be responsible men in society.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW?

- 🔴 You should be healthy and fit before undergoing the cultural practice and male initiation.
- 🔴 All young boys must consult their local healthcare centre beforehand.
- 🔴 All young boys should involve their elders/parents before undergoing the cultural practice of initiation.
- 🔴 Initiation school that meets all the requirements of health and safety must be registered with the relevant authorities.

YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is your right to:

- 🔴 Receive health education, good quality healthcare and counselling.
- 🔴 Adequate supervision by an adult or care-giver you trust.
- 🔴 An approved traditional surgeon/ healthcare practitioner to perform the circumcision.
- 🔴 Clean hygienic equipment must be used.
- 🔴 Demand the registration certificate of a prospective initiation school and traditional surgeon.

It is your responsibility to:

- 🔴 Communicate any problems you may have to your parents, caregiver, healthcare worker, social workers, friends, etc.
- 🔴 Report any illegal or unregistered initiation school to your nearest police station.
- 🔴 Drink water.
- 🔴 Use medication for your ailments.

WHERE CAN I FIND REGISTERED INITIATION SCHOOL?

- 🔴 Enquire and consult relevant authorities within your area including Ward Councillors, Traditional Leaders, Clinic, etc.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING CIRCUMCISED?

- 🔴 Reduces your risk of HIV infection.
- 🔴 Reduces the risk of sexually transmitted infections.
- 🔴 Improves hygiene.



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SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES BETTER

MEC WILLIAMS HOSTS YOUTH IN BUSINESS AWARENESS

By Vuyani Sibene

The year 2023 marks the 47th anniversary of June 16 since the 1976 Student uprising befell the South Africa. In 1994, June 16 was designated as National Youth Day in South Africa to remember the massacre of pupils during the 1976 Soweto Uprising. The South African Government remembers the struggles of the Youth of 1976 and commemorate the role they played in the country's liberation.

It is in this context that on 13 June 2023, Cogta in partnership with the Joe Gqabi District and its local municipalities hosted a Youth in Business and Career awareness at Khwezi Naledi Hall in Lady Grey.

"We hosted the event to create a favourable and supportive environment for young people to succeed in generating their own income. This we do this in partnership with strategic partners such as Small Enterprise Development (SEDA), the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC), Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) and Ikhala College," said Cogta MEC Zolile Williams.

Welcoming the youth at the event, the Speaker of Senqu LM Ms Nogoli Gwabini said welcome such programmes with both hands. This is an integrated government programme to deal with challenges facing the youth.

"In essence it means we are moving towards creating self-sufficient communities who are not solely grant dependent. The event should not be taken for granted and hope that we will reap (benefits) from the different stakeholders," said Councillor Gwabini.

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of the MEC for Cogta, the Executive Mayor of Joe Gqabi District Municipality, Councillor Nomvuyo Mposelwa said history was vital towards building a sustainable future. She said it was equally important to indicate that the youth is engulfed by the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

"To respond to these challenges, government proposed clear solutions that are entailed in the National Development Plan 2030. Various government departments, agencies and institutions of higher education to present services offerings for young people," said Councillor Mposelwa.

She explained that the event would also provide guidance on career paths that learners and out of school youth were encouraged to choose from so that young people can create employment opportunities for others and grow the economy.


"The country is engulfed by a high rate of unemployment and slow economic growth. Therefore, it becomes important to have youth with requisite skills to respond to unemployment and become job creators. I hope everyone will live with the wealth of information," said Mayor Mposelwa.




Out of School going youth



School going youth



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

FIRE PROHIBITION PERIOD 2023/2024

The Eastern Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre (EC-PDMC) hereby advises that due to the Veld Fire Season and prevailing drought conditions, no burning or open fires as defined are permitted in the following specified areas and periods:


1. Makana Local Municipality from **01 July 2023 – 31 October 2023**
2. Kouga and Koukamma Local Municipalities from **01 November 2023 – 28 February 2024**.
3. Ndlambe and Sundays River Valley Local Municipalities from **01 December 2023 – 31 March 2024**
4. Dr Beyers Naude Local Municipality from **01 August 2023 – 31 March 2024**
5. Blue Crane Route Local Municipality from **01 August 2023 – 30 April 2024**
6. Amathole District and Local Municipalities from **01 July 2023 – 31 October 2023**
7. Chris Hani District and Local Municipalities from **01 August 2023 – 31 October 2023**
8. Joe Gqabi District and Local Municipalities from **01 July 2023 – 31 October 2023**
9. O.R. Tambo District and Local Municipalities from **01 August 2023 – 31 October 2023**
10. Alfred Nzo District and Local Municipalities from **01 July 2023 – 31 October 2023**
11. Buffalo City Metro Municipality from **01 April 2023 – 31 August 2023**
12. Nelson Mandela Metro Municipality from **01 November 2023 – 30 April 2024**

Burning will be allowed under the following strict conditions:

- The Chief Fire Officers of the Metro's, Local / District Municipality or in the absence of a Chief Fire Officer, the Fire Protection Officer (FPO) of the local Fire Protection Association (FPA) must approve all burning operations according to their respective burning permit systems and Community Fire Safety By-laws.
- Landowners and Traditional leaders must apply a minimum of seven (7) days prior to burning for pre-approval.
- Final approval for burning must be obtained on the day of the proposed burn.
- All bordering landowners must be informed of burning operations in terms of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act (Act 101 of 1998) (NVFFA).
- The NVFFA places a duty on all landowners to have all precautions in place to prevent a veld fire from spreading or causing damage.




The public is urged to be extremely vigilant and to report any fires to the Local Municipal Fire Stations or Fire Protection Associations, alternatively to the Ambulance services at (10177); Police services at (10111); and 112 Cell phone emergency number.


Any person contravening this notice may be liable and face prosecution under the Fire Brigade Services Act 99 of 1987, National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998 or any other applicable legislation. For any further information kindly contact **Mr Mabandla** on 071 604 3160 or **Mr Alexander** on 072 424 7475 at the Provincial Disaster Management Centre.




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DEPUTY PRESIDENTS VISIT TO THE EASTERN CAPE



AmaRharhabe King Vululwandle Sandile and Deputy President Paul Mashatle at Mngqesha Great Place



Mayor of Buffalo City Municipality(BCM), Princess Faku, Premier Oscar Mabuyane, Mrs Mashatle and Deputy President going to meet Business fraternity of BCM



MEC for Cogta, Zolile Williams with Deputy President at Lusikisiki



Deputy President and his wife with Deputy Ministers, MEC's and Princess Nomaxhosa Jongilanga meeting community at Imidushane Great Place at Ncera Village

THE ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE ON INTERVENTIONS



Municipal Manager of OR. Tambo Municipality, Mr Basil Mase



Mr Ronnie Makopa-Municipal Financial Recovery Services -National Treasury



Mayor of Port St Johns Municipality, Cllr Nomvuyo Cingo



Chief Director of Municipal Governance and Support at Cogta, Ms Charity Sihunu



L-R: Mr Tsepo Khasi National Cogta ,Mr Joel Lance - COO SALGA , Advocate Bayethe Maswazi-Bhisho Society of Advocates and Dr Phindile Ntiziyanana - Office of the Premier



Director of Monitoring and Evaluation at Cogta, Dr Siviwe Mditshwa