



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

MARCH 2018

COGTA NEWS LETTER

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Editor Ms Thando Sonjica

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the last edition of COGTA News for the 2017/ 18 financial year. The end of the financial year is a busy time in the calendar of government departments as they enter into the bustle of completing their financial spending for the financial year as well as submitting their planning documents such as annual performance plans, operational plans as well as Policy speeches to the legislature and to their stakeholders.

During this time MEC's of different departments present their policy speeches to the legislature which is a platform where they outline the plans and focus areas of their departments.

One of our focal areas in Cogta as mentioned by MEC Xasa during the delivering of the department's Policy Speech was Decentralisation Project which he said was an ongoing project and that the department would complete within a period of three months. In this issue we bring you a story wherein the new Head of department, Ms Gumbi Masilela was addressing Cogta staff explaining that the department was moving ahead with the Decentralisation project.

She explained that the basis for the project was to narrow the gap between municipalities, traditional leadership institutions and the department for the effective delivery of service to the communities. Read more about this meeting on page 7.

As mentioned above the department recently welcomed a new Head of Department Ms Gabisile Gumbi Masilela who joined the department early in March. As Cogta news we wish our HOD the best of luck in her appointment and we trust that she will continue to work for the improvement of our department.

Please take time to read more about other activities and programmes that the department was engaged with during this quarter and enjoy the reading.

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

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PREMIER APPLAUDS LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE

By Bongiwe Maseti

Opening the fifth term of the House of Traditional Leaders in the Eastern Cape Province in Bhisho late February, 2018, Premier of the Eastern Cape, Phumulo Masualle applauded the newly elected leadership of the House who are now serving the 5th term from (2018-2022).

"I am also pleased to announce that all six of our districts in the province, now have a local house of Traditional Leaders" he said. The establishment of this local level of governance which is at grassroots will promote social cohesion, the Premier added and pleaded with traditional leaders to spearhead it. He also indicated that budget for the positions of Administrative Heads of Local Houses for 2018/19 is available to ensure a seamless functioning of the Local Houses.

Amongst the dignitaries who attended this event were Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders, Inkosi Mahlangu, Deputy Chairwoman Nkosi Nosandi Mhlauli, Kings and Queens of the Province, Chairpersons for the Provincial Houses of Traditional Leaders and their Representatives, Honourable Deputy Speaker and Members of the Provincial Legislature, Provincial Leadership of CONTRALESA, former members of the Provincial House and the Honourable Judge President of the High Court of South Africa-Eastern Cape Division; S.M Mbenenge

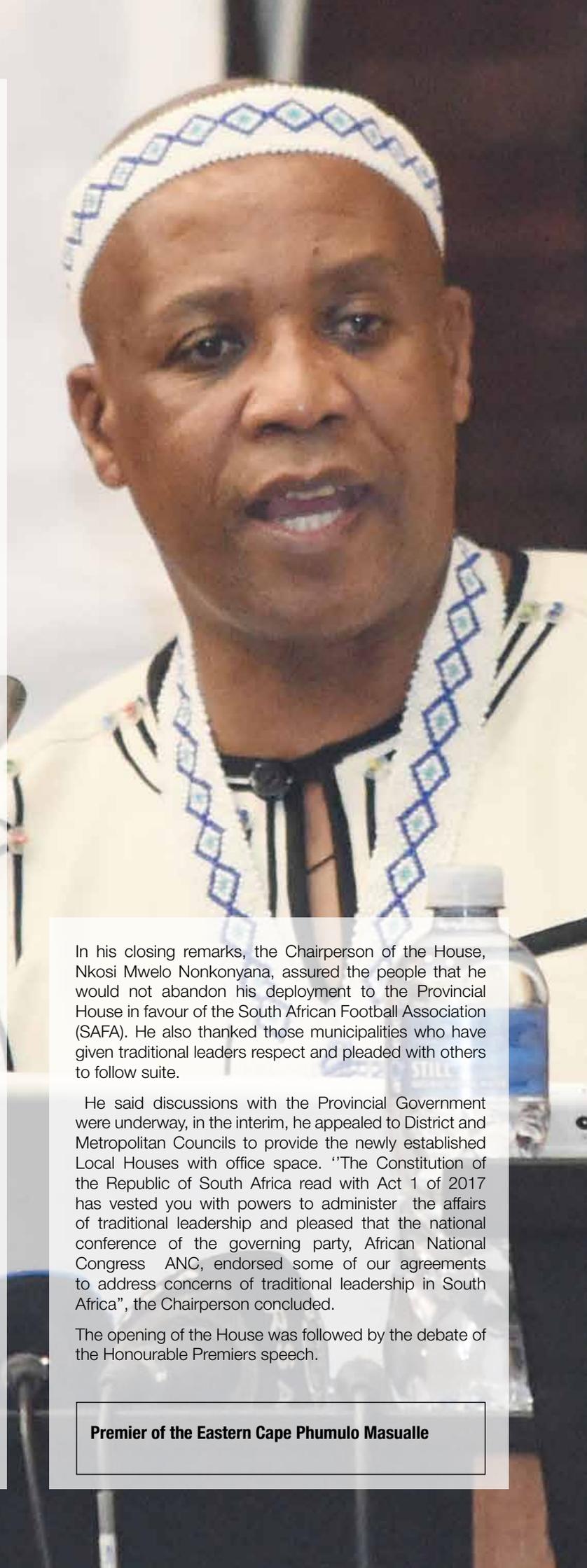
Premier Masualle also congratulated the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) for passing the Eastern Cape Traditional Leadership and Governance Act No. 1 of 2017.

Outlining progress made thus far, the Premier commended the decrease of the deaths of initiates for 2017 winter and summer initiation seasons. He attributed this reduction to the passing and the implementation of the Eastern Cape Customary Male Initiation Practise Act No.5 of 2016 throughout the Province, urging initiation schools to bring initiation deaths to zero. The Premier condemned abuse of women and children by males.

To enhance development in communities, he said "We call on our traditional leaders to make education fashionable among young people in particular".

The Premier highlighted a number of projects across the Province which include a road construction site estimated at about R7 billion as well as a project pipeline. "There is also a number of Provincial and access roads, which have contributed to job creation that are nearing completion, he said.

Citing various selfless royals who fought against land dispossessions, whose brave efforts have resulted in the ultimate taking of a resolution by our National Parliament to expropriate land without compensation, the Premier suggested a strategy and a robust legislation to be introduced as these will address the socio-economic imbalances in our communities.



In his closing remarks, the Chairperson of the House, Nkosi Mwelo Nonkonyana, assured the people that he would not abandon his deployment to the Provincial House in favour of the South African Football Association (SAFA). He also thanked those municipalities who have given traditional leaders respect and pleaded with others to follow suite.

He said discussions with the Provincial Government were underway, in the interim, he appealed to District and Metropolitan Councils to provide the newly established Local Houses with office space. "The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa read with Act 1 of 2017 has vested you with powers to administer the affairs of traditional leadership and pleased that the national conference of the governing party, African National Congress ANC, endorsed some of our agreements to address concerns of traditional leadership in South Africa", the Chairperson concluded.

The opening of the House was followed by the debate of the Honourable Premiers speech.

Premier of the Eastern Cape Phumulo Masualle

COGTA HANDS OVER VEHICLES TO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

By Ezra Deyi

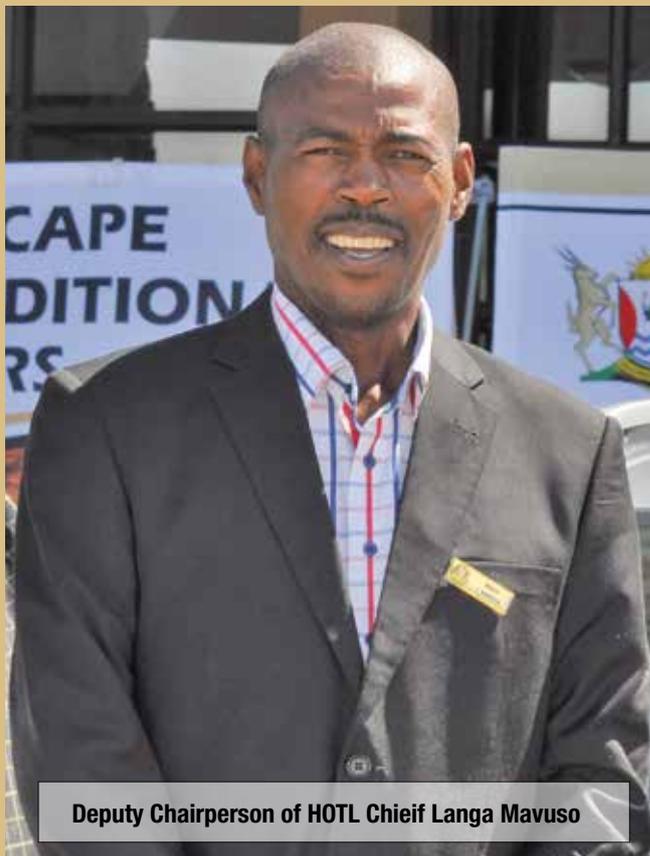
Executive members of the House of Traditional Leaders(HoTL) recently received vehicles worth R2,4 million from the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs(Cogta) to ensure proper delivery of services.

The Executive members which include the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are part of a thirty eight member team that were sworn in, in September last year.

Speaking at the handing over event, the Head of department Ms Gabisile Gumbi Masilela said the new cars , two Jeep Cherooke and four Toyota bakkies were given to the traditional leaders as tools of trade which will be used to assist them in execution of their official duties. "The vehicles are a facility aimed at ensuring that the Eastern Cape traditional leaders are able to reach their subjects without much obstacles, thus ensures proper service delivery", said Ms Masilela.

Also speaking at the event the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at Cogta, Ms Khuthala Shinta explained that regulations regarding the utilisation of the vehicles are contained in a the Cogta departmental Policy known as "Use of official vehicles" of which the CFO was the custodian of the said policy. She explained that the vehicles do not have extras such as canopies.

"However, the extras may be purchased by the user after a period of five years when the user acquires ownership if and when he or she wishes to do so and this information can be accessed in the Policy document, said Ms Shinta.



Deputy Chairperson of HOTL Chief Langa Mavuso

The Chairperson of the HoTL, Chief Mwelo Nonkonyana, in his vote of thanks indicated that the HoTL will still have round table negotiations with the department of Cogta with regards to the vehicles.

DEPARTMENT COMMITS TO RECOGNISE THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

By Siphiso Stemele

Speaking at a three day strategic planning session of the House of Traditional Leaders (HTL) on the 6 February 2018 at East London IDZ, Cogta MEC Fikile Xasa said his department was commitment to recognise the role of Traditional Leaders in the reconstruction and development of South Africa.

The establishment of Local Houses of Traditional Leaders (LHTL) is one such practical example of the commitment we are talking about, said MEC Xasa.

The session was attended by Executive Members of the HTL and senior officials of the department of Cogta.

MEC Xasa said the session preceded the Lekgotla of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government.

"I am confident that new mandate emerging from this engagement session will find expression in the departmental plans and the Policy Speech for 2018/19 financial year," said MEC Xasa.

He said the ANC Lekgotla has resolved that Cogta should hold a Summit of Traditional Leaders to deal with issues of Spatial Planning, Land Use Management, Land invasion and other related issues. He added that plans were afoot to commemorate the centenary of late Albertina Sisulu and Nelson Mandela.



Traditional Leaders during the Strategic Planning Session of HOTL

MEC Xasa also highlighted that the Lekgotla had directed that the department of Cogta should be the strategic centre for service delivery and it should work with traditional leaders to provide basic services such as water, roads and electricity.

MEC Xasa said government was concerned about the claims and disputes in the institution of Traditional Leadership. He said there were leaders who on purpose deviated from the genealogy of the royal families resulting in the appointment of wrong persons.

He promised to work hard to restore the dignity of these institutions.

COMMUNICATORS ADVISED TO REMAIN PROFESSIONAL

By **Nowethu Goniwe**

Speaking during a two-day Local Government Communicators Forum (LGCF) meeting held at O.R. Tambo District Municipality in March 2018, Mr Mamnkeli Ngam, the Director for Corporate Communications at Cogta advised communicators to always remain professional and communicate for citizen empowerment.

Mr Ngam added that as communicators they need be “more solution seeking than being defensive” when dealing their challenges.

The LGCF is a quarterly meeting organised by Cogta in conjunction with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and the South African Local Government Association (Salga).

“This is your forum to monitors and assesses the pulse and functionality of the system in the Province. So far, judging by good attendance and the level of discussions and engagement, the forum has matured and is functional. By sharing communication best practices, we empower one other for the good of our communities,” said Mr Ngam.

Through the implementation of the Local Government Communication System (LGCS) District and Metro Communicators Forum meetings also convene to integrate and align communication services with other sector departments in their spaces.

Mr Ndlelantle Pinyana, Provincial Director of GCIS thanked everybody for honouring the session. He said that was a sign of a matured system and communicators must remain focussed and true to their profession.

Ms Zimkitha Manqinana from South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) shared her experiences as a way of building good relations with municipal communicators.

Ms Manqinana said communicators must share information to bring about change in their communities.

“We need to strengthen our relations so as to improve the lives of the poor people. Let us do so through the use of social media platforms as well. Never underestimate the importance of the work that you are doing,” said Ms Manqinana.



Local Government Communicators during an LGCF meeting in Mthatha

MEC XASA HANDS OVER FURNITURE AT BUMBANE GREAT PLACE

By **Siphiwo Stemele**



From Left: MEC Xasa, Bishop Ndwandwe and King Azenathi Dalindyebo

On the 12th March 2018 MEC Fikile Xasa visited Bumbane Great Place, near Mthatha to hand over home furniture worth to the Dalindyebo Kingdom. This is part of the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs mission to restore dignity of Kingdoms in the Province of the Eastern Cape.

“As a department we have promised to renovate or revamp all the Kingdoms in our Province” said MEC Xasa, “and we have decided to start with Bumbane simply because, when the newly elected President, Cyril Ramaphosa visited the Kingdom in December, we discovered that there was lack of house resources, explained MEC Xasa.

MEC’s visit coincided with the visit of Mthatha Diocesan Head Bishop Nkosinathi Ndwandwe who visited the King to introduce himself as head of Anglican in Mthatha. He took the opportunity to pray and shower blessing to the occasion.

King Azenathi thanked MEC for the furniture and said that this furniture has been delivered at a right time because as the kingdom they were involved in a campaign to reunite Royal Family.

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

MANAGERS CALLED UPON TO LEAD FOR COGTA TO SUCCEED

By Namhla Kondlo-Magada

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Managers must manage and leaders must lead'. These were the words of the Deputy Director General (DDG) for Corporate Management Mr Vuyo Mlokothe during the Middle Management Engagement Session held in February at East London.

DDG Mlokothe said the purpose of the session was to engage with managers as key drivers for organizational success. "Employee engagement sessions help build commitment and understanding of the goals and values of any organisation. Moreover through such engagement sessions, employees are motivated to contribute to organisational success and are able to enhance their own sense of well-being," said Mr Mlokothe.

He added that disengaged employees always feel that they are not part of the transformation journey.

"With Cogta we are in the process of defining a new customer led engagement with clearly defined engagement processes supported by the right tools and an institutionalized new way of working. It is key that managers ensure engagement with employees as it is a key business enabler. Everyone has a responsibility to lead, you are a Chief Executive Officer in your little corner," he said.

Mr Mlokothe spoke on "operationalizing and remodelling" Cogta which he said was the journey that the department was undertaking through "inculcating a service oriented culture, discipline and a sense of urgency. There is a need to change the attitude, mind-set and behaviour of our workforce. It is not the attitude that determines your altitude but your attitude," said Mr Mlokothe.

He said there was a need to "systematically" uproot what he called institutionalized mediocrity."

Mr Mlokothe said one has to enforce accountability through consequence management, creating a shared vision, promoting a shared value system, promoting good work ethics and high standard of professionalism.

He further highlighted that there was a need for effective management of change and diversity through improving the working conditions, wellness of employees and breaking down the silo mentality, blame game, red-tape, information hoarding, manipulation, confusion and power mongering/obsession.

Managers from various Chief Directorates in Programme 1 commended the session and many agreed that the meeting should not be a once off thing but should be institutionalized.

Presentations delivered during the session came from the Director for Strategic Planning Mr Willie Gallie and Ms Nettie Moss who is a Director from the Office of the Premier.

Mr Mlokothe said in the next session managers should not lament but contribute positively towards the success of the department.

An MMS engagement session with DDG Mr Mlokothe



DISTRICT OFFICES FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

By Mamnkeli Ngam

The Department of Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) is moving ahead with the implementation of the District Support Centre Model (DSC) whose main thrust is to enhance support to municipalities and traditional leadership institutions. An estimated amount of R6 million is allocated for relocation costs for Phase 1 of the project in the current financial year.

Addressing a staff meeting in Bhisho in March 2018, Cogta Head of Department (HoD) Ms Gabisile Gumbi-Masilela said the basis for the project is to narrow the gap between municipalities, traditional leadership institutions and the department for the effective delivery of services to the communities. The planning for decentralization is guided by the Organisational Structure of the department which was approved in 2014, she said.

Gumbi-Masilela said the relocation process is focussing on sup-porting municipalities and traditional leadership institutions on matters of Local Economic Development (LED) Municipal Revenue and Finance, Municipal Infrastructure Development, Municipal Planning, Rapid Response and Public Participation, Municipal Governance and Support to the DSCs. Employees will be closer to the community development process, she said.

Gumbi-Masilela said the National Treasury and the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) in their diagnostic investigation conducted in 2010 on the mandate of Cogta, priorities and service delivery issues recommended establishment of DSC to support municipalities and traditional leadership institutions.

She added that in 2011 the Executive Council of the Eastern Cape Province took a resolution giving Cogta a go ahead to establish the DSCs. Phase one is a foundation phase for the provisioning of basic support to municipalities and traditional leader-ship institutions. "Phase 1 of the project involves the transfer of staff, vehicles, office furniture as well as the installation of the Information Communication technology (ICT). In April 2018, I will lead a team of top officials of the department on employee road-shows to all our District Offices," she said.

Ms Gumbi-Masilela added they have consulted with representatives of labour unions namely, Public Service Association (PSA) and the South African State and Allied Workers Union (SASSAWU) through the departmental Management Labour Forum and they have expressed no objection on the matter. The National, Health and Allied Workers Unions (NEHAWU) is currently being consulted on an ongoing basis.

The Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) is in place supported by four (4) sub committees to drive the successful implementation of the decentralisation project. Our plans for Phases two (2) and 3 include the issuing of choice letters, placement letters and notification letters to all officials identified for relocation to the districts. The project is expected to be finalised at the end of the 2018/19 financial year and will be managed with all the sensitivity it requires.



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IS EVERYONES
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CORRUPTION HOTLINE
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Top picture: HOD Ms. Gabisile Gumbi Masilela



MEC XASA REGRETS DEATH OF INITIATES

By Mammeli Ngam

The Summer Initiation Season has come and gone regrettably, leaving behind a trail of seventeen (17) deaths throughout the Eastern Cape Province. The breakdown of deaths is as follows; OR Tambo 9, Alfred Nzo x 2, Joe Gqabi 1, BCMM 1, Chris Hani 1 and Amathole 3.

Cogta MEC Fikile Xasa said in a nine year review the Province has seen a reduction in the number of deaths from thirty six (36) to below (17).

The causes of deaths include septic circumcision, gangrene, dehydration, suicide, renal failure, assault and natural causes. The post-mortem results from the department of Health with confirm the actual cause of deaths.

“One death is one too many hence the deaths are unnecessary and can be avoided through the collaboration between parents, key role players and co-ordination structures in all municipalities,” he said.

He commended the work done by the Monitoring Teams which resulted in the closure of illegal schools, rescue of initiates and referral to hospitals.

“The number of deaths could have been higher, thanks to the work of the teams. Going forward our plans should focus on the hot spot areas. Matatiele and Mount Fletcher are on our list of priorities to raise awareness about the provisions of the Act and the consequences for non-compliance.” said MEC Xasa.

He added that he was aware that some parents have come forward to open cases against people who have circumcised their underage boys. In Mdantsane for instance a parent and an iingcibi have appeared in court for circumcising a boy who is under the age of 18 years.

MEC Xasa being interviewed by the SABC

FEEDBACK TO ENGCOBO MUNICIPAL VOTERS ASSOCIATION

By Dumisani Lindi

Engcobo Municipal Voters Residents Association (EMVRA) in January 2017 gathered at Engcobo Municipality to receive feedback from the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), Fikile Xasa on the petition they had handed over to the MEC.

Some of the key issues that were contained in the petition handed over to the MEC by EMVRA included the withdrawal of the council resolution that extends the contract of the previous Municipal Manager Mr Mahlasela, nullifying all the decisions taken by the Council, Mayor resigns and dissolve the Municipal Council and perform a Forensic Audit on all Municipal assets.

MEC Xasa was accompanied the Mayor of Engcobo Cllr Lizeka Bonga-Tyali; Deputy Director General for Local Governance Ms Pashee Roboji; Acting Municipal Manager Mr Banzi Silinga and officials from both the department and the municipality.

Addressing the members of the association, MEC Xasa said

“We are here to give feedback on the issues tabled on your petition. We have heard your demands on how you want your Municipality to be governed and we will ensure that as residents of Engcobo you will get the services that you deserve,” said MEC Xasa .

MEC Xasa further highlighted that some of the issues listed in the petition had already been resolved such as the rescindment of the appointment of Mr Mahlasela whom was replaced by Mr Banzi Silinga as Acting Municipal Manager. He further promised to work hard in resolving other issues stated in the petition, root out corruption and ensure good governance in Engcobo Local Municipality.

He acknowledged that all the issues stated in the petition were an indication of good governance and were meant to develop Engcobo Local Municipality. He further encouraged rate payers and the municipal council to work together for the benefit of the community.

MUNIMEC MEETING FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF SERVICES

By Siphokazi Nonyukela



Opening the two day political MuniMEC in Mthatha on March 2018, the Acting Chairperson, the Executive Mayor of OR Tambo District Municipality, Councillor Nomakhosazana Meth said the Constitution of the country requires that all spheres of government cooperate with one another. She said Outcome 9 compelled them to be coordinated through a single window, which is Cogta.

Councillor Meth said the three spheres of government are interdependent, distinctive and must cooperate with one another for the effective implementation of service delivery.

“Thus the IGR Framework Act suggests that there should be a platform where all these three spheres of government converge and discuss issues of service delivery,” said Councillor Meth.

The MuniMEC meeting is a forum co-ordinated by Cogta and attended by Mayors, Heads of Department (HoD), national and provincial Sector departments, State Owned Enterprises (SOE) to share information and discuss issues of common interest as articulated within the IGR Framework Act 13 of 2005. The technical MuniMEC meeting precedes the political MuniMEC meeting.

Meth said, “In the technical MuniMEC Heads of Departments and Municipal Managers discuss issues of governance in general which then forms the agenda for the political MuniMEC for endorsement.”

Raising a concern about the non-attendance of the meetings by other government departments, Mayor Meth said CoGTA is a coordinating department not only for municipalities but also for provincial and national government departments including SOE.

“For this reason, it is vital that all key stakeholders become part of this IGR platform. There is also a need for us to consider coordinating the other issues of a traditional nature not only Traditional Leadership,” said Councillor Meth.

ROLE OF LOCAL HOUSES EXPLAINED

Mr Baza who is the Deputy Director General (DDG) for Traditional Affairs at Cogta said the establishment of Local Houses for Traditional Leaders (LHTL) is meant to advance the interest and aspirations of traditional leaders and their communities at the level of district and metropolitan municipalities.

Mr Baza was speaking during the political MuniMEC meeting held in Mthatha in March 2018.

“Members if the Houses also participate on local matters that have to do with customs, traditions and any other matters of common interest. The aim is to influence government’s legislative process and service delivery at the local level,” he said.



The media interviewing Department of Water and Sanitation Chief Director Ms Makhanya

WATER FORUM PROMOTES JOINT DECISION MAKING

By Siphwo Stemele

Cogta and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) assembled Municipal Managers and Water Service Authorities in a Provincial Water Forum meeting (PROWAF) in Mthatha in February 2018.

Explaining the purpose of the meeting, Ms Portia Makhanya, the Provincial Head of the department of DWS said the meeting was meant to promote joint decision among water sector stakeholders.

“We are here to adopt a collaborative approach when addressing water sector challenges among government departments and other stakeholders to avoid duplication and waste of resources.”

She added that the forum provides leadership and support in the implementation of government priorities through various sector programmes and interventions.

“through Prowaf we communicate policies, plans and strategies to all stakeholders to ensure that coherent messages are projected to the communities including the delivery of water and sanitation to our communities,” said Ms Makhanya.

Presenting the current status of water resources and drought in the Eastern Cape Province, Mr Andrew Lucas, who is a Director at DWS said there were dams that required water restrictions namely Kouga, Boesmanskrants, Ox Kraal, Nqwaba, Gcuwa, Xilinx, Nqadu and Mhlanga.

He said most municipalities find it difficult to cope with the effects of drought and some have exhausted their operational budgets on road water tankering.

“Despite the start of the summer rains, the Eastern Cape Province is still in the grips of a serious drought. We call on sector departments and individual users to be compliant by reducing consumption, use of water sparingly, report and fix water leaks”, advised Mr Lucas.

RELATIONS WITH KINGS STRENGTHENED

By Mamkeli Ngam

COGTA MEC Fikile Xasa has committed his department to constructive engagement sessions with Kings and Queens to find collective solutions to the current challenges of the Eastern Cape Province including rural development.

Speaking during a meeting with Eastern Cape Kings held at East London hotel recently, MEC Xasa said the meeting was part of government's agenda to "build and strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders."

The meeting was attended by Kings Ndamase-Ndamase of Western Pondoland, Dalimvula Matanzima of Western Thembuland, Mr Sabatha Mbalekwa of Qawukeni and Prince Zolile Buens-Ncamashe of amaRharhabe and senior Cogta officials.

"This is a consultative session to give our Kings an opportunity to make inputs to the Policy Speech for 2018/19 financial year." "This we do in the interest of co-operative governance. In future we intend to host quarterly meetings to share information and best practices to build better traditional communities," said MEC Xasa. He added that government wants to create "certainty" about its commitment to work with all traditional leaders to restore their dignity as provided for in the Constitution of the country.

"The session was also an opportunity for me to share information with the Kings on the political transition in the country.

The public mood generally is that of hope, change and renewal that must be sustained by all of us. The renewal is also a call for ethical leadership in the service of mankind. Mismanagement of public resources must be dealt with, without fear or favour. South Africans have renewed hope to the leadership of the ANC to deal with the challenges facing the country," said MEC Xasa.

MEC Xasa said in line with the departmental strategic planning processes, his department will engage Kings on a quarterly basis to review progress on the implementation of plans and get solutions to the existing challenges. The Kings welcomed the initiative as a platform to share information on issues of rural development, tools of trade, capacity building and support to the Kingdoms, amongst other things. Prince Burn-Ncamashe representing Queen Noloyiso Sandile of AmaRharhabe said the meeting "brings to the fore a new ethos to respond to the challenges that confront traditional leaders." "This approach will assist us to come up with a model for best practices in the entire country. We are building a new nation hence traditional leaders must feel relevant and respond to the call to serve our communities better".

Meanwhile, MEC Xasa announced that South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is committed to visit the Kingdoms of Nyandeni, Western Thembuland and Qawukeni, in the near future. Last month President Ramaphosa visited the Nqadu and Bumbane Kingdoms in the Eastern Cape Province.



From Left: King Matanzima, King Ndamase, MEC Xasa, Prince Ncamashe (representative of Queen Noloyiso) and Mr Mbolekwa representative of Qawukeni

MR MATETA RETIRES FROM PUBLIC SERVICE

By Ezra kaDeyi



Last December Senior Managers and staff of Cogta bade farewell to one of its stalwarts, Mr Julius Sidumo Mateta fondly known by his clan name "Bomoyi." The farewell function was held at Schornville hall.

Speaking at the event, the Acting Head of Department of Cogta, Mr Monwabisi Baza stressed the need for government employees to gather experience in their chosen careers. This is what he described as the "cave of experience" moulded in Bomoyi. He said Mr Mateta was more than a coach.

Nkosi Nkosinathi Jezile, representative of the House of Traditional Leaders wished Mr Mateta time to relax with his family.

In reply Mr Mateta said that the Directorate of Traditional Affairs had an ancient history more than some Cogta employees who are currently working in the department.

"What is more interesting and satisfying tom is that some people have moved up the ladder. Most of us have travelled a long distance but my retirement is a new road that lies ahead," said Mr Mateta.

Mr Mateta during his farewell function

NEW ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER FOR PSJ MUNICIPALITY

By Siphwo Stemele



Mr Mase - Acting Municipal Manager of PSJ

In February 2018 MEC Fikile Xasa led a delegation of Senior Management of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) to Port St John's Local Municipality. The purpose of the visit was to introduce Mr Basil Mase to the Council as the new acting municipal manager for the next three months.

This visit was part of the intervention by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to Municipalities as outlined in Section 154 of the Constitution.

"We want Mr Mase to bring stability to this municipality and ensure that Council resolutions are in a written form as outlined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. He must implement a turnaround plan for the municipality which will entail a strategy to promote good governance and sound administration. He also needs to establish cordial relations between the council and the employees", said MEC Xasa whilst outlining the duties of the Acting Municipal Manager. In addition the MEC also highlighted that during Mr Mase's secondment to the Municipality he has to facilitate the appointment of a Municipal Manager and other section 56 Managers.

All the Councillors led by the Speaker of Port St Johns Municipality welcomed and voted Mr Mase in as the Acting Municipal Manager. MEC Xasa requested the Council of Port St Johns Municipality to supply the Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Mase, with tools of trade such as office space, computer and a telephone etc.

The MEC further apologised to the communities of Port St Johns Municipality for the instability in their Municipality. "Now that you have an acting Municipal Manager I hope you will bring positive change to your people and ensure that services are delivered to our people", he said.

The council meeting was attended by the Mayor, Speaker and Councillors of the Municipality officials for COGTA and members of the public.

TECHNICAL MUNIMEC DISCUSSES SERVICE DELIVERY ISSUES

By Siphwo Stemele

Municipal Managers, senior officials from various sector departments and municipalities of the Eastern Cape Province converged in Mthatha in February 2018 to attend the Technical MuniMEC meeting. The meeting is a platform to discuss service delivery issues, find solutions and refer those to political MuniMEC meeting for resolution and adoption.

According to Deputy Director General (DDG) for Development Local Government, Ms Nomphele Roboji who was chairing the meeting, the MuniMEC meetings are a platform for Intergovernmental Relations (IGR).

"This gathering is informed by the IGR Framework Act which refers to the importance of considering the state of Local Government in terms of service delivery to citizens. This forum monitors the implementation of Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), from Ward level through to War Rooms down to Local and District Municipalities," said Ms Roboji.

DDG Roboji added that MuniMEC meeting prepares and recommends to political MuniMEC which in turn reports to the Premier's Coordinating Forum (PCF) and the Provincial Coordinating Committee (PCC).

"The policy formulation can take cognisance of issues that have been discussed and synthesized at Ward, local, District, Metro and provincial levels," she said.

Presenting at the same meeting, Mr William Tau, Acting Chief Director for Municipal Development and Planning urged municipalities and sector departments to prepare themselves to participate in the third leg of the IDPs phased in, in an assessment approach.



Ms Roboji: DDG Developmental Local Governance

OPENING OF THE HOTEL



Members of the House of the Traditional Leaders with the EC Premier and invited guests



Traditional leaders



King Matanzima, King Sigcawu, King Dalindyebo, King Ndamase Ndamase



Traditional Musical item during the opening of HOTEL



Members of the Khoi community



Invited guests