



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

COGTA *Newsletter*

4TH ISSUE JANUARY - MARCH 2022



MEC for Cogta Xolile Nqatha officially opening the Municipal Post Audit Symposium in Gqeberha



Left - Right: Mr Mziwethemba Nkantsu - Chief Director in the House of Traditional Leaders, Acting Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Nkosi Langa Mavuso and Premier Oscar Mabuyane during the opening of the House in Bhisho



03

MUNICIPALITIES MUST COMPLY WITH LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

05

TABLETS TO UNLOCK SERVICE DELIVERY BACKLOGS BY CWDs

04

COGTA HOLDS A SYMPOSIUM TO IMPROVE MUNICIPAL AUDIT OUTCOMES

07

MONITORING VISITS TO EMABHUMENI

EDITORIAL *Comment*



Editor: Ms Thando Sonjica

Welcome to the last edition of Cogta News for the 2021/22 financial year. The end of the financial year is a busy time in the calendar of government departments as they enter into the flurry of spending for the financial year end as well as submitting their planning documents such as Annual Performance Plans (APP), Operational Plans (OP) as well as the Policy Speeches to the Eastern Cape Legislature and their respective key stakeholders.

During this time, various MEC's of Sector departments present their Policy Speeches and Budgets outlining plans and focus areas for the year ahead.

Delivering the Policy Speech of the department of Cogta, our own MEC Xolile Nqatha said in the last two-years the departmental budget was reduced as the Provincial Priorities changed due to cost pressures posed by Covid 19 to arrest the spread of the pandemic. He said resources had to be re-directed to life-saving programmes and in that process compromised the provision of basic services to communities.

"Many people lost their jobs and more could not afford to pay municipal bills and therefore less revenue was received by municipalities. Local municipalities and traditional leadership institutions have been severely battered by the pandemic as they preside over communities who have been hit

hard by the virus. The only solution is to intensity support and monitoring of these institutions," said MEC Nqatha.

He added that the ANC in its January 8th Statement for 2022, outlined five key priorities namely; Build a social compact to decisively address unemployment and poverty.

"This requires government to work with social partners to accelerate economic recovery and reconstruction. We call upon our leadership in all of 39 municipalities Province to use the District and Metro 'One Plans' as a blueprint for development and a mobilization tool for social partners in their areas to accelerate provision of social services," said MEC.

He further said another priority was to Build a capable Developmental State with an effective and ethical public service that drives the implementation of South Africa's transformative agenda.

Read more about the speech and what the departments plans to undertake during this financial year on the link: <https://www.eccogta.gov.za/speeches/>.

Also read stories about the work that the department was involved in during this quarter and enjoy the read.

Contents

MUNICIPALITIES MUST COMPLY WITH LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS AND INTERNAL CONTROLS	P3	PREMIER MABUYANE ATTENDING TO RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS	P5	TRADITIONAL LEADERS URGED TO PROTECT THE DIGNITY OF ULWALUKO	P7
BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT PROMOTE HYGIENE IN WALTER SISULU COMMUNITIES	P3	TABLETS TO UNLOCK SERVICE DELIVERY BACKLOGS BY CWDs	P5	MONITORING VISITS TO EMABHUMENI	P7
COGTA HOLDS A SYMPOSIUM TO IMPROVE MUNICIPAL AUDIT OUTCOMES	P4	TRADITIONAL LEADERS CALLED UPON TO SUPPORT DDM	P6		

Contact INFORMATION

- +27 (0) 40 940 7095
- +27 (0) 40 635 0439
- thando.sonjica@eccogta.gov.za
- www.eccogta.gov.za
- Tyamazshe Building, Phalo Avenue, Bhisho 5605, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa
- Private Bag X0035, Bhisho, 5605

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

Contributors TO THIS EDITION:



Mr Vuyani Sibene



Ms Siphokazi Nonyukela

THE EDITORIAL *Team*

Mr Mamnkeli Ngam
Ms Thando Sonjica

MUNICIPALITIES MUST *Comply* WITH LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

Speaking at the Provincial Municipal Post Audit Symposium in Gqeberha recently, the MEC for Cogta, Xolile Nqatha urged municipalities to comply with legislative frameworks and financial controls.

“Hopefully all municipalities have established Internal Audit Committees to guard against irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. In this regard municipalities must establish effective and efficient Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPACs) as this structure is quite significant to assist in municipal financial controls,” he said.

MEC Nqatha further encouraged both politicians and administrators to work together and not be found wanting by flouting Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) as its compliance serves as the safety valve to guard against any corrupt activities.

He said the Section 131 MFMA states that “A municipality must address any issues raised by the Auditor-General in an audit report. The Mayor must ensure compliance by the municipality with this subsection,” he said.



MEC Nqatha

“As the MEC in the Province it is my responsibility to assess all Annual Financial Statements (AFS) of municipalities, Audit Reports on such statements and any responses

of municipalities to such audit reports. I must also determine whether municipalities have adequately addressed any issues raised by the Auditor-General (AG) in audit reports and report to the Provincial Legislature any omission by a municipality to adequately address those issues within sixty days,” said MEC Nqatha.

He said the provincial municipal audit outcomes have not been improving for the past three consecutive financial years and with the irregular expenditure escalating every year and the Province having the highest irregular expenditure in the country.

MEC Nqatha said the symposium was taking place as the country was on a renewal path which focuses on professionalization of public administration, good governance, due process and the rule of law.

“It is no secret that capture of the state has weakened almost all pillars of democracy and institutions. As part of contributing to renewal path, Let’s hope that this Symposium will assist in strengthening internal controls in our municipalities,” added MEC Nqatha

BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT *Promote Hygiene* IN WALTER SISULU COMMUNITIES

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

The 10th of March 2022 saw the official handover of 35 foot-operated standpipes and 15 handwashing units in the Walter Sisulu Local Municipality (WSLM), in the Joe Gqabi District Municipality in honour of World Water Day. The handover event was the culmination of a key collaboration between the public and private sectors to ensure safe handwashing and hygiene. World Water Day, held annually on 22 March since 1993, celebrates water and raises awareness around the 2 billion people globally living without access to safe water.

The standpipes and handwash units were provided by National Business Initiative (NBI) member company PepsiCo’s philanthropic arm and the PepsiCo Foundation. The PepsiCo Foundation believes in the importance of using a local approach to solve global problems and has invested a total of R6 million in access to water initiatives across South Africa ranging from affordable washing units in homes, handwashing stations in high density areas and water saving flush toilets, to the rehabilitation of natural springs, said NBI Chief Executive Office (CEO), Joanne Yawitch.

Joanne Yawitch said the collaborative partnership is between the Programme Management Unit (PMU) in the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) to enhance the service delivery capacity of municipalities in line with Section 154 of the Constitution of RSA.

She added that “the relationship is premised on a shared common commitment to the promotion and building of municipal capacity in identified municipalities across South Africa.”

Speaking on behalf of MEC Xolile Nqatha at the event Mr Craig Goliath, acting Chief Director at Municipal Basic and Development Services in CoGTA, said the event resonates with the call by the State



Mr Goliath

President Cyril Ramaphosa in his 2022 State of the Nation Address (SONA) for social partners to work together to improve economic recovery and service delivery in the country

Mr Goliath said, “This event demonstrates collaboration between the public and private sector in ensuring safe handwashing and hygiene in support of people living without access to safe water,” he added.

Mr Blain Van Wyk on behalf of PepsiCo Foundation said that making sure that people have access to water is a vital human right and is their top priority as it enables essential health, wellbeing, dignity and economic mobility.

“The foot operated tap and handwash facilities offer a simple yet effective solution to enable safe access to water and improved hygiene. It will benefit an estimated 62 200 people in Walter Sisulu Municipality.”

The equipment requires minimal maintenance and provides water at an optimum level which will provide a safe hygiene solution for decades to come. It has a limited surface area to prevent contamination, making it an ideal solution during and beyond the Covid 19 pandemic.

“These units are placed in areas such as schools, taxi ranks, clinics, pension pay points, informal settlements and other busy hotspot areas. In turn protecting children, nurses, pensioners and other community members.”

Mr Goliath also extended word of appreciation to the NBI for consistently soliciting private sector support towards the upliftment of provincial communities. PepsiCo foundation for contributing towards the success of the Covid 19 prevention project in WSLM.

“May you continue to view the Province as your first choice philanthropic and investment destination,” said Mr Goliath.

COGTA HOLDS A *Symposium* TO IMPROVE MUNICIPAL AUDIT OUTCOMES

By Siphokazi Nonyukela



HoD Mr Fani



Mr Sabelo Tini: Director Municipal Finance



Ms Charity Sihunu: Chief Director
- Municipal Governance, Support and Monitoring Services



Mr Mlokothi: Deputy Director General
- Developmental Local Government

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) recently held a post audit symposium in Gqeberha. Outlining the objectives of the symposium, the Deputy Director General (DDG) for Developmental Local Government (DLG) Mr Vuyo Mlokothi said it has become clear that prior years audit outcomes tell an “unpalatable story” with the state of affairs in many municipalities.

“Municipal Audit Outcomes have not been improving hence the idea of thinking about a less traditional mechanism to actualise Section 154 of the Constitution thus the idea of the Symposium was born. This platform is meant to enable municipal delegates to make better use of existing professional knowledge and skills”. It is also aimed at sharing best practices through the exchange of critical knowledge,” said Mr Mlokothi.

The Symposium was attended by stakeholders supporting municipalities such Provincial Treasury, Cogta, Office of the Auditor General, South African Local Government Association (Salga) as well as financial management consultants.

Giving a key note address the Head of Department (HOD) of CoGTA Mr Andile Fani said his Department continues to improve its approach to assisting municipalities in accordance with Section 154 of the Constitution.

“Our support is articulated through the three-year Annual Performance Plan (APP) and the Operational Plan (OP), with specific deliverables to address lessons learnt from prior audit outcomes as well as specific deliverables aimed at improving Municipal Audit Outcomes,” said Mr Fani.

In addition to monthly monitoring of Municipal Audit Improvement Plans (MAIP), Mr Fani said Cogta officials were working closely with Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) and Chief Audit Executives (CAEs) through the CFO’s and CAE’s Forums. The Forums are aimed to foster collaboration in the pursuit of sound financial management controls towards improved audit outcomes, said Mr Fani.

He further stated that the negative audit outcomes have far-reaching effects for the administration and an opportunity exists to learn from the best-performing municipalities such as Senqu and Elundini which have consistently maintained favourable audit outcomes.

Mr Fani said in terms of 2019/20 audit outcomes of the thirty-nine (39) EC municipalities sixteen (16) received unqualified audit outcomes. With Senqu and Elundini municipalities receiving with unqualified with no findings, 15 (fifteen) received qualified audit outcomes, including the two (2) Metros and eight (8) received adverse and disclaimer outcomes.

The HoD said in an effort to turn around negative audit outcomes, municipalities were encouraged to improve on the following areas;

- Efficiency within which they manage their External Audit Improvement Plans, including taking cognisance of Internal Audit and Risk Management recommendations.
- Management’s review and monitoring processes over compliance to ensure compliance with legislative requirements.
- Application of daily and monthly controls ensuring accuracy of financial statements.
- Better management of key risks relating supply chain management.
- Reduction of UIFW in line with applicable norms and standards.
- Recitation of Disciplinary Boards so as to enhance consequence management on financial misconducts.
- Maintenance of controls systems relating to reliability and integrity of performance information to ensure valid, complete and accurate POE on achieved targets

Mr Fani said in line with Section 166 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, the Municipalities must ensure existence of Independent Audit Committees (IAC).

“(The) Audit Committees must provide an independent oversight on the effectiveness of governance, effectiveness of assurance providers, effectiveness internal financial controls and ensure integrity of integrated financial reporting. The Audit Committee should play a key role in ensuring that the Internal Audit function is independent and has the necessary resources, budget and is placed in a position that enables it to fulfil its responsibilities freely,” said Mr Fani.

PREMIER MABUYANE ATTENDING TO RECOGNITION OF *Traditional* LEADERS

By Vuyani Sibene

Officially opening the 5th session of the 5th term of the EC House of Traditional Leaders in March in Bhisho, Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane said the recognition of traditional leaders “is a challenge government is attending to.”

“Our task would be easy if (royal) families resolved (such) disputes within their setups. We have established a Task Team with Cogta to enable the smooth processing of recognitions of traditional leaders. The team is currently clearing the backlog,” said Premier Mabuyane.

The opening was attended by amongst other dignitaries Kings and Queens, traditional leaders, Members of Executive Council (MECs), members of the Provincial Legislature (MPLs) and government officials.

Premier Mabuyane said the construction of the Palace for King Luzuko Matiwane was under consideration as it was not budgeted for by the government.

“The Department of Cooperative Governance has applied to the Provincial Treasury (PT) for funding of the entire construction (process).”

said Mabuyane. He said his government has accommodated King Matiwane in Fort Gale, Mthatha and provided all tools of trade to the King including the car and furniture. On the Handbook on Tools of Trade for Kings and traditional leaders, the matter is still under discussion at national level, said Premier Mabuyane.

He said the departments of Cogta and PT agreed that gratuity payments will be made only to traditional leaders who had resigned or removed from the system. “Such payments are being processed for qualifying traditional leaders as we speak,” said Premier Mabuyane.

The Premier said personal development was important in this ever-changing world where leaders must solve complex developmental challenges. “Government is considering a programme to provide for bursaries to traditional leaders wishing to further their studies.

He further said the country operates with a limited budget and some of the aspirations they have as a government is to help (build better communities). However, because of limited resources we encourage collaboration with municipalities for halls to be used for government meetings.



Left - Right: Mr Nkantsu - Chief Director of the House of Traditional Leaders, Acting Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Nkosi Mavuso and Premier Mabuyane during the opening of the House in Bhisho

TABLETS TO *Unlock* SERVICE DELIVERY BACKLOGS BY CWDs

By Vuyani Sibene

The MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Mr Xolile Nqatha handed over working tools in the form of Tablets to Community Development Workers (CDWs) of Mquma and Mbashe Local Municipalities (LM). The occasion was held at Mbashe Local Municipality in February 2022.

“I am delighted to be joining you in this momentous and long-awaited event. We are officially distributing working tools in the form of tablets to enhance your working conditions as our eyes and ears on the ground. These tablets will enable you to fast track as well as unlock service delivery challenges.” said MEC X Nqatha.

The MEC added that the handing over of the tablets will now allow CDWs, especially in rural areas, to have better access to internet connectivity.

“We can no longer have CDWs in rural areas who do not have access to technology and connectivity for reporting purposes and end up using their own money to get internet access for official purposes,” said MEC Nqatha.

Chief Whip of Mbashe LM Councillor Ludwe Matiyose said, “I would like to thank the MEC of Cogta for these gadgets. They will CDWs to access relevant information towards proper service delivery.”



MEC Nqatha and Miss Phatisa Kopo Co-ordinator of Community Development Workers in Mquma Local Municipality

TRADITIONAL LEADERS *Called* UPON TO SUPPORT DDM

By Siphokazi Nonyukela



Traditional leaders during one of the road shows

"I am making a clarion call to all traditional leaders (in the Province) to work tirelessly in the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM)," said Cogta MEC Xolile Nqatha.

Speaking during one of his roadshows to the Local Houses of Traditional Leaders, MEC Nqatha said such support and cooperation from traditional leaders will also unlock service delivery initiatives, redress and accountability by all role players responsible for delivering services in the traditional communities. It is also hoped that service delivery protests will be reduced through the meaningful representation of traditional leaders in municipal councils.

MEC Nqatha said that the Local Houses are the custodians of customary law and culture of various traditional communities within their jurisdiction.

"In that respect, we call upon our traditional leaders to assist in safeguarding the observation and preservation of the customary laws and culture. These are crucial aspects for ensuring that rightful leaders occupy positions and assist the government with recognitions that will not end up in courts due to disputes," said MEC Nqatha.

He further said Local Houses should also mobilise the private sector and relevant government departments for rural economic development that will benefit the people they represent.

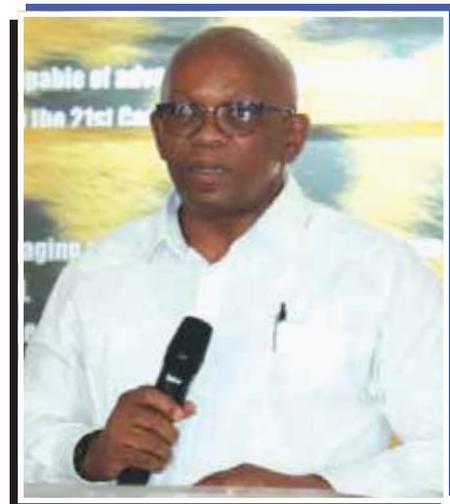
"This will assist to alleviate poverty in traditional communities. This can be done by utilising the natural resources including land (that lie fallow) for agricultural activities. We require traditional leaders to preserve land parcels and natural resources and block any privatisation of these as such capitalist systems can only benefit a few individuals," said MEC Nqatha.

MEC said the Local Houses should ensure that traditional leaders serve their people and observe the Code of Conduct for Traditional Leaders to lessen the burden and tension between them and the department.

The chairperson of the OR Tambo Local House Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadiso thanked the MEC for addressing the House.

"We want to work together in an integrated manner with municipalities to ensure that services reach our people to restore the dignity of black people. We also call on all male chiefs to intervene in the issue of death of Abakhwetha. We want to go out there and monitor Amabhuma that are in the bushes of our Province," he said.

Nkosi Nzululwazi Sigcawu of the Alfred Nzo Local House said, "It is an honour to have you, MEC as part of the Local House. Indeed, as traditional leaders we must participate in municipal matters and in the issue including the deaths of Abakhwetha. This is a huge problem that requires us to work together," said Nkosi Sigcawu.



MEC Nqatha

Vaccinate against COVID-19

To speed up the vaccination process, you can register by:

- Using the online registration platform available on the SA Coronavirus website
- Dialling *134*832# and registering via USSD
- Sending the word "register" via WhatsApp to 0600 123 456
- Calling the national toll-free call centre on 0800 029 999, where somebody will help you to register and answer any questions about the vaccination rollout

You can also go directly to your nearest vaccination centre.

@PresidencyZA | www.stathefoundation.gov.za

STAY SAFE VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2030 NDP

TRADITIONAL LEADERS URGED TO PROTECT THE *Dignity* OF ULWALUKO

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

During a week-long visit to various Local Houses of Traditional leaders (LHTL) in the Province, MEC Xolile Nqatha expressed his concern about the deaths of Abakhwetha (traditional initiates) in the Province. He urged all traditional leaders to find creative means to protect the dignity of the traditional initiation custom. "Masiqinisekise ukuba elisiko akudlalwa ngalo. Mabaye bephila, Babuye bephila., Siyazingca nNgesiko Lethu." (Let us ensure that the custom is not a playing tool. Safe passage to manhood), said MEC Nqatha.

The purpose of the MEC's visit was to address traditional leaders on issues of governance in traditional leadership institutions.

MEC Nqatha commended the Local Houses for ensuring implementation of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act as the new term of the Municipal Councils began in November 2021. He congratulated traditional leaders who will be joining Municipal Councils.

"These members of the Local Houses will ensure that the support given by municipalities to traditional leadership institutions is delivered in a coordinated fashion. This includes the support relating to Ulwaluko during the two seasons," MEC Nqatha said.

He further highlighted that the presence of the members of the Local Houses in Municipal Councils will also ensure thorough consultation processes not only with traditional leaders but with the communities in various traditional communities.

"As we all know, the IDP processes include consultations with communities of which the Local Houses in partnering with the municipalities will ensure success thereof. Traditional leaders in municipalities must play an effective oversight role for purposes of establishing law and order



Traditional leaders from O.R Tambo Local House

MONITORING VISITS TO *Emabhumeri*

By Vuyani Sibene

COGTA MEC Xolile Nqatha undertook monitoring visits to emabhumeri in Whittlesea in the Chris Hani District Municipality. During the visit MEC Nqatha was accompanied by Nkosi Nkosinathi Jezile who is the Chairperson of the Local House of Traditional Leaders in the District. The MEC got a briefing from amakhankatha and abakhwetha as well as monitoring teams comprising members of the South African Police Services (SAPS).

The briefing focused on the general state of the summer season of Ulwaluko including deaths and causes thereof, hydration of Abakhwetha, compliance with Covid 19 protocols and the notorious illegal iingcibi (traditional surgeons).

MEC Nqatha had this to say, "Consequence management and accountability of those who are alleged to have had a hand in the deaths or injuries of the young boys must be realised leading to successful prosecutions." Nkosi Jezile said as a traditional



MEC Nqatha and Nkosi Jezile addressing initiates during a monitoring visit in Whittlesea

leader it was his duty to take note of the notorious illegal iingcibi and see to it that they are prosecuted. "I also need to make sure that illegal amabhuma and traditional initiation schools in our area are closed down," said Nkosi Jezile.

OPENING OF THE HOUSE OF *Traditional* LEADERS IN BHISHO



Khoi-San Leaders



Nkosi Nzululwazi Sigcau, Nkosikazi Nosandi Mhlawuli and Nkosi Ludwe Siwani



Kumkani Ndamase Ndamase, Mrs Ndamase, Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadiso



Left-Right: Nkosi Somidaka Stokwe, Nkosi Ntsika Joyi, Nkosikazi Nondumiso Ngonyama, Nkosi Ntandoyesizwe Ndamase and Nkosi Phakade Bikitsha



Nkosi Zwelizolile Toyise and Nkosi Ngwekazi



Nkosi Buchule Zimena



Mr Ntsokolo Qamata Sergeant in Arms for the House of Traditional Leaders, Nkosi Mavuso and Mr Nkantsu



Mr Andile Fani and Mr Vuyo Stofile



Mr Thabo Matiwane



Bishop Ziphozihle Siwa



Nkosi Vuma Sontsi and EC Premier Oscar Mabuyane