



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

COGTA *Newsletter*

1ST ISSUE APRIL - JUNE 2022

FAREWELL TO KING ZANOZUKO TYELOVUYO SIGCAU

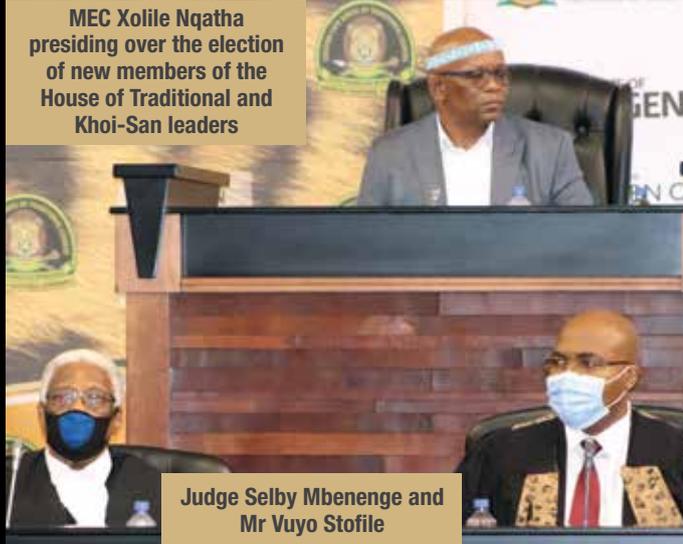


May his soul Rest In Peace



President Cyril Ramaphosa delivering the eulogy at King Sigcau's funeral

MEC Xolile Nqatha presiding over the election of new members of the House of Traditional and Khoi-San leaders



Judge Selby Mbenenge and Mr Vuyo Stofile



King Ndllovuyezwe Ndamase enrobing Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadiso as the newly elected Chairperson of the House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders for the 6th Term

03

TRADITIONAL LEADERS URGED TO BE THE MOUTHPIECE OF THEIR PEOPLE

07

MUNIMEC FOR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

04

A COMMISSION ON KHOI-SAN MATTERS HELD A SESSION IN GOEBERA

08

OFFICIAL FUNERAL OF KING ZANOZUKO SIGCAU

EDITORIAL *Comment*



Editor: Ms Thando Sonjica

This publication is produced at a time when the Province is sadly mourning the passing away of His Majesty King Tyelovuyo Zanozuko Sigcau of Mpondo Kingdom after a short illness. President Ramaphosa granted him Category 1 State Funeral. Pictures of the state funeral are on page 8.

We also publishing at the end of the Youth Month themed, "Promoting Sustainable Livelihood and Resilience of Young People for a Better Tomorrow."

Observed as a public holiday, Youth Day on 16 June, South Africans paid tribute to the lives lost during the 1976 Students Uprisings and their role in the freedom we all enjoy now post the apartheid regime.

This year the Youth Day was celebrated in our Province in Mthatha in the King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Local Municipality

wherein President Cyril Ramaphosa, addressed hundreds of young people and announced job creation opportunities for young people. Read more on page 6.

Linked to the Youth Month events the department announced the official opening of the Winter Initiation Season in which MEC Xolile Nqatha urged communities to work with government to ensure zero deaths of Initiates guided by the theme, Mabaye Bephila Babuye Bephila, Siyazingca Ngesiko Lethu (Safe Passage to Manhood).

Another important event this quarter was the MEC's Province wide engagement sessions with the leadership of municipalities to talk about financial irregularities as reflected in the negative audit outcomes recently released by the Auditor General (AG). Read more about this story on page 5.

Enjoy the read.

Contents

TRADITIONAL LEADERS URGED TO BE THE MOUTHPIECE OF THEIR PEOPLE	P3	DID YOU KNOW?	P5	BLOW THE WHISTLE ON FRAUD AND CORRUPTION	P7
REFURBISHMENT OF AMAGQUNUKWEBE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL UNDERWAY	P3	SCHOOL ASSISTANTS PROGRAMME BENEFITS 287,000 YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY	P6	OFFICIAL FUNERAL OF KING ZANOZUKO SIGCAU	P8
END OF FIRST TERM OF LOCAL HOUSES	P4	NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE REVITALISED TOWARDS CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY	P6		
COMMISSION ON KHOI-SAN MATTERS HELD A SESSION IN QQEBERA	P4	MUNIMEC FOR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT	P7		
MEC NQATHA CONVENES ENGAGEMENTS ON FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES IN MUNICIPALITIES	P5	2022 INITIATION SEASON	P7		

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

TRADITIONAL LEADERS *Urged* TO BE THE MOUTHPIECE OF THEIR PEOPLE By Dumisani Lindi

The Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoi-San leaders (ECHTKL) hosted an Inauguration Ceremony to welcome the new members to the House in Bhisho in June 2022. The inaugural ceremony for the 6th term is guided by the standing Rules of Orders of the House. In attendance were the Kings and Queens of the Province, traditional leaders, MECs, officials and other stakeholders.

The event further marked the first sitting of the 6th term for the new members to elect the Executive Committee for the term.

MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) Xolile Nqatha, representing the Premier of the Province had thus to say: "We welcome the new members as well as those returning to the House. We are here to swear in the new members of the house thus witnessing democracy in practice. This moment is important so that traditional leaders including those in the Local Houses must represent their communities and be the mouthpiece of their people," said MEC Nqatha," said MEC Nqatha.

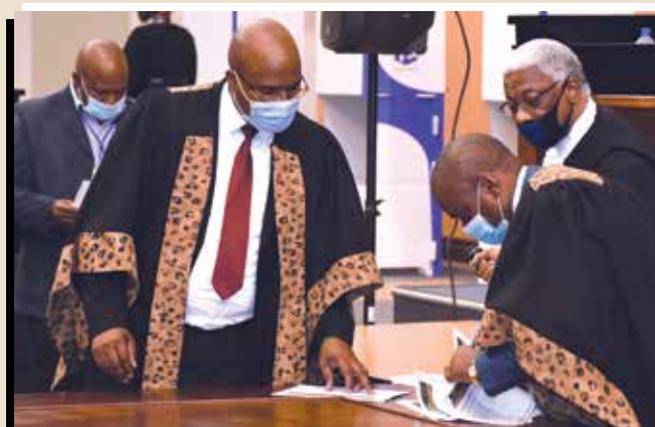
MEC Nqatha urged members of the House to work together. "Unity is the key to success and taking informed decisions will be the requirement of the day. You are not here to fight or disagree for bad reasons rather to improve the lives of the people. When you make nominations for the Executive, do so on the basis of merit and not popularity," he cautioned members.

He added that the people of the Province are looking up to traditional leaders for a better life. "Take the House to a higher level than what it is now. Make us proud as your forerunners lifted up the name of the Province," said MEC Nqatha.

Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadiso was elected as the Chairperson, with Nkosi Buyanda Matanzima his Deputy. Other members of the Executive Committee (Exco) are Nkosi Nolizwi Makunze, Nkosi Nkosemntu Mditshwa as the Leader of the House, Nkosi Siphwe Mhlambiso as Deputy Leader and Nkosi Gregory Lebenya.



Nkosi Gwadiso, the newly elected Chairperson of the House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders



Mr Stofile, Presiding Judge Mbenenge and Chief Director of the House, Mr Mziwethemba Nkantsu

REFURBISHMENT OF AMAGQUNUKWEBE *Traditional Council* UNDERWAY



Work commenced in March 2022 for the renovation of the Amagqunukhwebe Traditional Council (TC) in Debe Nek under the Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality. The renovations are in line with the pronouncement made by the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Xolile Nqatha in his Policy Speech for 2022/2023 financial year. An amount of R1 860 107.75 has been set aside for the refurbishment thereof of the TC which is envisaged to be completed in August 2022. The benefits of renovations will guarantee traditional leaders in the area with a facility to carry out their service delivery obligations in their communities.



END OF *First Term* OF LOCAL HOUSES

By Vuyani Sibene



Front Row: Nkosi Langa Mavuso, MEC Nqatha, Nkosi Gwadiso and Nkosi Zwelozile Toyise
Back Row: Nkosi Nkosinathi Jezile, Nkosi Sizakele Ngwekazi, Nkosi Nzululwazi Sigcawu and Nkosi Tshipamo Sejosengoe

welfare and rural development projects. “We are here to also acknowledge and appreciate the members for the role they played during their term. This is important because these were the first members for the Local Houses established in 2017,” said Mr Gwebindlala.

Delivering the message of support, the Acting Chairperson of the EC House of Traditional Leaders, Nkosi Langa Mavuso said: “We should look at the projects of the traditional leaders and how they should be profiled. We have challenges with traditional initiation and hope to have more budget for monitoring purposes,” said Nkosi Mavuso.

Also speaking at the dinner, Nkosikazi Nomandla Mhlauli Chairperson for the National House of Traditional and Khoi San Leaders applauded the outgoing members for starting Houses from scratch where there was nothing.

“Delivering the keynote address, MEC for Cogta Xolile Nqatha commended the members for good work done and that the “sod has been turned courageously forging ahead.”

“You have actually laid the foundation for the Local Houses and we thank you for that contribution. I hope this road we have started will contribute towards building better rural communities.”

Last week MEC CoGTA, Xolile Nqatha hosted a Gala Dinner in Mthatha to mark the end of the first term of the Local Houses of Traditional Leaders (LHTL) on 30 April 2022. The term started in 2017

Outlining the business of the evening, the Deputy Director General (DDG) for Traditional Affairs Mr Thandabantu Gwebindlala said the event was meant to account for the budget allocated to the LHTL with regards to social

COMMISSION ON *Khoi-San* MATTERS HELD A SESSION IN GQEBERA

By Vuyani Sibene

Early in April, Khoi and San people from across the Eastern Cape Province gathered at Bethelsdorp in Gqeberha, for the Provincial Launch of the Commission on Khoi-San (CKS) matters.

The launch marked the start of lodging of Applications for the recognition of Khoi-San Leaders to the Commission. Speaking at the meeting, the Chairperson of the Commission, Professor Nico Botha said the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act was assessed by President Cyril Ramaphosa and duly published in the Government Gazette on 28 November 2019.

“The Act commenced from 01 April 2021 as determined by the President under Proclamation No.38 and will end on 31 August 2025. The application process will culminate in the recognition of Khoi-San communities,



Khoi-San Activist Christian Martin and a Khoi-San Community Member

branches and leaders. Applications may be lodged with the Commission from 30 March 2022 until 29 March 2024. Communities and leaders must note that the relevant parts of the form must be completed in full and evidence must be provided in respect of criteria recognition,” said Professor Botha.

He further called for unity so that the Commission achieves its purpose as this is just the beginning hence they must work together.

In her message of support, the Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Khoi-San Leaders Nkosikazi Nomandla Mhlauli said the process should include youth and people with disabilities to rewrite the history that is hidden from the people. Electronic versions of the Afrikaans and English application forms can be requested from cksm@cocta.gov.za

MEC NQATHA CONVENES ENGAGEMENTS ON FINANCIAL Irregularities IN MUNICIPALITIES

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

COGTA MEC Xolile Nqatha recently kick-started his Province wide engagement sessions with the leadership of the Buffalo City Metro (BCM) and Amathole District Municipality (ADM) on the negative audit outcomes recently released by the Auditor General (AG). Local Municipalities under ADM also attended, namely Great Kei, Raymond Mhlaba, Amahlathi, Mbhashe, Ngqushwa and Mnquma.

The meeting was held in BCM to discuss the Unauthorized, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure (UIF&W). Other sessions are lined up with the rest of the Districts and the Metro on the same issue of financial irregularities.

“Section 23 of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) requires that Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) should investigate the UIFW and take reasonable consequence management steps,” said MEC Nqatha.

MEC Nqatha convened the engagement sessions to deal with escalating UIF&W which is sitting at R27 billion in the Eastern Cape Province. The engagement was also held to ensure that municipalities monitor the spending of Municipal Infrastructure Grants (MIG).

“The issues that are underlined in the AG’s Report are geared towards ensuring that there is accountability and consequence management. Everything else that happens in our municipalities or everything that does not happen in a municipality is as a result of lack of accountability and consequence management. If there are no consequences it is an incentive to do more wrong things. As a result, we are talking about R27,73 billion of financial irregularities,” said MEC Nqatha.

Buffalo City Executive Mayor Councillor Xola Pakati welcomed the MEC and expressed appreciation to the meeting as it related to

matters of financial accountability. He said this is the first meeting of its kind and it will remain in our minds only if we honour that which we will agree upon in the processes of engagement. Good governance is one of the key pillars of our Metro’s Development Strategy.

“We also had an engagement with the AG and we said it would be proper that the role of the AG does not begin and end with the audit process and the findings. The AG should also see to it that management responds to the recommendations of the AG. We should not wait for the end of the financial year to make a determination whether those recommendations have been implemented or not,” he said.

Councillor Pakati said the structures of accountability including internal audit, external audit committee, Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) as well as Council Committees and the Municipal Council itself, should always play their roles.

“The responsibility of the political office bearers is to ensure that things are done by the book. We are aware that the findings of the AG mainly have more to do with contract management and flouting of supply chain processes. The responsibility resides with all of us both the administrative and political leadership to see to it that some of these issues are resolved,” added Councillor Pakati.

“In efforts to restore good governance, rule of law and due processes, lets adhere to our own roles both as the political and administrative leadership. These interactions have the potential to be productive depending if the outcomes are taken seriously by all of us individually and collectively,” said MEC Nqatha.

The municipalities will implement the resolutions of the engagement and report to the Department quarterly.



Mr Sabelo Tini - Director Municipal Finance

MEC Nqatha and Executive Mayor of BCM - Councillor Xola Pakati

HOD for Cogta - Mr Andile Fani

DID YOU KNOW?

Following a decline in daily cases, hospitalisation, positivity rate, and reported deaths, government has lifted the COVID-19 regulations which include the following:

- Compulsory wearing of facemasks indoors.
- Limitations of gatherings and proof of vaccination or PCR/ Antigen negative tests at Ports of Entry.

The vaccination programme will remain and is now being integrated into routine package of health services hence government:

- urges unvaccinated and partly vaccinated people to vaccinate and also get booster shots.
- supports voluntary mask wearing to prevent infection from other respiratory diseases like TB and influenza.

Let us continue to use all the information that we have received and adhered to for the past 2 years, such as;

- washing your hands with soap or using an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Always open windows for fresh air.

The lifting of COVID-19 regulations and State of Disaster Management doesn't mean the pandemic is over.

Stay safe!

SCHOOL ASSISTANTS PROGRAMME BENEFITS 287,000 *Young* PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY



President Cyril Ramaphosa at St John's College in Eastern Cape ahead of the national commemoration of the Youth Month

The bravery, determination and vision of the youth of 1976 were vital to the achievement of the South African democracy, so says President Cyril Ramaphosa during the Youth Day celebrations hosted in Mthatha this month. Delivering his keynote on the day President Ramaphosa government honoured what he called "the youth of all decades" because from their struggles, the country learnt that there is nothing that young people cannot achieve when they are united and committed.

"It is due to the struggles of young people over many years that access to primary education is universal for every single young person. Our school feeding schemes have ensured that no child is hungry at school. Today, our country produces four times the number of African graduates than we did in 1994. These graduates have gone on to become leading doctors, technologists, innovators and entrepreneurs," President Ramaphosa.

He said the achievements of today should not overshadow the deep seated challenges faced by young people hence the country need young people to rally together to confront and overcome the massive challenges facing them.

The President added that as government rebuilds from the Covid 19 pandemic, it remained focused on growing the economy and creating jobs. It is for this reason that we announced the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention, which is a comprehensive response to the youth unemployment challenge.

"We have also launched the Presidential Employment Stimulus, which supports public and social employment and which has created close to 880,000 job opportunities since it was established. The flagship initiative of the employment stimulus is the School Assistants Programme, which placed 287,000 young people in schools across the country. These young people are accessing meaningful employment while supporting teachers and contributing to positive learning outcomes in our schools," the President said.

He revealed that the latest programme to be launched through the employment stimulus is the Social Employment Fund which has begun to recruit 50,000 participants in community safety, food and nutrition, digital inclusion, sports, arts and recreation.

A new dashboard for the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention has been launched on the State of the Nation website and members of the public are now able to track detailed progress with implementation and receive up-to-date information about the intervention.

"Our National Pathway Management Network, which links young people to opportunities for earning, learning and support has now signed up over 2.9 million users. Young people can join the network through an online platform, SAYouth.mobi, which is data free on all mobile networks."

As part of government's commitment to remove the barriers that young people confront when trying to enter the public service, government is reducing the cost and effort of applying for positions wherein applicants are no longer required to submit certified copies of their educational qualifications and other relevant documents.

"This simple change will significantly reduce the cost of applying, improve turnaround times and reduce the administrative burden on departments. At the beginning of next month, government will be launching the Future of Work Ambassadors programme to improve and modernise the recruitment and retention of youth in the public service. We are pursuing innovative new ways of linking learning with earning. The National Skills Fund is pioneering the pay-for-performance skills development model that will create 8,000 job opportunities for young people in digital skills." said President Ramaphosa.



A St John's College student giving a speech



St John's College students taking pictures with the President

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE *Revitalised* TOWARDS CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

"Today, we are proud to announce the official launch of the revitalised National Youth Service (NYS) to contribute to civic responsibility, a common identity, development and nation building," announced President Cyril Ramaphosa during the Youth Day Celebrations in Mthatha this month.

President Ramaphosa said young people were a "passionate generation" that sees the need in the country and wanted to serve those around them.

"There is a great deal of work for them to do in public schools, tackling social problems such as alcohol and substance abuse and Gender Based Violence and in building social solidarity in their communities. We look to the NYS to inculcate in young people the habits of work, the value of community service and a sense of duty to our democracy," he said.

The President said young people who want to participate in the NYS should join SAYouth.mobi and create their profile.

The YES, said President Ramaphosa is another important initiative that has reached key milestones over the last year. Through its partnerships with the private sector, YES has created nearly 82,000 quality work opportunities for young South Africans. This has injected over R4.6 billion into the economy through salaries alone.

"Corporate partners use the YES to build their own workforces by creating work experiences for youth in industries of the future such as digital, drones, green economy, urban farming, mining, global business services, creative industries and many more. The young people of South Africa are imbued with a great entrepreneurial spirit and energy. Our task is to support them to unleash their potential," said President Ramaphosa.

MUNIMEC FOR *Property* DEVELOPMENT

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

The department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) recently held a Technical MuniMEC for all Municipal Managers (MM) in the Province of the Eastern Cape. This was a consultative process to inform them and also to prepare for the convening a Property Development and Investment Conference by the department of DPWI. The conference theme is, "Developing and Financing the Eastern Cape Governments Immovable Assets as a Vehicle for Transformation and Revenue Generation."

Speaking at the meeting, the Head of Department (HoD) for CoGTA Mr Andile Fani said the aim of the planned conference was to attract investors and developers, property professionals, development finance institutions and other relevant stakeholders to establish partnerships with the Eastern Cape Provincial government in creating a sustainable and enabling environment in the transformation of the property sector.

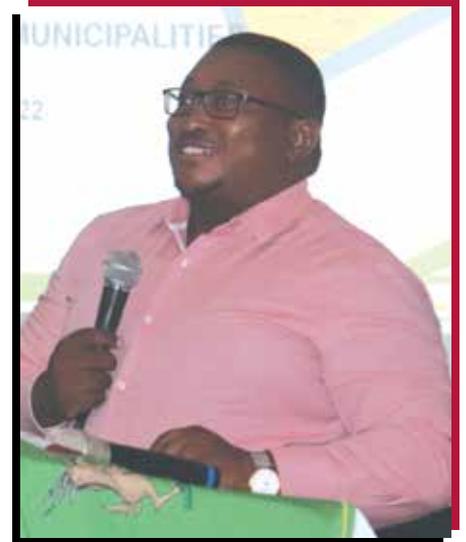
"We aim at unveiling mechanisms and models for urban development and small town revitalisation in the provision of enabling infrastructure and promote equitable ownership of property in the Province," said Mr Fani.

"We want to create a platform to showcase the immovable asset portfolio of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government to create an enabling environment for SMME's to participate in property investment. We want to develop the Eastern Cape property portfolio into lucrative and sustainable projects that will increase investment and improve socio-economic transformation and long term revenue generation stream of the Province," added Mr Fani.

The HoD for the DPWI, Mr Thandolwethu Manda said that the conference will give effect



HOD for COGTA Mr Fani



HOD for the Department of DPWI, Mr Thandolwethu Manda

to the Property Transformation Charter (PTC) whose overall objective is to transform the property sector in South Africa, by presenting opportunities available through immovable assets owned by the Provincial government for economic development and enhance government's revenue generation capability.

"These properties include vacant provincial state land, existing buildings which can be used for commercial, industrial and various other uses. They have a potential for transformation and redevelopment into profitable uses for local economic development," he added.

Mr Manda added that the DPWI undertook to improve management and utilisation of

its property portfolio to generate revenue. The department is targeted at releasing 88 properties in the current year to black property developers with preference to those based in the Eastern Cape.

"This process then culminated to a compilation of a provincial bid book with all properties that have investment potential across the Province. The bid book has a total of 195 strategic properties with an extent of 496 ha," said Mr Manda.

Mr Manda further told the attendees that the MEC for the DPWI, Babalo Madikizela also embarked on a campaign to consult and market the department's property portfolio to attract investment



COGTA MEC Xolile Nqatha

2022 WINTER INITIATION SEASON

Official Opening: 17 JUNE 2022

Registration and medical screenings are compulsory



THEME: Promoting sustainable livelihood and resilience of young people for a better tomorrow.

As we commemorate the Youth Month we urge parents to ensure the following:

- 🇿🇦 Choose qualified & registered Ingcibi (traditional surgeon) and Ikhankatha (traditional nurse)
- 🇿🇦 Provide water to Abakhwetha (traditional initiate)
- 🇿🇦 Immediate referral of sick Abakhwetha (traditional initiate) to hospital
- 🇿🇦 Report all illegal activities to the nearest police station
- 🇿🇦 Visit Amabhuma (traditional hut) 24/7

MABAYE BEPHILA BABUYE BEPHILA, SIYAZINGCA NGESIKO LETHU

BLOW THE WHISTLE ON FRAUD AND CORRUPTION



Report Fraud and Corruption to the National Anti-Corruption Hotline (NACHL) on 0800 701 701 free of charge.

The NACHL is open 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Corruption in the public service undermines the fight against poverty by putting money that is meant for infrastructure and development into the pockets of corrupt individuals. Corruption increases the cost of public services and slows down delivery of services to the people. Corruption scares off foreign investors. make your disclosure by email to:

publicservicecorruptionhotline.org.za

integrity@publicservicecorruptionhotline.org.za

or smsfalties:39772

OFFICIAL *Funeral* OF KING ZANOZUKO SIGCAU



Pall bearers carrying the casket of the late King Sigcau to the tent



MEC Ngqatha with President Ramaphosa



Mourners at the funeral



Members of the South African National Defence Force Band



Handing over of the National Flag to King Sigcau's mom