



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Free State Premier visits Matjhabeng Local Municipality

By Ntombi Mhlambi; GCIS, Free State

On 4 September 2024, the Premier of the Free State, Ms Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae, accompanied by the Member of Executive Council (MEC) for Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements, Mr Saki Mokoena and the MEC for Community Safety, Roads and Transport, Mr Jabu Mbalula, undertook a service delivery monitoring trip to the Matjhabeng Local Municipality which includes the towns of Welkom, Virginia, Odendaalsrus and Allanridge. The visit was necessitated by the large scale of challenges facing the municipality such as incomplete projects, shortage of civil engineers and insufficient capacity to handle sizeable projects; as well as service delivery issues.

“The aim of this visit is to identify and resolve any challenges the municipality is faced with,” said the Premier. She further stated that as the Seventh

Administration, they were committed to prioritising service delivery. Other issues raised at the meeting were: theft of key water infrastructure, shortage of experienced personnel such as civil engineers, lack of project capacity and contractors that fail to complete projects. The Premier appealed for honesty concerning the challenges faced by the municipality, and announced that progress had been made in appointing contractors for projects earmarked for the remainder of the 2024/2025 financial year. MEC Mokoena confirmed that two billion rand had been allocated by the government to resolve sewerage and reticulation network challenges across the municipality, as well as intervention efforts by all spheres of government to speedily address prevailing infrastructure backlogs in line with the District Development Model approach.



Premier Letsoha-Mathae engaging with stakeholders and members of the media.



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PRIORITY 1: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Integrated Public Service Month 2024 launched in the Northern Cape

By Mpho More and Kgomotso Sentso; GCIS, Northern Cape

The Minister of Public Service and Administration, Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi, together with the Premier of the Northern Cape, Dr Zamani Saul, officially launched Integrated Public Service Month (IPSM) on 5 September 2024 under the theme “A government that works for you” at the 3 SAI Military Base in Kimberley, Northern Cape.

The IPSM serves as a reminder to public officials of what it means to serve communities and to also look at the impact of government, especially around issues of service delivery.

As part of the build-up programme, the Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Roads and Public Works started with clean-up campaigns at the Resthaven Welfare Society Old Age Home and the Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Hospital.

The day of the launch began with the Minister and the Premier conducting a roadblock on MacDougall Street to ensure the roadworthiness of vehicles and checking drivers’ licences.

During the keynote address, Minister Buthelezi, spoke about the role of the public service in building a capable, ethical and development state. He also reminded the audience that being a public servant was not just a job, but a noble calling; and that the trust of over 60 million South Africans rested in their hands. He continued, “Our responsibility as public servants is immense and each decision we make directly impacts on the lives of South Africans; therefore, we are compelled to work diligently and build relationships with the communities that we serve.”

In his address, Dr Zamani Saul, thanked the public servants of the Northern Cape Provincial Government for a job well done, and reiterated that the public service was the cornerstone of building a modern, growing and successful province. He reminded them to be agile, innovative as well as forward-thinking.

The officials in attendance were afforded an opportunity to raise their concerns and give ideas on how to improve service delivery and move the Northern Cape forward.



Minister Buthelezi delivering the keynote address.



Dr Saul addressing officials at the IPSM launch.



Some of the officials who engaged with the Minister during the event.



Ms Martha Mahlangu said:

“The event was very informative and encouraging, things are bad at our schools. Learners are no longer certain about their future as a result of drug abuse.”



Mr Kenneth Shabangu said:

“People get assisted regarding drug abuse in sessions like today’s one. I am one of the recovering addicts and the government programmes against the use and abuse of drugs has benefitted me a lot”.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Thembisile Hani Local Municipality commemorates International Overdose Awareness Day

By Reki Skosana; GCIS, Mpumalanga.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in collaboration with the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, religious formations, the Moutse Community Radio Station, the departments of Correctional Services, Employment and Labour, Health, Social Development, local drug action committees, Mpumalanga Substance Abuse Forum, Love Life and other civil society organisations conducted an information-sharing session to raise awareness on drug abuse, overdose and prevention.

The Thembisile Hani Local Municipality is facing a challenge of young people using illicit substances and drugs, which has led to a high crime rate in the area, as these young people steal valuable items from their homes to feed their addiction.

The event targeted drug users, their parents, rehabilitated drug addicts, high school learners, caregivers as well as ordinary community members.

The information shared was predominantly about the consequences of abusing drugs and the dangers of overdosing on drugs. Attendees had an opportunity to have health-checks done by the Department of Health and received information and promotional material from the South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders, the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, the Department of Social Development and the GCIS.

Ms Grace Jikajika, who also attended the event, had this to say: “My child is a drug addict and these government information sessions help us a lot. The government must please consider conducting sessions like this one more often.”



Stakeholders engaging with community members.



Exhibitions at the event.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Western Cape Thusong Service Centre Week

By Peter Titus; GCIS, Western Cape

On 18 and 19 September 2024, multiple government departments descended on the towns of Saron and Gouda, under the Drakenstein Local Municipality, to render much needed services to more than 900 community members as part of the Thusong Service Centre (TSC) Week. The annual TSC Week aims to raise awareness about the important services offered by the centres across the country – of ensuring that communities can access information and government services in line with the Batho Pele principles and is part of the government’s commitment of taking services to the people.

During the first day of the outreach, the Mayor of the Cape Winelands District Municipality, Dr Helen von Schlicht and Commissioner Ashley Searle from the Public Service Commission (PSC), encouraged government officials to serve communities with the utmost respect and also thanked them for their dedication to public service throughout the 30 Years of Democracy.

As both the communities of Saron and Gouda are situated in the far-flung geographical area of the Drakenstein Municipality, the services offered during the two days came as a relief. During the two

days, services were rendered by the departments of Agriculture, Employment and Labour, Human Settlements, Rural Development and Land Reform, South African Social Security Agency, Small Enterprise Development Agency, the Film and Publication Board, the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), South African Police Service, the PSC, the Community Development Worker Programme, the Road Accident Fund, the Cape Winelands District Municipality and the Drakenstein Local Municipality.

Key issues identified by both communities included human settlements and the issuing of title deeds. Farmworkers also came to register for UIF with the Department of Employment and Labour.

“What a valuable experience to have all the services of government under one roof,” said Mr Franklik Johnson from the Gouda community.



Ms Catherine Joseph was very satisfied with the services she received.



Mr Derrick Booysen from the Gouda community expressed his gratitude to government for bringing services to them.



Key services were rendered to the community.



An official from the Department of Employment and Labour providing advice about the UIF.



Saron community members showed up for TSC Week.