

WOMEN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT:

BUILDING BACK BETTER FOR WOMEN'S RESILIENCE!

#WomensMonth2022 #WomensEmpowermentAgenda

WOMEN'S MONTH 2022



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social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Editor's Note

What a beautiful time to get back to work in the week of the launch of the sector's women's forum! On August 19, the women of the DSD family gathered for this occasion. It was beautiful to connect with every woman, many of whom personally I never get to interact with. I came from there renewed and realised that I do not know half the colleagues we work with; something we should try to rectify.

As women, we encouraged one another as we tried to overcome the distances we walked and climbed up to get to the zip line. We have put together all the photographs and uploaded them on the intranet as this edition and the pages may not do justice to what transpired on the day.

In this very edition, we also recognise the investment the Department makes in educating and training the women of the Department. We celebrate the women who were awarded their degrees including those who completed their PhDs and will be graduating in the coming weeks. We wish to congratulate

all the women who take up the opportunities available for them. It would be amiss not to encourage more to go back to school and improve their education.

This month we were also very fortunate to be visited by delegations from Zimbabwe and South Sudan who were on a study tour to look at the provision of some of our services with the aim to learn from us. This is confirmation that we may have challenges but other countries look up to us. Something that should be encouraging and humbling to us as policy developers.

Colleagues, this publication is nothing without the support that you give us. We want to improve it and we want to make sure that everything that you do can find expression in these pages. We appeal that you notify us of your content so that we get our cameras to where you are. No content is unimportant. Share it with us and we will advise on how we can package it for you.

Lumka Olyphant



— FROM THE DESK OF —
THE PRESIDENT

DEAR FELLOW SOUTH AFRICANS,

The fight against corruption requires both firm political will and independent, capable crime-fighting institutions.

In my first State of the Nation Address, in 2018, I made a commitment to turn the tide against corruption in our public institutions and fight fraud and collusion in the private sector with the same intensity and purpose.

Since then, we have been working hard to strengthen and support our law enforcement and related agencies. We set up the Investigating Directorate in the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to deal with serious corruption and the Special Tribunal to enable the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to more easily recover stolen funds. We have also provided support and resources to other critical crime-fighting bodies like the Asset

Forfeiture Unit, Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit and Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, known as the Hawks.

These efforts are producing results.

Through collaboration with key entities in the criminal justice system, the Investigating Directorate has enrolled over 20 corruption cases in the last financial year and 65 accused have been charged. These include several 'state capture' and other serious corruption cases.

In the past financial year, the Asset Forfeiture Unit obtained freezing orders to the value of R5.4 billion relating to corruption offences, with R70 million paid into the Criminal Assets Recovery Fund.

Over the past eight years, the SIU has recovered funds and assets to the value of R2.6 billion and set aside contracts to the value of R18 billion. A total of 119 cases worth more than R13 billion have been enrolled by the SIU at the Special Tribunal.

Corruption is an extremely complex crime to prosecute.

Perpetrators go to extraordinary lengths to cover their tracks. They set up shelf companies to hide dodgy transactions, rapidly moving monies between multiple accounts, misrepresenting income to the tax authorities, and, in the case of government employees, using friends and relatives to apply for tenders to mask their involvement.

This means that the response of the authorities has to be just as sophisticated.

In 2020, we established a multidisciplinary Fusion Centre as an operational hub to address priority financial crimes, including corruption. The centre brings together the investigative capabilities of government's crime prevention and security structures and those of the Financial Intelligence Centre, which develops intelligence for law enforcement agencies to use in their investigations.

Two years since the Fusion



PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

Centre was established, its multidisciplinary approach to 'follow the money' has yielded significant results.

In the last financial year the work of the Fusion Centre supported 276 fraud and corruption investigations. Approximately R659 million was restored to the state through preservation and recovery of the proceeds of crime. Approximately R613 million in suspected criminal proceeds were frozen.

The Fusion Centre was initially set up to investigate corruption around COVID-related procurement. Its mandate is now being expanded to include money-laundering, fraud, maladministration, terrorist financing and other serious financial crimes.

Last week, the Hawks outlined some of the progress that has been made by the Anti-Corruption Task Team, of which the Fusion Centre forms part. Between the 2019 and 2022 financial years, 554 suspects were arrested for corruption, of which 142 were convicted.

Another vital financial intelligence tool is the lifestyle

audits conducted by the South African Revenue Service. Last year, SARS completed 25 lifestyle audits to the value of over R450 million to resolve discrepancies between declared income and an individual's lifestyle.

It is clear that the measures we have taken as this administration to restore the capacity, capability and credibility of the institutions involved in the fight against corruption are having a demonstrable impact.

The synchronised work of all the law enforcement agencies is hitting criminals where it hurts most: in their pockets. Public funds that were looted and diverted are being recovered and those responsible for these acts are being prosecuted by our courts.

To further strengthen our efforts to turn the tide against corruption, today I am announcing appointments to the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council.

The Council will bring together stakeholders from across society to oversee the implementation of go-

vernment's anti-corruption strategy. The new body will advise government on the critical preventative measures, institutional capabilities and resources needed to prevent a recurrence of state capture and to stamp out fraud and corruption in South Africa.

Our ultimate aim is to build strong and resilient institutions that can end corruption and withstand any future attempts at state capture.

As we continue to build on these successes, we are confident that even if it takes time, those who stole and looted resources meant for the people will face the consequences of their actions.

With best regards,

A VIEW FROM THE MINISTER

Dear DSD Family,

Malibongwe igama la Makhosikazi!

Sixty-six years ago, at the height of the Apartheid regime, more than 20 000 women from all walks of life and every corner of South Africa gathered at the Union Buildings to protest against the extension of the oppressive pass laws to women. This created one of the most enduring landmarks in our struggle for freedom and democracy. Some of the organisers of that historic march included Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Dorothy Nyembe, Ray Alexander, Rahima Moosa and the last surviving leader, Mama Sophie du Bruyn.

Sixty-six years on, we look back with great pride as we gauge the progress on key issues that the pioneers of women liberation fought for. The presence of so many women in key positions within the DSD Portfolio and across Government underlines the importance of this historic occasion. Today, women of colour have broken so many barriers and shattered the proverbial glass ceiling.

A month ago, President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed the former President of the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA), Justice Mandisa Maya as the first ever female Deputy Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of South Africa. This appointment will mark the latest chapter of 'firsts' for women in South Africa. In this context, the selection of this year's theme for the National Women's Day, "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Improved Resilience", could not have been more appropriate. There are and have been women in power before, but what is happening today in many ways goes deeper and is built on the solid foundation laid by the forebears of women who struggled for recognition as equals and leaders.



However, despite these successes, progress towards the goal of gender equality and women's empowerment still trails conspicuously behind. The sad truth remains that women bear the brunt of poverty, unemployment and inequality. The recent quarterly crime statistics and the quarterly labour force survey are stark reminders of the formidable challenges confronting and holding women back from reaching their full potential.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the women of our country remain resilient and hopeful. Our collective obligation as women in leadership and positions of influence is to support the resilience of these women and to relieve them of the burdens they carry everyday as breadwinners and community builders. Whilst there are many horrors and tribulations that women face, we cannot ignore and forget the many success stories attributed to women. This is what we have to celebrate!

Speaking of celebration, I am pleased that the DSD Portfolio has relaunched the DSD Women's Forum, which seeks to ensure that women don't just make the numbers, but occupy their rightful positions to lead the sector because the overwhelming majority of beneficiaries of our services are women.

We need to ensure that the DSD Women's Forum is able to report-back about the tangible progress regis-

tered in changing the lives of women for the better. This is by removing barriers that impede women in the workplace, irrespective of their ranks and also becoming their voice. It must also become a platform for developing the next generation of women leaders. Through the forum, young women entering the DSD Portfolio must be supported and receive guidance and mentorship from senior women leaders in order for them to attain both personal and professional growth.

We owe the forebears of our struggle and the women of 1956 immense gratitude, and we owe them a responsibility - a responsibility to build on their foundations; to do more, to be more, and to make life better for the current generation of women and girls and those who will come after us. The struggle for women's empowerment is not easy and is far from being over; we need the strength and resilience of the women of 1956.

My hope is that in the next few years, we will not only continue to see progress towards a non-sexist society envisioned in the National Development Plan (Vision 2030), but also a South Africa in which all citizens - both men and women, girls and boys enjoy freedom and democracy; a South Africa that is free from the fear of crime and violence, and filled with hope and a brighter future for our women and girls.

To all the women across the DSD Portfolio, I call upon you to strengthen one another, love one another, and be faithful to the light.

Wa thint' abafazi wa thint' imbokodo-you strike the women, you the rock!

Thank you and stay safe.

Ms Lindiwe Zulu
Minister of the Department of Social Development

THE VOICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER

Greetings DSD Family,

It has been an eventful Women's Month!

One event that was for me, the highlight of this month was the handover of a cheque worth 1 Million Rands to Azowel Projects founded by Ms Welile Gumede, who used her daughter's SASSA child grant to start it! The resilience and passion Ms Gumede showed in starting her business and keeping it afloat despite all the hurdles that presented themselves along the way is truly remarkable and inspiring.

Families and businesses in Kwa-Zulu Natal helplessly watched their properties being washed away by disastrous floods, resulting in a number of people losing their livelihoods due to this disaster. In April this year, Ms Gumede's farm fell victim to this natural catastrophe.

In response to this, through our long-standing partnership with the MTN SA Foundation, a cheque was handed over to Azowel Projects. During the handover, what was initially a five-hundred-thousand Rand investment ended up being a Million Rand investment. We congratulate Ms Gumede; the funds will go a long way in restarting her business.

Still focusing on KZN, on the 29th of August, I engaged with women who were affected by



the floods. Oftentimes, when we speak about resilience, we neglect to take into account what it takes to be resilient in an adverse situation. I hosted a dialogue with these women to hear what they faced in the shelters or when staying with family members. It was during our visits, when pro-

“Our department is the lead department in the coordination and implementation of the National Drug Master Plan (NDMP) which is aimed at achieving a drug free society for the benefit of all South Africans.”

viding relief to families affected by the floods that we found that

most shelters were saturated by women and children.

As you know, annually in September we roll out the 9-9-9 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) campaign to educate communities about the dangers associated with alcohol consumption during pregnancy and breastfeeding. The campaign will be done through community dialogues and the theme for this year is, “Building Strength and Abilities”. The campaign, which will run throughout 9 consecutive days - a day in each province, is aimed at mobilising communities against FAS.

Our department is the lead department in the coordination and implementation of the National Drug Master Plan (NDMP) which is aimed at achieving a drug free society for the benefit of all South Africans. The Department also has a role in implementing programmes targeting the prevention of alcohol related social ills including; Gender-based Violence, Teenage Pregnancy and HIV/ Aids.

I hope to see you in your respective provinces as we drive the message that, “no amount of alcohol is safe during pregnancy and while breastfeeding”

Mme Hendrietta Bogopane Zulu
Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development

THE ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL'S CORNER



We are living in a country that is characterised by the continued struggle of women against inequality and low salaries in some workplaces. What is most disturbing is that women and girl children are still being treated like objects who are unable to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.

Our women and girl children are tired and ashamed of being women as they are often discriminated against. Combined with the primitive culture of patriarchy, this continually contributes to the non-empowerment of women as their dignity is taken lightly by most of us.

To address the plight of all women in South Africa, this month, which is Women's month, is being observed under the theme, "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Resilience." The theme is complemented by various policies and pieces of legislation which are in place to advance the emancipation of women from the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Similar to all South Africans, women and girls also have the right to privacy, freedom of expression, choice of any career and the right to decide where they want to live, play, work and



excel in different areas of life without any form of limitations. This, as the theme dictates, can be realised when women begin to believe in their potential- that they also can achieve anything irrespective of their gender, race, class, background and geographical location.

To all men within the DSD Portfolio, we have the task of ensuring that women's rights are advanced in all areas of life. Ours is to work hard and turn around the current dominating ideologies painted on women which over centuries degenerated them into punching bags and sexual objects by their male counterparts.

We have the duty to teach our male counterparts out there, some of whom are our friends and colleagues, that girls and women deserve dignified treatment. Let us go out there and confront the harsh realities of the twenty-first century. Times have changed; women are no longer confined

to the kitchen or domestic roles; instead, they can also be found in the boardrooms of Multinational Corporations as Chief Executive Officers (CEOs).

We live in a country where unemployment remains a stumbling block. This stumbling block carries with it socio-economic repercussions that manifest in the form of poverty, crime, teenage pregnancy, the spread of HIV/ Aids and the second pandemic which is Gender-based Violence and Femicide. Being aware of this, let us encourage our friends, relatives, neighbours, and our fellow colleagues to make use of the Gender Based Violence Command Centre (GBVCC), which is part of the National Response's vital tool for the implementation of Gender-based Violence Prevention, Response, Care and Support.

We can win the battle against the false notion that has deceived our minds into believing that we are living in a "man's world".

The expression which says, "**YOU STRIKE A WOMAN, YOU STRIKE A ROCK;**" must not only be in theory, but something which women should strive to embody during the month of August and beyond!

Mr. Linton Mchunu
Acting Director-General of
the Department of Social
Development

New board for Child, Social and Youth care work constituted

By Langi Malamba



Board for Child and Youth Care Work were convened and held on 17 August 2022, chaired by the Registrar, Ms Langi Malamba in terms of Regulation 2 relating to Appointment of Office Bearers.

The respective members of the Professional Boards nominated the Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons in terms of Regulation 2.

The 5th South African Council for Social Service Professions, 5th Professional Board for Social Work and 4th Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work are fully constituted and have assumed office. Board Notice no. 316 of 2022 was published in the Government Gazette 46705 of 12 August 2022, in line with section 5(7) of the SSP Act no 110 of 1978, following a notice received from the Minister in terms of section 5(6) detailing the names of Members elected and appointed to serve on the 5th Council, 4th Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work, and the 5th Professional Board for Social Work for a period of five 5 years, in terms of section 5(5) (a).

The first 1st meetings of the newly constituted 5th Professional Board for Social Work and 4th Professional

Another meeting of the newly constituted 5th Council was held on 19 August 2022 chaired by the Registrar for the election of the President and Vice-President of Council in terms of Section 7(1) of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978. Dr Paul Mbedzi was elected as President of the South African Council for Social Service Professions and Mr Murendeni Muridili as (Vice-President).

For the 5th Professional Board for Social Work, Ms Ida Strydom was elected as the Chairperson and Ms Winnie Morake as the Vice-chairperson. For the 4th Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work, Mr Donald Nghonyama was elected as Chairperson and Ms Samantha Baron as Vice-chairperson. All Professional Boards elected as office bearers are in an acting capacity until the



BUILDING

South Africa one block at a time

By Precious Mupenzi

The community of Ward 5 in Winterveldt, outside Pretoria, came in numbers to witness and celebrate with the Ngomeni family, who recently received a newly built and fully furnished house.

The Ngomeni family home was built through collaborative efforts between the Department of Social Development, Collen Mashawana Foundation, Ferguson Foundation and other stakeholders.

Councillor Lerato Machava became aware of the plight of the Ngomeni family and immediately approached the Collen Mashawana Foundation.

Sarah Ngomeni (48) has been living in a shack for almost 30 years, together with her 8 children and 9 grandchildren. She was struggling to make ends meet and in need of shelter. She relies on her grandchildren's social grants and does not have an identity document, which has made her situation worse.

The excitement was written all over the faces of the Ngomeni family. "I am so happy, I don't even know what to say to the Collen Mashawana Foundation. Now, I will sleep at night like all other people and not worry about the bad weather at night," she says.

An excited community member, Lorraine Mashaba was among the community members who attended the handover ceremony. "Halala, Halala! I am very excited to witness the handover of this home to Sarah Ngomeni. I want to thank the Department of Social Development and the Mashawana Foundation for responding to the needs of the Ngomeni family. May this not end with the Ngomeni family," says Mashaba.

She added that Sarah's living environment was a concern to the entire community especially when the weather was bad. Speaking during the house handover ceremony, Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu said, "We will build this country block by block. It is exciting to see the foundations working together and pulling resources to build a house. Today, we are witnessing another service delivery."

"As the Department, it is our responsibility to turn a house into a home and ensure that the children have the necessary documentation to access social grants," said Minister Zulu.

She further stated that her department will collaborate with the Department of Home Affairs to assist Ngomeni in receiving an identity document.

The Ngomeni family also received groceries, clothes and other basic necessities.

BEFORE



AFTER



Women's Sector Forum is launched

By Nomfundo Xulu-Lentsoane

It was a day of fun, games, exercise, dance, music, introspection, conversation and learning when the Women's Social Sector Forum was being launched on 19 August 2022 in Centurion - Gauteng Province.

The gathering, which comprised of ladies from the Department of Social Development, the South Africa Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the National Development Agency (NDA) was congregated to launch an integrated women's approach forum in dealing with matters of departmental importance - both professionally and personally.

When Doctor Maureen Mogo-tsi, the current Chairperson of the Women's Forum, announced that there would be revised leadership and that she would be stepping down, there was an element of pleasure in her voice but general sadness from the gathering.

"I have served my purpose from the get go and I am stepping down in order to allow other women to take a stance in leading the Department. I wish that the new structure of leaders focus on advancing the agenda of empowering women in the Department.

"I hope that they will put addressing issues of patriarchy

first. I wish that they will also ensure that being united is at the top of the agenda of items for the new Women's Social Sector Forum to address because after all, divided we fall but together we conquer..." said the current Acting Chief Director: Social Assistance who also expressed that she would always be available to offer advice.

"Stepping down from the position of Chairperson and asking to not be nominated does not mean I am letting go altogether. We, as women, need to always encourage and support each other no matter what," she said - adding that the new leadership will be selected by staff through a digital voting system.

"There is going to be a nomination form being circulated from the end of August in order for the new forum leaders to be elected by staff. The order of proceedings will be communicated through all Internal Communication platforms as the process continues," she stipulated.

In support, during her keynote address, Minister Lindiwe Zulu looked back at how she would not be where she is had it not been for the support of the women who stood by her side when she was a youngster. "If



it were not for the women who saw potential in me back when I was in university, I would not be where I am today," expressed Minister Lindiwe Zulu.

The minister further added that structures such as the DSD Women's Sector Forum should be automatic for all structures of society - especially government. "You ought to give yourselves a round of applause for a forum of this nature - a forum for the DSD Family including our entities - SASSA and NDA. Wathinta abafazi, wathinta iMbokodo. Kodwa, there is no iMbokodo without another!" said Minister Zulu.



PRESIDENTIAL
SOCIAL SECTOR
SUMMIT
2022

FOSTERING SOCIAL COHESION
TO ENABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC
PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITIES

BIRCHWOOD HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
EKURHULENI, GAUTENG

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Working together to address the Triple Challenges

By Evans Molimi



The social sector summit held recently in Johannesburg provided an opportunity for a meaningful engagement between government and civil society organisations (CSOs) to deal with the “triple challenges”.

The Social Sector Framework Agreement is a document that commits social partners (state and civil society) to work together in an effort to eradicate triple challenges faced by the country. Through this framework agreement, Social Partners agree to optimise resource mobilisation as well as equitable distribution to empower people and their organisations to create sustainable livelihoods. Furthermore, social partners agree to create a sound regulatory environment that enables the social sector to function effectively. To that effect, the framework commits the state and civil society to improve

the interface between government and civil society.

This was revealed by Deputy Director-General responsible for Community Development, Mr Peter Netshipale during the closing ceremony.

“The summit has achieved its intended purpose. There has been an agreement between government and civil society organisations which carries out a collaboration on capacity building, resource mobilisation, community development, transformation and job creation,” he said

Netshipale provided clarity on the way forward in terms of the programme of action. Some of the key critical points he highlighted were the formation of a task team that will be responsible for developing the action plan which will consist of clear timelines and deliverables on areas of collaboration. The task team will also be responsible for the consolidation of the summit resolutions.

“The Department of Social Development will coordinate and support the civil society in ensuring the realisation of the Framework Agreement, anchored in themes that were discussed during provincial consultations and

summit breakaways commissions.

He further stated that this is the collective responsibility of all Social Cluster Departments. The Department of Social Development is the lead department in ensuring the improvement and the well-being of the vulnerable members of the society so that they reach their full potential.

“CSOs, particularly Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) are playing an important role in addressing societal questions with skilful and progressive methods. Additionally, the private sector is also expected to become actively involved through Corporate Social Investment,” he said.

Netsipale believes that the partnership between these economic players becomes an effective model in resolving the high rate of unemployment in the country.

“It is clear to us that this collaboration could be described as an association in the acceptance of shared vision and responsibilities between government and private sector. This partnership arrangement will acknowledge and strengthen relationships through the Public Private Partnership. The bigger role is for the government and civil society to agree on a synergistic strategy that will contribute towards achieving a shared vision and common goal to fight poverty,” he concluded.

“WE ARE HERE TO FIND SOLUTIONS,” says Minister Zulu

By Matuba Malatjie

“We are not here for ourselves. We are here because we want to find solutions in changing the lives of our people,” said Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu, in her opening remarks at the Presidential Social Sector Summit held in Johannesburg recently. A multi-sectoral delegation of more than 200 embraced the long overdue summit. The summit was a call from President Cyril Ramaphosa’s 2018 State of the Nation Address. Minister Zulu said the call could not be heeded in 2020 when the whole world shut down to escape the danger that came with the Covid-19 global pandemic.

According to Minister Zulu, while it was important to set up mechanisms that will reverse the scourge of inequality, poverty, and unemployment - it was essential to acknowledge the importance of servicing an integrated society. She said integrating society was part of making the work of the social sector visible. She added that for as long as there was a disintegrated society, efforts to liberate people from poverty and other social ills would be impossible.

“And the reason why we are here is because the integration of society that we want is a work in progress. And if anybody believes that work in progress is something that can happen overnight, they’d be very mistaken,” she said.

The Minister dubbed the Social Sector gathering, “The People’s Summit” highlighting that the aim of the summit was to take a long-range view on the challenges that government and the social sector are continuously addressing in communities. She also added that



success stories had to be highlighted and be used as a guiding light out of the adversity millions of people face.

Adding to the minister’s note about success stories, Gauteng MEC for Social Development, Morakane Mosupoe who was also the programme director, announced that through various government initiatives, about 400 young people (in her province) were lifted out of poverty and are no longer dependent on government social grants. She admitted it wasn’t enough, but there was work in progress to sustain the trajectory of success stories to ensure people are not dependent on social grants.

SASSA came under the spotlight when Mr Ashwell Jenneker from Statistics South Africa showed how many people depended on social grants to escape living below the poverty line. The short session showed the spreading cancers that stood in South Africa’s way to prosperity. They include unemployment

and lack of education, especially among young people. Stats SA’s presentation said, 12 percent of households were vulnerable to hunger compared to the 27 percent recorded in the previous report. Jenneker alluded to the improvement of social grants and other government interventions.

“We wanted to employ 150,000 people (for the census). We couldn’t find them, and we just found 101,000 people. So, there’s some problem in our society that even when there are work opportunities, people don’t necessarily take them. So, I don’t think we always understand the psychological impact of not having employment and how the 12,4 million people are orientating themselves to even find work when there is work,” he said. He also showed statistics that showed 12,4 million had given up on looking for work.

Minister of Employment and Labour, Thulas Nxesi, MP, drew a picture of the gaps in government, especially in social services like Police services and provision of health facilities. He said the summit had to come up with ways to help the government employ public service that creates patriotism and trust. Nxesi said it was important for the government to take stock of its own inadequacies to deliver services to people.

Jimmy Gotyana, president of the Alliance of NPO Networks, NEDLAC Community Constituency, said he was looking forward to President Cyril Ramaphosa signing a social compact that would elevate the state of civil society. The signing will happen after the gathering breaks into commissions that will produce a collaborative effort from the social sector to create a better life for all.

Building a South Africa that leaves no-one behind

By Precious Mupenzi

It was a time of celebration when the Social Sector Framework Agreement was signed. Hundreds of delegates from government, civil society and social partners witnessed the adoption and signing of the Agreement.

The delegates sang the victory chant "Phakama Ramaphosa" as a sign of approval and adoption of the framework. President Cyril Ramaphosa signed the framework in the presence of more than 500 delegates, including Ministers, MECs and major civil society players during a two-day summit held at Birchwood Hotel and Conference.

Addressing the delegates, President Ramaphosa said that the interface between government and civil society must be improved and strengthened, adding that the signing of the Social Sector Framework was a milestone. "The framework sets the basis for us to foster a strong state-civil society partnership to tackle poverty, inequality, unemployment and to deepen democratic participation," said President Ramaphosa.

The civil society plays a critical role in building the economy therefore provincial dialogues, roundtable discussions and consultation workshops were convened before the summit to establish a more comprehensive and inclusive framework that leaves no one behind.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Mr Nhlanhla Ndlovu, CEO of NEDLAC Community Trust stated that the framework is the product of a negotiated process that began in 2019 which included provincial consultations, national workshops and a roundtable of stakeholders.

**What does the framework contain?
It includes commitments in five thematic areas:**

ONE

Resource Mobilisation

TWO

Transformation and Job creation

THREE

Capacity Building

FOUR

Regulatory Framework

FIVE

Community Development



It also contains the measures and mechanisms the Social Partners agreed to as outlined below:

Enterprise and Business Development Support for townships and village-based enterprises.

- To support rural, township and informal enterprise production clusters.

- Just Energy Transition and inclusive digitisation processes at a community level.

- Support for localisation and import substitution initiatives and infrastructure development as an enabler of economic recovery and reconstruction.

- Fostering the adoption of EPWP recruitment standards.

- Scaling up and partnering with civil society organisations as implementing agents of relevant Public Employment Programmes.

Forging an anti-corruption strategy (with underlying interventions and actions) to support building an efficient economy and protecting the community and public assets.

The Department of Employment and Labour and its agencies will collaborate with CSOs to support community-based self-initiatives on employment creation and income generation through a Labour Activation Programme (LAP).



The Voices of the Summit

By Precious Mupenzi



PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

“We are establishing a more comprehensive and inclusive framework for collaboration that recognizes, supports and empowers civil society. It sets the basis for us to foster a strong state-civil society partnership to tackle poverty, inequality and employment, and to deepen democratic participation.”



MS LISA SEFTEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: NEDLAC

“The framework agreement will enable and improve relations so that all players contribute to the economic recovery of the country, job creation and sustainability and address poverty.”

MR THULANI TSHEFUTA, OVERALL CONVENOR NEDLAC COMMUNITY CONSTITUENCY

“When funding is provided, it is not provided for us as the leaders of the organisations. The funding is provided to respond to the core challenges of our communities. Funding is critical, but we must begin to re-position civil society differently.”



DR AYODELE ODUSOLA, UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR

“Civil society organisations are a veritable asset for promoting inclusive development. United Nations is ready to work with South Africa to achieve inclusive development.”



FOSTERING SOCIAL COHESION
TO ENABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC
PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITIES

**FOSTERING SOCIAL COHESION
TO ENABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Job creation is vital in tackling social ills

By Evans Molimi

Fighting poverty, crime and substance abuse begins with ensuring that South Africans have job security.

This was according to delegates who attended the Presidential Social Sector Summit held recently at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference.

Delegates pointed out during discussions that substance abuse and crime were linked to the high rate of unemployment.

The secretary of the Men's Sector in Limpopo, Mr Jetty Malete who was also a delegate at the summit said it was painful to see young people who are capable of working, jobless.

"Government needs to relook how they can empower and capacitate disadvantaged [young people] and cooperatives in rural areas," said Malete.

He added that small-scale farming can take young people out of poverty and create job opportunities.

"Government needs to relook how they empower disadvantaged cooperatives and Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs). We also need to forge partnerships between government, the private sector and civil society to develop the rural economy," Malete explained.



Mr Matthew Mponzo from the National Cooperative Association went on to say that cooperatives and non-profit organisations need to be equipped with relevant information on how to create employment in their communities.

"All government departments need to find sustainable solutions on funding NPOs so that they too can create employment for South Africans," Mponzo said.



By Evans Molimi

Civil society organisations urged the government to distribute resources in a more transformational and equitable manner.

This was the topic of discussion during the commission discussion held as part of the Presidential Social Sector Summit in Johannesburg recently.

The delegates made a serious call to the government to utilise the resources available to capacitate civil society organisations.

They stated that capacity building should include education and professional development. This will improve employment opportunities, especially for those who were previously side-lined by laws.

The discussions were intense and delegates spoke with one voice stating that the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment faced by the country can be resolved through capacity building.

Similarly, the delegates highlighted the challenges faced by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) community and persons with disabilities. The commission agreed that these groups are still not offered equal opportunities.

The commission further highlighted the exclusion of LGBTQI persons in the recruitment of Police Services and the Defence Force.

A delegate representing the Mpumalanga Province, Ms Sherly Kailane said, "There is a need for a new policy framework that will regulate how young people, the LGBTQI community and persons with disabilities can be capacitated. It is high time that the National Youth Policy be revised. The government needs to do away with age limit restrictions. The age restriction policy segregates those who also qualify to do the job," she said. Kailane explained that age restrictions contribute to high rates of

Delegates urge government to address societal challenges



unemployment in the country. "The time is now to scrub age restrictions either in the public or private sector. I think doing away with age restrictions will help create employment opportunities for all those who are looking for employment," said Kailane. According to her, everyone must be offered an equal employment opportunity in both the public and private sectors.

"It is high time that the government design a compliance accountability system, including monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the LGBTQI community and persons with disabilities are offered equal employment opportunities. It should be a prerequisite for capacity-building programmes in the public and private sectors. This will ensure that they are offered training and support to create sustainable employment opportunities for those who were previously side-lined," she concluded.

Child support

The seed that gave



By Evans Molimi

Growing up in the rural village of Mvozane in Kwa-Zulu-Natal (KZN), Welile Gumede never imagined she would become the owner of the Azowel Social Enterprise Farming Project.

Today Gumede is an empowerment dynamo in her community who used her Child Support grant money to grow her income through farming. Gumede (30), says she fell

pregnant at a young age while she was under her parent's support without any source of income. She became desperate to find means to support herself and her child.

The mother of a seven-year-old girl explained that there were unused tunnels in her home village. After seeing the tunnels, she became curious as to what the tunnels were used for. "I then started researching on social media

platforms, especially YouTube. I learned everything I know about farming through YouTube. That's when the farming idea took root and I managed to turn my child grant into a profitable farming business," she said.

While researching farming through social media, Welile was unemployed at the time and only depended on the Child Support Grant to support her child.

Support grant-

Gumede her dream Farm

Her business flourished and she managed to employ 32 people while also guiding five young females to start their businesses.

Like many other young women, she never thought that one-day farming could be a lucrative opportunity for her, but today she recalls how she was able to create employment through it.

The Azowel Farming Project is today a famous enterprise in the iLembe Region of KZN which produces freshly organic harvests using hydroponic tunnels.

“The business flourished and we offer our customers freshly produced tomatoes, leafy greens and peppers. Our customers are Pick n Pay, Food Lovers Market, School’s Nutrition Programme and the general public. At some stage the business managed to make an annual turnover of R1.6 million, said Gumede.

Like many other KZN communities that were hard hit by the floods earlier this year, her farm was also affected.

Gumede had helplessly watched her properties being washed away, and this was her major setback. She emotionally said that all her irrigation systems and some of the tunnels were washed away.



To her aid, Gumede received 1 million Rands from the MTN Foundation. The relief was made possible by the Deputy Minister of Social Development, Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu’s partnership with the foundation. The donation will aid in saving Azowel Farming Project from collapsing.

An emotional Gumede could not hold back tears when Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu and MTN SA Foundation general manager Kusile Mtunzi-Hairwadzi presented a cheque to the value of R500 000.

She will further receive another R500 000 to keep the 1-million-rand donation promise from MTN Foundation in due course.



PREGNANT WOMAN ADVOCATES FOR FAS TRAINING SESSIONS

By Precious Mupenzi

Nokuthula Khubeka from Osizweni was doing her monthly prenatal care check up when a nurse at the clinic told her about the Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) training sessions which would be hosted by Deputy Minister, Mme Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu in Blaaubosch, Newcastle.

Aware that many pregnant women in her community are unaware of the dangers associated with alcohol consumption during pregnancy, she took it upon herself to attend the sessions and to spread the word to her peers and community.

The training was hosted as a build-up to the Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Day by the Deputy Minister, Mme Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu in partnership with the Thintane Foundation and other stakeholders recently.

The 09th of September is commemorated annually, as International Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Day (FASD) with the aim of raising awareness and educating all citizens about the condition.

"When the nurse told me about the training, I was interested in attending, not for my benefit only but to also share the information with other people," said Khubeka.

FAS is caused by the consumption of alcohol during pregnancy and research has shown that a few drinks of alcohol during pregnancy can

cause serious, life-long brain damage to the unborn child.

Through this training, pregnant women, the youth, parents of children with FAS, tavern and shebeen owners and traditional leaders were educated on the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Kubheka said that it is the little things that can change one's life forever, for example taking a glass of alcohol while pregnant; it may seem innocent but it has detrimental effects on the unborn child.

"The decision that you take as a mother affects everyone, especially family members. Pregnant women need to make wise decisions and do the right thing – stop alcohol consumption during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Many expecting mothers are unaware of the dangers associated with alcohol during pregnancy. Therefore, I will share this information with family members and expecting mothers at the clinic," she said.

The FAS training sessions also afforded community members the platform to exchange views on how to prevent FAS and to take care of children living with disabilities.

*Nokuthula Khubeka requested that her images not be used in the publication.



CAPACITATING TRADITIONAL LEADERS

TO EFFECTIVELY DELIVER SERVICES

BY PRECIOUS MUPENZI

The Deputy Minister of Social Development, Mme Hendrietta Ipeleng Bogopane-Zulu, who is also a District Development Model Champion handed over meeting equipment to eleven traditional councils under the Amajuba District Municipality.

The Deputy Minister in partnership with Pernod Ricard handed over tents, chairs, tables, a PA system, tablecloths and chair covers.

The Deputy Minister made a commitment in 2021 to assist the traditional leaders after they expressed their concerns regarding difficulties in hosting community engagements in their area due to a lack of meeting equipment.

The handover ceremony attended by Izinduna and Amakhosi was held in Emadlangeni Municipality recently.

The handover ceremony was done under a programme of the department called, Rock Leadership. This is a social behavioural change programme that focuses on traditional leaders in the prevention of new HIV infections and other



social ills.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Inkosi Khumalo thanked the Deputy Minister for fulfilling her commitment and supporting traditional leaders.



"It is this kind of leadership that is needed in our country. As Amakhosi, we always ask for assistance and some promise to help but do not keep their promises. It is our responsibility as Amakhosi to promote peace and protect our people, particularly women and children in our communities, however, with limited resources it becomes a challenge."

Additionally, Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu was joined by Emadlangeni Mayor, Cllr ML Buthelezi, Inkosi Mkhathshwa and KwaZulu-Natal Head of Department, Ms Neli Vilakazi.

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LIMPOPO

Gender-Based Violence leaves bullet in woman's head

BY MULALO RATSHIBVUMO AND ADÉLE VAN DER LINDE

She lies on a mattress in a one-roomed makeshift shack in the dusty outskirts of the Ga-Molepo village. She is unable to walk and has no recollection of the fateful day she took a bullet to the head. Outside, her sister is standing with a 9-month old baby on the hip.

At the time of the incident, the baby was breastfed by her mother, who now doesn't remember she has any children; Ms. X (identity protected) has two other primary school children. She was allegedly shot by her partner, who later took her to hospital and claimed she had fallen and hit her head to avoid further questioning and prosecution. Closer medical examinations revealed that the bullet was still lodged in her brain.

This is how the newly deployed MEC for Social Development in Limpopo, Dr. Namane Dickson

Masemola, found the family on the 27th July 2022- impoverished, broken and hopeless. Dr. Masemola joined an entourage consisting of members of the National GBV Command Centre, local SAPS, Community Development Practitioners and Social Workers on a GBVF door-to-door campaign to support survivors and their families.

When the entourage arrived, Ms. X's mother broke down as weeks of built up frustration from the incident and subsequent processes came pouring out. Seeing that her daughter can't remember anything about the incident, it is near impossible to get the suspect arrested and convicted. A clearly touched Dr. Masemola committed to help resolve the issue, and the hope was that the blankets, mattresses, food and toiletries donated to the family would bring some temporary relief.

The next day, stakeholders such as advocacy groups, civil society organisations, Social Workers, community development workers and the SAPS gathered at the Andrew Mhlope DSD Office terrain to have GBVF dialogues and a feedback session. Under discussion was, amongst others, power dynamics in communities, root causes and contributing factors of GBVF and the economic development and emancipation of women. In his reply to the outcomes of the dialogues, MEC Masemola reiterated that the church needs to play a fundamental role in restoring the moral fabric of society. He also added that society needs a reconstruction of the soul, in the words of the late former president Nelson Mandela. All information from the feedback sessions will be used at the Presidential summit on GBVF which will take place in November this year.

CDPs

Empower the Youth

By Eric Mamukeyan

Luckau Community Development Practitioners are making remarkable changes in the lives of the youth at Luckau, Sekhukhune District. Since the beginning of the 2022/23 financial year, they have been working tirelessly to empower the youth to develop their livelihoods.

Mr Tshivhase, a community development worker, indicated that the youth in rural areas are plagued by many social ills such as unemployment, drugs, and crime, hence Community Development (ComDev) services are crucial in the community.

Community Development is a division in the Department of Social Development outside of Social Work services which works closely with non-government and community-based organisations on community projects and programmes focusing on community development to ameliorate the lives of people.

Ms Manyaka, a fellow ComDev worker, added that the youth have a potential that they are probably unaware of, so they need to be assisted to awaken their true potential and be empowered to do things for themselves and by themselves so they can change their lives.



The Luckau office of ComDev has been working hand in glove with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) from Groblersdal, to empower the youth on business management, funding and applications. When rendering their services, the Comdev practitioners involve different interest groups, stakeholders, people whose livelihood projects are geared at improvement; government and non-governmental bodies; funding organisations; project experts and executors. These stakeholders work together to bring a significant change to the lives of people in various communities.

Mistreatment of elderly persons strikes concerns in Bungeni community

By Evans Molimi

Senior citizen, Sam Ndima is the most influential person in advocating for the safety of senior citizens in the rural village of Bungeni, Limpopo. He created a social club after seeing the fear and victimisation that senior citizens endure after being accused of witchcraft.

He was speaking during the commemoration of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day commemorated on the 15th of June every year. The commemoration was hosted by the Department of Social Development under the leadership of Deputy Minister, Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu.

"Older persons are living in fear. We are being abused, victimised, and killed. It is gradually also becoming a concern that older persons are living in the fear of being robbed of their Social Grants," Mkhulu Ndima said.

Ndima, who has also received allegations of witchcraft said there seems to be no end in sight for the abuse of elderly

persons by fellow community members. However, Ndima believes that they are on the right track in implementing measures to counter the abuse in their village.

"I recall a conversation we had at our social club as we discussed the challenges we face as the elderly. Reasonably, in our deliberations, agreed that we need to engage community members, especially young people on the challenges we face. We have faith that working together, we will be able to deal with these societal issues," he said.

Bogopane-Zulu informed residents of Bungeni village that no senior citizen deserves to be abused or to live in fear. Expressing her concerns during discussions, Kokwani Tsakane Mnisi said it is heartbreaking to see senior citizens being abused by those who are supposed to protect them.

Another concern is that most senior citizens are often left to take care of their grandchildren while the parents of the children use the child grants

for themselves. This can be considered another form of abuse.

"We are no longer feeling safe. The world is no longer welcoming especially for us the elderly. We are being regarded as old-fashioned by our own people. Our own community is accusing us of practicing witchcraft, and as a result, we do not feel safe. We are not asking for much, but to be treated with respect and dignity," Kokwani Mnisi said.

Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu believes that collaboration with diverse stakeholders and community members including family members can mark the beginning of improving the safety of older people.

The Deputy Minister's visit gave hope to the elderly persons of Bungeni and they celebrated their glimmer of light by showing off the Xitsonga traditional dance wearing their beautiful and colourful Xitsonga traditional wear.

CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CENTRE fulfils children's right to play



Playing is a constitutional right for children and the Thulamahashe Child and Youth Care Centre (Thulamahashe CYCC) is fulfilling that right. Officials and children staying at the Center held a Fun Day on the 28th of March 2022. The purpose of the event was for the Social Workers, Child and Youth Care Workers and House Mothers to show support and care to the children of the center. The Acting Manager for Thulamahashe CYCC, Ms Sofie Mosoma extended the invitation to other Social Workers, Probation officers and other DSD Officials with an interest in the welfare of children.

The Fun Day was held during the month that celebrates the great work that Social Workers do for our communities. A DSD official who attended the Fun day spent their day playing with the children and some of the games played include: River-bank, 30 Seconds, Sack race, Makhathini, Get the Ball and Skipping Rope. The children at the Centre opened the stage with a dance that was led by the firstborn of the family, Ms Zandile Masoka. The children at CYCC are taught to treat each other as brothers and sisters with the aim of preserving and imparting them with family values.

Currently, Thulamahashe Child and Youth Care Center has six children. The oldest is 17 and the youngest is 09 and all are attending school around Thulamahashe Township. The children felt very happy to have been visited by Social Workers who placed them under the care and support of CYCC.

Two children were given a token of appreciation for being well-behaved with the aim of encouraging others to do so as well. The Acting Social Worker Manager said, "a healthy mind in a healthy body stimulates active mind thinking" and as part of her closing remarks added by saying, "let the children play".

WESTERN CAPE



Standing in solidarity for victims of GBV

The launch of Women's Month on 1 August 2022 saw hundreds of Western Cape Government employees form human chains around the province. This was to stand in solidarity with the many women who suffer Gender-based Violence and Femicide and to stand for a society that is safe for women.

The call to action led by Western Cape Social Development MEC, Sharna Fernandez was supported by the provincial executive, provincial departments, schools, NPO partners, as well as municipalities.

"We need the whole of society including men, governments, corporates, employees and civil society to join hands with us and com-

mit to playing a role in eliminating the social injustices women experience," said Fernandez.

She said that Women's Month presents an opportunity to reflect on how far the country has come in addressing the barriers faced by women. In the same breath, she adds that it also presents an opportunity to renew our collective efforts to ensure that we remain on the path of creating a gender-equitable and safe society where women are empowered.

While the fight for women's rights has made advancements, there is still a way to go. Fernandez emphasised that Gender-based Violence and the safety of women is an issue that must be front of mind and on everyone's agenda 365 days a year.



SEWING PROJECT PUTS FOOD ON THE TABLE

By Siphumelele Mdyodyo

As part of Women's Month activities, the Department of Social Development in the Eastern Cape Province took a closer look at Women's Development initiatives across the Province. One of the initiatives is the Askeaton General Trading Co-op situated at Cala within Sakhisizwe Local Municipality in the outskirts of Chris Hani District.

The project was founded in 2010, by 15 community members consisting of twelve women and three men. Currently, the enterprise is operating as a sewing project with 8 women who are widows and chief providers in their families. It started as a poultry project (selling chickens) and then grew to a point where members were encouraged to open a bank account where earnings of the project would be deposited. It was then registered as a co-op in 2011 and support was received from various Government entities such as the Chris Hani District Municipality

(CHDM), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Eastern Cape Development Cooperation (ECDC) who helped in putting sewing equipment in place and other necessities in a rented structure.

They have approached the Department of Social Development requesting an amount of R120 000.00 funding which will be utilised to achieve the objectives of the project. Amongst others, the objectives include: skills transfer and skills development focusing on socio-economic development and transformation.

Like any other business entity, Askeaton General Trading Co-op is not immune to challenges. Noncedo Shexane, Project Secretary, shares an encounter they faced in the project where some project members once locked the business premises in order for other members not to have access.

Allegedly, these actions were due to selfish intentions.

She praised the support they received from the Government saying that, "we were out of work in the past, depended on Social Grants but now we are able to fend for our families and send our children to school."

Shexane said they were partially capacitated with project management, financial management, report writing, marketing, filling, and conflict management skills by the Department of Social Development. Additionally, they were provided with sewing skills service providers and are calling upon all interested women to join them and learn the needle crafts. These highly determined women invest and share the project earnings amongst the members with the hope that young women will also be motivated to take the baton.

Services at your doorstep



The Provincial Government of the Northern Cape was in Louisvaleweg, Upington on the 17th of August 2022, as part of an Exco Outreach Programme to bring services to people.

The Department of Social Development led by the MEC, Ms Nontobeko Vilakazi engaged in one on one sessions with people living with different issues of concern to them. Most of the concerns raised related to substance abuse that is very rife in all of the communities that were visited.

The Department is supported by SASSA, NDA, ACVV, Northern Cape Alcohol and Drugs Office (former SANCA), Institutional Funding and various NPOs in addressing the concerns raised and where possible providing immediate relief and solutions.

MEC Vilakazi and officials visited the households of citizens who, due to illnesses could not attend the programme and provided social relief to those in need.

Additionally, SASSA was on site to address all issues related to social relief and grants.

This is an ongoing programme where the entire Provincial Government will, on the last Thursday of every month, engage with citizens one on one.

This engagement was proven to be very effective as more than 83 people were assisted on the day. Immediate responses were provided and where responses could not be immediate, a turnaround time of 14 days was set to resolve outstanding matters.

Social Psycho support services were also rendered on site together with Home Affairs w to process Identity Document applications and Birth Certificate registrations

The outreach was preceded by service delivery outreach programs and the Department of Social Development joined the community in a march against Gender-Based Violence and Substance Abuse.



LOOK BEFORE



Women have been advised to seek legal advice before committing themselves to any type of marriage. The advice comes from Lebo Monyatsi, Head of Sanlam Group Market Development and Stakeholder Relations who was speaking at the North West Department of Social Development's Women's Day event.

The purpose of the occasion, attended by, among others, female employees from the Provincial office and Ngaka Modiri Molema district offices was to celebrate women as part of the government's Women's Month programmes. The event, under the theme: Dynamic women, was held outside Mahikeng in the North West.

Monyatsi says in South Africa, there are two ways of marrying and they are: In Community of Property or through an Antenuptial contract. The first one means that legally speaking, the parties in the marriage

ARE YOU LEAP

BY JAMES MOCHE

cease to exist as individuals and will be seen as one for commercial purposes. What each of them brings into the marriage and what they acquire during the marriage, forms part of the joint estate. The implication is that should the two divorces, the estate will be divided into two and shared equally between the two.

Talking about the Antenuptial contract, Monyatsi says one party is protected in law from the debts of another and that one may freely sign contracts without the consent of the other. Monyatsi says one of the serious challenges in communities is that most married couples do not understand the marriage contracts they are under. She said it is particularly important for them to be aware of the nature of their type of marriage and the obligations which arise from such a contract.

Monyatsi cited a court case where a couple got married in community of property

and the husband had three children with different mothers from previous relationships.

When maintenance was claimed for the children, the husband argued that he could only afford to pay R3000 and not R6000, but because the couple were married in community of property, the court ruled that because of the nature of their marriage and their combined financial capacity, the wife should assist with the maintenance of the children.

She said it is a worrisome factor that research has found that more than 70% of South Africans do not have a will. She said such a document is highly recommended because it expresses the wishes of the deceased persons and helps avoid inheritance squabbles.

Monyatsi also advised women that the law requires people who are married traditionally through Lobola to legally dissolve their marriage by way of a divorce decree in



Golden games back in full swing



By Lawrence Mashabela

After two years of absence caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the older persons Golden Games are back in full swing to continue keeping elderly people healthy in their golden years.

On 16 August, about three hundred (300) Gogos and Mkhulus gathered at the Knights United Sports Club in Meyerton to participate in the Sedibeng Annual Regional Golden Games. The annual games were organised by the Gauteng Department of Social Development in partnership with the Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation and the Sedibeng District Municipality.

Samson Malakoane, one of the participants from Ratanda says it is good to be back in the field and still be able to play after so much uncertainty, fear and inconvenience brought by

the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I'm happy that most of us managed to survive the pandemic and we are here today to continue with our lives, and back to activities that we were used to doing every year and we are hoping that there will never be any interruption to the elderly like Covid-19", he said.

The 70-year-old rugby player who is also on crutches went on to explain that they missed the games dearly when they were sitting at home without any activities.

"This year, we are looking forward to participating in the provincial games and finally in the national games", Malakoane added.

Another senior citizen, Arron Lubisi who has been participating in the games since 2009, said he is looking for-

ward to competing in the national golden games. The hundred metres runner snatched the first position at the age of 80 years while competing with other seniors who are younger than him.

"I am glad that at my age I am still going strong, and it shows that these games are working magic in our lives in terms of healthy ageing", said Lubisi.

Sedibeng Regional Director Tshifhiwa Tshikalaha praised the senior citizens for their commitment to the games, saying they are aimed at enhancing the quality of life and improving the health of older persons by engaging them in programmes that promote social, physical, mental and emotional well-being to prevent or delay the onset of ageing challenges and to keep old age-related illness at bay.

GAUTENG

TSHEPO 1MILLION TO THE RESCUE



By Lawrence Mashabela

Through the Tshepo 1Million initiative program, the Gauteng Provincial Government continues to encourage young people in townships to never give up on their dreams.

This was echoed during the youth activation roadshow held at Impumelelo Sports Ground in Devon, on Thursday, 11 August 2022.

The roadshow aimed to encourage young people to grab opportunities presented by the Tshepo 1Million to better their lives and also urged young people to start their side hustles while they are still waiting for bigger opportunities.

Amongst others, the challenges raised by the youth of Devon include poverty, youth unemployment and lack of opportunities for young people. Tshepo 1Million's community facilitator, Thulisile Ndlovu, said that the program is a youth skills empowerment initiative designed to demolish the barriers that young people encounter when looking for work opportunities. It provides the youth with skills development, employment creation and

entrepreneurship development to provide them with hope for the future. "We were raised by our mothers and grandmothers who were mostly domestic workers not earning a lot of money but raised us well. We as young people need to start our hustles while we are still waiting for those big opportunities", she said.

She added that it is important as a young person to scan your community and understand what is needed and provide solutions as per the needs. "Business is about identifying the problem, identifying the solution and commercialising that solution.

"While you are still waiting for those big opportunities, find your passion for something and run with it", she said.

Ndlovu further highlighted that the initiative was originally launched in 2014 under the name Tshepo 500 000. It was restructured and unveiled as Tshepo 1Million in January 2017, after it created over 300 000 opportunities in just two years.

"The Tshepo 1Million initiative is a

solution to address youth unemployment aimed at Gauteng residents between the ages of 18 - 34 with at least a grade 10. The campaign is specifically for first-time job seekers with limited experience.

"Your first job may not be your dream job but it's a stepping stone to realising your dreams, so make the most of every opportunity", added Ndlovu. 23-year-old Refiloe Chapole who assists children with after-school homework in the community decried the lack of opportunities for young people in the area of Devon.

The Gauteng Department of Social Development Social Worker, Linkie Sithole, told young people that the department's doors are open for everyone to develop themselves through various organisations that offer skills development for young people.

"As the Department, we do provide skills development for young people through organisations that we fund and we assist those who want to register their NPOs, and also those who want to start their cooperatives", concluded Sithole.

CELEBRATING T

ACKNOWLEDGING

64



-year old Elizabeth Ma
fondly known as Mme Lizzy
remains deeply committed
supporting both young
and boys in the township
Vaal, through establishing
well-run and flourishing
tre called Bokamoso Skills
Development Centre. She
she was prompted to start
centre by seeing the signifi
challenges that disproport
ately impact women and y
girls in her community.

Mme Lizzy started Bokamoso
2000 partnering with a Roman
Catholic Priest who was intere
ed in educating young pe
about technology and con

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN WHILE THE BARRIERS THEY CONTINUE TO FACE

By Lawrence Mashabela

er skills as they were still using typewriters at the time. “When we started, it was just me, the priest, and a few members of the church as the majority of the congregation was uninterested,” said Marabe. She reiterated that it takes perseverance, determination and hard work to build an organisation like Bokamoso which is solely intended to change the lives of people.

“Today, I am happy to sit back, watch it grow and make a difference in our community; especially helping young women who are at the receiving end of many social ills that continue to affect our communities”, said Marabe.

She stated that she is confident that when she retires, the work will continue to serve the community and empower the youth.

Marabe unequivocally thanked the Department’s unwavering support and emphasised that they remain deeply committed to supporting women and girls’ economic security, preventing and responding to all forms of Gender-based Violence.

Recently, the centre launched a livelihood hub that will see more young people start their businesses and participate in cooperatives that are envisaged to create jobs for young people. The centre’s overall goal is to groom and foster a generation of commercial and social entrepreneurs who will become agents of change in their families from the skills learnt at training programs. This will also contribute to the eradication of poverty amongst the youth and women in townships.



Africa unites against

By Precious Mupenzi

On the 17th of August, South Africa woke up to shocking news of a 17-year-old girl who allegedly stabbed a police officer to death, after he supposedly raped her in the Eastern Cape - Four years ago, South Sudan was taken by storm when a 17-year-old girl was sold to the highest bidder by her father on Facebook for dowry.

One may think that the number 17 is linked to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), especially among 17-year-old girls, but the tide is turning.

On the 17th of August, the Department of Social Development hosted a delegation from South Sudan who were visiting South Africa to draw lessons on how to combat GBV.

South Africa may have not yet won the war against GBV, but it is certainly armed with

policies and laws that protect women and children. The South Sudan government intends on implementing some of the ways in which South Africa handles crimes related to GBV.

The visit by the South Sudan government was mainly motivated by the high number of GBV cases in South Sudan. This follows the report released by the United Nations Commissions on Human Rights in March 2022, describing cases of abuse against women and girls in South Sudan as hellish.

These cases are driven by dowry-related violence, marital rape, forced marriages and forced prostitution.

The Department of Social Development led the South Sudan delegation by imparting knowledge on how South Africa is championing the fight against GBV. This was coupled with a study tour of the Gender-based

Violence Command Centre. The South Sudanese delegation includes Honourable Adam Yel, Minister of Child and Social Welfare.

by:

- Dr Michael Mading, Minister of Productive Health, Ministry of Health
- Ms Shruti Updhyay, Deputy Director, United Nations Population Fund
- Ms Regina Ossa Lu, Deputy Director General, Gender and Child Welfare
- Ms Idwa Dominica Viti, Deputy Director for Gender and Child Welfare
- Mr Azoo Anyama Chabwani, Deputy Director
- Ms Riya Amani, IT and Communications Officer

Visiting the DSD-run Gender-based Violence Command Centre for the South Sudanese delegation, they plan to model the same approach in their homes for GBV victims.



As a way of ending GBV, the South Sudanese government also collaborated with UNFPA and developed guidelines for the establishment of safe shelters for GBV victims.

"The World Bank provided the funding towards the building of a shelter in Juba to ensure the safety and security of GBV victims in South Sudan. We have also collaborated with UNFPA. Now, we need to learn so we can understand all the dynamics," said Minister Yel.

South Sudan Director-General of Reproductive Health within the country's Health Ministry, Dr Michael Mading said the South Sudan delegation embarked on a study tour to learn the best practices on issues related to GBV.

"The South African government's commitment to GBV matters and experience in the management of GBV victim shelters will assist us to learn the role of government and supportive policies leading to the protection of GBV survivors through safe shelters," said Mading.

A tour of the GBVCC

Mr Sibusiso Malope, Director of Victim Empowerment within the Department of Social Development showcased best practices as well as evidence-based interventions in line with protecting women and children from all forms of violence in South Africa.

"The GBV Command Centre provides immediate care, and counselling and offers help, hope and the chance of a better life to the thousands of victims of GBV. This service is accessible even to the remotest and most underdeveloped corners of South Africa for free through different modes of

access such as Skype, USSD, website, SMS number and the emergency number," said Malope.

He added that the fully-fledged centre operates 24 hours and has a staff complement of 48 social work practitioners working shifts.

"Without our professional social workers, it would be impossible to provide high-quality services to victims," said Malope.

The GBV Command Centre also uses mobile technology to estimate the location of a victim, assign the case to the closest support service including a social worker in the field and records and receives continuous feedback on cases.

"The Skype capability allows video calling directly to the Command Centre. Through this facility, deaf clients are able to communicate and lodge cases of GBV by making use of sign language," Malope said.

Highlights of the Discussion:

- The South Sudan delegation was very impressed with the fact the centre operates 24/7, 365 days, noting that GBV cases happen at all times.
- The critical point highlighted was the use of technology to reach the victims from the remote part of Sudan.
- South Sudan applauded the Department of Social Development for the multi-sectoral interventions, advocacy, and actions on GBV.
- Ongoing engagements and information sharing to continue as South Sudan prepares for the establishment of safe shelters for GBV victims.

GBV

Centre (GBVCC). The delegation was led by Minister of Gender, ... He was also joined

Director-General, Registry of Health, Gender Specialist: ... Fund (UNFPA) ... Deputy Director-Child Welfare ... Director-General Welfare ... GBV Project Of-

Public Relations Of-

GBVCC was a priority ... delegation as they ... and establish safe ... in their country.

Addressing GBVF

THROUGH BILATERAL PARTNERSHIPS



By Evans Molimi

Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare in South Sudan, Hon. Aya Benjamin believes that the Department of Social Development is well knowledgeable on issues of Gender-Based-Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

He said this recently during a Sudanese study tour visit to South Africa, Pretoria on GBV shelter establishment and management as his country is experiencing devastating high levels of GBVF.

"Although some GBV victims have access to medical, psychosocial support and court processes in South Sudan, our challenge is a safe place to accommodate the victims. Due to the lack of safe spaces for victims, they are forced to accept offered temporary shelter from families within the community where the perpetrator resides. Hence, the need to establish GBV Shelters that offer safety and security to survivors," Minister Benjamin said.

Ms Siza Magangoe explained to the South Sudanese delegation that bilateral partnerships are instrumental in dealing with this human rights violation.

She said in South Africa, there is an urgency to deal with Gender-based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) once and for all, and it is not too late for the government and civil society to make a deafening noise to end this pandemic. "Tackling the issue of violence

against women and children is at the heart of government's national priorities as part of upholding the Constitutional rights," says Magangoe.



South Sudan is one of the

war-torn countries in the African continent. The civil wars in South Sudan have led to violations of human rights, especially among women and children. Women and children are victims of rape and forced marriages.

Magangoe told the South Sudanese delegation that GBVF in South Africa has reached a crisis level as many families are destroyed and there are hidden influences behind it.

She further said that children become delinquent and grow to become perpetrators because they see it as a normal thing to do.

"Social service workers have required valuable skills that are useful in addressing GBV psychosocial difficulties. As a Department, we have front-line workers who

criss-cross the country to provide public education and awareness the prevention of GBVF while offering psychosocial support to victims. Through our 24-hour award-winning GBV command centre, the Departmental Social Workers offer trauma counselling, assist in reporting the crimes and refer victims to places of safety," she said.

Furthermore, she said the Department of Social Development is working together with Civil Society Organisations in the fight against GBVF in South Africa.

"Many of our services include funding Non-Profit-Organisations who are community-based. They are doing excellent work on the ground in fighting this sickness. We are also offering shelter services to victims through Khuseleka One Stop and White Door Centres," Magangoe explained.

Magangoe also highlighted the fact that social norms such as harmful cultural and/or religious practices, low levels of women's empowerment, lack of social support, socio-economic inequality, and substance abuse are contributing enormously to GBVF.



Zimbabwean Inter-Ministerial Committee takes notes on DSD's Drug and Substance Abuse prevention model

By Precious Mupenzi



When the Department of Social Development (DSD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Public Services, Labour, and Social Welfare in 2011, both countries agreed to strengthen bilateral relations to tackle social ills affecting both countries.

Yet, while the glaring scourge of substance abuse continues to grip these countries, strides to counter its grasp continue.

Apart from the MoU signed, DSD also signed Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) to improve the coordination of service delivery to address unaccompanied and separated migrant children in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Over the past weeks, the Zimbabwean Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Drug Abuse and Substance Abuse conducted a learning visit to

South Africa to learn best practices and experiences on the model of Drug and Substance Abuse.

Speaking during the five-day visit to South Africa, Dr. Patience Mavunganidze, Acting Deputy Director for the Ministry of Health in Zimbabwe, said "substance abuse, particularly alcohol consumption is alarming in our society.

The study tour focuses on learning best practices done at border posts, treatment and rehabilitation institutions, psycho-social support centres, and community-reintegration programmes."

A delegation consisting of 15 members started by visiting the Esidimeni recovery centre in Johannesburg, and later met with senior officials from the Department of Social Development.

She added that it is eye-opening to see how drug rehabilitation is being done in South Africa. "There is a lot that still needs to be done from our side.

"We need to improve treatment regimes, capacitate healthcare workers, and improve the outcome set on Drug and Substance Abuse. Through this collaboration, we may borrow some of the training modules used for health practitioners, so that we are able to capacitate our health workers," Dr. Patience Mavunganidze.

The Department of Social Development as the lead Department in the coordination and implementation of the National Drug Master Plan (NDMP), shared anti-substance abuse programmes as well as supporting policy directives put in place to prevent social ills.



NDA

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Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY

Award winning

rural agricultural Cooperative is ready for Expansion

By Lesego Ranchu

A fully fledged agricultural Cooperative is seeking ways to expand its revenue income and growth potential by supplying their vegetable produce in and around Mangaung Metro Municipality. Ikemisetseng Agricultural Cooperative (IAC) is located in the remote village of Tweefontein, outside Thaba Nchu in the Free State province. It comprises of 50 hectares of land from the Barolong Tribal Authority for farming activities.

The Department of Social Development deployed IAC to supply five local Community Nutrition Development Centres (CNDCs) in Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu with vegetable produce. This boosted income generation outputs of the Cooperative; however, the Covid-19 pandemic had an adverse effect on supply when pandemic regulations announced the closure of CNDCs, and when regulations were finally lifted, the supply contract had terminated. Following this, the recent floods also adversely affected the soya bean crops.

The National Development Agency (NDA) granted funds to the Cooperative to the value of R 71 222, 13 which repaired a delivery vehicle, windmill pump and paid the wages of seasonal workers. The Department of Agriculture erected a shade net structure and irrigation system. World Vision South Africa also donated a borehole and two Jojo tanks.

The Cooperative is fully equipped with adequate land, solar and borehole water infrastructure, shade net tunnels, a delivery vehicle and experienced farm workers. They have recently started a small piggery farm operation as a diversification play to future proof the Cooperative, while they recover their crop production. "We are seeking new markets to grow our income and create more jobs as there are no jobs in our village.

We are located far from town, so our produce secures food in our area. As a Cooperative, we have a wealth of experience, capacity and resources to supply and deliver an assortment of fresh vegetables all year as we also have tunnels. We rely on markets from CNDCs and

school feeding schemes, however, we want to provide more businesses with our production," says Mammie Monakali, Chairperson of the Cooperative.

Amongst many agricultural awards, in 2011, IAC won the Best Nutritional Co-operative competition from the Department of Agriculture as well as Women in Water from the Department of Water Affairs in 2013. The Cooperative again entered and won a competition for Best Female Farmers in 2015. They competed at District level and advanced to National Level where they won a second runner-up award. The winnings from these competitions put them in good stead to reinvest in the Cooperative by purchasing a delivery vehicle and farming equipment.

"The recent set back on developments at the Cooperative have not diminished the determination of the IAC members. We are assessing the organisation for sustainability measures which include [the] referral of IAC to prospective partners", says NDA Provincial Manager, Mr Itumeleng Kwenane.





GAUTENG PROVINCIAL OFFICE COOPERATIVES TOOK CENTRE STAGE AT THE SOCIAL SECTOR SUMMIT EXHIBITION AREA

BY LESEGO RANCHU

The NDA participated in the historic Social Sector Summit that took place in early August 2022. It was the first time, since the dawn of democracy, that a President of the Republic of South Africa signed a Framework Agreement with the social sector to concretise the relationship. The Government and the Social Sector have always operated at NEDLAC (National Economic Development and Labour Council) level, which meant that a few social sector players were included in decision making processes, leaving out the majority who didn't find themselves at NEDLAC.

Both Government and the Social Sector have worked in a fragmented way to respond to challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. The efforts for both partners have always fallen short and diluted. This resulted in the inability to measure the impact of programmes run by both parties.

On Friday, 05 August 2022, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, and the Overall Convener of the Community Constituency, Thulani Tsefutsa, Minister Lindiwe Zulu and Minister Thulas Nxesi signed a Framework Agreement that is meant to reaffirm the principles of working together to end these triple challenges.

The Framework Agreement also cements the NDA as an institution that should be strengthened to ensure that the capacity building of the Social Sector is taken seriously. The signed copy of the agreement will be shared as soon as it is received by the NDA.

In other news, the NDA hosted an exhibition where the Department of Public Works, GCIS, Department of Arts & Culture and the Department of Social Development together with its entities showcased programmes that support the Social Sector.

However, the most valuable guests at the exhibition were the five Gauteng NDA-funded Cooperatives. They showcased and sold their products at the exhibition, with some even going home with orders from Summit participants.

Mr Martin Kgobe from Litembe Designs Cooperative said, "We have learnt a lot from this event. This was an eye opener for us. We were able to benchmark our products with those of our counterparts. We now know the importance of communicating with other people who are doing the same business. We appreciate the opportunity."

Mrs Thuso Motua of Ipads Primary Cooperative manufactures cleaning detergents. She expressed her gratitude as she got an opportunity to engage with people that will assist the business to grow. She was also happy that she got the opportunity to sell all the products that she brought to the exhibition.

Mr Njabulo Miso has a Cooperative that manufactures beds, MDM Supreme Enterprise - "COVID-19 affected our business badly. It has been difficult for our business to be back on top ever since. The NDA is giving us an opportunity to start again and showcasing our work at this function is a step in the right direction", he said.

Phamphang Environmental Organisation focuses on agriculture. It was represented by Mr Pheko Mofokeng, who came with samples of the different seedlings and vegetables they produce from their nursery and two hectares of land in Heidelberg.

Reotlwile-Sizweli Primary Cooperative was represented by Mr Fusi Khambola, a young fashion designer who has his own label. He said he was just looking for any opportunity to promote the label. The exhibition gave them some leads that he hopes will come through. He mentioned that they desperately need a branding machine to take their business to another level.

A surge of excitement engulfed the exhibitors when Ms Bridgette Masango, a member of the Social Development Portfolio Committee, visited NDA stands to see the exhibitors and engage with the Cooperatives.

Other exhibitors were Philani Development Centre, SAIBA, Kagiso Trust and MDDA.



NDA
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Batho ba Lerato Advisory Centre helps GBV victims with free protective and law clinic services

By Lesego Ranchu



August marks the commemoration of Women's Month under the theme "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Resilience. In Thaba Nchu, Gender-based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) victims have a home at Batho ba Lerato Advisory Centre which empowers women with the ability to take their power back through an array of free legal advisory services, capacity-building programmes and skills development workshops and placements that allow for income generation opportunities.

The civil society organisation seeks to assist vulnerable persons in and around Thaba Nchu who need protection of their Human and Socio-Economic Rights - including women, children, farm workers, people affected by HIV/AIDS, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersexes (LGBTQIA+) community.

The organisation received R300 000.00 grant funding from the National Development Agency (NDA) to implement the GBVF programme, responding to the increased cases of GBVF especially when lockdown restrictions were announced at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The CSO implemented a number of engagements with identified victims including awareness workshops against abuse and empowering people with disabilities to know their rights. The workshops deployed various communication methods such as the use of music and drama in group discussions focusing on intimate partner violence and domestic violence perpetrated against immigrant women from Lesotho. The funding enabled the organisation to employ 2 Paralegals and 4 Field Workers.

Through Batho ba Lerato's existing

legal aid access to justice services, the organisation runs free advisory sessions and law clinic sessions to GBV victims. Services include applying for protection orders, divorces and custody settlements and mediations services. They also assist victims to find alternate accommodation where safety is a concern. The organisation works hand in hand with other stakeholders including the Department of Social Development, the South African Police Services, the University of Free State Law Clinic, Courts, Clinics and Home Affairs to offer rounded and holistic services.

"Batho ba Lerato is a beacon of hope that aims to let the public know that justice is possible for survivors of GBV. We offer mediation services for all parties to reach the best solutions which include skills development and capacity building so they can advance themselves. We also offer free will drafting services. Through our interventions, Law Clinics are showing improvement in rankings in the Mangaung District and backlog gaps are slowly closing," says Mrs Lerato Moeng, Programme Manager at Batho ba Lerato Advisory Centre.

The Provincial Manager for the NDA in the Free State posits that the main reason for funding Batho ba Lerato was to increase access to paralegal services for survivors of Gender-based Violence including ensuring the resolution of disputes and building resilience amongst the CSO's clientele for self-reliance through the skills development.

Persons who wish to access services from Batho ba Lerato can contact: The programme Manager, Mrs Lerato Moeng on 073 406 8284 (WhatsApp enabled) / bathobalerato@gmail.com during weekdays.

YOU EDUCATE A WOMAN, YOU EDUCATE A NATION

By Precious Mupenzi

The Department of Social Development (DSD) is committed to empowering women through education, training, and learning. And in doing so, this Women's Month, DSD is celebrating a few of its own exceptional women who took up space and excelled in their academic fields.

Ms Esther Matjila, Senior Training Officer stated that the department commits itself inter alia by means of the stipulations of Chapter 4 of the White Paper for Social Welfare, to ensure that Human Resource development receives the necessary attention and that opportunities within the Department be provided to ensure the development of its employees.

"The Department offers bursaries for part-time study in the form of financial assistance with the contractual agreement, in accordance with the needs of the Department and the availability of funds. This is to afford all employees an equitable opportunity to equip themselves based on identified requirements and in the interest of the Department as the employer, to have employees that will be able to cope satisfactorily with present and future allocated duties," she said.

Matjila also stated that since 2008, women have always been leading in terms of studies and progress.

"Most of them were about to give up on their studies due to various reasons such as illnesses and workload. For some of them, I happen to be their counsellor, mentor, and

pillar of strength. When things and studies get tougher, they normally come to me for advice and support. One thing that makes them so special is the fact that they have studied qualifications that are in line with the DSD sector such as Social Work," said Matjila.

Matjila added by saying, "May their journey inspire all DSD women to push the boundaries and pursue their dreams."



She said the department was proud to celebrate and honour the following employees for their success: Female employees who completed their studies through the DSD Bursary scheme are:

- Portia Mthembu, Doctoral Philosophy (Social Work) - to be conferred in September
- Nontobeko Dandala, BCOM: Industrial and Organisational Psychology
- Lumka Oliphant, Honours in Journalism and Media Studies

- Morongwa Ramela, BA: International Relations
- Yolandy Klein, Bachelor of Business Administration
- Joyce Moganedi, PhD: Social Work
- Keamogetswe Gaborone, Post Graduate Diploma: Social and Behavioural Studies
- Athalia Shabangu, PhD: Social Work
- Sarah Mabasa, BA(HONS): Gender Studies
- Naomi Maloba, MCOM: Industrial Psychology
- Katlego Mokoena, Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration
- Molebogeng Maponya, LLB
- Modjadji Letsoalo Masters in Development Studies
- Anna Sithole, Masters in Social Work

Female employees who completed the Management Development Programme through the National School of Government

- Ms Zanele Nkuna
- Ms Hilda Ntwampe
- Ms Eskina Khutoane
- Ms Modipadi Molokomme
- Ms Naome Moganedi
- Ms Makoma Machetele
- Ms Yolandy Klein
- Ms Kish Paramasivan
- Ms Linkie Motaung
- Ms Julia Phatlane
- Ms Galeboe Rapoo
- Ms Grace Maringa
- Ms Dinah Thutloane
- Ms Matshidiso Mofokeng
- Ms Molebatsi Ndlovu

YOU EDUCATE A WOMAN,

By Precious Mupenzi



Ms Portia Mthembu is one of the employees who will be graduating next month with a PhD in Philosophy (Social Work) from the University of South Africa.

Mthembu encouraged other women in the department to pursue their studies and take advantage of the available bursary scheme, adding that this would sufficiently empower them to broaden their horizons.

"Juggling and balancing family and work responsibilities was difficult to manage. I had to renegotiate time with family to conduct research and write up a thesis. I experienced sleep deprivation and had to limit my hobbies and leisure time activities. There was immense pressure to comply with university requirements, including submission dates. Despite inevitable challenges, especially in the workspace, I remained focused through God's Grace," she

said.

Mthembu, after realising the high prevalence of adolescents living and working on the streets in South Africa said she was inspired to study further in her field.

The Consortium for Street Children (2014) estimated that there are 250 000 children living and working on the streets in SA.

"As an endeavour to address the plight and adversity of these adolescents, I opted to develop an integrated approach to early intervention services and guidelines to enhance service delivery for them..." she said.

She stressed that there was a need for social service practitioners to enhance partnerships with stakeholders, in order to render effective and sustainable multi sectoral services through an integrated approach of early intervention services for adolescents living on the streets.

Adding on to what inspired her, Mthembu said she drew inspiration from the late former Minister, Dr Zola Skweyiya. "He emphasised that there is a great need for policy developers to conduct research to improve scientific rigour in testing "what works" about the effectiveness of programs and practices," she said.



Equally passionate and determined was MCOM graduate of Commerce in Industrial and Organisational Psychology, Naomi Maloba.

She said she had been drawn to her field of study because she was passionate about using her skills to perform to her best ability and to be effective in her job. Her determination, fighting spirit, and resilience had yielded fruit for her.

"One of the greatest highlights of this journey is the fulfilment that I got after completing my mini Dissertation. I was immediately asked by my supervisor to co-author a journal article on it, which we did. After submission, we received reviews with minor revisions and just last week we received the good news that our journal was accepted for publication in the SA Journal of Economic and Management Sciences as a C Rated journal, which means it is internationally recognised," she excitedly said.

The 49-year-old Social Work Policy Manager said she was inspired by the fact that the field of Industrial and Organisational Psychology is

YOU EDUCATE A NATION

dominated by the white population and few black females.

"I wanted to be counted amongst the black women who will make a difference in organisations through the skills and knowledge I will acquire from this field," she said.

Maloba, looking back, said it was a long journey completing her BCOM Honours, she said it was yet another hurdle trying to be admitted for a Masters Degree as universities only took in a limited number of students annually. "One has to undergo a rigorous selection process which includes various phases, competency tests, and physical interviews just to be admitted," she exclaimed.

Maloba said that it was a tough act balancing work and studies; however, she made sacrifices to achieve her goals. "During the week, I was also dedicating some time to do my school work even if it's two to three hours. However, when I had deadlines for submission of assignments or exams, sometimes I was not even sleeping or would sleep in the early hours and still wake up to focus on work. When time allows, it's important to take that nap or rest as it will go a long way."

She said that she was most proud of herself taking into consideration what it took for her to graduate. "This journey showed me that I am resilient, persistent and I can achieve whatever I put my mind to. And for this, I thank God for giving me divine strength, perseverance and wisdom during my studies," said Maloba who added that support from family and her peers sustained her.



Nontobeko Dandala graduated in the same field as Maloba.

She said she had pursued her studies further in a bid to empower herself.

"I chose to further my studies because I want to advance my career and to expand my options in terms of career development. And as I continue to further my studies I want to specialise in the field of career psychology and one day work for an academic institution guiding young people in terms of career choices and development," said the 32-year-old.

She encouraged young women to keep prioritising their growth and to continue reaching for their dreams.

Dandala said she had always been fascinated by psychology, which is a field that she felt has been neglected over the years. "When young people complete matric, they don't always receive the necessary guidance and information to make good and informed career choices. This is why I chose to study Industrial and organisational psychology," said Dandala.

She said that one of the challenges she faced in her academic journey was finding a balance between work, family, and her studies; however, through time management she was able to overcome this challenge.

"My mother is most proud of me, as the firstborn at home, she always motivates me to keep pushing myself and to continue being a good example to my siblings," she said.

Dandala's message to women, as we celebrate Women's Month is that they must continue to find and redefine themselves in a world that is not always kind to them, "for them to continue to find their voices and cement themselves in a male-dominated world. Most importantly for them to remain soft, kind, and beautiful, there is no shame in that."

YOU EDUCATE A WOMAN,

By Precious Mupenzi



Administrative Assistant Morongwa Ramela will be graduating with a BA Degree in International Relations.

Ramela echoed Dandala's sentiments on women not giving up on their dreams and pursuits.

"With perseverance, dedication, and determination, nothing can be a stumbling block towards empowering yourself academically, regardless of your background or circumstances. Continue striving for success, inspiring the younger generations of women, and building communities that believe in leadership by women," said Ramela.

Speaking on her academic journey and the challenges she faced, Ramela said that balancing time between full-time employment, motherhood, and studying was tricky. She adds that she overcame through her family's support and proper planning.

Ramela said that she had chosen to go into International Relations in order to gain a deeper understanding of global affairs and issues that connect societies from different spheres of life.

"Every woman I have met in my life has inspired me in their own way. As women, we are limited by societal expectations and standards that confine us to the societal roles of being wives, mothers, and caregivers. However, I have witnessed women strive for greater achievements and become leaders within their communities, regardless of those limitations," she said.

Ramela said she was beyond excited to have been blessed with the opportunity to attend her graduation physically as opposed to virtually.

Ramela shares her experience of online learning during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic. "Universities had to make numerous academic changes instantly and somehow, I had to adapt to studying online 100 percent. The frustrations of my first online examination almost made me quit but my perseverance and determination pulled me through."

She adds that it all would have not been possible without the support of her family which has been her pillar. "My family is most proud of me, especially my dad, who has been my cheerleader my entire life. His belief in my potential motivates me to go beyond my limits in everything I do."



Maluleke's message to w

Tlangelani Maluleke (39), of the female employees, completed an Emerging Management Development Programme (EMDP) recently and shared some of the cha

YOU EDUCATE A NATION



Yolandi Klein was among the DSD female employees who completed the Management Development Programme through the National School of Government.

She dedicated her qualification to her mother, Ms. Katriena Steenkamp, adding that she was her inspiration. "She taught me that never mind one's circumstances, you can be successful in life. She told me that she knew from the day I was born that I was special, and that I will reach out for my

goals and achieve success in life."

Klein encouraged other women to work smart and hard, to commit themselves, and to believe that they could do what they put their minds to. She also raised the importance of loving oneself. "Don't let anyone put you down for any reason," she said.

Klein thanked the Department for affording her the opportunity to achieve her goals.



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she faced while studying and what kept her going to achieve her goal.

"Striking a balance between work and studies is not easy but requires proper planning and commitment. To strike a balance, I created a To-Do-List, and it was very helpful. I also created a family schedule which assisted in balancing the two," she said.

"My mother and husband have been great sources of inspiration, my husband is my cheerleader, he always pushes me to work hard and be successful. Additionally, my mother is very organised. She is a person who wants things to be done properly and shows passion in everything she does," she adds.

Maluleke encouraged the younger generation (especially

women) to follow their dreams.

"Firstly, they must know their goals, start by writing down the major goal. The major goal is the ultimate thing you'd like to see happen in your life (future). Have a mentor and do not be afraid to ask for help or advice. Keep educating yourself and focus on your studies and find learning opportunities; don't follow people's negativity," she said.

As we celebrate Women's Month, I would like to remind women that we are unstoppable, and we can achieve anything if we support each other.

"Women are the epitome of courage, hope, and life. Let us pledge this Women's Month that we will make the world a much better place for all.

"We are bold, beautiful, compassionate and caring. Women are never weak because God has made us strong in every sense. Wishing everyone a very happy Women's Month. Love you all!" she said.

me, as the firstborn at home, she always motivates me to keep pushing myself and to continue being a good example to my siblings," she said.

Dandala's message to women, as we celebrate Women's Month is that they must continue to find and redefine themselves in a world that is not always kind to them, "for them to continue to find their voices and cement themselves in a male-dominated world. Most importantly for them to remain soft, kind, and beautiful, there is no shame in that."

SELF DEVELOPMENT INSPIRES

EDUCATIONAL GROWTH



Firstly, my appreciation goes to the National Department of Social Development for funding my studies and giving me permission to conduct the research. Pursuing this degree was motivated by a number of things, and one of them was that most professional social workers enjoy the comfort of their junior degrees and do not bother studying further. My experience in this regard is that others are demotivated because they are not automatically considered for higher positions upon the completion of their higher achievements.

For me, studying is personal development and empowerment as well as making a difference in your own space; there will be those who will see the value out of the body of knowledge built. I have learnt that we all have twenty-four (24) hours in a day, but that should not be a limitation for one to pursue what she/he wants in the name of 'there is no time. Being a mother, a wife, and an employee did not prevent me from being creative and finding time in those twenty-four hours to register and commit to my degree as a student.

The title of my study was, "An evaluation of the Skills Development Programme (SDP) in shelters accommodating survivors of domestic violence in Gauteng Province, Tshwane Region". Working for the Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP) means dealing with survivors of Gender-based Violence (GBV), specifically Domestic Violence who are in most cases victimised by their partners because of their financial dependency. COVID-19, known as Coronavirus worsened the situation, especially during hard lockdown when victims were locked with perpetrators under the same roof. The statistics from the Gender-Based Violence Command Centre (GBVCC) 0800 428 428, were tripled due to violations. As such, the SDP in the shelters needs to be effective to empower the survivors to be financially independent.

My challenge to my fellow Social Workers and other colleagues is for them to take courage and pursue their areas of interest for their own growth and development.

Thank you so much for the support during this journey.

- Dr MJ Moganedi

Dr Athalia Shabangu (53) has been in the public service for the past 25 years. She recently completed her PhD in Social Work through the DSD Bursary Scheme. She currently works as a Social Work Policy Manager.

Shabangu shared her academic journey to motivate and inspire women

Why did you choose to further your studies and why this particular field?

Since my first degree, I have never stopped studying. I wanted to further my knowledge and also add value to the work that I do. For instance, after obtaining a Masters degree in Social Sciences, I was approved by the University of Potchefstroom in North West Province to study for a Ph.D. degree.

I decided not to register for my Ph.D. studies, especially that research proposal with the University of Potchefstroom. However, a few years after exposure to the new environment which is the field of Victim Empowerment and Gender-Based Violence, I noticed a number of gaps in terms of service provision to victims of violence and crime by service providers. Such gaps lead to my curiosity and desire to know why and what could be done to close those gaps. A proposal to conduct research focusing on Practice Guidelines for Victim Empowerment Programmes was then submitted to the University of South Africa which was approved. I ultimately registered for a Ph.D. degree in Social Work at the University of South Africa and the degree was awarded in 2019.

The journey didn't end there, in 2019 I registered with the University of Free State for a Master's degree in Law with a focus on Human Rights. This degree was influenced by my experience in working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, and Plus (LGBTIQ+) People. Like with the other degrees, I realized some gaps that affected the LGBTIQ+ persons negatively

and violated their human rights, thus I decided to conduct research on services provided for LGBTIQ+ people. I completed and passed this degree in 2021.

Who or what inspires you?

As a woman, I get inspired and motivated to study further so that the knowledge I acquire is imparted to vulnerable and marginalized groups especially women and LGBTIQ+ persons. These groups' rights get violated daily hence the high rate of GBV in the country. Empowering them will give them hope and know that there are people who care about them.

What were some of the challenges you faced in acquiring this qualification and how did you overcome these?

The journey was not an easy one. There were times when I was made to feel that doctoral studies were not meant for people like myself. I didn't get support from the people who were supposed to provide it. Being a goal-oriented person, I continued to fight passionately until I won the fight. The negative experience of my doctoral studies assisted me to complete the Master's Degree in Human Rights without support. That happened after the doctoral degree.

Challenges were not experienced during my studies only but socially as well after qualifying. I became an enemy to other women due to my capabilities and successes. However, that didn't stop me from proceeding to study, hence the Master's Degree in Human Rights obtained after the Doctoral Degree.

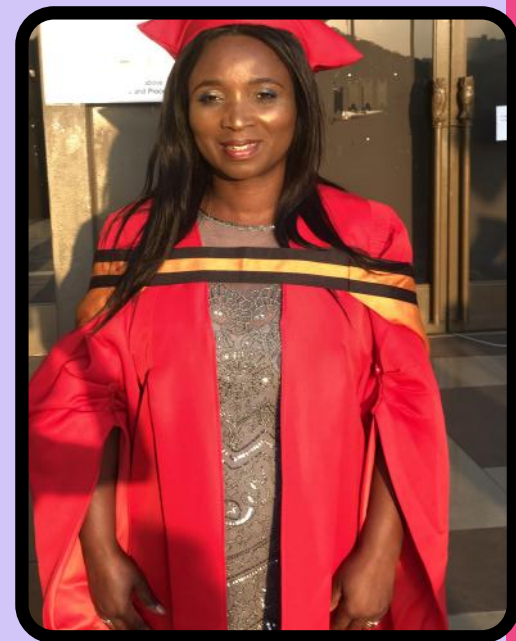
Striking a balance between work, family, and studies? How did you do it?

25 years ago, I studied Human Resource Management where I learned about role shift. Regardless of the pressure I experienced at work as well as at home (as a wife and as a parent), I was able to shift the roles and became a student as

well as a wife and a parent to my children. Although it was not easy, I always invited God to give me the strength to be able to succeed. There were times where I slept only for three/two hours; it took a lot of sacrifices and determination to succeed.

Who is most proud of you for graduating and why?

My husband, children, and family are very proud of my academic successes.



How would you encourage the younger generation (especially women) to follow their dreams?

You can come from background, as long as you know what you want, go for it. Focus on your dream and you will make it. If others did it, why can't you do it? Even the sky is not a limit.

What is your message to all women as we celebrate Women's Month?

Let us empower one another as women to surpass the limits of society. Let us build a better future for our children, families, and societies. Let us not allow people to control our successes. Wathintumfazi wathintimbokodo!

THE ROAD

TO FULFILLING A LONG-HELD PROMISE

By Lumka Oliphant

When I was younger, it had always been my dream to first have kids and raise them while having a job that will make me travel the world and be exposed. However, a few years ago I found myself acting as Deputy Director-General of Strategy and Organisational Transformation (DDG SOT).

Many of you would not know that I spent days agonising about what had just happened in my life. I felt that my career was moving way too fast, and I had no control over it. One evening, I decided to call Professor Pumla Gqola to give me direction because I felt for the very first time, I needed guidance; I needed someone to mentor me.

I have always been one to know what she wanted but this time, I felt alone with a very heavy load. I told the good Professor I think I want to resign. I had given a lot of myself to the Department and had done all the travelling I ever wanted; my CV looked great and I could be anything I wanted to be. Instead of supporting my consideration to resign, Professor Gqola told me to halt it, get experience and begin to slow down while she looked for opportunities for me to study overseas. I told her I was not ready to extract

my kids from both their maternal and paternal families and maybe I should go back to study in the country. That evening, she evoked a long-held promise that I would get my Masters just in time when my last born finishes high school.

Today, I think the Gods were with me. The former Minister was moved to a new Department and it became apparent to me that I had neglected myself and the time to start studying had arrived. I began small; first at GIBS and then registered with Wits together with the Comms team to do Development Communication. I enjoyed switching off from being at work to being a student; I enjoyed the intricacies of student life like walking on campus and taking the Gautrain to class.

We completed the course with the team, and I decided to register for my Honours. Carmen and Esther encouraged me a lot and made sure that all my fees were paid on time as long as I passed.

In 2020, just as I started, I fell sick. I went for the first surgery then Covid-19 hit us. I wanted to defer my studies, but I remember Morapedi

and Mashudu telling me that I must know that I will be a school dropout. "Uzobayi dropout phela," Morapedi would charge. I then decided to continue; I could never take the label of being a dropout. I completed my research concentrating on Traditional Circumcision.

Last month, just as I was into my first semester for my Masters, I was hospitalised. I submitted my last assignments in hospital. On the day I came back from the theatre, I received confirmed dates that I was graduating on July 19. I could not stay behind and not go up to that stage to receive my Honours. I had to do it for Professor Gqola; for Brenda Sibeko who made time when I needed to do interviews; for Khumbula Ndaba who allowed me to go and attend classes; for Mashudu, Morapedi and all the colleagues who supported me during my studies and most importantly, for myself.

My son will be in Grade 12 next year and I should also be completing my Masters as he completes his high school. There are endless possibilities in the future and many uncertainties; when those present themselves, I know I want them to find me ready to be taken to the next level.

4 2-year-old Sarah Mabasa from Gama Mababolo, Limpopo has been working as a Social Work Manager for the Office of the Rights of the Child for 16 years. She has recently obtained an Honours degree in Gender Studies

She shares that she chose this particular field because she is concerned and touched by the continued high rate of Gender-Based Violence which remains a deep-rooted challenge in our country. "I wanted to expand my knowledge to understand the various factors and possible strategic interventions to address this particular issue.

"This is critical for me to assist with the advocacy and preparation of children for their adult roles as men and women," she says.

Mabasa sources her inspiration from her parents and shares how they never had an opportunity to progress academically, but their value for education is unmatched. "I was very inspired when my mother, at over the age of 60 enrolled in a community project which taught them some basic reading and writing skills. This showed me that determination is a powerful tool!" she says.

Understanding the content and navigating her studies through online platforms was part of the challenges she endured during her course of study. However, she overcame the challenges by spending more time studying the content, reading various articles, preparing her assignments ahead of time, and reaching out to fellow student support groups.

Her academic achievements have motivated her son to work very hard and she gushes over how proud he is of her.

She leaves the younger generation with this seed of advice, "value time and use every opportunity you get wisely. Time is precious, once lost, it will never be regained... It is through education that you will be empowered in many areas of your lives; most importantly make informed decisions," she says.

IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT IS DONE



Although she was looking forward to walking across the graduation stage again, she had to graduate via an online ceremony. "This was a sad but understandable moment for me. However, being the powerful woman I am, this never discouraged me. I took my academic regalia with me when I went to collect my degree and did a photo shoot."

This Women's Month, she encourages all women to believe in their inner strength and potential. "Finally, I wish all the women the best in their lives and pray that God grant them wisdom, strength as well as their heart desires," she concludes.

Implementation of the Child Support Grant

Top-Up well underway

By Dineo Mosete

On 13 May 2022, Minister Lindiwe Zulu presented the 2022/2023 budget vote for the Department of Social Development. In her address, Minister Zulu announced that the South African State Security Agency (SASSA) will provide Child Support Grants (CSGs) to relatives caring for orphaned children.

The Department of Social Development has since gazetted the proclamation of the Social Assistance Amendment Act, thereby making the CSG Top-Up (CSG Top-Up) official.

The CSG Top-Up is not a new grant but rather builds on the existing CSG grant in the form of a top-up amount. The CSG is one of the government's most successful social protection interventions for children living in poverty, currently reaching just over 13 million children. The CSG Top-Up will expand on this successful programme, with a focus on the most vulnerable children: orphans living with adult relatives and orphans living on their own in

child-headed households as defined in the Children's Act.

The grant goes to family members who are taking care of orphaned children. This can be a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt or cousin of the child. Many of these beneficiaries are already receiving the standard R480 Child Support Grant. The implementation of the CSG Top-Up, means that the relatives of orphaned children are eligible to receive the basic CSG, which is currently R480, plus an additional amount of R240 (50% of the basic CSG), bringing the total amount to R720.

This policy intervention is aimed at supporting orphaned children living in poor families and children living in child-headed households, who are not adequately financially supported. The CSG Top-Up will enable relatives caring for orphans to provide for their basic needs and support extended family members of orphaned children in order to not remove the children from living environments and households

they are familiar with.

To access this grant, qualifying applicants do not need to go through the lengthy Children's Court process. This provision is therefore an important part of the comprehensive legal solution to the Foster Care challenge, as it will enable relatives caring for orphans to get a social grant quickly by going directly to SASSA without requiring a social worker's investigation, report and a court order. However, to ensure adequate care and protection, social workers will still need to monitor these families after the grant has been approved.

The CSG Top-Up further alleviates the burden on social workers who are dealing with high foster care caseloads by reducing the number of new applications and two-yearly extensions. This intervention lightens the burden on social workers and allows them to provide more responsive child protection and care services to children in need of care and protection.



sassa

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY

SASSA AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BRING RELIEF TO THE NGQELENI CHILDREN

By S Gwarube

After their plight was brought to the attention of SASSA and Social Development on social media, the four children from Ngqeleni have received the much needed relief. SASSA together with the OR Tambo District Department of Social Development visited the family on the 21 June 2022 in an effort to assess the plight of the family and bring about urgent relief to the children.

Upon arriving in the family, four children aged 13, nine, eight and four were found to have recently lost their mother and theirs was immediately categorised as a child headed family. Two of the four children's father could not be traced whilst the father for the other two can be identified. The delegation found that the children used to stay with their

maternal aunt but later removed themselves when she visited her husband in Johannesburg. It was also discovered that the children had no birth certificates and were very young to stay on their own without care and protection.

SASSA OR Tambo Acting District Manager, Nomfundiso Soldati says the situation immediately prompted for the implementation of Regulation 11.1 where application for child social grant is considered whilst necessary documentation is waited upon from relevant department. "We cannot wait for all documents to be available whilst there's a regulation that allows us to urgently intervene in this situation. As a result of this, the child support grant for all the four children will be paid in July"

said Soldati.

The delegation engaged their aunt who previously cared for them and she agreed to continue looking after them. The two orphaned children will now receive a child support grant Top-Up introduced to assist relatives caring for orphans to provide for their basic needs. The Children will receive their basic Child Support Grant of R480, plus an additional amount of R240, bringing the total to R720. Department of Social Development will start the process for Foster Care.

Whilst one kid is not of school going age, two of them had already received school uniform from SASSA in March whilst the other will receive in July when schools are re-opened.

Cabinet Statement

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Statement on the virtual Cabinet Meeting of Wednesday, 17 August 2022



ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Energy

- Cabinet welcomed the interventions introduced by government to address the country's energy crisis. The far-reaching measures pave the way to reduce load-shedding, transform the electricity sector and achieve long-term energy security.
- In supporting the energy grid and helping our country through its constrained electricity supply, we need to reduce our nation's energy consumption by 600 megawatts over the next three months.

Households can play their part in conserving energy by switching off all non-essential lighting and high-energy appliances during peak demand times. Businesses are encouraged to adopt more energy-efficient production technology and participate in initiatives to reduce electricity demand.

Operation Vulindlela

- Cabinet welcomed the progress made under Operation Vulindlela to clear bottlenecks across the energy, telecommunications, and water and tourism sectors to revive the economy.
- Nine out of the 26 structural reforms have been achieved, with 11 reforms making good progress. Successes include increasing the licensing threshold for embedded generation, the corporatisation of the Transnet National Ports Authority, release of the revised critical skills list and the implementation of the e-Visa system in 14 countries, including major new tourist markets such as China, India, Kenya and Nigeria.

Gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF)

- Cabinet expressed outrage at the recent brutal rape of eight



women in Krugersdorp in Gauteng. These vile acts and abuse against women undermine our social fabric. Cabinet further commended the South African Police Service for their swift arrest of a number of suspects in connection with the heinous crime.

- Cabinet appealed to communities to work with law-enforcement agencies by sharing any information or reporting suspicious activities. Working together, we can make our communities safer for women and children.

Every South African has a duty to act against perpetrators of violence within the ambit of the law. Report all GBVF-related incidents to a local police station or call the toll-free Crime Stop number: 0860 01 0111, the National GBVF Command Centre: 0800 428 428 or Stop Gender Violence Helpline: 0800 150 150.

Women's Month

- The annual Women's Month in August pays tribute to women who participated in the liberation struggle and all women in our society.
- This year's Women Month is being celebrated under the theme: "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Improved Resilience".

The over 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 9 August 1956 contributed to ensuring that gender equality and empowerment remains a key priority in a democratic South Africa.

- Their brave actions inspired women in general to take their rightful place in Parliament, government and civil society, and we are constantly building on these advances since gaining freedom in 1994.

Marikana commemoration

- On Tuesday, 16 August 2022, government joined the rest of the country in remembering the tragedy that unfolded at Marikana in North West in 2012. The pain felt by the workers, their families and the nation at large would forever be entrenched in our history.

The Marikana Renewal Programme has been implemented to rebuild and create an enabling environment to improve the lives of the Marikana community.

- Last year government paid R176 million in compensation to the families of the victims and the remaining cases under litigation are expected to be finalised by the end of August 2022.
- A number of renovated or newly acquired houses have been handed to the Marikana widows and others will be completed this year. A R700-million housing project will see mineworkers being provided with decent housing. Critical social infrastructure is being provided to improve the living conditions of mining communities.

District Development Model (DDM) Presidential Imbizo in Gauteng

- Following the success of the previous three DDM Presidential Izimbizo hosted in North West, Free State and Mpumalanga respectively, the Sedibeng District Municipality in Gauteng hosted the fourth instalment on Friday, 12 August 2022.
- Under the theme: "Leave no one behind", President Cyril Ramaphosa led the delegation of senior officials from the national, provincial and local governments. South Africans

in their various formations and sectors were mobilised to act together against rising levels of poverty and destitution caused by the challenging economic conditions.

- The Sedibeng District has made progress in operationalising the Vaal River Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which holds potential for the reindustrialisation of the region, province and country. The Vaal River SEZ plans to host the following critical sectors: The new Vaal River Smart City; Green Hydrogen Innovation Hub; cannabis hub; agro-logistics; aerropolis; aerodrome; air freight and the revitalised steel manufacturing sector.

Presidential Social Sector Summit

- The Presidential Social Sector Summit held in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng from 4 to 5 August 2022 under the theme: "Fostering Social Cohesion to Enable Socio-Economic Participation in Communities", brought together stakeholders from different constituencies to work with government to address socio-economic challenges and mobilise resources for civil society, among other objectives.
- The summit considered dialogue reports from the nine provinces on their challenges, which included access to funding, regulatory issues, transformation of the social sector with a view to fostering a state-civil society partnership to address challenges related to poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Cabinet called on civil-society organisations and citizens to play their active part in ensuring that we build a better tomorrow, as envisioned in the National Development Plan: Vision 2030.



Cabinet Statement

Statement on the virtual Cabinet Meeting
of Wednesday, 17 August 2022



CABINET DECISIONS

■ Cultural and Creative Industries Masterplan

- Cabinet approved the Cultural and Creative Industries Masterplan for implementation. The masterplan focuses on visual arts; crafts and design; audio-visual and interactive media; design and creative services; performance and celebration, including music, publishing and printed media.
- The masterplan will intervene in these sectors towards building a transformed creative innovative sector that will be globally recognised and competitive in the space. It will work towards the South African creative industry being able to access the local and international markets.

■ Updated Policy Framework for Municipal Borrowing and Financial Emergencies

- Cabinet approved the amendments to the current Policy Framework for Municipal Borrowing and Financial Emergencies. The amendments are mainly on the borrowing section of this framework.
- Amongst the amendments proposed introducing a longer-term borrowing period to match the useful lifespan of some of the assets being financed. The amendments also clarify the role of development finance institutions in the lending space of the municipalities.
- Section 230 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa

of 1996 empowers municipalities to raise loans for their capital or current expenditure.

- The original framework was approved by Cabinet in 2000 to guide Chapter 6 and 13 of the Municipal Finance Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003). The approved amendments seek to incentivise more lenders in the municipality markets but continue to maintain the core principles underlying municipal borrowing.

■ Pre-release calendar for the publication of the quarterly record-crime statistics for 2022/23 financial year

- Cabinet approved the proposed pre-release calendar for the

publication of the quarterly crime statistics for the 2022/23 financial year. Cabinet approved the quarterly crime stats release. This was to change the previous annual release of the crime stats for the country.

- The proposed pre-release calendar crime statistics is August 2022 for quarter one and November 2022 for quarter two. Crime statistics for quarter three and quarter four will be released in February and May 2023 respectively.

■ Lapse of the National State of Disaster (NSoD)

- Cabinet approved the lapse of the National State of Disaster (NSoD) that was declared

following the devastating floods in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

- The NSoD lapsed on 18 August 2022 following its extension on 18 July 2022. The extension considered the need to continue augmenting the existing contingency measures undertaken by organs of state to mitigate and address the impact of severe weather in the affected provinces.
- Cabinet agreed that current circumstances no longer warrant the extraordinary measures as organs of state, the private sector and civil society will continue to ensure ongoing relief, recovery and reconstruction.

BILLS

■ Deeds Registries Amendment Bill of 2022

- Cabinet approved the submission of the Deeds Registries Amendment Bill of 2020 to Parliament for further processing. Cabinet approved the Bill in June 2020 for further public consultation.
- The proposed amendments will give effect to the realisation of the land tenure that is legally secured in Section 25(6) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996. The Bill provides for the collection of the statistics in terms of race, gender, nationality and citizenship of the holders of land rights in South Africa. This provision will enable more accurate land audit reports and surveys in the future regarding the transformation of land ownership.

■ National Water Resource Infrastructure Agency (NWRIA) Bill of 2022

- Cabinet approved the publishing of the NWRIA Bill of 2022 for public comment for a period of ninety (90) days. The Bill proposes the setting up of an NWRIA to be responsible for the planning,

be responsible for the maintenance of the current water infrastructure.

- The agency is to ensure a sustainable, equitable and reliable supply of water in line with constitutional obligations of access to water and a secure healthy environment. The agency will be set up as a Public Entity under the Schedule 2 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999). The agency will take on the functions that are currently performed by the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority.

■ Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Amendment Bill of 2022

- Cabinet approved the submission to Parliament of the Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Amendment Bill of 2022. The Bill amends the Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Act, 2007 (Act 12 of 2007).
- The amendments regulate the powers of municipalities in levying development charges in respect of land development applications submitted to municipalities. These amendments will

approved the Bill in 2020 for public consultation.

■ Financial Matters Amendment Bill of 2022

- Cabinet approved the submission to Parliament of the Financial Matters Amendment Bill of 2022. The Bill proposes the amendment to seven Acts, namely (1) Associated Institutions Pension Fund Act, 1963 (Act 41 of 1963); (2) Military Pension Act, 1976 (Act 84 of 1976); (3) Government Employees Pension Law of 1996; (4) Financial and Fiscal Commission Act, 1997 (Act 99 of 1997); (5) Land and Agricultural Development Bank Act, 2002 (Act 15 of 2002); (6) Audit Profession Act 2005 (Act 26 of 2005) and (7) the Auditing Profession Amendment Act, 2021 (Act 5 of 2021).
- The proposed amendments include, under the Military Pension Act of 1996, the inclusion of life partners to the benefits retrospectively from 27 April 1994. The pension laws amendments will enable spouses to realise their pension interest immediately on dissolution of the marriage.

the amendments also adjust the powers of the enforcement committee where an auditor admits guilt. The Bill was published for public comment in February 2022.

■ General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing) Amendment Bill of 2022

- Cabinet approved the submission of the General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing) Amendment Bill of 2022 to Parliament for further processing.
- The Bill is an omnibus Bill that amends the current Acts namely (i) Financial Intelligence Centre Act, 2001 (Act 38 of 2001); (ii) Nonprofit Organisation Act, 1997 (Act 71 of 1997); (iii) Trust Property Control Act, 1988 (Act 57 of 1988); (iv) Companies Act, 2008 (Act 71 of 2008) and (v) Financial Sector Regulations Act, 2017 (Act 9 of 2017).
- The amendments respond to the deficiencies identified during the peer review of the country conducted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The mutual evaluation

with international measures of combating money laundering and financing of terrorism.

- South Africa was found to be lacking in 20 areas. This Bill addresses about 14 of the areas identified. South Africa has been a member of FATF since 2003.
- Cabinet approved the submission to Parliament of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Amendment Bill of 2022 for further processing. The Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, 1992 (Act 140 of 1992) criminalises the manufacturing and supply of any substance included under the Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of the Act.
- The amendments address the invalidity of Section 63, which was found to be unconstitutional in respect of the Minister being provided with the rights to amend the schedules without the involvement of the legislative process.
- In 2020, the Constitutional Court declared Section 63 of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act of 1992 unconstitutional and suspended the invalidity to

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of Wednesday, 17 August 2022



MESSAGES

■ Congratulations

Cabinet extended its congratulations and well-wishes to:

- **Banyana Banyana**, for making history and winning South Africa's first ever Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON), at the 2022 WAFCON finals held in Rabat, Morocco on Saturday, 23 July 2022. At the same time, they qualified for next year's FIFA women's World Cup to be jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand

from 20 July to 20 August 2023.

- **Team South Africa**, for winning 27 medals in various disciplines at the 2022 Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham, England from 28 July to 8 August 2022. They ended ninth overall with seven gold, nine silver and 11 bronze medals.
- **Springbok Women**, for their win over Spain in their first of two Women's Winter Series test matches at Emirates

Airline Park in Johannesburg.

- **Ms Ndavi Nokeri** (23), for being crowned the new Miss South Africa 2022.
- **Ms Ashleigh Buhai**, for winning the 2022 AIG Women's Open and becoming the third South African woman to win a major gold championship.

■ Condolences

Cabinet expressed condolences to the family and friends of:

- **Mr Tokollo "Magesh"**

Tshabalala (46), the musician, singer and songwriter who rose to fame when he together with two of his friends started their kwaito music group in 1996 called TKZee.

Enquiries:

Ms Phumla Williams

Cabinet Spokesperson

Mobile: 083 501 0139

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UPCOMING EVENT

■ Rugby World Cup Sevens 2022

- South Africa will host the Rugby World Cup Sevens 2022 in Cape Town between 9 and 11 September 2022. The showcase event is held for the first time on the African continent and will see 24 men's and 16 women's teams from across the world competing.

SEND ME TO BUILD THE MZANSI I WANT

Let's Grow South Africa Together

#SendMe #ThumaMina

DDM PRESIDENTIAL IMBIZO



The Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu engages with the community of Sedibeng during the District Development Model Presidential Imbizo in Sharpville.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, together with Leaders from all spheres of government interacted with residents on service delivery challenges which communities have brought to the government's attention.



UPCOMING **ACTIVITIES**

SEPTEMBER

31 August 2022

Overdose Awareness Day
Free State

31 August 2022

Public Service Women Management Week
Gauteng

01 September 2022

9-9-9 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Campaign
Free State

02 September 2022

9-9-9 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Campaign
Northern Cape

03 September 2022

9-9-9 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Campaign
Western Cape

04 September 2022

9-9-9 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Campaign
Gauteng

05 September 2022

9-9-9 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Campaign
North-West

06 September 2022

9-9-9 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Campaign
Limpopo

07 September 2022

9-9-9 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Campaign
Mpumalanga

08 September 2022

9-9-9 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Campaign
Eastern Cape

09 September 2022

9-9-9 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Campaign
KwaZulu-Natal

23 September 2022

International Day of Sign Language
Mpumalanga

Please send your stories and images to Preciousg@dsd.gov.za before 20th of each month.

Women OF DSD





DSD IN PICTURES



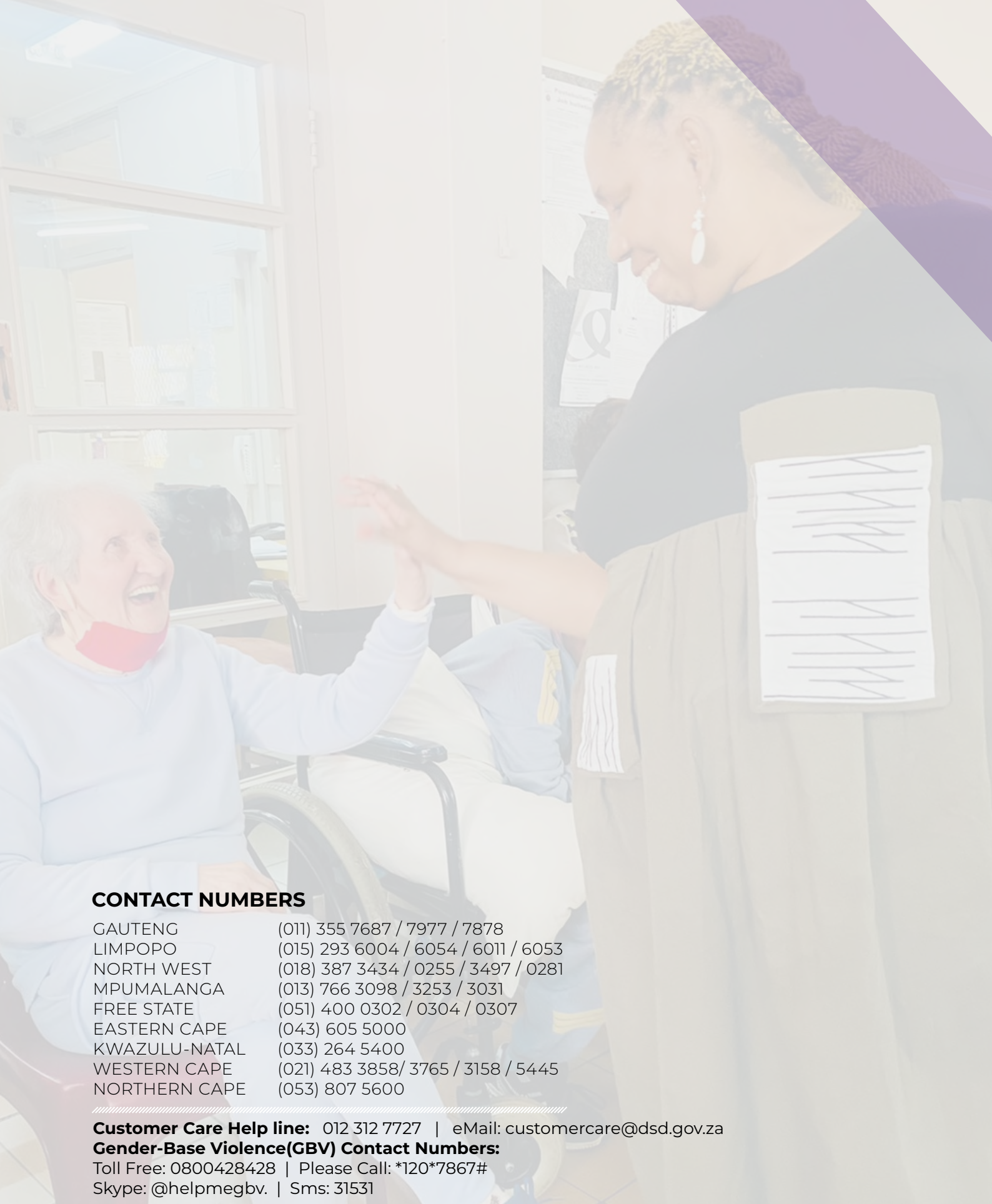




DSD IN PICTURES







CONTACT NUMBERS

GAUTENG	(011) 355 7687 / 7977 / 7878
LIMPOPO	(015) 293 6004 / 6054 / 6011 / 6053
NORTH WEST	(018) 387 3434 / 0255 / 3497 / 0281
MPUMALANGA	(013) 766 3098 / 3253 / 3031
FREE STATE	(051) 400 0302 / 0304 / 0307
EASTERN CAPE	(043) 605 5000
KWAZULU-NATAL	(033) 264 5400
WESTERN CAPE	(021) 483 3858/ 3765 / 3158 / 5445
NORTHERN CAPE	(053) 807 5600

Customer Care Help line: 012 312 7727 | eMail: customercare@dsd.gov.za

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Contact Numbers:

Toll Free: 0800428428 | Please Call: *120*7867#
Skype: @helpmegbv. | Sms: 31531

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social development

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