



MAY - JULY 2018

*Interns
Induction*

Youth Day

*Gamsberg
Mining Project*

*Children Pledging
Their Rights*

*Take a Girl-Child
to Work*

CONTENTS

Editorial	02
Take a Girl-Child to Work	03
Launch of Wheelchair Repairs and Servicing Project	04
Thousands Employed at Mining Project	05
Benchmarking Success Through Powerlifting	06
2018 Interns Induction	07
Children Pledging Their Rights	08
Pastors and Leadership Conference	09
Youth Day	10
All-Women Hunting Expedition	11
Celebrating the life of Mama Zondeni Veronica Sobukwe	12
Calendar of Events	13
Call for Submissions	14

EDITORIAL TEAM

Managing Editor	Monwabisi Nkompela
Editor	Rennie van Wyk
Content Researcher	Persome Oliphant
Content Researcher	Winnie Mobita
Layout Design	Sherwin Engelbrecht
Photography	Michael Lebakeng
IT Support	Denver Fitzpatrick

ADDRESS

JW Sauer Building, Corner Quinn and Roper Street, Kimberley 8300

Private Bag X5016, Kimberley 8301, South Africa

Tel: +27 53 838 2600

Website: <https://premier.ncpg.gov.za>

EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues

I am once again delighted to write to you for the second edition of the Northern Cape Office of the Premier's newsletter. The objective of the newsletter is to bring comprehensive information to staff and management on government's efforts in achieving its goals in providing services to our people. In the wise words of late statesman, Nelson Mandela, "When people are determined they can overcome anything." This is indicative of the efforts of government for an inclusive society by empowering all persons despite, race, creed, gender, age and disability. Let us congratulate our power lifting champion for setting the bar high. Keep shining bright and fly the OTP and South African flag high, Mr. Ricardo Fitzpatrick.

In this edition we highlight the improvement of youth skills development programmes such as the introduction to educational and work opportunities, job training and employment in the province. We welcome the 2018/2019 Interns and Work In Learning students to the organisation and encourage you to gain valuable experience and expertise for the job market.

Throughout the month of August we recognized the work women do in the public and private sectors. It truly inspiring to see women crossing over into male dominated sectors. We say 'Womandla' to our two female staff members as they participated in an all women's hunting expedition. However it is imperative to keep the rights of women and children a priority and we encourage government to continue playing a pertinent role in the protection of vulnerable persons.

Celebrating their 100th birth Anniversaries, we pay homage to Tata Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu for their contribution in bringing about a peaceful and free South Africa. We will continue to remember and honour our liberation struggle icons for their role in building our society. Needless to say, we all have the ability and capacity to develop our communities and province by following in the footsteps of our great forebears.



Mr Monwabisi Nkompela (Chief Director - ICS)

In August, we mourned the passing of liberation stalwart Mama Zondeni Sobukwe. We will fondly remember her for her dedication and determination for a free and democratic country.

Moreover, it is with great sadness that we send our sincerest condolences to the family, friends, comrades and colleagues of Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Bomo Edith Edna Molewa following her sudden passing. May they find strength, comfort and healing during this difficult time.

We hope you are thoroughly enjoying our newsletter. We look forward to engaging with you sharing ideas and content. Please don't hesitate to contact us; we would love to hear from you!

Thanking you. Till we meet again!

TAKE A GIRL CHILD TO WORK



Premier Sylvia Lucas, MEC Martha Bartlett, MEC Bongive Mbinqo-Gigaba, with participating students



Ms. Gugulethu Matlopane with one of the students

The Premier of the Northern Cape, Ms Sylvia Lucas, in partnership with the National Empowerment Fund and other stakeholders hosted the “Take a Girl Child to Work” at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre (MSCC) on 24 May 2018 in Kimberley. This is an annual campaign under the theme “dream, believe and achieve.”

The project carries the endorsement of the Department of Education and finds its most avid support from the Office of the Presidency wherein girls have been hosted yearly since its inaugural event.

This year, 80 students across the Province gathered at the MSCC to celebrate this event. The children were addressed by various speakers including the Deputy Director General in the Premier’s Office, Ms Gugulethu Matlopane, who encouraged the students to choose their careers carefully and to work hard to realize their ambitions.

Premier Lucas says that without the girl child there is no future. Furthermore she remarked that the annual event confirms government’s commitment to exposing young women to different career paths and opportunities made available by government.

The ‘Take a Girl Child to Work’ reaffirms government’s priority in promoting education and the participation of girls in the economy and the labour market, thereby guiding girls in contributing to their respective communities after their formal education.

LAUNCH OF WHEELCHAIR REPAIRS AND SERVICING PROJECT

Fifty persons living with disabilities from rural communities in the Northern Cape will be afforded the opportunity to learn skills to repair and service wheel chairs. This exciting announcement was recently made at a launch held at the Ba'One Intellectual Centre (BIC) in Seoding, Kuruman. Participants will engage in a two week training programme that includes wheelchair repairs, servicing and endorsing participants with a higher certificate in Business Management.

Manufacturer and supplier of prosthetic limbs and orthotic support, Ottobock, together with the Office of the Premier in the Northern Cape and other relevant stakeholders formed a partnership to address the economic vulnerabilities experienced by persons living with disabilities.

A 2014 study conducted on the Elements of the Financial and Economic Costs of Disability to Households in South Africa highlighted the disproportion of economic benefits to those living with disabilities experienced and identified seven key areas to reduce economic inequalities of persons living with disabilities.

“The problems of our communities should become our problems. Launching the programme will enable government to equip these participants with business skills,” said keynote speaker, Chief Director of Policy and Planning in the Premier’s Office, Adv. Thulani Binase. He added that people living with disabilities are not welfare cases but often have the brightest minds that need to be utilised and shared.

After training concluded participants will be placed at various government departments, particularly the Department of Health, to hone their skills and gain thorough experience. This programme also affords business opportunities to participants to gain commerce skills and become entrepreneurs in the manufacturing and repairing sector of wheelchairs.

“Everyone should be afforded to take part in the economy,” says Ottobock’s Managing Director, Steve Baard. According to Baard their goal is to restore the mobility of persons with disabilities and create skills development and hence their partnering with provincial government to reduce economic inequality for those with disabilities.

The BIC has been existence for eight years and currently hosts 150 students with disabilities between the ages of 18-25, with 30 students having obtained certificates in Information Technology and a number of graduates employed at local mines.



Adv. Thulani Binase addressing participants at the training programme



Participants at the training programme

THOUSANDS EMPLOYED AT MINING PROJECT



Premier Sylvia Lucas with Mineworkers

More than 3000 people have sought employment at the Gamsberg Mining Project by June 2018 in the Northern Cape Province. The project which started three years ago has grown significantly through job creation to community members from surrounding areas.

As part of her provincial outreach Premier, Sylvia Lucas articulated her thoughts on the project, “I am very impressed that most of the professionals on the project are young people and that the majority of the employees are either from the Khai Ma municipal area or the surrounding areas in the Province.”

During this time Premier Lucas also visited the area where 109 houses have been built which form part of the first phase of the housing development plan. Moreover Premier Lucas together with stakeholders discussed further housing development plans for employees residing in Pofadder, Pella and Aggeneys.

Young professionals from Khai-Ma, Namakwa District and the greater Northern Cape were central to the project development and expressed their gratitude for the employment opportunities presented to them at the mine.

An investment of nearly 400 million US Dollars (USD) has been made to the Gamsberg Project by Vedanta Zinc International (VZI) Black Mountain Mine. Currently Gamsberg is the largest mining project in South Africa with an ore resource of 214 Million tonnes (Mt), which is to be extracted from an open pit at an annual rate of 4Mt. As part of the project, 35 million USD has been pumped into the water infrastructure developments in Pella.

VZI also briefed Premier Lucas on its social investment programmes such as the Broad-Based Livelihood Programme to be rolled out in the Khai-Ma area that aims to create a means out of poverty, empowering participants to be independent providers for their families and to create jobs through entrepreneurship to help build the community and economy.

BENCHMARKING SUCCESS THROUGH POWERLIFTING



Mr. Ricardo Fitzpatrick at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

Ricardo Fitzpatrick has set the bar high after being ranked top Para Powerlifter in Africa and fourth in world rankings following his recent participation at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Born and bred in Roodepan, Kimberley the 37 year old has strived for success in all his endeavours even in the face of adversity. “It is really an honour being ranked first on the continent. And to be ranked fourth in the world is a remarkable and amazing achievement,” says Fitzpatrick.

Despite being infected with gangrene during birth and a little chance at a long and healthy life, Fitzpatrick has defied the odds when he started participating in various sports activities including wheelchair basketball, table tennis and swimming and excelling in each one. In 2002 he received his national colours in powerlifting and represented South Africa at the World Bench-press Championships in Luxembourg. He has gone on to participate in various world championships, with numerous titles under his belt.

Not only is he dedicated to his career as a Network Controller, Fitzpatrick admits that challenges exist in balancing a full time job at the Northern Cape Office of the Premier (OTP), preparing for his love of powerlifting and family life but says all are equally rewarding. He acknowledges the OTP staff and management for their support and understanding while he juggles it all.

His best personal achievement was winning gold at the Arnold Classic Africa Powerlifting and Bench Press Championship in 2016 where he set a new South African Record of 83kg for men. He has achieved major titles as a powerlifter including being awarded the 2004 Gauteng World Champion, 2011 Commonwealth Bench Press Champion, 2016 African Bench Press Champion and the 2017 Commonwealth Bench Press Champion. He is a nine time South African Para Powerlifting champion and a three time South African Classic Bench Press champion for able bodies.

Fitzpatrick continues to represent the Northern Cape and the continent at large at world renowned sporting events. He is preparing for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games and would love to bring home the gold. He encourages those who have talents to follow them despite naysayers, “Don’t stay too long in your comfort zone but pursue your talents that will make you happy, no matter what people say.”

2018 INTERNS INDUCTION

On 5 June 2018, 13 interns were inducted at the Northern Cape Office of the Premier. Addressing attendees Director General at the Office of the Premier (OTP), Justice Bekebeke shared words of encouragement, “This is an opportunity that you must grab with both hands and your tomorrow depends on you. Make use of this internship and learn as much as you can as this will result in a very fruitful future for you wherever you go.”

Deputy Director General at OTP, Gugulethu Matloapane welcomed all interns and learners who excitedly anticipated the day’s proceedings; “I feel empowered and overwhelmed sitting in the midst of these brains. As a mother and woman, I am proud to be sitting with intelligent young people and this shows our country is on the right path.”



DG Justice Bekebeke, DDG Gugulethu Matloapane with staff and new interns



DG Justice Bekebeke addressing new interns

Matloapane said it was important for young people entering the job market to see this as a privilege and by fully committing to this internship and gaining experience it will propel them to establish themselves in their chosen careers. Furthermore she reiterated the Batho Pele Principles of helping those in need and acquiring knowledge that will benefit both the employee and the public at large.

OTP officials from their respective units encouraged interns and those participating in the learnership programme to enjoy the new phase in their lives but most importantly to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Interns were also reminded not to forget government’s objectives in serving the public to the best of their ability and to be courageous at the workplace to do the right thing.

CHILDREN PLEDGING THEIR RIGHTS

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises that children are not merely passive recipients entitled to adult protective care but must be active participants in issues that affect them. Surrounding International Children's Day, the convention is changing the view on the way children need to be treated.

The first weekend in June, the world celebrated International Children's Day and the Northern Cape Office of the Premier in conjunction with the Departments of Social Development and Education commemorated this day under the theme, "#MyvoiceItakecharge".

The 2018 program focused on getting children to sign a pledge that they will actively participate in issues affecting them in their respective communities. This program will form the basis of the Northern Cape's approach regarding Child Participation Program. The aim is to ensure better participation of all children across sectors so that their right to participate in matters affecting their lives is fulfilled.

Speaking to learners at SC Kearns High School in Louisa Road, Upington, Premier of the Northern Cape, Sylvia Lucas reminded them that as part of their rights and responsibilities they have a duty to themselves, their parents, fellow learners, teachers and the community at large. The Premier encouraged the learners to never lose sight of their potential and their ability to achieve greatness.



Premier Sylvia Lucas, signing pledge



Learner signing pledge



 **Pledge of Commitment**

I _____ from _____ hereby pledge to take part in the **#My voice, I take charge** programme for 2018.

I commit myself to:

- 👉 Respect my parents, teachers and all elders.
- 👉 Regularly attend all my classes.
- 👉 Not do drugs.
- 👉 Not bully.
- 👉 Treat my fellow learners with respect.
- 👉 Take responsibility for my health.
- 👉 Take care and responsibility towards my environment.
- 👉 Live a violent-free lifestyle.

Signed at _____ on _____ 2018.

 **social development**
Department: Social Development
NORTHERN CAPE

Pledge

PASTORS AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Moral Regeneration Movement (MRM) in the Office of the Premier held a pastors and leaders conference from 4-6 May 2018, in Kuruman, Northern Cape.

The MRM is a vision of former President Nelson Mandela, after seeing the prevalent social ills in our country. The late President Mandela would have turned 100 years old on 18 July this year. The MRM has now established five forums in all provincial districts working together with the people to help resolve issues and empower one another.

Reverend Mguzulwa said that one has to travail through the baptism of fire in order to be equipped to handle the responsibilities that one is tasked with. Mguzulwa said that the starting block for all communities is the family unit, thus one must make time for each other as life starts in the home.

Reverend Molale added that strengthening the vision of men in society contributes to positive change in the world. Pastor Kim encouraged attendees to return to the fundamentals of the love of God and to love one another and move away from venerating material things before God and people.

YOUTH DAY



Premier Sylvia Lucas, Speaker Kenny Mmoiemang, MEC Norman Shushu and citizens



MEC Bongiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba and participants

In celebrating the 42nd year since the 1976 Youth uprisings, the Northern Cape provincial government celebrated youth month under the, “Live the legacy: Towards a socio-economically empowered youth”. Celebrations took place at the Postmasburg Sportgrounds on 16 June 2018.

Premier Ms Sylvia Lucas encouraged young people to mobilise to promote social cohesion and economic emancipation as they remain the epicentre of the province.

Premier Lucas stated that the legacy of the youth of 1976 “remains engraved in our hearts and minds” and during this month we remember and pay tribute to Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu who celebrate their centenaries this year, for their contribution and sacrifices towards a free, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

South Africa has a large young population with the potential to grow the economy, eradicate poverty and create employment. Therefore the Northern Cape government has committed to providing young people in the province by improving youth service programmes and enhancing opportunities.

The Office of the Premier has partnered with the SETA’s to secure job placements for 1000 learners from various institutions of higher learning for this financial year. In addition the province has also committed to providing financial assistance to deserving students in need with more than 9000 bursaries awarded by government departments, SETA’s and the Premier’s Education Trust Fund. Together with the Mine Managers Forum, an excess of half a million rand for learners at universities as been allocated for this current financial year.

“The development of young people is therefore aligned to Governments’ approach to addressing poverty and underdevelopment, as well as a mechanism for promotion of social adjustment, social cohesion, and economic emancipation. This will be done through sustainable policies and programmes that seek to bring about tangible improvements in the quality of the lives of the youth,” Premier Lucas said.

Lucas also encouraged the youth to grab opportunities with both hands, to break the cycle of poverty and to be the leaders of tomorrow. Furthermore she emphasised fighting the scourge of drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy and any other social ills that negatively impact on one’s life

ALL-WOMEN HUNTING EXPEDITON



Ms. Janine Appies, Ms. Lindsey Williams, Ms. Samantha Gorrah, Ms. Esmeralda Appies, Ms. Nolene Blair

South Africa commemorated Women's Month in August as a tribute to the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in protest against the extension of Pass Laws to women. This is a time to honour and celebrate women in all their diversity.

To commemorate this milestone, the Northern Cape Premier's Office Manager in The Exco Secretariat; Samantha Gorrah undertook a Hunting Expedition together with her sister Esmerelda Appies and three friends.

The idea was to step away from the usual spa dates that ladies are expected to enjoy and move into a male dominated sport. It is an Annual gathering with the theme of "Be daring, be one with Nature". The focus was on hunting as well as creating and nurturing a positive body image and confidence in the participants.

The expedition took place over a weekend, from the end of August till the beginning September at Kleinpapkuil near Lime Acres and Danielskuil.

The Northern Cape's rough terrain was no deterrent to their mission. The group which calls themselves the "Sexy Hunters" was trained on location on how to handle a hunting

rifle, were emotionally prepared and taken through all the relevant safety measures before they started shooting. None of the participants hunted animals before so it was necessary to prepare them both mentally and physically. The region has 31 species of game including the scarce species – Buffalo, Rhino, Roan, Sable, Bontbok, Lechwe, Nyala, Tsessebe, Golden Wildebeest and Black Impala.

The ladies successfully shot and killed four (4) Springbok which they tracked on foot over distances in excess of twelve (12) kilometres and shot their targets from seventy-five meters away. They were also inducted into the Hunter's World by having to carry their trophies themselves and being smeared with the blood of the bucks by seasoned professional hunters. It was an experience which they will never forget as it was the closest they have been with nature in such an exhilarating way. Indeed this pioneering effort from these indefatigable women sets a benchmark for colleagues in the OTP to emulate!

Women need not limit themselves to fit into any boxes. What the mind envisions can certainly be achieved!

'Womandla'

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MAMA ZONDENI VERONICA SOBUKWE

Zondeni Veronica Mathe was born on July 27, 1927 in Hlobane village in KwaZulu Natal. In 1949, she enrolled for a nursing course at Lovedale College, Eastern Cape and took on a leadership role in a student protest against unacceptable conditions and racist conduct of staff members.

Mama Zondeni was expelled from Lovedale College because of her involvement in the student protests and political beliefs. This is when she met Mr Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe who was president of the Student Representative Council at the time. The two fell in love and married in 1954. She received the traditional bridal name of Nosango and together they had four children; Miliswa, Dinilesizwe, Dalindyebo and Dedanizizwe. Mr Sobukwe was also the founding member and President of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC).

When her husband was jailed, Mama Sobukwe continued resistance from the outside while raising their children by herself. She was a wife, a health practitioner and an activist who took up the plight of challenging the apartheid government on several occasions when they did not honour her husband's release dates. In fact, the government had established a "Sobukwe Clause" to keep him detained as long as they saw fit. The couple met during the struggle and she knew that the fight would always remain a prominent part of their lives.

In 1997, Mrs Sobukwe appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in a bid to find the truth behind her husband's death. She exposed the ill-treatment and humiliation the apartheid regime put him through and demanded full disclosure before any amnesty could be granted to the perpetrators.



Ms. Zondeni Veronica Sobukwe

The South African government conferred the Order of Luthuli on her in April 2018 for her tenacious fight and steadfast support of imprisoned freedom fighters. "The Mother of Azania" as she fondly became known, passed away on 15 August 2018 in the Eastern Cape after a 3 week stay at Midland Hospital in Graaf-Reinet.

She loved her husband and family and stood beside them with unwavering strength. Farewell Mama Sobukwe. May your soul rest in glorious and eternal peace!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

09	Women's Day
29 - 30	Mme Re Ka Thusa Women's Day Event

September

15	Robert Sobukwe Memorial Lecture
17 - 21	Thusong Centre Service Week
24	Heritage Day
24	Tourism Day Celebrations
End Sept.	EXCO Programme JTG

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

If you have any comments, feedback and suggestions or would like to share your achievements and stories with us; please contact the Communications Department on the details below:

Ms Winne Mobita

Email: WMobita@ncpg.gov.za

Ms Persome Oliphant

Email: PTOliphant@ncpg.gov.za

Phone: (053) 838 2737

Thank you!