



Office of the Premier  
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE



# OTPNEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN CAPE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

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## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 2018

BY WINNIE MOBITA



October is annually celebrated as Mental Health Awareness month. It is a commemorative period and presents an opportunity to examine our current state of well-being.

Mental health is a complex topic which the World Health Organisation defines as “a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.” When there is an imbalance in any of these areas, one is said to have a mental illness. It is everyone’s duty to remove the stigma and discrimination that people with mental illnesses are often subjected to.

These illnesses are not always easy to treat and recognise because they comprise a wide range of problems with different symptoms and severity. Some of the common conditions are schizophrenia, dementia, depressive disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder and post traumatic stress disorder. Most of these can be successfully

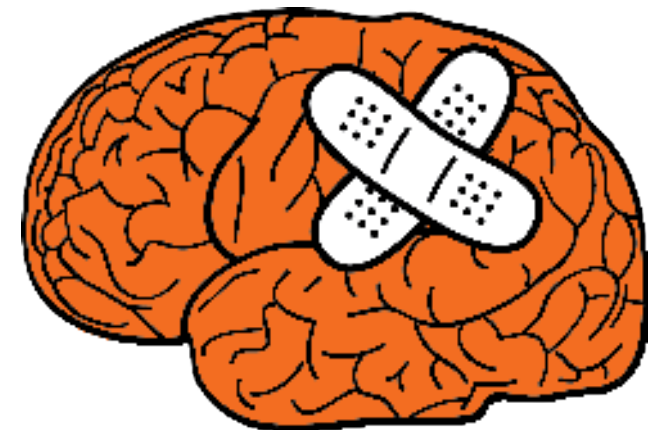
treated with a combination of therapy, coping skills and medication under the supervision of a trained medical professional who understands the result of the interplay between biological, environmental, social and psychological factors.

When individuals experience one or more of the following symptoms, seeking help is a sign of strength and not weakness as it can indicate that an intervention is needed: a loss of energy, a change in appetite, change in sleeping patterns, anxiety, reduced concentration, indecisiveness; restlessness; feelings of worthlessness, guilt, or hopelessness; and thoughts of self-harm or suicide.

There are a number of things one can do daily to try and minimize the impact of the debilitating effects of mental illness on your life. These include treating yourself with kindness, respect and avoiding self-criticism while getting enough sleep and avoiding alcohol, cigarettes and recreational drugs. Surrounding yourself with good people, meditating or practising mindfulness and setting realistic goals so as to enjoy the feeling of accomplishment as you progress; and learning a new skill keeps your mind fresh and improves the overall quality of your life.

People who get appropriate care can recover from mental illness and addiction and lead full, rewarding lives.

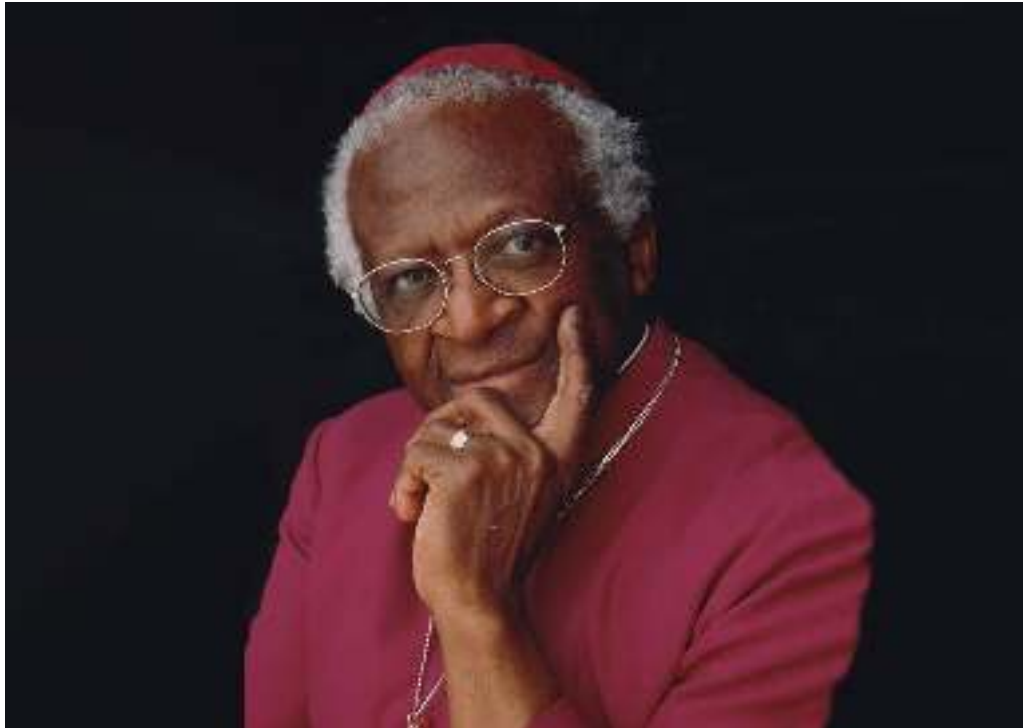
The South African depression and Anxiety group (SADAG) are at the forefront of patient advocacy and education and they can be contacted on 011 234 4837.





## 8TH ANNUAL DESMOND TUTU INTERNATIONAL PEACE LECTURE 2018

BY WINNIE MOBITA



Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

President of South Africa; Mr Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa delivered the 8th Annual Desmond Tutu International Peace Lecture on the evening of Monday 08th October 2018 at the Artscape in Cape Town, a day after Tutu's eighty-seventh (87) birthday. The peace lecture was conceived by Archbishop and Mrs Tutu as an annual opportunity for all humans to take stock of their responsibility in conserving the environment and its resources and restoring the dignity and spirit of Ubuntu amongst us all. We are currently becoming an ever-increasingly destructive and consumptive species when it concerns our mineral resources and fuel riches contained in our soil without taking into consideration how the depletion of these will majorly affect the whole universe.

The standing annual theme for the lecture is peace and reconciliation; these are the goals which the Archbishop devoted his life to. President Ramaphosa's focus on Restorative Justice in South Africa twenty (20) years after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was very direct and unambiguous.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu was unable to attend this year's lecture due to ill-health but watched from his hospital bed as President Ramaphosa addressed the nation. On this occasion, Ramaphosa took the opportunity to raise awareness of the many inequalities within our nation. His emphasis was on gender and economic equality as a means to achieve peace and said: "Peace is not possible in an unequal world. We cannot speak of true freedom when ten (10) percent of the population has more wealth than ninety (90) percent combined. Until we build a South Africa where the wealth is shared among all the people and the land is shared among all who work it, we will not have lasting peace." Ramaphosa made sure not to mince his words and deliver direct blows to the injustices many South Africans face today as a result of Apartheid.

The President also spoke about the hotly contested issue of Land Expropriation without Compensation which is currently receiving much attention both nationally and internationally by giving a robust response to doubters; stating that it is in the interest of social justice and economic development that we ensure that the land is shared among those who work it and need it. He also condemned discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex (LGBTI) people saying that it "demeans our common humanity". President Ramaphosa stated that Archbishop Tutu had coined the term "Rainbow Nation" not out of sentiment but out of experience, and expectation that our nation would become one and remain one in perpetuity. In closing, he called for all South Africans to continue building the unity of our nation, conscious always of the fact that there will be no peace without equality and no reconciliation without justice.

All in attendance gave the President a standing ovation in agreement of his powerful speech.

# RELEASE OF THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL CRIME STATISTICS

BY WINNIE MOBITA

The Northern Cape Premier's Office hosted the presentation of the 2017/2018 Crime Statistics Report on 15th October 2018.

Captain Woodbridge from South African Police Service presented the report which showed a general decrease in crimes across the province, except for cases such as contact sexual offences where bestiality increased. The Premier of the Northern Cape, Ms Sylvia Lucas, noted with pride that the Minister of Police still names the Northern Cape as the safest province to reside in. Many social fibre crimes by community members were reported and it is important to realise that statistics are a representative median of less crime-ridden areas and most crime –ridden areas and an average is drawn from there. It is vital to look at the broader picture because they are not a representation of isolated cities' totals.

Lieutenant General Shivuri reported that the police have intensified their efforts in combatting crime and hence we see the trend of a decrease. The increase in crimes detected by way of police presence shows that SAPS members are increasing visibility. SAPS has started to focus on a "Roadmap to 2019 National Elections" campaign where police will intensify their efforts to combat politically motivated crimes and keep our communities safe during the elections period. The "Junior Commissioner" programme focuses on eighteen to thirty-five year olds with the aim of curbing crimes against the youth while the "Youth on Business" program will promote entrepreneurial spirit amongst those unemployed in our society. The Lieutenant General noted that it is always important for SAPS to work with Community Policing Forums to identify youth for training as reservists and for those over the age of thirty-five to be referred to the Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison for training as street patrol agents.



**MEC Martha Bartlett, Premier Sylvia Lucas, MEC Lebogang Motlhaping and Provincial Police Commissioner Lt. Gen. Peter Shivuri**



**SAPS setting up for presentation**



**Media in attendance**

In conclusion, Premier Lucas commended the South African Police Service for the decrease shown in business related crimes because this shows the situation is not stagnant. There is a decrease in most crimes which have been a concern and although this is good news, we can only be fully satisfied when we can guarantee the complete safety of our communities. Those harbouring criminals are hampering the efforts of our men and women in uniform in creating a safer society for all.

The trust between SAPS and members of society needs to be strengthened so that when one sees the blue uniform, they may be confident and know that their safety is assured.

## CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

BY PERSOME OLIPHANT



**Ms. Zadia Langeveldt and her sister, supporting Cancer Awareness Month**

**W**omen and men, young and old were encouraged to test for cancer during October as South Africa marked Cancer Awareness Month.

At the beginning of October, Ms Zadia Langeveldt, in the office of the Director General, paid homage to her late mother by cutting her hair and colouring them pink, which symbolises lives lost to the disease, and survivors who have defied the odds in fighting the illness. “Hair is a women’s pride, and when I lost my mother to breast cancer 31 years ago I was fearful that I too would get cancer. I am fortunate to be reaching a golden age without cancer.”

During this month stakeholders highlight the importance of personal health and wellness through screenings, information and support. There are five main cancers that affect women; namely breast, cervical, colorectal, lung and uterine cancers. Men are also at risk of cancers namely prostate, colorectal, Kaposi sarcoma (a type of skin cancer), and lung and bladder cancer.

Technology has improved significantly in early detection and care of cancer patients and Langeveldt believes new advancements would have saved her mother’s life. However she acknowledges the strides take by the health practitioners, and the Office of the Premier’s and Employee Health and Wellness units in bringing about awareness and information to staff members. “It’s not a money thing; we can all participate with gestures like cutting and colouring our hair in support of cancer awareness all year round.”

The importance to educate and empower all persons to regularly test for any cancers remains a priority for government departments through their health and wellness centres, giving support in fighting cancer and leading a healthy lifestyle. “There is always a fear that one will get it, but if I do I will fight it,” remarks Langeveldt. She continued to say that she believes one should eat healthy and take care of the body.

With the aim of reducing and detecting any cancer, a screening initiated by Employee health and Wellness was held during November 2018.





## DISABILITY RIGHTS AWARENESS MONTH 2018

BY WINNIE MOBITA

**D**isability Rights Awareness Month is commemorated annually at the start of November till 3rd of December; which is International Day of Persons with Disability. The start of this year's month-long programme was launched on Friday 2nd November 2018 at Boitumelo Special School in Kimberley.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the birth of the founding father of our democracy, Former President Nelson Mandela as well as Mama Albertina Sisulu who are both icons of our revolution; who dedicated their lives to the struggle for freedom and contributed immensely to the birth of the new South African nation.

The theme for 2018 is "A disability- Inclusive South Africa by 2030. Be the Legacy." The purpose is to promote awareness and mobilize support for critical issues relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society as well as to draw attention to the benefits of an inclusive and accessible society for all.

The objective of DRAM2018 is to call on all South Africans to embody the "Thuma Mina" principles in their approach to persons with disabilities by encouraging all sectors to take action and build inclusive communities, to promote social cohesion where adults and children with disabilities are actively contributing to the development of their communities. This is a time to reach out to the diversity within the disability sector by demonstrating how all human rights can and must be enjoyed equally by all persons with disability irrespective of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, type and severity of impairment, socio-economic status, educational qualification level, religion, culture, employment status or nationality.

The Northern Cape Province's programme included donation of books written by disability rights activist to primary and secondary school libraries, hosting dialogues in all five districts on Disability Inclusion, a lecture on Madiba's values at Sol Plaatje University and a Provincial Legislature sitting on Disability Inclusion on 3rd December.



# Disability Rights Awareness Month

A Disability-Inclusive,  
Barrier-Free South Africa  
by 2030. Be The Legacy.

3 November - 3 December 2018



## HEART HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

BY WINNIE MOBITA



The Employee Health and Wellness Unit within the Office of the Premier raised awareness for Heart Health on the 19th of September 2018. All staff members were greeted with a bottle of fresh water and a packet of fruit and condoms upon their arrival in the foyer on the ground floor. They also made sure to distribute pamphlets containing information on how to care for your heart; your most vital organ in the body. There was various information on the different Cardio Vascular diseases; such as Coronary Artery Disease, Valvular Heart Disease, Heart Rhythm Disturbances and Arrhythmias as well as Congenital Heart Disease.

Mr Thekisho; Head of the Employee Health and Wellness Unit; made sure to include the lesser privileged members of our communities by also handing the food packets to vagrants on the streets.

The occasion was also graced by the presence of various MEC's who arrived at the office and ended off with an adrenaline pumping fitness session in the afternoon. Remember to eat a heart-healthy diet and power up your heart!

Left: Employee Health & Wellness staff  
Right: MEC Martha Bartlett and Mr. Job Moshou  
Bottom: OTP staff and community members receive parcels





## OTP HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS

### BY PERSOME OLIPHANT

Staff and senior management from the Office of the Premier (OTP) were encouraged to display and celebrate their cultural diversity throughout the month of September to showcase their heritage.

This was an effort to recognise different aspects of South African cultures and diversity in the Northern Cape Province particularly the Office of the Premier.

Heritage month dress up took place every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from the 12-28 September leading up to Heritage Day celebrations on 24th under a theme, “The Year of Nelson Mandela: Advancing Transformation of South Africa’s Heritage Landscape.”

Under this theme, the Kimberley Hospital was renamed “Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Hospital.” During this celebratory month OTP is committed to strengthening social cohesion, patriotism and transforming, conserving and preserving the South African diverse identity and landscape.

Following Heritage Day on 24 September, staff dressed up in their traditional attire at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre.

Reverend Mbuyiselo Mguzulwa opened the celebrations by leading devotions with employees of different faith based organisations.

Programme Director, Bizzah Mantantana remarked that the purpose of the celebrations was to celebrate different religions, races, ethnic groups and genders to celebrate diversity during the heritage month. “Although we belong to our individual cultures we have to become conscious of one another’s cultures.

Guest speaker and author, Myrah Mashigo-Tshabalala said it was imperative that under this year’s theme in celebrating Tata Madiba, public servants know where they come from in order to make their contribution to the organisation. “This event is about getting feedback on whether Office of the Premier has achieved its objectives in understanding, appreciating and celebrating cultures in the workplace.”



**Programme Director,  
Mr. Bizzah Mantantana**



#### Heritage Day Dress-up Competition winners awarded

Furthermore, Tshabalala added that in forming a successful organisation there needs to be strong leadership and a strong performance culture and this can be achieved through shared values, behaviours and actions. Tshabalala reiterated the importance of the Batho Pele principles and diversity by bridging the gap between management, employees and recipients of basic services.

“We must uphold the Constitution, implement and maintain policies; and if we speak the same language we will be successful in providing efficient services. What we must be aware of is the environmental ambience including being emotionally balanced, working in teams and not groups and revisiting competency to achieve the goals outlined by government,” Tshabalala remarked.

Best dressed employees were announced and received tokens. In concluding Heritage Month, Mr Mantantana said, “Internalise who you are and become that and appreciate your space in the context of OTP.”

# THE PROVINCIAL EXTENDED EXECUTIVE COUNCIL LEKGOTLA 2018

BY MONWABISI NKOMPELA



DG Justice Bekebeke and Premier Sylvia Lucas



MEC's and government officials from various departments

The 2018 Mid-year Executive Council Lekgotla took place on 23rd October in Kimberley and was focussed on the Economic Development Agenda of government with emphasis on the slow growth of the economy; especially in the Agriculture Sector and the Wage Bill.

The Premier of the Northern Cape, Ms Sylvia Lucas, noted in her opening remarks that it was important to reflect on the health of our municipalities relating to infrastructure issues, the rate at which strategic senior positions in departments are filled or left vacant, the stimulus package presented by President Ramaphosa and the medium term budget statement. Premier Lucas made a call on behalf of government for all citizens of the Province to cast their votes in support of Thato who is a young man from Postmasburg competing in the national singing contest Idols 2018 and is flying the Northern Cape flag high. The upcoming Investment Summit which will be hosted by President Ramaphosa provides an opportunity for the various departments to draw investment into the province in all the different sectors.

StatsSA presented a Profile on Education Statistics in the province which indicates a positive reflection with more female learners getting educated and a drop in unemployment rates of

females VS their male counterparts. A good point to note is that the province is also showing a reduced mortality rate and that people are living longer. A huge concern for government however; is that unemployment remains high although skills levels have improved slightly.

The Lekgotla deliberated on the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) which makes an Integrated Urban Development Grant (IUDG) available to qualifying municipalities to address their developmental needs. Sol Plaatje is amongst the five who are eligible for the 2019/2020 IUDG and it is noted with concern that the municipality must be stabilised politically and administratively.

A detailed presentation on Municipal Infrastructure Support was received which covered areas of Governance, Administration, Financial Management and Service Delivery. The Minister of CoGTA has identified 87 Municipalities as distressed and dysfunctional and 8 of these are in the Northern Cape. The interventions to these municipalities, as agreed by the Lekgotla are:

- Recruitment of competent managers in critical senior positions
- Professionalization of Human Resource and Corporate Systems and processes
- Address political infighting and instability; and work with mandating structures
- Promote effective complaints management systems and integrated service delivery models

The Lekgotla will report on the implementation of Integrated Municipal Support Plans (IMSP) regularly and the Provincial Government will provide a status report to the Minister of CoGTA during an oversight visit to the province. Resources will be marshalled in all sector departments towards supporting the identified municipalities to assist in improving their performance. Provincial Administration is mandated to engage the Department of Energy immediately for the Bid Window 5 regarding procurement opportunities analysis across technologies and the progress made with regard to the Implementation of the nine-point plan, with particular focus on the Multi-year projects which are necessary for economic development and job creation is noted.

In closing, Premier Sylvia Lucas remarked; "Colleagues, we can see that we have our work cut out for us in the months ahead."

# PUBLIC SERVICE MONTH

BY PERSOME OLIPHANT



Premier Sylvia Lucas addressing delegates at Sol Plaatje University

**“Thuma Mina”** - Taking Services to the People: We belong, We care, We serve.

Public Service Month commenced on 1 September 2018 following the theme: “An opportunity to collectively address issues of service delivery in the Northern Cape Province”.

At the provincial launch of Constitutional Values and Principles under the premise, “Building a values-driven Public Service through an ethical leadership for service delivery” held on the 14 September, Premier, Mrs Sylvia Lucas stated the importance of the Public Service Month in revitalising and instilling good ethics and professionalism in service delivery.

Speaking at the Sol Plaatje University Auditorium, Premier Lucas said, “All public servants ought to be aware of the link between their actions, attitudes and behaviour and most importantly the values expressed in the Constitution.”

During this month, government is dedicated to monitoring and implementing the 2030 National Development Plan.

Annually, during the month of September we celebrate Public Service Month that serves as a reminder of the work government does to improve the lives of communities. Throughout the month, public servants are expected to engage with communities by visiting police stations, hospitals and courts and take the initiative in cleaning service delivery points and ensuring infrastructure is viable for public use.

Public servants are the custodians of the Batho Pele Principles and this has to be exercised daily, particularly when engaging with communities. This month the spirit is revived in putting the needs of our people first and enforcing the principles in the constitution that guides to render basic services to the public with dignity and respect.

Several activities were planned by the Office of the Premier throughout the month; Thusong Service Week from 17-21 September was held in Roodepan, Beaconsfield, Platfontein and concluded at Tlhokomelo.

Sector departments including the Department of Labour, Northern Cape Premier’s Education Fund, Love Life, Department of Health and National Youth Development Plan and South Africa Social Security Agency and other relevant stakeholders brought the services to people where they could engage on various issues faced by communities.

Premier Lucas stated that although challenges remain in delivering services, many strides have been taken to reduce poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Furthermore a pledge was signed by Premier Lucas committing to promoting and implementing Constitutional values and principles in changing the lives of South Africans for the better.

“I want to urge us that together we must ensure that the spirit of Thuma Mina grows into an unstoppable social movement for change. The renewed mood of optimism and hope is an opportunity to build a better and more inclusive tomorrow,” Premier Lucas remarked.



## HANDING OVER OF SANITARY TOWELS

BY PERSOME OLIPHANT

Staff from Facilities Management under Registry visited Retlameleng Special School to hand over 45 bags of sanitary towels to learners. The school houses 145 learners who have different disabilities such as physical, hearing impairments, deafness and multiple disabilities.

The purpose of the handover was to provide comfort and freedom for girls in the classroom during their monthly cycle.

Office of the Premier (OTP) Records and Security Manager, Mr Edward Springbok encouraged the learners to study to be successful in the future, "It is within you to work hard and be employable. As government we cannot discriminate based on their disabilities therefore the doors are open for all able and disable persons in the workplace."

Retlameleng Deputy Principal, Mr van Zyl said the school offers learners with disabilities the same learning opportunities that of mainstream schools therefore preparing them for the workplace.

Van Zyl and learners in attendance thanked OTP staff members for their contribution.



Retlameleng staff and OTP Facilities Management Unit address learners



OTP staff hand over sanitary towels



Seen Here: Retlameleng Special School learners and OTP staff

# SAWID PROVINCIAL DIALOGUE HELD IN KIMBERLEY

BY WINNIE MOBITA

South African Woman in Dialogue (SAWID) held their eighth Provincial Dialogue Event at the Kimberley City Hall on 17th October 2018. The hall was packed with women from all walks of life who came to support each other and present a unified force against ills perpetrated against women. The women sang songs praising their gender at the tops of their voices, filling the room with a sense of pride and togetherness and creating a tone for the powerful presentations which were to follow. The theme for the day was “Localising the Women’s agenda: Agency, Voice and Solidarity.”

The programme was led by Deputy Director-General from the Northern Cape Premier’s Office, Ms Gugulethu Matlaopane, who was beaming with pride as she spoke about how empowering women to become agents of their own development is of paramount importance. “Women have been victimised and marginalized figures for far too long and it is time for us to make a change”, Matlaopane said.” We are here to fight a system that is hell-bent on breaking us, but we are determined not to be broken. The journey is long but the walk has started and we are steadily on our way to our destination.” She reminded us all of the ripple effect caused by hurting a woman by saying that if something affects a woman, it affects a family, and it will in turn affect the community and thereafter the whole nation. “It is upon us to take the baton and run with it!” These words set the tone for the event as all the women stomped their feet creating drumming sounds and ululated in agreement.

The Provincial Coordinator for SAWID in the Northern Cape, who is also a part of the Northern Cape Premier’s Office Monitoring and Evaluation Unit; Ms Mykie Dipico, spoke with sadness about how young girls and women fall prey to opportunistic male figures in their lives. SAWID is not an organization but rather a platform for ongoing dialogue which engages many different stakeholders who are always putting equality of women first whether it is in the home, at school or at work. She reminded us that the enemy of feminism is in fact not men; but rather patriarchy. Patriarchy is a system in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it.

Mr Tshepo Nosi from the Commission on Gender Equality was among the very few men who were invited to attend the event. His opening quote was by our former President Nelson Mandela: “We have not reached uhuru until women’s rights are materialized.” He gave valuable input around the topic of sexual harassment and its far reaching ramifications and put special emphasis on saying that gender-based violence can only be eradicated with the input and inclusion of men because they are the perpetrators. Sexual harassment is any attention and behaviour of a sexual nature that is unwanted and makes the recipient feel uncomfortable. This includes touching, unwelcome sexual jokes, unwanted questions about the recipient’s sex life, whistling, rude gestures, requests for sex and staring at the recipient’s body in an offensive way. Mr Nosi supports the promotion of equality and access to information for women.



**Premier Sylvia Lucas together with Correctional Services officials**

He believes that we should all support victims as they go to court and fight for their dignity and right to freedom. If we do not invoke our rights, they will remain dormant.

The Premier of the Northern Cape, Ms Sylvia Lucas was the key-note speaker and addressed the crowd with a smile as she called for more gatherings of this nature where women come together to discuss matters that affect them and assist each other. Premier Lucas is a patron of SAWID and has been part of their dialogues since 2003 when women from South Africa and those from the Democratic Republic of Congo convened to share experiences. Women are all facing the same challenges, regardless of race; and yet we tend to look more at what divides us instead of unites us. Women’s gains and achievements are eroded by infighting which is easier than fighting the chauvinistic systems they find themselves in. Premier Lucas called for all women to become assertive and take charge of their own futures.

There is a concept called the “Battered Wife Syndrome” where a woman develops a learned helplessness that causes her to believe she deserves abuse and that she can’t get away from it. This is the type of mentality which dialogues by SAWID desire to break through, to emancipate women from the feelings of helplessness and oppression and create new pathways for younger women to navigate. When we say “Wa thinta umfazi, wa thinta imbhokodo” (you strike a woman, you strike a rock), it refers to a collective of women standing together united. A small pebble standing alone is easier to strike than a collective of pebbles fused together to form a boulder. Women’s strength lies in their unity.



## STATE LAW ADVISORS FORUM

BY PERSOME OLIPHANT



**OTP Legal Services Chief Director, Ms. Gladys Botha**

State law advisors gathered at the Interprovincial forum hosted by the Northern Cape Office of the Premier in Douglas on the 18 and 19 October.

State law advisors from various provinces and departments converged to share their extensive knowledge on successes and challenges experienced by state legal services units from across the country.

The Deputy Director General from the Office of the Premier, Ms Gugulethu Matlaponane, delivered the key note address, encouraging members to reflect on their role as a sector and its relevance to the broader South African community.

Ms Matlaponane remarked that state law advisors should act lawfully and with integrity in advising state employees to reduce the number of litigation cases and thereby reducing the costs government has to incur in the process. “Every time cases are lost, government loses money. State lawyers should act ethically and stand firm under any pressure they are faced with.”

Issues of litigation cases were discussed in depth with solutions for ways to curb the number of cases by working with state employees on improving service delivery. The different provinces also discussed issues around the principle of following the departmental mandate and the specialised functions thereof in state advisors executing their tasks.

Ms Matlaponane concluded, “Stay relevant and remain informed about the legalities of state decisions and laws that regulate issues. We can only improve ourselves armed with the outcomes of this forum’s expertise and knowledge.”



**DDG, Ms Gugulethu Matlaponane**



**State Law Advisors attending the Interprovincial Forum**



## 8th ANNUAL NELSON MANDELA CHILDRENS' PARLIAMENT 2018

BY WINNIE MOBITA

A delegation of staff from the Office for the Rights of the Child within the broader Northern Cape Office of the Premier accompanied ten children to Limpopo for the eighth (8th) Annual Children's parliament which took place on 5 October 2018. The event was hosted by the National Department of Social Development in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and Save the Children South Africa.

The aim of this yearly gathering is to encourage children to exchange ideas about children's rights to safety and protection as enshrined both in the Constitution and the Children's Act. Children have always occupied a special place in Tata Nelson Mandela's heart, so much so that within his first year as President of a democratic South Africa, he launched the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund as a sign of commitment to the well-being of children. The theme for 2018 was "A Mandela in Every Generation: Amplifying the Voices of Children."

Children from all provinces were given the opportunity to participate in policy development and their work will be directly linked to the development of the new National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) and provide input for the National Child Participation Framework. The Northern Cape Province's delegation of children was representative of all five districts within the Province and included learners with disabilities. These learners are from previously disadvantaged backgrounds and highly appreciated the opportunity to come up with input and resolutions to issues that affect them and their peers under identified commissions which included the "Institutionalization of Children's Rights", the "Last Declaration of 2017", and "Violence against Children."

The Northern Cape Provincial Ambassador is fifteen (15) year old Nicholas Malan from Prieska who is responsible with his team of District Ambassadors to conduct various projects and deliver a comprehensive report at next year's gathering of the Children's Parliament. The District Ambassadors are Diketso Moholwe (15), Jacque Olyn (16), Reginald Coetzee (17), Tshwanelo Lekgetho (16), Keamogetse Modise (14), Nyakallo Gaobosi (13), Alexandra Nieuw-eveldt (15), Yonela Blouw (15) and Tlotleng Galobewe (18).

The team from the Office of the Rights of the Child were very proud of the serious and diligent manner the Northern Cape Child delegates took this opportunity and conducted themselves in an exemplary manner. Moreover they represented the province spectacularly on this national stage and we wish them best of luck in all their current projects as well as all their future endeavours. It was certainly a joy to behold their collective efforts, thereby indicating that our future looks promising indeed.

## A NOTE ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE BY WINNIE MOBITA

The Northern Cape Premier's Office is currently in the process of implementing changes in the organisational structure which was approved in February 2017. The implementation process is designed to be open and transparent and one where there will be no job losses. There will also be no negative effect on the outcome of the performance assessment processes.

The management task team is responsible for facilitating participation from all levels within the organisation. There are posts which have been prioritized in terms of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework Human Resources Plan. The department is in a process of Job description review and evaluation. Preparations are also being made for a skills audit and training needs assessment and programmes are currently being invited to nominate individuals to form part of the various change management structures within the department to ensure optimal levels of participation in the structure implementation process.

This process is of extreme importance because its success is a determining factor for the quality of the job evaluation, placement, recruitment, as well as skills audit and training needs assessment processes. It must be taken in a positive light as the change is steering towards improvement of the department in bringing about different efficiencies underpinned by a common purpose: to deliver the best service we possibly can to the people of the Northern Cape.

# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OUTREACH IN JOHN TAOLO GAETSEWE

BY MICHAEL LEBAKENG

The Premier of the Northern Cape, Ms. Sylvia Lucas, and the Provincial Executive Council completed a successful four-day Cabinet outreach from the 02 October 2018 till the 04 October 2018 to the John Taolo Gaetsewe District.

The Executive outreach programme is aimed at strengthening intergovernmental relations and to improve the capacity of Government in implementing integrated service delivery programmes. This programme also places the Provincial Government in a position to assess the implementation of service delivery to the areas that are visited as well as focus on service delivery challenges facing the communities in these regions.

Members of the Provincial Executive were accompanied by the Director General, senior officials of Government, municipal Mayors and councillors as well as officials from the respective municipalities in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District. The Northern Cape Province is known for its vast distances and remote areas that are often not within accessible reach of Government Departments, for this reason the Executive Council decided that the outreach would target mainly the most remote areas because everyone regardless of their location have a right to service delivery. This outreach saw the Executive council visiting areas such as Sesheng (Mapoteng), Galothlare and Wrenchville.

The Outreach was two-fold in nature; firstly Ms. Lucas and the MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), Mr. Bentley Vass, met with the Traditional leaders in the District because they are represented at the Provincial House as well as the local House of Traditional leaders. Traditional leaders have previously been solely responsible for service delivery in the areas that fall under their jurisdiction. Under this new dispensation, Government realises the importance of placing traditional leadership at the centre of development in these rural villages.

A Second leg of the outreach was allowing community members an opportunity to interact directly with Members of the Executive Council on service delivery challenges and to seek direct intervention from some of the Provincial Government departments. Service delivery departments also delivered services to community members, whilst MECs conducted unannounced visits to service delivery points. Early Childhood Development Centres and schools were supplied with much needed educational toys and sporting equipment.



Community members in attendance during the EXCO in JTG

- Office of the Premier had a meeting Female Farmers and Tswelopele Old age group
- The MEC of Roads and Public Works, Mxolisa Sohatsha visited the Legobatse paving project in the Mentu village to access the progress of the project.
- In the war on poverty, families in were also supplied with food parcels.
- Visiting of live Stock Project by Department of Agriculture
- Meeting with Health structures by the MEC
- Information dissemination on school bursaries and Cuba Medical Programme
- Handing over of cheque to Patliso Day Care Centre by the Department of Social Development.

Issues that caused concern to community members were largely water, road infrastructure, agriculture, electricity, health and employment. These concerns raised by the community members have been noted by the respective MEC's who will return to the communities with tangible solutions to their concerns.

Throughout the visit, Ms. Lucas stressed the need for Government to work with greater speed to address the challenges faced by the respective communities. The Premier also encouraged the community to assist Government with the shortages experienced in the health personnel by submitting names of qualifying students that can be trained as nurses and doctors in order to plough back to the communities where they come from.

## TIPS FOR ETHICS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

BY WINNIE MOBITA

**E**thics is every public servants business. According to the National School of Government's "Ethics in the Public Service" Resource Document; being ethical is about distinguishing between what is morally right and wrong with the purpose of doing what is right. Ethics is about how we ought to live, treat others, make decisions, run or manage our lives and organizations beyond the demands of laws and regulations.

In the public sector, government employees are stewards of the public and should act in their best interests. This is a broad topic because values and morals vary between cultures. Although this may be so, there must be an accountability standard by which the public will scrutinize the work being conducted by members of an organization. It is important for employees to reflect on the decisions they make and their impact from the moral point of view of the citizens they serve. Ethics in the public sector is an attempt to create a more open atmosphere within governmental operations.

Officials are there to serve the people by managing state resources allocated to them and there is an expectation that they will practice fairness, equality and maintain openness in their workings. They must treat their jobs as a means of helping people and not for dominating them. Even the smallest amount of misbehaviour can do a vast amount of harm because issues such as bribery and corruption have a negative effect on a citizen's confidence in the state and diminish the effectiveness of services which are meant to improve the lives of people. When faced with an issue where one is questioning one's ethical principles, one's decision must be able to withstand scrutiny to ensure a constant trust and respect for accountability among government employees and the public in the official's ability to conduct one's duties.

Public servants who emulate the Batho Pele Principles contribute to ensuring a positive image of the public service, enhanced service delivery, citizen confidence in the public service, investor confidence and efficient, effective utilization of state resources.

**The Batho Pele principles are as follows:**

### **1.Consultation-**

Citizens should be consulted about the level and quality of public services they receive and wherever possible, should be given a choice about the services that are offered.

### **2.Service Standards-**

Citizens should be told what level and quality of public service they will receive so they are aware of what to expect.

### **3.Access-**

All citizens should have equal access to the services to which they are entitled.

### **4.Courtesy-**

Citizens should be treated with courtesy and consideration.

### **5.Information-**

Citizens should be given full and accurate information about the public services they are entitled to receive.

### **6.Openness and transparency-**

Citizens should be told how national and provincial departments are run, how much they cost and who is in charge.

### **7.Redress-**

If the promised standard of service is not delivered, citizens should be offered an apology, a full explanation and a speedy and effective remedy; and when complaints are made, citizens should receive a sympathetic, positive response.

### **8.Value for money-**

Public services should be provided economically and efficiently in order to give citizens the best possible value for money.



## WORLD FOOD DAY 2018

BY RENNIE ANDRIAS & PERSOME OLIPHANT



Premier Sylvia Lucas and MEC Norman Shushu

**W**orld Food Day was commemorated on the 16 October 2018 to observe the plight of millions of people who are undernourished across the globe. The province joined the rest of the world by celebrating this important day under the theme, “Our actions are our future. #A zero hunger world by 2030 is possible.”

This year The Premier of the Northern Cape Office, Mrs Sylvia Lucas, together with her executive gathered at the Postmasburg Show Grounds to bring to light hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Addressing attendees, Premier Lucas remarked that food and access to clean water together with a healthy environment and housing remains basic human rights for all citizens.

During her keynote address to the community of Tsantsbane, Premier Lucas said that food security is a key priority for every developing state. The Premier also indicated that the provincial government had employed a number of initiatives to ensure that all families in the province are cushioned against hunger and starvation, one of the initiatives being the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme championed by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

Government has set aims in place, namely revitalising global and national solidarity against hunger, developing participation of vulnerable persons in decision making on their living conditions, improving agricultural activities for food security and stimulating agricultural production and trade for the marginalised to combat hunger and poverty.

The Premier acknowledged that agriculture in the province plays an important role in subsistence and smallholder farming and has therefore a key role in achieving food security.

Premier Lucas also committed her government to continue to expand the school nutrition scheme to cover more vulnerable school kids in the province. Before the commencement of the official programme the Premier, MEC Shushu and MEC Sokatsha visited two agricultural sites in the Tsantsbane municipal area that seek to ensure food security for rural people in the Skeifontein area.

“I want to conclude by stating that eradicating hunger must be met with extraordinary efforts. The right of access to sufficient food is enshrined in Section 27 of the Constitution of this country, and we will make sure that we honour our Constitutional mandate,” Premier Lucas stated.



Premier Sylvia Lucas delivering speech



Community members in attendance

## CUSTODA TRUST GRADUATION 2018

BY PERSOME OLIPHANT

The Premier of the Northern Cape Province, Mrs. Sylvia Lucas, celebrated with Early Childhood Development (ECD) graduates at the Gamagara Town Hall in Kathu on 5 October 2018.

Speaking at the prestigious event, Premier Lucas remarked that: “Investment in early childhood development is thus the most powerful investment in human capital that a country can make, with compounding returns as skills beget skills. There is also an extensive body of evidence that effective early childhood development improves cognitive scores and learning outcomes at school, and if taken to scale, can reduce the schooling gap by more than one and a half years.”

The graduates are now qualified practitioners and will take their new set of skills back to their Early Childhood Development centres. During the course students completed a first aid course which includes pediatric first aid, trauma counseling, basic care of parents and children living with HIV/AIDS.

Renewable Energy Investments of South Africa sponsored students from Kathu, De Ben and Olifantshoek. Additionally, students hailing from Skyfontein, Postmasburg and Jen Haven were also provided with a grant from the Sishen Iron Ore Company Community Development Trust to complete an ECD qualification.

Mr. John Siyoko from the Custoda Trust remarked that the purpose of the ECD programme was to, “Enhance the quality of education and training and to accelerate the redress of the past unfair discrimination in education, training and employment opportunities by contributing to the full personal development of each learner and the social and economic development of the nation at large.”

Siyoko congratulated the learners by encouraging them that: “Maintain your enthusiasm, remain students, enhance relationships with your young learners, the parents and colleagues. Work diligently and be fair to all.”

Chief Executive Officer of REISA Solar Facility, Cook House, Wind Farm and Umoya, Mr Ryan Hammond remarked that five communities in the Gamagara area would benefit from the EDC programme with optimal results in childhood development through the education of practitioners.

Premier Lucas remarked that government and the private sector would continue working together to address social and economic challenges to improve the lives of communities.

## NORTHERN CAPE TEACHING AWARDS 2018

BY PERSOME OLIPHANT

The Provincial Government together with the Department of Education celebrated and honoured excellence in Education on 29 October 2018.

The auspicious occasion took place at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre and was witnessed by various stakeholders in the education and teaching fraternity.

Attending the ceremony, the Premier of the Northern Cape, Mrs Sylvia Lucas commended the efforts of those in the education sector for contributing to the positive impact in society by way of their excellence in teaching. “Teachers are at the heart of the Education system. They take it upon themselves to guide, creating the time and space for learners to better understand themselves, their strengths and weaknesses and even interests and passions,” Premier Lucas remarked.

The Provincial Teaching Awards takes place yearly and nominates and adjudicates the quality of service and impact of educators in all districts in the Northern Cape by choosing well deserving recipient.

Premier Lucas further remarked that: “We all know our teachers go beyond the classroom to take care of our children. A teacher’s care has always made a great impact on a learner’s holistic development, and on his or her overall social and emotional well-being.”

Premier Lucas encouraged teachers to continuously enrich and empower themselves by using opportunities in up-skilling and improving through self-development and related methods.



## GEMS DAY 2018

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PERSOME OLIPHANT





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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Thank you!

## NOVEMBER 2018

19	JTG Kuruman
20	Pixley Ka Seme
21	FBDM (Warrenton)
22	ZFM (Upington)
23	Namakwa (Springbok)
27	Lecture on Madiba values at Sol Plaatje University
	<b>Other Events</b>
	• Launch of the month-long programme
	• Launch of the 16 Days Campaign

## DECEMBER 2018

03	DRAM Provincial Legislature Sitting
	<b>Other Events</b>
	• World AIDS Day Commemorations
	• International Day of Persons with Disabilities
	• Close of the 16 Days programme
	• Media promos on Arrive Alive, Christmas and New Year
	• Christmas parties with Elderly, Women and Youth