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EASTERN CAPE
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS



COGTA *Newsletter*

APRIL-JUNE 2024

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MEC Williams

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EDITORIAL COMMENT



Editor: Ms Thando Sonjica

Welcome to the June issue of Cogta News. This quarter was busy in the calendar of South Africa due to the National and Provincial Elections 2024 which were declared free and fair by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). At national level we saw the ushering of Government of National Unity wherein various parties work together in good faith and seek to build consensus on the formation of a functional government because no political party received an outright majority for a government on its own.

Also, of significance this quarter was the ushering in of the 7th administration and the swearing in of new members of the EC legislature which saw MEC Zolile Williams redeployed to the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

Congratulating the MEC on his return the acting Head of Department (AHoD), Mr Vuyo Mlokothe said this reaffirms the good service delivery work and departmental stability we achieved under the stewardship of MEC Williams. "The redeployment further signifies continuity in the grand trajectory towards the creation of better communities in

our quest to build the Eastern Cape we want. Ours is to support his vision of an integrated, capable, responsive and accountable local government and traditional institution system focusing on the needs of the communities," said Mr Mlokothe.

On the other hand, the Province experienced disasters in the form of floods in the Buffalo City and Nelson Mandela Bay Metro municipalities resulting in deaths, destruction of infrastructure, flooded informal settlements thus people were displaced. MEC Williams visited Kariega and other areas worst affected by the floods to offer support and establish teams to assess the area. The areas was later declared disaster area to allow the release budget to rebuild and restore people's lives. Read more about this on page 3

Take time to read about other programmes that the department was involved in during this quarter and enjoy.

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

MOOTS DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

By Vuyani Sibene

Last month MEC Zolile Williams visited and aided flood victims in Kariega, which is the worst affected area in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) by the recent floods. He was accompanied by the Bay's Executive Mayor (EM) Councillor Gary Van Niekerk, Member of Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Human Settlements Councillor Thembinkosi Mafana and the Mr Mario Ferreira Gift of the Givers.

MEC Williams had this to say, "The magnitude of the rain was 272 mm thus our drainage systems could not handle it. This led to serious deviations, horrible scenes where the road infrastructure was swept away in KwaNobuhle. Flooding affected the clinic on the side of the bridge and therefore the communities could not access it." He said the challenge of flooded storm water drainage system in municipalities has been a challenge hence Cogta's Disaster Risk Assessment Strategy (DRAS).

"We want all government departments and municipalities to put aside 2% of budget towards disaster response which will be a maintenance operation strategy. This will be instructive as a non-negotiable to managers and municipal managers to account for it," said MEC Williams.

540 people have been evacuated and placed in the community halls regrettably seven died. The heavy rains damaged road infrastructure, bridges, electricity power stations, sewerage networks and residential areas in Kariega and KwaNobuhle leaving communities with no running water because of the flooding.

The EM Councillor Van Niekerk said one thousand residents were evacuated in Lapland informal settlements in Kariega due to adverse weather conditions.

"We offered assistance to the affected community members at the United Reformed Church in Kariega with beds, towels, food, water, blankets, nappies, sanitary towels, clothes and shoes", said EM Councillor Van Niekerk.

He added that people in households that have been negatively impacted have been evacuated as follows;

- Kuyga 530,
- KwaDwesi, Qunu 200
- Langa and Greenfields 89
- Kariega (Kamesh/Central) 153

Acting Executive Director of Safety and Security at the NMBM, Commissioner Andrew Moses said the severely affected people are those in informal settlements and are above 1 300 (one thousand three hundred).

"Communities have been directed to the nearest shelters in the following areas, Kuyga Hall, Booyens Park Hall, Qunu Soup Kitchen, Qaba Hall, Missionvale, Witteklip, Daleview Hall, George Botha Hall," said Commissioner Moses.

He said the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), South African Police Service (SAPS), the Disaster Management Centre of the Metro, the Metro Police, Gift of the Givers were on the ground helping the affected people. The Industrial Hub of Kariega, he said had been adversely affected and road closures in and out of Kariega have been conducted.

"The schools will be affected and the transportation around Kariega disrupted. Due to the road closures, there will be traffic congestion between Gqeberha and Kariega. Factories in Kariega have been affected due to power failure in Kariega and the Kyla electricity power stations," he said.

In addition, Commissioner Moses said officials from the Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) were on the ground assessing the costs of the disaster and afterwards a declaration and submit a report to the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) for a decision.



L-R: Commissioner Andrew Moses- Acting Executive Director Safety and Security (NMBM), Mayor Van Niekerk (NMBM), MEC Williams

Salga Urges Municipalities TO UPDATE PREPAYMENT SYSTEM

By Nosiphiwo Vokovi

The Cogta Communication Directorate hosted a two-day Local Government Communicators Forum (LGCF) session after the general elections 2024 in Hogsback in June 2024.

Addressing the Forum on the Standard Transfer Specification (STS), Ms Sandiswa Pholo from the South African Local Government Association (Salga) said this is a global standard system for the transfer of electricity and other utility prepayment tokens used by municipalities to measure and charge for water and electricity services.

She highlighted that the meter number system was now outdated and needed to be changed with the times.

"Hence all municipalities are requested to update the Token Identifier (TID) that is referenced to a base date of 1993 and will run out of range by 24 November 2024. All prepayment meters based on STS technology will stop dispensing on the 24 November 2024," added Ms Pholo.

As per the norm, communicators from all 39 municipalities around the Eastern Cape gathered to discuss challenges, achievements thus empower one another through sharing of best practices. The objectives of the first quarter forum among others were to receive feedback on the National and Provincial Elections 2024, share best practices and the profiling of success stories of the 30 years of Freedom.

Ms Pholo said, "if municipalities do not reset their prepayment meters before the due date, they could face loss of sales and revenue collection."

"Some customers may bypass the prepayment meters resulting in huge non-technical issues. Electrical theft will mostly likely be on the increase," said Ms Pholo.

She also shared the Eastern Cape Dashboard as in 18-06-2024 which showed the percentages of meters reset and of outstanding meter reset.

"The percentage of outstanding meter reset is still high. The municipalities that have not started the update are urged to start immediately. Ongoing data collection from municipalities is required so that the dashboard is up-to-date and presents an accurate status quo of the STS TID rollover prepayment meter reset in South Africa," said Ms Pholo.

Opening the session Ms Lwandlekazi Mapekula from the Amathole and BCM District Support Centre said the platform provides for the sharing of best practices by learning from one another and stay updated on the latest trends in communication.

"Communication plays a crucial role in ensuring effective communication between government and the public. By facilitating this Forum, Cogta seeks to enhance the skills of communicators," said Ms Mapekula.



Ms Pholo

Communicators Enlightened ABOUT GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY

By Nosiphiwo Vokovi

Speaking on day one of the LGCF meeting about the establishment of the Government National Unity (GNU) the Executive Director of Rivonia Circles Mr Lukhona Mnguni said this is a broad coalition government consisting of all parties or major parties that support it. It is usually formed during a time of war or another national emergency.

Mr Mnguni said the GNU came when no one was expecting it because it introduced itself slowly in the lives of South Africans when they were not watching.

"I think that is where we are now as a country, and everyone is nervous. We live in an environment of uncertainty, and I think for us to be able to go forward, we need to accept this new environment of uncertainty and not be in denial," We should ask ourselves why we are here now and what does this potentially mean for politics and government. The road to the 2026 Local Government Elections is going to be extremely bumpy," he added.

"I am just talking about mapping out what is the political landscape and environment of South Africa that we will be part of navigating. Many people because of proximity to local government when they do not understand the ways government operates, they revolt or complain to municipalities because their first point of government is through municipalities," said Mr Mnguni.

He said Chapter 3 in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa talks about Cooperative Governance because the country is not a federal state rather unitary, meaning most or all the governing power resides with the central government.

"So, we are here today because people are tired of politics and government. The GNU is going to demand a highly competent and independent public service because this it has come with both opportunities and challenges. As communicators, you need to step out and be ready for this uncertain environment that we are entering," said Mr Mnguni.



Mr Mnguni fifth from left with the rest of the Municipal Communicators

Two Day Session HOSTED FOR HEADMEN AND HEADWOMEN

By Thando Sonjica

A two-day session to reorientate recognised Traditional Leaders in particular headman and headwomen of the Rharhabe Kingdom was organised in Stutterheim in the Amahlathi Local Municipality.

The topics covered included Policies and Legislation on Traditional Leadership, Support to Traditional Leadership Institutions for functionality, Legal Framework Applying Policy and Legislation Being Ethical and Accountable and the Management of Finances in a Traditional Council (TC).

Outlining the purpose of the day, Ms Dumza Vuba, the Chief Director for Traditional Institutional Support Services and Capacity Building said it was to advise headmen and headwomen on their roles and responsibilities and the support provided to the Institution of Traditional Leadership. She said they have been giving support to on inducting senior traditional leaders.

"We want the institution to realise its constitutional and customary obligations with a particular focus on headmen and women. We have since realised that we have not done justice to other layers of traditional leaders as some of you were recognised even before orientation was introduced. This is our first group to remind them about the laws and responsibilities outlined in the legislation that governs traditional leaders," said Ms Vuba.

On the roles and responsibilities of headmen and headwomen, Mr Kenneth Manganyi, Deputy Director for Traditional Leadership Policy and Legislation Development said traditional leaders perform roles and responsibilities bestowed to them by the Act of Parliament.

He said Section 25 of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders Act (TKLA) makes provision for the allocation of roles to the institutions of traditional leadership and traditional Leaders, by either a National or provincial sphere of government.

"However, the roles to be allocated to the institution or traditional leaders by a national or provincial department may not include any decision-making power. When allocating roles to any layer of the institution or traditional leaders, the relevant department must obtain concurrence of the Minister and consult the National House of Traditional Leaders. In the case of the national department or MEC responsible for Traditional Affairs and consult the Provincial House in case of the Provincial Department."

He added that a traditional leader, in the case of headmen or headwomen, in consultation with members of the relevant TC must administer the affairs of an administrative area.

"They must convene and report to meetings of an administrative area, carry out any functions for traditional leaders as may from time to time be determined by the Premier by Notice in the Provincial Gazette. They must also maintain law and order and report to the Premier through the relevant TC any matter of concern, including any condition or unrest or dissatisfaction," said Mr Manganyi.

Mr Manganyi said when performing these legislative functions, a headman or headwoman may not become a member or take part in any activities, or in any manner which promote the object of any organisation whose aims or activities involve "the unconstitutional overthrow of the government, propaganda of war, the incitement of hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion, and that which constitutes incitement to cause harm."

With regards to responsibilities, all recognised Traditional Leaders have the responsibility to keep proper records of activities or programmes implemented within the jurisdiction of their relevant administrative area.

"They have to disclose to the Premier, the receipt of gifts with a value above an amount as may be determined by the Minister or Premier. They further need to disclose the value of gifts from a single source which cumulatively exceed the amount determined by the Minister or Premier in one calendar year," explained Mr Manganyi.



L-R Mr Manganyi, Director of Traditional Affairs Capacity Building, Ms Zothani & Ms Vuba

Headmen And Headwomen EQUIPPED BY THE ORIENTATION SESSION

By Thando Sonjica

Reflecting on the two-day reorientate session and challenges Nkosi Stanley Phakamile Makinana from Tshabo village said the issue of declaring gifts and doing business with the state, this law was unfair in that they were not fully employed but receive a stipend. He suggested that the law should apply to senior traditional leaders who are fully employed.

Nkosi Makinana said in his area there was high rate of crime and people are selling drugs. Cases are reported to the South African Police Services (SAPS) but those cases do not get anywhere. "We suspect that (some) police are also involved," he said.

Nkosi Selborne Cecane of the Zulu Kama TCI in Shiloh said they sometimes clashed with Councillors when doing their work. He claimed that some Councillors would call meetings that clash with theirs and people would often attend those called by Councillors because they had better incentives like job opportunities.

"Our other challenge is the demarcation of sites where members of communities just allocate sites in areas that are earmarked for agricultural production. Our laws are weak because even if we reprimand them nothing gets done to those who do land grabs. We would like the department to call us and Councillors in one room to discuss working together to develop our communities," said Nkosi Cecane.

Traditional leaders also said they request training on computer skills, format for reporting and tools of trade.

This is what they had to say,

"The title of headman or headwoman does not sit well with us as it has bad connotations. We are grateful to have been part of the two-day session to equip us about our work and the relevant legislation related there to."



Back row L-R: Ms Ntombolwandle Pato and Ms Ntombizodwa Ngqondi
Front row L-R: Ms Nontembiso Malefane and Ms Nombulelo Dyantyi

Nkosi Phakamile Makinana

Engagement Session WITH BOKOENA AND NGUNI TO EASE TENSIONS

By Vuyani Sibene

Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane accompanied by Cogta MEC Zolile Williams held an engagement session with key stakeholders of the Bakoena Traditional Council (BTC) at Likhethlane Administrative Area in Matatiele in April 2024. The purpose of the visit was to ease tensions between the BTC and Amagcina in the Nguni TC emanating from leadership and land demarcation disputes. This resulted in the BTC seeking audience with the Provincial Government leadership.

Speaking at the meeting MEC Williams said he promised the two TC that he would bring along the Premier, because he knew and understood the importance of traditional leadership in the Province.

"We also understand that the process of recognition should be handled with care and respect," said MEC Williams.

Premier Mabuyane promised to bring the matter to the attention of the Traditional Investigative Committee on Claims and Disputes.

"The Committee has been set up to ensure fairness and transparency in the process of recognising traditional leaders in our Province. I understand the importance of traditional leadership and how the process of recognition should be handled with care and respect," I thank Nkosi Lebenya for handling the matter with care and peace" said Premier Mabuyane.

Major General Majikijela the District Commander of the SAPS in Alfred Nzo, thanked all political and traditional leaders and stakeholders for attending the meeting and paving the way forward to prevent unprotected strikes and protests.



L-R Nkosi Lebenya, Traditional Leaders, MEC Williams & Premier Mabuyane

Minister Burns Ncamashe LAUNCHES THE REIMAGINED CWP IN GQEBERA

By Thando Sonjica

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) Deputy Minister, Prince Zolile Burns-Ncamashe, launched the Eastern Cape leg of the reimagined Community Work Programme (CWP), focused on forging Smart Partnerships for amplified impact. The launch in the Eastern Cape followed the Gauteng leg launched by Deputy Minister Parks Tau on 26 April 2024, in West Rand District Municipality, under the theme "Mobilizing Public and Private Sector Smart Partnerships for an Impactful CWP toward Artisan and Enterprise Development."

Deputy Minister Burns-Ncamashe was joined by the Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane, MEC for Cogta, Zolile Williams, Transport Deputy Minister Lisa Mangcu, Executive Mayor of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro Cllr Gary van Niekerk as well as the Eastern Cape Chairperson of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders (HoTKL) Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadiso.

The CWP, a Branch within the Department of Cooperative Governance, has been strategically redesigned to ensure collaborative partnerships between government, businesses, and civil society, ensuring tangible outcomes and visible results. Speaking at the launch Deputy Minister said with a renewed emphasis on skills development, particularly in technical and artisanal fields, the reimagined CWP aims to enhance employability and foster entrepreneurship, with a special focus on youth, women, and persons with disabilities.

"Aligned with the all-government and society principle of the District Development Model (DDM) the Smart Partnerships initiative recognizes the necessity of a collective effort from both public and private sectors to address socio-economic challenges and deliver efficient services to citizens," said Deputy Minister. Giving a message of support at the event, Chairperson of the HoTKL, Nkosi Gwadiso said young people were at the centre of thefts and other related criminal activities in urban and rural areas. "This is indicative of social economic challenges that are engulfing our communities. I hope this launch will turn the tide in improving the lives of the

people of South Africa," said Nkosi Gwadiso.

In his key-note address Premier Oscar Mabuyane said government was bringing another initiative that was earmarked to create work opportunities in the Province of the Eastern Cape. "The Provincial target for the CWP is 47,000 work opportunities. Therefore, we are quite resolute in ensuring that the CWP is a success and that it benefits its intended recipients," said Premier Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane.



L-R Deputy Minister Burns-Ncamashe, Premier Oscar Mabuyane & COGTA Assistant Director Mr Vuyani Sibene

CDW Official Assist Youth TO GET SKILLS THROUGH ACSA PROGRAMMES

By Vuyani Sibene

Twenty-nine (29) young people, women and people with disabilities are elated beneficiaries after completing a 12-month skills training and development course, thanks to a Community Development Worker (CDW) of Ward 46 Coga's Mr Mthetheleli Sydney Matyila. The course was under auspice of the Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) and Socio-Economic Development (SED) programme under the King Phalo Airport. Mr Matyila said the inaugural 12-month course focused on carpentry and solar energy.

"A group of eighteen (18) candidates, fifteen (15) of whom are women, completed the carpentry course, which included training on roofing, door fitting and window frame and ceiling installation. Beneficiaries were trained and prepared to take advantage of new opportunities in the wood technology sector," said Mr Matyila.

He said the solar energy course was completed by eleven (11) beneficiaries from the communities surrounding the Airport. The curriculum included, business planning, financial management, market research, effective communication and entrepreneurship.

Participants in both courses had to have Grades 10, 11, and 12 qualifications with mathematics or mathematics literacy as a subject. The curriculum for both courses also included business development training, marketing, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship training. This was to empower the graduates to start their own businesses, he said.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony the King Phalo Airport Manager, Ms Nicola Smith said they were proud of the students who completed the courses.

"This is the first time we are running these SED projects, and I am satisfied to say that both have been resounding successes. I would extend a word of thanks to our implementing partner, Great North Business Incubator (GNBI) which provided the training intervention. They have done an excellent job to ensure that the graduates received the proper training and skills development that will set them on the road to future success," said Ms Smith.

She said GNBI was positioned to advance the successful development of entrepreneurial companies through a basketful of business support resources and services mainly through low-cost shared space, and professional services.

Ms Smith added that from conducting interviews and recruiting suitable beneficiaries to drafting the programmes and conducting the training, GNBI has been the backbone of these SED initiatives. They have also been instrumental in establishing key partnerships with the Department of Labour for selection, Cogta for community engagement and other key stakeholders who supported these projects," says Smith.

"Strategic partnerships are very important to us as ACSA, so I would also like to extend special thanks to Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality that supported these training courses by providing participants with opportunities to get extensive on-the-job training, as well as the local Ward Councillors who galvanized communities with Mr Matyila the CDW of Ward 46 to take part in our initiatives."

Smith noted that these SED projects speak to ACSA's vision to positively impact and uplift local communities through skills development, making sure that the communities living close to the airport particularly benefit from these initiatives and become successful entrepreneurs, business owners and employers.

"As ACSA, part of our mandate is to transform the local aviation industry and investing in such SED projects ensures that these entrepreneurs become part of our supply chain and participate in work that assists with positioning ACSA as a social and economic catalyst to the region," she said.

"By helping these graduates open their own companies, we can uplift the region and transform our supply chain at the same time. Our SED programmes have thus evolved from simple handouts to teaching our communities to build sustainable business opportunities. It is about job creation and entrepreneurship; enabling our graduates to employ other people so that their communities can benefit from this multiplier effect."

While these SED initiatives have been deemed a success, Ms Smith noted that ACSA will continue to monitor the newly established companies for the next year or two to assess their growth and experience and ensure that they can meaningfully participate in the ACSA value chain soon.



Beneficiaries of a twelve month skills training & Mr Matyila in white shirt standing in front

RAS Assists Municipalities TO AVOID LOSING FUNDS

By Nosiphiwo Vokovi

Presenting the Risk Adjusted Strategy (RAS) during day two of the LGCF, Mr Vuyo Madini Deputy Director of Municipal Infrastructure Services at Cogta said the RAS was introduced by the MEC for Cogta to attend to under expenditure of various grants in municipalities. "RAS is not here to change the policies rather to make sure that municipalities spend their grant allocations to avoid the risk of losing funds," said Mr Madini. He said municipalities were expected to spend 40% of their grants in December and failure to do so the funds will be taken away.

"So, the RAS was developed so that we achieve 60% far above the official threshold. Municipal Managers in all municipalities are chief implementers of the programme and all the Mayors are expected to oversee the program," explained Mr Madini.

He said the MEC for Cogta, Zolile Williams convenes quarterly progress meetings with municipal leadership on the implementation of RAS implementation.

"We look for expenditure on grants, procurement timelines because one of the issues that affect planning and implementation of projects is delays in procurement including late registration and late preparation of projects. Contractors that do not have adequate funding to begin projects, poor contract management and poor programme management and the issue of rollovers in areas where there are no CFOs, are some of the challenges," he said.

Mr Madini said Cogta, focused on eight (8) major grants the province is receiving in the past five (5) years to the tune of R34 billion. He added that the Province lost, in the same period R2,5 billion of what was allocated due to unspent funds.

Mr Madini said they also host District sessions to check progress in the implementation and challenges encountered. These sessions are also attended by sector departments to resolve challenges.



Mr Madini

Post Election SYNTHESIS REPORT PRESENTED TO LGCF

By Nosiphiwo Vokovi

Mr Moferefere Moloi, Director of Communication from National department of Cogta presented the Elections Synthesis Report 2024. He said post the report, conversations in the country have shifted from elections to forming a government. In this case, he said, talk was about the GNU and Grand Coalitions because everyone was starting to realize that no party has received the majority votes to govern on its own.

Mr Moloi said some of the headlines from the different media were about coalition government or GNU. He added that there were 27 782 081 registered voters, and the turnout was 58,57%, with 16 .3 million people voting which is 59% of registered voters.

"The voter turnout had dropped from the previous elections which was about 66%. This is an indication on how we should prepare better for the upcoming local government elections. Our challenge now is to advocate for citizens to make their voices heard. The challenge for us as communicators is how do we activate responsive citizens to take part in the 2026 elections."

In addition, he said some issues encountered in the 2024 elections included misinformation and disinformation and Artificial Intelligence. These issues, he said, will require communicators to "be more vigilant as we are building up to local government elections so that we can provide the accurate communication in this regard."

"Our currency as communicators is around the accuracy of the messages we provide, the reliability of our platforms so that people can go to and get reliable information. We need to make sure that our platforms are constantly updated with the relevant information, provide accurate and information. Let us look at the lessons learnt and prepare better for upcoming local government elections," said Mr Moloi.



Mr Moloi