



dpwr

Department:
Public Work and Roads
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa

ModiriMolema Road
Old Parliament Complex
Provincial Head Office
Mmabatho, 2735
Private Bag X 2080, Mmabatho, 2735
Tel.: +27 (18) 388 4551
Fax: +27 (18) 388 1988
Website: www.nwpg.gov.za/public_works

Department acknowledge role of Social Workers...

Date: Monday, July 19, 2021

As part of celebrating Mandela Day, MEC Molapisi and senior managers of the department were deployed in four districts for surprise visits to spend their 67 minutes or more with departmental social workers. The objective of this initiative was to recognise the sterling work that social workers have been doing since the outbreak of Covid-19 in 2019.

The MEC and the managers assisted the social workers with, among others, compiling weekly Covid-19 infection statistics and collating the registers for employees registered for vaccination.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 last March social workers' workload increased significantly as a result of more people requiring their services as a result of the anxiety associated with being infected and affected by the corona virus and the trauma of losing their loved ones to the pandemic.

Due to the subsequent lockdowns, they were also forced to find alternative ways of conduct their sessions such as relying on digital platforms and telephone consultations as they could no longer do one-on-one physical consultations.

MEC Molapisi was deployed to spend his day with our social worker, Tebogo Smith, at the department's Dr Kenneth Kauda District office in Potchefstroom. "We are here to acknowledge the impact that you make in other people's lives. We are pleased that today we were able to spend time with you to assist you with some of your daily duties and listen to your challenges," the MEC said.

He encouraged Smith to never give up and to always remember the role played by the likes of Charlotte Maxeke, Lillian Ngoyi and Winnie Madikizela Mandela in making the country a better place through their social activism.

According to Tebogo Smith, Covid-19 made lives difficult for them as social workers as they had to allay the fears of their colleagues while dealing with a pandemic they hardly understood themselves.

"We also had to change the way we work and it is not easy to conduct counselling telephonically as we deal with people emotions. It is easier when you see people's reactions, however we will have faith and hope that one day all this will pass," she said.

She expressed her gratitude for the MEC and the senior managers' visit which she said will for her and other social workers assured them that they were not alone in the battle against Covid-19 and the other challenges they assist their colleagues with.

Issued by **Communication Directorate**
Contact Person: **Matshube Mfole**
Contact Number: 018 388 4451
E-mail: mmfole@nwpg.gov.za

