



# NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER

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## ACTING PREMIER REFLECTS ON THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

By Stanley Ndzalama Ndlovu

**D**elivering State of the Province Address before the North West Provincial Legislature recently, Acting Premier Nono Maloyi reflected that on progress government has registered in the last 30 years of democracy and the constant improvement witnessed in the provision of services in the North West to date.

"The number of households increased from 592 145 in 1996 to 1,14 million in 2022 and that depicts an upward trend of 88% of formal housing in the province", Acting Premier Maloyi said.

He further said that from 2019 to 2023, government has built 19 307 houses and set aside R198 million to fund eradication of mud houses where 42,6% have been completed, translating to 579 units of the 1 356 mud houses delivered.

Acting Premier Maloyi announced the launch of the mixed-use development project in Ventersdorp which will create job opportunities for local people.

"In the coming weeks we will be launching the R2,6 billion N14 Mixed-Use Development project, with the installation of bulk services for 400 sites and create over 600 jobs for local people through the construction



of Breaking New Ground, Social Housing and bonded stock", he said.

The North West Provincial Government has improved on the provision of water to households across the province by 60% since 1996 to date.

"Just over 80% of households in the province have access to piped water either inside their dwellings, yards or community stands as compared to only twenty percent (20%) in 1996", Acting Premier

Maloyi said.

He further said that in November last year, the provincial government together with the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senzo Mchunu, launched the R106 million Dinokana Water supply intervention project; and added that the construction of R36 million bulk water sewer pipeline at Agisanang township in the Tswaing Local municipality is due to be completed this year.

Acting Premier Maloyi added that

there is improved provision of electricity since 1996 and said that loadshedding has caused to economy to collapse and affected households negatively.

"The provision of electricity has increased significantly from 58.1% in 1996 to over 94.7% to date and that load shedding has a devastating impact to the provincial economy and households", Acting Premier Maloyi concluded.

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# NORTH WEST OUTLINES ROADMAP FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND JOB CREATION

By Seloane Seleka

**D**elivering the 2024 State of the Province Address recently in Mahikeng, Acting Premier Nono Maloyi spoke of an economic resurgence in the North West Province, highlighting substantial job creation and strategic initiatives set to transform the province.

Acting Premier Maloyi said that the North West stands as one of the three provinces with the most significant employment growth during the third quarter of 2023.

A staggering 61,000 jobs have been generated, showcasing the administration's commitment to

addressing the pressing challenges of poverty and unemployment.

Expressing deep concern over persistently high levels of poverty and unemployment, particularly among women and the youth, Acting Premier Maloyi underscored the urgency of addressing these issues, citing the critical role that women and young people play in the growth of the provincial economy.

Despite an 11% increase in the unemployment rate from 2010 to 2023, he emphasised a comprehensive roadmap for economic recovery and promising signs for job creation.

Acting Premier Maloyi highlighted the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism's role in

hosting two key investment promotion events, namely, the North-West BRICS Investment Conference and the Premier's Dinner with Investors which yielded 34 investment pledges, totalling over R104.1 billion.

Currently, 14 confirmed projects worth R13.5 billion are in the pipeline for the Bojanala Special Economic Zone, promising an additional 10,000 jobs.

The implementation of the Tourism Recovery Plan has already yielded growth in both domestic and international visitors.

Acting Premier Maloyi tabled plans to revitalise Pilanesberg and George Dick Montshiwa Airports, aiming to boost tourism and create new economic opportunities in cargo

hauling, hanger and airline services.

He mentioned that the Requests for Proposals have been sent out, and the preferred bidders are expected to commence work by May this year.

Acting Premier Maloyi announced the completion of the resuscitation of the Premier's Economic Advisory Council, a crucial step in ensuring strategic support and coordination for the implementation of the PGDS.

The Council will play a pivotal role in promoting integrated economic planning and sector contributions.

The imminent announcement of Economic Advisory Council members is scheduled within the next two weeks following consultations with critical stakeholders.

## NW PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IMPROVES THE LIVES OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

By Lerato Majobe

**D**elivering the State of the Province Address (SOPA) recently before the North West Provincial Legislature, Acting Premier Nono Maloyi said that government has registered progress in improving the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable groups in the province and there are measures in place to further better their lives.

Acting Premier Maloyi said that

women contractors were appointed to build 532 houses with a budget of R 289M in the 2023/2024 financial year while 20 Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) were appointed to provide gender-based violence and femicide services to all service points across the province.

"R17 Million to fund NPOs to provide a basket of services to persons with disabilities and 792 victims of gender-based violence and femicide received sheltering services", he said.

Ensuring that businesses and

cooperatives that are owned by women boom and thrive, Acting Premier Maloyi said that they have reserved over R1 million to sharpen their entrepreneurial skills and assist their businesses to reach greater heights.

"Eight women-led cooperatives and individuals will benefit from R1,4 million which has been set aside for their upskilling and business growth. A further R 4,5m has been set aside to support women cooperatives, and SMME's to provide market access for their products and commodities", he

added.

As young people are more vulnerable to scarcity of employment and economic opportunities, Acting Premier Maloyi said that they have launched a digital interactive portal to enable the youth to access government information instantly using their mobile devices.

"We have introduced a digital interactive youth portal to provide a platform for the youth to access government information in real time, where and when they require such information", he concluded.

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# ACTING PREMIER POINTS OUT INTERVENTION EFFORTS TO ASSIST MUNICIPALITIES – SOPA 2024



By Masego Tiro

**N**orth West Acting Premier Nono Maloyi recently said that the Provincial Government, through the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), is coordinating extensive intervention efforts to assist municipalities in the province to implement renewable and alternative energy sources.

Acting Premier Maloyi was delivering the 2024 State of the Province Address before the North West Provincial Legislature.

In an effort to end load shedding, Acting Premier Maloyi said a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Chinese National Import and Export Corporation to construct R16 billion

gas to electricity power stations at both the City of Matlosana and Moses Kotane Local Municipalities.

“The first phase of this project will see the City of Matlosana Local Municipality producing 198 megawatts of electricity and construction is earmarked for a maximum of ninety days per one hundred megawatts”, Acting Premier Maloyi said.

He said these latest developments are part of the continuing efforts to ensure support and interventions in municipalities and will go a long way in resolving electricity supply challenges.

“Challenges facing municipalities include electricity supply as a result of aging infrastructure faults, vandalism of transformers and load-shedding impact on infrastructure and water supply leading to a collapse in service provision. With the new power stations, we should

resolve these problems”, Acting Premier Maloyi said.

He added that municipalities such as City of Matlosana and JB Marks are to insource road maintenance and pothole patching on an ongoing basis as a municipal function undertaken by municipal employees and that this initiative will be emulated in other municipalities across the province.

Furthermore, Acting Premier Maloyi announced on-going efforts to provide dedicated support to all municipalities to improve financial management through the implementation and monitoring of the Financial Recovery Plans (FRPs).

“The Executive Council has approved the appointment and deployment of Provincial Executive Representatives (PERs) to implement financial recovery plans for identified municipalities, under the joint coordination of Provincial

Treasury and Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs”, Acting Premier Maloyi said.

Acting Premier Maloyi said that progress has been registered by the intervention team deployed to the Ditsobotla Local Municipality, however, it is not significant enough to reverse the extent of the governance collapse in the municipal administration.

“The Ditsobotla Local Municipality requires constant and sustained support and intervention from Provincial Government before full recovery can be declared. EXCO has deployed a team of experts and other seconded officials to the municipality to assist with capacity, he said, He concluded that the provincial government remains hopeful that the intervention will help restore the functionality of the municipality.

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# GOVT STRENGTHENS AGRIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT FOOD PRODUCTION

By Tsholofelo Dintwe

The North West Provincial Government has set aside R91 million for the 2024/2025 financial year to oversee the agricultural infrastructure backlog.

This was recently announced by Acting Premier Nono Maloyi at the 2024 State of the Address before the North West Provincial Legislature in Mahikeng.

Agriculture infrastructure remains one of the key factors towards the

impact of the sector as a key economic driver.

Over 800 farmers are set to benefit from this intervention aimed at ensuring that farmers have resources to grow and produce in agriculture.

This remains a foundation upon which the agricultural industry is based.

Acting Premier Maloyi reiterated the importance of investing in the sector as a way to ensure that it grows. "The agriculture sector is yet to reach its full potential through meaningful participation of emerging

farmers in this growing sector," he emphasised", he said.

As one of the critical infrastructure inputs, Acting Premier Maloyi said that, in the coming financial year, land would be disbursed to 300 farmers.

This will see the extension of farming to many other irrigated areas as well as dry-land farming in rural areas. The province will further transfer leased land to 614 farmers for ownership.

"This intervention is intended to strengthen and empower emerging black farmers to join the mainstream economy", Acting Premier Maloyi

added.

Further to agriculture support, another R77 million will be used to empower farmers with inputs such as livestock, feeds and medication.

About 81 farmers will be supported with 1 734 goats.

The Government of South Africa has rolled out different agricultural developmental programmes including the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) that enables access to infrastructure for smallholder farmers so that they progress towards commercialisation.

# DEDECT EMPOWERS LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS WITH COMPREHENSIVE VENTURE CREATION TRAINING

By Omphile Motsei

To boost local entrepreneurship and contribute to economic development, the Department of Economic Development, Environment Conservation, and Tourism (DEDECT), in collaboration with Onalenna Technologies and Key Support Data Solutions, recently organized a week-long training program in Mmakau in the Madibeng Local Municipality as well as in Lebotloane in the Moretele Local Municipality.

The initiative was aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and imparting essential business skills, attracted approximately 40 Small, Medium, and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMMEs) eager to enhance their capabilities and seize new opportunities.

The strategic location of the

training sessions highlighted the DEDECT's commitment to reach entrepreneurs in various communities and promoting inclusive economic growth across the North West Province.

The primary objective of the venture creation training program was to empower both potential and existing entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge necessary for sustainable business growth.

Recognizing the pivotal role small businesses play in shaping the economic landscape, the department strategically aligned the programme with its mission to provide effective support for local businesses and cooperatives.

Covering an array of essential business facets, the ground-breaking training delved into financial management, marketing strategies, leadership skills, time management, problem-solving, and customer service.

These comprehensive sessions

equipped participants with the fundamental tools needed to initiate, operate, and manage successful enterprises while ensuring they meet the evolving needs of their clients.

As a testament to their dedication and successful completion of the training, participants were presented with certificates of completion.

Beyond marking the end of the programme, these certificates serve as tangible proof of the skills and knowledge acquired during the training.

Notably, they also hold significant value for attendees seeking funding opportunities, highlighting their commitment to professional development and readiness to positively contribute to the economy.

The department envisions a collective effort to build a brighter economic future through entrepreneurship, thereby making a lasting impact on the overall development of the North West Province.

The success of the venture creation training program underscores the importance of collaborative efforts between government entities, private enterprises, and local communities.

By equipping entrepreneurs with the necessary skills and fostering a supportive business environment, the department aims to cultivate a thriving ecosystem that benefits both individual businesses and the broader provincial economy.

As graduates proudly display their certificates and put their newfound knowledge into practice, DEDECT's venture development training is intended to have a rippling impact on the growth and success of local enterprises. The department's unwavering dedication to creating a better economic future through entrepreneurship serves as an inspiring model for areas across the province, demonstrating the transformative impact of strategic training initiatives.

# COGTA ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS TO IMPROVE MUNICIPALITIES' EFFECTIVENESS



By Thebeetsile Keameditse

In its effort to strengthen municipal support and improve effectiveness in terms of Section 154 of the Constitution, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) convened one-on-one engagement sessions with all municipalities in the province to provide support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their own affairs.

The engagement sessions, which were attended by Municipal Managers, the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Provincial Treasury as well as the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), were

held under the theme "Strengthening municipal support programme to improve its effectiveness".

Addressing municipalities during the sessions, Head of Department of CoGTA, Dr Ben Bole said the engagement sessions are aimed at having a frank and honest discussion to find solutions to challenges facing municipalities.

"We have crafted specific objectives to restore order and stability in municipalities. Information must not be held back so that we can assist and support for municipalities to uphold their constitutional mandate of providing services to communities without fail", Dr Bole said in his opening remarks.

He further indicated that they decided on one-on-one engagements because the methodology that was used in the previous years has not yielded any positive results and it cannot be

business as usual.

"We have the responsibility to support local municipalities because a crisis in any municipality is a crisis of the department. We can only craft intervention measures that are effective for different municipalities if we know the challenges that we are facing in our municipalities", Dr Bole added.

All municipalities detailed progress reports on the implementation of the improvement plans and financial recovery plans.

They outlined their service delivery and financial capacity, vacancies in the municipality including that of senior managers, delivery of municipal infrastructure projects, servicing Eskom debt and other challenges they might be facing.

The objective was to verify and validate the situation, assess, review, and develop new improvement plans

on the state of each municipality for improved collaboration and accountability.

After deliberations on the state of municipalities in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Ngaka Modiri Molema districts, Dr Bole appreciated the advice and directives provided to municipalities by different stakeholders to rectify their challenges.

He maintained that constant engagement sessions will assist the department to track the performance of municipalities to provide the necessary support.

"We will continue to hold these sessions to support municipalities because a collapse of one municipality is the collapse of national government and its entities. Therefore, we must support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities for them to perform their functions", Dr Ben Bole said.

# MEC TLHAPI ENGAGES WITH TOURISM INDUSTRY PRODUCT OWNERS

By Mpumi Mashike and Tiro Appolos

The MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, Galebekwe Virginia Tlhapi recently led a strategic Tourism Stakeholder Engagement session at the Royal Marang Hotel near Rustenburg to chart a path toward a resilient and sustainable future for the North West's tourism industry.

The purpose of the session was to solicit inputs towards the finalization of the North West Provincial Tourism Sector Strategy.

This approach provides an insightful platform for the development of a sustainable and thriving tourism sector, benefiting both formal and informal businesses, local communities, and industry players which will result in economic growth across the four districts.

The engagement which welcomed esteemed industry players ranging from tour operators to game rangers, luxury accommodation establishments, and wildlife/adventure enthusiasts, echoed the shared objective of establishing the North West Provincial Tourism Sector Strategy.

The objective was to create an environment that not only drives economic growth in the four districts, but also benefits local communities and industry players, both formal and informal.

The breath-taking landscapes of the North West, with their natural attraction, provide a backdrop for a diverse range of tourism products.

The engagement addressed the need for travel agencies and tour operators to collaborate and promote packaged tours and experiences around the province.

This collaboration intends to realize and expose the untapped potential of the province's natural beauty and rural charm, which stands



as a unique canvas for diverse tourism experiences.

A significant focus was placed on creating a variety of accommodation options, catering to different traveller preferences.

From luxurious resorts to budget-friendly stays and eco-friendly lodges, the emphasis was on providing choices for all.

MEC Tlhapi emphasized the role of tourism in boosting the economy, underlining the importance of Public-

Private Partnerships (PPPs).

These partnerships, she explained, allow everyone to have a say in finalizing the Provincial Tourism Sector Strategy, with a shared goal of reducing unemployment in the province.

She urged big businesses to support small ones, recognizing their crucial role in the economy and society. "As a department, we encourage our small businesses to actively participate in improving local

economies. Let us strengthen our working relationship for the benefit of future generations and achieve the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP)", MEC Tlhapi said.

Safety concerns for tourists were addressed, with MEC Tlhapi urging the officials of the department and the stakeholders to strengthen the work and continuation of the Tourism Safety Plan.

This plan aims to minimize criminal activities targeting tourists along the N4 and R556 routes, ensuring a safe experience for all visitors.

In her closing remarks, MEC Tlhapi pointed out that the province will host the Bojanala Lekgotla as a build-up to the National Tourism Indaba.

She emphasized the ongoing efforts to bring transformation within the tourism industry, particularly focusing on the benefit of small businesses across all districts of the province. As MEC Tlhapi leads the charge, the North West envisions a future where tourism not only flourishes but becomes a force for positive change in the community.

# NW SUBMIT MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION ON DRAFT NATIONAL POLICING POLICY

By Rebaone Moeng

The North West recently hosted a two-day Draft National Policing Policy consultation session intended to change policing in the country as well as strengthening the relationship between the police and communities.

The Head of the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr Hans Kekana, said that the Provincial Government was excited with the turnout of stakeholders at the session as this will input positively into the policy to ensure that it is going to benefit the people of the North West and the country at large.

While the national Civilian Secretariat for Police is in the process of developing the policy, which is intended to improve the relations between the police and communities, the stakeholder consultation process had to unfold for comments and inputs across all the nine provinces.

"It is through the engagements with the communities that policy development such as this will ensure that we come out with the product that is going to keep South Africa safe", Dr Kekana said.

"We believe that our men and women in blue are doing a good job and we want to give them support both as government and the entire community", he added while stating that there are still serious challenges on policing in the country.

"We want to be exemplary as the North West by changing the way the police are seen by the communities and we want to rebuild the relationship between the police and the community and bring back the dignity of police, and we are confident that our voice as the Province is heard on this policy", Dr Kekana said.

The Director for Policy Development from the national



Civilian Secretariat for Police, Maureen Mphaphuli said the consultations throughout the country are successful and they are satisfied with the participation of stakeholders in general.

"We started this process last year in September doing the consultations and the document has already been gazetted for public comments"

"The North West Province is also submitting their inputs in terms of

what they will want to see as the policing functioning in this country especially impacting them as province on what are the issues that need to be addressed and those we need to improve on in reaching our 20230 vision that people should be and feel safe", she said.

The two-day consultations started with engagement of key stakeholders which includes government representatives and Community

Policing Forums (CPF), Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) and community representatives.

Lilian Mashele from the national Civilian and Secretariat for Police, said that they are pleased with the outcome of the session as they have received strategic inputs and proposals on how the policy can be implemented, which is always a weakness in government.

"We had a very successful two day session, and going forward we will consolidate the inputs and analyze what is relevant for the policy and what is relevant for the implementation, so that we strengthen, professionalise this sector and have quality and effective policing", Mashele said.

Amongst issues raised during commissions at the session, were the need to capacitate police stations and community structures with resources.

The policy is expected to be completed soon and submitted for approval by the cabinet for implementation.

# MEC MOHONO ADOPTS TWO SCHOOLS IN BID TO REVIVE AGRICULTURE



By Thebe Itumeleng

In a quest to revive agriculture in some rural communities of the North West Province, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Desbo Mohono recently adopted the Maseloanyane Secondary and Thelesho Primary schools in Madiba-A-Ga-Kubu outside Mahikeng.

MEC Mohono announced this during her recent visit to this area.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) has revived and expanded the schools' food gardens, and MEC Mohono committed that there would be dedicated extension officers to coach the learners on how to plant and care for these gardens.

MEC Mohono has been consistent about the need to have every school in the province involved in food security as part of the zero-hunger campaign, which aims to ensure that every piece of arable land, be it on school premises or elsewhere in the community, is cultivated.

The ultimate objective of this exercise is to encourage learners to



take agricultural science as one of the careers of choice.

The DARD has made great strides as several schools across the province have been receiving seedlings and tools to work gardens.

"To sustain food security in the province, education and training in food production should start at the school level. Learners must be equipped with the practical and latest developments in the sector. We want all schools to start having food gardens so that the learners can start seeing the value of agriculture from a

young age", MEC Mohono said.

At both schools, the gesture to start food gardens and the donation of seedlings was warmly appreciated.

Thelesho Primary School Principal, Dingake Mokotedi, said that the school appreciated the assistance from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

"The food from these gardens will go a long way in helping our learners as a quintile one school. We are grateful for what the Department has done for us", Mokotedi said.

His colleague and Principal of

Maseloanyane Secondary School, Seepamore Samuel Dithupe, thanked the MEC for visiting and adopting his school.

"We are happy for MEC's visit to Maseloanyane Secondary. We have introduced agriculture in our school so learners can see its value and choose it as a career", Dithupe said.

The DARD plans to rebuild an agricultural skill base that will respond to the province's needs such as food security, employment, and economy.

MEC Mohono concluded her visit to the area with a protocol visit to the Madibe-a-Ga-Kubu Tribal Authority where she urged Dikgosi from all the nearby seven villages to continue working with government to address their areas of focus and challenges.

MEC Mohono also urged Dikgosi to donate uninhabited land to locals for food projects.

One of the objectives of this food security programme is to help North West communities to become self-reliant.

To reduce the high rate of unemployment, MEC Mohono also announced the appointment of 210 locals for green jobs through the DARD's Land Care Programme.

These newly appointed individuals are from the villages of Madibe-a-Ga-Kubu, Mantja, Lekung, Tshunyane, Lekhubu-la-Seipone, Morwatshetlha, Tsokwane and Makhubung-a-Ga-Mokopi.

These are temporary jobs and are funded through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The Land Care Programme is a government-supported community-based and community-led initiative which is active throughout the province. The programme seeks to amongst others conserve natural resources, create a conservation ethic through education and awareness as well as to create jobs and address poverty by launching various natural resources, rehabilitation, improvement, and conservation projects.



# OFFICE OF THE PREMIER HOSTS PGDS REVIEW SESSION

By Nonofa Lobelo

The Office of the Premier recently hosted a Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS) stakeholder engagement session in Rustenburg to solicit inputs aimed at finalizing the strategy review process.

MEC for Provincial Treasury,

Motlalepula Rosho and the MEC for Health, Madoda Sambatha, officiated over the review session.

A panel of experts that had been appointed to facilitate the review of the PGDS, presented a PGDS document.

Various inputs from participants representing different sectors of the provincial economy marked a united front to address challenges faced by the North West.

Given North West's nature-based

and rural character, the cooperative inputs to the session presented participants with a unique opportunity to explore diverse tourism offerings in unspoiled, tranquil natural habitats.

"As Provincial Treasury, we encourage our SMMEs to actively participate in improving local economies. Let us strengthen our working relationship for the benefit of the future generation and achieve the goals of the National Development

Plan 2030", MEC Rosho said.

"In so far as we have fared, the Premier has appointed a panel of experts responding to issues of SOE's performance, and as a result, we have an integrated report that reflects on areas of various chapters driving growth and development", MEC Rosho said.

She also added that the focus should rest on agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing.

# NPOs TO RECEIVE FUNDING FOR FIGHT AGAINST GBV AND FEMICIDE

By Petrus Siko

The North West Province will intensify the fight against recurring incidents of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) by funding 20 Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) to provide a variety of services to victims of GBVF.

This was recently announced by Acting Premier Nono Maloyi when delivering the 2024 State of the Province Address before the North West Provincial Legislature in Mahikeng.

Acting Premier Maloyi said that government is saddened by a growing number of GBVF incidents, largely affecting women, girl children, the elderly and people with disabilities.

"The province through the Department of Social Development, will set aside R17 million, to fund NPOs to provide a basket of services to persons with disabilities", Acting Premier Maloyi said.

He added that, as part of strengthening efforts by government

to fight GBVF, 792 victims received sheltering services.

"Government will continue to provide financial and professional support to 19 victim empowerment centres, to ensure that the victims are provided with accommodation, basic counselling, court preparation and psycho-social support services", Acting Premier Maloyi added.

In addition, Acting Premier Maloyi said that government will continue to work with law enforcement agencies to ensure coordinated services to the victims of gender-based violence.

He was unflinching in government's commitment in ensuring that perpetrators of this heinous crimes face the full might of the law.

On women empowerment, Acting Premier Maloyi said eight women-led cooperatives and individuals will benefit from R1, 4m which has been set aside for their upskilling and business growth.

A further R4,5m has been set aside to support women cooperatives, and SMMEs to provide market access for their products and commodities.



# MUNICIPAL TURNAROUND STRATEGY GAINS MOMENTUM WITH THE LAUNCH OF MUNICIPAL MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEM

By Boitumelo Seleka

The North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) recently took a proactive step towards improving service delivery in municipalities by successfully conducting a five-day training session on the Municipal Monitoring and Reporting System to local municipalities in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District.

Led by the Municipal Turnaround Strategy Team, the training session that was held at JB Marks Local Municipality in Potchefstroom, highlights the department's commitment to elevating municipal performance and accountability as pronounced by MEC Patrick Dumile Nono Maloyi in the 2023/24 Departmental Budget Speech.

MEC Maloyi said that the monitoring and reporting system seeks to create and strengthen real time, early warning-oriented system and rapid response to challenges municipalities might encounter.

"The data will be uploaded by the municipalities, and it will assist the department to access systems of municipalities in real time, thus ensuring that the interventions are not after the fact but happen before things fall apart", MEC Maloyi said.

"Municipalities face an increasing pressure to deliver on their mandates. So, embracing innovative solutions such as the municipal monitoring and reporting system becomes imperative", MEC Maloyi added.

The tool was introduced to municipal authorities during the One-on-One Engagement Session with municipalities in the province led by the Head of Department, Dr Ben Bole.

Dr Bole maintains that through the tool, the CoGTA is providing municipalities with the necessary



support to fulfil their constitutional mandates.

"The tool is transforming how municipalities can track and report their performance metrics. We are now leveraging on modern technology to foster transparency, efficiency, and accountability in

municipalities. We are empowering officials with the tools and knowledge needed so that they can navigate the challenges of governance in municipalities effectively", Dr Bole said.

The training session was attended by officials, including senior

managers responsible for gathering and approving data.

Attendees engaged in discussions of operational access to the system, seamless integration into their workflow and acquiring the essential skills and knowledge necessary for proficient usage of the system.

Chairperson of the Municipal Turnaround Strategy, Roy Mkhonza emphasised the importance of the training for usage of the tool.

"We are going to provide a comprehensive demonstration of the municipal monitoring and reporting system to officials of all municipalities in the province so they can get used to its functionality and features. The system offers a proactive approach towards addressing the challenges faced by municipalities and enhancing provision of services", Mkhonza said.

The training session will be rolled out in three other districts in the province.

# TREASURY CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION



By Lindiwe Mzingaye

The North West Provincial Treasury recently concluded a successful strategic planning session as the sixth administration's term approaches its end, where MEC Motlalepula Rosho thanked and commended management for their dedication towards delivering on the department's mandate.

At the session, held in Mahikeng, managers reviewed progress made over the past four years and outlined plans for the upcoming 2024/25 financial year.

MEC Rosho emphasized the importance of engaging in robust and constructive discussions to inform the formulation of the department's Annual Performance Plans.

Various key stakeholders, including National Treasury, Statistics South Africa, the Office of the Premier, and National and Provincial CoGTA, delivered detailed

presentations.

The Head of Provincial Treasury, Ndlela Kunene, said that strategic planning is an ongoing organizational process aimed at charting a business's intended direction.

He stressed the need to prioritize efforts, allocate resources effectively, align stakeholders and employees with departmental goals, and ensure these goals are supported by data and sound reasoning.

Kunene clarified that strategic planning should not be viewed as a one-time event but as a continuous process that enables the department to anticipate and respond to unforeseen opportunities and threats.

He underscored the importance of dedicating time, effort, and ongoing evaluation to this process.

According to Kunene, strategic planning can guide the department in creating a unified vision, identifying biases and flaws in reasoning, and monitoring progress towards strategic goals.



# COGTA ESTABLISHES SERVICE DELIVERY TASK TEAM FOR DITSOBOTLA



By Masego Tiro and  
Thebeetsile Keameditse

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) has announced the establishment of a service delivery task team at the Ditsobotla Local Municipality to fast-track the interventions required to restore provision of services.

This emerged in a meeting held recently by the CoGTA, the Ditsobotla Local Municipality and the Ditsobotla local business community to map a way forward on challenges at the municipality that are

threatening businesses in the area.

The meeting, which was also attended by representatives from Provincial Treasury and national government, served as a platform to discuss challenges experienced by businesses which included water crisis, power outages and dilapidated roads.

The Director of Economic Development at NWK, Benedict Modise said that operating a business without basic service such as electricity has become unsustainable.

"We have challenges in our municipality and some of them are persisting and threatening the existence of business. These

challenges have a dire impact on the livelihood of the people of Ditsobotla and the business community at large. Businesses have suffered great losses over years, and we need an urgent intervention", Modise added.

In responding to the grievances raised by businesses, Head of the Department of CoGTA, Dr Ben Bole acknowledged challenges in the municipalities which resulted in a steady breakdown of provision of services over the past years.

"The provision of services by the municipality has deteriorated and we can only restore the municipality by working together with businesses. It is evident that businesses have the passion to see Lichtenburg improving in all aspects and that is also our position as the provincial government. We want to see the municipality providing services in a sustainable manner to its communities", Dr Bole said.

Dr Bole also indicated that the service delivery task team will be resuscitated with the municipality, the provincial and national government to restore provision of services.

"We will give that task team a mandate to develop Ditsobotla comprehensive strategy on basic service delivery implementation which will be our master plan on what

can be done now and address the immediate problems. The task team will be given clear terms of reference on what must be done. We will monitor the plan as government and Ditsobotla and we will not rest until Ditsobotla is back on track", Dr Bole added.

The Ditsobotla Local Municipality has been prioritised by provincial government and both CoGTA and Provincial Treasury have seconded officials to assist the municipality to improve its administration and to deal with financial recovery plan so that it can provide basic services.

Acting Municipality Manager, Sello Maroga acknowledged that service delivery in the municipality has collapsed and proposed solutions that the municipality will implement to restore consistent electricity and water supply, road network condition, municipality account statements, clearance certificate and general service delivery.

"We must journey together to ensure that the municipality improves because even in the desert you can still find the rose, we can redeem the state of the municipality and ensure that it is turned around and functions effectively and efficiently", Maroga concluded.



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# DEDECT EMPOWERS LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS WITH COMPREHENSIVE VENTURE CREATION TRAINING



By *Omphile Motsei*

To boost local entrepreneurship and contribute to economic development, the Department of Economic Development, Environment Conservation, and Tourism (DEDECT), in collaboration with Onalenna Technologies and Key Support Data Solutions, recently organized a week-long training program in Mmakau in the Madibeng Local Municipality as well as in Lebotloane in the Moretele Local Municipality.

The initiative was aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and imparting essential business skills, attracted approximately 40 Small, Medium, and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMMEs) eager to enhance their capabilities and seize new opportunities.

The strategic location of the training sessions highlighted the DEDECT's commitment to reach entrepreneurs in various communities and promoting inclusive economic growth across the North West Province.

The primary objective of the venture creation training program was to empower both potential and

existing entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge necessary for sustainable business growth.

Recognizing the pivotal role small businesses play in shaping the economic landscape, the department strategically aligned the programme with its mission to provide effective support for local businesses and cooperatives.

Covering an array of essential business facets, the ground-breaking training delved into financial management, marketing strategies, leadership skills, time management, problem-solving, and customer service.

These comprehensive sessions equipped participants with the fundamental tools needed to initiate, operate, and manage successful enterprises while ensuring they meet the evolving needs of their clients.

As a testament to their dedication and successful completion of the training, participants were presented with certificates of completion.

Beyond marking the end of the programme, these certificates serve as tangible proof of the skills and knowledge acquired during the training.

Notably, they also hold significant value for attendees seeking funding opportunities, highlighting their commitment to professional

development and readiness to positively contribute to the economy.

The department envisions a collective effort to build a brighter economic future through entrepreneurship, thereby making a lasting impact on the overall development of the North West Province.

The success of the venture creation training program underscores the importance of collaborative efforts between government entities, private enterprises, and local communities.

By equipping entrepreneurs with the necessary skills and fostering a supportive business environment, the department aims to cultivate a thriving ecosystem that benefits both individual businesses and the broader provincial economy.

As graduates proudly display their certificates and put their newfound knowledge into practice, DEDECT's venture development training is intended to have a rippling impact on the growth and success of local enterprises. The department's unwavering dedication to creating a better economic future through entrepreneurship serves as an inspiring model for areas across the province, demonstrating the transformative impact of strategic training initiatives.



# ANEMINA O ITLHOMA KWA PELE MO PUONG YA SETSWANA

Ka Godfrey Seatle

Mosetsana wa dingwaga di le 18 go tswa kwa sekolong se se golwane sa Sunrise View kwa Rustenburg o makaditse ba le bantsi fa a ne a tsholetsa sekgele sa morutwana yo o gaisitseng mo Porofenseng ka puo ya Setswana (Home Language).

Anemina Vitelani, yo o tswang kwa motseng wa Meriting Extension 1 kwa Rustenburg, ke morutwana yo o gaisitseng mo puong ya Setswana mo Bokone Bophirima fa dipholo tsa marematlou tsa ngwaga wa 2023 di phasalatswa semmuso.

Vitelani o bontshitse fa seane seo se reng "tloga tloga e tloga kgale, modisa wa dikgomo o tswa natso saking", e le boammaruri.

O simolotse go bontsha bokgoni mo serutweng sa Setswana go tloga kwa Grade 3, mme a tswela go nna le lorato mo serutweng seo go fitlha a kwala lokwalo lwa marematlou, ngogola.

Mosetsana yo ka tlhago e leng Mo-Tsonga, o kgonne go fitlhelela maduo a 280 go tswa go 300 (93%) mo puong ya loleme lwa ga mme, e leng Setswana.

Vitelane o goletse mo lelapeng le le sa itsholelang ebile batsadi ba gagwe ba sa dire.

Rraagwe o ba tlhokomela ka go thusa batho ka serori le go ba isetsa dithoto kwa malapeng, fa mmaagwe ena, e le modiri wa mo malapeng.

Batsadi ba gagwe bao ba tswang Mozambique, ba motlotlo ka ena gone o ba rutila go bua, go kwala gammogo le go buisa Setswana.

Vitelani o buile a sa kgale mathe ganong gore "sengwe le sengwe mo botshelong o ka se fitlhelela fa o na le lorato mo go sona ebile o tshwere ka natla".

Mosetsana yo wa Mo-Tsonga o tthalositse fa sephiri sa go fitlhelela tsotlhe e le go itshoka, go nna pelotelele, go reetsa le go tsenya



tirisong dikgakololo tsa barutabana ka nako tsotlhe".

Ka ntlha ya sona seo, Vitelani o kgonne go falola le dirutwa tse dingwe ka dinaledi ka go ikgapela 90% mo Geography, 88% mo English, 85% mo Life Sciences, 69% mo Mathematics le 69% mo Physical

Sciences.

Murutwana yo ga jaana e leng moithuti kwa Wits University, o ithutela booki.

O tthalositse fa Setswana se tlike go tsaya karolo e kgolo mo go alafeng le go bua le balwetsi fa a fetsa dithuto tsa gagwe tsa booki fa

gautshwane.

O rotloeditse baithuti ba marematlou ba monogwaga gore ba tsware thata e se re go utlwa sebedu ba kgaoga.

Vitelani o tswetse ka go leboga lefapha go bo le ba fa tshono ya go ithuta le go nna batho setshabeng.

# FOUNDATION DONATES SANITARY PADS FOR SCHOOL GIRLS



By Nonkululeko Sereo

The Berlina Lekgethwane Foundation, together with Aaylah, recently donated two hundred washable and reusable

sanitary pads to 100 girl learners at the Jan Masibi Secondary School at the Disaneng village, outside Mahikeng.

The sanitary towels can be used for up to five years, as they do not leak nor irritate and are South African Bureau Standards tested as well as

certified.

Furthermore, these sanitary towels in various sizes cater for different physiques ranging from small, medium, large, extra-large, and super-large.

The girl learners were taught how to simply use, place, remove and

wash the sanitary towel.

Kgosi Mogakolodi Masibi of the Batharo boo-Tokwana ba ga Masibi, school staff and learners, were grateful for the donation made.

Kgosi Masibi pleaded with the learners to not engage in sexual relations but rather focus on their school work and aim to make themselves and families proud.

MEC for Education, Ntsetsao Motsumi thanked the foundation and its associate for the donation.

"Institutions like these need to grow and expand their services to the schools across the province. These provisioning of pads is an important part for supporting learning and teaching in our schools"

"Learners will no longer be absent from school because of shortage of pads or money to buy them. On behalf of the department of Education in the North West Province, I would like to pass my sincere appreciation for the initiative and encourage similar kinds of stakeholders to continue to support our schools", MEC Motsumi said.

# GRADUATES RECEIVE THEIR TRADE CERTIFICATES

By Lerato Majobe

During a recent handover of Trade Certificates to graduates at Garona Building, certificate recipients expressed their gratitude to the Office of the Premier for placing them at Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC) to receive their practical experience so that they can be skilled labourers, be employable and excel in their respective fields.

These recipients are now qualified artisans in Boiler Making and Fitting and Turning.



Sereteng Tlhome who developed her skills in boiler making said that she could now breathe a sigh of relief after receiving the certificate and that she would use it to get her dream job

as she missed out on a lot of opportunities for not having the certificate.

"I feel so happy and relieved that finally I received my trade certificate,

I can now apply with confidence knowing that I meet all the requirements of the advertised vacant positions," Tlhome said.

Lebogang Motshelanoka who is now a qualified electrician said that she could now try her luck with Eskom.

"I have always wanted to see myself working for Eskom, with the skills I have acquired I can now apply for this company when they advertise," Motshelanoka said.

Certificate holders expressed their appreciation to Fezile Vutela, Director for Research and Curriculum Development in the Office of the Premier for placing them at PPC for their practicals.

# DISTRIBUTION OF SIMCARDS TO BOOST E-LEARNING

By Oratile Mogodi

To enhance digital inclusivity in education, the North West Department of Education, together with telecommunications company MTN, has initiated a programme to distribute sim cards to various selected quantile 1-3 schools across the province.

The aim of the initiative is to promote e-learning and a seamless integration of Information and Communication Technology in the identified schools.

Sim cards are meant to provide learners with enhanced connectivity, enabling access to a wide range of digital resources that will enrich their journey in education.

It is through this initiative that learners gain uninterrupted access to online learning platforms, resources and material that will improve their learning by nurturing an interactive and active learning experience.

Educators do play a huge role in in this digital transformation, therefore the Curriculum Support Service e-Learning Unit of the Department of

Education recently provided comprehensive training to educators, starting with those in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District before proceeding to other districts.

These training sessions are meant to empower and capacitate educators with the necessary skills and knowledge to enable an effective integration of technology into the curriculum.

This initiative is also intended to revolutionise the way in which teaching and learning is currently taking place and allow learners a room to unlock their full potential of e-learning.

Njabulo Khoza from the MTN Foundation urged educators to ensure that they register as many learners as they can and as a way forward, MTN Foundation committed to hold virtual meetings with the educators once every month to track their progress.

The MEC for Education, Ntsetsao Viola Motsumi, appreciated the initiative.

“We are now moving away from the old way of doing things in the education sector. We are faced with a



challenge to provide more resources in line with the new trend of technology across the country and the world at large”, MEC Motsumi said. Everyone within the sector has

the responsibility to adhere to the 4th Industrial Revolution and together with our stakeholders, we are putting more efforts to turn around education in the province”, she said.

