



Custodian of Good Governance

IZWI lase OPSC

Jan/Feb 2014

Editorial

Welcome to the January/February edition of **Izwi lase OPSC**. This edition comes at the time when we approach end of the 2013/14 financial year and Team PSC is hard at work winding down projects for the 2013/14 financial year. We kick start this issue by touching on what President Jacob Zuma said about the PSC during his State of the Nation Address to Parliament on 13 February 2014. We also report about the upcoming events during the month of February and March, notably the Chairperson's Information Session which will be taking place on **14 March 2014**. During this session, the Chairperson will present long service and special awards to deserving members. Team PSC will recall that this event was supposed to have taken place in December, but was postponed due to the passing away of Former President Nelson Mandela.

The PSC has over the years received clean audit reports. This year, the Auditor-General duly recognised this achievement and presented the PSC with an Award. In this issue we report about the award received by the PSC. There is also an article that touches on the adoption of a day care centre by the North West Provincial Office.

In view of the fact that the month of February is health awareness month, we report about cancer and tips on general healthy lifestyle.

We conclude this edition with our normal book review in the Information Resource corner as well as jokes. **Happy reading!**

Contents

Editorial	1
<i>President Zuma makes reference to the work of the PSC</i>	2
<i>AG's Awards - PSC wins the Financial Battle</i>	3
<i>PSC adopts Boitumelo Day Care Centre in Seweding (Mahikeng)</i>	3
<i>News in Brief</i>	4
<i>Healthy Lifestyle Awareness</i>	4
<i>World Cancer Day</i>	5
<i>Book Review</i>	6
<i>Jokes</i>	7

PRESIDENT ZUMA MAKES REFERENCE TO THE WORK OF THE PSC



By Ricardo Mahlakanya

On 13 February 2014, President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma delivered his sixth and last State of the Nation Address (SoNA), of the fourth democratic administration to the Joint seating of Parliament (the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces) in Cape Town. The SoNA is an annual event, in which the President reports on the state of the nation at the beginning of the year. In this year's SoNA, the President highlighted South Africa's achievements over the past five years. He also made reference to the work of the Public Service Commission (PSC) and progressive measures put in place to prevent corruption in the Public Service. He indicated that South Africans are united in wanting a corruption free society. Fighting corruption within the Public Service is yielding results. The President elaborated that, "Since the launch of the National Anti-Corruption Hotline (NACH) by the PSC, over 13 000 cases of corruption and maladministration have been referred to government departments for further handling and investigation. Government has recovered more than 320-million rand from perpetrators through the NACH. Some of the successes of the NACH include the following:

- 140 officials were fined their three month salary;
- 20 officials were demoted;
- 355 officials were given final written warnings; and
- 204 officials were prosecuted".

President Zuma also mentioned that in order to prevent corruption in the supply chain system, Government has established a central tender board to adjudicate tenders in all spheres of government. The body will work with the chief procurement officer whose main function will be to check on pricing and adherence to procedures as well as fairness.

He further, revealed that the Special Investigating Unit is investigating maladministration or alleged corruption in a number of government departments and state entities, through 40 proclamations signed by the President during this administration. Government will keep the public informed of the outcome of the investigations. In the first six months of last year, the Asset Forfeiture Unit paid a total of 149 million rand into the Criminal Assets Recovery Account and to the victims of crime. This is 170% above its target of 55 million rand and is higher than it has ever achieved in a full year.

- 1 542 officials were dismissed from the Public Service;

AG's AWARDS - PSC WINS THE FINANCIAL BATTLE



By Mocheta Monama

In an effort to encourage departments and entities to manage their finances professionally, the Auditor General (AG) initiated the Operation Clean Audit Awards.

The PSC has over the years, received clean audits reports including the 2012/13 financial year. In recognition of this outstanding achievement, on 05 February 2014, the PSC received an award from the AG.

In accepting the award on behalf of the PSC, the DG thanked the AG for keeping the PSC on its toes and cemented the fact that the two offices have a good working relationship and that it should remain like that going forward. He also thanked the CFO and Team Finance for once again ensuring that the PSC receives a clean audit. "It is a great honour for the PSC to receive this award", concluded the DG.

Izwi would like to congratulate Team PSC for this remarkable achievement.

PSC ADOPTS BOITUMELO DAYCARE CENTRE IN SEWEDING (MAHIKENG)



By Thato Mohapi (North West Provincial Office)

The North West Provincial Office celebrated 16 days of activism for no violence against women and children with the children of Boitumelo Day-Care Centre in Seweding, Mahikeng. The day was filled with love laughter and cheer as the Team PSC presented gifts to the children of Boitumelo and shared a meal with them.

Boitumelo Day Care Centre was founded by Mrs A Mojake who was happy to receive the donations from the PSC which included toys, blankets and study material. The centre cares for 30 children from the community through donations. Team PSC offered to adopt the centre and help the centre where possible. The team offered to assist the centre to start a vegetable garden which will help feed the children. Some of the vegetables will be sold to the community.

Commissioner Sejosingoe led the team that went to the centre and she encouraged the teachers to keep up the good work by caring for the children and giving them love as most children are orphaned and need to be loved and cared for.

NEWS IN BRIEF

As part of promoting the work of the PSC in the North-West, the PSC's Provincial Office in the North West will host a stakeholder engagement session on **25 March 2014** under the theme ***"Intensifying collective action in promoting the values and principles as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 Of 1996"***. The session will afford Commissioner resident in the North West Province with an opportunity to engage with the North West stakeholders on the work of the PSC.

Representatives from the North West Provincial Government, Provincial EXCO/ Cabinet (Premier; Members of Executive Council); members of the North West Provincial Legislature; North West Heads of Department; Institutions Supporting Democracy; Organised Labour; Mayors and Speakers of the North West Municipalities, Representatives from the relevant Civil Society, and Business community will

be invited to the event.

The PSC will also host the Chairperson's Information Session on **14 March 2014**. During this event, the Chairperson of the PSC, Mr Ben Mthembu will present long service and special awards to deserving members of Team PSC. The special awards are divided into the following categories:

- Employee of the Year Award;
- Team of the Year Award;
- Rising Star Award;
- Best OPSC Change Agent Award; and
- Director's General Award (strictly meant for the DG).

All members of Team PSC from National and Provincial Offices will be invited to the event. Once all the logistical arrangement has been completed, members of Team PSC will be informed accordingly. Watch this space!!

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE AWARENESS



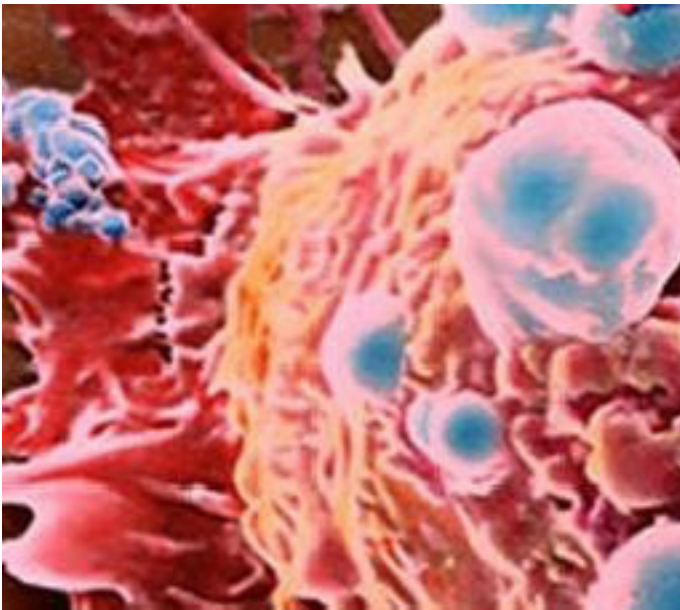
By Mmanakedi Seshoka

The month of February is regarded as healthy awareness month. It is easy to dismiss health as something to work on when you get the time. That is, until your health fails you. Many of us do not see ourselves at risk, but you can do an enormous amount of benefit by paying attention to staying healthy.

How do you do this? Keep moving, eat a healthy, balanced diet, de-stress your life, and cut out excessive alcohol use, smoking and drugs. Stick to these golden rules, and you'll go a long way to living a healthy life!

Izwi would like to encourage members of Team PSC to be conscious of their health by measuring their blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose and body mass index (BMI) on a regular basis. **Knowledge is power!!!**

WORLD CANCER DAY



By Percival Mtombeni

Source: www.worldcancerday.org

World cancer day is globally celebrated each year on the 4th of February. The day is perceived as a chance to raise collective voices in improving general knowledge around cancer and dismissing misconceptions about the disease. This year's celebration focused on reducing stigma and dispelling myths about cancer. Therefore, the theme for this year was **"Debunk the myths"**

Cancer is a disease that can affect people of all ages and a few types of cancer are more common in children. The risk of developing cancer generally increases with age. There are over 200 different known cancers that can affect people. Cancer can be detected in a number of ways which include the screening tests and medical imaging. When shifting to South African context, around 600 children are diagnosed with cancer every year and health professionals warned that the number can dramatically increase if the disease is not properly managed. Therefore, it is important for the department of Health to provide detection measures in place in fighting the reduction of disease.

All people across the globe are encouraged to follow the detection measures so that we can win the fight against cancer.



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE BOOK REVIEW

The book cover features the title "Performance MANAGEMENT" in a stylized font, with "for Government, Universities, Schools and NGOs" below it. The author's name, "Dr Mark Bussin", is at the bottom. The cover has a red and yellow abstract design.

Title : Performance management for government, Universities, schools and NGOs
Author : Dr Mark Bussin
Date : 2013
Reviewed by: Ernie Kekana

Performance management for government, Universities, schools and non-governmental organisations serves as a practical and convenient guide to managing performance in non-profit organisations.

There are a number of methods and tools that can be used for performance and every organisation will need to select the right methods and tools for its environment.

This book provides you with a practical understanding of the science and art of performance management, and how it can be used in successfully building a high-performance culture within a non-profit environment. A number of diverse non-profit environments

have been included in this handbook to demonstrate how performance management operates in practice.

The following are some of the contents included in this book:

- Profit versus non-profit;
- Performance appraisal rating scales;
- Performance management and development in government; and
- Critical success factors and others.

This book is a must read.



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JOKE

THE HUSBAND'S BEST FRIEND

A woman meets with
her lover, Who is also her
husband's best friend.

They make love for
hours. Afterwards, as
they lie on bed, the phone
rings. Since it's the Woman's
house. She picks up the receiver.

The best friend listens, only
hearing her side of the conversation:
"Hello? Oh hi... I'm so glad that
you called... Really? That's wonderful...

Well, I'm happy to hear you're
having such a great time... Oh, that
sounds terrific... Love you too.

Ok. Bye-bye".

She hangs up the telephone
and her lover Asks, "who was that?"
"Oh," she replies, "that was my husband telling me
about the wonderful time he's having on his
fishing trip with you".