



Custodian of Good Governance

IZWI lase OPSC



June/July 2014

Editorial

Welcome to the June/July edition of **Izwi lase OPSC**. This edition comes at a time when we have just completed the Nelson Mandela Day commemoration. In this edition, through pictures, **Izwi** reflects on various activities that members of Team PSC were engaged in during Mandela Day.

We report about a good story that involves partnership between Public Service Commission and Msukalingwa Local Municipality in a form of Citizens Forums. The partnership has resulted in an improved service delivery in Ermelo, Mpumalanga. Another good story that we report on involves the signing of a Memorandum (MoU) between the PSC and the Association of Public Accounts Committee (APAC).

The interface between the PSC and stakeholders is important. To this end, we reflect on the stakeholder engagement that recently took place in Eastern Cape as well as Africa Public Service Day in Mpumalanga.

In view of the fact that the month of July has been declared a Mandela Month, **Izwi** would like to encourage members of Team PSC to make everyday a Mandela Day. This can be attained by reaching out to the less fortunate.

Happy reading!!!

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PSC REPORTS BACK TO THE COMMUNITY OF MSUKALIGWA IN MPUMALANGA



By: Bongiwe Dlamini

The partnership between Public Service Commission (PSC) and Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM) has brought positive results to the community of Ward 2 in Ermelo, Mpumalanga. In 2012, the PSC and MLM held a Citizens Forum meeting wherein members of the community identified various service delivery matters that needed attention.

On 13 July 2014, the PSC and the MLM jointly conducted a report back session with members of the community to communicate progress relating to the issues that the community raised in 2012. Commissioner David Mkhwanazi and the Executive Mayor of LM, Mr JS Bongwe reported the following achievements to the satisfaction of members of the community:

- Building of 22 Reconstruction and Development

Programme (RDP) houses in Ward2 of Msukaligwa Local Municipality;

- Appointment of 1 Librarian and procurement of new books to the value of R 2million for the library in Ermelo in the Gert Sibanda Local Municipality;
- Installation of electricity in 135 households out of a target of 200 households in Ward 2 of Msukaligwa Local Municipality;
- A site for the construction of a Community Health Centre has been identified. The construction will commence in the 2015/2016 financial year;
- MN Cindi clinic was upgraded and two nurses were appointed. The operating hours at the clinic were extended from 07:00 to 18:00; and
- Two (2) master street lights were installed.

The community members present at the report back session were very happy with the efforts made by the PSC and the Municipality in improving services in the area.

PSC SIGNS THE MoU WITH THE ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE



By: Bongiwé Dlamini

On 30 June 2014, the PSC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Association of Public Accounts Committee (APAC). The purpose of the MoU is to enhance cooperation between the two organisations in order to lay the basis for seeking ways to complement each other's legal mandates and share technical information and expertise.

APAC is a committee that is mandated to ensure proper scrutiny of the financial affairs of government and intends to eradicate extravagance and waste. Furthermore, APAC is recognised for promoting credible public financial management, accountability and good governance through effective collaborative legislative oversight.

The MoU between the organisations will be governed by the following principles:

- Each party recognises and respects the governance structures and internal processes of the other;

- Each party shall be transparent with regard to planned activities that might potentially impact on the work of the other party and the parties shall seek ways to complement each other in the performance of their respective functions; and
- The parties shall cooperate in good faith and with honesty, integrity and professionalism, and each party shall respect the other's work (whether copyrighted or not), findings and representation.

This partnership will also ensure that the PSC continues to promote public service excellence in its operations and this relationship is seen as beneficial to both parties in terms of execution of their mandates.

At the signing of the MoU was amongst others, the Chairperson of the PSC, Mr Ben Mthembu, Commissioners Michael Seloane and Matome Mawasha. APAC was represented by the Deputy Chairperson, Juanita Beukes who signed the memorandum with the Chairperson of the PSC. The General Secretary of APAC, Mr Hlomane Chauke facilitated the proceedings.

EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL OFFICE INTERACTS WITH STAKEHOLDERS



By: Mocheta Monama

On 15 July 2014, the PSC's Eastern Cape provincial office hosted an interaction with the Eastern Cape stakeholders at the International Convention Centre in East London. The purpose of the stakeholder engagement was to provide information relating to the mandate of the PSC in strengthening technical oversight of the provincial Legislatures.

The event was attended by the Premier of the province, Mr P. Masualle; Mr B. Mthembu, Chairperson of the Public Service Commission; Honourable Ms N. Kiviet; Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Mr M. Mhlathi, Chairperson of SCOPA at the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature and PSC Commissioner in the Eastern Cape, Mr S. Mafanya.

In his address the Chairperson of the PSC, Mr Ben Mthembu, indicated that the provincial legislatures serve as important stakeholders of the PSC because of its oversight responsibilities. He stated that: *"The PSC produces annually strategic oversight reports that cut across public administration in all spheres of government. These reports reflect in many instances provincial specific information that provincial legislatures can apply to hold the Executive and Administrative leadership in the province accountable"*.

The Chairperson further mentioned that: *"the PSC is not a distant and aloof institution that shields itself from getting its hands dirty by clinging relentlessly to its independence. We as the PSC live in the real world, we identify with the citizens, and we want to see change for the betterment of the lives of all our citizens"*.

There was an appreciation of the work of the PSC and how its research reports assist the Eastern Cape Legislature in its oversight role and Premier Masualle as well as the Speaker, Ms Kiviet committed the Eastern Cape Administration to working closer with the PSC.

In his closing remarks, Commissioner Mafanya mentioned that, *"the PSC will continue conducting its oversight work in the public service, as this serves as a basis for its engagements with Parliament and the provincial Legislatures"*. He further reiterated that, *"the PSC hopes to see more engagements on its work with the Eastern Cape provincial Legislature and the province as a whole"*.

Izwi would like to say well done to Team PSC in the Eastern Cape Provincial Office for hosting a successful Stakeholder Engagement.

AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY CELEBRATION, MPUMALANGA



By: Mocheta Monama

On 2 July 2014, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government held the Africa Public Service Day in Badplaas. The aim of Africa Public Service Day is to recognise and set standards that would restore prestige and dignity to the public service and raise performance levels and competence in government.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) was represented by the Mpumalanga Resident Commissioner, Mr David Mkhwanazi. During his presentation, Commissioner Mkhwanazi took his time to educate the citizens of Badplaas about the PSC and its mandate. He further assured members of the community that complaints lodged with the PSC through the National Anti-Corruption Hotline will be treated with due diligence and encouraged

the community to cooperate with the Hotline operators by answering all the necessary questions when reporting corruption through the Hotline.

As part of celebrating the day, various government departments were on site showcasing their services to the community of Badplaas and surrounding villages. The exhibition included mobile clinics (for humans and animals), mobile libraries, etc. The department of Home Affairs also afforded the citizens with an opportunity to apply for Identity Documents onsite.

The Mayor of Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, Cllr B.P. Shiba, thanked the community of Badplaas and surrounding villages and all the exhibitors for honouring the invite by the Mpumalanga Provincial Government. She further called on public servants to continue the good work they are doing to serve the public.

TEAM PSC MAKES A DIFFERENCE ON MANDELA DAY BY HELPING THE LESS FORTUNATE

By: Mmanakedi Seshoka

In July, South Africa and the rest of the world celebrate the legacy of the former president Nelson Mandela by reaching out to others. Nelson Mandela's birthday on 18 July has been declared Nelson Mandela International Day by the United Nations.

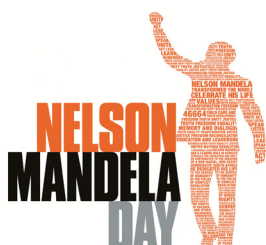
As South Africans, we are privileged to celebrate Nelson Mandela's life for the whole of July. This provides everyone with an opportunity to heed the call to action for people to recognise their individual power; to make an imprint and change the world around them.

On 18 July 2014, members of Team PSC at national and provincial offices dedicated their time and showed love to various communities. Collectively, Team PSC participated in the following activities during the Nelson Mandela Day:

- General cleaning and washing windows;
- Painted classrooms;
- Donated furniture;
- Donated computer desktops;
- Repaired broken windows and doors;
- Gardening and
- Donating School Uniforms

The legacy of Nelson Mandela continues to live with us and indeed Team PSC went all out to make sure that the Mandela Day was a success. We celebrate his life and commit ourselves in making a difference to those in need.

National Office Mandela Day Celebration at Boschkop Primary School





A group of seven people are posed for a photograph in a kitchen. From left to right: a man in a dark jacket and a black beanie; a man in a dark jacket over a blue shirt; a woman in a grey jacket and red scarf; a woman in a white jacket and blue hat; a woman in a colorful patterned shirt with text like 'COOK' and 'GAT'; a man in a red beanie; and a woman in a white headscarf and glasses. A man in a dark jacket is also visible in the foreground, partially obscured. The background shows a white tiled wall and kitchen utensils hanging on the wall.

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Jokes

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the University of Wivwatersrand, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The engineer replies, "In the region of R1 million a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?" The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."