



Custodian of Good Governance

IZWI lase OPSC

October/November 2015

Editorial

Welcome to the October /November edition of **Izwi lase OPSC**. This issue comes at a time when we are almost towards the end of 2015. We hope that Team PSC will take this time to reflect on a number of achievements that have been accomplished this year.

We would like to pass our deepest condolences to all members of the PSC who have lost their loved ones during this period and our prayers are with you all during this trying times.

As custodian of good governance, the PSC has over the years, received clean audits reports including the 2013/14 financial year. In recognition of this outstanding achievement, on 26 October 2015, the PSC received an award in a ceremony that took place at Diep in die Berg. Izwi was there to capture the moment.

As part of increasing visibility of the PSC, Commissioner Boshoff has on 8 October 2015, led Team PSC in Free State Province during a service delivery inspection at the Maseru Bridge Boarder Post. Likewise, Commissioner Michael Seloane has on 10 November 2015, briefed members of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature as well as members of the media about the performance of the Gauteng Provincial Departments. Izwi will reflects on all these events.

South Africa will as from 25 November to 10 December celebrate the 16 Days of Activism for no Violence Against Women and Children. Izwi would like to appeal to Team PSC to participate in various initiatives aimed at preventing violence against women and children.

The PSC takes the issue of professional ethics seriously and it was evident by an Information Session on Constitutional Values and Principles that took place during November 2015. Izwi will also reflects on an Information Session that took place on 2 November 2015 at ABSA Towers as well as an article that focuses on declaration of gifts.

We conclude this edition with some jokes. We hope readers will enjoy.

Happy reading!

Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| <i>Editorial</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>PSC receives award from AG</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>Free State Provincial Office conducts an inspection at Maseru Border Post</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>Commissioner Seloane briefs members of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>PSC commemorates 16 Days of Activism for no Violence Against Women & Children</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Information Session on Constitutional Values and Principles</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Acceptance of gifts</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Jokes</i> | <i>8</i> |

PSC RECEIVES A CLEAN AUDIT AWARD FROM THE AG



By: Bongiwé Dlamini

In an effort to control the spending patterns of the Departments, the Auditor -General (AG) has over the years encouraged institutions to manage their finances. The AG hosted an awards ceremony in recognition of departments that have produced clean audit reports for 2014/15 financial year.

The PSC received an award from the AG in an award ceremony that took place on 26 October 2015 at Diep in die Berg.

Izwi would also like to congratulate Team PSC for the remarkable achievement in ensuring that the Commission maintains its financial standing.

FREE STATE PROVINCIAL OFFICE CONDUCTS SERVICE DELIVERY INSPECTION AT MASERU BRIDGE BORDER POST



By: Ricardo Mahlakanya

As part of its service delivery mandate, Free State Provincial Office has on 8 October 2015 conducted a service delivery inspection at Maseru Bridge Border Post. The inspection was as a result of various negative media reports and complaints from members of the public as well as other stakeholders based at the Border Post.

Speaking to members of the media during a media briefing at the Border Post, Commissioner Boshoff indicated that the PSC will use the inspection to engage stakeholders based at the Border Post to get response from the Department of Home Affairs and other stakeholders on how to address the challenges.

He further concluded that the Commission will compile a report with recommendations and it will be presented to the members of Free State Provincial Legislature for remedial actions.

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COMMISSIONER SELAONE BRIEFS MEMBERS OF THE GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE



By: Ricardo Mahlakanya

Commissioner Michael Seloane has on 10 November 2015 briefed members of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature as well as members of the media on the performance of the Gauteng Provincial Departments.

The briefing was aimed to evaluate the extent to which Gauteng Provincial Departments have complied with the Values and Principles set out in Section 195 of the 1996 Constitution of Republic of South Africa. The briefing session was a resounding success and also assisted in enhancing the work of the PSC.

PSC COMMEMORATES 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN



By: Tshidi Dibetle

South Africa will as from 25 November to 10 December 2015 celebrate the 16 Days of Activism for no Violence Against Women and Children. It is a time to galvanise action to end violence against women and girls around the world. The international campaign originated from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991.

The year 2015 marks the 20-year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most progressive road map to gender equality. World leaders met in March at the United Nations **59th Commission on the Status of Women** and in September at the **70th General Assembly** to take stock of the progress made and commit to take action to close the gaps that are holding women and girls back. This year a new Sustainable Development agenda, which for the first time includes specific targets and indicators on ending violence against women, also replaced the Millennium Development Goals.

The United Nations Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said during the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women "if we all work together: governments, civil society organisations, the UN system, businesses, schools, and individuals mobilising through new solidarity movements, we will eventually achieve a more equal world a Planet 50/ 50 where women and girls can and will live free from violence. Let's us all speak up

INFORMATION SESSION ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES



By: Zanele Mahlangu

The PSC as a champion of the public administration excellence in a democratic governance has taken a decision to robustly promote the Constitutional Values and Principles with Team PSC and public servants within the Public Service. As part of the promotion, the Commission engaged Team PSC on 2 November 2015 at ABSA Towers on the importance of the Constitutional Values and Principles. The session was spearheaded by the Acting DDG:M&E who made a presentation during the session. The information was a success and the Commission envisage that more information sessions will be conducted with all the provincial offices.



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ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

By: Fienie Viviers

As we are preparing for the Festive Season, setting up shiny lights, unwrapping ornaments, buying presents and arranging to spend time with family and friends, it's a good time to reflect on a kind of gift giving that can be problematic: **gifts from existing and potential service providers of the OPSC**. This is an issue year-round, but during the holiday season the pressure is even greater to accept the well-meaning box of chocolates or biscuits, vouchers, discounted rates on accommodation or the like.

The OPSC has rules regulating the acceptance and disclosure of gifts, as well as a Gift Register. Employees are reminded that if any gift was received, it should be recorded in the Gift Register, available in the Offices of the DDG: CS and Provincial Directors.

Code of Conduct for the Public Service

Employees should not use her or his official position to obtain private benefits for herself or himself during the performance of her or his official duties nor does she or he accept any gifts or benefits when offered as these may be construed as bribes.

Financial Disclosure Framework for Members of the SMS

To declare gifts and hospitality from a source other than a family member with a value in excess of R350 and well as hospitality intended as a gift in kind.

The OPSC Gift Policy

Employees to obtain prior written approval from the DG to obtain or accept gifts, benefits or items of monetary value (in excess of R350).

What can you do as an OPSC employee? You are *encouraged* to politely say **NO, thank you!**



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Jokes

When the teacher entered the class

All the boys were standing.

The teacher said: 'Now, all of you sit down except those who

are absolutely dull and duffers?'

All the boys sat down except Rajan.

Teacher: 'Why Rajan? Are you absolutely dull and a duffer?'

Rajan: 'No sir. The thing is that you were standing alone and it didn't look good