



Custodian of Good Governance

Izwi lase OPSC

Jul/Aug/Sep 2022

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CELEBRATING
SOUTH AFRICA'S LIVING
HUMAN TREASURES

#MyHeritageYourHeritage



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Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of Izwi lase OPSC.

The month of **October** has been declared Depression and Mental Health Awareness month. The objective of the awareness is not only to educate the public about mental health but also to reduce the stigma and discrimination that people with mental illness are often subjected to. Mental health is one of the topics that is often not discussed in our personal and work lives, and yet it affects many people in our communities including children. In the last page of Izwi we share few tips on how to deal with mental health disorder.

On 26-27 September 2022, the Public Service Commission (PSC) held its Strategic Planning Session under the theme "Repositioning the PSC for Resilience during Crisis and Change". The Acting Minister for Public Service and Administration graced the session on the 2nd day. In this issue of Izwi we report about the Minister's address.

In an effort to contribute towards the fight against corruption, the PSC in the Eastern Cape under the stewardship of Commissioner Lulu Sizani met with the leadership of Walter Sisulu Municipality on Friday, 09 September 2022 to discuss the possibility of utilizing the National Anti-Corruption Hotline to report the allegations of corruption and maladministration within the municipality. In this edition of Izwi we report about the meeting.

In the spirit of improving service delivery to address the needs of the citizens and restore trust in government, the PSC hosted the Citizens Forums in Gauteng and Northern Cape respectively. The Citizens Forum aims to amongst others, evaluate and assess service delivery programmes; improve participation in the planning and implementation of service delivery programmes; and make recommendations on how to improve service delivery in communities.

We conclude this edition of Izwi lase OPSC With Women's Day celebrations held at Kgosi Mampuru Correctional Centre on 05 August 2022 and Heritage Day celebrations held at De la Port on 20 September 2022.

Minister Thulas Nxesi addresses the PSC Strategic Planning Session

On 26-27 September 2022, the PSC held its Strategic Planning Session under the theme ***"Repositioning the PSC for Resilience during Crisis and Change"***. In attendance were Commissioners, Executive Management and other PSC Senior Managers. The Acting Minister of the Department of Public Service Administration, Mr Thulas Nxesi, graced the event.



Minister Thulas Nxesi with Commissioner Anele Gxoyiya (left) Prof Somadoda Fiken, Deputy Chairperson Ms Zukiswa Mqolomba and Adv Laurence Cronje

In his address Minister Nxesi said "the PSC as a Chapter 10 Institution, has an important role to play in contributing to the achievement of Priority 1 of the current Medium Term Strategic Framework (A Capable, Ethical and Developmental State). He further said that "the vehicle to achieve priority 1 is stated under Section 196 of the constitution which states that the PSC must maintain an effective and efficient public administration and a high standard of professional ethics in the Public Service. This constitutional requirement will not only contribute towards the achievement of priority 1 but all 7 government priorities".



In conclusion, the Minister said that he wishes that "discussions and strategies that will be adopted from this session will provide a strong foundation for the PSC for a much-needed change in the Public Service with a view to:

- Strengthening ethical governance and integrity of the Public Service;
- Intensifying the struggle against fraud and corruption; and
- Professionalising the Public Service with a view to greater service delivery to the public at large.



Minister Thulas Nxesi with Commissioner the PSC Commission and DG

The Public Service Commission in the Eastern Cape meets the Leadership of Walter Sisulu Municipality

In an effort to contribute towards the fight against unethical conduct and corruption in municipalities, on Friday 09 September 2022 the PSC in the Eastern Cape under the stewardship of Commissioner Lulu Sizani hosted the leadership of Walter Sisulu Municipality (Burgersdorp) to discuss the possibility of utilizing the National Anti-Corruption Hotline (NACH) to report allegations of corruption and maladministration. This effort is intended to build a developmental and capable state within the Municipality and to promote zero tolerance to corruption.

The collaboration with the PSC will enable employees of the Walter Sisulu Municipality to report wrongdoing, fraud, corruption and maladministration to the NACH. To this end, the Municipality has agreed to send a formal request to the PSC in this regard and a Memorandum of Understanding will be drafted to drive this very important initiative.





Citizens Forum

Gauteng

On 13 September 2022, the PSC in partnership with the Gauteng Department of Health and Medical Universities (in Gauteng) held the Gauteng Citizens Forum in Pretoria. The Citizens Forum enabled stakeholders including community members to engage with the authorities in charge of the delivery of health care services in the Province and how these health care services are planned, processed and implemented by various institutions. The event was attended by +/-350 representatives from various government institutions including Universities and community members.



Stakeholders attending the Citizens' Forum



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Northern Cape



Northern Cape Premier Dr Zamani Saul with Prof Somadoda Fikeni



sanitation, access to medical care services, poor roads infrastructure and the high level of crime.

Likewise on 23 September 2022, the PSC in partnership with the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality and Provincial Government Departments held another Citizens Forum to address issues affecting service delivery in Klein Mier (Northern Cape). The old Mier Municipality which is now part of Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality is a rural community which has historically been marginalized in the provision of basic services.

The Premier of the Northern Cape, Honourable Zamani Saul and some of the MECs in the Province graced the event to share service delivery plans that they have for the community of Klein Mier and surrounding areas and that Government is working on addressing the community needs such as water shortages and poor

Community of Klein Mier



The Department of Home Affairs and the South African Social Service Agency assisted the community with applications for birth certificates, Identity Documents and Social Grants. We hope that the applications will be processed speedily so that the community of Klein Mier can get their documents soon including access to social grants. The event was attended by +/-850 community members.



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PSC Commemorates National Heritage Day in style



On Friday, 30 September 2022, Team PSC national office commemorated the National Heritage Day at De La Port Lapa while colleagues from provincial offices celebrated at their respective provinces. The theme for the 2022 Heritage Month was "Celebrating the legacy of Solomon Linda and South Africa's Indigenous Music". This year's theme paid tribute to the 60th anniversary of the passing of singer and song writer Solomon Popoli Linda who is best known as the composer of the song "Mbube" which later became the popular music success "The Lion Sleeps Tonight".



Clad in their traditional attires, colleagues (in attendance) represented different cultures including Isindebele, TshiVenda, Tsonga, Zulu, Pedi, India and Tswana amongst others. Colleagues shared their history, clan names, cuisines, some even danced.



The programme at the national office also included awarding of long service to employees who have completed ten years as public servants. Dr Kholofelo Sedibe delivered the opening remarks. She spoke about the importance of celebrating our culture and heritage as South Africans.

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Prof. Makhanya gave a keynote address and elaborated on the colorful part of our heritage, which is expressed in the form of our Arts & Culture. He mentioned that our colorful outfits represent all the different cultures found in South Africa, which are unique in its nature. "Our dance moves are an expression of our heritage which depicts our diversity in terms of who we are as people and the environment", he said.



Prof Mandla Makhanya handing out long service certificates to members of Team PSC

In closing the formal programme, Ms Dianne Michael extended her appreciation to all the participants. She said that the diversity in our cultures should bring us together as a nation and should help us embrace who we are.

Free State Provincial Office



Northern Cape Provincial Office



Woman's Day Commemoration

On 05 August 2022, PSC women commemorated Women's Day at Kgosi Mampuru Management Area under the theme "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Resilience". The event was graced by Commissioners Yasmin Bacus, Zukiswa Mqolomba and Nancy Ngwenya as well as the DG, DDGs and other Senior Managers in the PSC. Commissioner Nancy Ngwenya delivered a keynote address which aimed to motivate the PSC women and to encourage them on how to face challenges in their life and work journey. Pontso Segagabane also gave a motivational talk on the importance of the dress code. Women in attendance enjoyed good food and music and were each given a rose on departure to sethabal the special moment.



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Stakeholder Engagement



Prof Somadoda Fikeni with the speaker of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Ms Makhosazana Masilela and Commissioner Magarule Senkonya

The Public Service Commission under the leadership of the Chairperson, Professor Somadoda Fikeni met with the Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Ms Makhosazana Masilela, on Tuesday, 04 October 2022. Some of the pertinent issues discussed during the meeting included amongst others, the planned Citizens Forum in Mpumalanga. The Speaker was accompanied by the Secretary of the Legislature, Mr Hubert Shabangu, Chief of Staff in the Office of the Speaker, Mr Maurice Khoza and Senior Manager for Members' Affairs, Mr Phakamile Thwala. On the other hand, PSC Chairperson was accompanied by Mpumalanga Caretaker Commissioner, Mr Magarule Sekonya, Director-General of the PSC, Advocate Dinkie Dube, Deputy Director-General: Integrity and Anti-Corruption, Mr Matome Malatsi and Provincial Director, Ms Salome Meso.



Wellness Corner

The month of October has been declared "Depression and Mental Health Awareness Month" with the aim of not only educating the public about mental health but to also reduce the stigma and discrimination that people with mental health illness are often subjected to.

There are many types of depression and mental health disorders. From seasonal affective disorder (SAD) to bipolar to generalized anxiety to alcohol use, each one of these and many other mental health disorders can be diagnosed and treated in their own specific ways. There are some steps you can take to help manage your mental health, but these suggestions should not be taken as a substitute for seeing a medical professional and receiving appropriate therapy.

- **Eat a regularly healthy diet** with lots of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein, and low-fat dairy
- **Be physically active every day**, whether it's a few 10 minute walks throughout the day or spending 60 minutes at the gym
- **Set aside time for fun and relaxation**, which could mean spending an afternoon playing outside with your kids or curling up on a couch to read a book
- **Avoid alcohol and drugs**, both of which can alter your mood and make a bad situation seem even worse
- **Stay connected with friends and family**, because having a strong social support network is key to maintaining a happy, healthy mindset

Mental health is just as important as our physical health, so it is key to understand the resources available as you seek to improve this aspect of your health. ICAS is readily available for you and your loved ones 24/7. They can be reached through their toll-free number on 0800 000 406. For more information on mental health awareness, visit www.gov.za/MentalHealthAwarenessMonth2022

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