



Custodian of Good Governance

# IZWI

## LASE OPSC

March - April 2006

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

It feels like yesterday when we came back from our festive break and already we are in March. I do hope that everyone had a wonderful time and a well deserved break after a long and challenging 2005.

A lot has happened in 2005. Amongst other things, we bade farewell to our Director-General, Mr Mpume Sikhosana who served the Office with distinction during his almost six year tenure. He certainly left the OPSC with a legacy of high quality innovative contributions to the transformation task of government. We should therefore, as custodians of good governance, continue to carry the PSC's flag by reaching high levels of achievement.

As the 2005/2006 financial period draws to a close, it is of utmost importance that we finalize our projects so that we can safely assert that we have achieved everything that we had set out to achieve. In order to achieve this, we need to double our efforts in the days ahead.

I would like to believe that we are mentally prepared for the year ahead as was borne out by the Office's successful workplan session and MANCO in Roodevallei on 9 – 10 February 2006. I must admit that the level of staff participation was impressive. I must also thank everyone for their contribution in making this strategic session a success. Within two days, we managed to effectively craft and streamline our workplan for the 2006/2007 financial period.

As we move forward in carrying out our mandate, we need to continue to improve the quality of our work and show commitment and selflessness when undertaking our projects. After all, we are custodians of good governance and we have made our mark as a valuable force in proposing measures for good governance, and the provision of quality service in the Public Service.



*Ms Hilda Lediga, Admin Secretary in the DG's office; former DG of the OPSC, Mr Mpume Sikhosana; and Acting DG, Ms Odette Ramsingh at Mpume's farewell function held in Pretoria late last year*



*PSC Chairperson, Professor Stan Sangweni with former OPSC DG, Mr Mpume Sikhosana at a farewell function held in Cape Town late last year*

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# COMMISSIONER MARIA RANTHO'S NAME LIVES ON

By Manase Makwela

Nearly four years after her death, former PSC Commissioner, Ms Mamodupi Maria Nkele Rantho's name is once again a source of joy and hope to the residents of Gauteng. Commissioner Rantho's name resurfaced in a big way when the community of Soshanguve and the Gauteng Department of Health opened a clinic named after her, at Block L (Soshanguve) on 20 February this year.



From Left: Mrs Rebhone Rantho (Commissioner Maria Rantho's mother) and Gauteng Health MEC, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, after officially opening the Maria Rantho Clinic

In the words of Gauteng Health MEC, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, it was befitting to name the clinic after Commissioner Rantho, for she was a "veteran, stalwart, and leader for human rights". To many others, Commissioner Rantho, a qualified nurse and a political activist, is remembered as the co-founder of Disabled People South Africa (DPSA), a mother, sister, daughter, and comrade, who served selflessly in various portfolios she held.



Former PSC Commissioner, Ms Maria Rantho

Commissioner Rantho held various executive positions in community building organizations, especially in the disability sector. She was amongst others, a Member of the Executive Committee of Disabled People International (DPI); Chairperson of Disabled People South Africa (DPSA); and Deputy Chairperson of Viva Trust. In different ways, the Viva Trust benefited people with disabilities; neglected and abused children; the elderly and disadvantaged communities. She was appointed PSC Commissioner in 1999. Commissioner Rantho, who was wheelchair bound for 25 years after a car accident in 1977, was the first PSC Commissioner with a disability.

Speaking on behalf of the Rantho family, Ms Caroline Matlala said that "although she may have been wheelchair bound, Maria's brains; spirit of patriotism; and ability to stand for people with disabilities, were not disabled".

Commissioner Rantho was the sixth child of Mrs Rebhone Letswele Rantho and the late Mr Johannes Manyabjane Rantho.

As part of the opening ceremony, school uniforms were handed to needy learners from various local schools. The Chairperson of the PSC, Professor Stan Sangweni and MEC Ramokgopa led a team of dignitaries in handing over the uniforms.



Gauteng Health MEC, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa and PSC Chairperson, Professor Stan Sangweni with some of the learners who received school uniforms.

Amongst other dignitaries that attended the ceremony were Members of Parliament, DPSA executive members, councilors and senior government managers. In addition to Professor Sangweni, the PSC was represented by Deputy Chairperson, Mr John Ernstzen and Commissioner Koko Mokgalong.



PSC Commissioners, from left: Mr John Ernstzen, Ms Koko Mokgalong (wearing sunglasses) and Professor Stan Sangweni, at the official opening of Maria Rantho Clinic.

## PUBLIC SERVICE DGs SIGNED ETHICS PLEDGE

By Mishack Magakwe

South African Directors-General signed a public service pledge in Magaliesburg on 01 December last year, thus committing themselves to high standards of professional ethics and integrity in the public service.

The Pledge came as a response to the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Strategy (PSACS)'s call to promote professional ethics in the public service. It was drafted by the Public Service Commission and approved by the Anti-Corruption Coordinating Committee of the Public Service.



Provincial and national DGs signing the Public Service Pledge

The pledge that was signed during a Forum of South African Directors-General (FOSAD) workshop, commits the Directors-General to ensure that their departments serve people with loyalty, respect, dignity and integrity.

In his Keynote speech, Chairperson of the PSC, Professor Stan Sangweni said that the Commission was grateful that Directors-General of all departments deemed it fit to sign the public service pledge as a mark of commitment to leadership in leading the campaign for integrity in the public service.

To him, the signing of the pledge is "more than a symbolic creation of a culture of integrity in our civil service community".

Speaking to IZWI at the ceremony, Mr Roderick Davids who heads the Professional Ethics Research and Promotion Directorate, said he was hopeful that "the cascading of the pledge to the provincial and national departments will happen qualitatively". He concurred with Professor Sangweni that the pledge should be more than just a verbal commitment; it should be a "burning flame of service delivery" for all public servants.



Professor Stan Sangweni and Rev. Frank Chikane, DG in the Presidency, signing the Public Service Pledge

## WORLD AIDS DAY AND DISABLED PERSONS DAY

By Mishack Magakwe

The OPSC commemorated its World Aids Day and Disabled Persons Day on 02 December 2005, as a way of supporting people living with HIV/AIDS and any form of disability.

Speaking at the ceremony, Commissioner Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko encouraged everyone to "love, support and befriend people living with HIV/AIDS and disabilities".



Commissioner Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko (with back to camera) practicing what she 'preached' at the O/PSC's Disabled Persons Day/ World Aids Day commemoration.



PSC Commissioners lighting candles with guest speakers at the OPSC's World Aids Day/ Disabled Persons Day commemoration.

In their presentations, the two guest speakers, Dr O. Maguve, from the South African Council for the Blind and Mr J. Wessenaar, a person living openly with HIV/AIDS, told the attendants how they face rejection each day because of their disabilities and infection respectively. They concurred that World Aids Day and Disabled Persons Day were so named to mobilize and conscientize

the entire world about the rights, privileges, needs, aspirations and concerns of people with disabilities and those living with HIV/AIDS worldwide. Listening attentively to these guest speakers, one could deduce that they are both of the view that there is a need for focused national and international programmes which would bring clear and limitless life opportunities to people with disabilities and those living with HIV/AIDS.



Commissioner Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko, 3rd from right (middle row), with OPSC officials at the World Aids Day/ Disabled Persons Day commemoration.

## PROVINCIAL SMS CONFERENCE HELD IN NORTH WEST

By Pinky Seabelo

The North West province held its provincial Senior Management Services (SMS) Conference from 8 to 9 November 2005 in Mafikeng, following the fourth Annual National SMS conference that was held in Johannesburg from 5 to 6 September. Of interest was that the North West event happened as part of the Public Service Week that took place from 7 to 11 November 2005.

Unlike with the national SMS Conference that limits its invitations to senior managers, the invitation to the North West conference was extended to

middle managers as well. The OPSC was represented by managers from the North West Regional Office.

The theme of the North West conference was "Building implementation capacity in the Province for sustainable shared growth and development: Implications for the Public Service". The following issues were of great concern and were discussed during the conference:

- to take further, the resolutions of the Annual National SMS conference;
- to evaluate the role of Provincial Ad-

ministration and Local Government in building the capacity of the State to deliver on the Government Programme of Action;

- to interrogate strategies that will unblock bottlenecks and identify key levers to take government service delivery to new heights; and
- to unpack the objectives of the Public Service Week (PSW) as outlined in the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) Concept Document.

## PSC SUPPORT THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN

By Mabel Morontse

O/PSC commemorated the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence in Pretoria on Friday the 18th of November last year. The commemoration was aimed at raising awareness around the violation of human rights of women and children.

Speaking at this ceremony, Ms Odette Ramsingh, OPSC's Acting Director-General, emphasized that such a commemoration should be seen as a call for all people to look at how they treat each other in their daily activities and take corrective action where necessary.

According to her, although government introduced policies that do not tolerate abuse against women and children, "government on its own would not be able to reduce the problem. We have to commit ourselves to provide a South Africa that is better for all". Ms Ramsingh

also urged employees to use support programmes like Employee Assistance Programme put in place by employers to try to protect the abuse and violent behaviour against women and children.

Speaker after speaker, the message was one: women and children also have rights amongst which are rights to take decisions; to be treated with respect and dignity; and to control their sexuality.



Some of the OPSC officials who attended commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.

# EVENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

## EVENTS FOR MARCH/ APRIL 2006

By Ben De Villiers

March	
6 - 12	Employee Volunteer Week
7	International Women's Day
13 - 19	Brain Awareness Week
20	Head Injury Awareness Day
20	Earth Day
21	Human Right's Day
24	World TB Day

April	
1 - 30	Health Awareness Month
1 - 31	National Blood Donor Month
2 - 8	National Polo Eradication Week
7	World Health Day
14	Good Friday
17	Family Day
17	World Hemophilia
27	Freedom Day

## BIRTHDAYS

The following officials celebrate their birthdays in March

By Mishack Magakwe. Source: Directorate (HRM&D)

Ms ZS Dhludhla	04/03	Head Office
Ms Y Du plessis	04/03	Head Office
Mr DJ Fabricius	04/03	Head Office
Mr RA Chauke	04/03	Limpopo Province
Ms NF Mjekula	06/03	Head Office
Mr MSD Lekgotla	10/03	Head Office
Mr JT Dindi	13/03	Head Office
Mr HA Maluleke	13/03	Head Office
Ms BM Ndhlovu	15/03	Head Office
Mr SW Mnisi	16/03	Mpumalanga Province
Ms M Van Blerk	22/03	Head Office
Ms HJ Raphokwane	24/03	Head Office
Ms P Africa	31/03	Head Office
Ms MN Mapengu	31/03	Head Office
Mr MJ Nhlapo	31/03	Head Office