



Custodian of Good Governance

IZWI lase OPSC

June/July 2015

Editorial

Welcome to the June/July edition of Izwi , our first edition since we have moved to ABSA Towers. We hope that everyone has settled in and adjusted to the new environment, albeit a temporary one. Like the Acting Director-General mentioned during the briefing session held on Monday 23 July 2015: “there will be some challenges as we go along, but members of Team PSC are encouraged to report those challenges to their respective DDGs so that they could be attended to as soon as possible”.

In this edition, we reflect on the Deputy Chairperson’s Information Session held on Monday, 27 July 2015, which was aimed at officially welcoming members of Team PSC to ABSA Towers. Accompanied by Commissioners, the Deputy Chairperson acknowledged the challenges experienced by officials following the relocation and urged everyone to be patient with one another whilst the identified challenges were being addressed.

The move from closed offices to open plan environment at ABSA Towers requires everyone to be alert. This was evident by the reports during the first week of our stay that some officials lost their valuables in the Office. In this edition, we share with colleagues the security measures that are applicable at ABSA Towers and everyone is urged to abide by these new measures.

Given that the month of July is Mandela Month, members of Team PSC in the provinces celebrated Nelson Mandela Day by helping the less fortunate, especially the children.

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Through pictures, Izwi reflect on the activities held by the Western Cape and North West Provincial Offices. Congratulations to Team PSC for demonstrating through the act of kindness that everyone has the power to change the world. We should make everyday a Mandela Day.

As part of strengthening the relations with stakeholders, the Limpopo Provincial Office made a presentation at the Office of the Premier in Limpopo, which focused on Anti-Corruption and Ethics strategy and we reflect on that engagement. The PSC just like any other government and constitutional body celebrates on an annual basis, the "Take a Girl or Boy Child to Work Campaign" with the view to expose and empower various boy and girl children to the working life. The year 2015 was not different as Team PSC hosted learners from amongst others, Olivenhuitbosch and Ikusaselihle secondary schools and Izwi report on the 2015 Campaign. We also report on the PSC's Strategic Planning Session which was held from 14-6 July 2015 at Environmental House in Pretoria. We conclude this edition with the Jokes Corner.

Happy reading!!!

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON'S INFORMATION SESSION



By: Bongiwe Dlamini

Finally, the National Office of the PSC took occupancy of ABSA Tower on Monday, 20 July 2015. Although it has taken a while largely because the building was not ready for occupation, the historic move from Commission House to ABSA Towers finally took place. The Branch: Corporate Services was the first to relocate on Friday, 17 July 2015 followed by line function branches.

In an attempt to make everyone every feel at home, the Deputy Chairperson convened an Information Session on Monday, 20 July 2015 to officially welcome Team PSC at ABSA Towers. Besides the officials, the Information Session was graced by Commissioners as well as Reverend Stimela and Raphahlela who opened the session with prayer. In welcoming the Deputy Chairperson, the Acting Director-General, Dr Dovhani Mamphiswa congratulated the relocation committee under the leadership of the Deputy Director-General: Corporate Services for trying their level best in ensuring that the transition from Commission House to ABSA Towers was seamless. He appealed to members of Team PSC to be patient during this transition period.

Dr Mamphiswa acknowledged the concerns that had been raised by officials regarding the outstanding work that needed to be done by contractors, such as cleaning of carpets, electricity connection etc, and promised that PSC's concerns have been brought to the attention of the landlord and will be attended to.

In his address, the Deputy Chairperson mentioned that he was aware of the challenges that had been raised and urged everyone to work together to ensure that they are overcome. He also mentioned that although our stay at ABSA Towers is a temporary one, he would like to encourage everyone to feel comfortable in our temporary home. The Deputy Chairperson also indicated that the Commission has made it clear to the Department of Public Works to ensure that the Public Service Commission has a permanent home long before the expiry of the current lease at ABSA Towers. We hope that within 18 months we will relocate to our permanent home which should be in the Pretoria precinct. We will keep everyone abreast of any developments as we go along. He further encouraged everyone to commit themselves to upholding the integrity of the Commission.

SECURITY AT ABSA TOWERS

By: Ben de Villiers

The Sub-Directorate: Security Services is responsible for the safety of all members of Team PSC at ABSA Towers. In order to ensure that officials' safety is not compromised, officials should take note of the following security measures applicable at ABSA Towers:

Access control to the parking area

The National Office of the PSC has been allocated 150 parking bays. The Executive parking area is clearly marked. Officials are requested to park only at the areas allocated to the PSC. A lost access card will be replaced at the official's own cost for R100. It is the responsibility of everyone to inform the Security personnel in advance regarding visitors and the time of arrival to allow enough time to make for the necessary parking arrangements.

Introduction of Biometric Access System to the PSC

All officials will be enrolled in the system to gain access to the Office. The visitors who will be staying for longer periods at ABSA Towers will be temporarily enrolled in the system for the duration of their stay.

Cable lock for Laptops

All officials are requested to ensure that their laptops are secured with a laptop cable lock. In the case of theft, the affected official will be held responsible for the full cost of the replacement of his/her laptop if it was not properly secured with a cable lock.

Confidential/secret documents

All official must ensure that all classified documents are locked in cabinets before they leave their respective offices.

Valuables

All officials must ensure that extra care is taken for their valuables in light of the open plan working environment.

Respect for colleagues' space

Given the open plan environment, radio should not be played loud. Also, all officials are requested to lower their voices when communicating with each other.

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL OFFICE AND PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE COMMEMORATE NELSON MANDELA DAY



By: Bryne Joynerwood

The Western Cape Provincial Office and Parliamentary Office staff members commemorated Nelson Mandela Day on Friday, 17 July 2015. The day was spent by cooking lunch for a homeless shelter in Woodstock. The shelter is run by a non-profit organisation, *Africa Youth Solutions*, which caters for close to 100 people at night. During the day, the centre provides shelter and food to about 50 youth, adults and the elderly.

The Western Cape provincial office and Parliamentary office staff donated funds to make sure that the day became a success.

The office also provided the shelter with 79 food containers, plastic eating utensils, and cups, chopping boards, cutting knives, peelers and serving spoons. The Western Cape weather had been very cold and the provincial offices further donated tea, sugar and powdered milk.

NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL OFFICE SPENT MANDELA DAY WITH THE CHILDREN



In commemorating the Nelson Mandela Day, Team PSC in the North West Province visited Boitumelo Day Care in Seweding, Mmabatho on 27 July 2015. The Provincial Office which adopted the Day Care Centre last year, donated blankets and food parcels to the Centre. In addition, the Team planted spinach and Commissioner Mosa Sejosingoe encouraged the children and staff at the Centre to take care of the plantation. The message that echoed throughout the Centre was that of hope and love and Commissioner Sejosingoe together with her Team committed to continue to assist the Centre. The principal of the Centre, Ms Mojaki thanked the PSC for the donation and commended Commissioner Sejosingoe and her Team for making a difference in the Centre. Team PSC lets make everyday a Mandela Day!



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL OFFICE SPENT MANDELA DAY WITH THE CHILDREN



LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL OFFICE INTERACTS WITH STAKEHOLDERS



By: Thembekile Makhubele

On 4 June 2015, the Limpopo provincial Office attended the Premier's strategic planning session where the PSC made a presentation on the Anti-corruption and Ethics Strategy. The Premier's strategic planning session was held at the Thaba-Moshate Casino Hotel (Burgersfort). The PSC's presentation provided information relating to the Anti-corruption strategy, successes and failures of the National Anti-Corruption Hotline (NACH) within Limpopo and how the province can improve their statistics on corruption related cases, for example, the issues of accommodation paid for by Office of the Premier (OTP). The presentation by the Limpopo Provincial Director was well received. The Provincial Office received another invitation to attend the Provincial Heads of Departments strategic planning retreat which was held on 29- 30 June 2015. The Limpopo Provincial Office has been working tirelessly to strengthen the relationships with various stakeholders within the province.

The Office has also assisted in providing guidance on areas of governance and internal controls relating to how the province can improve the turnaround time regarding corruption cases within the province.

The Limpopo Provincial Office plans to embark on workshops on Grievance management, with the senior management of Department of Education, and Department of Transport. Lastly, as part of its role in the Institution Supporting Democracy Forum within Limpopo, the provincial office will through workshops, engage all the employees in the Chapter 9 institutions on the code of conduct, Remuneration Work Outside the Public Service (RWOPS) and grievance management.

PSC PARTICIPATE IN TAKE A BOY/GIRL CHILD TO WORK CAMPAIGN



By: Zanele Mahlangu

The National Office and KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Office commemorated the “Take a Girl or Boy Child to Work Campaign” with the view to expose and empower various boy and girl children to the working life. The learners from Olivenhuitbosch and Ikusaselihle Secondary School were exposed to the different work of the Commission including the vision and mission. The mentors from each Branch of the Commission took their time to explain the work of their respective branches to the learners. Furthermore, the learners were also encouraged to choose career paths that will enable them to achieve a brighter future. For them, it was a day well spent at National Office and KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Office respectively and a life changing experience. The learners were all in agreement that their visit to the PSC offices was an eye opener and were all looking forward to one day working for the Public Service with the view to make a difference and create a better life for all.

PSC STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION



PSC Commissioners together with Chief Justice Ngcobo (third from left)

By: Ricardo Mahlakanya

In an effort to provide strategic direction to the Office, the Commission held its Strategic Planning Session from **14-16 July 2015** at the Environmental House in Pretoria under the theme: *“Enhancing the Role and Impact of the PSC in Building a Capable and Developmental State”*. Chief Justice Ngcobo made an input on the work of the Presidential Review Commission whilst, Adv Dumisa Ntshebeze made a presentation on effective and efficient conflict management in the Public Service. The Strategic Planning Session addressed some of the following issues:

- Reflected on and created a shared understanding of the PSC’s holistic mandate (Constitutional/Legislative and Assigned).
- Created synergy between the work streams of the PSC with the Constitutional mandate.

- Developed strategies and identified initiatives to take forward the proposals made in the Developmental State discussion document.
- Identified and generated key projects for the 2016/17-2018/19 financial years.
- Reviewed the first year performance of the implementation of the PSC’s strategic plan.
- Conducted a review of policy changes that might have an impact on the work of the PSC.

Ably facilitated by K Sedibe and S Sithole from PRASA, the strategic planning session was as success. The Commission hopes that the guidance received at the Strategic Planning Session will enable the Office to compile the PSC’s work-plan for 2016/17 aligned to the Budget and the Annual Performance Plan.

JOKE

"Just to establish some parameters," said the professor,

"Mr. Nichols, what is the opposite of joy?"

"Sadness," said the student.

"And the opposite of depression, Ms. Biggs?"

"Elation."

"And you, sir, how about the opposite of woe?"

"I believe that would be giddy up..."