



Custodian of Good Governance

# uMTHOMBO

## THE FOUNTAIN OF KNOWLEDGE

July 2022



Adv. Dinkie P. Dube

**A**llow me to present to you the July edition of uMthombo – the Fountain of Knowledge. The month of July is a special month in the South African calendar and in particular the 18<sup>th</sup> as we commemorated the Nelson Mandela International Day. The theme for this year was: *"Do what you can with what you have where you are"*. This day gives each one of us an opportunity to make a difference in our communities and to change other people's lives for the better. As we continue to reflect on Tata Nelson Mandela's legacy, we should also celebrate his values of Ubuntu, fighting injustice, helping others and fostering reconciliation. As part of the commemorations, on 18 July Team North West joined other stakeholders and donated clothes and sanitary towels to the community of Reatlegile Child and Youth Centre in Mafikeng. I want to congratulate Team North West for their efforts in ensuring that they share the little that they have with the less privileged. Furthermore, I want to recognise officials who also did acts of goodwill in different communities as part of the commemoration. Your efforts will go a long way in impacting and changing other people's lives.

As part of the stakeholder engagement, the Public Service Commission (PSC) under the leadership of the Acting Chairperson, Prof Somadoda Fikeni met with the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms Patricia de Lille on 13 July 2022 to discuss amongst others, the PSC's flagship project on property management, office accommodation and general matters of mutual interest. The meeting was a success.



On 14 July 2022, Commissioner Leonardo Goosen and MEC Reagen Allen (Western Cape Minister for Police Oversight and Community Safety) held a ceremony to honor and appreciate Police Officers of the Gordon's Bay Police Station and other role-players, for their swift response and excellent service in rescuing a two-year-old boy who was kidnapped in a car that was hijacked outside his pre-school, in the Gordon's Bay area. The Minister and Commissioner Goosen jointly handed over certificates of commendation to the SAPS members. In his speech, Commissioner Goosen thanked Police Officers for responding swiftly to the call of duty and ensuring that the child is safely returned to his family. He further encouraged public servants to apply the Constitutional Values and Principles (CVPs) in their day-to-day work to ensure that human dignity is restored and that people are treated with empathy.



Team PSC Northern Cape under the leadership of Commissioner Anele Gxoyiya held the Service Delivery Inspections at Tshwaragano Community Hospital, Dr Surtie Hospital, Steinkop Clinic and Francis Baard - Warrenton Hospital in the region from 11-15 July 2022. The inspections were aimed at obtaining information on the factors enabling or hindering the respective hospitals/clinics in effectively providing services to their clients, as well as identifying measures that may assist in improving identified service delivery challenges. Following the Inspections, Commissioner Gxoyiya also conducted media interviews at Kurara FM, Radio Riverside, NFM, Radio Teemaneng/Vaalwater to promote the CVPs as well as the Batho Pele Principles.

In our continued endeavor to increase the visibility of the PSC, Commissioner Henk Boshoff conducted an interview which was live streamed in different Community Radio Stations in the Free State on Monday, 25 July 2022. The interview focused on the CVPs and the mandate of the PSC.

As part of profiling Commissioners with the view to allow staff members to get to know them better, in this edition of uMthombo we profile the Western Cape Commissioner, Mr Leonardo Goosen.



*Mr. Leonardo Goosen*

Commissioner Leonardo Goosen holds a BA, LLB and LLM (Dispute Resolution) degrees from the University of Cape Town. After completing articles and practising as an attorney in private practice (General litigation, Criminal and Family Law), he became involved in Human Rights Practice and Access to Justice through Lawyers for Human Rights, setting up a rural law clinic and dealing primarily with land tenure and farm evictions. This extended to his practise at the

University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape Law clinics, where he was involved in a number of cases linked to the exercise of fundamental rights immediately after coming into force of the democratic constitution such as:

- Challenging the validity of a school policy which prohibited Rastafarian girls from wearing caps; and
- Challenging the Department of Labour's refusal to allow a widow in an Islamic marriage from claiming death benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Fund Act.

Commissioner Goosen joined the Department of Justice as a Family Advocate and qualified as Family Mediator. He served as an Executive Member of the Family Mediators Association of the Cape and still mediates family disputes on a pro bono basis. He managed a cluster of civil legal practitioners as Civil Principal Attorney, ensuring access to civil justice for the most vulnerable in communities.

He was appointed as a Small Claims Court Commissioner by the Deputy Minister of Justice in 2007 to date. He was also appointed Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions with the Asset Forfeiture Unit of the National Prosecuting Authority responsible for recovering the proceeds of crime from criminals in 2014. He is a longstanding member and Executive Member of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (NADEL), which plays a critical role in the transformation of the legal profession and judiciary.

In conclusion, the Office is encouraged by the increase in the utilization of the services offered by ICAS, the service provider for employees' wellness. Given the importance of employee wellness, colleagues are encouraged to continue to utilize ICAS which can be contacted on **0800 000 406**. Colleagues can also dial **\*134\*905#** to request a call back.

***Till Next Month!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***