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PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Know the status of your land claim campaign

By Phoka Mofokeng: GCIS, Free State

The Office of the Regional Land Claims Commission in the Free State kick-started its roll-out of the “Know the status of your land claim” campaign in the province, to update and inform claimants on the status of claims lodged. The roadshow in the district of Thabo Mofutsanyana ran from 19 September to 26 September 2023 across 4 local municipalities.

On 26 September, the commission hosted its last road show for Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, in QwaQwa under Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality to further spread the message. It was said there will be other engagements in the province and information will be shared on other platforms during information sessions and outreaches.

The Acting Chief Director for the Regional Land Claims Commission in the Free State, Lengane Bogatsu, said, “The province received 3 083 claims lodged between 1994 and 1998, by the deadline of 31 December 1998, referred to as the old order claims. To date, 3 075 claims have been settled, and there are currently eight outstanding claims. In 2014, the President signed into law, legislation that brought about the reopening of the process to lodge new land claims for people who missed the deadline of 31 December 1998, with the deadline of 30 June 2019. The process was suspended after

the validity of the amendment Act was challenged in the Constitutional Court after it was found to be invalid due to insufficient public consultations by Parliament as required by the Constitution.”

He added that the Constitutional Court in March 2019 confirmed that the commission could not process the new order claims lodged between 2014 and 2016 until Parliament has introduced new legislation or the commission has settled all the outstanding old order claims that were lodged before the cut-off date of December 1998. The claims lodged between 1 July 2014 and 27 July 2016 are validly lodged, but they cannot be processed for now.

The engagements focused on the status of outstanding land claims, new order claims and on the Implications of Land Access Movement of South Africa and Others judgement. The community indicated that they were happy to have received updates as they were uncertain about the status of their claims while many were eager for the commission to return to more far-flung areas to reach other areas. A live broadcast from QwaQwa radio was conducted to ensure that the message reached other community members who were unable to attend in the four municipality local areas.



Community members attending the land restitution roadshow at the Multipurpose Centre.



Bogatsu addressing those in attendance on the claims lodged and settled.



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COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 12-year-olds and above:

Online at:
<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>
Send the word **REGISTER** to 0600 123 456 on WhatsApp.
Via SMS by dialling *134*832#.
Call the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999.

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Accelerated service delivery programme

By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West

On 29 September 2023, the Deputy President of South Africa, Paul Mashatile visited Sekhing village under Greater Taung Local Municipality in North West where he was accompanied by the Acting Premier, Nono Maloyi, the Deputy Minister of Forestry Fisheries and Environment, Makhotsa Sotyu, the Executive Mayor of Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality, Councillor Motseokae Maje, the Local Mayor of Greater Taung Local Municipality, Councillor Tumisang Gaoraelwe, Kgosi Ponatshego Mothibi and other dignitaries.

The visit sought to officiate the official opening of the newly built Baga Mothibi Community Health-care Centre as part of the *Thuntsha Lerole* Accelerated Service Delivery programme. *Thuntsha Lerole* is a service-delivery initiative led by North West Provincial Government to fast-track the basic services to communities; mobilise community members to be part of the solution in addressing service-delivery challenges and serves as a platform for continuous feedback to communities in the provision of basic services.

Among the activities of the day were the official opening of the community healthcare centre, which will be providing all primary healthcare services including expanded immunisation programme, women and child healthcare services, maternal and neonatal care, nutrition, non-communicable diseases, mental health, reproductive and youth friendly services, sexually-transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS, and a 24-hour emergency medical services to all the community of Baga Mothibi area.

For many years, community members of Baga Mothibi area has been travelling so many kilometres just to access health services. They have to go to Taung Hospital, which is very far and expensive to travel to. Most of them used to go to Harstwater or Jan Kempdrop, which are in the Northern Cape, and they have to use addresses from friends and relatives so that they can be assisted.

Other sector departments and parastatals were also participating by rendering their services to the communities at the stalls while others were providing services around the village.

Department of Community Safety and Transport Management identified learners who are travelling from the neighbouring villages to attend school and were assisted with 69 bicycles to use for their transportation.



Government services and exhibitions during Thuntsha Lerole programme.



Community members from Baga Mothibi area during feedback session.



Kgosi Mothibi, Deputy President Mashatile, Acting Premier Maloyi and Deputy Minister Sotyu during the community feedback session in Sekhing village.



Katriena Ferreira said:

“Through cleaning come health and human dignity. The Knysna Municipality must please assist us at the Tshiba campus with the cutting of the grass, we who are living there will do the rest of the duties by ensuring the building is clean. With the grass that is growing heavily, it is difficult for us to keep the place, and it is also a danger to our children. We are proud residents after we cleaned the building and our human dignity have been restored. It feels good to live in a clean environment.”



Marvin Draai said:

“Everyone that was part of the cleanup campaign did cooperate. The clean-up campaign restored our dignity and trust in one another to notice how each one help to get the building clean there also was some of the residents of Karatara that do not stay in the building how help with the clean-up. We, as the community should take ownership of the environment where we live in, especially our heritage buildings.”

PRIORITY 4: CONSOLIDATING THE SOCIAL WAGE THROUGH RELIABLE AND QUALITY BASIC SERVICES.

Restoring residents’ human dignity

By Jetrho Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

The Knysna fires of 2018 robbed residents of a small town, named Karatara of lives, livelihoods, houses and hope. Two households were obliterated, claiming the lives of seven family members and an unborn child. Just over five years later, the loss and depth of grief among those directly affected remain all-consuming.

Most of these families had been move to the local Tsiba TVET College, in Karatara as a temporary measure, and to date these families are still residing at the college with no one of the authorities, both the Knysna Municipality, SANParks coming forward with solutions for housing to them. Currently, the college building is in a dilapidated state, which prompts the local municipal ward councillor to host a cleaning campaign as part of Heritage Month campaign.

As we celebrate Heritage month and the Heritage Buildings in our communities, today the residents of Tsiba TVET College Campus in Karatara celebrated in a clean-up campaign of the Heritage building Tsiba TVET College Campus and this building was also previously an old-age home for this community. The living circumstances in this building could not be

tolerated anymore for the sake of the children and residents occupying this building. In Partnership with Lifeline to focus on the well-being of the residents and the Government Communication and Information System, and Knysna Municipality, a very successful outcome was achieved. It ended off with a lekker braai, proudly South African braai heritage.

Ward Councillor Cleone Vanson said, “The residents took responsibility for their surroundings and if your surroundings are clean, your mental health and emotional well-being automatically improves.”

GCIS Regional Communication Coordinator, commended the people for taking the initiative to step up by making sure that the environment they live in is clean as well as securing fresh vegetables through growing their own as part of food security.

The experience has also breathed a new youthful spirit into the team who bonded over sewing.



Residents of Tsiba TVET College with Ward Councillor Vanson at the start of clean-up campaign.

PRIORITY 4: CONSOLIDATING THE SOCIAL WAGE THROUGH RELIABLE AND QUALITY BASIC SERVICES.

Thusong Service Centre Week closing highlights

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape

The closing event of the 2023 Annual Thusong Service Centre Week, which was held from 18 to 22 September 2023, wrapped up successfully in Loeriesfontein, Namakwa District in the Northern Cape.

The closing event on 22 September saw the official opening and launch of the Loeriesfontein Thusong Service Centre Hub. The launch was a result of a commitment by Premier Zamani Saul to establish a Thusong Service Centre in the Hantam Local Municipality.

During the event, government departments and its entities rendered services to the community. Stakeholders such as the Department of Health, Department of Social Development, Department of Home Affairs, South African Social Security Agency, South African Police Service and Legal Aid SA, engaged residents about their services respectively.

Executive Mayor Mervyn Cloete delivered the keynote address. He said government had the responsibility of ensuring that all citizens receive government services.

“Today, we can all see the roll-out of the promise made by the Premier in 2019. We are gathered here to take receipt of this building called the Loeriesfontein Hub. We must look after it and treasure it and it will serve us and our children,” he said.

Cloete further said residents must request new services when needed and support the departments that render those services as they become an integral part of their lives.



The people of Loeriesfontein at the launch of the Loeriesfontein Thusong Service Centre.



Mayor Alexander accepting the centre and expanding on how much it was needed in the area.



Government departments and other bodies that were part of the opening event of the Loeriesfontein Thusong Service Centre.



Dignitaries visiting the vegetable garden run by an individual at the centre.



Ryan van Schalkwyk from the Office of the Premier speaking about the purpose of the centre.



Jeffrey van den Heever said:

“I am so proud to be part of this event. I can see that government has not forgotten about the people in the deep rural areas. The Thusong Service Centre that was opened here today will help all the people of Loeriesfontein with numerous services and opportunities. It is one of the best events that I have experienced so far. Everybody is in a festive mood.”



Denver van der Horst said:

“I am looking forward to use all the services that the centre offers. I like the gym more.”



Jan Steenkamp said:

“I am a pensioner and think that this office and the services promised to us will make life much better in our town, especially saving on costs to access services that we need from government.”