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

Ensuring effective and efficient service delivery

By Morena Motloung: GCIS, Free State

The Executive Mayor of Ngwathe Local Municipality, Councillor Victoria De Beer-Mthombeni was accompanied by the Speaker of the Local Council, Councillor Nneheng Mopeli, Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs) and ward councillors when they reached out to the Heilbron Service Unit through a day-long Mayoral Imbizo on 14 March 2022.

The Mayor and her political entourage were in the company of the Municipal Manager, Bruce Kannemeyer and other senior management who were to account for administrative issues hindering service delivery in the municipality.

This Imbizo reached out to the Sediba Thuto Secondary School, the municipal employees in the area and other community stakeholders.

The general municipal employees raised different challenges, with most of them speaking to issues such as job descriptions, lack of, or absence of tools of trade, and lack of supervision and management support. These are some of the factors that affect service delivery.

Mayor De Beer-Mthombeni said the council anticipates a unified and cooperative workforce that is committed to taking necessary services to the ratepayers without favour or prejudice.

She also commissioned Corporate Services MMC to intervene and ensure that the directorate delivers.

“We cannot claim we are for the people when we are not working for the people, we are here for the people,” she said.



Mayor Victoria De Beer-Mthombeni addressing the audience on service delivery.



Ngwathe Local Municipality employees who were in attendance.



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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: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Community empowerment and job creation

By Tebogo Monyo, GCIS Northern Cape

The community of Batlharos, outside Kuruman, in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District, was overjoyed with the opening of the grocery retail store, Shoprite, on 1 April 2022.

The store marked Shoprite’s expansion programme with the aim of enabling easy access for communities to purchase their necessities.

Shoprite opened its branch at the recently revamped local shopping centre and became the main tenant in the centre.

Residents of Batlharos, who used to travel close to 20 kilometres to town for basic services, including groceries, were excited that the Shoprite Group chose their village for its expansion programme.

Kgosi Pelonomi Toto, the Chief of a Gamotlharo, and the provincial chairperson of the Northern Cape House of Traditional Leaders, attended the event on behalf of the traditional authority and expressed her excitement, saying the store would make it easy for the community to access food.

“It is a great pleasure for me, and the community I lead, to be receiving this store from Shoprite because this store will alleviate the struggles of our community to receive basic needs,” she said.

She further indicated that it was pleasing, amidst these economic hard times, that a big retail store across Africa, listened to the plight of poor communities and opened a branch closer to the people and that it would save time and money for the community.

Speaking on behalf of Shoprite, Stefan Gouws, the divisional manager said by opening this new supermarket, Shoprite created 72 new job opportunities in the community.

“Today is a day we celebrate with pride and immense satisfaction, a job well done. Teamwork did make this dream work. Not only did the dream work, but also it reminded us of our belief in acting for change and in investing in our people,” he said.

Gouws further said Shoprite wanted to help government turn the economy around and that could only be done through private-public partnerships, to create much-needed jobs, and empower the youth of the country.

Shoprite also donated an amount of R10 000 to a local non-governmental organisation, intended to grow and sustain the business.



Kgosi Pelonomi Toto with the Batlharo Traditional Council, cutting the ribbon at the official launch of Shoprite store in Batlharos.



A Shoprite representative handing over a donation to Omang Youth Initiative founder Gomotsegang Nkadamang.

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

Oversight visit to Harry Gwala projects

By Mthunzi Mkhungo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Minister in The Presidency, Mondli Gungubele, who is also the District Development Model Champion of the Harry Gwala District in KwaZulu-Natal, undertook an oversight visit to the district on 2 and 3 April 2022, respectively.

Minister Gungubele was accompanied by the District Mayor, Councillor Zamo Nxumalo, and local leaders within the district. They assessed catalytic projects aimed at boosting the economy of the district, also addressing the housing needs of the people.

Ubuhlebezwe and Greater Kokstad Community Residential Units (CRU) housing projects are at an advanced stage and are expected to be completed by July 2022.

The CRU intends to address the housing shortage, particularly affecting middle-class residents.

The Minister also led the delegation to one of the key water projects located under the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality.

When receiving a brief on the background of the project, it became clear that the Stephen Dlamini Water Dam is still at the construction stage and requires the Department of Water and Sanitation to come on board and assist with the funding and necessary skills so that water challenges in the district could be addressed.

Transpired under Greater Kokstad was a great potential of economic projects such as Singisi Substation, which is going to supply power also to the neighbouring province, the Eastern Cape, in Matatiele.

One of the biggest projects, which was also visited, was the N2/R56 Road Interchange, which will link four district municipalities and is part of the Eastern Sea Board projects.

Minister Gungubele concluded his outreach programme by attending a morning church service at Umzimkhulu Methodist Church under.

He then went to assess the progress in one of the biggest sports complex, also located in the Umzimkhulu area.

The Minister, found himself in one of the community radio stations reflecting on his two-day visit to the district.

Speaking to Harry Gwala FM journalists, the Minister showed his happiness and the manner in which the three spheres of government were working together.



Minister Mondli Gungubele addressing stakeholders at the Peace Initiative Hall.



Minister Mondli Gungubele and other government officials at the housing projects.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Frontline monitoring visit in Waterberg District

By Maria Ramoshaba: GCIS, Limpopo

The Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Pinky Kekana, conducted a frontline monitoring visit in the Waterberg District Municipality from 22 to 24 March 2022 in schools and community centres around Thabazimbi, Mogalakwena and Modimolle-Mookgophong local municipalities.

The focus was on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) and amplifying vaccination for COVID-19 and also addressing issues relating to vaccine hesitancy.

Victim Empowerment and Thuthuzela Care Centres around Thabazimbi, Mahwelereng, Vaalwater and Mokopane were visited.

The Deputy Minister recommended that these centres should have skills training programmes to empower women and have a friendly room with toys for children to play with.

Deputy Minister Kekana said, “Women and children should not feel more traumatised at the centres but feel at home. I will buy a television set for the centre at Mahwelereng.”

Thabang Child and Youth Care Centre were also visited by Deputy Minister Kekana in Thabazimbi. The centre was applauded for the good work that they do in empowering the youth in skills such as sewing, coffee making and agriculture.

In terms of the COVID-19 vaccination, Thabazimbi Local Municipality has recorded the highest number of people vaccinated in the district according to the report presented by the Department of Health.

During radio interviews at Mokopane and Waterberg Waves community radio stations, the Deputy Minister encouraged community members to continue taking the COVID-19 vaccine booster shots and continue to fight against GBVF.

Deputy Minister Kekana also launched the Fourth Industrial Revolution learner boot camps for Grade 10 and 11 learners at Mabogopedi and Thekganang High Schools in Thabazimbi and Forge Academy in Vaalwater.

The boot camp programme was a partnership between the Department of Basic Education, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Nokia and the Forge Academy. Its purpose was to prepare future generations of computational scientists and engineers in South Africa.



Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana at Mabogopedi High School.



Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana monitoring at the Thuthuzela Care Centre aimed to help victims of gender-based violence.