PRIORITY 3: CONSOLIDATING THE SOCIAL WAGE THROUGH RELIABLE AND QUALITY BASIC SERVICES.

Public Protector reaches out to community

By Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State

The Public Protector, Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane, visited the Dipelaneng-Holhhouse in Free State on 5 November 2019. This was part of the Public Protector Annual Stakeholder Roadshow which was held under the theme: “Governance and Ethics.”

The roadshow included community outreach event at Dipelaneng Community Hall where the Public Protector engaged with the members of the community on the role and the mandate of the office.

Members of the community were afforded the opportunity to pose questions to the Public Protector and engage her on various issues, and others were also able to register their complaints formally at the venue. Among the stakeholders who supported the roadshow were the Commission for Gender Equality, Government Communication and Information System, South African Police Service and Mantsopa Local Municipality.
Elias Molongeni said:
“I was born at the farm and currently staying there. I want to be buried at the farm. I do not want my family to be evicted when I am dead.”

Eric Leswetsa said:
“We would like to have a 24-hour clinic, and more nurses and ambulances.”
MY DISTRICT TODAY

PRIORITY 4: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Public private partnership benefits community members
By Doctor Marebane: GCIS, Limpopo

Matlou Nong said:
"My life had been static because I could not visit my family and friends and I felt like I was a burden to my children as they had to physically move me around. This wheelchair will assist me to move around my village with ease, thanks to the Moletsi Thusong Service Centre and Express Stores."

Thalitha Mokoatedi said:
"This wheelchair means a lot to me. I cannot find words to express myself or thank you enough for what you have done for me."

The lives of three remarkable elderly women who are above 100 years were celebrated on the same year with 20 years anniversary of the Thusong Service Centre Programme at Moletsi Thusong Service Centre. The three elders, Noko Shilatswe (100), Thalitha Mokoatedi (102) and Matlou Nong (110), were among the 20 people with disabilities to receive wheelchairs and support walking frames on 19 October 2019.

According to Khutso Mogashoa, a social worker at the centre, one of the main aims of Thusong Service Centres is to provide services to the marginalised and less-privileged community members. This is done in the spirit of Batho Pele principles which compel government employees to go beyond the call of duty when rendering services. It was in this value that Moletsi Thusong Service Centre in conjunction with the Polokwane Express Stores assisted the beneficiaries.

Two local schools, Ernest Matlou Primary School and Mokgoba Primary School also received two name boards branded by Polokwane Express Stores. Moletsi Thusong Service Centre manager, Matsiri Mokgokong accepted the gifts and thanked the Moletsi social worker and the Polokwane Express Stores for their contribution.
On 2 November 2019, the South African Rugby team became victorious in winning the 2019 Rugby World Cup for the third time. The win sparked celebrations in the entire country as it symbolised victory for all South Africans. To thank supporters for their unwavering support, the Springboks, as the team is affectionately known, undertook a trophy tour which had its penultimate leg in Port Elizabeth, the hometown of captain Siya Kolisi, coach Rassie Erasmus and backline coach Mzwandile Stick.

The Springboks were greeted by hundreds of fans at the Port Elizabeth Airport on 9 November 2019 when they arrived in the late afternoon for their tour the next day. The following day, morning crowds started gathering outside the City Hall were the Springboks would have their first stop as they toured the metro. When the Springboks arrived, with Kolisi dancing on top of the bus, as the crowds broke out in chants and screams. The Springboks addressed community members and thanked them for their support during the World Cup. Finally, Kolisi lifted the Webb Ellis Cup. From there, the Springboks continued their tour to other areas within the metro.
Awareness campaign against abuse and violence

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Gert Sibande District Municipality's Executive Mayor Councillor Muzi Chirwa and Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality's Executive Mayor Councillor Dan Nkosi led the gender-based violence (GBV) street march and awareness campaign in Fernie on 16 October 2019.

The event began with a street march in Mkhumula Section of Ward 3, of Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, and ended at the Fernie Community Hall. Mayor Nkosi urged stakeholders and the community to continue with the fight to end abuse and violence in our communities.

Some of the stakeholders who participated in the event were the Gert Sibande District Municipality, Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Government Communication and Information System, District AIDS Council, Local AIDS Council, Department of Social Development, Department of Health, Senzokuhle Home Based Caregivers, South African Police Service and the Pastors’ Forum.

Mayor Chirwa delivered the keynote address, mainly encouraging all stakeholders involved in the fight against GBV to continue to work together to defeat this scourge. “Fighting against GBV and abuse is not solely the task of the police but it is the responsibility of every community member,” he said.