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PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Job opportunities for people with disabilities

By Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State



The newly appointed officials.

On 16 March 2020, the Free State Social Development MEC Mamiki Qabathe welcomed the appointed of 76 persons with disabilities; most of them young people from different parts of the province. The department had previously set a 5% target against the 7% target set by the *White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. It previously had 40 employees with disabilities – 1.7% of the expected target.



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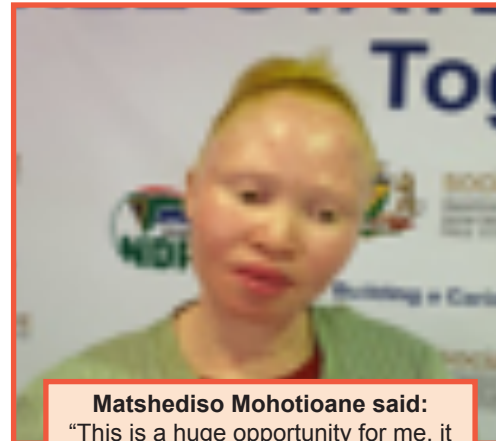
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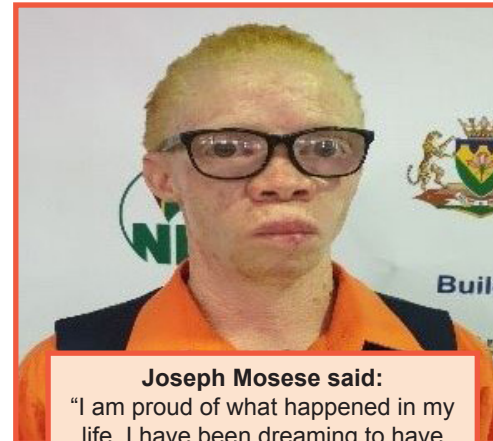
The interactions took place with the Association for People with Disabilities, the Disability Desk at the Office of the Premier and universities to identify candidates with disabilities on their databases.

The department partnered with Shoprite, Checkers and the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality in the whole processes.



Matshediso Mohotioane said:

"This is a huge opportunity for me, it feels like a dream come true. We are going to witness and learn various things. This shows that the government is taking persons with disabilities very serious."



Joseph Mosese said:

"I am proud of what happened in my life. I have been dreaming to have a decent job since 2017. It is with God's grace to be employed at the Department of Social Development. This will assist my family."



Lebohang Lebeoane said:

"This will change my life and the life of my siblings financially. I am originally from a rural area and will now be financially independent as I will not get government grant anymore."



MEC Qabathe welcoming the newly appointed officials.

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

Social grant payments during lockdown

By Nthabiseng Khotlele: GCIS Head Office



The elderly in a queue at one of the pay points in Umzinyathi District.



Limpopo Social Development MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale monitoring pay points in Tzaneen.

In preparation for the lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) announced that social grants would be paid on 30 and 31 of March, starting with the elderly and persons with disabilities to alleviate overcrowding at the pay points.

SASSA officials were deployed at various pay points to monitor and report on all challenges. Senior government officials, including premiers and MECs also visited the pay points to ensure that social distancing is observed and enforced to protect beneficiaries against COVID-19. All other social grants were paid on 1 April 2020 as usual.

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Seeking medical care during lockdown

By South African Government

You will be able to seek medical care during lockdown. Emergency services, including doctors, clinics, hospitals and pharmacies continue to operate as usual.

Practice hygiene when you go out – wash your hands when leaving home, do so again at your destination and before you depart for home.

If you are showing symptoms of COVID-19 and need medical care:

Call your doctor or clinic and report your symptoms.



Wear a facemask when you enter a healthcare facility.



Ask your healthcare professional to inform the National Institute for Communicable Diseases if you test positive for COVID-19.



More information on COVID-19 can be accessed on: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/>, the toll free number: **0800 029 999** and the WhatsApp helpline for South Africans: **0600 123 456**. Type the word "Hi" on WhatsApp and send to the helpline to get information on COVID-19.