



# DSAC EASTER EDITION



## Northern Cape Government Celebrates Human Rights Day

By: Staff Reporter

Northern Cape Sport, Arts and Culture MEC Ms. Bongiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba has launched the first phase of the renovation of the office space of PAC founder Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe. The launch was held in front of Sobukwe's office at Mayibuye Precinct at Galeshewe as part of the 2018 Provincial Human Rights Day commemoration.

MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba who was the acting premier on the day was flanked by various MECs including that of Safety and Liaison Lebogang Motlhapeng, Public Works MEC Mxolisi Sokatsha, MEC for Agriculture Norman Shushu and the Legislature Speaker Kenny Mmoiemang.

The Northern Cape Government gathered the community within the heart of Galeshewe in Kimberley. The aim was to commemorate and celebrate the lives of the struggle icons who gave their lives to ensure the freedom and democracy we enjoying today. They had gathered under the theme " *The year of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela: promoting and deepening a human rights culture across society.*"



MEC B. Mbinqo-Gigaba

Acting Premier Ms. Bongiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba stood up and led the crowd in a renowned struggle song that got community members off their chairs chanting and singing. During her powerful address Ms. Mbinqo-Gigaba mentioned that it is indeed a bittersweet day for South Africans. "As it is both a stark reminder of the tragic Sharpeville massacre and a celebration of our countries unique constitution that ensures equal rights and responsibilities to all."

Various members of the Pan Africanist Congress were in attendance as the day was also set aside to celebrate the former PAC President Robert Sobukwe. Ms Mbinqo-Gibaga went further to salute Sobukwe for his bravery, *“For under his leadership he appealed to all Africans to defy the laws and not carry their passes and demand to be incarcerated, that in turn led the police to open fire on the masses”*, said MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba in her address.



Audience members

In closing remarks MEC Shushu pleaded with community members to keep the office safe as it represents the rich history of Galeshewe township. He pleaded that community members should safeguard the premises for future generations



Mr. Denial Sekgoro

Meanwhile, Mr. Denial Sekgoro, Sobukwe's old friend was beaming with pride and joy praising the department on their work thus far. *“Many have come and said they are to bring change, but I want to thank this young MEC Ms. Bongiwe Gigaba, for her tireless work, for this is the closest I have seen to change, my friend's dignity is restored”* said Mr Sekgoro.

## Deputy Arts and Culture Minister Ms. Maggie Sotyu visits XunKhwesa Combined School in Platfontein

By: Boitshepo Thati

The National Arts and Culture Deputy Minister Ms. Maggie Sotyu paid a special visit to !XhunKwesa Combined School at Platfontein on Friday, 16 March 2018. The Minister donated essential school items such as uniforms, shoes, stationery, books, bags and sports kit to over 200 underprivileged learners from Grade 7 as part of government's Back to School campaign. The national campaign was launched on Friday, 09 March 2018 at Smithfield in the Free State.

The Deputy Minister officially hoisted the National flag at the school as part of the Department of Arts and Culture's "Flag in Every School Campaign". The campaign seeks amongst others to promote national identity, nation building and social cohesion and instil the spirit of patriotism. Prior to handing over of donations the Deputy Minister popularized national symbols, preamble of the Constitution and promoted the correct etiquette for singing of both the South African National and African Union anthems.

In return the school learners sang, recited poems and danced for their visitors. The school and police choirs took part in the singing of national anthem. The Back-to-School campaign seeks to ensure that even those learners from disadvantaged backgrounds are afforded an equal opportunity for being the best students they can be.



Deputy Minister Ms. M Sotyu with learners

During her address the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture Ms. Maggie Sotyu expressed her department's passion towards education "We at the Department of Arts and Culture are passionate about contributing towards education and building closer relationships with our communities. This we do to ensure that we enable access and opportunities for learners and improve educational facilities throughout South Africa to build a strong, flourishing, knowledge-based economy."



The Deputy Minister added that government will continue to invest in expanding access to quality basic education and improving the outcomes of public schools." *Education is vital for people to take their rightful place in society.*" *"The Back-to-School campaign seeks to ensure that even those learners from disadvantaged backgrounds have an equal chance at being the best student they can be."*

Meanwhile Mr. Mpho Mosweu from Sol Plaatje Municipality says his institution is proud to be associated with such campaigns *"Education is one of our key corporate social responsibility focus areas and we are delighted to partner with government to ensure that all learners are able to focus on their studies rather than on school resources."*

!Xunkhuesa Combined School is a public combined school located at Platfontein outside Kimberley. It offers underprivileged children from the Khoisan community unpaid schooling with nutrition programme.

The school principal Mr. Nicholas Snaders appreciated the department's efforts in aiding the learners *"Our pupils are from poverty-stricken areas where the unemployment rate is high and these resources provided by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture will go a long way in offering them a quality educational experience."*



## MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba leads DSAC team during Exco Outreach Programme in Namakwa District

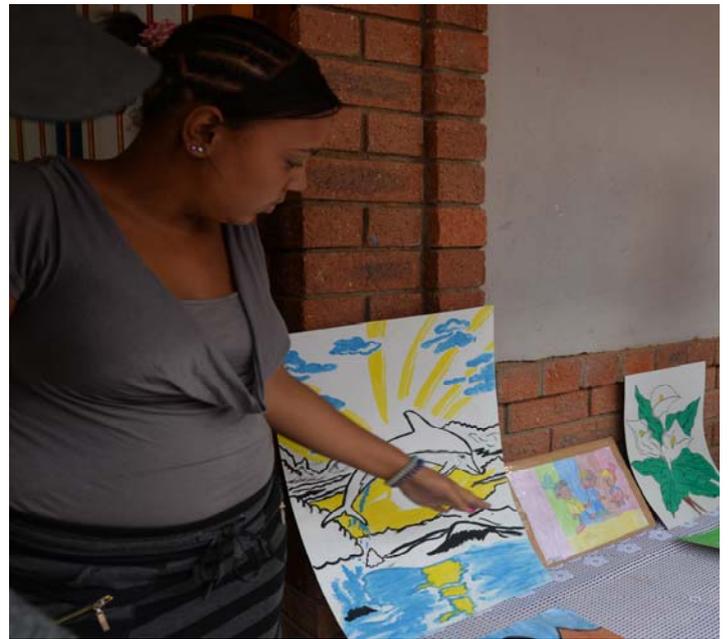
By: Nelly Pheleu

Northern Cape Provincial Government conducted the Exco Outreach Programme in Namakwa District from Tuesday, 13 March until Thursday, 15 March 2018. The outreach programme which was led by Premier Sylvia Lucas was conducted at Louriesfontein on Tuesday, 13 March, Brandvlei on Wednesday, 14 March and Fraserburg on Thursday, 15 March 2018.

In a quest to inculcate change and engage with community members, the Northern Cape government led by Premier Sylvia Lucas assembled in the heart of Namakwa district to reach out to communities which are deemed unreachable. They include impoverished communities in areas such as Louerisfontein, Brandvlei and Fraserburg.

All respective government departments slotted in the three day program as per their department's vision, mission and goals. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture started off at Loerisfontein Hoerskool by giving away sporting gear for the netball and soccer teams. The learners were excited as two students were requested to parade the uniform.

The school also received t-shirts to be worn within and outside the schools premises, to cater for those in need. Similar programme was also rolled out in Brandvlei and Fraserburg.



Young Artist Ms. Loerie

MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Ms Bongiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba engaged with a young painter Ms. Rochelle Loerie at Branvlei High School. *“Me and my friends do these to pass time because there is little or no entertainment in our town”*, she said. MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba encouraged her to work firmly on her craft, for it will take her places.

All three day programmes were concluded with community meetings where Premier Sylvia Lucas alongside her officials interacted with community members in a bid to resolve their service delivery challenges. Issues that topped the agenda in all three places were water and land crisis.

The Premier informed community members that a new dam is being built in Brandvlei and their water crisis will soon be resolved. Mr. Ruben Mier, an 80 year old man also poured his heart out.

*“Can the government also consider us senior citizens when they allocate houses”, he pleaded. “Our housing system needs to look into this we cannot have our elders living in shacks while the younger generations live in houses”, said Premier.*

The housing system will indeed be properly channelled in order to cater for all. We as the government strive to bring back dignity and integrity to our people, said the Premier



Premier Sylvia Lucas



## DSAC Receives New ICT Interns

By: Boitshepo Thati

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture received 15 Information Communications Technology interns. The students have begun their internship programme on Wednesday, 14 March 2018 when they were welcomed by Information Technology Manager Mr. Ian Flemming at DSAC Head Office in Kimberley. They are joining DSAC as part of Bill and Melinda Gate's Mzansi's Libraries On-Line initiative.

The Mzansi Libraries On-Line is a charitable purpose to empower South African communities to improve their lives through the provision of free access to technologies and services.

According to DSAC Manager for Information Communications Technology Mr. Ian Flemming, the project is sustained through strategic, collaborative partnerships and facilitated by skilled, dynamic librarians, who understand and proactively respond to the evolving needs of their users. Flemming says that the project is fully funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in collaboration with the National Library of South Africa and the Provincial Library Departments. *"The Department has thus far received Information Communication Technology (ICT) Equipment that has been installed to 34 Community Libraries within the Province".*

Twenty five year old Donovan Louw from Kimberley studied System Administration under Information Technology at the ATTI College. He says he moved to Bloemfontein where he worked hard to complete his Diploma from the Central University of Technology, CUT. Louw who was unemployed before joining the programme, sees this initiative as a life changer.

*"I've done my first internship with the Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison. But the poignant news about the internship is that you tend to get contented in the working environment, although there is no guarantee that they might place you as a permanent member of staff. At the end of contract you still find yourself unemployed and still have to do the job haunting".*

The National Library of South Africa launched the ICT internship programme to support this initiative and therefore the 15 interns who have graduated from Netcampus will be tasked to provide ICT support to Community Libraries within the Sol Plaatje Municipality. One of the 15 students will be located at the ZFM District Municipality. The internship will run for a period of 24 months.



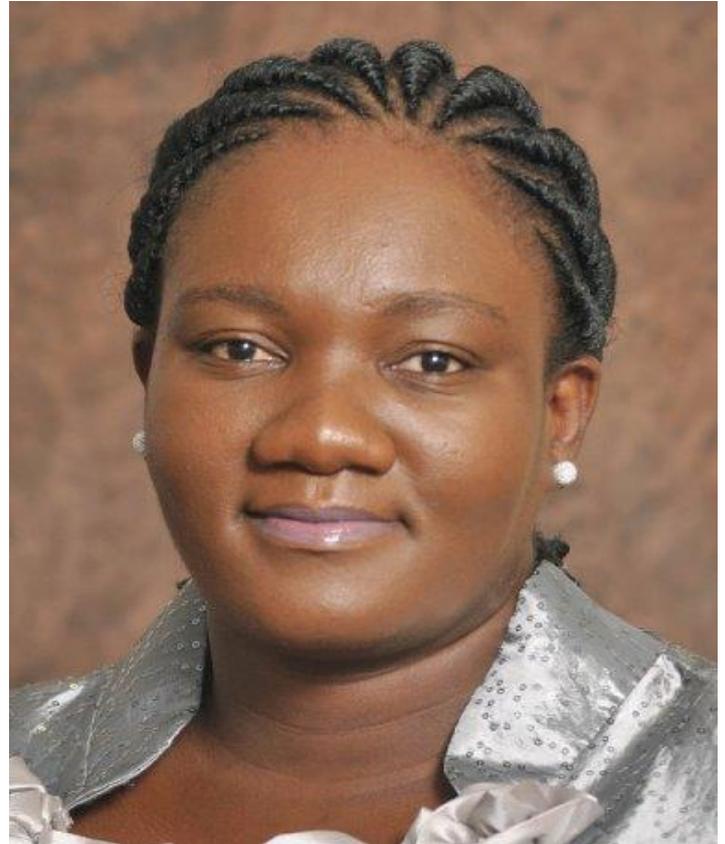
## Easter Message from the Northern Cape MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Ms. B Mbinqo-Gigaba

Fellow first citizens of Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and stakeholders, allow me to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the hard work and dedication demonstrated during the fourth and very last quarter of 2017/2018 fiscal year. I must say that this quarter and particularly this year, 2018 is proving to be one filled with exciting programmes especially on the political front.

We all know that the year 2018 has been declared the year of our revolutionary and father of our democracy Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. We also during 2018, are marking the 40th year anniversary commemoration since the death of PAC founder, Mr. Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe. It is thus against this short background that am pleased to have been bestowed with responsibility to lead a team of capable men and women in honouring the legacy of Sobukwe.

As we reflect on the weekend marking the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, allow me ask God to protect us in our long journey to various destinations. For thousands of Northern Cape citizens, this weekend is a time to celebrate redemption at God's hand. Although Easter holds special meaning, all of us, no matter how or whether we believe, we can identify with the elements of Jesus story. The victory of hope over despair and that of faith over doubt.

On Monday millions of Christians will celebrate Christ's resurrection as he died so that we might live.



And throughout these sacred days, we recommit ourselves to following his example. I would like to urge all to spend this weekend and rededicate energy to selflessness and to loving our neighbours and those less fortunate.

Like one former American President once said *"No matter who we are, or how much we achieve, we each stand humbled before the almighty God"*.

Let us take care of each other this long weekend, let us take care of this country's future, our children and lets all have a safe and blessed Easter weekend!

I thank you!



# Joke of the Week

Patient to his doctor: I have forgotten so many things lately and its getting worse, what can I do?

Doctor: Yes, this is a known illness, sadly there is no cure. But I would like to jog your memory by reminding you about the R25 000 you owe me.

# Inspirational Quote of the Week



By: Ben Opperman

It's no secret that times get tough every now and then, and while life undoubtedly seems unfair sometimes, keeping an open mind and trusting your potential and in God can take you far. This is why positivity is very important for leading a healthy life, both on the inside and out. And this naturally includes matters of mental health as well. Keeping your chin up when you're faced with less than desirable circumstances seems impossible at first. Nevertheless, having the right attitude can aid you tremendously in such instances. Therefore three things should be of paramount importance:

1. Keep your chin up in the midst of trials and tribulations
2. Wait and pray expectantly unto the Lord
3. Never give up for this too shall pass

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*A Child in Sport is a Child out of Court*



**DSAC**

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