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Premier Ms. Sylvia Lucas Delivers 2019 Human Rights Day Message

Staff Reporter

The Northern Cape Provincial Government will continue working with the Department of Basic Education, development partners, PANSALB and various other stakeholders such as NGOs, to enhance not only the Nama language but also to see how other indigenous languages can be included in the schooling curriculum. This was announced by Premier Ms. Sylvia Lucas on Thursday, 21 March 2019, during the Provincial Human Rights Day commemoration in Pampierstad in the Frances Baard District. The celebrations were held at Reitlamile Intermediate School under the theme ***"The Year of Indigenous Languages: Promoting and Deepening A Human Rights Culture"***.

Premier Lucas was accompanied by the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Ms. Bongiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba together with other dignitaries.



They took a walk about inside a tent where various government departments have been showcasing their products and services. Several crafters were also allowed the space to showcase their hand crafts and used the platform to sell their products.

When she took up the podium, Premier Lucas said that strengthening and protection of the indigenous languages has been an area in which the Department of Education has played an active role in empowering especially the communities of Platfontein and the Namakwa region in the development of these languages.

She says it is because of these reasons that the Nama Language was introduced as a subject in above mentioned towns as early as 2000

She says the move was undertaken in order to preserve the Nama language. Premier says a collaboration between the Northern Cape Government and the neighbouring Namibia has seen education enhancement through the development of indigenous languages such as !Nxu, Nama and !Khwe. **"In doing so, we will promote a culture of human rights and mutual respect for one another. We should always be mindful of the fact, that it is every citizen's right to use their language and to celebrate their culture".** says Premier Lucas.

Premier Lucas says South Africans should take pride in the strides made since the dawn of democracy 25 years ago. **"This year as we mark Human Rights Day, twenty three years after signing our democratic Constitution; we should indeed celebrate what we have achieved since then. Today more people have access to housing, water, sanitation and electricity."**

Health services are more accessible and South Africa today has the biggest anti-retroviral treatment programme in the world with over 3.2 million people on treatment last year.

The mother-to-child-transmission declined from 8.5% in 2008 to 1.5% in 2015. Premier Lucas says the number of learners that have passed matric increased from 50% before 1994 to around 78% today. She says that access to free basic education and higher education has been expanded to children from poor households.

"Government's school nutrition to primary and secondary school children reaches millions of children in the country every day and helps to increase productivity and concentration". Social grants have increased steadily and are known to reduce poverty. The day was celebrated by music, poetry and dance from various cultural groups from around Phokwane area.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY IN PICTURES



PHOKWANE FOOTBALL TEAMS RECEIVE SPORTING EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE DURING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY COMMEMORATION



Northern Cape Premier Sylvia Lucas handed over sporting equipment and sporting attire to two local football teams in Phokwane municipal area on Thursday, 21 March 2019. The handing over took place as part of 2019 Provincial Human Rights Day celebrations at Reitlamile Intermediate School in Pampierstad in the Frances Baard District.

The two teams (Real Stars and Thuso Academy) were showered with medals, trophies and sporting equipment for winning tournaments that were held as part of the build up towards the commemorations. ***“This sporting equipment will boost the morale and sportsmanship of our local teams, our young boys are motivated by the new attire and soccer nets... says Tshepo Modise from Real Stars.***

Profiling Galeshewe and Greenpoint's Struggle Veteran

Government has since 1994 been making use of Human Rights Day to honour those who fought for our liberation and to celebrate our rights and freedom. The Northern Cape Provincial Government celebrated the 2019 Human Rights Day on Thursday, 21 March 2019 at Reitlamile Intermediate School in Pampierstad.

The day was commemorated under the theme: ***“The Year of Indigenous Languages: Promoting and Deepening a Human Rights Culture”***. DSAC Communications unit took a decision to tell the story of one of Galeshewe's veteran politician or unsung hero Eugene Mokgoasi.

Affectionately known as Rre Mokgoasi, ntate Eugene Mokgosi was born in 1960 in Greenpoint township next to the Kimberley airport. Mokgoasi and his family were forcibly relocated to Galeshewe township by the erstwhile apartheid police upon the declaration of Greenpoint as a coloured only area in 1969.

The relocations came as a result of government's adoption of a legislation called Group Areas Act which was used to prohibit people of different races from staying together in the same area.

After the interruption of his schooling in Greenpoint in the 1960s, Mokgoasi says he continued his schooling at the Sol Plaatje Primary School in Galeshewe before moving to St Peters and St Boniface Catholics in the 1980s.

Mokgoasi says he has cut his political teeth in the 80s and this was mainly due to inferior education system which was dished out to a black child. He says the then apartheid government had used education to suppress their minds. ***"So for many ages they structured education along racial lines, blacks they had what they called Bantu Education which was an act of parliament and the for whites they had something different which was consistent with the apartheid ideology of white supremacy and***



Young Eugene Mokgoasi
DFA– July 1983

Mokgoasi says the education system at the time didn't allow black learners to do any commercial subjects, but were trained from a young age to work towards being a laborer, prohibiting them to have knowledge in any managerial or prestigious field of study which was reserved only for whites.

He says the introduction of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in 1976 made matters worse. His involvement into politics led to his arrest and detainment under the Terrorism Act of 1969. He says he was kept in solitary confinement for 90 days in Delporthoop. ***"The detainees were interrogated and tortured by the apartheid government, then charged with terrorism and arson, then sentenced to 15 years in Robben Island after a two year trial in 1983"***. says Mokgoasi.

Rre Mokgoasi explained that education was the main activity on the island, mainly political education and that he crossed paths with many political giants including, Govern Mbeki,

Tokyo Sexwale, Jeff Radebe, Musioa Lekota and Kgalema Motlanthe amongst others. The youngest prisoner he came across was 14 years of age as no one was spared the rod of apartheid regime.

Mr Mokgoasi states that although the apartheid government's aim was to break down their spirit, they actually achieved the exact opposite. During political studies on the island, his political consciousness enlightened him into realizing that it is indeed the oppressor who needs to be freed. He says his detainment gave him a new outlook on life and learned to view human beings in a different light.

In closing Mokgoasi expresses that human rights are not free yet, viewing the countries current situation, there is a lot that needs to be done. ***"We're under a low key war, with the violence against women, children, corruption, the high rate of unemployment and poverty it is a violent war between the Haves and the Have Nots, we are not free yet"***, he exclaimed.



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Five Galeshewe men in the terror trial who have been sentenced to effective prison terms of 10 to 13 years each. They are (from left): SeHo Motlhabakwe, Joey Kers, Eugene Mokgoasi, Nelco Hlatwayo and Ben Fani.

TERROR TRIAL MEN GET 10 TO 13 YEARS

THE BLIND BENEFITS FROM DSAC'S LIBRARY WEEK PROGRAMMES

Dsac celebrated Library week at Jankempdorpe in the Frances Baard District. The programme beneficiaries are blind and partially sighted people. The programme was rolled out in collaboration with stakeholders including SA Library for the Blind, National Council for the Blind, DOH, South African Council for the Blind and Department of Social Development.



MEC Donates Sanitary Pads in Plafontein



MEC Bongiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba

MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Ms. Bongiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba has donated sanitary towels to learners at Xhunkhwesa Combined School at Platfontein outside Kimberley in the Frances Baard District. The MEC was visiting the school as part of her back to school campaign. Platfontein is a home to thousands of khoisan community members who were once staying in army tents at Schmitsdrift following their relocation from Angola.

Disadvantaged learners at the poverty stricken Xhunkhwesa Combined School were delighted to receive winter clothes and sanitary products from the MEC for Sport,

Arts and Culture Ms. Bongiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba. MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba was accompanied by Head of Department Ms. Ruth Palm to roll out this good gesture of restoring the dignity of a black child. According to studies conducted by Africa Check (NGO), millions of girl children are missing school every day due to lack of sanitary pads. Majority of Platfontein residents depend on government social grants and the area is ravaged by high levels of teenage pregnancies. During her address to learners, MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba encouraged learners to remain in school and broaden their horizons regardless of their background.

Young girls menstrual cycle is a factor in some households, because families cannot afford to purchase sanitary towels, shared the MEC. In the quest to keep every young girl in school, the MEC donated reusable sanitary towels that can be used for a period of five years.

The absorbent layers are tested to keep female learners comfortable and active in school. Learners were eager to try on their new winter clothes as some could not help but fit the clothing as they were being handed over.

Creatives Meets At Summer School

Nelly Pheleu

Department for Sport, Arts and Culture in conjunction with Sol Plaatje University held the third annual Summer School of Writing from 7– 11 January 2019. The event was hosted at the Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley.

Administrator at SPU Bali Maeneche says aspirant writers and poets were assisted in sharpening their craft, while authors were guided on how to prepare manuscripts for submission to publishers. The workshop was also directed at sourcing reputable publishers for authors said Ms. Maeneche.

The focal genres of the workshop were poetry, fiction and non-fiction. Each participant was required to submit a piece of literature that will be published.

Short story author Wame Molefhe shared that the workshop was an eye opener and a new space to learn. ***“It is difficult to get constructive criticism from close friends and family members because they don't want to hurt your feelings, or they simply don't have the expertise to critique you”*** said the writer.

Being around like minded authors and literature experts, teaching each other techniques, that can better enhance one's writing skills and was refreshing said Ms Molefhe.



Wame Molefhe's short story compilation ***Go Tell the Sun*** was launched during the closing of the weeklong creative writing workshop, 11th January 2019. Interviewed by fellow author Mr Sabata Mokae, Molefhe read a story and shared the experiences of growing up in Botswana, the gender based criticism that she went through. How Botswana and many other African countries deem marriage as an achievement and how women should carry themselves in order to be considered “marriage material”.



Molefhe rendered a fictional short story about homosexuality that had fellow writers left in shock as they came to realize that Botswana still condemns same sex relationships with imprisonment.

Debates and comments strung up on how things needs to change in the neighboring country immediately.



Local soccer team crowned world champs

DFA Article

A VERY special – and proud – group of 13 young boys arrived at the Kimberley Airport 22 March 2019.

The Boitumelo Special School soccer team brought home the gold Trophy after they were crowned the world champions at the Special Olympics in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

The local team participated in the Special Olympics World Summer Games, billed as the largest sports and humanitarian event of the year, which was attended by more than 7 500 athletes from over 190 nations, participating in 24 codes/events.

The Special Olympics were held from March 7 to 21 2019.

Northern Cape Premier Sylvia Lucas congratulated the Kimberley team on their outstanding achievement, after they beat Spain in the finals. ***“We recognize the value of school sport and physical education to provide the foundations necessary for the holistic development of the pupil in support of the academic curriculum,”*** Lucas said in her congratulatory message.

“School sport is the bedrock of sports in the country. The department has taken a conscious decision to encourage pupils to participate in a variety of sport activities. Participation in sport has many important benefits. Sport can unite our people, build families and communities.”

Lucas pointed out that “this remarkable achievement showcases that our pupils can perform at any level of competition

with the rest of our country and the world, whether in public schools or special schools. They have shown that the Northern Cape has undiscovered talent which must be supported, so that pupils can reach their full potential”.

“We are extremely proud of the team and grateful for the management and guidance provided by the team managers, coaches and support systems. The team has risen above all odds, faced many challenges and came out on top.”

The Northern Cape’s unified football team was made up of pupils from Boitumelo School, Technical High School and Boys’ High School.

They won the right to represent South Africa at the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi after shining in the Special Olympics Summer Games held at the Wits University campus in April last year.

The pupils were accompanied to Abu Dhabi by Northern Cape Sports, Arts and Culture MEC Bongiwe Mbongo-Gigaba.

The Boitumelo Special School, which caters for pupils with cognitive disabilities and autism, was founded in 1991 with only five pupils by social worker Gwendolene Mashope and currently boasts a pupil population of 207.

For many of the pupils, the trip to Abu Dhabi was the first time they had been on an aircraft, while for all of them it was the first time they had travelled overseas.

A total of 14 teams participated in the men’s 11-a-side football competition and were placed into four pools.

Professional footballers Mohamed Khalfan and Tongo Doumbia of Al Ain FC and Subait Khater of Fujairah FC attended the draw to demonstrate their support for the Games.

Host nation, the UAE, was drawn in Group A and competed against South Africa, Spain and Jamaica. Group B saw Bangladesh, Serbia and Korea play each other, while Group C pitted Bharat, Denmark, Kenya and the USA against each other. Making up Group D was Oman, Austria and Rwanda.

The Kimberley team began their road to glory when the group stage began on March 12 with the final taking place on March 20. All matches were held at Zayed Sports City, Abu Dhabi.

Since making its debut at the World Games in 1986, football is one of the largest sports on the programme, featuring traditional and unified teams across the 11-a-side, 7-a-side and futsal competitions.



Joke of the Week

Printers Name: Bob Marley

Reason: Its always jammin'

And don't worry about the ink, because everything you print.... Is gonna be all WHITE!

Inspirational Quote

By: Ben Opperman



In this lifetime you'll find yourself continuously facing challenges, temptations, trials and tribulations when this happen to you, you have three choices. You can let it define you. You can allow it to destroy you or You can let it build and strengthen you. We are not exempted from sin nor temptation, but we do posses the ability to determine whether we want to continue participating in it. God forgives us daily but we have to admit and submit that we've sinned and ask for forgiveness. The best person you can be everyday is yourself and not the person that the world wants you to be.

Have a blessed week

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