ARTISTIC IMPRESSION OF OFFICES TO HOUSE GOVERNMENT IN BHISHO
PERSPECTIVE
May 2013
ISSUE 4

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I am honored for the opportunity afforded to me to write for this communication platform, which serves as an information sharing platform for public service workers. This opportunity comes in a very significant month in our calendar year as a country, as we had just celebrated Workers Day on the 1st of May.

We joined workers from across South Africa and across the world, to celebrate and reaffirm that Workers Rights are indeed Human Rights. This was first realised by the founding convention of the National Labour Union in the United States in 1866 had passed a resolution demanding an eight hour workday. The resolution stated: “The first and great necessity of the present, to free labor of this country from capitalist slavery, is the passing of a law by which 8 hours shall be the normal working day in all states in the American union. We are resolved to put forth all our strength until this glorious result is attained”.

Today as workers from across the world, we enjoy that human right which was attained through bloody protests. The struggle of the workers of this country has its own vibrant and brave history. We salute the heroes of that time. As we commemorated Workers Day, we are reminded of the advances made by workers in our country, through the struggles of organized labour. As government, we have since the advent of democracy enacted legislation that protects workers, and which creates a machinery to negotiate wages and working conditions. We have passed laws which have enabled the setting of minimum wages for domestic workers, farm workers, hospitality, taxi workers and security sectors and established maximum hours of work for all. There is still a lot that we must do together to advance the interests of workers.

In the election manifesto of the ruling party, we note that there has been a growth of casualised, low wage and outsourced jobs, contributing to the rise of the working poor. The workers’ share of national income has not grown to acceptable levels. The rural areas remain divided between well-developed commercial farming areas, peri-urban and impoverished communal areas. The benefits of economic growth have not been broadly and equitably shared. It is our resolve as government, to continue working to fulfill the undertaking to ensure decent work for all workers as well as to protect the employment relationship, introduce laws to regulate contract work, subcontracting and out-sourcing, address the problem of labour broking and prohibit certain abusive practices in the labour market. We are also working to ensure that provisions are introduced to facilitate the unionisation of workers and conclusion of sectoral collective agreements to cover vulnerable workers.

Government is also implementing policies that create an environment for more labor-intensive production methods and procurement policies that support local jobs and building public-private partnerships. In partnership with organized labour, we will continue searching for better ways to respond to the new challenges facing our province. We believe we are on path to improving the quality of education, health care, sanitation, and to accelerate the delivery of houses to millions of our people and achieve a better life for all.

Our government has over the past 18 years recorded significant achievements in various fronts to improve the lives of our people. These achievements have mainly been recorded due to the support and dedication of the working class. A lot still needs to be done especially on the job creation front as this remains the main challenge facing our nation. What makes this even more urgent is the fact that it affects the youth of our nation the most.

We count on the support of the working class as we move with speed to rollout programmes under the National Development Plan banner that are aimed at creating decent and sustainable work opportunities for our people. The massive multi billion rand infrastructure programme announced by the President is set to contribute immensely towards addressing this challenge.

We therefore call upon all progressive labour forces to be our allies in ensuring the implementation of the National Development Plan. We call upon workers to be among us in this course as we are fully cognisant of the power that you have.

Ms Noxolo Kiviet
Premier of the Eastern Cape
The Premier’s State of the Province Address, the Budget Speech by the Member of the Executive Council responsible for Provincial Planning and Finance, and Policy Speeches by Members of the Executive Council have launched the Eastern Cape Provincial Government into the 2013/14 financial year. Feedback indicates that these policy pronouncements were well received by stakeholders, communities and the citizens we serve. Partnership with government, albeit against a very tight budget, will go a long way in ensuring that the set deliverables are achieved. This will also require prudence and fiscal discipline on the part of public servants in the manner in which we spend the allocated resources.

Highlights of the 2013/14 programmes

The 2013/14 financial year is a year of hyper activity as it is the last year of the current term of government. We are pleased with the manner in which we have performed with respect to infrastructure spending, getting in excess of ninety three percent (93%) in expenditure of the allocated budget in the 2012/13 financial year, which is phenomenal considering our performance record in this area. Moving forward, we will improve infrastructure planning and continue to build capacity in infrastructure delivery, especially in the Departments of Roads and Public Works, Education, Health and Human Settlements.

In addition to the existing programmes on job creation, improving education and health services, rural development and the fight against crime and corruption, other areas of focus this financial year will include improving the audit outcomes in departments and municipalities of the Eastern Cape, with particular attention being paid to compliance with human resources, financial and supply chain management regulatory framework; implementation of the public servants culture change programme; strengthening the integration and monitoring of government programmes; intensifying the war on poverty; implementing the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission projects; strengthening of implementation of ICT governance across departments as well as re-branding the Eastern Cape as the ‘Home of Legends’. Public Works, Education, Health and Human Settlements.

2013/14 will see enhanced integration of government work. To this effect a new approach to the Government Cluster Programme will be adopted. This entails development of integrated implementation plans and monitoring mechanisms to facilitate greater coherence in service delivery thus creating more opportunities for strategic deployment of resources towards cross cutting government priorities and promoting effective intergovernmental relations

Building capacity of our administration

We have moved swiftly to ensure that there is stability and leadership in departments of the Provincial Administration. In this regard, the following appointments have been made to fill vacant positions of Heads of Departments:

- Mr Mthunywa Ngonzo was appointed earlier in the year to head the Department of Education;
- Advocate Stanely Khanyile has been re-appointed to head Local Government and Traditional Affairs;
- Mr Bongani Gxilishe has been appointed in a new portfolio to head Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism; and
- Advocate James Mlawu has been appointed to head Roads and Public Works.

The positions of Heads of Departments for Health and Rural Development and Agrarian Reform have been readvertised.

Fighting fraud and corruption

One of the key priorities of the Provincial Government is the fight against fraud and corruption. This financial year, we will ensure that we do not only insist on the submission of financial disclosure forms by members
of Senior Management Services, but that the forms are thoroughly scrutinized to pick up potential conflict of interest. The Executive Council has also approved policy prohibiting public servants from trading with government without approval, and this policy will be implemented this financial year. Henceforth, no permission will be granted by Members of the Executive Council without consultation with the Premier to public servants requesting to own or run businesses. Disciplinary processes will be instituted against transgressing public servants.

The fight against fraud and corruption, like other social ills facing society, requires each and every one of us to play our role. As citizens, we need to relentlessly and actively participate in the fight against fraud and corruption, be it in the government, private sector or in our own communities. In the same vein, we cannot be silent whilst we see on a daily basis the rise in violence against women and children. Our province has been hit by a spate of these violent crimes and we need to stand up against these perpetrators living in our communities. We must stand up and be counted.

As Premier said in the State of the Province Address – “Let us move forward, knowing that the load we carry will be easier if we unite.”

Mbulelo Sogoni
Director General:
Eastern Cape Provincial Government

GLOBAL FORUM ON INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Eastern Cape Provincial Government in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology will be hosting the forum in East London on May 28 to 30, 2013. Another first for Africa as it is for the first time the forum is hosted in our continent and the country in particular. The Province is honoured to be selected to host this important event. The forum was previously hosted in Finland, Brazil, India and Germany. For more information about the Global Forum, please visit: www.globalforum.co.za

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK – 27 MAY TO JUNE 03, 2013

Child Protection Week is a campaign that was initiated in 1997 to raise awareness as well as to mobilise all sectors and communities towards understanding the perspective of holistic development of children regarding their care and protection. In the Eastern Cape, MEC for Social Development, Dr Pemmy Majodina will launch the week long activities on May 23 with a Media and Stakeholder briefing session and on May 30 the Department will launch the Adopt an Early Childhood Development Center Campaign.

Show your support for the protection of children by wearing a green ribbon, which symbolises life and growth associated with children. For more information on these activities, please visit: www.socdev.ecprov.gov.za

YOUTH DAY – JUNE 16

The Eastern Cape will join the rest of the country in commemorating 37 years since the events that led to the attainment of Freedom in the country. Government will use the day to remember heroes of the past years and also to demonstrate strides made in the development and empowerment of young people in the province.

AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY

The United Nations’ Public Service Day is held on June 23 each year. It recognizes that democracy and successful governance are built on the foundation of a competent civil service. UN member states are encouraged to organize special events on that day to highlight the contribution of public service in the development process. This day was created to: celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlight the contribution of public service in the development process; recognize the work of public servants; and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector.
Advocate James Mlawu is the latest addition in the Eastern Cape Provincial Administration's top brass.

The former Deputy Director General for Roads Transport at the National Department of Transport was recently announced as the newly appointed Head of Department for the Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works.

His appointment was announced together with that of his predecessor, Bongani Gxilishe who now heads the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism and Adv Stanley Khanyile who has been reappointed as the Superintendent General for Local Government and Traditional Affairs.

This follows the appointment in March of Mthunywa Ngonzo to head the Department of Education in the province. Announcing the appointment of Ngonzo, Education MEC, Mandla Makupula called for the focus to be placed on the core business which is the classroom. “We must ensure that there is a teacher in front of the learner, the teacher teaching in time, with textbooks and with all the support,” he said.

Ngonzo is no stranger to the education sector as he started his work within the department as an educator in 1988. At the time of his appointment he had been acting in the position since April 2012.

Ngonzo said his priority will be to achieve learning outcomes which will see the matric pass-rate reaching at least 80% in the province. “There are two critical things. The first is the achievement of learning outcomes which means the improvement of grade 12 results to at least a maximum of 70 to 80% within this period of time. The second is increased literacy,” said Ngonzo. He said the reading capabilities of the children, in terms of literacy and numeracy need to be increased and has also placed the need to improve performance in Science, Maths and Technology under the radar.

Ngonzo says that at the end of the day if the restructured education systems does not respond to the needs of the Eastern Cape then the job has not been done.

At DEDEAT, MEC, Mcebisi Jonas welcomed the appointment of Gxilishe. He said it was a step towards ensuring continuity in the process of fulfilling the mandate of the department. Gxilishe was the head of department for Roads and Public Works in the Eastern Cape from April 2010 until the end of his tenure in March 2013. He also worked as the interim Director – General of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government in November 2010 until the position was filled. Albert Mfenyana, General Manager for Environ-mental Affairs was appointed as the acting head of department until the appointment of the new HOD.

“The Eastern Cape has endless opportunities that need to be unlocked working in harmony with stakeholders in the identified priority sectors. My role will be instrumental in instilling a shared vision for a common understanding of the development agenda of the province. I am deeply humbled with my appointment as the head of department for DEDEAT and I understand the magnitude of work ahead of me,” said Gxilishe.

Meanwhile, in the DLGTA government decided to reappoint Adv Khanyile. His reappointment was warmly welcomed by MEC for DLGTA, Mlibo Qoboshiyane who stressed that the next chapter of improving local government in the province needs people like Adv Khanyile. He will lead DLGTA’s administration for the next five years.

“Adv Khanyile brings to this job not only his knowledge of the department and the provincial terrain but also rare
attributes, prowess, wisdom and perciipient leadership needed to navigate the local government labyrinth,” said MEC Qoboshiyane.

According to MEC Qoboshiyane, the decision to reappoint Adv Khanyile is a leadership function to improve the lives of the people through effective, clean and responsive administration. His re-appointment must inspire him to ensure top-drawer performance in discharging his responsibilities, something that must be done with assurance, said MEC Qoboshiyane.

Accepting his re-appointment Adv Khanyile said, “Municipalities are intimate with the issues, aspirations, needs and demands of the people because of their proximity. We have a moral and constitutional responsibility to ensure that each of our 45 municipalities delivers services to our communities.”

“Added to this responsibility is to ensure that Traditional leadership institutions work hand in glove with communities and municipalities,” said Adv Khanyile.

These appointments according to Director General of the Eastern Cape, Mbulelo Sogoni are aimed at ensuring continuity and creating stability within the Eastern Cape Provincial Administration. Sogoni said that the positions of head of administration in the Department of Health and Rural Development and Agrarian Reform are being re-advertised.

We also view this as a huge boost towards our efforts to revitalize primary health care in the province. The department will now train approximately 2000 nurses per year and the new training facilities will push the current intake by 360 student nurses per year. The department has also observed that, other race groups were not fully represented in the trainee population, to address this, the Health MEC has since instructed the department to ensure that all race groups are reflected in the intakes. Equally all residents of the province irrespective of the colour, race or creed are encouraged to fully participate when opportunities are opened.

Intake processes are already underway and adverts inviting members of the community to apply for these nursing training opportunities were placed in various newspapers of the province. The training areas are as follows – one year which requires a minimum of standard 8/grade 10, two year with a minimum weak STD 10/Grade and a 4 year nursing diploma which requires a minimum of grade 12 with a minimum of D aggregate symbol plus minimum of 18 points.

The successful trainee nurses will be entitled to a monthly stipend of between R2, 500 and R3000 for the duration of their training. Non performing students will be excluded on academic grounds during the training. “We urge unemployed youth who have passion or calling in nursing to grab this opportunity with both hands,” said MEC Gqobana.

The selection process will be closely monitored to ensure that all applicants receive fair chance following concerns on social media about exclusions with past intakes. The MEC is also planning site visits accompanied by the principal of the department’s Lilitha Nursing College. All successful applicants will be required to serve the province for the equal number of years they have been funded by the department once they qualify.
As South Africa joined the world in marking the International Day of Women on March 08, Director General of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government, Mbuyelo Sogoni made a bold announcement with regards to the appointment of women in senior management positions within the Office of the Premier.

Speaking at an OTP Top Management meeting, Sogoni suggested that this determination is designed to ensure that the OTP meets its employment equity targets. "We have been concerned about the progress we are making in meeting equity targets as a provincial government."

The DG said that the determination will only be reviewed once the requisite target of 50% women representation in the senior management service echelon of government has been achieved. "The Office of the Premier is a leader of the provincial administration and should lead not only by words but by action in driving accelerated transformation of the government."

Over the last three years the Office of the Premier has made slow progress towards meeting the 50:50 ratio of female to male employees, having moved from 33% women representation in the SMS level in 2010/11 financial year to 42% in 2012/13 financial year.

Meanwhile, a gender auditing report tabled at an International Women’s Day workshop revealed that female representation at Senior Management Services within the provincial administration progressed from 23% in 2004/05 to 24% in 2005/06, 29% in 2006/07 to 33% in 2007/08 but declined to 31% in September 2011.

The report also notes that whilst there is a two-thirds female representation in the provincial administration, only 31% are occupying senior management positions. Social Development and Special Programmes was sighted as the only department to reach the 50% threshold for women in senior management posts. At the time of the research, Roads and Public Works, Transport and Rural Development and Agrarian Reform were found to be the main departments struggling to meet the required standards. This was attributed to the gender-biased history within the sectors.

The report is based on research conducted on behalf of government by Social Development and Special Programmes with assistance from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with the purpose of assessing the impact of the national gender strategy on its related programmes and policies.

The report recommended an urgent implementation of the Provincial Employment Equity Strategy and Plan, which was recently approved by EXCO. The strategy and plan puts the following measures in place:

- Capacitation of more females at middle management and junior management
- Interrogation of development plans for staff at this level to determine whether females are placed on accelerated development programmes
- Mainstream EE in attraction and retention strategies and succession planning.
- Targeted recruitment and retention
- Audit HRM policies with a view to identify and eliminate barriers to implementation of EE strategy.
- Institutionalisation of EE reporting at the highest level e.g. MEC’s to report to EXCO on the status of EE in their respective departments.

It is hoped that the Director General’s determination will prompt other government departments to take a similar stance on the issue of employment equity.
Eastern Cape Premier, Ms Noxolo Kiviet highlighted key achievements of this administration in the last financial year. PERSPECTIVE places the spotlight on some of those achievements and looks at key projects to be undertaken during the 2013/14 financial year and beyond.

Strengthening education and building skills and human resource base

To improve the quality of education in the province, government has amongst other things appointed Subject Advisors, Education Development Officers and District Curriculum Heads. Some of the key achievements of the Education sector include;

• 61.1% pass rate achieved for the grade 12 class of 2012, this was for the 1st time the province reaches this level since 2003. Improvement in performance has also been noted in some of the poorest areas, namely Cofimvaba with 72.5%, Cradock with 72.3% while Maluti achieved a 71.9%. For the first time in years, there are no schools that have a 0% pass rate for the 2012 academic year.

• 99% of Learner Teacher Support Material was delivered to schools at the beginning of the 2013 academic year.

• 54,000 school going children are benefiting from the governments scholar transport which plays a huge role in ensuring that Eastern Cape children have access to education. Creation of decent work and growing the economy.

During the 2012/13 financial year, government made various efforts to create decent work for the unemployed in the Eastern Cape. A number of projects were undertaken and a number of initiatives to prevent job loss were developed in partnership with state owned agencies and the private sector. Some of the key achievements of government in relation to job creation include;

• R73 million from the Jobs Fund allocated to the e Trading Posts initiative which will link rural procers with agro-processing facilities with targeted sites being Ncora and Mqanduli. Government funding for the project is at a tune of R18 million.

• R113 million investment from the Jobs Fund has been secured, and the Provincial Government has allocated an additional R30 million for the implementation of the Community Forest
• 2,460 jobs were saved by the Provincial Government in line with the Provincial Industrial Jobs Stimulus Programme which gave financial support to totaling R10.5 million to 20 companies in the province. R24.6 million has been approved between October 2011 and November 2012, to support 27 companies in this regard.

• About 25,000 young people who get employment in the province per annum, reflecting a total of 387,000 youth employed since 2010, thus placing the province as number 3 in youth employment in South Africa.

• 2621 SMME's and 1698 cooperatives have been supported with training, registration and access to funding through the Easter Cape Development Corporation. Government is also looking at consolidating small and medium enterprises in order to provide better and sustainable support.

• 110,472 work opportunities have been created through the Expanded Public Works Programme exceeding the set target of 94,504 work opportunities. 2622 beneficiaries received training in technical and life skills through the EPWP programme.

• The Department of Social Development and Special Programmes absorbed 351 young people recruited and skilled through the Masupatsela Youth Pioneer programme.

• 228 jobs created through the implementation of the Mthatha Bridge construction project, with R56.4 million spent out of a R101 million budgeted for this project.

In growing the economy of the province, the Coega Industrial Development Zone and the East London Industrial Development Zone are attracting private investment amounting to billions of rands. The province is hopeful that further foreign direct investment will place the province in almost equal footing with other developing provinces. To date the two IDZ’s have attracted the following investments;

• R1.2 billion private investment currently operational at the Coega Industrial Development Zone, R5.4 billion private investment being implemented at the Coega IDZ and a further R8 billion private investment on the pipeline. The investments are aligned to the sectors prioritised in our Provincial Industrial Strategy.

• R2.2 billion investment attracted to the province through the East London IDZ with R12.7 billion on the pipeline.

• R600 million investment through the Chinese (OEM, FAW) for the construction of a factory at the Coega IDZ.

• R647 million private investments secured for the Nelson Mandela Bay Logistics Park, this is aimed at increasing local content and provide opportunities for component suppliers in the province. This work is being done under the umbrella of the Eastern Cape Automotive Cluster.

• R1.8 billion total investment value for the 11 Wind Energy Projects awarded as Independent Power Producers by the Department of Energy located in the Province.

• R1.1 billion to be invested in the Eastern Cape for the establishment of a biofuel factory in Cradock, the project is part of the Presidential Infrastructure Priority Projects.

Building social and economic infrastructure

The Eastern Cape Government has also created a number of jobs through building of social and economic infrastructure.

• R3, 49 billion spent on the Ngqura Transhipment Hub project and an additional R15 billion is committed by Transnet on operationalizing the port and the creation of a manganese export facility.

• 2.5 million tons of coal per annum will be exported by 2014 from Elitheni Coal Mine in Dordrecht. The first container vessel of Elitheni coal left the East London Port for Brazil in January 2013. The project is expected to create 2000 direct and 20,000 indirect jobs.

• A viability study for Project Mthombo has just been completed by Chinese Oil Company SINOPEC. The study revealed that a refinery is commercially viable at 300,000 barrels a day. Work will proceed on the project once cabinet approval has been secured.

• The upgrade of the Mthatha Airport and runway is on track with construction at more than 70% complete. The project which has been included on the PICC priority projects has been allocated R465 million.

• Included in the PICC priority projects is the Nelson Mandela Legacy Bridge with a total allocation of R123 million and R59.3 million has been spent. This initiative is expected to boost tourism and local development, and will provide improved mobility and access to local communities.

• The Department of Water Affairs has completed a feasibility study for the implementation of the Umzimvubu Multi-Purpose Water Resource Development and three possible sites for dam Development initiative.

134 farmers will benefit from this initiative while 1000 direct jobs will be construction have been identified as Thabang, somabadi and Ntabelanga. Together with the
Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority and ESKOM, DWA is currently looking at hydro-energy and other spin-offs of the project.

- Over 2000km of former provincial roads have been gazetted as National Roads and as result, roads such as R56 between Indwe and Kostad, R58 between Elliot and Alwal North, R63 between King William’s Town and Graaf Reinet, R67 between King William’s Town and Queenstown, R72 between East London and Nanaga and R75 between Port Elizabeth and Graaf Reinet have all been taken over by SANRAL.

- R120 million has been spent on the maintenance of surfaced roads in the Eastern Cape Province during the 2012/13 financial year. The Province has established a high level joint forum with Transnet and one of the key achievements of that engagement is a commitment by Transnet to not only develop the capacity of the East London and Port Elizabeth port but to revive

  - Mthatha–Amabhele, Sterkstroom–Maclearine, Cookhouse–Blaneyline, Stormberg–Rosmeadline, Rossmead–Klipplatline, Klipplaat–Port Elizabeth line, and Aledale–Grahams town line

- These will significantly improve public transport and accessible for the many rural towns of the province.

- R2.3 billion has been set aside for the upgrading of the East London harbour to improve its capacity to handle auto logistics, expand the container terminal and provide a terminal for coal export. Government is making great strides in terms of developing and providing human settlements for the communities of the Eastern Cape.

- 48 436 housing units have been completed at the end of December 2012, against a target of 56 419. To respond to the challenges of shortage of available, well located and affordable land, the provincial government intends to enter into partnerships with municipalities and the national Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

- 50 schools will be built during the 2013/14 financial year through the Accelerated School Infrastructure Development Initiative programme. Already, construction in schools started in 2012/13 is nearing completion. Eastern Cape is making good progress in eliminating mud structures.

- R1.5 billion has been committed for the revitalisation of hospitals such as St Patrics in Mbizana, Cecilia Makhiwane in Mdantsane, Frontier in Queenstown, St Elizabeth in Lusikisiki, Madwaleni in Elliotdale, Siphethu in Ntabankulu, Nessy Knight in Qumbu, Khutsong in Matatiele and Mjayane Hospital in Ngcobo.

Rural development, land, agrarian reform and food security

The Rural Development Agency, as established in terms of the province’s Rural Development Strategy, is now in place. Based on the rural nature of the province, government has delivered on some of the key interventions as follows:

- 25 farms have been bought in partnership with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. The farms will be redistributed to farmers in the Fish River Valley to develop commercial black farmers.

- 25 540 households supported through the Siyazondla Food Security Programme benefiting households in rural and peri-urban areas.

- 8951 hectares of land cultivates as part of the Government’s robust intervention to revitalise agriculture in rural areas.

- Significant improvement has been made towards ensuring that Shiloh, Ncora, Keiskammahoek and Zanyokwe irrigation scheme become fully operational. Linkages are being forged between the agro industry and the primary production industry.

Improving the health profile of the people of the Province
Significant improvements have been made in the area of HIV/AIDS and TB prevention.

- The number of facilities assessed and found to be competent to provide Anti-Retroviral Treatment increased from 85 in 2009 to 780 by the end of 2012 financial year. 1452 nurses were trained to initiate ART treatment, instead of it being done by a doctor.

- 188,544 clients were registered on the ART programme in 2012 compared with 102,186 in 2009.

- The cure rate for TB has increased from 60.9% to 67.9% since 2009. In 2011 a total of 60051 new clients were detected.

- 667 out of 703 clients registered with multi-drug resistant strains and co-infected with HIV were started on ART treatment and all 236 XDR patients were put on ART treatment.

- Maternal deaths declined since 2009 with Maternal-Mortality Ratio declining from 202 to 168 per 100,000 in 2009 and 2011 and actual deaths have decreased from 269 in 2009 to 210 in 2011. Fight against crime and corruption The provincial government with the South African Police Service and other law enforcement agencies are tirelessly working towards reducing the incidents of crime in the communities.

- Law enforcement agencies have managed to apprehend the perpetrator that has been terrorising the Tholeni Community in recent months.

- Government is to launch the Provincial Gender Based Violence Council aimed at fighting all forms of gender based violence in the province.

- A number of government officials involved in the theft of medicines and other corrupt practices have been arrested. This is a result of the work of the Special Investigating Unit in the Department of Education and Health.

**Building a Developmental State**

- The number of municipalities achieving weak performance ratings has decreased from 29 in 2006/07 to just eight (8) in 2010/11. Alfred Nzo District and Joe Gqabi District showed a remarkable improvement achieving over 60% in performance ratings in the previous year.

- The provision of basic services to communities continued to improve with 1,236,303 households connected to electricity through Eskom by the end of 2012, representing a performance of 89%. These are the fruits of a good working relationship within ESKOM.

- 1.1 million households were connected to running water in 2009 and an increase of 9.5% to reach more than 1.4 million households by 2012 has been registered.

**Building Cohesive and sustainable communities**

Government continues to restore, declare and construct heritage sites in the Province.

- In 2012 the provincial government completed a launched the Bhisho Massacre Memorial Site and the Steve Biko Heritage Center was officially by President Jacob Zuma.

- The Ngquza Hill Massacre Memorial is nearing completion, while four heritage sites in Bilatye Heroes at Lady Frere, SEK Mqhayi Memorial in Berlin, Nico Malan Bus Accident Victims Memorial in Queenstown and Robert Sobukwe’s Grave in Graaf-Reinet have been restored and handed over to municipalities for security, maintenance and promotion as local tourism destinations.

- The Home of Legends campaign was launched at Mqhekezweni – The Great Place, where former President Nelson Mandela mastered his leadership competencies under the guidance of Regent King Jongintaba Mtitara of Abathembu. Government is rolling out the campaign to intensify social mobilisation behind the Eastern Cape brand.

- As Mdantsane celebrates 50 years since it was established, a commemorative programme will be implemented.

- The province has also finalised the Provincial Integrated Anti-Poverty Strategy, which seeks to ensure co-ordination and integration of all antipoverty initiatives, efficient and effective use of limited resources and placing people at the center of their own development.

The provincial government acknowledges challenges experienced in various sectors over the years but is confident that the mandate of creating jobs, facilitating better access to health and education, devising means for the effective development of rural areas and to fight the scourge of crime has been greatly achieved.

The National Development Plan calls for the country to “write a different story in the years ahead. In this new story, every citizen is concerned about the wellbeing of all other citizens, and the development of South Africa means the development of everyone who lives here. We must build on our social solidarity, which through history and heritage, has demonstrated our aspirations to create a caring South African Society.”
Announcing the decision at a media briefing in Bhisho, MEC Marawu said “over the last number of years, the shortage of appropriate office accommodation for provincial government departments in Bhisho has reached crisis proportions, impacting negatively on the performance of employees and thus the Province’s ability to achieve its service delivery objectives”.

The office precinct is part of a larger infrastructure development programme – the Bhisho Revitalisation Programme – of the Department of Roads and Public Works (DRPW) to attract and stimulate economic growth and development in Bhisho and King William’s Town.

Due to the lack of office accommodation in Bhisho, the Provincial Cabinet intervened and resolved to allow a number of provincial departments to relocate to East London and King William’s Town.

According to MEC Marawu “this was based on the understanding that once their office accommodation needs have been addressed in Bhisho, they will return. DRPW was mandated to pursue various options to deliver on the office accommodation solution in Bhisho.”

The MEC said discussions with the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC) and Provincial Treasury to develop the office precinct on land which was bought from Buffalo City Metro (BCM) are at an advantage stage.

“Discussions are at the project feasibility and design concept stage; and the development of a funding model is being investigated. The parties have prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to capture the envisaged partnership arrangement, the project funding and project delivery models. It is anticipated that the agreement on the envisaged partnership arrangement shall be concluded in due course.”

The decision of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government to build a state of the art office precinct in Bhisho will soon be put into practice.
The office precinct would cover 60,000 square meters of land. Once completed, the project would also have conferencing facilities, a cafeteria, take-away services and parking on approximately 200,000 square meters land.

According to MEC Marawu the project would be inline with Government’s commitment to a greener environment. It will be built using “Green Building” principles in its design and construction to ensure optimal energy use as well as the provision of intelligent building features.

About 5 departments will benefit from the new office building, namely; Social Development and Special Programme, Sports Recreation, Arts and Culture, Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, Education and Transport.

Former DRPW HOD Bongani Gxilishe, said only one department - Human Settlements – moved to East London and will return to Bhisho once their office accommodation is finalised in a deal government has with the University of Fort Hare.

The project will create approximately 2000 employment opportunities for Bhisho and King William’s Town residents over its construction period of 30 months.

“A further 250 permanent positions are expected to be created in the precinct operations after construction”, said MEC Marawu.

The possibility and mechanisms to provide the landscaping, fencing, parking and paving construction through the Expanded Public Works Program (EPWP), thereby providing a more labour intensive implementation approach will also be explored.
At 44 and only 14 years after the inception of her dream, Nompumelelo Dweba is leaving her dream as the Port Manager of the newest addition in the South African ports system, the Port of Ngqura.

Six months into her role at the deep-water port, Dweba looks back at the day she decided to leave her comfortable job with the Department of Education with only a smile and fond memories.

Born in rural Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape, Dweba a professional teacher made the life changing decision when she first heard about the development of a new port in Port Elizabeth around 1999. “At the time I was a curriculum advisor working in the area of Port St Johns and I heard about the Coega Development Corporation and the Port of Ngqura. I did not know the difference between the two but liked the idea of what was being done.” Her mind later settled on the Port of Ngqura as her future employers.

At the time, Dweba was doing her MBA – Finance with an educational institution in KwaZulu Natal, where she was about to start her dissertation to complete the qualification. Her passion and yearning for the maritime sector grew by the day. “I had to leave my comfortable position, park my dissertation and pursue my dream.” After doing further research on educational qualifications and expertise needed for the port system, she decided to enrol for an Honours Degree in Maritime Transport Economics.

At the completion of her honours degree, Dweba joined the National Department of Transport as a Deputy Director. Prior to her appointment in the current position she was an Acting Director: Maritime Industry Development and Economic Regulation. “It was within the Department of Transport that I learnt more about people management and about the Maritime Sector and agencies involved in this space.”

During her time within the National Department of Transport, she was instrumental in the development of the National Port Authority Act which governs operations of the port system in South Africa and was the chair for the Ports consultative committee which she incubated. “I wrote out the implementation of the NPA Act which was not easy and was shaking Transnet and the sector. There was also a lot of opposition but we had to stand our ground.”

Her determination and pursuit for her dream job resulted in Dweba being appointed to her current position. Transnet National Ports Authority’s Chief Executive officer, Mr Tau Morwe announced Dweba’s appointment at the end of August in 2012.

“It is my belief that when you dream, you have to dream big. I did not allow the position I was holding to limit my dreams. The next logical step from a Deputy Director position would have been to get a permanent Director position but I always knew that being a Port Manager is what I wanted to do and therefore I focused on my dream.”
As the Port Manager of Ngqura, Dweba's key deliverable is to market the port around the globe for the purpose of attracting ships to dock at the port.

“Global marketing of the port will ensure that we attract ships to call in our waters. We have to use our advantage of being at the tip of the Southern Hemisphere to attract even vessels that are passing by the South African waters.

“Having more vessels stop in our waters will make our port profitable. We have to generate revenue and find ways to minimise our expenses in the manner in which we conduct business. Our profit margins will then be greater and they can be shared amongst our employees and the shareholding minister.”

Though a new kid on the block, the Port of Ngqura according to Dweba is coming up strongly and is a contender within the maritime transport sector. Compared against 7 other commercial ports in South Africa, Ngqura has a depth of between 16mm and 18mm which gives it a competitive advantage over other ports in Africa.

“By the 1st quarter of 2017, this port must have grown to be a transhipment harbour, in addition to our container terminal, I want to operate manganese in this port, handle liquid and expand our multi-purpose terminal which currently has one berth to handle abnormal loads.

The port has just handled its first abnormal load with the arrival of a vessel importing wind-turbines to be used in governments’ energy efficiency strategy. This was the first vessel to dock in the new dry bulk terminal.

“Part of what I do within the port is to provide strategic direction by linking the port to existing and planned government initiatives. Ensure that the growth of the port is aligned to the growth and development of this province – complement the province and the country at large. In this port, we must be able to export oil on behalf of Project Mthombo when it becomes operational.”

To grow the port, Dweba acknowledges she has to build infrastructure.

“We must provide key walls for the ships to dock, discharge and load cargo and leave the port seamlessly and efficiently. We need to provide infrastructure at the right time, ensure that once infrastructure is in place, we have attracted many vessels. Our marketing and infrastructure development plan then must tie up together. We cannot use billions to build an infrastructure that no one will use.”

Dweba accepts that the port must contribute to the countries plan to alleviate poverty and unemployment and to date more than 400 people are on the terminal’s payroll. She suggests that in terms of the National Ports Authority Act, her responsibility is to play an oversight function to all terminal operations. “Currently we have one terminal, a container terminal which was a two berth operation. Towards the end of last year we finished two additional key walls which increased the capacity of the port.”

“Additional equipment is needed so that we can bring more people to the port, therefore creating more job opportunities and we aim to attract more people from the Eastern Cape.”

From the feasibility studies currently being conducted, construction phase and to the operations of those terminals, the Port of Ngqura is set to create more employment opportunities for the unemployed in both the skilled and unskilled labour market.
While ensuring that business is running smoothly within the port, Dweba is acutely aware of her responsibility to the staff of the port. “I have to create an environment where staff is excited to come to work, where they are able to laugh and ensure that they are able to engage me on various issues. I want even our Graduate Trainees to be able to explain the work of the port to external stakeholders.”

“I want my people to be highly productive, competent and excel in the work they are doing,” she adds.

As a safe port, Dweba says the port has to comply with the NPA Act in terms of safety, security, environment and its commercial activities.

“The way we undertake business has to comply with all key sets of legislation while ensuring efficiency in the port. Our efficiency will be measured by the extent to which we are able to serve vessels timeously. When vessels call in our port they must not wait at encourage (waiting inside the water) for the terminal to be available. Vessels must dock, be serviced at the port and leave our waters making way for other vessels.”

With her busy schedule Dweba still finds it worthy to participate in organisations such as the Women of Southern and Eastern Africa in the Maritime Sector (Womesa), a brain child of the International Maritime Organisation. She serves as a Marketing Manager of Womesa which focuses on creating awareness on career and business opportunities within the sector with a special focus to women.

“We mentor women that are already in the maritime sector, try to ensure growth of women within the sector. We mentor and nature them for senior positions.”

With all the demands and pressures of the job, she says she is comfortable that she is able to fulfil her role as a wife and a mother of three children. “I work extremely hard during the day, so that in the evening I am able to create a happy family environment at home.” – “At work I am used to having men listen to me in our boardroom and at home I have to listen to my husband.” “My family including extended family have always been there for me; I cannot just kick the ladder now and forget about them.”

Next to her family, she expresses the love and respect she has for the province of her birth and its people and she suggests that now is the time for the people of the province to act and be brand ambassadors of the Eastern Cape.

Having conquered the Port of Ngqura, Dweba aims to spend just 5 years taking the port to the next level. With her eyes in the future, she says; “My ship will dock next at one of the maritime agencies as a CEO. I want to go big.”

When asked what she would be doing if she was not a Port Manager, Dweba says: “If I was not here, I will be preaching the word of God.”
Nosiphiwo Macaula of the Eastern Cape Department of Social Development and Special Programmes has just completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Demography at the Cairo Demographic Center in Egypt.

Macaula, a research manager in the Departments’ Demography and Research Unit was appointed by Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini to represent the country in Cairo. As a member and partner in the Global Population and Development Forum, South Africa was offered a fellowship opportunity for training in Demography. Minister Dlamini appointed Macaula having gone through applications from other potential candidates across the country.

She was one of 27 students representing 20 different countries in Africa, Middle East, Gulf Countries and South Arabia. With the exception of Egypt, each country was represented by one candidate.

Due to Macaula’s excellent performance, South Africa came out number five out of 20 countries in the programme.

She admits that the course was not a piece of cake as it required a lot of knowledge in Mathematics and Statistics. It included writing research project about one’s country which was later presented to academics from highly recognised academic institutions.

This post-graduate diploma, according to Macaula, is meant to give participants skill but once a student obtains over 70 marks in results, they are invited to undergo further training to be a specialist in the field.

“Despite my challenge in Mathematics due to my social work background, I managed to get 70 mark, which put the country amongst the best performing countries in the course,” joyful Macaula explains. “As a result, I have been invited to come back and continue with the course that will produce a specialist in me.”

There is a shortage of demographic skills in the country, in particular, and in the world, in general, and this had in the past compelled the Department to hire consultants for its demographic research projects.

“The Department can now be proud that it has its own demographer and will not anymore rely on consultants. I can even now do the calculations which are required in government for the evidence based planning and interventions,” adds Macaula. “Due to the transversal nature of the Demographic Research Unit, the skill will not only benefit the Department but also other government departments in the province.”

As an individual, Macaula feels that she is more knowledgeable and educated now than before and is greatful to people who granted her the opportunity. “It is all thanks to Minister Dlamini, the national office, MEC Pemmy Majodina and the Head of Department Bea Hackula,” she says.

On her possible move back to Cairo to further her studies, she says, “If the Head of Department allows me to continue with the programme, I will go, if not, that will give me an opportunity to implement the skill I acquired during my stay in Cairo.” She is looking forward to guiding service delivery based on up to date demographic information.
The Office of the Premier is gearing up for the next implementation phase of the Culture Change Programme which is set to change the face of the Eastern Cape Provincial Administration.

The first phase of the programme, linked to the provincial Public Sector Transformation Strategy (PSTS) which was launched in 2010 and implemented with technical support from the National Treasury’s Technical Assistance Unit, Baobab Consulting Change Specialists and a team of consultants from the internationally recognized Teleos Leadership Institute.

The PSTS is a turn-around plan of the Eastern Cape Provincial Administration designed to foster excellence in the delivery of services throughout the provincial public sector.

Four areas of focus were identified for a successful change in culture within the provincial government which included;

• Developing institutional capacity to champion change, to broaden the circle and create a pool of change agents whilst building capacity of the OTP to assess, design and implement culture change programmes in a systematic manner. This includes building capacity to align strategy, processes, systems and culture.

• Leadership Development, to capacitate leadership in leading change. Senior leadership should demonstrate that they embrace the change and are able to role model the new cultural behaviours (if leaders do not change, the culture will not change); and to create a culture where everyone is recognized as a leader in his and her own right at whatever level in the organisation.

• Attitude, mindset and behaviour change, to reshape the underlying assumptions that inform the culture; to mold new organizational habits; winning the hearts and minds of employees; to create a customer oriented cadreship and the discipline of getting things done and encourage broad participation to generate deeper understanding.

• Creating a high organisational performance culture, to create work environment that contribute to continuous learning, improvement, and mission accomplishment that provides both accountability and fairness for all employees.

In line with these focus areas; the team has just completed the training of more than 100 change agents from various government departments across the province. This as the OTP implements the PSTS which aims at transforming the culture in the province, involving more than 13 departments with about 140 000 employees across the board.

“We realised the complexity of the task of implementing a culture change programme of this magnitude and therefore we adopted an approach of ‘Creating a Movement’,” says Litha Geza Deputy Director General for Institutional Development and Organisational Support and Project Leader for the programme.

The approach included the identification of change agents who work with the support of the OTP to champi-
on change in their departments. In November 2011, the change agents together with Batho Pele coordinators were enrolled in the programme and taught basics skills on leading change. “We started by engaging identified public servants with the hope of fostering a new mindset, attitude and behaviour.”

As part of this culture change initiatives, parallel engagements with public servants at head office and district level were also held to emphasize the message of this programme.

To take the programme forward and ensure its continuity, the OTP is advocating for the Implementation of structured departmental specific culture change programmes as from April 2013.

At a provincial level, the Office of the Premier will give support in the implementation of the identified must win projects in departments. The OTP will also coordinate staff engagement sessions by deploying OTP technical advisors to support, coach and mentor change agents in Departments.

“Due to challenges in Health and Education we have recommended that substantial time and energy need to be invested in a deeper culture change programme,” says Geza.

The team has also mobilized support for the programme through engagement sessions with executive leadership of departments.

According to Geza, this initiative is designed to appeal to the hearts and minds of public servants. “It is less a matter of controlling and monitoring but more on inspiring change and it should be obvious to every member of the organisation that their leader embraces the change,” she says.

A flagship programme for this term of government, Geza suggests that it is one of those initiatives that are at the center of improving service delivery by cultivating a cadre of public servants fit for a developmental state.

“We have invested a lot of time and resources to this programme and we looking forward to see it transcend the term,” she says. “Besides that, it is critical that the culture change processes are viewed as an ongoing striving for excellence, not as a project with an end,” adds Geza.

**EC EXCEEDS NREP’S MONTHLY TARGET**

The Eastern Cape Traffic Officer’s have exceeded the National Rolling Enforcement Plan’s [NREP] monthly target by stopping and screening 134 331 during 2012/13 Festive Season Arrive Alive Campaign.

*Writer: Ngwanya Mazwi*

NREP is a delimited, rolling, tactical programme designed to achieve effective practical co-operation between the three spheres of government in all ongoing road traffic and road safety management.

Eastern Cape Traffic officers are expected to stop and screen 85 000 vehicles per month. Each officer is expected to stop and check a minimum of 15 vehicles per eight-hour shift. The department has exceeded the monthly target with 49 331.

“I would like to salute all our law enforcement agencies, particularly traffic officers for this achievement,” said the MEC for Transport, Roads and Public Works, Thandiswa Marawu.

A total of: 993 arrests were made for various offences including, drunk driving, excessive speed, reckless and negligent driving, warrants, false documents and driver’s license, 429 vehicles were suspended for various offences.
years later he became a bureau Chief at the same newspaper.

He joined the provincial government communications working for the Department of Safety and Liaison in 2003 and a year later he joined the Department of Transport, where he is currently heading the Communications Unit and is also the departmental Spokesperson.

Revealing the secret behind his success, Kumbaca attributes it to hard work and the fact that he is blessed with a very cooperative team. “Since I joined this department, I have worked with men and women of integrity who always mentored me and I am grateful for that,” he added.

Expressing appreciation to his supervisor, Kumbaca said: “I would like to extend my gratitude to my supervisor Mr. Reynolds, who is the President for (ITMPOSA) for nominating me after he observed the good work I have been doing for the department in communicating strategies to improve traffic law enforcement and road safety in the Province.”

The Institute of Traffic and Municipal Police Officers of Southern Africa was formed with the aim and objective of promoting traffic control and the professional advancement of traffic members.

It is a service orientated organization which edifies, uplifts and empowers Traffic and Municipal Police Officers and strives to realize the honourable ideals of traffic and municipal police services in Southern Africa.
After a series of events which lead to uncertainty and confusion amongst the employees of the Department of Education, the Superintendent General Mthunywa Ngonzo is calling on all employees of the department to bring the Department back to its glory days.

Despite the hype associated with the arrival of the new head of department, Ngonzo warned the employees to change their negative habits as such might affect the change process.

Zanele Mbawu, a junior clerk at the Human Resource Management Chief Directorate, is one of those who welcomed the proposed change. According to Mbawu, ever since she joined the Human Resource Planning Directorate in 2008, most of the things the document speaks to are like a norm in the Directorate, despite the inability of other directorates’ short fall to implement these pointers. “For an example the signing of the register, performance, work plan agreements and reviews are things that we know we are compelled to sign and do” says Mbawu.

On the issue of training of employees which in many instances creates confusion and conflict amongst employees, the Acting SG made it clear that ‘all employees are entitled to training and development as per their job expectations and should be made to enjoy such privileges’.

The Deputy Director: Special programmes Unit (SPU); Selwyn Bruiners feels the changes are long overdue. “Bring back the days when one was proud to be an education official. Let’s instil pride and dignity as such will motivate us to do and go an extra mile in executing our responsibilities. Infact, that’s how I honestly feel we need to do”, said excite Bruiners.

The plan also cautions that a high level of accountability and immediate interventions for non-compliance should be implemented and further be elevated to higher levels of the Department. It proposes that such would help the department to succeed in turning around its culture for the better, with communication of all decision and expectations of government central as it is fundamental.

As part of the implementation of Back-to Basic Campaign to improve the culture of performance, commitment to work, accountability and sequences for non-compliance.

Below are all the pointers contained in the eight points plan and areas follows: All employees are required to be

Education Superintended General, Mthunywa Ngonzo.

The campaign, themed “Back to Basics” according to Ngonzo is aimed at improving work ethos, inspiring confidence amongst the employees while instilling commitment and accountability.

“This is a start of a constructive process of addressing the challenges we have witnessed in the department, with the image of the department, particularly associated perception of which many of them have been negative. Surely, at the end it will require all branches of managers to manage this change processes.” said Ngonzo.

The ‘eight points plan” seeks to mobilise all departmental employees from a teacher at school to the head of department at the provincial offices behind the same vision. Additionally, the plan follows a staff meeting held OR Tambo hall recently organised by Ngonzo to outline the plan to all provincial employees. “The plan directs and controls us to be united when applying the vision of the department”, added Ngonzo.

The proposed change also requires all employees to account for their actions through providing monthly reports collectively and individually to showcase progress or reflect areas where people need intervention. Ngonzo highlighted that the department also needs to create a better working environment for its employees. “We owe it to ourselves to give ourselves another chance through providing an enabling environment for our employees to function optimally”, added Ngonzo.

Writer: Malibongwe Mtima
allocated work as per their agreed upon job description and employment conditions. All employees are required to report for work and sign the attendance registers which must be removed at 08h10 and return at 15h50 on Fridays, and 16h20 from Monday to Thursday by the supervisors as per regulations. All employees are required to sign and report daily performance and productivity to the immediate supervisors as per allocated responsibilities.

All employees are required to sign leave forms for approved absence. All requests and applications for leave of absence at work should be dealt with by an SMS member in the Directorate/Chief and the Branch and NOT below such levels. All leaves without approval should be dealt with as per legislation including implementation of leave without pay. All employees are required to sign performance and workplan agreements, conduct reviews and be rewarded as expected by law. All employees are entitled to training and development as per their job expectations and should be made to enjoy such privileges.

All supervisors are required to put more efforts to people management and supervision including wellness of the employees.

TRAFFIC COP, PRIEST, DJ WITH HEART OF GOLD

The name Tshepo Machaea is not only synonymous with traffic control in the Eastern Cape, but for many poor communities in Transkei he is a hero and “the man with the heart of gold”.

Many love the 47-year-old Arrive Alive spokesman for his good deeds. He is a priest who has not only dedicated his life to his family and God through preaching, but to many poor families he practises what he preaches.

Close to his heart are orphaned and destitute children as well as the elderly and poor to whom he has dedicated his life in assisting and making a difference in their lives. The multisilled man is also a radio DJ and “father” to more than 70 children, mostly street kids, orphans and the destitute. As a radio presenter on UCR FM he is known affectionately as “Bishop” to his listeners. Although he does not compromise on enforcing road regulations he is the first person the poor and the needy turn to. Bereaved families who struggle financially to bury loved ones, students who do not have money for school or uniform, homeless people who need shelter, crime victims and those who need spiritual upliftment, all turn to him. In 2005, Machaea started an organisation called Ibandla Lasemthini Evangelical Movement—a church and a multidenominational Christian group to help the underprivileged. Ibandla Lasemthini (which means “ministry under the tree” from where the first meeting took place) is supported by local businesses, municipalities and the taxi industry to provide food, clothing and shelter to many. Although Machaea had always wanted to help those in need, he was moved to do something after hearing the tragic story of a young girl who had been killed.

Nontombi Timakhwe from Zimbane Valley near Mthatha was 11 when she was raped and had her throat slit as she walked home from school one afternoon. Her mother, Nolusapho Timakhwe, not only struggled to come to terms with her death, but couldn’t afford to bury her little girl. When Machaea heard of her despair, he made the necessary arrangements and his organisation paid the funeral costs. Taking advantage of a visit to the area by President Jacob Zuma, Machaea “I was shocked to see such a senior person as Zuma at my daughter’s funeral. That alone made the pain better,” Timakhwe said. The woman beams when she speaks of Machaea.

“Rhat man has a heart of gold. Without him my daughter would not have been buried. I regard him as my son and as a member of this family. Even now I call on him and he is always there. Of the 70 mostly street children helped by Ibandla Lasemthini, about 17 receive formal schooling and two recently graduated.

Last week the organisation handed over school uniforms to 70 needy pupils from 63 schools around Transkei. Machaea also delivered Christmas presents to patients at Bedford Hospital in Mthatha. How does he manage his time between social responsibilities, work, preaching, radio presenting and his family?” My phone is busy day and night. There is so much demand from people who need help.

There are no holidays for me. But I am not complaining. This is my calling.” — The story first appeared in the Daily Dispatch.
Vision 2030

The Eastern Cape has embarked on a formal process to map its future - and your voice is critically important in defining the best of what we are, and the best of what we aspire to become.

Who is the ECPC?

The Eastern Cape Planning Commission (ECPC) is a statutory body comprising eight commissioners led by the MEC for Provincial Planning and Finance Phumulo Mashele.

The commissioners have been called to provide guidance and strategic oversight on the development of the Provincial Development Plan (2014-2030) for the Eastern Cape. The ECPC is aligned to, and complements, the National Planning Commission (NPC), which was established in May 2009 to develop a long-term vision and strategic plan for South Africa. The strategy developed by the ECPC will take into account the broader planning horizon of the NPC, but will be structured around and informed by specific provincial priorities and resources, as identified by the ECPC’s comprehensive consultative and participatory processes.

Why is Vision 2030 so important to you?

ECPC needs your help to develop a vision and strategy for the future development of the province that is a true and meaningful reflection of the hopes and aspirations of all the people of the Eastern Cape.

Make your voice heard.

Be involved. Get engaged.
Take responsibility.