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June / July 2021

# GOVERNMENT HANDS OVER TITLE DEEDS TO FARMERS IN LIMPOPO



public works  
& infrastructure

Department:  
Public Works and Infrastructure  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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JUNE / JULY 2021

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...is the official house journal of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

It is a forum of discussion, debate and information for and about the Department, aimed at reflecting the Department's goals and objectives.

All employees are invited to send in articles, which may be of interest to the Department and its stakeholders.

Views expressed in *WorxNews* do not necessarily represent the views of management.



## Minister De Lille says land ownership amounts to freedom and dignity

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure continues to play an active role in the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Land Reform to fast track land reform in the country. The Department has released thousands of hectares of land for Restitution Programme to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to finalise land transfers to claimants.

In the 2021/22 financial year, the Department plans to release 21 132 hectares of land for land restitution, 10 951 hectares for human settlements and 180 hectares for other socio-economic purposes. On this issue of **WorxNews**, in-house reporters have put together insightful articles on the recent handing over of 31 title deeds to farmers in Limpopo where Minister De Lille revealed that land ownership equals to freedom and dignity.

In this copy of **WorxNews**, we also share with you the article on DPWI's 2021 Budget Vote Speech, where the Minister announced that the Department's budget for Prestige programmes for Government functions, state visits and funerals would reduce from R94 million in 2021/22 to R83 million in 2023/24. We also take you to the Northern Cape to inform you, the reader of **WorxNews** of the two-day oversight visit on infrastructure projects that Deputy Minister Noxolo Kiviet embarked on.

On another note, the African continent marked its 8<sup>th</sup> Africa Public Service Day on 23 June 2021 and in this copy, we share with you what this important event is all about. Also find out in this **WorxNews** issue the significance of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's Men's Forum and how, with the full support of the men in the Department's Senior Management Service, this medium can truly help our country win the war against many social ills perpetrated by men.

**FOCUS ON COVID 19:** When President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the nation on 27 June 2021, he announced that the country was gripped by a devastating third wave of COVID-19 infections. Due to the rising infections, the country was moved to Lockdown Alert Level 4. Read more about this on Page13. The **WorxNews** team once again appeals to all colleagues to continue to wear a face mask, sanitise and or regularly wash hands and practice social distancing, to help curb the spread of COVID-19.

*Thank you and enjoy the reading!*

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Friday, 21 May 2021 - A day before the handover of land and title deeds to farmers in Tafelkop, DPWI officials joined Minister Patricia De Lille and Deputy Minister Noxolo Kiviet to meet the local traditional leadership in Groblersdal under the Sekhukhune District Municipality in Limpopo

# “ACCESS TO LAND WILL EMPOWER THE FARMERS AS THEY FINALLY HAVE OWNERSHIP STATUS,” MINISTER DE LILLE

By Tshuluzi Nkoana, Pictures By Tshuluzi Nkoana and the GCIS

The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Patricia De Lille revealed that access to land amounted to freedom and dignity. Speaking in Groblersdal, Limpopo on 22 May 2021 during the handing over of 189 hectares of land to more than 30 farmers by President Cyril Ramaphosa, Minister De Lille said the land ownership would enable the farmers to expand and improve their farming activities.

The farmers under the Tafelkop Farmers Association in Groblersdal have been farming tobacco, cotton and fresh produce for 25 years on the land that they now own. They supply local food stores, school feeding schemes, as well as the Pretoria and Johannesburg fresh produce markets. The handover of land and title deeds to the farmers puts them in a position to be able to use it as security for loans to expand, to secure long-term supply contracts and to form partnerships with bigger commercial farmers.

Minister De Lille said the history of this land redistribution case was long and the journey that Mr Jerry Sefoloshe (who is the Chairperson of the Tafelkop Farmers Association) and fellow farmers had to endure to become the successful farmers they are today, was not easy. “I stand here and I share in the joy that the farmers feel today that finally they are now the land owners. We all feel the pride and joy as we see the vast amount of crops the farmers have been farming for years,” said the Minister.

She revealed how the Tafelkop farmers organised themselves on 14 April 1994 to be registered commercial farmers as the Tafelkop Farmers Association and started to engage Government looking for the correct custodian which was the Department of Public Works (DPW). Finally, in February and May 2021, the farmers' long journey

came to an end when DPWI received 31 Title Deeds of the subdivided portions of farm registered in the names of the farmers and their spouses.

The Minister said the value of the 189 hectares of land now officially registered in the names of the farmers was worth more than R25.5 million. “It has been a decades' long journey for the farmers who have successfully farmed various agricultural produce including maize, onion, cabbage, spinach, soya beans and other vegetables as well as cotton and tobacco,” explained Minister De Lille.

She said through receiving the title deeds for the land, the farmers intend to form partnerships with investors to expand market access and expand their output and offering. “This will enable them to make a greater economic contribution to the region while expansion of operations will also enable them to create more jobs in the region,” said the Minister.



# COME WITH US TO GROBLERSDAL

Feature and Pictures By Bukiwé Cimela

Life continued as normal albeit with excitement ahead of the planned land and tittle deeds handover to 31 members of the Tafelkop Farmers Association in Groblersdal in Limpopo. Hot temperatures, dusty roads, the sound of crickets stridulating here and there can be heard, different shades of green paint the land. Streets are deserted, but as you pass each farm, groups of people congregate under trees. The size of each group consisting of mostly women, all wearing masks differs from farm to farm.

In each farm we visit, we are greeted with great maPedi humility, forcing us Gautengers to do a manners introspection, questioning ourselves if we are giving or showing the same respect, warmth and kindness being shown to us. At the time of our arrival to profile some of the farmers ahead of the handover ceremony, many farmers are harvesting and processing tobacco. The hot and dry weather of the area is ideal for growing tobacco. The groups congregating under trees are part of the tobacco processing chain.

From the tractor delivering tobacco leaving the farm, to the workers under the trees sorting out the leaves, taking the best leaves and stacking them in handmade steel wires. The green leaves are then packaged and hung to dry in ventilated curing plastic tents to create the necessary heat that will dry the leaves. This curing process can take a few weeks. The dried tobacco leaves are then removed at intervals as they reach the desired maturity stage.

Before the dried leaves are packaged into boxes, they are inspected and sorted by hand one more time, in a process similar to when they were being hung up to dry, only this time not under trees but in moisture proof rooms. The leaves are then packed into boxes, pressed down over time to compact them as much as possible. From there, they are packaged and ready to be sold to tobacco producers.

The farmers say there is never any wasted product. They sell up to 80 boxes of dried tobacco leaves per farm per day. As we pack up and leave the farming area, slowly making our way on the dusty streets, passing the groups of people under trees, one can't help but marvel at how this slow paced and very low-tech farming community has made success from the land that laid wasted.



# THE DPWI CONTINUES TO IMPLEMENT AUSTERITY MEASURES TO CURB SPENDING

By WorxNews Reporter



Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia De Lille told Parliament on 25 May 2021 that the Department would spend less on Prestige programmes for Government functions over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) to curb spending.

Delivering the 2021 Budget Vote speech, Minister De Lille revealed that the Departmental budget allocation over the MTEF was R25.5 billion. She said the funding would be spent to meet the seven (7) priorities of Government to accelerate infrastructure investment for economic growth; transform the economy, the built environment and enable job creation; Proactively ensure spatial transformation and redress through leveraging state assets and Provide a dignified experience for DPWI client departments, the civil servant working in a government building, be it a police officer or nurse and ultimately to every South African that visits a government building.

The Department's budget allocation for this financial year is R8.3 billion. Minister De Lille announced that the Department's budget for Prestige programmes for Government functions, state visits and funerals would be reduced from R94 million in 2021/22 to R83 million in 2023/24. She said the Department was continuing to implement austerity measures, mainly for the state functions, hence the decreasing budget over the medium term for this programme.

The budget allocation for the Property Management Trading Entity (PMTE) is R4.2 billion for the 2021/22 financial year. The Minister said the PMTE would also focus on refurbishing and maintaining government buildings in its portfolio and developing 12 small fishing harbours. Under the PMTE allocation, an amount of R945.7 million is allocated to DPWI specific infrastructure projects and is used for: R256 million for used Land Ports of Entry, R116 millions for Dolomite Risk Management for Government buildings that are at risk of collapse because of a dolomite sinkhole and doline problem especially in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, Northern Cape and the northern parts of the Free State province.

R23 million is set aside for the retrofitting of facilities that have not catered for people with disabilities; R20 million is projected spend for this financial year for refurbishment to Parliamentary villages to ensure that they are compliant; R35 million is projected spend in this financial year for refurbishment of the Parliamentary precinct in buildings such as the NCOP, the Marks Buildings, 100 Plein Street and security infrastructure.

R131.7 million on other infrastructure projects such as the Port Elizabeth Eben Donges building, building alterations and refurbishments including air conditioning and mechanical installations, the upgrading of 10 water treatment plants and the upgrading of the DPWI regional office in Durban. R199 million is for precinct development in cities to support efficient and integrated government planning by grouping departments that provide similar services.

Minister De Lille also announced that as part of an integrated planning and development, the Department had completed the Township Establishment to develop Salvokop Precinct mixed-use precinct in Tshwane. This included the national offices for four (4) government departments, namely; the Department of Correctional Services, the Department of Higher Education and Training, the Department of Social Development and agencies – SASSA and the National Development Agency (NDA), as well as the Department of Home Affairs.

She revealed that the DPWI played an active role in the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Land Reform to fast-track land reform. "Just this weekend, I joined the President and Ministers from the Land Reform IMC as we handed over 31 title deeds to black farmers outside Groblersdal in Limpopo. I want to thank the two members of the portfolio committee who joined us at the handover event, honourable Samantha Graham-Mare and honourable Timothy Victor Mashele," said the Minister. She said the Department's Real Estate Investment Services that champions the work of land reform has been allocated R220 million for this financial year. The branch spent 98% of their budget in the previous financial year.

The Minister also mentioned that in the 2021/22 financial year, the Department planned to release 21 132 hectares for land restitution, 10 951 hectares for human settlements and 180 hectares for other socio-economic purposes. "The Department also has an extensive property portfolio comprising 29 041 land parcels and 81 573 buildings – a total of 9 736 are vacant parcels of land ready to support the spatial transformation of our cities and towns," said Minister De Lille.

She said the Real Estate Registry and Information Services responsible for the Department's Immovable Asset Register (IAR), would receive R62 million in the current financial year. She added that the National Treasury was currently assisting DPWI to draw up the specifications to digitise the Immovable Asset Register. Minister De Lille also said the allocation for the Real Estate Management Services Branch for the current financial year was R11.2 billion that would be spent on Leases, Property Rates and Municipal Services.

Through the Real Estate Management, the Department had identified 83 properties in the past year to be allocated for use as shelters for victims of Gender-Based Violence. The Minister said during the previous financial year, 12 properties were allocated to the Department of Social Development. The Department planned to release more properties across the country to be utilised in the fight against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

To read the full 2021 Budget Vote Speech [click here](#)



# DEPUTY MINISTER KIVIET SAYS SMALL HARBOURS REVITALISATION WILL HELP RESUSCITATE THE ECONOMY

By Bukwe Cimela, Picture By Shudufhadzo Mudau

Public Works and Infrastructure Deputy Minister (DM) Noxolo Kiviet visited the Namakwa District Municipality in the Northern Cape from 30 May to 01 June 2021, as part of her two-day oversight visit on infrastructure projects that the Department can be part of in order to help resuscitate the economy.

The Deputy Minister visited properties managed by the Department and some infrastructure projects that DPWI are part of. The DM said she wanted to see first-hand the condition of government properties and what can be improved in those properties to facilitate economic recovery.

Accompanied by a number of DPWI officials and the Richtersveld Local Municipality officials, the DM visited the Port Nolloth Harbour currently being used by the De Beers Group, as part of their ocean mining facility, a fish factory also at the same harbour, the site of the South African Police Service (SAPS) houses renovations, Boegbaai (the site of a planned commercial

harbour), and the Alexander Bay border post between South Africa and Namibia.

DM Kiviet emphasised the importance of infrastructure development mentioning that the President in both the 2019 and 2020 State of the Nation Addresses (SONA's) specified that infrastructure development had a great potential to create jobs.

She said small harbours revitalisation as part of Operation Phakisa will help in the economic resuscitation in the area. The DM said oversight is about ensuring that they as politicians connect with the people who elected them and that they serve.

# TAFELKOP LAND & TITLE DEEDS HANDOVER

See some of the agricultural produce being farmed on the land

Pictures By Bukiwe Cimela and the GCIS







# DPWI JOINS THE 2021 APSD VIRTUAL CELEBRATIONS

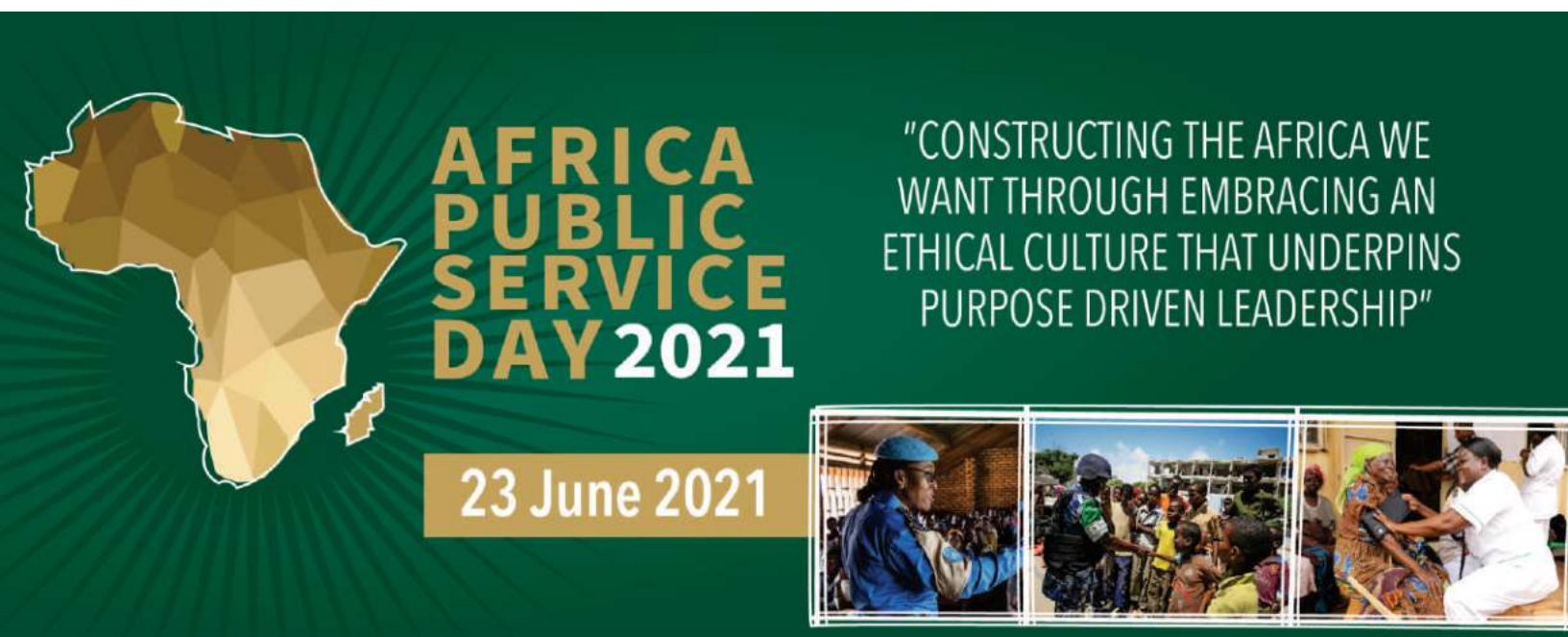
By WorxNews Reporter

Over 50 African countries marked the 8<sup>th</sup> Africa Public Service Day (APSD) on 23 June 2021 by sharing how the continent's public servants contribute in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic in their respective countries. This as many public servants remain the frontline of service delivery by continuing to play a key role in the continent's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure could not be an exception as it was represented at the annual event by the DPWI Covid 19 Steering Committee Chairperson, Ms Ruwayda Baulackey during the proceedings.

The 2021 APSD was used to encourage public servants throughout Africa to promote values of professionalism, accountability, responsiveness, ethics and performance. The public servants were urged to remain committed to serving citizens promptly and courteously. The APSD virtual celebrations took place from 21 to 23 June 2021 in Harare, Zimbabwe. This important strategic event on the African Union calendar aims to showcase amongst others, innovations in governance; recognise and acknowledge excellence in the public service. The 2021 Africa Public Service Day celebrations were held under the theme *"Constructing the Africa we want through embracing an ethical culture that underpins purpose driven leadership."*

The following sub-themes were outlined to give effect to and guide the APSD celebrations: celebrating the contribution of the public servant - a story of courage and resilience in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic; embracing cultural diversity as a lever to strengthen institutions for a responsive and ethical public administration; deploying technology to sustain and enhance service delivery in the face of this challenging COVID-19 pandemic climate; achieve inclusivity through harnessing arts and culture, as instruments to inform markets and build demand side capacity for effective and efficient service delivery.

In South Africa, the APSD celebrations were implemented as a weeklong programme from 21 to 25 June 2021. For 2021, the Department of Public Service and Administration in South Africa took a decision to invite all government departments to send contact details of a representative/s to represent each department in a Webinar that aimed to give participants an opportunity to learn, reflect on the work of the public service and the role of public servants in responding to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



# SEE THE VIRTUAL PROCEEDINGS TO COMMEMORATE THE APSD CELEBRATIONS THROUGH THE EYES OF THE DPWI COVID-19 STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) COVID-19 Steering Committee Chairperson, Ms Ruwayda Baulackey represented the Department during the virtual proceedings to mark the 8<sup>th</sup> Africa Public Service Day (APSD). The proceedings were hosted by the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA). In South Africa, the APSD was implemented as a weeklong programme from 21 to 25 June 2021.

Ms Baulackey takes us through the presentations made during the virtual engagements.

## **Webinar: chaired by Ms Lydia Sebokodi Focus of Day 1: 'Embracing Innovation'**

The key message of the day was to embrace and celebrate innovation and to deploy technology to enhance service delivery.

The first presenter, Mr Lindani Mthethwa from the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI) informed the audience that Africa had set up a number of innovative responses to the COVID-19 pandemic such as the remote patient monitoring robot (Quinton) deployed at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town, automatic sanitising stations at Taxi ranks in Rwanda, and many other IT related innovations. The presenter stated that we must all be proud of Africa because we have home-grown solutions.

A very interesting presentation was made by Mr Bruno Thejane from the North West Education Department. He was part of a team of innovators that created the '*Dial a Tutor*' education application. This 'App' is not web-based but cloud-based and can be accessed via mobile phone for any school

subject by dialling a toll free number for assistance. This application is already in use for remote learning due to the effects of the pandemic on educating the youth.

I listened attentively to the presentation by Ms Rehelda Williams from the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), previous CIPRO.

The CIPC is an entity of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) established in terms of the Companies Act. The CIPC is responsible for the registration of trading entities in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) and they have established the '*BizPortal*', which is a web-based application to improve business registration especially for Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME's) and to reinforce the ease of doing business in RSA.

The *BizPortal* can be accessed by anyone with Internet access to search for enterprise details, update company details, etc. This is particularly interesting for DPWI since enterprise searches is a routine activity during risk assessment when evaluating bids.

Mr Mthethwa informed everyone that the deadline for submission for the CPSI 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Sector Innovation Awards was 17 September 2021.

Day 2 of the Webinar was opened by the Deputy Minister of the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga who bemoaned the fact that even though we have monitoring tools, these mechanisms seem to be embattled because it has become apparent that we are implementing these tools for compliance only and not to improve our services.

Professor Mogie Subban from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) championed for the fact that the Public Service must 'Ignite Passion with a Purpose'. She asked the important question: '*What is frontline service delivery*'? She implored everyone to express 'dynamism of the environment in which we are called to serve our clients and customers'. "We must display the spirit of Ubuntu, strive for service excellence and create a more visible presence on the ground."

Mr Temba Fosi from COGTA presented a paper on the District Development Model which seeks to improve co-operative governance at an operational level.

continued on page 12

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A few other speakers from the DPME, Stats SA, GCIS, etc. relayed information with regards to service delivery improvements required at local level.

Commissioner of the Public Service Commission in South Africa Dr. Somadoda Fikeni questioned the abundance of policy and legislative imperatives versus poor outcomes. He said that he has noticed the anti-delivery culture in the public service, staff that become annoyed when called upon to do their work. Staff that are far more interested in reading Instagram, WhatsApp and Facebook posts than actual public service.

“They wait for the sms announcing the arrival of the salary”, he said. The question he put to Senior Management Service is: how do we eradicate this culture among public servants?

Other speakers implored public servants to humanise their actions when planning and delivering services. “The very important question we must ask ourselves is: how do our stakeholders feel when they leave a service point or after we have delivered a particular service?”

The two-day Webinar was extremely insightful and all presentations made are very beneficial to all public servants.

# THE DANGER OF RECEIVING GIFTS



## THE DIRECTORATE ANTI-CORRUPTION AND FRAUD AWARENESS DISCOURAGES OFFICIALS FROM ACCEPTING GIFTS

### ELEMENTS

- Giving direct or indirect compensation
- Or offering to do so
- To an official
- For doing something he should not do
- Or for not doing something he should do

### WHAT

- What are you being offered? gifts, personal discounts, cash, overseas holiday.
- What is expected in return? favoured treatment, participation in fraud.
- What weaknesses are being exploited? frustration, greed, financial need.

### HOW DO OFFICIALS BECOME TRAPPED?

- A thank you gift
- A threat to expose
- Participation in the scheme
- An incentive to recruit

### RED FLAGS

- Plead ignorance if challenged and offer to correct; Have a “plausible” excuse if challenged
- Do not discuss it
- Deposited anonymously into bank account
- Test the waters with a small payment

## GIFTS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

### WHAT IS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

- A “Conflict of Interest involves a conflict between the public duty and the private interest of an official.
- The official's private capacity interest could improperly influence the performance of official responsibility.

### HOW DOES A CONFLICT OF INTEREST BECOME CORRUPTION?

The Public Official actually misuses official power/resources for (improper) personal gain.

## REPORTING

### OPEN REPORTING:

The Unit receives reports through Walk-in, emails, telephone via ADDG: GRC: Mr. Lwazi Mahlangu  
Tel: (012) 406 1977  
Email: Lwazi.mahlangu@dpw.gov.za

Director: ACU - Mr Matomo Mabotja

Tel: (012) 406 1328

Email: Matomo.mabotja@dpw.gov.za

- You can also use **TALK TO MINISTER / DEPUTY MINISTER / TALK TO DIRECTOR GENERAL on the DPWI Intranet**

### CLOSED REPORTING:

Anonymous - 0800 701 701 (National Anti-Corruption Hotline)  
It's a free call - make it - Blow the whistle on Fraud and Corruption.

# LET US FIGHT THE COVID-19 FATIGUE TO SAVE LIVES

By WorxNews Reporter

When President Cyril Ramaphosa announced on 27 June 2021 that the country would be moved to Lockdown Alert Level 4, he revealed that with the exception of the Northern Cape and Free State, the COVID-19 infections were rising rapidly in all other provinces.

He said the country was gripped by a devastating wave (the third wave of COVID-19 infections) that by all indications seemed like it would be worse than those that preceded it. The President appealed to the nation to follow the public health regulations.

Although it is becoming clear that people have grown tired of COVID-19 restrictions, the rise in infections show us that we cannot let our guard down. Especially not when the President also announced that the country was also dealing with the Delta variant which was spreading rapidly.

Let us acknowledge that it is through our behaviour that the virus is spread and strive to be careful at all times. President Ramaphosa made it clear the move to Level 4 sought to break the chain of transmission by reducing person-to-person contact and thereby help to flatten the curve.

Under Level 4, the hours of curfew were changed to start at 9p.m. and end at 4a.m. All gatherings were prohibited and alcohol sales were banned. These and other regulations were Government's attempt to tighten restrictions on the movements of persons and on gatherings.

Let us therefore fight the COVID-19 fatigue in order to continue protecting each other and save lives. Let us go back to sanitizing, regularly washing our hands, limiting unnecessary trips to busy places and wear our face masks every time we are out in public.

Do note that while people who are above the age of 60 as well as the people in the healthcare and education sectors are continuing to receive COVID-19 vaccines; people who are 50 years old and above can now officially register to also get the vaccine. This was revealed by Acting Health Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane on 25 June 2021 who also said that the 50 year olds and above would then be vaccinated from 15 July 2021.

**ALERT LEVEL 4**

Due to a massive surge of new infections, South Africa will be placed on **ADJUSTED ALERT LEVEL 4 FROM MONDAY, 28 JUNE**

**WORKING FROM HOME:**

- All employers should allow their employees to work from home unless it is absolutely necessary for them to perform work on-site

WHATSAPP SUPPORT: 0800 123 456 | EMERGENCY NUMBER: 0800 029 999 | @PresidencyZA | www.stateofthation.gov.za

**VACCINE ROLLOUT** REGISTRATION WILL SOON BE OPENED TO ALL THOSE AGED 50 AND ABOVE

You can register by:

- Using the online registration platform available on the SA Coronavirus website
- Dialling \*134\*832# and registering via USSD
- Sending the word "register" via WhatsApp to 0600 123 456
- Calling the national toll-free call centre on 0800 029 999, where somebody will help you to register and answer any questions about the vaccination rollout

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**ALERT LEVEL 4**

**KEEPING THE ECONOMY MOVING**  
Alert Level 4 measures will allow most economic activity to continue

- You can still go to work, unless you are able to work remotely
- All retail stores will remain open
- Factories, mines, farms and other businesses will continue to operate
- You can travel freely within your province, subject to curfew times

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**ALERT LEVEL 4**

Due to a massive surge of new infections, South Africa will be placed on **ADJUSTED ALERT LEVEL 4 FROM MONDAY, 28 JUNE**

**INTER-PROVINCIAL TRAVEL:**

- Travel into and out of Gauteng is permitted only for work, for the transport of goods, for funerals or to return home
- Travel between other provinces is allowed

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**ALERT LEVEL 4**

**ALCOHOL sales prohibited**

**TRAVEL**  
Travel In and out of Gauteng for leisure is prohibited

**MASKS MANDATORY**  
in public places

**GATHERINGS**  
All social, religious, political and other gatherings are prohibited

**NEW CURFEW HOURS 9PM TO 4AM ESTABLISHMENTS:**  
Restaurants may only serve food for take-away or delivery

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## DPWI MEN'S FORUM SEEKS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Motlhabane Motlhabane and Mankwana Masemola

The abrupt arrival of Covid-19 on our shores in the year 2020 brought a significant number of challenges in the way we do things.

The situation we find ourselves in, forces all of us to “sink or swim”, with no exception. For over a year now, it has been difficult for a number of events to happen in a physical contact setting, especially those that dictate that they should happen in that manner. Everything had to adapt to a new virtual way which demands technical skills, funds and equipment that are designed and synchronised as such.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Men's Forum which is led by men in the Department suffered immensely under the strain of Covid-19. Thankfully it is not dead, it is alive and much needed now than ever before, mainly because Covid-19 has brought its own dynamics that will necessitate intervention of a structure like a Men's Forum going forward.

For those who are not aware about the significance of Men's Forum, this article seeks to give you a snippet introduction.

Men's Forum in the Department was established when government brought new types of Departments during the 4th administration that talks to the constitution, especially the inclusion of the Department of Women. As you would know that women are by nature visionaries and the people who birth the nation...hold that thought.

Subsequent to the advent of departments like that of women, departments had to align themselves with the national order of

things. A unit was established in the Department called Women, Youth and People with Disabilities which has since been changed to Women Empowerment.

A need for Men's Forum was picked up by the late Dr (posthumous) Minah Jonas, a visionary woman who worked closely with Ms Mankwana Masemola under the management and leadership of Reverend Naledi Stemela who is also passionate about women empowerment issues.

The need for establishing a Men's Forum talks to issues that affects men in the Department, which are endless in nature.

These phenomenal ladies provided structure and support to the Forum, but they allowed men in the Department to run with it.

Since its (Men's Forum) inception, there are two major events that were hosted for men in DPWI, one was at Union Building's garden, the next was at Sunnyside, Holiday Inn Express. Men's Forum had a rare opportunity to bring in a sought-after speaker, Mr Mbuyiselo Botha who is an activists and motivational speaker of note, to motivate men and to make them aware about the threat of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) which is one of the major problems in our country.

The awareness raising sessions held with the Department of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities (DWYPD) and the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) enhanced more knowledge and insight for men and for some it brought significant changes in their attitudes towards gender equality.

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The sessions created a platform for men to have robust discussions through dialogue, to discuss among other issues, GBV, Sexual Harassment and other factors that influence men to resist transformation and gender equality in the workplace.

In a follow-up in 2017, the Department held a successful session with rehabilitated offenders at the Holiday Inn Express in Sunnyside, Pretoria. The session left undying first hand experiences that will not instantly fade away to realise that gender-based violence is a serious social ill within our country.

The session also enabled the Department to make meaningful contributions towards dealing with the scourge of gender-based violence. Information shared on the day enlightened men on how sentencing takes into account the serious nature of the violence that women and children are faced with daily.

Subsequent to that, the Men's Forum embarked on a guided excursion at Kgosi Mampuru Correctional Facility in 2018, in an effort to give men a glimpse at the living conditions within the facility. The aim was to afford them the opportunity to experience first-hand that a prison is not the most desirable place to be at.

The visit was intended to demonstrate to men that the consequences of crime, are dire in nature and can completely destroy you as a person.

Going forward, the Forum will need a lot of support, especially from men at Senior Management Service (SMS) positions for it to be taken serious by all. But its firm existence needs all men in the Department from the lowest to the highest level.

The only way for the country to win the war against many ills that are perpetrated by men, especially GBV, which is a bane to the government and all South Africans, men and all organisations should play their role in drumming up the messages of GBV home. DPWI Men's Forum in a small way, seeks to make a difference in bringing to the spotlight, those things that men do unaware, which constitute sexual harassment in the workplace.

It also seeks to remind men that their physical structure and strength does not make them superior to women, which is something similar to what black people suffered when the apartheid regime made a certain section of the population to believe that it is superior to them (black people).

The focus of the Forum is a holistic one that aims to fight all forms of discrimination as well as empower men on financial management matters, men's health and grooming, among others. It allows men space to have frank talk among themselves. You can call it a "Men's Conference" structure of the DPWI men (you can laugh when you read this part).

With the appointment of Director for Women Empowerment, Ms Bongi Owusu who will continue to support the Forum, hopefully the wheels of the Forum will turn again to inject positive vibes in men around this dark time in our history that was brought by the Coronavirus.

Motlabane Motlabane aka MJ Skade is an unofficial Chairperson of the Men's Forum.



### IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN COLLEAGUES



Assam Lethena



Lucy Mukumela



Paulinah Dikeledi Machete



Ntsundeni Tshauambea

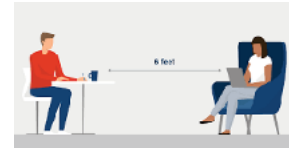


Philemon Kokhutsa

# THUŠA GO THIBELA PHATLALATŠO YA COVID-19 MOSOMONG WA RENA

## 1 Dulang dimitara tše 1.5 kgole le batho bašomimmogo ka gare ga diofisi tša lena!

Ge e le gore o abelana ofisi, ka kgopelo dula dimitara tše 1.5 kgole le bašomimmogo ba bangwe, ka dinako tšohle.



## 2 Boeletša dikgato tše 7 ge o tsena ka moagong gape!

Ka kgopelo hlokomela gore o tla swanela go bušetša 'dikgato tša rena tše 7 go thuša go thibela phatlalatšo ya COVID-19' nako ye nngwe le ye nngwe ge o tsena gape ka moagong, ka morago ga gore o tšwe ka kantle. Tšona ke: 1. Aparae maseke 2. Itlwaetše go ikaroganya le motho wa ka pele le wa ka morago ga gago 3. Dira tekolo ya themphereitšha 4. Tloša ditlalelo tša gago ge o tsena ka moagong 5. Diriša sanithaesa ya diatla 6. Ke batho ba 3 fela bao ba dumeletšwego ka gare ga dilifiti 7. Hlapa matsogo a gago ka sesepe bonyane metsotswana ye 20.

## 3 Ke ditlalelo tša tšhireletšo fela tšeo di dumeletšwego!

Ditlalelo tša tšhireletšo di dumeletšwe ge o swara ditokumente.



## 4 Hlapa matsogo a gago ka sesepe bonyane metsotswana ye 20!

O swanetše go šomiša sesepe le meetse KA MEHLA go hlapa matsogo a gago ka morago ga go šomiša ntlwana ya boithomelo. Gohla matsogo a gago bonyane metsotswana ye 20. O hlohleletšwa gape go hlapa diatla ka mehla ka morago ga go swara dibaka tša ka bokagodimong, go fa mohlala dikonope tša lifiti, maitshwareletšo a ditepisi, moo go šomelwago gona, dilepothopo, bj.bj.



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