

Nelson Mandela

WORDS THAT DEFINE HIS LIFE AND VALUES

FREEDOM TRUTH JUSTICE EQUALITY PEACE TRANSFORMATION RECONCILIATION HUMANITY DIGNITY RESOLUTION GENDER CHILDREN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP RESOLUTION UNION NATIONS LIFE VALUES MEMORY DIALOGUE EDUCATION AND OTHERS



Editorial Comment. . . .



Welcome to the Provincial Publication – **Lilanga Letfu**. This is a special edition, which will focus on the Mandela Month Campaign as celebrated by all in society. Sequel to the revival of the Editorial Team, the Provincial Government Communicator’s Forum (PGCF) resolved in its recent quarterly meeting at Mashishing in Thaba Chweu Local Municipality to ensure the delivery of such a publication repositioning the Province’s brand and have a structured approach. It is our desire to ensure that such a publication delivers on clear objectives, including, but not limited to quality, balanced content, brand compliant, innovative, timeous and research sound.

As we endeavor to put the renewed approach to the test, this edition will attempt to be as inclusive as possible. To fully realise and paint the real provincial picture, we will use the Mandela Month Campaign as a point of departure. In doing its portion, the **Province of the Rising Sun** during this year’s Mandela Month Campaign, departments, municipalities, entities and sector stakeholders collaborated to undertake series of activities in honouring the ideals of former President Mandela. This philanthropic campaign was observed under the theme - **“It’s still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity.”**

It was pleasing to see the globe making a difference and continue to respect Mandela’s mission of creating a fairer, humane and more just world. The United Nations (UN) declared the Mandela Day (18 July) in 2009 where everyone in society was called upon to extend a hand and do well for the less fortunate. Yes, it could be cleaning a facility, patching of potholes, meal with the needy or even donating a huge project of any form, as long as it is towards uplifting humanity. In some instances, a group of friends or colleagues could help a cause by feeding children, painting an aftercare center or creating a beautiful garden.

The campaign is not about doing something big, but anything towards changing people’s lives even from the comfort of your couch or office. Whilst we all celebrate and embrace this important day, even the month itself, it is important to clarify the 67 minutes that is linked to the campaign. Tata Madiba dedicated his hard-working 67 years to make the world a better place. Surely, it cannot be a tough ask for everyone to give 67 minutes to improve the communities and the world. The Mandela Day Campaign message encourages people to use 67 minutes of their time to support a chosen charity or serve in their local community.

That is it for now...

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DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Provincial Government, Executive Council or Management of the Province. The Editorial Team strives to ensure the publication is accurate and factual. Comments regarding this publication can be forwarded to the Chief Editor.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Our aim is to provide accurate, truthful and balanced reporting. As a publication that subscribes to The Press Code of Ethics and Conduct for South African Print and Online Media, we are serious and remain committed to accurate and fair reporting.

PREMIER NDLOVU LEADS PHILANTHROPIC WORK



Several Home Based Care Centres in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality have been revamped. These centres, namely, the Oakley Home Based Care, the Kgotsofatso Stimulation Centre both in Casteel, the Mathomomayo Drop in Centre in Buffelshoek, the Goromane Home Based Care and the Ntalo Old Age Centre in Gottenberg, provide shelter to several children with disabilities and orphans as well as the elderly. Most of them were in dilapidated conditions and depended heavily on support from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) to provide the less privileged with social and humanitarian needs.

Through the intervention of the Premier, Mr Mandla Ndlovu, the centres are now the pride of the local communities. Not only have their interior and exterior conditions improved, but have been upgraded, in line with the Premier's vision to improve the socio-economic conditions of communities in Mpumalanga.

The centres are now cultivating vegetable gardens to produce organic food, and water is supplied through the installation of Jojo tanks, to address water challenges. Several new wheelchairs have also been donated to assist with mobility to some beneficiaries.

On Mandela Day, Mr Ndlovu led an entourage of MECs, Executive Mayors, Traditional and community leaders to deliver a consignment of donated material that are a requisite for the effective functionality of the centres. The Premier's donation of new school uniforms and shoes at the Oakley Home Based Care Centre is testament to his passion for education.

In a Province where poverty is at 49.5 percent, the interventions at the centres was a clarion call to the theme: "It is still in our hands to combat poverty and inequality" of this year's Mandela Day, as the country marks 13 years since Mandela's passing. The day long activities concluded with a community and stakeholder engagement where government services and exhibitions were on site at Thulamahashe Stadium within the locality.

*"Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity,
it is an act of justice."*

- Nelson Mandela

PROVINCE COMMEMORATES MADIBA CAMPAIGN IN STYLE

The United Nations declared 18th of July the Nelson Mandela International Day that is observed annually by all throughout the world. The world body calls on everyone - ranging from government, business, arts, sport, entrepreneurs, and the public, amongst others - to make a difference in their respective communities. The Mandela Day is an occasion for all to take action and inspire change. As a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa, the former President, Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity.

In taking part on this global day, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government joined the rest of the world to honour the legacy of Tata Madiba. Government as a whole - departments, municipalities and entities - crisscrossed the Province to undertake a plethora of activities by delivering on much needed social needs to communities. In a true spirit of selflessness as espoused by Madiba, the activities were not about service delivery, however, acts of benevolence, impacting several communities. Whilst the Provincial Mandela Day was held at Thulamahashe in Bushbuckridge, the entire government used the month of July to do their bit of the campaign.

Focus on knowledge



In keeping with one of its strategic objective of creating a reading and learning culture to empower people to make informed decisions, the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation paid a visit to Mogalitwa Primary School at eMalahleni to donate over 800 books to the school library. Led by MEC Fidel Mlombo, the entourage moved to the Klarinet Public Library to interact with officials from the municipality and the Nkangala District who had dedicated the day to do community work and gardening at the library. The library has proven to be one of the most useful community facilities in the area of Klarinet.

It boasts a dedicated area, which caters for the blind and visually impaired. The MINI-LIB, as it is called is a devoted area in the library where the blind and visually impaired can convert written material into braille and/or audio to increase access to reading materials.

The day concluded with a courtesy visit to Thanduxolo Special School where there was an opportunity to donate goods and symbolic planting of a tree. Nelson Mandela’s ideals and commitment to education remain inspirational to this day and hopefully for generations to come.

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

- Malcolm X

Going big on donations

Fresh from being pronounced as the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), MEC Speed Mashilo led a joint programme at various villages, Dr. Moroka Local Municipality. The spirit of love and giving enveloped the days as charitable works through donations to people in need took center stage. Leading the activities, MEC Mashilo and Local Executive Mayor, Cllr. Nomsa Mtsweni donated 100 blankets, 20 bed mattresses, and groceries to Egodeni Stimulation Disability Centre at Libangeni.

The Department of Social Development funded centre caters for over 100 children from the locality and surroundings. The duo went to plant seedlings at Phake Agricultural Project and patched potholes at Libangeni Village. Speaking on site, MEC Mashilo stated that the United Nation's declared Mandela Month is about celebrating Madiba's legacy and demonstrating a sense of goodwill espoused in the spirit of Ubuntu.



Caring for the less fortunate



The Zamani Disability Centre at Ka-Hhoyi in Nkomazi Local Municipality welcomed unexpected guests to their backyard. MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr. Jackie Macie and Local Executive Mayor, Cllr. Phindile Magagula traded their formal to work wear as they took part in the maintenance of the facility. It operates as a stimulation centre and caters for over 110 persons with disabilities. On a regular basis, it provides meals and necessary services to people with disabilities. The facility also plays a vital role of accommodating community members during disasters which often trouble the locality.

With the assistance of good samaritans, MEC Macie donated a stove, fridge, kitchen unit and other amenities to the 1994 established centre. He advocated for the spirit of selflessness and values that Madiba espoused and stood for.

"Dr Nelson Mandela taught us to live well with each other and always assist where we can. Madiba had the opportunity to do other things, but he chose to liberate us all. That is why we must share and assist the less fortunate than ourselves," he stressed.

Both the municipality and the beneficiaries welcomed the donations and it is believed that the gesture will go a long way in aiding them and the local community. The safety and protection of the vulnerable, especially with the scourge of GBVF pandemic in society is paramount.

Sustainable future

Global warming remains one of the enormous environmental challenges facing the world. Consequently, there is an urgent need to develop and improve sound plans to care for the current in order to preserve the future. This simply refers to sustainable development, which is an approach to growth, and human development that aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The phenomenon aims to balance the needs of the economy, environment, and social well-being.

In bringing communities on board, the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) collaborated with Fibre Circle on a drive to empower school learners and communities to venture into Circular Economy. With other stakeholders, they jointly hosted the Mandela Campaign at Nelsville, City of Mbombela. The thrust of the day was on environmental sustainability through innovation in waste management.

The Fibre Circle, through its Zithande Mzansi Initiative partnered with DARDLEA to encourage communities and schools to participate in the green economy and to keep the environment clean through waste collection by various approaches. They are also involved in the improvement of food security through planting of trees and vegetable gardens at schools and households. Based on the theme - *“Turning Waste into Art”* - five selected schools displayed their creativity and innovation - much to the joy of the organisers.

All the schools – Benjamin, Matsulu Primary Schools, Cyril Clarke Secondary, Sitfokotile and Sibusisiwe High Schools from Mbombela were awarded with two recycling bins and bulk bags each, while four SMME Buy Back Centers were given Recyclers Packs and Recycling Trolleys.



Embracing the elderly



If Economic Development and Tourism MEC, Ms. Makhosazane Masilela could have her way, the annual Nelson Mandela International Day can be celebrated on a daily basis. This through good deeds and philanthropic acts to realise Madiba’s dream of a better life for all.

Putting these words into action and responding to the clarion call by the United Nations, MEC Masilela took time off from her arduous diary to celebrate the former statesman’s posthumous 106th birthday with the elderly at Enjabulweni Old Age Centre in Thaba Chweu Local Municipality. The centre operates as a recreational facility for the elderly and provides meals, support and care for the environment while they engage in their daily activities.

During the day, she was involved in a wide range of activities at the centre, including repainting the building, donating two industrial sewing machines to the centre, and planted vegetables to ensure food security. “The decision to celebrate the 2024 Mandela Day with the

senior citizens was an easy one, precisely because, the elderly serve as mobile libraries in communities where they are found, given the wisdom they possess, which was accumulated over time, through lived experiences” she

cited. The contribution to the centre will remain engraved not only in the minds of the elderly, at the centre, but the entire Mashishing community for years to come.

Delivering on welfare



The Out Patient Unit at the Bernice Samuel Hospital in Delmas, Victor Khanye Local Municipality welcomed ‘new health workers’ during Mandela Day. The team, led by Health MEC, Ms. Sasekani Manzini commemorated the day by pledging 67 minutes painting walls and served hot soup to patients at the institution. In a true spirit of selflessness, officials from the hospital also contributed money to buy mothers and baby packs (Nappies and Sanitary towels) for the maternity wards.

Their next stop was at Botleng Society for the Aged to promote health care services, such as screening and served the elderly with the famous soup, and donated blankets. The health workers – just for that day – further put smiles into the beneficiaries at Botleng Extension 03 Clinic by donating blankets to the Sizimele Old Age Group. The Department further developed a comprehensive programme with over 100 activities for implementation throughout the province. “Healthcare workers have surpassed the 67 minutes by generously contributing their time and resources to make a difference, in some instances, collaborating with business and the private sector”, appreciated MEC Manzini.

PPP in action

Let’s get involved by making a difference in the lives of destitute families around the province. This plea was made by MEC for Social Development, Ms. Khethiwe Moeketsi when accepting 1 000 food hampers from Sasol for handing over to selected welfare centers around Govan Mbeki, Lekwa, Dipaleseng and Nkomazi Local Municipalities. The partnership with Sasol saw Private- Public- Partnership (PPP) in full swing. This feat is one of the most important milestones that will see various centers benefiting from food hampers. The government acknowledges that it will be impossible to respond alone to the challenges faced by communities, hence the donations.

Partnerships like these are in line with government’s quest to address the scourge of gender-based violence against vulnerable groups, which has plagued the province recently. “This initiative clearly indicates that the collaboration between government and the private sector is the way to go in addressing social challenges such as poverty, unemployment and inequality”, emphasized Moeketsi. The Govan Mbeki Executive Mayor, Cllr Nhlakanipho Zuma and representatives from the House of Traditional Leaders, Ndabezitha Mabena and Induna Mahlangu attended.



Revamping a children's centre

It was a great day of selflessness when government officials and volunteers got their hands dirty to deliver a compelling programme inspired by Madiba. The Shalom Day Care Centre in Machadodorp received a major facelift as part of the Nelson Mandela programme. The Provincial Treasury joined forces with the eMakhazeni Local Municipality to improve the learning environment of more than 80 children. The programme was themed around Madiba’s values of compassion and justice for children and sought to make a lasting impression in the Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme.

Departing from Madiba’s ideals, the programme is an important reminder of the foundation of our humanity and an expression of the values that Nelson Mandela stood for in his lifetime. “We are delighted to be among the children and to lend a hand in their growth. Madiba loved children and wanted what was best for them. Our presence here, therefore, accentuates his lifelong values that shaped our humanity as Africans,” said MEC Majuba. The team that was joined by Local Executive Mayor, Cllr Nonhle Mashele left the centre with a well-prepared food garden, office furniture and children-friendly facilities.



Repairing learning facilities



The spirit of cooperation enveloped the education fraternity in honour of the life and legacy of the great statesman, and former President, Dr. Nelson Mandela. The province’s regions witnessed stakeholders joining hands at the launch of the Mandela Month Legacy Projects at MC Zitha Combined School at Masibekela Village, Nkomazi Local Municipality. The occasion ushered in a programme of fixing school facilities such as broken windows, ceilings, leaking roofs, painting, planting of trees, landscaping and the establishment of food gardens, amongst others.

A partnership pact with Old Mutual, the Departments of Correctional Services, Environmental Affairs, Home Affairs, hosting municipalities, namely Chief Albert Luthuli, Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge and Dr. JS Moroka, Forek Institute of Technology and the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRTT) made the activations a success. An existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Departemnts of Education and Correctional Services proved vital in presenting parolees to

undertake painting, establish food gardens, cleaning and landscaping.

The Department of Home Affairs provided its core services of birth certificates registrations and passport applications. The Department of Environmental Affairs led the process of planting of trees and the establishment of food gardens while the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust and Forek Institute of Technology provided artisans to do the technical work needed to fix roofs, paintwork, fit ceilings and all technical support related to renovations.

The Gert Sibande activation took place at Ntababomvu Primary School in Dundonald while Bohlabela District hosted

its activation at Ben Matlose in Maboke Circuit. The Nkangala District activation took place at Moloto Primary School in the Marapyane Circuit.

In all the three activations, MEC Cathy Dlamini implored school communities to take good care of schools. "With these campaigns we want to establish a movement and create a powerful ocean wave that will serve as a platform for our traditional leadership, religious leaders, parents, business, NGO's, our sister departments and civil society to buy into the education enterprise", she explained. This year's Mandela Day campaign recommits all role players in the fight against the scourge of poverty and inequality.

Being handy on Madiba Day

In joining the rest of the Province, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport took part by contributing to the good course. Together with the Gert Sibande District Municipality, the officials handed over various items such as sanitary towels, non-perishable food items, toys, chairs and tables at Siyachubeka Multi-Purpose Centre. The centre accommodates children from surrounding areas.

The entourage later proceeded to Manzana, (Badplaas Centre) where they conducted various building maintenance activities such as painting, fixing doors and broken ceiling, amongst others. The department further handed-over food items at the centre, which currently accommodates women and children, mostly Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) victims.



SOUTH AFRICA CELEBRATES MANDELA DAY

South Africa celebrated the 2024 Nelson Mandela International Day under the theme: "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity." The event coincided with other two critical events, the celebration of the country's 30 Years of Democracy and the beginning of a new era, the start of the 7th Administration. The Mandela Day has through the years become one very important event on our country's calendar of events.

In one of his many famous quotes, the Father of the Nation, Nelson Mandela had this to say: "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

Former South African President Nelson Mandela, a world-renowned human rights champion, remain an inspiration to all of us through his immense contributions towards bettering the lives of ordinary people. In celebrating his 90th birthday, Mandela echoed: "It is time for new hands to lift the burdens. It is in your hands to make of our world a better one for all." This call-to-action started a worldwide movement for social change, by dedicating 67 minutes of our time every year and contribute to the less fortunate.

It is very exciting and humbling at the same time to witness that Mandela Day celebration in the country is not dominated by government initiated events. Instead, the campaigns has been embraced and celebrated by giving back to communities by people and organisations of all walks of life, be it ordinary people, private, business and or schools, churches etc. The campaign may seem like an event to promote the Mandela legacy, but it goes far beyond that. It is another vehicle used by South Africans to address the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality in a very informal manner. The celebration goes beyond the many joyous activities, and contributes extensively in addressing some of the food insecurities that are facing most households within our communities.

In putting further emphasising on the importance of the day, President Cyril Ramaphosa opted for July 18, 2024 for the Opening of Parliament (OPA) in delivering the priorities of the 7th Administration. In his address during the OPA, the President stated that, "Today, we celebrate the birth

of the founding father of our nation and a global icon of peace, justice and reconciliation, President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela."

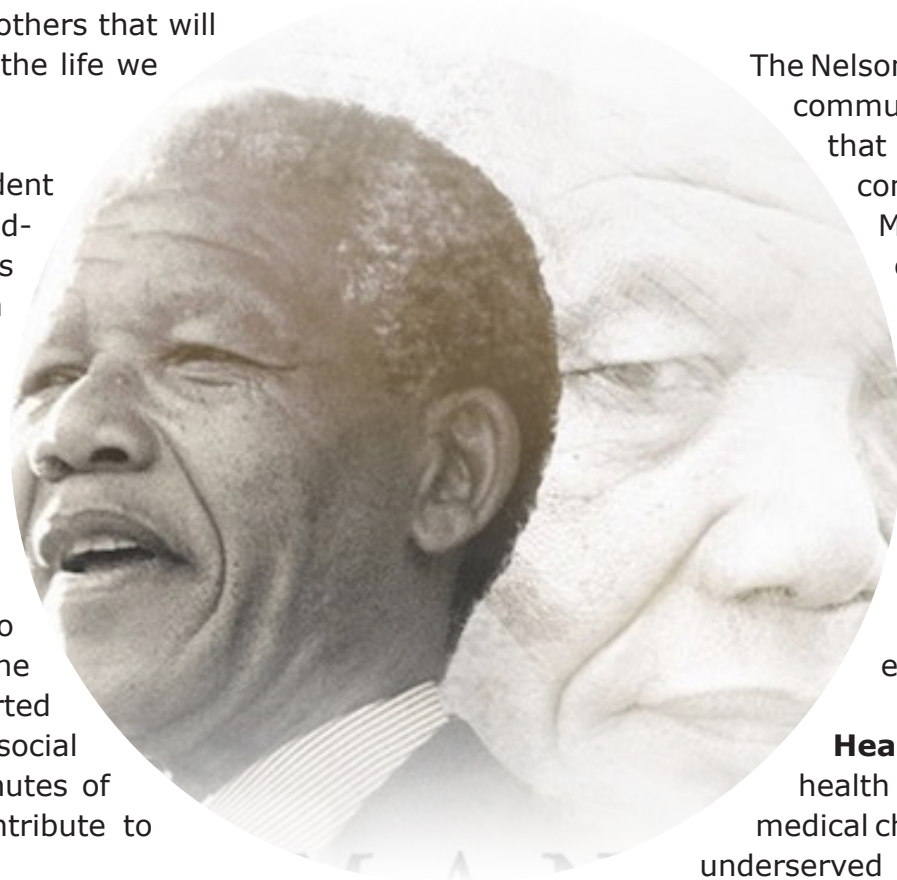
He further acknowledged the commemoration of Mandela day across the world by millions of people with good deeds and actions of solidarity in celebrating this day and further indicated that "We are reminded that as we strive to progress and to prosper, we have a responsibility to ensure that no one is left behind," he emphasised. Various organisations from public to private, profit and non-profit institutions celebrated Mandela Day through impactful contributions to various communities in need.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation conducted community impactful projects that reflected the Foundation's commitment to continuing Mandela's legacy of service and community empowerment. The projects included, but not limited to community clean-up campaigns across South Africa to clean and beautify local communities. **Educational Programmes:** the foundation hosted workshops and discussions on education and literacy, aimed at empowering youth.

Healthcare Initiatives: supported health drives, including providing medical check-ups and health education in underserved areas. **Youth Empowerment:**

conducted mentorship programs and skill-building activities to inspire and equip young people for future success. **Food and Resource Distribution:** coordinated the distribution of food and essential supplies to those in need.

Also noted within the private sector that celebrated the, day included Standard Bank who organised a series of community outreach programs, including renovating and refurbishing local schools and community centres. ABSA Bank employees took part in volunteering at various non-profits and organised a donation drive to support underprivileged families. While Telkom was engaged in a nationwide tree-planting initiative and supported environmental sustainability projects in rural areas. Discovery hosted health and wellness clinics, providing free medical services and health education to communities. Unilever focused on improving sanitation and hygiene in local communities by distributing hygiene products and conducting educational workshop.



GLOBAL BODY ON MANDELA DAY

How did the UN conceive the day?

November 2009 - in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly declares 18 July "Nelson Mandela International Day".

According to the UN, resolution A/RES/64/13 recognizes Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity in: conflict resolution; race relations; promotion and protection of human rights; reconciliation; gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups; the fight against poverty; the promotion of social justice. The resolution acknowledges his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.



The day honours the legacy of one of the world's most revered leaders by encouraging people to take action and make a difference in their communities. Volunteering on this day is more than just a gesture of goodwill. It is an opportunity to contribute to the

global movement for positive change. There are countless reasons to get involved, but here are nine compelling reasons why becoming a Nelson Mandela Day volunteer can be one of the most impactful decisions you make. Whether you are motivated by a desire to help others, a commitment to justice, or the pursuit of personal growth, these reasons will inspire you to take up the call to service and continue Mandela's legacy of compassion, equality, and resilience.

In 2015, the General Assembly decides to extend the scope of Nelson Mandela International Day to also be utilized in order to promote humane conditions of imprisonment, raise awareness about prisoners being a continuous part of society, and to value the work of prison staff as a social service of particular importance. This year's celebration is observed under the theme: "It is still in our hands to combat poverty and inequality".



“ We will never, ever give up making this world better for everyone, everywhere. ”

António Guterres
UN Secretary General

Speak Out, Do not turn a blind eye on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF)

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7th PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION



Mr Mandla Ndlovu
Premier of Mpumalanga

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Mr Speed Mashilo
MEC: Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements & Traditional Affairs



Ms Catherine Dlamini
MEC: Education



Mr Thulasizwe Thomo
MEC: Public Works, Roads & Transport



Ms Nompumelelo Hlophe
MEC: Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs



Ms Makhosazane Masilela
MEC: Economic Development & Tourism



Ms Sasekani Manzini
MEC: Health



Mr Fana Mlombo
MEC: Culture, Sport & Recreation



Ms Brenda Moeketsi
MEC: Social Development



Mr Bonakele Majuba
MEC: Provincial Treasury



Mr Jackie Macie
MEC: Community Safety, Security & Liaison