Sexual harassment in the workplace will be the focal point of this year’s annual Women’s Month celebrations at the Public Service and Administration Department.

We have just wrapped up Mandela Month, but as South Africans, we are still inspired by the words of our late and first democratically elected President, Nelson Mandela. When delivering his debut State of the Nation Address in 1994, Madiba said: “Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression… Our endeavours must be about the liberation of the woman, the emancipation of the man and the liberty of the child.”

This month, as an attribute to the more than 20 000 women who staged a march on August 9, 1956 at the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the proposed amendments to the Urban Areas Act, commonly known as the pass laws of 1950, we commemorate Women’s Month. We all know that government declared August 9, National Women’s Day, with the view of celebrating the women’s contribution to the liberation of the country and their achievements since the dawn of democracy in 1994.

It is important to note that the democratic government declared August 9 to continue raising awareness to ensure the achievement of the aims and aspirations of the women on 1956. We are fully aware that the majority of our women are still faced with the heavy burden of the triple challenge of unemployment, inequality and poverty.

As a Department, we must not use this month only to celebrate, but to reflect on the achievements and challenges in our struggle for women’s empowerment and gender equality. This year, we will use Women’s Month to highlight sexual harassment that takes place in the workplace. We want to make it known that the public service is not a playing ground for abuse of women.

We want women in the public service to speak out against any sexual behaviour that makes them feel uncomfortable such as “hello my size”, whistling, touching, sexual advances, staring at your body in an offensive way, unwelcoming sexual jokes (o pakile) and unwanted questions about your sex life.

Through our campaign, we want to see the schedule of Labour Relations Act (LRA), which deals with sexual harassment in the workplace being fully implemented. The schedule of the LRA Code of Good Practice on Sexual Harassment that sets out the best ways to deal with complaints of sexual harassment.

This month, we want to make it clear that in the public service, sexual harassment is an unfair labour practice and if it happens, victims should ask the employer to deal with it. We are committed to a public service that treat its employees with dignity and respect. Everyone in the public service to report any form of sexual harassment without fear of victimisation, where such complaints will be treated seriously and confidentially.

As this year’s commemoration is taking place against a backdrop of heinous murders of women and children, we are challenging men to stand up to violence against women and children. As a country, we must unite to fight the barbaric violence against women and children.

More than five year’s ago, as a country, we lost Albertina Sisulu and Bertha Gxowa who were part of the group of women who left bundles of petitions containing more than 100 000 signatures at Prime Minister J.G. Strijdom’s office doors at the Union Buildings. MaSisulu and maGxowa, together with other women, stood silently for 30 minutes outside the then Prime Minister’s office. The women sang a protest song that was composed in honour of the occasion, Wathint’ Abafazi Wathint’ imbokodo! (You strike a woman, you strike a rock).

We therefore, call all women to participate in this main event as well as other activities that will be held throughout the country to mark the 61st anniversary of the women’s march that marked a turning point in the role of women in the struggle for freedom and society at large.
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Liberian President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf used her State Visit to South Africa to lay the wreath at Freedom Park in honour of those who sacrificed their lives in the liberation struggle.

President Sirleaf was welcomed by Public Service and Administration Minister Faith Muthambi who led her to a symbolic resting place-Isivivane, where she laid the wreath.

The first and current democratically elected female President in the African continent was in South Africa to strengthen the cordial bilateral relations that exist between the two countries.

Earlier on the day, President Sirleaf met with President Jacob Zuma at the Union Buildings where the two leaders reviewed the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking during the State Luncheon, President Zuma commended the West African leader for the strides she made in restoring and maintaining peace and order.

“I wish to commend you for your role in taking Liberia out of a devastating civil war and ensuring a peaceful transition to democracy since 2005 and noting the devastating impact of the Ebola, I once more, congratulate Liberia and her neighbours for successfully managing the epidemic,” he said.

President Zuma said the two countries must continue to work together to establish linkages that will allow for effective and efficient intra-Africa trade.

“We need to find one another through our regional bodies, and of course in the continental body, the African Union, in order to speedily address all challenges that hinder Africa’s development.”

“It is imperative that our countries must continue to work together to establish linkages that will allow for effective and efficient intra-Africa trade.”

**Economic and Technical Cooperation**

In June and December 2015, South Africa and Liberia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Economic and Technical Cooperation and a General Framework Agreement for Bilateral Cooperation respectively aimed at strengthening economic relations as well as enhancing trade and investment between the two countries.

This has the potential to increase trade between the two countries. According to President Zuma, they have agreed to prioritise amongst other areas of cooperation, trade and investment; agriculture; health; construction; energy; telecommunications; finance and mining.

**Agreement on the Exemption of Visa**

President Zuma said government want to make South Africa home to Liberians, and Liberia home to South Africans by increasing people-to-people contact.

“Liberia has a special place in our hearts given our historical linkage when you stood with us on our struggle against the Apartheid regime.”

“The Agreement between our two countries on the Exemption of Visa for the holders of Diplomatic Passports will soon be finalised,” he said, adding that they are also working towards finalising the Joint Trade and Investment Committee which will enable the two countries to service the MoU on Economic and Technical Cooperation already signed.”

**Minister Muthambi hosts Liberian President**

By Nthambeleni Gabara
When Ms Faith Muthambi was appointed Minister for the Public Service and Administration four months ago, South Africans turned their attention to what she will do in her first 100 days.

In this edition, we write about Minister Faith Muthambi’s first 100 days in office that is proving to be a success story.

One of her major achievements as DPSA Minister is her intervention to avert the massive strike looming at Home Affairs.

Upon her arrival at DPSA, Minister Muthambi together with Deputy Minister Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, demonstrated her well-known desire of establishing and maintaining strong relations by organising a ‘meet and greet’ Departmental staff meeting to share her vision of a new, innovative, selfless and inspired type of public service in the mold of OR Tambo.

The Minister reminded staff members that they represent the interests and hopes of all South Africans, therefore now is the time for them to be known as the champions of service delivery.

She said she wants Team DPSA to be the true servants of the people who are guided by the National Development Plan (NDP) that envision an efficient, effective and development oriented Public Service as part of a capable and developmental state, which can facilitate and implement a radical socio-economic transformation.

The Minister and the Deputy Minister held back-to-back meetings with all entities that report to the Ministry, Public Service Commission (PSC), Centre of Public Service Innovation (CPSI), National School of Government and the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS).

To demonstrate true mark of a responsible leadership, the Minister and Deputy Minister who are always nearer to the people with the view of understanding their problems and provide solutions, three weeks after their appointment, Minister Muthambi went to the Free State on an Imbizo to interact with residents of Meloding on issues of service delivery while Deputy Minister went to Khayelitsha.

In May, the Minister accompanied by the Deputy Minister, convened a meeting to revive the National Anti-Corruption Forum (NACF) that was established in 2001 by government, business and civil society with the aim of combating all forms of corrupt activities in the country.

In moving South Africa forward, the Public Service Regulations was amended to put in place policies and regulations to curb corruption in the public service.

Those working in the public service are aware that they should cease doing business with organs of state or resign from the public service.

Minister Muthambi has been obtaining successive clean audits for to the two departments while she was still Communications Minister since 2014.

The Office of the Auditor General has commended the Department of Communications, the Government Communication and Information System and Brand South Africa (Brand SA) for obtaining clean audits for the financial year that ended in March 2016.

At DPSA, there is also a plan to establish a CFO’s Forum, where the CFO of the department and the CFOs of all the entities that report to her will have to meet regularly.

For now, all we know is that Minister Muthambi’s and Deputy Minister’s first 100 days have been a success story.
Public Service and Administration Minister, Faith Muthambi, told members of the National Labour Relations Practitioners Forum they are working in a very dynamic and ever-changing field of practice which require them to be abreast with developments.

Minister Muthambi was addressing forum members in a two-day meeting held at the Royal Hotel in Durban.

She told them that changes in policy affect the way they do their job as such, they need to be well appraised about what government and the global world is heading to in terms of labour relations.

Minister Muthambi also told them to be a shining star when implementing enabling legislation on employment relations.

According to the Minister, the architects of the South African Constitution had the foresight about service delivery needs which would face the democratic state.

“For service delivery to be efficient and effective, there has to be a professional, accountable and development-oriented public service. The Constitution is our compass that directs as what to do when carrying out our mandate as a public service, You are tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that fair labour practices are adhered to in the public service,” she said.

"Chapter 10 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa requires that the public service must, maintain and promote a high standard of professional ethics and be accountable. This is a clarion call to all public servants to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner when executing their responsibilities.” she said.

“To further entrench professionalism in the public service, in August 2016 we approved the Public Service Regulations, 2016 in terms of which, all employees in the public service have the responsibility to comply with the prescribed Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is the main basis on which proactive, corrective and disciplinary action rests. So, labour relations practitioners have an obligation to ensure that public servants are well informed about the provisions of the Code of Conduct,” said Minister Muthambi.

“The primary purpose of the Code of Conduct is to promote exemplary conduct. It is important that as labour relations practitioners, as you engage with various stakeholders, you always encouraged public servants to conduct themselves in line with the Constitution, the Code of Conduct and the Service Charter, she added.

“I commend many public servants who, on a daily basis, display professional, ethical values and behaviour which reflects the values and principles enshrined in section 195(1) of the Constitution to create the ideal public service as envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP). Without dedicated and professional public servants, the image of the public service and service delivery will be impacted in a negative way,” She continued.

“Government appreciates the work you are doing because you are the first and last line of discipline and professionalism. We have committed to working together with organized labour in order to build a harmonious working relationship as this benefits service delivery to our citizens.

“We have undertaken to engage with organized labour in good faith and in cases where we reach
agreements through structures such as the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC), we shall honour those agreements. In cases where we disagree, we have committed not to unilaterally implement any decision on bargaining matters, but we shall engage until we come to an amicable solution," said the Minister.

“We need to work for a productive and stable public service. As government, we have to collaborate with our labour partners and ensure that the public service machinery functions with the ultimate goal of delivering efficient services to the people. We will ensure that all stakeholders in the public service work with government to ensure that the public service machinery is functioning well,” Minister said.

“A well-functioning public service machinery will ensure government succeeds in addressing the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. The National Development Plan (NDP) asserts that the public service is central to government achieving its objective of improving the lives of our people. Government can’t address the principles of radical economic transformation and we cannot find the missing middle class if the public service is not delivering efficient services to our people,” she said.

“The public service needs to play both a transformative and developmental role. It is for this reason that the public service needs to re-invent itself to pro-actively assume this important responsibility. We can only achieve this if we have a professional dedicated, highly skilled public service that is committed to serving the people of our country.

There is a need to have coherent and collaborative efforts in order to attain all the ideals of the public service as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa,” said the Minister.

“My responsibility as the Minister for the Public Service and Administration is to set norms and standards in the public service. The application of these norms and standards would not be coherent if labour relations practitioners do not interpret them properly.

“We are pleased that you have identified the need to have a structure through which you can interact in order have seamless coordination of your responsibilities. It is important that through this Forum you share information on changing legislation, arbitration matters and the latest trends. Through sharing information, you will be asserting the key principle of establishing this Forum, namely, to spearhead the public sector’s efforts to coordinate and build a more efficient labour relations system,” she said.

The Convener of the National Labour Relations Practitioners Forum, Victor Sakala said sharing information with the Minister was very beneficial as their raised issues and she was able to come up with feedback.

“The Minister's wisdom assisted us a lot to have common understanding within the collective bargaining space and labour relation space. Minister Muthambi also advised us not to be afraid to advising departments and our principals. She paved a clear way in relation to what is that we need to do as labour relation officers,” said Sakala.
years ago, on the 27th of April South Africans from all walks of life were enjoined even though a majority of them were voting for the first time ever. Armed with hope and optimism they placed a mark next to their favourite political party. Looking back at those manifestos, one is struck by the commonalities, particularly as it relates to the type of public service that will be required in a democratic and free South Africa.

The Governing Party, African National Congress (ANC), in its Ready to Govern Document, sought a “properly trained [civil service]…to deal effectively with development and government challenges”. Ready to Govern further observes that this will require a “nationally coordinated training effort” and should “include capacity building in communities to enable them to effectively participate in local structures and policy development processes”.

These aspirations were to find themselves in the Constitution of the Republic which in the Bill of Rights “promote[s] an efficient administration” and in Chapter on cooperative governance seeks to “secure [a development oriented public service which promotes] the well being of the people of the republic”, amongst others. Chapter ten elaborates on the values and principles that should guide the public service amongst some of them are professional ethics and transparency.

No doubt this outlook would have also been foremost in the minds of the African Ministers for Public or Civil Service who gathered in Tangier, Morocco on 23 June 1994 to declare that day African Public Service Day, incidentally that day also marked 23 years before the readmission of Morocco to the African Union family.

This year’s events will be marked under the theme “Entrenching a citizen-centred service delivery culture: Partnering with the youth for Africa’s transformation” throughout our glorious continent with the continental event being hosted in Kigali, Rwanda. Given that it occurs during the year we celebrate the centenary of President OR Tambo, we will use the occasion to celebrate his life and we as the servants of the people will emulate the values of service, humility and passion, which comrade OR lived for.

As we embark on those celebrations we ought to utilise the opportunity to reflect on the gains and challenges we have recorded as a young nation. Amongst them are the limited gains we have recorded in the broad society in relation to the transformation of the participants and leadership in most (if not all) our economic sectors.

Take for instance the 2016/17 Commission for Employment Equity Annual Report which notes that when it comes to academia “the strategic decision making positions (Top, Senior and Professionally Qualified/middle management levels) are still male dominated whereas females are dominant at the Skilled Technical level (junior management) and the Semi-Skilled levels.”

Further evidence presented by the Commission shows that whereas Whites constitute 9.5 percent...
of the workforce they represent about 68.5% of top management in our institutions. Africans on the other hand constitute 78% of the Economically Active Population and a mere 14.4% of top management in these institutions. The implications are astounding and our children who have secured the right to higher education are learning in an environment that is not reflective of our society.

The Commission also further raises a concern that “while female employees who are beneficiaries of employment equity are not increasing in representation in strategic roles… Universities play a critical role in developing a pool of suitably qualified individuals and on a yearly basis there is a large number of employment equity graduates that exit the institutions, but these individuals are not given the opportunities to become role players as employees in those institutions.” African Public Service Day is therefore an important day, so that we may search the soul of our country and the creators of our professionals. We will therefore use the day, and beyond, to reflect and share practical recommendations on women empowerment in public service nationally and across the continent. In so doing we will also explore innovations, reward excellence in the public sector, motivate public servants to further promote innovation, enhance professionalism in the public service, raise the image of public service, enhance trust in government, collect, document and share best practices for possible replication within a country as well as across the African Continent.

As we do that we will also take note of the excellent and innovative work undertaken in the context of Operational Management in Limpopo, North-West, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, which is the foundation for learning and innovation and is accessible via the web in all our provinces, barring the connectivity debate.

However, the public service by and large relies on people to people interactions by its very nature, we will therefore accelerate the adoption of the Batho Pele Norms and Standards by all our departments, especially those that are service oriented, such as the six which have now adopted the standards, that is Basic Education, Health, Human Settlements, Labour, Social Development and Transport. In the end we aim to depart from and transform the old public service culture into one that President OR Tambo would be proud of. This will require continuous improvement and a slick public service which optimizes decision making and systems, as envisaged by the eGovernment project, a good example being the on-going work being conducted at the Department of Home Affairs and in our driver’s license testing centres.

The public service ought to be at the forefront of our societal transformation journey. We must not be complacent as we mark our victories but seek to do much more with much less, through innovation. We must take accelerative steps to move the 40.5% women’s representation in senior management positions to at least 50%, whilst also paying attention to the youth and persons with disabilities.

We will accelerate programmes that turn around the picture, which sees only 24.7% of public servants being young people by ensuring a higher absorption rate of our internship programmes and by transforming the service into an employee of choice and not last resort. This we will do in partnership with the National Youth Development Agency.

In the end, our public service ought to be the mirror society holds up to see themselves. This African Public Service Day, spare a thought to the one million and three hundred thousand public servants who are working towards that goal, whilst holding those who are not accountable for their actions to the highest of standards.
Public Service and Administration Minister Faith Muthambi is determined to implement radical economic transformation through the public service.

Addressing the Black Business Council Roundtable Discussion in Johannesburg on Tuesday, the Minister said her Ministry together with the Black Business Council will work together to move South Africa forward.

She said President Jacob Zuma has vowed that ‘economic transformation will take centre-stage’ during his last term of office.

He promised that “the structure of the economy will be transformed through industrialisation, broad-based black economic empowerment and through strengthening and expanding the role of the state in the economy.”

She said the first phase of transition, consolidation of formal democracy was complete. “The country has entrenched all the necessary checks and balances such as free press, independent judiciary, independent chapter 9 institutions, and regular free and fair elections.”

However, the Minister said this achievement is under threat owing to the unfinished business of economic transformation.

“The situation is not any different in top management in which whites continue to rule the roost with 72% demographic representation and Africans grossly under-represented with a measly 10%,” Minister Muthambi said.

The second challenge facing the country is the persistence of the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Minister Muthambi said, the objective of radical economic transformation is two-fold which is to place ‘the economy on a qualitatively different path that ensures more rapid, sustainable growth, higher investment, increased employment, reduced inequality’ and second is to ‘deracialise the economy’.

She said transforming the productive structures and relations would be at the core of placing the economy on a qualitative path.

“This would require moving away from a situation where the country remains largely an exporter of primary products,” the Minister said.

She said Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies has elaborated on the form and key elements of radical economic transformation.

He argues that first, radical economic transformation must entail radical transformation of production relations, second it must lead to less conflictual, characterized by more equitable benefit-sharing and by less inequality.

Lastly, it must place, job creation at the heart of work programmes and promoting a more inclusive job-rich pattern of growth.
Former African National Congress’ President OR Tambo’s vision of living and working together as equals in conditions of peace and prosperity will be at the centre of government’s approach at the salary negotiations for Public Servants, says Public Service and Administration Minister Faith Muthambi.

Delivering her Budget Vote Speech at the Old National Assembly Chamber in Parliament on 24 May 2017, a day before Africa Day, Minister Muthambi said: “Let us also recall that it was African daughters and sons, in the main, who provided refuge to our beloved OR Tambo and thousands so that we may realise President Tambo’s vision of a South Africa in which black and white shall live and work together as equals in conditions of peace and prosperity.”

“This vision is our guiding star and will be at the centre of our approach as we reenter our multi year salary negotiations after the three-year agreement came to an end on 31 March 2017. We are also alive to the fact that we have not performed to the optimum and in full accordance to our agreements in the previous three year agreement, and will endeavour to do more and do better, to our mutual benefit and as far as possible,” said the Minister.

She said once they reach an agreement, they will also put in place a joint and continuous monitoring system with labour unions.

“We believe that it is imperative we work for a productive and stable public service. We have to collaborate with our labour partners and ensure that the public service machinery functions with the ultimate goal of delivering efficient services to the people,” she said.

Minister Muthambi strongly believes that the Budget Vote will be the basis of a radical, transformed, and service-oriented public service, during the year in which the country is celebrating 100 years since the birth of the late OR Tambo, the African National Congress’s longest serving President.

The Minister said the Budget Vote will lay the foundation for the urgent transformative tasks and implementation of the radical socio-economic transformation.

“Such a transformation will benefit all our people and most importantly place at the centre of all of our efforts since We Belong to our people, We Care about our people, We Serve our people,” she said.

Budget Vote allocations are as follows: Department of Public Service and Administration R456 919m; Public Service Commission R245 664m; National School of Government R160 506m; and the Centre for Public Service Innovation R34 055m.
The Regulations stipulate clearly that Public Servants must not conduct business with any organ of state or be a director of a public or private company conducting business with an organ of state.

Furthermore, Public Servants were informed accordingly that they should cease doing business with organs of state or resign from the public service.

Central Supplier Database

In February this year, National Treasury amended the registration process for prospective suppliers to be registered on the Central Supplier Database, to prohibit public service employees from being registered.

During the registration process all suppliers are matched against the PERSAL system, to establish if they are Public Service employees or not. If a match is obtained, the person is flagged and is then required to provide proof that he or she is not a public service employee.

“We view misconduct in a serious light and will continue to strengthen measures for effective consequence management in the Public Service. Our view is that, all public servants are aware that three years ago, President Jacob Zuma signed into law the Public Administration Management Act which prohibits them from doing business with government. We are on a mission to create a world class public service and one way of achieving this goal is to clean the public service,” she said.

The act prohibits public servants from conducting business with government or being a director of a public or private company that conducts business with government.

According to Minister Muthambi, failure to comply with the obligation constitutes serious misconduct which may result in the termination of employment by the employer.
Public Servants urged to serve citizens with dignity - Min Muthambi

By Nthambeleni Gabara

Public Service and Administration Minister Ms Faith Muthambi calls on public servants to emulate the selfless life of service of the late African National Congress (ANC) longest-serving President OR Tambo.

Delivering her Budget Vote Speech at the Old National Assembly Chamber in Cape Town on 24 May 2017, Minister Muthambi said: “In honour of President Oliver Reginald Tambo and during the centenary since his birth, we dedicate this Budget Vote to the hundreds of thousands of public servants who have chosen the path to emulate his selfless life of service.”

“Our struggle has entered a phase which marks the final days of the white monopoly dominated system. To move us further in that phase we require a new, innovative, self-less and inspired type of public service, in the mould of OR Tambo. We seek to promote an integrity driven public service, in the footsteps of OR Tambo,” said the Minister.

Radical Socio-Economic Transformation

Minister Muthambi said the Budget Vote seeks to address radical socio-economic transformation agenda in the longer term, adding that it does adhere to the medium term aspirations as contained in the National Development Plan (NDP).

The NDP builds the foundation for an efficient, effective and development oriented Public Service as part of a capable and developmental state, which can facilitate and implement a radical socio economic transformation.

Innovative Public Servants

According to Minister Muthambi, inclusion, participation and empowerment will require an innovative public service which is accessible to all citizens.

In advancing this, Minister Muthambi said the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI), will partner with various institutions within the health, safety and security and education spheres in order to collaborate on the development of prototypes as well as nurturing and sustaining a public service innovation and learning culture.

The CPSI is a cross-cutting facility of government aimed at entrenching and driving the culture and practice of innovation in the public sector to address service de-livery challenges.

“These collaborations will include the development and implementation of the multimedia innovation centre as well as an innovation journal. Going forward, we will also pay greater attention to the governance and accountability measures at the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI) with the aim of rendering greater effectiveness and broader participation,” she said.

Financial Disclosure compliance

Minister Muthambi said that she was pleased to note the progress recorded during the 2016/2017 financial year, wherein five provinces and 35 national departments achieved 100% submission rate of financial disclosure forms.

“This is the highest submission rate by both the national and provincial departments since the inception of the Financial Disclosure Framework in 1999. For the financial year ending 30 April 2016, 92% of Senior Managers filed their disclosures on time. The introduction of the eDisclosure, an electronic format of submitting financial disclosures, has assisted in increasing compliance rate,” said Minister Muthambi.

These efforts will be complemented by further actions in relation to the vexing challenge of non-submission of financial disclosure forms which were due on 31 May.
Public Service and Administration Minister, Ms Faith Muthambi says a significant progress has been made in ensuring equity in terms of race and gender, but more still need to be done in achieving the disability equality target of 2%.

Minister Muthambi made the announcement when tabling her Budget Vote Speech in the Old National Assembly Chamber in Parliament on 24 May 2017.

“To advance this target, we will seek active partnerships with organisations operating in the disability sector, particularly the civil society and the Labour movement in line with the Disabled people South Africa Motto Nothing About Us, Without Us,” she said.

“These efforts will be complemented by the recommendations of the Portfolio Committee that the Public service communication conducts a follow up study to determine factors impending government departments in achieving 2% of people with disabilities and 50% of women in senior management in the public service and make proposals for improvement,” said the Minister.

She added by saying, “Without meeting these targets, our agenda for a radical economic transformation and inclusive growth are under serious threat,” said Muthambi, adding that “as we conduct this analysis and head count and determine where and at what level are women and people with disabilities located, we will also pose the fundamental question of whether our Department and the public service is appropriately wired and designed to meet the department’s specific mandate and our urgent objective for a radical socioeconomic transformation. In doing this we also continue with the ongoing engagements we have had with all our unions and stakeholders so that we may ensure a smooth and progressive process of capacitating the public service, whilst also taking on board the concerns of labour, stakeholders and our citizens to whom we owe our very existence.”

In the 2016/17 financial year, the Public Service Commission (PSC) finalised 80% of the 651 grievances and 77% of the 355 complaints lodged with it and made recommendations to executive authorities.

Most of the outstanding cases were received in March this year (2017).

The primary function of the PSC is to scrutinise the financial disclosure forms received and advice Executive Authorities on the prevalence of potential and actual conflicts of interest.

The PSC will scrutinise 100% of all submitted financial disclosure forms and will extend its focus from partnerships and properties to the acceptance of gifts. It will also conduct public administration investigations into complaints lodged with it.

Apart from the hosting of departmental workshops on professional ethics, the PSC will also hosts an event in partnership with the Moral Regeneration Movement on building an ethical public services.

The Commission will continue its programme of inspections of service delivery sites.

The purpose of inspections is to evaluate service delivery from the perspective of citizens and identify service delivery challenges that can be addressed immediately,” concluded Minister Muthambi.
The Public Service Commissioner’s chairperson, Advocate Richard Sizani described their first meeting with Public Service and Administration Minister, Ms Faith Muthambi as a great success.

Minister Muthambi met with the Commissioners at the national office of the Public Service Commission (PSC) in Pretoria on Monday, 19 June 2017.

Advocate Sizani said, “The significance of our meeting was basically for the Minister to hear what are the challenges and the roles of the commission as well as how we can work together with her office. This is the first meeting we had with the executive authority, and indeed, it was a great success, we discussed every issue one by one and found solutions as well as the way forward about dealing with that. The entire commission is extremely excited about the interaction with the minister. In the past, the Department never showed any attitude of consulting with the PSC, thanks so much for the Minister for the support.”

Advocate Sizani said part of the outcomes of the meeting is that the Minister was to report some of the challenges to the President, adding that in so doing, the Minister will be creating a platform for the commission to interact with the President who is the appointing authority of the Commission.

“Now the Minister understand fully what are the challenges facing the Commission,” he said.

PSC Director-General Mr Dovhani Mamphiswana said: “For us, it was very important to meet with Minister Muthambi, where our deliberations were focused on budgetary matters, office space. We are hoping that going forward, she will assist the commission with the resources which are going to assist the commission to execute its mandate effectively.”

In her closing remarks, Minister Muthambi said: “My meeting with the PSC Commissioners was beneficial and checking the monthly performance of the commission it must not be seen as an interference.”

Functioning of the PSC

The PSC has operationised its wide mandate around six key performance areas, which are public service labour and practices enhanced through timely investigation of all properly referred grievances and provision of best practices; to identify and promote sound human resource management and leadership practices in public administration; to provide institutional assessments and programme evaluations that support policy and management decisions.

To investigate and improve public administration practices and to make recommendations to departments on the promotion of good governance and issue directions regarding compliance with the Public Service Act and to promote ethical conduct amongst public servants through the management of the Financial Disclosure Framework (FD), and provide advice on professional and ethical conduct in the Public Service.
The idea of shaping government through the heightened use of innovation was amongst the issues under discussion at the United Nations Public Service Forum 2017 hosted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, from 22 to 23 June 2017 in The Hague, Netherlands.

The Public Service Forum which took place in observance of the United Nations Public Service Day under the theme, “The Future is now: Accelerating Public Service Innovation for Agenda 2030” placed emphasis on job creation and prosperity, and unblocking the potential of the furthest behind.

The goal of the Forum was to contribute to developing the capacity of governments through innovation to anticipate the various challenges posed by the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Governments across the globe are challenged to embrace innovation in response to the increased complexities the public service faces and in fast-tracking the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Public Service and Administration Deputy Minister, Ms Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, was invited to participate in the Ministerial Panel that, at the end of the Forum, reflected the insights and lessons learnt during the two days and made suggestions on how to accelerate public sector innovation.

In her contribution, the Deputy Minister highlighted the fact that South Africa is a part of a global village where high-level sharing of lessons and experiences are of critical importance. She emphasised the role of enabling and transformative leadership in ensuring that public service innovation is embedded in the culture and ethos of government.

The importance of Open Government in both ensuring the participation of citizens, and providing new opportunities for innovators was also emphasised.

Furthermore, the Deputy Minister shared the country’s experiences in getting the voices of the
most marginalised to be heard showcasing South Africa’s public participatory, Imbizo programme.

The Executive Director of the CPSI, Ms Thuli Rabebe, was invited to lead one of the reflective sessions on “What is Driving Innovation in the Public Sector” with a discussion on “Overcoming Challenges through Technology”.

She emphasised the importance of key aspects of the 4th Industrial Revolutions and how the public sector should position itself. These include cloud computing, e-services and robotics. Importantly the public sector should ensure that a “virtuous loop” is in place to prevent job-losses due to robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

The adage used to address disability “Nothing for us without us” is critical when decisions are made. It is important that citizens, the academic, civil and private sectors are gainfully and sincerely engaged and involved in all discussions and activities where decisions that impact on their lives are taken, including when introducing technology innovations.

She further emphasised the importance of initiatives such as Smart Cities and Urban Hubs for Innovation and that these initiatives should be leverage to extend innovation into the deepest rural communities.

The Forum further showcased, during another parallel session and through an Innovation Fair, the finalist projects for the UN Public Service Awards. This year the Awards focused on innovations that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in three categories, reaching the Poorest and Most Vulnerable through Inclusive Services and Participation, Promoting Transparency, Accountability and Integrity in Public Services and Innovation and Excellence in Delivering Health Services.

These innovative practices will soon be available for learning and replication purposes on the United Nations Public Administration Network Portal (www.unpan.org), the knowledge sharing portal of which the CPSI is one of the Online Regional Centres on behalf of the SADC Region.

It is therefore critical that South Africa should continue to provide thought leadership to the UN on public sector innovation, in particular to ensure the focus remains on developing and least developed countries.

Through participation on the Forum, Ministry for the Public Service and Administration has shared the experiences of the country and has learned from other countries on innovations that will assist collective achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
On Friday, 28 July 2017, the Deputy Minister for the Public Service and Administration, Ms Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, hosted an Imbizo and engaged the local community of Moletse Moshate in Polokwane, Limpopo Province, on the challenges they face when accessing government services.

The Deputy Minister began the day with a courtesy visit to Kgosi Kgabo Moloto III. Accompanied by Kgosi Moloto III and the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, she proceeded to visit the Mmotong Clinic before interacting with the community of Moletse.

In her address the Deputy Minister, outlined the Department’s constitutional mandate and responsibility to the public. Referring to the Batho Pele Principles, she explained that public servants are well trained and equipped to assist citizens at all service delivery points.

She encouraged the community to voice their concerns and challenges. “Please feel free to voice your challenges so that we can assist you”. The Deputy Minister assured the community that the government is doing its best to address challenges through Izimbizo in partnership with citizens. “We are here to address the challenges that you have because we are in partnership with you,” she said.

During the question and answer session, the community of Moletse raised issues that included water shortages in the area (water reservoirs are not enough), bad roads, electricity, an incapacitated clinic, not sufficient Early Childhood Centres (ECDs), a shortage of pension pay out points and lack of speed humps on the main roads.

The outreach was characterised by exhibitions and mobile services from various government departments and local stakeholders such as the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Provincial Department of Health, USAID, the National School of Government (NSG), Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS), the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI) and the Provincial Department of Sports, Arts and Culture.

The Deputy Minister emphasised that Izimbizo are not about ticking a box but ensuring that a difference is made within the community. She added that development will not thrive in a corrupt environment, there will be no development due to the cancer of corruption.
Bad roads and lack of water tanks are the most critical challenges faced by residents of Setlagole, a rural village under Ratlou Local Municipality in the North-West Province, says traditional leader, Kgosi Kgosikgolo Gaesegwe Phoi.

Speaking during an Imbizo led by Public Service and Administration Minister, Faith Muthambi, Kgosi Kgosikgolo Phoi of Barolong ba-Ratlou said: “We are excited that the Minister is taking her outreach programme to our area. This is our government, so we want to say it without fear or favour that bad roads, lack of water are the main service delivery day-to-day challenges faced by residents of Setlagole and the surrounding areas.

“His sentiments were echoed by the Mayor of Ratlou Local Municipality, Cllr Tebogo Modise who said: “We are a rural municipality, so water shortages is the most critical challenge in this area, we are also facing the challenge of lack of road infrastructure, but we are confident that through this imbizo, we are embarking on a journey to improve service delivery in municipal area.

“We are also working with both the District municipality and the Provincial government. Minister Muthambi is known for her ability to get things moving and she made it clear to us that she will return to this area in three-months to come to give residents feedback in all issues they raised.”

Minister Muthambi said: “We are the champions of Batho Pele principles...we are here to assess if indeed service delivery is being rendered to our people, we are also here to solicit inputs from people on how we can speed up service delivery in their area...we are doing all these to ensure that we’ve a happy citizenry.”

With regard to the issues that emerged as the main service delivery challenges, Minister Muthambi said: “We are going to escalate all the issues raised to the relevant departments and the success of our outreach programme is known for yielding noticeable results in changing the living conditions of our people.”

Ahead of listening to the challenges of residents, the Minister also visited Setlagole police station and employees of the local fire station who are operating in a shabby mobile shelter at a shopping complex at the village.
Residents of Meloding in the Free State have expressed their gratitude to government for taking a Batho Pele Outreach Imbizo programme to their township in a bid to resolve day-to-day challenges.

Public Service and Administration Minister Faith Muthambi led an Imbizo in the town near Welkom under the theme: “Fast Tracking Service Delivery in our Communities.”

Local resident, Isaac Rammereki, who is also a member of the New Dawn Foundation, a structure aimed at empowering local youth said: “On behalf of residents and our Foundation responsible for developing and supporting our youth, we are happy that today we were able to interact with our leaders right at our township, where they also witnessed some of our day-to-day challenges.

“There are a number of issues that they have promised to resolve and this includes the shortage of vehicles at our local police station and they have promised to be back in three months to give us feedback in all the issues we’ve raised. Indeed, we are very grateful to our government…this government is for the people and it is working for its people,” he said.

25-year-old local visual artist, Neo Mohohlo said: “There is a lot of talent in this area and all we need from our government as young people is support, we’ve seen it that without support from our leaders, some young people end up being exposed to criminal activities. “I have used this Imbizo to showcase my artwork and I hope that now that our leaders aware of the good things that we are doing here, they will give us the necessary support,” said Mohohlo, who had no formal training in art.

The Imbizo started with Minister Muthambi visit to the local Correctional Services facility, Virginia Hospital and Meloding police station.

At the Correctional Services facility, issues raised included overcrowding, suspension of prison warders and shortage of staff, while at the police station, there is only one police van.

Minister Muthambi said: “ At the Correctional Services facility, we have learnt that the rehabilitation programme can’t go on very well because of overcrowding, there are also staff members who have been on suspension since December last year, meaning that people are working long hours, so we’ve urged the management to expedite the process of those who are still on suspension, of course, we will also elevate all these challenges to the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services.

“We have also discovered that Meloding Police Station is operating like a passenger station because they just register or attended to cases which are only investigated by their colleagues in Welkom. They have serious shortage of vehicles, that when they take vehicles to the government garage to be serviced, they take time to be repaired, all these need to change.

“We are a caring government…a government that is committed to serve its people, hence our public servants, despite all their challenges, understand that theirs is to serve through putting people first,” she said. The Imbizo coincided with the commemoration of Freedom Month. April 27 commemorates the day in 1994 when the first democratic election was held in South Africa.
One of Limpopo’s deep rural school, Davhana High is attributing their learners’ performance to the support they received from Public Service and Administration Minister, Ms Faith Muthambi.

Recently, Minister Muthambi visited the ailing High school situated outside Vuwani as part of her education support programme and donated 10 bicycles, school shoes, school bags and cycling helmet safety head protectors.

One of the teachers, Mr Richwell Nesengani, said since the Minister’s visit, the culture of learning has improved.

“It is amazing how our learners are now committed to their studies following the Minister’s visit. They arrive early and we are no longer reminding them to do their school work. It is our view that the bicycles donated by the Minister improves learners’ access to school and also boosting educational performance.

“A bulk of learners used to walk long distances to school, either because there is no available public transport or because they cannot afford it. Some used to travel almost 8Km to get to school and were always arriving late and tired,” he said.

According to Mr Nesengani, class performance was poor and now Minister Muthambi made it easier for our learners to get to school and concentrate on their studies.

A Grade 10 learner, Lutendo Madzhara shared his past painful experience of walking 8Km from Mabidi Village to access school in Davhana.

“I was always late and arrived at school very tired because my home is almost 8km away from the school. Since I received a bicycle during the Minister’s visit, my performance in the classroom has improved. When you live far from school, the weather has a major impact on your ability to get to school. Sometimes we used to dodge schooling, but we received the bicycles class attendance is no longer an issue. I am grateful because I used to leave my house at 5am to start with my daily journey and it used to take me more than two hours to reach the school” said the happy Madzhara.

Minister Muthambi said the educational resources, bicycles and school shoes she donated to a number of schools in Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga province will improve the culture of learning.

She said through the SABC Foundation, they were able to award two top matriculants with bursaries.

“In Mpumalanga province, in partnership with the MTN Foundation, we donated 11 Multi-Media Centres, 100 bicycles, 1 000 talking books and computer laboratories to schools. The MTN Foundation has signed an agreement with the contractor to construct an Information Computer Technology (ICT) laboratory at Tshimbupfe High School this financial year,” she said.

Minister added: “We also donated school shoes for identified needy learners in several schools in Limpopo Province through Professor Alfred Nevhutanda Foundation. These contributions will go a long way to assisting those in need to make their lives better. We have the responsibility to inculcate the ethos of service and volunteerism as a way of life for all public servants.”

“Every day, must be filled with service and care for our people, let us not wait until the next Mandela Day or 16 Days of Activism for us to encourage an active public service and citizenry,” said the Minister.
Public Service and Administration Minister, Faith Muthambi led a massive clean-up campaign in honour of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Nelson Mandela in Vuwani town, Limpopo.

The Minister who grew up in the area, is led the first ever clean-up Vuwani campaign with the view of keeping the values that Madiba introduced to South Africans and the people of the world- the value of service; serving other people without expecting anything in return.

She said the other purpose of the clean-up drive is to demonstrate government’s promise to a healthy, clean, safe and environmental friendly communities.

Minister Muthambi and a team comprising of residents, traditional leaders, spiritual leaders, representatives of the Vuwani Constituency Office and other leaders from the Vhembe region will start picking up litter from Vuwani Shopping complex, Government Offices, townhall and Nandoni Primary School.

“We have decided to demonstrate Madiba’s values through cleaning up our rural town of Vuwani. We strongly believe that our new clean-up campaign will help to sensitize locals to keep their small town clean and environmental friendly,” she said.

Minister Muthambi said her campaign to clean-up the heaps of garbage and stagnant mosquito-infested water is not a once off event as she said that it will be held annually during Mandela Month.

“While we want to use the campaign to emulate Madiba who was known world-wide as a servant of the people, we also want to encourage the locals to be aware of the environmental hazard threatening their town by the garbage they piled up.

“The clean-up campaign is our effort to remain true to Nelson Mandela’s ideals of making the country and the world a better place,” she said.

For 67 years, Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience and an international peace maker.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation dedicated this year’s Mandela Month to Action Against Poverty, honouring Madiba’s leadership and devotion to fighting poverty and promoting social justice for all.

In November 2009, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly declared July 18, Nelson Mandela International Day in recognition of Mandela’s contribution to the culture of peace and freedom.

The month of July is a very significant month in South Africa. On July 18, every year, South Africans, and the people of the world at large, celebrate Mandela Day through acting on the idea that each person has the power to make a meaningful contribution towards those who are less fortunate.

South Africans have embraced the chance to celebrate Nelson Mandela’s life for the whole of July. This means everyone has the whole month to take action and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

It is almost four years since the passing of former President Mandela.
Public Service and Administration Deputy Minister, Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, participated in a youth outreach programme in Mokopane on Thursday, 29 June 2017 at the Waterberg TVET College.

Celebrating Youth Month under the theme, “The year of O.R Tambo: advancing youth economic participation,” the purpose of the outreach was to provide young people with information on how to access youth development programmes and to give them hope.

In her address, the Deputy Minister emphasised the theme reminding the youth of the need for them to contribute to the economy. She said, “We need to empower you so that you can make a positive contribution to the socio-economic development of this country.”

She added that even though the government has created entities such as the National Students Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) to assist the youth, the onus was upon them to take those opportunities and empower themselves, saying that South Africa needs educated, skilled leaders and we urge you to utilise the available opportunities to prepare for the future.

Speaking on education and training, Deputy Minister Letsatsi-Duba encouraged students to sign up for Internship and Learnership programmes in the public service. “We urge you to make applications in order to undergo these programmes so that you make yourselves ready for the world of employment,” said the Deputy Minister. She also invited the youth to come forward with not only challenges they faced but possible solutions too which government can explore to empower them.

During the engagement session, the youth of Mokopane raised issues that included substance abuse, lack of training opportunities for graduates and industrial limitations because of only two tertiary institutions. The Youth Outreach programme formed part of the Youth Month commemoration celebrations and activities throughout the country.
A Limpopo girl, Rirhandzu Manganyi (16) who was found dead with some body parts missing was finally laid to rest at Gumbani cemetery near Malamulele on Sunday.

At the funeral service also attended by local politicians including Public Service and Administration Minister, Faith Muthambi and Lim 345 mayor, Joyce Bila, the sombre mood showed a community that is still horrified, deeply saddened and speechless by the gruesome murder of the little girl who popularly known as Rhandzu at her village.

The grade 6 learner at Hlaulekani Primary school went missing on July 2, when she left her home to relieve herself in the nearby bushes, only to be discovered dead five days later near the Shingwedzi River. Local boys who went to the same river for fishing found her mutilated body.

While the motive behind the brutal death of Rhandzu is still unknown, however, residents are speculating that the deceased was killed for muti purposes.

Since police have not yet arrested the suspects, Minister Muthambi said the only way for the police to close the net on the alleged killers is when residents give the police information.

“Fighting crime is not the duty of the police alone, but a collective task of both the police and you as the community. If you want to see police making a breakthrough in this case, give them information. If you something on the death of Rhandzu, write down on the paper and send it to the police through suggestion boxes and I promise your name is protected.

“Death brings sadness, no matter who is dying. When we lose someone we love, it is devastating. It is sad and devastating to see a precious life being lost in the hands of ritual killers. Hadn’t ritual killers cut short her precious life, Rhandzu would have joined us in celebrating the Mandela Day,” she said.

Minister Muthambi urged residents to go back to the basics of caring for neighbours. “You must be concern about the well-being of your neighbour. You must care about your neighbour no matter how poor the person is. If you don’t care about your neighbour, there is something wrong with you,” she said.

Local traditional leader, Richard Mabasa also known as Hosi Mukhomi said that he is still saddened by the death of Rhandzu. “I am hopeful that the police will arrest the perpetrators very soon. In the history of this area, we’ve never experienced a gruesome murder like this,” he said.

Mayor Bila urged residents to speak out against ritual murder. “We don’t want our area to be known as the playing ground for murderers,” she said.

The deceased came from a poverty-stricken family of eight who live in a shabby one roomed house. Her mother, Khidzhamani Manganyi is unemployment. Realising that the family was faced with a challenge to bury their daughter, Hosi Mukhomi urged residents to contribute money, while approaching business people to assist as well.

Upon receiving the sad news about the painful death of Rhandzu, Businessman, Reuben Mosefuwa drove from Gauteng to the family and when arrived, he was touched by the situation.
“I’m always assisting those who are less fortunate in life not only here in Limpopo, but also in Gauteng and other parts of the country. When I arrived at the bereaved family, there was nothing, so I had to buy them grocery and a cow. I also decided to build a toilet for the family since the deceased disappeared while she was going to relieve herself in the nearby bushes,” he said.

Mosefuwa is also going to build a three-bedroom house for Rhandzu’s family. He had already bought 4 500 bricks and other materials. “There is a false narrative out there that suggest us as business people we are successful because of using human body parts.

“Our people should know that you don’t need body parts to be rich and our business are not prospering because we use muti, No! We are working very hard. I was born in a poor family, so I know the pain of not having. I hope people of this village will use Rhandzu’s death to unite and that the police should also not waste time to arrest the suspects,” he said.

His message to the young people of Gumbani is that they must not look down upon themselves. “Even former President, Nelson Mandela was born in a poor family, so they must focus on their studies, work with the police to fight crime and they should know that selling human parts will never make them rich.”
Public Service and Administration Minister, Faith Muthambi addressed the North-West Province Villages, Townships and Small Dorpies (VTSD) economic lekgotla at Matlwaeng village in Tlokwe in June.

The VTSD, which is also aimed at advancing radical socio-economic transformation, was launched last year by Premier Supra Mahumapelo with the view to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas.

According to Minister Muthambi, the VTSD lekgotla should expand and secure possible investment opportunities that will grow the economy of the province, focusing on economically depressed VTSD areas.

Minister Muthambi commended the provincial government leadership visionary outlook in addressing the economic imbalances of the past and for taking concrete steps in addressing conditions of poverty, inequality and unemployment in the province.

“Let’s build a South Africa where the potential of all its citizens can be harnessed to transform the economy to reduce poverty, inequality and unemployment. Our specific focus is to improve the provinces economy through existing and new businesses operating in the VTSD areas.

“About 28 million South Africans are living in poverty. About 18 million people live in the poorest 40% of households, and 10 million people live in the poorest 20% of households classified as ultra-poor. Most of the poor live in rural areas: 45% of the population is rural, but the rural areas contain 72% of those members of the total population who are poor. The poverty rate (the proportion of people falling below the poverty line) for rural areas is 71%,” she said.
Government’s negotiation with Samsung to build an Engineering Academy at the poor Makgobistaad, a village under the jurisdiction of the Ratlou Local Municipality in the North West Province is still underway.

Speaking to residents during her Public Participation Imbizo held at Setlagole village on Friday, Minister Muthambi said the Academy will be accompanied by a waste project that has a potential to create 500 jobs during its commencement stage. The Minister further said the project will end-up creating 1 500 in total for the unemployed locals.

She emphasized that when the project commenced, it should benefit young people and women under the jurisdiction of Ratlou Local Municipality.

“There is a digital village built at Madibogo village which consists of a clinic, catering for mother and child care, dental care, eye care, X-ray as well as a classroom that will be used for the training of Community Health Workers,” she said adding that the digital village will be officially unveiled in October later this year.

“As government, we are doing our best to work with the private sector to improve the lives of our people. We cannot do it alone, we need the private sector to partner with us in order to move our country forward,” she said.

Mobile network giant, MTN is also playing its part in improving the lives of people through the public-private partnership programme. This was confirmed by MTN’s SA Foundation senior manager, Angie Maloka who said that they have a long standing relationship with Ratlou Municipality and part of the service delivery commitment will be to upgrade the internet network.

Maloka said the upgrading of networks is significant in terms providing high speed Internet connectivity services in the rural areas like Setlagole and surrounding areas.

During the interaction between Minister Muthambi and residents, water shortage, poor road conditions, incomplete projects and the slow pace of electrification of RDP houses emerged as main service delivery challenges raised by members of community.

Minister Muthambi made it clear to municipal officials led by the political head, Mayor Tebogo Modise, that she wants to work with efficient and accountable public servants. She reminded them about the performance agreement they signed when taking an oath to work for the people.

“As government, we recommit ourselves once again to the public service charter that dictates to us to render efficient and effective service. …that we are here to serve, to care and we belong to you.

“We have been entrusted with the mandate as the Public Service and Administration that these public servants must inform you on anything as far as service delivery is concerned and provide redress when you are not happy.

“People’s interest comes first and they have every right to approach ward councillors inquiring about service delivery. Communities must get feedback on each and every issue raised within their wards. I want to assure you that I will be back in the next three months to give you feedback on the issues that have been raised,” she said.

Mayor, Tebogo Modise also agreed that the major problem affecting communities in her rural municipality is water shortage. “I’m heading the municipality that consists of 14 Wards and 28 villages that are scattered. Most of community members are illiterate, thus, teenage pregnancy is rife,” she said.

“The provincial government is helping us to fast-track service delivery and hopefully, things will be normal very soon,” said Mayor Modise.
The World Communication Forum’s (WCF) Program Board for 2018 has been formed. For the next calendar year, the WCF will be led by 27 communication professionals representing 20 countries all over the world: Russia, India, South Africa, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Turkey, the USA, Brazil, Armenia, Poland, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Switzerland, Canada, UK, and Holland.

In the nearest future, several significant for the communication industry events have already been scheduled by the Board, among others – the WCFA USA Trip, in cooperation with the PR Museum in New York, some regional communication forums, webinars, and the next annual WCF “Communication on Top”.

Members of the new WCF Committee are:

- Yanina Dubeykovskaya, WCF’s Founder & Content Director, WCFA’s President (Russia)
- Prof. Dr. Ali Murat Vural, Executive Board Member, Bersay Communications (Turkey)
- Assel Kozhakova, DIPM MCIM, Founder & CEO of Red Point Kazakhstan (Kazakhstan)
- Catherine Hernandez-Blades, Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications, Aflac (USA)
- Dymitr Romanowski, co-Founder of The Story, Design & Innovation (Poland)
- Evgeniya Bliznyuk, co-Founder of CoreStone, advisor: Presidential Administration (Ukraine)
- Faith Muthambi, Minister for Public Service and Administration South Africa (SA)
- Flavio Oliveira, WCF rep in Brazil, Global PR Manager at UBM (Netherlands)
- Gabor Hegyi, Founding Managing Director of Capital Communications (Hungary)
- Guntram Kaiser, Chief Executive Officer of Kaiser Communication GmbH (Germany)
- Jennifer Stapper, Chief of the Communications Section at UN Volunteers (Germany)
- Gianni Catalfamo, CEO at One Wedge, Web 3.0 evangelist, Founder of cc:catalfamo (Italy)
- Dr. Jon-Hans Coetzer, former Chief Academic Officer (CAO), Glion Institute (Switzerland)
Yanina Dubeykovskaya, Founder and Content Director of the World Communication Forum and President of the WCFA association, shared:

“There are plenty of interesting ideas and important events on our agenda for 2018. We continue to build the global communication community and the new WCF Committee of 27 communicators active in 20 countries is the confirmation of the fact that we are on the right way! I believe with such an international composition of experts we will be able to form, on the one hand, a highly involving and diversified agenda which will prove attractive and interesting to all players in the communication industry. On the other hand, the program will genuinely focus on global communications as a driver of human development, since all members of the committee are trusted leaders of local regional or national professional communities within the communication industry.”

More information about the WCF Committee members for 2018: www.forumdavos.com/committee

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Deputy Minister Imbizo in Khayelitsha

The Deputy Minister for the Public Service and Administration, Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, convened a citizen engagement consultation in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, on the 12th of May, at the O R Tambo Community Hall.

According to this approach, ordinary community members within the country, should be given an opportunity to interact and engage with their elected political representatives on issues of service delivery as well as to share their experiences on challenges that affect their lives on a daily basis.

The Deputy Minister also conducted site visits in government service delivery points in Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain and interacted with frontline staff within the public service. The purpose was to ascertain how to enable officials to improve productivity in their work place.

The unannounced site visits were to measure government progress in line with Outcome 12 of the National Development Plan (NDP). The NDP highlights the need for a well-run public service and effectively coordinated state institutions with skilled public servants who are committed to the public good and who are capable of delivering consistently high-quality services. A programme and an Order of Proceeding was developed to guide the event for the day.

Deputy Minister visited Department of Labour in Mitchells Plain and Department of Home Affairs in Khayelitsha. After site visits, the Deputy Minister engaged with the residence of Khayelitsha regarding challenges they are facing about service delivery issues.
Minister Muthambi convenes a meeting to revive the National Anti-Corruption Forum

By Nthambeleni Gabara

Public Service and Administration Minister, Ms Faith Muthambi’s move to convene a special meeting to revive the National Anti-Corruption Forum (NACF) is a right step towards realising vision 2030 of a South Africa with a zero tolerance for corruption.

The NACF was established in 2001 by government, business and civil society with the main aim of preventing and combating all forms of combating corrupt activities in the country.

However, the last activity of the NACF was its fourth national anti-corruption summit in December 2011, while its last EXCO meeting was held in November 2012.

Minister Muthambi said: “There is a wrong perception out there that corruption is a post-1994 phenomenon, which is untrue because corruption was widespread during the apartheid era. As a democratic government, we’ve accountability mechanisms in place to combat corrupt activities that adversely affects government efforts to eradicate poverty.”

She said, “We have created a number of institutions to fight against corruption, but we strongly believe that we need the NACF to be effective so that we can realise a South Africa which has a zero tolerance for corruption hence I have decided to convene a special meeting of various stakeholders in all sectors of our society to revive the NACF.”

The purpose of the special meeting was to revive the NACF and to re-constitute the sectors of the Forum.

One of the objectives of the NACF is to contribute towards the establishment of a national consensus through the co-ordination of sectoral strategies against corruption.
Residents of the border village of Ramatlhabama, in the North-West province recently enjoyed a weekend at Batloung Sports Ground, thanks to a two-day youth month and social cohesion football tournament to be hosted by Public Service and Administration Minister, Ms Faith Muthambi.

The four teams which locked horns on Saturday were Ikopeleng FC, Miga FC, Makgokgoane FC and 600 FC.

However, Minister Muthambi handed over soccer kits to both the champions and losing teams.

The Manyedi Youth Tournament was not only aimed at keeping young people away from alcohol and drug abuse, but Minister Muthambi used the tournament to call on all communities to unite against the on-going violence against women and girl children.

Minister Muthambi said: “The rights of women should never be violated. Through this tournament, we want to teach young boys to learn to love and respect our women and girl children. Personal safety is a human right. When communities do not feel safe and live in fear, our country’s economic development and people’s well-being are affected, hindering their ability to achieve their potential.”

“Again, the National Development Plan (NDP) is clear that by 2030, people living in South Africa should feel safe at home, school and workplace and enjoying a community life free without fear. Our women should walk freely on the streets and girl children play safely outside,” she said.

Since June is Youth Month, the Minister also used the tournament to reaffirm government commitment in terms of creating opportunities for young people with the view of tackling the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

Following the advent of democracy in 1994, the new democratic government declared 16 June as National Youth Day and June as Youth Month. This year National Youth Day and Youth Month is celebrated under the theme: The Year of OR Tambo: Advancing the Youth Economic Empowerment.

The tournament also serve as a platform to raise opportunities for dialogue with the youth and their role towards social cohesion and nation-building.

Since 1994, sport has been a unifying force in South Africa. A dedicated focus was placed on transforming this sector to ensure equitable access to sporting opportunities.

Minister Muthambi said: “It is this type of tournament that unearthed players like Kaizer Chiefs defender, Eric “Tower” Mathoho who was spotted by coach, Owen Da Gama when playing for an amateur team, Tshiombo FC in Limpopo’s Vhembe District. Remarkable players that you watch on TV playing for the big teams in the Premier Soccer League (PSL) have started their career from a grassroots level like the SAB league.”

“Today as I speak, the SAB league unearthed some of the bigger names including Reneilwe Letsholonyane, Innocent Mdledle, Lucas Thwala, Kagisho Dikgacoi, Eleazar Rodgers and Ayanda Dlamini to mention but a few. Those who follow football will agree with me that in 2012: COPA Coca-Cola changed to a U/15 football tournament,” concluded the Minister.