

VOLUME 2 | 2012

JUSTICE TODAY

The Magazine of the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development

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POSITIVE PROGRESS
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**NEW PALM RIDGE COURT
BRINGS JUSTICE SERVICES
CLOSER TO PEOPLE**



the doj & cd

Department:
Justice and Constitutional Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STAND TOGETHER FOR RIGHTS

Juayela i Justice

BILL OF RIGHTS

1. EQUALITY

Everyone is equal before the law and may not be discriminated against.

2. HUMAN DIGNITY

Everyone has a basic human dignity which must be respected.

3. LIFE

Everyone has the right to life.

4. FREEDOM AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

You may not be physically detained without trial or abused in any way.

5. SLAVERY, SERVITUDE AND FORCED LABOUR

You may never be subjected to slavery or forced labour.

6. PRIVACY

Your right to privacy includes your body, home and possessions.

7. FREEDOM OF RELIGION, BELIEF AND OPINION

You have the right to think, believe and worship however you may choose.

8. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

You have the right to say, read and study whatever you choose but hate speech is not allowed.

9. ASSEMBLY, DEMONSTRATION, PICKETT AND PETITION

You have the right to peacefully assemble, demonstrate and protest.

10. FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

You have the right to associate with anyone.

11. POLITICAL RIGHTS

You may form a political party, run for office and vote for any party in free and fair elections.

12. CITIZENSHIP

No citizen may be deprived of citizenship.

13. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND RESIDENCE

You have the right to enter and leave the Republic at will.

14. FREEDOM OF TRADE, OCCUPATION AND PROFESSION

You have the right to choose any legal trade or occupation freely.

15. LABOUR RELATIONS

Every worker and employer has the right to organise and negotiate to further their aims.

16. ENVIRONMENT

You have the right to live in a protected, healthy environment.

17. PROPERTY

No-one may be deprived of property, except in terms of law of general application.

18. HOUSING

You have the right to access adequate housing.

19. HEALTH CARE, FOOD, WATER AND SOCIAL SECURITY

You have the right to health care, adequate food and water and social security.

20. CHILDREN

Every child has the right to a name, nationality and protection from abuse and exploitation.

21. EDUCATION

You have the right to a basic education in the official language of your choice.

22. LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

You have the right to use the language of your choice and practise your own culture.

23. CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES

You have the right to form, join and maintain cultural, linguistic and religious grouping of your own choice.

24. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

You may access any information held by the state for the protection of your rights.

25. JUST ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

You have the right to administrative action that is lawful, reasonable and fair.

26. ACCESS TO COURTS

You have the right to resolve legal disputes in a court or another impartial tribunal.

27. ARRESTED, DETAINED AND ACCUSED PERSONS

When arrested, you have the right to remain silent, to be brought before a court within 48 hours and the right to legal representation.

Note: All these rights can be limited if it is fair to do so. For more information, see Chapter 2 of the new Constitution.
ALL THESE LAWS ARE SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF THE LAND, BUT APPLY TO ALL WHO LIVE IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

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Editorial



Luyanda Makapela | Editor

It is that time, once again, that I get to interact with you and give a broad update on the progress made in terms of initiatives related to corporate governance undertaken by our department.

In this edition, themed "Good Governance," you will have a glimpse of how our department, has been dealing with issues of governance in an effort to have a relatively effective and efficient organisation which is one of government's key objectives.

Promoting efficient administration and accountability on the Third Party Funds (TPF) has been at the core of putting our house in order. As a result, the department had an opportunity to brief the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) on the significant progress made with regards to better management of Third Party Funds. This is a consequence of the hard work,

dedication and commitment towards obtaining an unqualified audit in this area.

This edition will also share highlights on the department's continued efforts in fighting fraud and corruption within its ranks, whilst giving you in-depth information on the internal clean-up team that has since been working tirelessly to speed up matters of fraud and corruption.

In the Eastern Cape Regional Office alone, investigations uncovered alleged fraud cases involving 54 newly-appointed staff members who have submitted fraudulent resettlement claims.

You will also get to know about the great work done by the North West Regional Office in fighting fraud and corruption. In a joint effort with the South African Police Services (SAPS), the office has uncovered fraudulent activities that amounted to

over R860 000 in two of the magistrate courts in the region.

Great strides have also been made in the Mpumalanga Region in speeding payments of maintenance monies as well as the management of Third Party Funds. The maintenance project, introduced in August 2011, ensured that beneficiaries are paid within 24 to 48 hours after their monies have been received by the department.

Through the maintenance turnaround strategy, the department introduced this project to pay maintenance money directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts making use of Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) system.

Lastly, as it is the norm, don't forget to unwind and challenge your mental power in filling our crossword puzzle for this month. Till we interact again, Enjoy!! ■

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From Left: Chief Operations Officer Dr Khotso De Wee, Director-General Ms Nonkululeko Sindane and Acting Chief Financial Officer Mr Johan Johnson during a post Scopa media briefing in Parliament recently.

JUSTICE RECORDS POSITIVE PROGRESS ON THIRD PARTY FUNDS.

Luyanda Makapela

Historical and current challenges in the proper administration and accountability on the Third Party Funds (TPF) will soon be a thing of the past as the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is working tirelessly to clean up this account.

In response to commitments made to Parliament and oversight authorities, the department requested to brief the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) on the progress made in the management of Third Party Funds.

Enhancing TPF and adherence to clean governance for this account was clearly articulated by Minister Jeff Radebe in his December 2009 directive that all department's accounts need to obtain clean audits.

Addressing the media during the post Cabinet briefing in August, Director-General Nonkululeko Sindane said the

department has initiated a turn-around strategy after the non-presentation of credible financial statements and receiving disclaimed audit opinions on the financial management of Third Party Funds.

"The aim of this turn-around project focuses mainly on credible baseline financial reporting, training, business process reviews to enhance service delivery and legislative review to enhance governance," explained the director-general.

Ms Sindane indicated that the turn-around strategy was further occasioned by the fact that the department did not submit annual financial statements on TPF, and in instances where it submitted, those statements were disclaimed.

"This posed a huge challenge for the justice vote account, as a disclaimer or qualification in the TPF resulted in the

qualification of the overall justice vote account," she clarified.

The director-general pointed out that the non-delivery of financial statements could be attributed to an over-stretched administrative system supporting the TPF environment as well as uncertainty on the appropriate financial reporting framework.

With the turn-around strategy in place, Ms Sindane explained that the department has now successfully concluded the financial statements for 2009/10 and 2010/11 respectively, and were presented to the Auditor-General. This includes a review and a recording of nearly 40 million transactions.

In consultation with the Office of the Accountant-General of the National Treasury, and the Accounting Standards Board, the department concluded a financial reporting framework which



From left: Ministry Spokesperson Advocate Mthunzi Mhaga, Chief Operations Officer Dr Khotso De Wee, Director-General Ms Nonkululeko Sindane, and Director: Third Party Funds, Mr Nico Van Harmelen.

defines the reporting requirements. Through this process, the department managed to deliver financial statements for each of the 474 courts and 11 state attorney offices countrywide.

By concluding the financial statements per court, Ms Sindane said the department is now able to direct its control activities and interventions to the identified courts with shortfalls. "The basis for investigation of shortfalls will be a review and justification of the reported beneficiary liability," alluded Ms Sindane.

To enhance service delivery, the department has further initiated a court level electronic payment system where beneficiaries are now receiving the maintenance monies directly into their bank accounts.

135 courts
102 000
beneficiaries

This system is currently being deployed in 135 courts and 102 000 beneficiaries are now receiving their monies within 24 to 48 hours after identification of deposits within the Third Party Funds.

"Our priority is to pay maintenance monies timely and accurately to the beneficiaries who are generally minor children and people living with disabilities. The aim of the service delivery improvements is for people

to spend less time in queues and that contributes towards poverty alleviation," the director general explained.

She encouraged maintenance beneficiaries to open bank accounts so they can receive their monies directly.

Ms Sindane is confident that the department is ready to submit the financial statements for 2011/12, and awaits the audit outcome for the financial statements of the prior years. "This will inform a need for final technical adjustment to be effected and I am confident that the technical work concluded on these accounts will be the basis to clear the only qualification of the vote we have," remarked Ms Sindane.

68 CASES
OF FRAUD
=R2.6 million

R2.1 MILLION
RECOVERED

In ensuring that incidents of misappropriation of funds are dealt with in the TPF, during the 2011/12 financial year, the department has investigated 68 cases of fraud and corruption involving R2.6 million. Out of this amount, R2.1 million has since been recovered and over R530 000 is still outstanding and the recovery process is ongoing. Other interventions introduced to improve the management of TPF include

additional staff appointments, training and development, implementation of internal control measures and technology, and technical guidance from the National Treasury.

The department is confident that it will clear the audit qualification on TPF whilst new efficiency measures are introduced including additional services channels, Lean management practices, in ensuring enhanced service delivery and accountability. ■



Above: Director-General Ms Nonkululeko and, below: Acting Chief Financial Officer Johan Johnson during a media briefing in Parliament recently.





MANAGEMENT OF THIRD PARTY FUNDS AND MAINTENANCE MONIES.

WHAT ARE **THIRD PARTY FUNDS**?

Third Party Funds (TPF) refer to monies received on behalf of maintenance beneficiaries, court fines, bail monies, deeds transfers and debt collections on behalf of government, and all other monies paid into courts. This account, administered by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development,

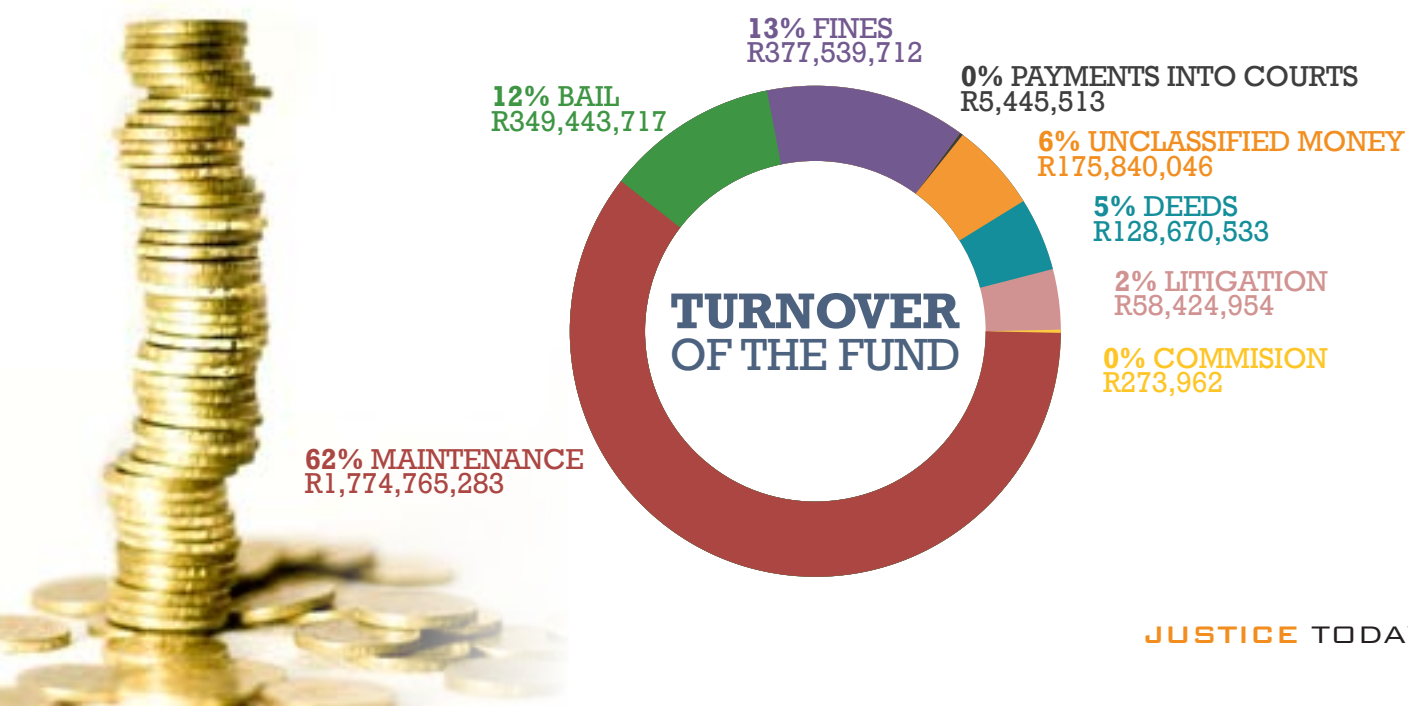
receives these monies from the 474 courts and 11 state attorney offices across the country. These monies are collected in terms of Maintenance Act, Criminal Procedure Act, and Magistrates Court Act.

WHAT **MONIES** ARE KEPT IN THIRD PARTY FUNDS?

- Maintenance beneficiary monies (local and foreign),
- Fines collected on behalf of government institutions (national, provincial, local and other authorities),
- Bail monies
- Payments into court
- Debts collected on behalf of government institutions through the State Attorney and deeds transfers

WHAT IS THE **TURNOVER** OF THE FUND?

The department collects and pays approximately R3 billion per year, broken down as follows:



WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES IN HANDLING TPF MONIES?


- Unreferenced deposits. This refers to monies paid into the fund without proper referencing
- Shortages created by theft, corruption and accounting errors
- Cash collections and payments
- Limited electronic transactions

WHAT EFFICIENCY MEASURES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED?

- Decentralisation of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) payments to individual courts
- Creditable accounting and financial performance information
- Enhanced operational efficiency
- Expanded and focused human resource capacity
- Facilitated training programme

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE RESULTS?

- Produced financial statements for all courts for 2009/11 and 2010/2011 financial year
- Development of financial accounting framework for the TPF
- About 87 percent of maintenance beneficiaries receive their money through the electronic funds transfer system
- A number of officials have been trained and the turnaround time for payment of maintenance monies has been improved.



JUSTICE OFFICIAL CONVICTED FOR THEFT AND FRAUD.

Benson Ntlatleng

A collaborative effort between the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (Western Cape Regional Office), National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and South African Police Services (SAPS), made a breakthrough in securing a conviction against Ms Lorraine Theron, a Senior Administrative Clerk at Clanwilliam Magistrate's Office. Ms Theron was sentenced to eight (8) years behind bars for stealing an amount of R565 000 from the Magistrate's Office.

The money embezzled by Ms Theron forms part of the department's Third Party Funds (TPF). Ms Theron substituted beneficiaries' banking details with hers and was thus able to transfer the money directly into her

bank account. This, however, did not affect beneficiaries in any way as the public received their money timely.

Ms Theron's corrupt activities were discovered in May 2012 and the department suspended her and her supervisor Ms Wilna Fredericks with immediate effect and laid charges of fraud and theft with the SAPS. Ms Fredericks was charged with Gross Financial Misconduct in that she wilfully mismanaged the finances of the department during the period 2007-2012.

During this period Ms Fredericks failed to fulfil her duties as a checking officer of the Clanwilliam Magistrate's Office resulting in a loss of approximately R565 000.00. The presiding officer found her guilty on this charge and the

sentence is expected within a month.

A Regional Investigative Task Team led by the Regional Head, Adv Mohamed and the Court Operations Director, Mr Manuel was instituted to probe the extent of this fraudulent activity which led to a report handed to the SAPS and the NPA.

The matter was reported in May 2012 and a successful conviction at the Clanwilliam Regional Court on 14 September 2012.

Ms Theron was sentenced to an effective eight (8) years direct imprisonment and an additional four (4) years suspended for a period of five (5) years, subject to her not being convicted of a similar offence within

that period. The court also granted a confiscation order of R52 500 in favour of the National Director of Public Prosecutions, being the value of half her share in her house. The department also froze her pension.

“Thanks to the good working relationship within the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster Departments including the National Prosecuting Authority and the Asset Forfeiture Unit in their commitment to root out and combat corruption in the civil service, the matter was dealt with expeditiously within a period of

four months,” said the Regional Head Hishaam Mohamed.

There were no other officials involved in this activity and the department has already appointed a new court manager, Mr Simphiwe Mkhumbuzi, to take the responsibility of managing the Clanwilliam Magistrate’s Office. The staff of this office was re-trained on financial management at the regional Finance Training in August 2012, including the staff from other courts in the Region.

The Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Direct programme is also being

implemented in all courts and will further strengthen and enhance financial management and control of Third Party Funds. The fight against fraud and corruption within the Criminal Justice System is part of Government’s Programme of Action as outlined in the JCPS Cluster Delivery Agreement for Outcome 3.

“Corruption in the courts will not be tolerated, even if officials resign the department will continue with criminal action to ensure criminal conviction and recovery of all money owed,” concluded Adv Mohamed. ■

JUSTICE ON COURSE IN CURBING CORRUPTION IN EASTERN CAPE.

Nthabiseng Ngwetsana

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is succeeding in its fight against fraud and corruption. An internal clean-up team was set up to strengthen the department’s governance and control systems and with the help of the forensic audit unit, the department has uncovered a lot of fraud and corrupt activities. As a result, measures are being taken to deal with perpetrators who are found guilty of defrauding the system.

In June this year, three (3) departmental officials and three (3) service providers in the Eastern Cape appeared in court on charges of corruption. The officials’ arrests followed an intensive internal investigation into cases of fraud, corruption and mismanagement of funds by some officials in the province’s regional office.

Investigations uncovered alleged fraud cases involving 54 newly-appointed staff members who have fraudulently

submitted resettlement claims for services rendered by removal companies (who are in the database of the department’s service providers) to ferry their belongings although the services were, in fact, not provided.

Various cases were registered and investigated against the service providers, identified staff as well as provisioning officers in the department. To date, ten (10) officials have been dismissed following disciplinary proceedings while four (4) officials opted to resign. The legal services unit of the Eastern Cape Regional Office has been requested to prepare reports on recoveries from departmental officials as far as pension benefits are concerned. The monies will therefore be recovered from relevant officials, even if they have resigned or retired.

Forensic Audit Director, Mr Paul Nel had this to say: “This must also serve as a warning to those officials who are

considering defrauding the department and suppliers who are considering approaching departmental officials in order to try and pull off similar scams. Criminal investigations are on-going and we trust that there will be more arrests soon.”

The Hawks, the South African Police Services (SAPS), the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) have been working closely together in this case. Mr Nel said the findings in Eastern Cape illustrate the department’s commitment in fighting corruption. This is part of the broader work of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster, which is to rid government of corruption.

Apart from civil recovery proceedings, all the relevant matters have also been reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Asset Forfeiture Unit in the Eastern Cape. ■

BIDDING FAREWELL TO A PIONEER AND A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE.

Nthabiseng Ngwetsana



Ms Brigitte Shabalala pictured in her office.

Five years into the teaching profession, Ms Brigitte Shabalala realised that the job was not challenging enough for her. Armed with gusto and curiosity, Mme Brigitte, as affectionately known by some, went out in pursuit of a career that she would deem gratifying.

Little did she know that her passion would see her sending work e-mails at 3am, being hailed as an envoy of good governance in KwaZulu Natal (KZN) and, as it is the case now, retiring as the KZN regional head of the Department of Justice and

Constitutional Development after a 33 year career path.

In December 1981, Ms Shabalala joined the department working at the Madadeni Magistrate's Court, and a year later applied for a bursary to study law at the University of Zululand obtaining a Dip. Iuris in 1983 and a B. Iuris respectively.

Those who have worked with her describe Ms Shabalala as being energetic and hands-on leader. "You cannot trick her, she knows everything about courts and you cannot come up with feeble excuses," says Ms Elizabeth Sithole, a court

official from the region.

There is a logical explanation as to why Ms Shabalala knows the court system like the back of her hand. "I have 30 years' experience working in the court system ranging from being a clerk; a district public prosecutor; regional public prosecutor; legal admin director; chief director in the promotion of the rights of vulnerable groups and lastly, the KZN regional head," she attests.

However, Ms Shabalala is the first to admit that she is a perfectionist, "I believe in doing things right in the first attempt because time is money. Proper planning

is key and I also believe in the principle of obedience as it comes with punctuality. I have over the years made it my business to arrive at the office at 7am instead of 07h47. I have noticed a number of managers and officials who have since tried to beat me to it by arriving on or before 7am at the office every day and I usually marvel at this impressive attitude," she acclaims.

THE AWARD WINNING FEMALE LEADER

Often woman leaders are undermined for being soft and, have to work twice as hard as their male counterparts in order to be taken seriously by subordinates and associates. As one of the few female regional heads, Ms Shabalala says she has never doubted her abilities to lead on the basis of being a woman.

She explains: "I have stuck to my female trait of being a nurturer because relationships determine the kind of leader that you are. In the beginning, there were people who thought this position was too big for me. It had a lot to do with me being a woman and being black. I am convinced that many of those people are singing a different tune today.

As a manager, she explains further, one cannot afford to be in a popularity contest. She said people should know, from day one, that "you are principled, fair and that you have their best interest at heart. I believe that soft skills are critical for a successful organisation. There is a saying that people will forget what you said but they will always remember how you made them feel."

It was in mid-July this year when corridors were filled with talks of Ms Shabalala's retirement and the Emlazi Magistrate's Court was no different. At a meeting July at the Emlazi Magistrate's Court where both Ms Shabalala and Director-General Ms Nonkululeko Sindane attended, the news of her retirement again came up to which the director-general humorously responded by saying; "I do not know anything about her leaving, but I know we cannot lose someone like her," indicative that her contribution was highly valued by her colleagues and her principals held her in high esteem.



Awarding excellence: Ms Brigitte Shabalala during an award ceremony in the KwaZulu Natal region.

In the year 2011, the CEO Magazine SA recognised Ms Shabalala as the "Most Influential Woman in Business and Government" in the Government/ Public Sector category, an experience that she regards as humbling as she was nominated by the director-general. "The judging process was very stringent because it was a national competition, I will never forget the day when I was announced as the winner. I worked hard over the years and I deserved it," says Ms Shabalala.

A CHAMPION FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

In 1999 when she realised that the state of service delivery in the child maintenance system was not up to scratch, Ms Shabalala was part of the Operation Isondlo campaign. She also participated in radio programmes, assisted in giving out information to the communities, all this in an effort to encourage men to support their children.

The project entailed conducting an audit of all maintenance files at the country's courts, including calling beneficiaries in defunct files, reviving files where complainants had abandoned their claims due to the lack of confidence in the maintenance system and strengthening partnership with the judiciary. The project resulted in significant improvement in maintenance matters.

Today, Ms Shabalala speaks of this project with a strong sense of achievement. "This is my baby. I hope the department

doesn't kill it when I leave. It is a touching lives programme, we have traced and united a number of children with their parents."

"This is also a poverty alleviation programme and through civil execution, millions of rands are placed in the hands of families and children who are dependent on the maintenance system in a form of attachment of arrears and ensuring future maintenance from defaulting parents, she emphasised. The programme is still running in the Western Cape and in KwaZulu Natal."

Ms Shabalala's retirement left many with a sense of ambivalence. Deputy Minister Andries Nel expressed this during a farewell function held in her honour in August in Durban North. "When I heard that she was retiring, I was shocked as she does not look like she has reached retirement age. It is sad that the department is losing someone who has done so much with little resources. KZN is one the best performing regions, Ms Shabalala is leaving big shoes to fill," the deputy minister said.

Apart from her impeccable leadership skills, being innovative ranks high as one of her qualities. The introduction of rapid response and operational teams has proved to be an excellent plan for the province as court managers have been trained in all kinds of court operations including financial management. This has made them more involved and empowered them as managers.

The same teams have led to much improved audit reports as reflected by Pre Audit Blitz Kriegs.

Although most people sing Ms Shabalala's praises, it is clear that she is not the one to bask in her glory but gives credit where it is due. Six (6) years ago, she started the KwaZulu Natal Annual Performance Awards for justice officials and managers. Ms Shabalala points out that this initiative is one of her highlights in the department. "This is the highlight of every year in the region and officials work hard with the hope of winning an award," she remarked.

"Categories such as the Service Delivery Innovation Award and the People Management and Empowerment Award have made our managers and officials to be passionate about finding solutions for our challenges. In this way, we have learnt to do more with less using our most valuable resources that is - our officials," she explains.

A FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM AND MOTHER

During a farewell function attended by Minister Jeff Radebe, Deputy Minister Andries Nel, KwaZulu Natal Judge President Chiman Patel, colleagues and family members, speakers spoke of Ms Shabalala as a dedicated mother figure, a passionate leader and a result driven but kind regional head.

The question is; what reflections does she have of herself and what has kept her going for so many years? "My birth sign is a Leo, so what you see is what you get. I am a true servant. I learnt very early in life that you should never ever look down on the next person because you don't know God's divine purpose about their lives. Be humble at all times."

Ms Shabalala has become a fountain of wisdom in the department and she attributes that to being rooted in the Lord. "The Bible says the fear of God is the beginning of all wisdom. I have become grounded in the Lord and my experience in the workplace has become proof that nothing is impossible with God," she says.

Even though many of her colleagues see her as a mother figure, there are those who have a biological right of



The entire Shabalala Family, from left: Jabulani, Khumbu, Mbali, Phumzile, Mme Brigitte, her first grandchild, Mpho and Busisiwe

calling her uMama at home. "I have five (5) beautiful grown up children and four (4) grandchildren who are very close to my heart. Die 'laat lammetjie' (youngest child) is in her final year of study at university.

It is the youngest child, Mbali, who spoke candidly on behalf of her siblings during the farewell function. "If there is anyone who is excited about her retirement it's her children. We are glad that we would finally have her to ourselves. We were literally born into the Department of Justice and most of our childhood pictures depict us in marches with her," said the lively Mbali.

She spoke of a mother who has lived most of her life working and serving people but not falling short of being a great mother. "She would be writing e-mails at 3am, when she is travelling, she would help us do our homework over the phone and bring us goodies upon her return," said Mbali, who also let out that her mother will be concentrating on her 'core calling' with an organisation known as Call to Serve.

MESSAGE TO WOMEN IN THE DEPARTMENT

In August, *Justice Today* saw it befitting to ask Ms Shabalala to encourage women in the department and, like the true servant she is, she gladly obliged by saying, "To the women in the department, know that you were born for a time such as this one, for you to make an impact in the public service.

It does not matter what position you hold in the department, be the best that you

can be. Remember that God will never promote you to the next level unless you perfect your act where you are. May the Almighty God richly bless you!"

Minister Radebe attested to the pioneering spirit that Ms Shabalala is renowned for. "We will remember her for her contribution to the advancement of gender equality and social justice in the department and the public service. She has displayed passion to women empowerment, children's rights and an activist of note who took justice services to rural areas, a task that has gained her respect beyond borders of KZN," said the minister.

Guests at the farewell function were enticed by the minister's explanation of the name "Brigitte". "It is an Irish name that means power, strength and vigour. It is a name of a goddess of agriculture. I happen to agree with the Irish in their definition and looking at Ms Shabalala it is no coincidence that she shares a name with my beautiful wife," he concluded. ■



Mme Brigitte leading a march to unite children with their fathers through Operation Isondlo

NORTH WEST IS WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION.

Isaac Mokaila



Uprooting fraud and corruption in the North West, Regional Head Mr Tsietsi Malema

North West Regional Office has made huge strides in fighting fraud and corruption. In a joint effort with the South African Police Services (SAPS), the office has uncovered fraudulent activities that amounted to over R860 000 in two of the North West magistrate courts.

North West Regional Head, Mr Tsietsi Malema said fraud and corruption are symptoms of a cancer that needs to be rooted out at an early stage. "I am happy that we have dealt accordingly with cases of financial misconduct," said Mr Malema.

This is as a result of investigations by the police and the Hawks which led to dismissals of five officials at the Bafokeng Magistrate's Court cash hall, after they pleaded guilty to defrauding the department of R654 703.77, remarked to the regional head.

Criminal cases have since been opened against the five suspects, while labour relations have motivated for arrests to be made. In addition to criminal cases, civil cases have also been opened for the recovery of stolen funds from the department.

In another case, six officials at the Swaruggens Magistrate's Court were suspended for theft and fraud three of them have since tendered resignations. Mr Malema stressed that even after resigning, the disciplinary hearing against these officials has been concluded and sanctions on these matters are being finalised. These cases included stealing of maintenance and bail monies, admission of guilt, fines as well as Central Electronic Funds Transfer

Unit (CEFTU), all of which added to R212 700.00," he explained. North West Legal Services Director, Ms Raesibe Tladi thanked staff members, court and area court managers and the labour relations unit for working hard to root out fraud and corruption in courts while ensuring that culprits face the full might of the law.

"We can't have a situation where kids go to bed with empty stomach due to some staff members stealing their maintenance money. We will continue ensuring that our personnel, especially labour relations attend courses aimed at capacitating to deal with these shortfalls," said Ms Tladi.

She added that recently, the labour relations personnel attended a five day course offered by the University of Pretoria, and further assured that the North West Region will continue providing training on grievance procedure and misconduct management to supervisors, area court and court managers.

Cluster Head of the Judiciary, Ms Johanna Ikaneng mentioned that some of the reasons leading to escalating cases of corruption are as a result of people who live above their means and end up looking at ways of supplementing their income. "About 99 percent of the financial problems we have are of our own making and we cannot be defrauding government at an expense of vulnerable people," Ms Ikaneng stated.

She mentioned that at times people appreciate the service that civil servants render to them and want to give

employees something back as a token of appreciation. Ms Ikaneng has this to say to the employees: "Tell them you can't accept it as you are merely doing what you have been employed to do. They will respect you for that, but if you take it, they will go out and say to the next person, you know he/she took my last R10 and I don't even have money to buy bread for my children, that small money has a huge impact in our people's lives."

Ms Ikaneng further explained that fraud and corruption carry a heavy sentence of a minimum 15 years imprisonment. She applauded those officials who are not involved in corrupt activities.

The region has recently received information regarding some officials who are exhorting money from members of the public in exchange for favours to expedite divorce matters. Mr Malema alluded that currently, the information at their disposal points to prevalence of incidents at the Vryburg and Mogwase Magistrate's Courts. "We will certainly get to the bottom of the allegations and responsible officials will face the full might of the law," he added. Internal investigations are ongoing and criminal cases have also been opened.

Whistleblowers are urged to come forward and report this malpractice and they can do so by reporting to court managers or by calling this number

0800 701701

TOLL FREE NUMBER

Every call will be treated with confidentiality and protection. ■

MPUMALANGA ON COURSE FOR SPEEDY MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS.

Neo Nhlapho & Glory Msungwa

The Mpumalanga Regional Office has undertaken an initiative that aims to address concerns on the maintenance payments and Third Party Funds management. This project was prompted as a result of complaints from beneficiaries who often experienced delays in payments due to processes that were previously in place.

The primary objective of the project, introduced in August 2011, is to ensure that beneficiaries are paid within 24 to 48 hours after their monies have been received by the department. Through the maintenance turnaround strategy, the department introduced this project to pay maintenance money directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts making use of Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) system.

This is in line with Department of Justice and Constitutional Development Strategic Plan 2012/17, which identified

maintenance funds administered on behalf of children.

With this project as an initiative of good governance in the Mpumalanga region, the department has decided to make sure that beneficiaries receive high quality service, put organisational values into practice and make sure that an effective risk management system is in operation. This further ensures the development of capability of officials through training in relation to the system.

Good governance assures that corruption is minimised, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society. The department then has a responsibility of enforcing the law, particularly protecting the rights of vulnerable groups such as women and children.

"In Mpumalanga, our understanding of good governance within the public sector is the way in which public servants take decisions, implement policies and engage with stakeholders whereby there is a greater focus on the outcomes in the delivery of services to the users or beneficiaries," explained Ms Shakwane, adding that the department has appointed maintenance investigators which makes it easy to track all the beneficiaries.

According to the Third Party Funds Deputy Director, Mr Musa Mazibuko, offices are now able to update the Justice Deposit Account System (JDAS) - a system used to administer court finances including maintenance) to capture names, dates and time immediately using workflow cover sheet. This enables the supervisor to monitor the activities of the capturers and the verifiers in preparing transactions.



Mbombela Magistrate Office EFT Team

maintenance services as one of the key departmental priorities. EFT decentralisation project is about good governance in terms of management of Third Party Funds (TPF), whereby beneficiaries receive their monies speedily and with lesser risk involved within the department. With this system, beneficiaries receive their money directly into their bank accounts. Around 80 percent of the Third Party Funds managed by the department are

The Director of Finance, Ms Caroline Shakwane, who is leading the project with the assistance of area court managers and court managers in the region, said there is a planned schedule for offices in the rolling out of such training. Training is offered in making sure that internal control processes are not neglected, including the appointments in writing (capturer, verifier and authoriser) to officials that are supposed to effect payments.



Mpumalanga Finance Director, Ms Caroline Shakwane

"With the support that the national and the regional team offers to TPF staff in courts, we are able to curb the challenges," uttered Mr Mazibuko.

A team of officials dealing with maintenance payment at the Mbombela Magistrate's Court in Nelspruit noted that the benefits include no transport costs for beneficiaries who should be collecting their money. It has also been noted that there are no long queues

experienced at the court as well as the fact that beneficiaries are no longer bound to sit in court for hours to collect their money.

Within the Mpumalanga Province, the following offices have rolled out the EFT system: Mbombela; Nsikazi; Kwa-Mhlanga; Amersfoort; Evander; Balfour; Mdutjana; Mhala; Mapulaneng; Mkobola; Barbeton; Piet Retief; Emalahleni and Mbibana.

There are certain offices in the province that are still lagging behind with implementing the project. It is however, estimated that the project will be fully implemented by December 2012 in the outstanding areas such as Belfast; Morgenzon; Waterval Boven; Wakkerstroom; Bethal; Amsterdam; Kriel, Breyten;

Ermelo; Delmas; Hendrina; Moutse; Groblersdal; Middelburg; Caroline; Lydenburg; White River; Graskop; Volksrust; Eerstehoek; Sabie and Nkomazi.

As at the end of June 2012, the region had managed to make successful maintenance payments of an estimated amount of R20 million since the project was implemented during August last year.

Ms Shakwane stressed that the team will strive to roll out to all offices so as to improve service delivery, as these efforts will help to meet the basic needs and promote rights of vulnerable groups such as children and women. ■

NEW PALM RIDGE COURT BRINGS JUSTICE SERVICES CLOSER TO PEOPLE.

Benson Ntlatleng



The Palm Ridge Magistrate's Court that was recently opened by Minister Jeff Radebe

Communities of the Alberton magisterial district in the Ekurhuleni metro have been honoured with the opening of the new Palm Ridge Magistrate's Court as a continuous pursuit of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to bring justice services closer to people.

Unveiling the Palm Ridge Magistrate's Court in August 2012, Minister Jeff Radebe said; "It is with great honour that I stand before you today on this occasion. We have converged here today just a stone's throw from the old historic town of Alberton which celebrated its centenary in 2005, to come and witness the expansion of our court infrastructure in our quest to take justice to the people."

Sharing a word of support, Judge President Mlambo applauded the justice ministry for bringing this facility closer to people. "The department has been decisive in ensuring that a facility of this magnitude is located where it is needed, in Palm Ridge. These courts were previously inaccessible and located in the so called white areas," he said.

nearer to the community. I still believe the court will make a difference as people will no longer have to travel long distances to access justice services.

She said previously, the community had to travel from Palm Ridge to Alberton and in most cases, "we don't have money for transport, so it was costly for us." Other major constructions which have



Above: Minister Jeff Radebe emphasising a point when addressing residents of Ekurheleni



Above: Ms Nozuko Simayile, a resident of Palm Ridge raising her concerns at the Imbizo

The Palm Ridge Magistrate's Court valued at R220 million, forms part of the department's infrastructure programme. It consists of 33 court rooms and will adjudicate not only on criminal and civil cases, but also hear cases on family and small claims matters.

The facility consists of three (3) large cash halls for payment of maintenance monies and 25 separate holding cells which will cater for males, females and juvenile detainees. "Of significance is that this court will not only hear matters falling under the jurisdiction of the district and regional courts, but will also serve as a circuit court for the South Gauteng High Court," explained Minister Radebe.

Accompanying Minister Radebe were Deputy Minister Andries Nel, Gauteng Judge President Dunstan Mlambo, Gauteng Community Safety MEC, Ms Faith Mazibuko, members of the Justice Portfolio Committee, members of the judiciary, senior officials in the department and representatives of the Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster. Ekurhuleni Mayoral Committee Member for Community Safety Mr Mthuthuzeli Sibozza, and local councillors also attended the event.

Gauteng Community Safety MEC, Ms Mazibuko, indicated that the opening of Palm Ridge Magistrate's Court will help address challenges faced by government in relation to the conviction of perpetrators of crime. "With the opening of this institution, our communities will be assisted in accessing justice easily and quickly," she said.

Expressing her sentiments, Gauteng Regional Head, Ms Emily Dhlamini said, "I am delighted to have this official opening as it is not only the official opening of an ordinary court, but the first model court in the country, with a number of court rooms and a combination of district, regional and high courts."

The facility, which also serves as One-Stop Child Justice Centre will accommodate all stakeholders within justice such as the Departments of Correctional Services and Social Development. It also boasts consulting rooms - next to court rooms - for attorneys in instances where they want to consult with the accused persons.

Ms Nozuko Simayile, a member of the community had this to say: "We are very grateful about the court as it is now

been completed include the magistrate's courts in Tsakane and Kagiso in Gauteng, and Ntuzuma in KwaZulu-Natal.

Minister Radebe also took the opportunity to mention some major reforms that are currently underway aimed at improving the processing and management of cases through the criminal and civil justice value chain. This includes the integrated case solution that entails the electronic transmission of docket information from the South African Police Services (SAPS) to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and the transmission of case outcomes back to SAPS.

Activities of the day included a performance by a young talented guitarist Rethabile. Mr Vuyo Mbuli, a seasoned television presenter, was a programme director for the day and shared his views in relation to the opening of the court. "Congratulations to Palm Ridge on this facility, it is a facility that represents the journey travelled, the steps taken and the difference it seeks to ensure that the wheels of justice are accessible to all members of communities wherever they are," said Mr Mbuli. ■

WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT CELEBRATE PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK.

Benson Ntlatleng



From Left to Right: Internal Communication Director Ms Nomusa Mngadi, KwaZulu Natal Legal Services Director Ms Pat Moodley, KwaZulu Natal Regional Head Ms Brigitte Shabalala, Acting National Director of Public Prosecutions, Adv Nomgcobo Jiba, Director-General Ms Nonkululeko Sindane and Motivational Speaker Ms Ashanti Archer-Ngidi.

The national office was a buzz when women in senior management converged to celebrate Public Service Women Management Week. The event, hosted by the department's Internal Communication, was held late August in Pretoria.

Launched in 2007, Public Service Women Management Week primarily aims to assess progress made by government in the implementation of the Head of Department's eight (8) Principle Action Plan, for Promoting Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality within the Public Service.

During the month of August, the directors-general or heads of departments are expected to engage with women senior managers to assess progress made in implementing these principles.

In her brief opening remarks, Director-General Ms Nonkululeko Sindane paid homage to South African women who have achieved to the highest level. She singled out the former Home Affairs Minister and the new African Union Commissioner Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. "I just want to pay homage to Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma for making South African women proud as she is here to guide us, I'm very honoured to have served under her government," she said.

Among the people who attended the event were Acting National Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Nomgcobo Jiba, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) Acting Chief Executive Officer

(CEO) Ms Karen van Rensburg and her deputy, Ambassador Beryl Sisulu, as well as officials from all regional offices.

Ms Sindane acknowledged the contribution made by women, not only in the justice department, but in government and the country in general, especially women from Marikana, in the North West, where a number of people died as a result of the strike action.

She reminded women that championing the Bill of Rights, the rule of law, the Constitution and the sovereignty of government is not a challenge and responsibility for the faint-hearted. "We were chosen because we have to ensure that we bring dignity to the lives of South Africans," she said, while encouraging women to love themselves and celebrate one another's achievements.

In delivering her keynote address, the outgoing KwaZulu-Natal Regional Head, Ms Brigitte Shabalala encouraged leaders to refrain from segregating people of other races but rather make use of their wealth of experience and skills. She called for the development and mentoring of young people who have recently joined the department.

"I am a person who always look for talent and excellence in junior staff as I believe that when one is in senior management, there is no way of knowing what is happening on the ground.

Therefore it is all about building leadership right at the bottom," Ms Shabalala stated.

She further spoke of the rapid response team that was formed in her region comprising of area court managers with the aim of addressing challenges in financial management. Another project she mentioned was Audit "Blitz Kriegs" which she said, "worked wonders". She made an example of one of the courts in her region that was audited, admitting that it was one of the worst courts. "As a result, a lot of work done by the team, it has improved a lot," said Ms Shabalala.

She also indicated that with the implementation of the Blitz Kriegs, a significant progress was made with only one transversal audit query for that office. "The beauty of this exercise is that the team works with resident officials and trains them in the process. That is what you get when you believe in the power of your workforce," Ms Shabalala added.

The regional head acknowledged the great work done by contract workers. She, however, emphasised the importance of developing the workforce within a working environment. Another critical aspect that Ms Shabalala mentioned was inspiration and innovation as she shared with other senior managers how the KwaDukuza Blue Print project saved the department in cutting costs.

Motivational speaker, Ms Ashantewaa Archer-Ngidi also had an opportunity to inspire women. She reiterated the significance of skills transfer and encouraged women to always look for opportunities.. "Don't spend time looking for obstacles, your job is to look for possibilities because you have the competency to look for abundance of solutions," she cautioned.

Ms Archer-Ngidi encouraged women to be purposeful as that will, at the end of the day, make your purpose fulfilled.

One of the delegates who attended the event, Mpumalanga Region Finance Director, Ms Caroline Shakwane had this to say, "I remember last year, around this time, I was so demoralised, I even thought I've made a wrong move by joining the justice family, but today I'm a different person as a result of the support from senior management."

Ms Shakwane is also responsible for Third Party Funds (TPF) in her region and is confident that with the work they have done and improvements made in the area of finance so far, they will definitely not get an audit qualification.

However, the department has not yet reached 50 percent women representation in management positions. To date, the department is sitting at 39 percent and this makes it 11 percent below target.

Human Resource Employee Health and Wellness unit ensured that delegates underwent a health screening conducted by representatives from the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS). Part of the package included HIV/AIDS testing and a financial wellness presentation by Mr Nelson Chauruka.

Ms Pat Moodley, KwaZulu Natal Legal Services Director was the programme director for the day. Besides the music, delegates laughed their lungs out with jokes offered by a talented comedian, Ndumiso Lindi. ■

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT'S 8-PRINCIPLE ACTION PLAN FOR PROMOTING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY WITHIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE WORKPLACE.

The Minister for the Public Service and Administration encourages all Heads of Government Departments to Include the following 8 Principles in their Departmental Action Plans Towards Achieving Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Within the Public Service Workplace.

1. TRANSFORMATION FOR NON-SEXISM Promoting and protecting human dignity and human rights of women, including the rights of Women with Disabilities.	2. ESTABLISHING A POLICY ENVIRONMENT The full implementation of national policies and implementation guidelines on women's empowerment and gender equality through the development of departmental and sector-specific guidelines and standard operating procedures.	3. MEETING EQUITY TARGETS Ensuring women's full participation in decision-making through employment of 50% women at levels of the SMS.	4. CREATING AN ENBALING ENVIRONMENT Putting in place departmental and sector Gender Management Systems, adequate Institutional Mechanisms and dedicated Gender Units.
5. GENDER MAINSTREAMING Incorporating gender perspectives into all work of the Department.	6. EMPOWERMENT Capacity development for women's advancement and gender equality.	7. PROVIDING ADEQUATE RESOURCES Availing adequate human, physical and financial resources for advancing gender equality.	8. ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION Ensuring full responsibility, ownership for and reporting on advancing gender equality within the Public Service.

FORENSIC AUDIT CONTINUES FIGHTING AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION.

Nthabiseng Ngwetsana

In the previous years, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development has been clouded by negative perceptions on fraud and corruption and has since worked hard to improve on areas of good governance – an initiative which is now ranking high on the department's objectives.

In an effort to combat financial irregularities in the public service, the National Treasury requires each government department to have an anti-corruption and fraud prevention plan. Subsequently, the department established its own Forensic Audit Unit in April 2004 to quantify losses, identify fraud trends, control weaknesses, and make recommendations to management and various stakeholders.

In terms of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), the accounting officer of a department (director-general) or constitutional institution must ensure that a department or such an institution maintains efficient, effective and transparent systems of financial, risk management and internal controls. The PFMA also requires the accounting

officer to institute the necessary investigation process if an act of financial misconduct has been committed.

Currently, all cases of fraud and corruption across the public service are reported through the anti-corruption response hotline and are dealt with by the Public Service Commission. A database of cases is established which ensures up-to-date, comprehensive and uniform monthly reporting to relevant stakeholders. The PSC then channels such cases to relevant departments for follow-ups and investigations.

Forensic Audit Director, Mr Paul Nel said, from April 2011 to August 2012, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development has received and investigated 264 cases of fraud, maladministration and corruption, and out of these, 205 cases have been finalised while 59 cases are still pending.

"The department has several options when the symptoms of fraud or corruption are discovered, which include disciplinary action and criminal charges, (where applicable) against identified individuals," said Mr Nel.

He added that even individuals who have resigned can still have criminal charges instituted against them. "In a case where an arrest has to be made, only the South African Police Service can exercise that power in accordance with the Constitution and the Criminal Procedure Act," explained Mr Nel.

Even with these positive outcomes, added Mr Nel, achieving such results has not been an easy task.

The Risk Management Chief Directorate, under which the forensic audit unit falls has identified challenges in ensuring delivery which include filling of vacant posts with required skills, experience and necessary expertise as well as non-compliance to policies and procedures resulting into irregularities.

Lack of training on automated systems resulting in irregularities and the increase on fraud due to the current global financial situation were also identified as shortfalls. These include inadequate salary packages offered to personnel and lack of cooperation by certain senior managers. ■

Forensic Audit statistics and actions taken against officials for April 2011 to August 2012:

PROVINCE	ARRESTS	DISMISSALS	RESIGNATIONS	SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY	FINAL WRITTEN WARNINGS
Eastern Cape	8	18	3	-	-
Gauteng	5	6	2	-	1
KwaZulu Natal	1	-	-	-	-
Western Cape	-	-	1	1	-
Limpopo	-	3	-	-	-
Free State	-	3	-	-	1
National Office	2	2	-	2	-

According to Mr Nel, the department can do a lot more in curbing the scourge of corruption if all employees adhered to Section 34 of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act (Act 12 of 2004) which states that officials have a duty to report maladministration and corrupt activities.

MALAMULELE COURT PRACTISE BATHO PELE IN SERVING PUBLIC SUCCESSFULLY

Glory Msungwa



Principal Court Interpreter Mr Victor Mabunda and Assistant Court Manager Ms Annah Bilankulu at the entrance of the Malamulele Magistrate's Court

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is committed to serving people with humility and integrity while ensuring that justice is being served. Malamulele Magistrate's Court, in Limpopo, is acclaimed for the good service it renders to the public.

Even though Malamulele Magistrate's Court serves 70 villages, there are no long queues in sight as everyone who enters the court goes through the help desk where their names are registered and immediate assistance is given.

This is an indication that court officials have made it their priority to apply Batho Pele principles in undertaking their duties. When the *Justice Today* team visited the court recently, signage providing directions to relevant offices was clearly visible, the same goes for the parking area and toilets that cater for people with disabilities.

Assistant Court Manager, Ms Annah Bilankulu indicated that the staff at the

court work as a team to serve the public. "As public servants, we have a great responsibility to strengthen the moral of society and serve the public with warmth and humility."

She added: "We contribute in a fundamental way to good governance and we serve the public with interest. We should therefore respect one another in this office from top management to the grounds man." Ms Bilankulu said.

Although they experienced space challenges where the court is using one entrance, including the prosecutors, and has only two courts (A and B), they do their best to meet the public's needs.

Control Officer, Tellinah Halata and Solomon Mkhari, a Batho Pele Principles coordinator reaffirmed that all officials work as a team. "It is our duty as public servants to ensure that programmes are provided effectively without discrimination or prejudice, with transparency and without a waste of resources," he said.

"The public has confidence in us and we try and make sure that we understand all types of people we serve as some are senior citizens who do not understand some of the vocabulary we use," added Mr Halata. He further said that when officials tell the public that the system is down, they always have to explain the meaning of such so that our clients leave the office satisfied and no official leaves the office until every member of the public is served for the day."

Ms Patricia Marunele, from a nearby Makuleke Village, said when she arrived at the court, she read the directions board and got into the court. "I was assisted with the right information as I arrived at the help desk and it was also explained to me that the few people I found there were there for different reasons, so I must not be surprised to see people coming in and out while I remain on the queue, as I came here to apply for a protection order which takes a little longer," said Ms Marunele, adding that it was not for the first time that she visited the court and served with a smile. ■



As part of the Public Service Month, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development's Director-General, Ms Nonkululeko Sindane, EXCO members, senior management, officials and prisoners from the Barberton and Nelspruit Correctional Centres rolled up their sleeves and spring-cleaned one of the service delivery points in the White River Magistrate's Court. The event took place in Mpumalanga on the 28 September 2012.

The visit was prompted by the appalling state of the court that the director-general discovered during her unannounced visit to three courts in the region in August. Out of the three courts, White River was identified as the court that needed immediate intervention.

When Ms Sindane visited White River Magistrate's Court she was dismayed at the sight, that court files, which dated back from 2008, being stored in the same garage that was not locked, leading to unlimited access. The garage which is on the court premises was occupied by a general worker who looks after the court's garden. A lawn mower, a stove, cooking pots, television and bathing basin in the garage were clear signs that it was also used as a house.

The "clean-up" project was conceptualised based on three pillars, physical restoration, people recovery and risk management. Physical restoration entails the refurbishment of furniture, painting, tiling, cleaning of the grounds.

People recovery programme entails getting officials to participate on specific initiatives to improve efficiency, such as document management and risk management. This will ensure improved security measures for both officials and assets of the department, occupational health and safety.

Some of EXCO members came together and donated R10 000 which was used to buy material and equipment to refurbish the White River Magistrate's Court. Other changes include fixing the ceiling, closing up cracks, repainting, putting filing shelves, tagging and neatly filing all the remaining files.

The Department of Correctional Services prepared a three months execution plan on revamping the court. Currently, the offenders are assisting with such renovations at the court. Mpumalanga Regional Head, Mr Mlandela Mhlanga said the project started two weeks ago and thus far they have managed to dispose the files that were in the store

room, and a new fire proof door will be put on the garage soon.

The 2012 Public Service Month was celebrated under the theme "15 years of Batho Pele: Strengthening the Ethos of Batho Pele and Re-commitment towards Efficient, Effective, Development Oriented Public Service and Empowered Citizenry." ■



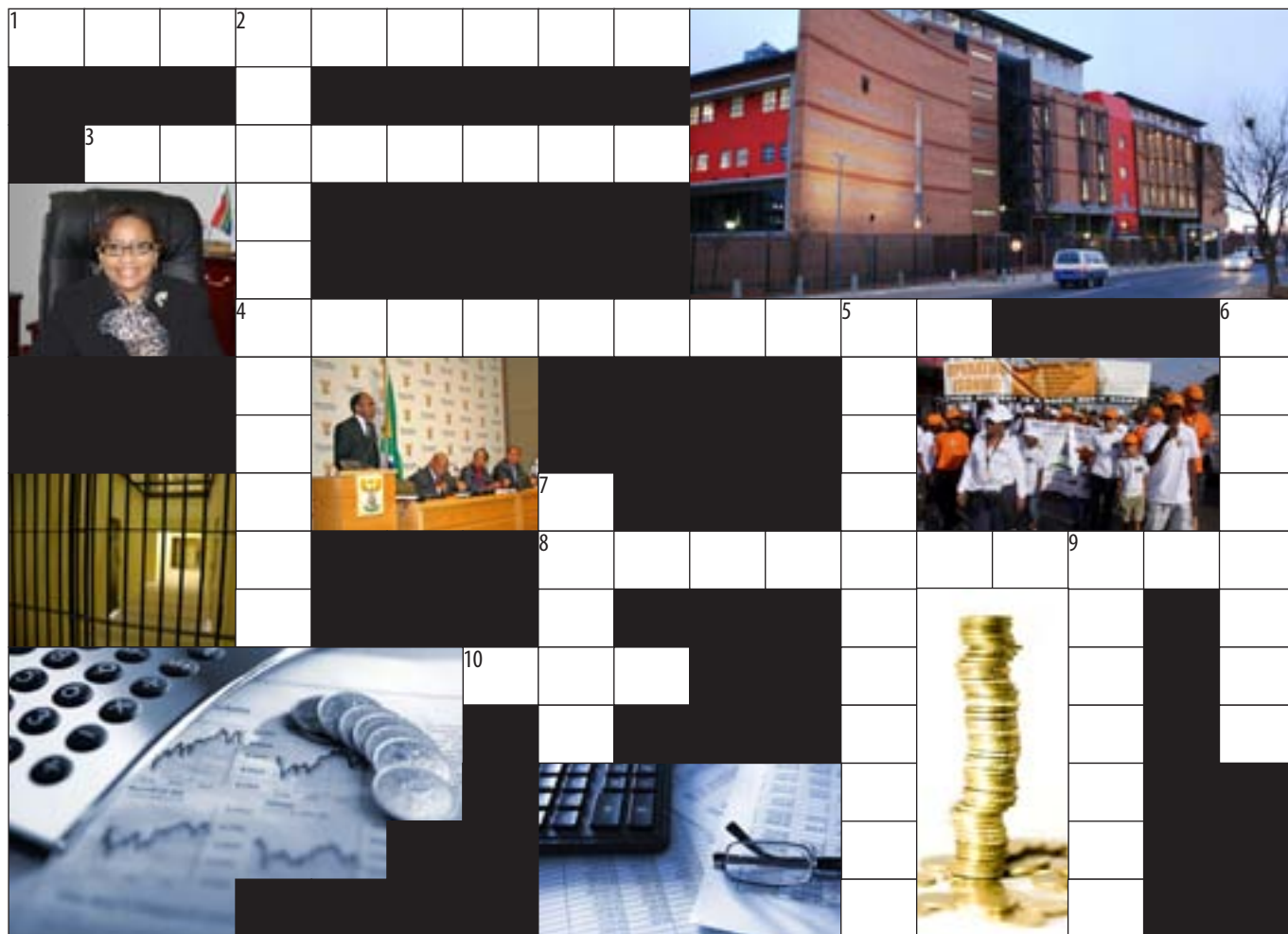
Justice officials get hands on by painting the White River Magistrate's Court



The department's Director-General Ms Nonkululeko Sindane cleaning the wall at the White River Magistrate's Court.

CROSSWORD Puzzle

The Justice Today **CROSSWORD PUZZLE** has clues whose solutions can be found by carefully reading all the articles in this issue. Fill in the answers correctly and stand a chance to **WIN**. The solutions to this puzzle will be published in the next issue, along with the winners' names.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE QUESTIONS

ACROSS

1. What is the name of the court that the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development Jeff Radebe officially opened in August?
3. What is the first name of the KwaZulu Natal Regional Head?
4. A name of a place in Mpumalanga which means "coal" in English?
8. Is described as the use of power by government officials for illegitimate private gain, misuse of government power for other purposes
10. Third Party Funds, is also known as?

DOWN

2. What is the name of the Act of 1998 that requires the state to take appropriate measures to secure funds from a parent who is financially responsible for a child?
5. What is the first name of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development Director-General?
6. What is the term, given to a minor offender in terms of the law?
7. The name of a committee that deals with public accounts?
9. Operation deals with improvement in the child maintenance system.

HOW TO ENTER & WIN

Complete the Crossword Puzzle after you have thoroughly read this issue of Justice Today. Fill in your details on the entry form and fax to 012 357 8003, attention Luyanda Makapela. The first 3 correct entries will **WIN** a prize.

NAME.....

POSTAL ADDRESS

TELEPHONE:



Vox Pops - Have Your Say.

The nation commemorates **WOMEN'S MONTH ON 09 AUGUST**, a remembrance of the day, in **1956**, when women from all races and walks of life marched to the Union Buildings (Pretoria) in protest against oppressive apartheid laws. This historic march was a turning point in the role of women in the struggle for freedom. Fifty-six years later, Justice Today team went out to the members of the public to find out their views on the challenges still faced by women today in the democratic South Africa.



Junior Mhangwane (34) Atteridgeville: We, as women in this country, are still not taken serious in everything we do. Some men still undermine women when it comes to certain professions and that leads to an increasing rate of unemployment. Government needs to implement a robust strategy to empower more women in the workplace.



Mimi Monthsa (22) Mamelodi: Women abuse and domestic violence are major challenges facing women. You will find an incident where women are stuck in abusive relationships because they depend on their partners financially. Women are still afraid to raise their frustrations as they fear that they might be victimised. We need more organisations that will deal with women's issues starting from young girls at primary school level.



Dineo Inama (25) Pretoria Central: Government must be very harsh and strict on people who abuse women especially domestic violence. I can't even wear my mini skirt during summer as I fear that someone might attack me because of what I am wearing, which is why I am pleading with the government to work hard to protect us and our rights.



Dorothy Ratema (22) Mamelodi: Women are being raped in this country and some of the perpetrators walk freely in the streets and that is very sad and disappointing. Our justice system must show no mercy to all those who rape or abuse women in our country. We need the law on our side as women so that we can feel safe.



John Ringane (24) Soshanguve: I am pleading with the government to work hard on protecting women's rights in the workplace especially those who are disabled. Disabled women sometimes feel that they are being neglected in this country and that is why we have to make sure that we cater for all women when it comes to women empowerment and skills development.



Yolande Botes (31) Limpopo: Our government is working hard when it comes to women empowerment. Women are now appointed in top managerial positions in different sectors; women are doing well in their businesses. We also have a government department that specifically deals with women's issues which was a very good move by government; this shows that the government is committed to empowering us women.

JUSTICE TODAY

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE
AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MR JEFF RADEBE

SALU BUILDING

316 Andries* Street (c/o Thabo Sehume
& Francis Baard Streets), Pretoria

*Andries Street was renamed Thabo Sehume Street
and Schoeman Street was renamed Francis Baard Street by Tshwane
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MR ANDRIES NEL

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Eastern Cape	043 - 702 7002	043 - 722 5525	No 3 Phillip Frame Road, Weaverly Park, Chiselhurst, East London, 5201
Free State	051 - 407 1800	051 - 448 4458	71 Maitland Street, Bloemfontein, 9301
Gauteng	011 - 331 0440	011 - 331 0425	15th & 16th Floor, Carlton Centre, Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, 2001
KwaZulu-Natal	031 - 301 5330	031 - 304 9213	2 Devonshire Place, Smith Street, Durban, 4001
Limpopo	015 - 297 5577	015 - 297 5570	92 Bok Street, Polokwane, 0700
Mpumalanga	013 - 752 8393	013 - 752 2666	24 Brown Street, Nelspruit, 1200
Northern Cape	053 - 839 0000	053 - 832 7428	Cnr Stead & Knight Streets, New Public Building, Kimberley, 8301
North West	018 - 387 5290	018 - 384 3406	Tirelo Building, Dr Albert Luthuli Drive, Mmabatho, 2735
Western Cape	021 - 462 5471 / 5479	021 - 462 3135	Plein Park Building, Plein Street, Cape Town, 8001

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