

STERLING PERFORMANCE BY DIHLABENG LEARNERS



School principals awarded certificates of recognition by Hon Premier of the Free State Ace Magashule, MEC of Education Tate Makgoe and Executive Mayor Cllr Lindiwe Makhalema

2016 Matric results saw Free State province that was once riddled with lot of challenges, obtaining 93.2% pass rate making the province number one in the country. All thanks to hard working learners, Free State provincial government, dedicated teachers as well as school principals. This is also where we witnessed our benevolent Executive Mayor Cllr Lindiwe Makhalema together with councilors and mayoral committee members play a significant role by visiting different schools in Dihlabeng to provide unprivileged learners with shoes, school uniforms, and sanitary towels in order to alleviate challenges at schools. She also made partnership with NSFAS to help Dihlabeng learners to ease the process of financial aid applications. The support from parents was overwhelming allowing learners to attend extra classes. This was indeed “operation Hlasela” where everybody was involved in support of education and by making education a societal issue.

On the 13 January 2016, our Executive Mayor congratulated the class of 2016 for their sterling performance during 2016 final examinations. Schools present in the event included Ntsu, Bethlehem Combined, Thabo Thokoza, Tiisetsang, Voortrekker, Witterberg and Bethlehem Comprehensive. The event was a build-up to the major event to be

hosted by the premier of the Free State Hon Ace “Papa Action” Magashule and the MEC for Education, Tate Makgoe.

Different secondary schools that performed well in Dihlabeng were again invited to the Major Event hosted on the 17 January 2017 at new community hall in Bohlokong where we saw top ten learners awarded with Laptops and smartphones in an effort to assist them in advancing their education to tertiary level. School principals and teachers were awarded with certificates of recognition for a job well done for them to continue to work hard and do their very best. Other learners that obtained bachelors were promised to be awarded with scholarships to study abroad by the premier of the Free State. It is definitely true when they say “you reap what you have sown”. MEC Tate Makgoe applauded Voortrekker and Witterberg for obtaining 100% followed by Tiisetsang 98.49% and Ntsu secondary for obtaining 98.48% pass rate. He encouraged

Continued on page 2

Sterling Performance Of	
Dihlabeng Learners	Page 1
Mayor Rewards Excellent	
Performance	Page 2
Emergency Exercise Held	Page 2
Arrive Alive Campaign	Page 3
Service Delivery To Our People	Page 4
Christmas babies	Page 4
Why Abusing Your Sick Leave	Page 5
Medical Aid	Page 6
Photo Collage	Page 8

schools that did not perform well to put more effort and he also emphasized how hard work and perseverance can inevitably lead to success and how the class of

2017 has to retain the Free State's number one spot nationally.

THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR REWARDS EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE AND GOOD BEHAVIOUR



Executive Mayor, Cllr Lindiwe Makhalema giving learners sanitary packs

On the 11th of January 2017 our Executive Mayor, Cllr Lindiwe Makhalema with MMC's various other councillors visited Taung Secondary School in Mautse, Rosendal. The aim was to welcome back learners and teachers to the school. She congratulated Taung Secondary school on achieving 93% pass rate in the 2016 matric exams. She encouraged the class of 2017 to maintain or even better on the previous achievement.

The Executive Mayor also gave sanitary packs, the second leg of the "Back to School" campaign continued on the 12th in Fateng tse Ntsho, Paul Roux at Sekoko primary School wherein learners were encouraged to stay in school, strive to achieve higher marks in their studies and stay safe at all times, learners at this primary schools were given bag full of sanitary packs.



MMC, Japie Pienaar and MMC Desmond Michaels

EMERGENCY DRILL EXERCISE HELD



Fire Fighters during the fire drill

Our Fire and Traffic Sections in conjunctions with South African Police Service, Emergency Medical Service and Frontier Inn Casino Security had an Evacuation drill at Frontier Inn Casino premises on 19 January 2017. The exercise was observed by Frontier

Inn and Casino management, SAPS, Acting Chief Traffic Officer and Chief Fire Officer to assess and identify any shortcomings or ways in which procedures for dealing with incidents can be improved. The exercise happens every year during January.

The purpose of this exercise:

- To see Emergency plan is followed by personnel and the management of Frontier Inn and Casino during emergencies.
- The Emergency Evacuation drill take

Continued on page 3

place to ensure the safety of people in case of reality incidents.

- Evaluating effectiveness of evacuation procedures and determining necessary changes or adjustment to procedures to improve performance.
- Getting people to adopt safe behaviour in the event of fire or a life threatening incident.
- Testing the efficiency of the instructions to be followed in the event of a fire.

The role of Fire brigade is:

- To test and perfect preparedness for dealing with incidents that could potentially put people at risk.

- To check the response time as much as Bethlehem is growing up and the volume of traffic increases.
- To familiarise Fire Brigade personnel with the fire equipment, escape routes and the floor plan of frontier Inn and casino.



Members of the South African Police Service

DIHLABENG LAUNCHES ARRIVE ALIVE CAMPAIGN



Executive Mayor, Cllr Lindiwe Makhalema and Members of the Mayoral Committee

Executive Mayor Cllr Lindiwe Makhalema together with Members of the Mayoral Committee and other councillors lent their support to the roadblocks at the Hospital Road next to the Frontier Inn and Casino, Tsoella and Muller Street on the 23rd December 2016. The roadblock is a joint operation between the municipality traffic section and the South Africa Police Services. The purpose is to ensure safety and well-being of all road users espe-

cially during holiday periods. Dihlabeng experiences heavy traffic flows during the festive season as holiday-makers drove to various parts of the province as well as neighbouring towns. Road users should reduce anger caused by delays as a result of roadblocks through a better understanding of why they are necessary. The vehicles were inspected for roadworthiness and drivers were requested to produce their driver's licences. The Executive Mayor, Lindiwe Makhalema wished all road users a Merry Christmas and prosperous new year.



Executive Mayor, Cllr Lindiwe Makhalema

SERVICE DELIVERY TO OUR PEOPLE

Maintained roads are not only convenient to the users, but also crucial contribution to the economic growth and development of the area. A reliable and well maintained road system offers access to businesses, health, employment and education, all of which stimulate the economy and social development in an area

On the 29th December 2016, our dedicated staff from the Municipal Infrastructure and Technical Services Department: Roads and Stormwater Section, supported by their political principal MMC: Mafube Mofokeng were hard at work doing repairs and maintenance on one of our busiest streets, Tsoella Street.

Roads are among the most important public assets in many countries. Road improvements bring immediate and sometimes dramatic benefits to road users through improved access to hospitals, schools, and markets; improved comfort, speed, and safety; and lower vehicle oper-



Street Patching in Mlangeni

ating costs. For these benefits to be sustained, road improvements must be followed by a well-planned program of maintenance. Without regular maintenance, roads can rapidly fall into disrepair, preventing realization of the longer term impacts of road improvements on development, such as increased agricultural production and growth in school enrolment.

MUNICIPALITY WELCOMES CHRISTMAS BABIES



From left: Cllr Thoko Tshabalala, Thabo Mofutsanyana District, Cllr Malefu Vilakazi, MMC, Cllr Sophia Jacobs, Cllr Tlaleng Mofokeng and Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr Matsiliso Mokoena.

Dihlabeng Local Municipality (BETHLEHEM) about 11 babies, 6 girls and 5 boys were born at Bethlehem hospitals on Christmas day. There can be nothing as fulfilling than bringing a new life on this earth, we wish them a long and healthy life, and remember to take good care of your babies

and ensure that they receive the necessary immunizations available for free at all public health facilities to prevent ailments affecting most children, that was the statement from Acting Executive Mayor Cllr Matsiliso Mokoena.

Thabo Mofutsanyana District Mayor, Cllr Malefu Vilakazi also called upon parents to ensure the safety of their children during the festive season, she also acknowledged the efforts of healthcare workers who have been hard at work. "We really appreciate the efforts of all healthcare workers during this festive period, while others are home resting, they are hard at work". Parents were given the presents for their babies from the municipality. Indeed it brought joy to the faces of parents and healthcare workers.

rarely get promoted or recommended for a salary increase. The problem when it comes to sick leave abuse is that many employees are not aware of what sort of physical ailments constitute valid reasons for taking sick leave.

First one must identify his or her symptoms and then make an educated decision as to whether you are well enough to go to work or whether you should stay at home or seek medical advice. It's important to know when it's time to call in sick and what the best options are for both you as well as your colleagues and employees need to ensure they act responsibly and with integrity when taking sick leave. Ultimately it comes down to keeping the

lines of communication open whereby through openly and honestly addressing health issues, employers and employees can ensure they maximise productivity while still maintaining a healthy workforce.



TWO MASSIVE MEDICAL AID CHANGES COMING IN 2017 THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT



The National Treasury has introduced two new medical scheme regulations which will see a limit on the amount of gap cover and hospital cash-back policies you can claim, as well as the discontinuation of all primary healthcare policies. This is an effort to differentiate between **medical scheme products and health insurance**, both of which are regulated by separate Acts causing confusion in the medical arena. The regulations, which were demarcated in terms of the Long-term and Short-Term Insurance Acts, will come into effect as of 1 April 2017 for new policies and retrospectively from January 2018 for existing policies.

Gap Cover and cash-back plans

The new regulations stipulate that hospital cash-back plans are limited to paying their clients a maximum of R3, 000 per day or a total lump sum of R20, 000 per year. Currently there are no limits in place for these payments. Gap cover policies will now also be limited to a pay-out of R150, 000 per annum, per client. These changes are in place to try and prevent doctors from charging high tariffs as they have no need to compete on either price or quality in or-

Continued on page 7





der to attract patients, said Heath Minister Aaron Motsoaledi.

What it means for you: *In theory this should equate to you actually paying less as doctors cannot take advantage of you and your hospital bill. However complications could arise if you have a valid reason to surpass the hard limits introduced by the regulations, depending on your current plan.*

Primary healthcare policies

The new regulations will now outlaw primary healthcare policies from 1 April. According to legislation these are not seen as full medical schemes, instead providing limited medical service benefits, such as GP visits, basic dentistry and optometry, and some acute and chronic medication. As a result their contribution is substantially lower than full medical schemes or hospital plans contributing to static membership growth in South Africa, with only 1.4 million new principal members (with 2.2 million beneficiaries) joining since the year 2000. Medical Schemes have traditionally been considered the realm of South Africa's elite and these new regulations should improve the overall standard of healthcare in South Africa. However, until new low-cost options are introduced to replace primary healthcare policies in legislation, this regulation may have the opposite effect as many lose their benefits.

What it means for you: *Insurance companies should have been informed of the incoming legislation and subsequently informed you of any changes to your policies. If you believe you are being affected and have not been contacted, we suggest you contact your insurer immediately. While low-cost benefits options (LCBO's) will eventually close the gap left by this regulation they have their own unique set of problems that need to be introduced. The Medical Schemes Act currently prescribes that 270 Prescribed Minimum Benefits be provided to all members at cost. This can however be an expensive endeavour and leaves little room for low-cost options. Further changes will have to be made to the Schemes Act to address this issue but in the time-being those who cannot afford to make the jump could be left in the dark.*

This is a bid to better educate our colleagues, on the difference between a medical aid and medical insurance and how they are being regulated to help you decide for yourself which is better for you. The consequences of these uninformed choices affect us every day and indeed most of us know the pain of skipping a visit to the doctor because funds have run out or being involved in an accident and be taken to a less-than-adequate hospital or clinic because your medical cover doesn't cover them.





Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr Matsiliso Mokoena visiting hospitals on Christmas



Street Patching



Mr Motlalepula Mdakane (Well Dressed)



Executive Mayor, Lindiwe Makhalema supports young girls with sanitary towels



Council meeting for the tabling of the Draft Annual and Performance Report



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COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 26th JANUARY 2017



HLUBI SS	2	1	NKUTHA MP	2	13	MOSIA LD	2	25
MAKAFU NR	2	1	PIENAAR JJH	2	13	MOLABA TJ	2	26
VAN ZYL D	2	1	NOOSI MM	2	14	MOLOI LP	2	26
MOTLOUNG KS	2	2	SEPHOOA MI	2	15	MHLAMBI LA	2	26
MOFOKENG TD	2	2	HLONGWANE NE	2	15	MOTAUNG T	2	27
DLAMINI OW	2	2	MOFOKENG TSP	2	15	LIJANE MS	2	27
RALEFIKA TJ	2	2	LESUOA DQ	2	15	TSHABALALA SR	2	27
MAKHALEMELE MG	2	3	MOLELEKI MS	2	16	LEBENGA TM	2	28
ZWANE N	2	3	JANSEN VAN RENS- BURG AS	2	16	MALAKOANE T	2	28
SITHOLE ME	2	3	SEEKANE TJ	2	16	MOLAKENG SP	2	28
POTSANE MJ	2	4	MOSEA MA	2	17			
MOKOENA NA	2	4	TAU D	2	17			
MOLOI TN	2	4	MOLIBELI TI	2	17			
MOKOENA MJ	2	5	MOKOENA LM	2	18			
RADEBE ME	2	5	MOKOENA MA	2	19			
PHONGWAYO BE	2	6	MOKOENA MA	2	19			
SHABALALA MD	2	6	MOSHOESHOE SJ	2	19			
MOFOKENG TI	2	7	MOLATSELI BP	2	19			
RICKETTS GS	2	7	TSHABANGU NT	2	20			
SEMATHE SJ	2	7	MIYA K	2	20			
KRUGER MAC	2	7	MOTSIMA HS	2	20			
MLANGENI TE	2	8	LETSELA LM	2	21			
MOFOKENG ND	2	8	MTAMBO SK	2	21			
MAFUBE KW	2	8	MOFOKENG KD	2	21			
MASHININI MB	2	9	MOFOKENG MC	2	21			
MODISE BF	2	9	MOKOENA MR	2	22			
OLIPHANT MS	2	10	TSOLO MS	2	22			
LEMAKO MP	2	10	GWEBU MP	2	23			
MOHONO ME	2	10	MOTAUNG MM	2	23			
MOELESO T	2	10	MOKOENA LT	2	23			
MOKONE TJ	2	10	MAJORO OJ	2	24			
SITHOLE BJ	2	11	RADEBE MS	2	24			
MOKOENA LP	2	11	MOSIA MS	2	24			
MOSIKILI LJ	2	11	MOKOENA DS	2	25			
MSIMANGA OD	2	13	MOKOENA KP	2	25			

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Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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