Commissioner Moyane sets the tone for service excellence

By Molatelo Molopa and Estelle Coetzee

The New National Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Tom Moyane is a man on a mission and has a vision and a clearly outlined plan to make corrections a societal responsibility.

Continued on page 4
MANAGEMENT NEWS

DCS congratulates its own professor

Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, Ms Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize has been appointed as an Honorary Professor in the Psychology Department, at the University of South Africa (UNISA).

Prof Mkhize has contributed extensively in the field of mental health as a practicing clinical psychologist and academically as a lecturer in the field. She has participated internationally at conferences and seminars in programs addressing issues such as human rights, the effects of torture on victims, children in armed conflict, mental health of women political rape victims, the use of drugs among adolescents and the challenge of child mental health.

As Deputy Minister of Correctional Services she continues to focus her energies on women and children in our correctional centers with the same zeal that has become the hallmark of both her work and personal life.

Before she was appointed Deputy Minister of Correctional Services Prof Mkhize served the country as the Ambassador to Netherlands.

Adopt a new work ethos: Minister

Correctional officials who have just joined the Department of Correctional Services should adopt new work ethos that will help to push the department’s vision forward.

T

his was a message from the Minis-

ter of Correctional Services Nosiviwe

Mapisa-Nqakula during the graduation
ceremony of more than 500 learners at two separate ceremonies held at the St Albans and East London Correctional Centres on 07 and 08 June.

The St Albans certificates awards ceremony had a total of 219 learners who are currently stationed at the Sada, Kirkwood and St Albans Management Areas while the East London ceremony had 343 graduates who are stationed at the Mthatha, Amathole and East London Management Areas.

In her welcoming address, Regional Commissioner Nontsikelelo Jolingana said, “Our organisation is plagued by a lot of negativity, which I believe it’s incumbent on everyone of us to uproot it from its deepest roots. If we continue to fuel negative energy, we will walk the talk and remain negative. But if we strive for excellence, we shall achieve the desired outcome. We are what we repeatedly do.”

At both the ceremonies, Ms Mapisa-Nqakula told the new graduates that “you have a huge challenge to help change human behaviour, a task that is not very easy. This is a task that will demand diligence and commitment at all times.”

The appointment is effective from 1 April with Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula and also witnessed the provincial leg of the Freedom Day on 30 April with Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula and also witnessed the provincial leg of the Freedom Day.

MANAGEMENT NEWS

Minister celebrates Freedom Day with KZN officials

By Nokuthula Zikhali

Officials from the KwaZulu Natal Region’s seven management areas celebrated the provincial leg of the Freedom Day on 30 April with Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula and also witnessed as she officially unveiled new parole Board and Doc Unit offices.

M

s Mapisa-Nqakula was accompanied by the CDC for Development and Care Ms Mushabane Moodley, Eastern Cape Regional Commissioner Ms Nontsikelelo Jolingana to an event that was attended by Mr Mnikelwa Nxele (RC KZN), offenders from Kookstal Management Area, local stakeholders and sister government departments.

In her address, the minister called on everyone to recall the mixture of sadness and pride that the people went through during the 1976 student protests. She added that the department expects an official who will never abuse inmates and do all sorts of illegal practices. She said that she expects that the graduates will adhere to the code of conduct at all times.

She called for programmes to ensure that the use of offender labour is intensified and that young offenders should be encouraged to study.

“We cannot have a situation where offenders watch TV and bask in the sun the whole day – at some time in your lives, you will leave the correctional centres and it will be better for you to leave with something in your hand,” she said.

On the other hand, the National Commissioner Tom Moyane called on the graduates to work smarter, be accountable and ensure sustainability of rehabilitation programmes for the offenders.

Commissioner Moyane said the department cannot allow its image to be tainted by a few corrupt individuals. He said he would encourage inter-regional sessions where regions will be copy best practices from each other.

He said in a few months time, he would like to meet all the Area Commissioners, Regional Heads, Heads of Correctional Centres to discuss issues of concern.

Letters to the editor that are published in this newsletter represent the personal view of the writers and do not reflect the views of the Department of Correctional Services. The editor reserves the right to amend or reject letters. Letters should be sent to The Editor, SA Corrections Today, Private Bag X136, Pretoria 0001 and must be clearly marked “For publication in SA Corrections Today”. It can also be e-mailed to: Molatelo.Mokumo@dcs.gov.za

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Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula congratulating Ms Johanna Classen, the Head of Middelrivft Correctional Centre, Marius Pafio who had just received a 30 year service award.

Ms Mapisa-Nqakula congratulating Ms Johanna Classen, the Head of Middelrivft Correctional Centre, Marius Pafio who had just received a 30 year service award.

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MINISTER Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula giving an interview to the SABC at the opening of the Parole Board office in KwaZulu Natal.
The latter three pillars are possible only if we can inculcate a culture of account- ability in all the relevant disciplines of our work environment. The products we are characterised as ‘smart and helpful’ are doing so back into the society after incarceration, are fellow human beings who have devi- ant behaviour.”

He added that he was not bringing a major to see improvements in strategic areas such as; administration; facilities; infrastructure development of a multiyear infrastructure mainte- nance area around correctional facilities. He continued from his welcome address, “We need to work together to increase the number of offenders participating in rehabilitation programmes.”

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Com- mittee Mr Tom Moyane announced that the DCS now had a committed leadership and that there would be a transfer of sen- ior managers to close leadership gaps in the department and become part of one of the best service providers in the world by delivering correctional services with integrity and commitment to excel- lence.

He said in his first official address, “This day marks the beginning of a new form of the officials of the type of personnel correctional aspirations by addressing with integrity and commitment to excel one of the best service providers in the department as it remains on course to be driven, has already taken the front row seat to lead DCS to its goal of recording an unqualified audit opinion. The 41 remand detainees had escaped at Hammarsdale Correctional Centre. For that he said was not the kind of welcome he had wished for. Together with the minister they were called to act and they subsequently dismissed two senior officials summarily.

He reached for staff participation, “We need to work together to increase the number of offenders participating in rehabilita- tion programmes. We must also root out corruption among ourselves; re- duce the amount of illegal activities in government and change people’s minds and attitudes about how they view us. We do not want to lead DCS as a man with a no-nonsense approach to financial management, unquestion- able experience and qualities to lead DCS to its goal of recording an unqualified audit opinion. For ‘us to achieve this vision we must make sure that we are dealing with it with the prescripts of the ‘White paper on Corrections in South Africa’. Man- agement must work together with the staff and the Committee to deal with these strategic imperatives. Most importantly though, is the fact that our success does not rest solely on man- agement. Everyone has an important role to play,” concluded the commis- sioner further urging the need for every official to push his own barrow within the organisation and to make it successful.

Mr Moyane also addressed the meeting, the Chair- person of the Portfolio Committee on Pub- lic Works Mr Godfrey Oliphant appreciated progress made but called for sustainability of the infrastructure maintenance programme by both departments. He called for the develop- ment of a strategic infrastructure mainte- nance plan for all correctional facilities.

Both departments highlighted that further maintenance work to fix non-functioning boilers, leaking roofs, falling ceilings, broken window panes, non-operational security taut-wire and main water supply pipes are being addressed and will be completed before the end of the year. Most of the funds will be sourced from the allocated budget of R830m for the Repair and Maintenance Pro- gramme for the financial year. Public Works confirmed that over R5.3 million had already been spent on committed in Kokstad and Durban Westville Correctional Centres.

Also addressing the meeting, the Chair- person of the Portfolio Committee on Pub- lic Works Mr Godfrey Oliphant appreciated progress made but called for sustainability of the infrastructure maintenance programme by both departments. He called for the develop- ment of a strategic infrastructure mainte- nance plan for all correctional facilities.

The Departments raised key causes of infra- structure failures to include; lack of service delivery; namely integrity, com- mitment and excellence. He told officials that he was not bringing a major to see improvements in strategic areas such as; administration; facilities; infrastructure degradation which would need to also be addressed. These include serious overcrowding as the Durban Westville Man- agement Area which houses over 10 000 in- mates which will need to be designed to accommodate 6000 inmates.
To the outgoing Acting National Commissioner, the minister said, “Thank you very much Jenny for holding the fort at a time when we did not have a national commissioner. Thank you for your leadership, guidance, patience and commitment. It was not an easy task assigned to you but you pulled it through. I knew there were moments when you wanted to quit but I persuaded you not to. You hung in there up to this day.”

The minister extended her gratitude to the top management for giving Ms Schreiner their full support. “Jenny was enabled to lead this organisation because of your full support. She did it because you allowed it to happen. My sincere gratitude to all of you,” said the minister.

She also singled out Ms Nandi Mareka who had been the Acting Chief Financial Officer (Acting CDC Finance) when the minister was deployed to correctional services. The department now has a full time Finance CDC in Mr Siphiwe Sokhela, who resumed his duties on 17 May together with Commissioner Moyane.

To warmy welcoming him and wishing him a healthy stay at the department. Representing Gauteng, Mr Emmanuel Khoza, the Regional Head; Development and Care in Limpopo, Mr Molaleng and North West simply welcomed Commissioner Moyane and invited him to visit his region. He said that LMN supports the commissioner’s plans needed to deliver service with integrity and excellence.

Eastern Cape Region’s Alfred Magalla said, “We are committed and pledge our support and we will follow the direction the national commissioner is leading us to. We also want to contribute towards changing public perception as we rebuild the image of our department.”

“We need to promote the rights of those infected and affected, to care, treat and support them. It is important to promote humanity and to create an enabling environment where there is stigmatization and discrimination,” continued the deputy minister.

The deputy minister also unveiled the commitment stone which affirmed the Western Cape Region as it resolves to fight the scourge of the HIV and AIDS pandemic. She further encouraged all the attendees to participate in voluntary counselling and testing arranged by the Department of Health on the day.

She highlighted the Department of Correctional Services’ concerted efforts to address HIV and Aids through:

• Utilizing the outcome of the 2006 prevalence survey to inform the strategic direction.
• Partnering with external stakeholders to enhance capacity for the provisioning of services;
• The accreditation of correctional centres as ARV sites for the provisioning of Anti-retroviral treatment and
• The identification of HIV and Aids as a significant prioritized risk within the department and reporting to the risk committee quarterly.

Ms Mkhiwane also emphasised the need to break the silence, banish stigma and discrimination, and to ensure total inclusiveness in the struggle against AIDS.

Deputy Minister Mhlengi Mkhize. The event, which coincided with Goodwood Management Area’s official opening of the Mbombela Sport Grounds, was held under the theme “many lights for human rights through sports.” It was attended by officials from various sectors including the Departments of Health and Social Development. It is held annually to raise awareness on the negative impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic to the department and the community.
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contrary to his nick name, Zero was hailed as a "hero", a coach, a teacher, father and in particular, a selfless hero who taught many newcomers to the department much of what there is to know about matters of security in correctional facilities. His family members, including his wife Rahab and son Archibald, were present when Thomas’s career was shared with the packed auditorium.

Despite not having known Thomas personally, National Commissioner Tom Moyane said he was humbled by those who spoke eloquently about Zero. Mr Moyane said Zero’s assassination was convenient for those who did what they did to him because they wanted to use this as a state witness against them.

Commissioner Moyane admitted that corrections were a risky business and added that security needed to be provided for officials who did the kind of work that Thomas did. “We have failed Thomas. Had we taken precautionary measures, this would not have happened. My admission to failing Thomas means we must take corrective steps to protect those whose lives are threatened simply because they are executing their duties,” he said.

Continued Commissioner Moyane, “The peacefulness we enjoy in South Africa today is a result of sacrifices made by people like Thomas. Let his death not be in vain. Thomas was a model correctional official. I call him my hero.

Family spokesperson, Mr Michael Mamotheti said when the family left home to attend the memorial service, they had intended to mourn the death of Zero but they left in comfort after realizing that the deceased was celebrated and respected by his peers in correctional services. “We also looked up to him at home. He was a principled person who loved his family,” said Mamotheti.

Mamotheti said his family was pleased to learn that his death was not in vain and added that they appreciated the department’s honesty in admitting that they failed Zero. He said the family now wished the police could show similar commitment and nail those who killed Zero.

Zero’s friend Philemon Mabote, his colleagues Ms Ruth Mokoka, Mr Abbey Rahloho and Mr Sydney Magaga were among those who shared inspirational stories that provided insight into the life Zero led before he was killed.

Maifadi given a dignified memorial and burial

Scores of uniformed correctional officials joined friends and family members of the late Mr Bethuel Maifadi in Mamelodi to give him a proper send off to his final resting place.

At the memorial service of Mr Maifadi, The visibly compassionate Commissioner Moyane, who acknowledged that he did not know Bethuel in person, said that he was reliably informed about the good deeds that Mr Maifadi did for the department in his 13 years of service. “I am told Bethuel made a significant contribution to our department. Just by your presence here today, I have no doubt that we have lost a soldier. When a soldier succumbs to death in combat while serving the nation, we have an obligation to salute him because he has done what he was assigned to do. He has left a void in our organization. Death is like a thief, it comes when we least expect it. We are grieving with the Maifadi family. Bethuel’s death has also touched us.”

It is people like Bethuel whom we rely upon to help our course to make correctional services an employer of choice. We are saddened by his death. May we continue to support his family and give them guidance in this hour of need as Bethuel, the son, husband, colleague, father and friend rests in peace,” said Commissioner Moyane.

The late Maifadi (39) was described by his friends and colleagues as a hard working person who always did his work with diligence and also enjoyed his social life. Among those who spoke of Mr Maifadi’s contribution at the department, was his supervisor Mr Ashlel Krifsha Dart, his closest friend Mr Abner Mathabe and his boss Mr Jerry Somaru.

“Death grant for fallen heroes tax free,” Commissioner

Fallen heroes of Correctional Services that die in the line of duty will receive a tax free death grant as directed by National Commissioner Tom Moyane. Following the death of Thomas “Zero” Malamatsho – a C-Max official who was gunned down in Mamelodi East, National Commissioner Tom Moyane said those whose lives are threatened simply must take corrective steps to protect them because they are executing their duties, “We are sad by your presence here today, I have no doubt that we have lost a soldier. When a soldier succumbs to death in combat while serving the nation, we have an obligation to salute him because he has done what he was assigned to do. He has left a void in our organization. Death is like a thief, it comes when we least expect it. We are grieving with the Maifadi family. Bethuel’s death has also touched us. It is people like Bethuel whom we rely upon to help our course to make correctional services an employer of choice. We are saddened by his death. May we continue to support his family and give them guidance in this hour of need as Bethuel, the son, husband, colleague, father and friend rests in peace,” said Commissioner Moyane.

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Speaking at a joint meeting of the Correctional and Public Works Portfolio Committees in Durban following their oversight visit there, Commissioner Moyane told senior correctional officials to address all issues of ill discipline in the department. He said, “There is a serious lack of discipline in our department. I request all heads of centres to address all issues of ill discipline in the department. Ill discipline can be defined by the way we walk, the way we talk, the way we address each other and in the way we dress. I want discipline to be brought back in correctional services. All of us are equal in this organization despite our distinguishing ranks and therefore the victimization of officials or officers will not be tolerated in any form or shape. We all have the rights to express our own opinions even if they differ to those of our seniors.”

He said his call for professional conduct among members was not calling for the milieu of the Correctional Services but “for a correctional official who has ethics, one whom when he or she walks, the shoes are polished and is fully dressed in uniform.”

He also stressed that there is a serious need of strong leadership with vision in some serving the nation, we have an obligation to salute him because he has done what he was assigned to do. He has left a void in our organization. Death is like a thief, it comes when we least expect it. We are grieving with the Maifadi family. Bethuel’s death has also touched us.

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Happy interns despite the moratorium condition

By Phedzisani Mashau

Before any employee assumes the expert tag in his field of operation, such worker must have gone through various development programmes to amass the experience to have an expert opinion.

In biology, no child walks before passing through the crawling stage. Such steps exist in the work places and in the areas of education and learning. Aiming to become an expert in any given field, one should undergo formal training mainly consisting of theoretical knowledge as one of the basic steps. 

Correctional services is one of the many government institutions that accept such people who look to build their career profiles but only raw theoretical knowledge obtained from institutions of higher learning.

In South Africa most of the tertiary level students obtain that experience in the form of internships and experiential learning programmes.

In the department, the Policy and External Training Directorate manages such people and offers them the opportunity to realize their lifetime dreams and climb up the corporate ladder.

The department offers two different types of internship programmes namely, the Public Service Internship programme and the Student Internship Programme.

The Deputy Director Policy and External Training Mr David Nyalaunga explains, “The Public Service Internship programme is intended for graduates who have already obtained qualifications from institution of higher learning and the Student Internship programme is provided to the students who are still studying and require practical experience to qualify. Both programmes are offered for a period of between six to 12 months. Some modules can stretch to 18 and 24 months. Public service interns can be paid stipend while it is not compulsory to pay student interns for their service.”

As at 9 June 2010, the department had 93 Public Service Interns and 134 Students Interns. The program guarantees that the Policy and External Training directorate insists that all trainees must aim for during their learning programmes. During a recent meeting with both groups of interns, smiles and excitement formed the base of their responses when asked about their experiences in the department.

One Poppy Lishivha (23), an intern in the office of the DC Human Resources Development said, “I feel like an important part of the organization. During my internship since my qualification deals specifically with the core business of this department. I am concerned about the existing moratorium which hinders the filling of vacant posts.”

Eliot Mathadisa (29), an intern in Directorate; Human Resource Development, studied Public Management. He has an additional role as the coordinator for interns. He said since the start of his internship, he is happy to be given the exposure to apply theory he learned practically. He said he expects to learn more before his contract expires.

Spotlight on Ermerlo Centre of Excellence

By Thuthukisizwe Ngcobo

Though small in size, the Ermerlo Centre of excellence is one of the few centres in the Department of Correctional Service, which for a period exceeding seven years, has never experienced a single escape.

The centre is situated in the South Eastern Highbald of Mpmalalanga Province and it was built in 1988 to house male inmates only. It has an approved accommodation capacity of 512 inmates, but an additional 88 inmates have had to find homage there further adding to the bleak image of overcrowding the department is currently faced with. A total of 600 inmates are there against a service personnel of about 132 officials, nine of which are based at community corrections.

The dominant languages in its vicinity are Zulu and Swati. The Ermerlo area is notoriously known for its peak winter weather conditions and is also a high- veld tourist destination. Agricultural activities are seasonal due to unfavourable weather conditions at this part of the country.

The centre is under the leadership of the very strict Area Commissioner of Bethal Management Area, Mr Amos Mdluvu.

Programmes available at this centre include social work programmes; sport, recreation arts and culture; formal education and agriculture. Social work programmes cater for all rehabilitation related areas and formal education deals with Abet levels 1 to 4, including grade 12. The majority of inmates are taking part in social and cultural activities such as Isicathamiya and Indlamu.

A shortage of qualified specialists such as nurses, teachers, social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and doctors hinder some major programmes aimed at rehabilitating inmates. The introduction of this Sister system exposed the centre that the centre really needs more personnel to meet its targets. A total of 30 inmates enrolled for the 2009 Abet calendar year. About 24 of them passed levels 1 to level 4. The 12 grade inmates have already written their examinations in May 2010 and are awaiting their results. Inmates have access to the library on a weekly basis between 8.30am and 3pm.

The Ermerlo Centre of Excellence has recently received a certificate of excellence for promoting cultural heritage from the Highveld Heritage Route. The Highveld Heritage Route is a company that looks after South Eastern highveld Mpmalalanga heritage sites. The company is in the hands of Athol Stark who had been doing history research for 19 years and had been providing tour guides for services. This certificate was awarded for the centre during the Heritage month. Isicathamiya group and Indlamu are the two groups of inmates that ensured that the Ermerlo Centre of Excellence receives the award. These two groups recently performed in a packed Ermerlo town hall for the ermerlo business association gathering.
YOUTH

Youthful offender musical and drama groups from across the regions’ management areas displayed their dazzling artistic skills in commemoration of the Youth Month celebrations.

The month of June was declared a Youth Month due to the fact that on the 16 June 1976, hundreds of Soweto students took to the streets protesting against the apartheid regime’s imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in non-white schools.

But the reward they received for their protest action was a bullet – an action which led to widespread uprisings across the country.

Regional Commissioner Nontsikelelo Jolingana told the offender and departmental youth that “the blood of the young people of 1976 nurtured the tree of freedom whose fruits people from across the racial spectrum are enjoying today. It is through the blood of the young people of 1976 that South Africa is able to host the world’s largest sports tournament – the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup,” said Ms Jolingana.

In a message to young correctional officials, Ms Jolingana called for them to study so they could have a firm grasp of the demands of the new approach to corrections and get to understand the calibre of a correctional official that the Department needs.

“In order for the Department to achieve its strategic goals as outlined in the White Paper on Corrections in South Africa, we have to invest in young people who still have many years to come serving this Department,” she said.

As part of the activities for the day nurses at the Department of Health took blood pressure as a way of ensuring that members were in good health in preparation for the celebrations of the FIFA Soccer World Cup.

In what could be described as music to the Deputy Minister, Scathamiya Music alive: Imbube Nkos’ isikelel’ Africa. Ms Jolingana urged the young offenders to use the opportunities that the Department provides to them to build their ability.

“If you aim high, and you want to see yourself leaving the correctional centres empowered – the foundation is discipline. Our Minister (Umam’ uNosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula) has said that we must turn our correctional centres into colleges; we must develop measurers to provide education and skills development to offenders,” she said.

Eastern Cape Regional Commissioner, Ms Nontsikelelo Jolingana checking her blood pressure at the Regional Youth Month Celebrations

To be young and alive: Imbube Scathamiya Music Group entertaining the audience at the Regional Youth Month Celebrations

Groootvlei gives Nzame pupils a warm winter present

In what could be described as music to the Deputy Minister, Hlengiwe MkhiZe’s ears, the Groootvlei Management Area have made the welfare of children as well as uplifting the lives of the poor their business.

The welfare of children is the deputy minister’s priority area of operation in the department and she has coined the care with the launch of the Imbuleko Project.

To bear testament to Groootvllei’s assertions, are numerous donations that management area had made to various destitute families around Managuna aimed at alleviating poverty in poor families so that the children growing in those families can feel the love.

The management area has never stopped showing its beautiful gesture to needy families, and had also gone one step further to become proactive in fighting crime. The stand against crime was prompted by the higher rate of juveniles that department was admitting daily in the centre.

Officials at the Free State and Northern Cape Regional Commissioner’s office are of the view that, “if the department does not act proactively to deal with some of these social challenges in the society, it must be prepared to deal with an influx of poor children graduating into hardened criminals and subsequently compounding its facilities.”

The officials, who identify themselves as the Groootvlei Poverty Alleviation Committee in the area, devised a plan to deal with the root of crime in the long term.

The committee headed by Mr Christo Barnard, Manager Special Programmes, collected donations in a form of cash from the officials in order to make a difference to the needy young children’s lives.

The team discovered that schools were breeding grounds for criminals. They then shifted their targets to poor children who are at schools. They are of the belief that “most of the offenders who commit crime, attributes it to poverty.”

The beneficiaries of the donations are children aged between ten and 15 years.

No less than 85 orphans who are taken care of by different households at Nhlatzase village, have received warm blankets to overcome the cold winter season.

A bout 65 of the blankets were donat ed, as part of the poverty alleviation programme by Witbank Management Area and its partners.

The success of the donation handover, which included a 60 kg bag of maize meal and 5 kg of sugar, was spearheaded by Ms Linah Mhlongo, the Area Coordinator of Development and Care at Witbank with the help of Zanele Odilia, the Head of Social Reintegration at Carolina.

Ms Mhlongo has tirelessly engaged eMahlaleni business groups, doctors and correctional officials to make a collection of 65 strong and warm winter blankets.

The CEO of Mahlantbeni Home Based Care Centre, Mr Mandla Thabethe also came on board and managed to raise additional 20 blankets from Badplaas Holiday Resort Management.

The beneficiaries of the donations are children aged between ten and 15 years. The latter were identified from various schools which include, Ivuka (21), Lamagadela (18), Lethukuthula (17) and Mahlantbeni Orphanage (14).

Every child received one blanket and the remaining ones were given to their care givers to distribute.

Alex community receives safe candle holders

Officials of the Leeukop Juvenile Centre and the Randburg Community Corrections took to the streets of Alexandra to surprise the township dwellers with donations of safer candle holders.

The thoughtfulness and aimed at putting an end to the vicious and deadly fires, most of which are caused by falling burning candles because of makeshift candle holders.

The candle holders donated to the Alex community were crafted by the Leeukop Juvenile Centre donating candlelight holders.

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Mr. Moesi with the community of Alexandra

Donation of blankets: Correctional officials, care givers and the children who benefited for the blankets donation

Witbank donates blankets to orphans

By: Zama Feni

By: Elizabeth Zimba

By Moses Nkambule

The team discovered that schools were breeding grounds for criminals. They then shifted their targets to poor children who are at schools. They are of the belief that “most of the offenders who commit crime, attributes it to poverty.”
**Regional News**

**Officials keep their health in check**

The Department of Correctional Services held a Wellness Day and Aerobics marathon on the 5th of May with two legged sessions taking place at the Head Office and Pretoria Management Area respectively.

Correctional officials at Head Office braved a breezy and chilly weather conditions to queue up for their health conditions to be examined by doctors, optometrists and other health practitioners.

This initiative emerged from the partnership involving correctional services, SAPS, SANDF and Johannesburg Metro Police to keep their employees well and fit as it is physically required by the nature of their work environment.

The day’s activities commenced with high blood pressure, cholesterol, weight and height of employees being checked for consistency. Optometrists and dieticians from Department of Health were available to provide their professional advice regarding eye problems and balanced diets. Eye glasses were prescribed and issued to employees who needed immediate attention.

The second phase of event took place at the Mess Hall in the Pretoria Management Area where participants from various departments engaged in intensive aerobic exercises. The hall was packed with men and women with one shared purpose - to maintain their fitness and wellbeing.

One could see the dedication of participants when they made pain-inducing stretches to ensure effective results.

According to the event coordinators the fitness campaign is growing from strength to strength. The attendance and interest has improved tremendously. The participants will be informed as to where and when the next sessions will be held.

**Deputy Minister opens Goodwood Mbombela Sportsfield**

Despite being a new generation correctional centre, Goodwood never lacked any sports and recreation facilities for either officials or offenders. Offenders instead used courtyards as sporting grounds, leading to a lot of breakages of windows at the centre.

Giving her address at the opening, Ms Mkhize said, “As a department, our approach to cultivates and maintains a healthy lifestyle for offenders and officials, through sports and recreation programs, is premised on the fact that health is much more than just the absence of disease. It is for this reason that we take sports and recreation seriously for both offenders and officials. The opening of the sports field further attests to this commitment. The sports field is a product of various partnerships.”

“The goal we aspire to is a holistic approach to offender rehabilitation through key services such as, correction of the offending behaviour, care to promote the wellbeing of the offender, development which involves education, skills development, recreation and sport, agriculture and workshops, security and social reintegration, in line with our White Paper on Corrections South Africa 2005,” added the deputy minister.

She further said that the construction of the sport field underpins the department’s commitment to promoting a healthy life style for both offenders and officials. “Sports as a rehabilitation tool assist in instilling skills, instilling discipline, promoting team work, attainment of physical and mental health, and teaching offenders to adhere to rules and principles, not only in sporting activities, but in life in general.”

The opening of the Mbombela Sports field also coincided with the 21 days countdown before the start of the 2010 Fifa World Cup.

“This facility is correctional services’ contribution towards the legacy of the 2010 Fifa World Cup. It also testifies to our commitment as government, to not only deliver on this big dream but to ensure that we build a lasting legacy for our nation,” declared deputy minister.

She congratulated the Western Cape region for being awarded second runner-up in the Centre for Public Service Innovations (CPSI) Awards, in November last year for the Mbombela Sports field project.

The name of the soccer field means, “working together to achieve a common goal.” Among the stakeholders present at the opening were SAA representatives and Ajax Cape Town Management and its youth team.

**Allandale reaps a gigantic pumpkin**

Mr Tokkie Dempers from the Allandale Management Area could never have thought that the small seed he held in his hand a couple of months ago, could grow into a gigantic pumpkin weighing 97.5 kg.

It all started in October last year when he planted the seed at the back of his yard within the Allandale premises. He had to cover and protect the pumpkin as vegetable flies wanted to damage the pumpkin. Other diseases were also threatening the pumpkin, but Tokkie was lucky and the vegetable survived. Tokkie had to feed the pumpkin within the Allandale premises. He had to cover and protect the pumpkin as vegetable flies wanted to damage the pumpkin. Other diseases were also threatening the pumpkin, but Tokkie was lucky and the vegetable survived. Tokkie had to feed the pumpkin.

A pumpkin can grow more than 30 centimetres per day and the biggest pumpkin Tokkie saw weighed just over 300 kilograms. These giant pumpkins are called Atlantic Giants. Tokkie said now that the members have read the article in the Allandale Gazette, everyone wants a seed. The question now is why don’t we have a Regional Competition between the Management Areas and see who can grow the biggest pumpkin?
Government services in your door steps

Government has declared 2010 the year of action and to translate this declaration into practice the Gauteng Provincial Government has launched its own campaign called kuyashesha to demonstrate the seriousness towards service delivery.

The Gauteng Provincial Government has launched a campaign called Kuyashesha to enhance service delivery. The campaign is aimed at demonstrating the seriousness towards service delivery.

Different spheres of government converged in Mabopane on 30 April 2010 to raise awareness about a Thusong Service Centre which has been established to serve the needs of the people. Eskom, Child Protection Unit, Public Protector, SAPS (victim empowerment), Statistics SA, Departments of Social Development occupy the building to reflect a true meaning of offering integrated service delivery or a one-stop shop services.

The hosting Area Commissioner, Mr Fikile Mbalula in his keynote address to the dignitaries, welcomed them and highlighted the importance of integrated service delivery and the need to serve the people. His address highlighted the essence of the government of the people, by the people and for the people.

To date, there are 42 Thusong Service Centres built in six regions to address service delivery challenges. The centres also embrace the principles of Batho Pele (People First),” he said.

He said fostering of sustainable partnerships will bear positive fruits and people must learn to stand up and do things for themselves. The dignitaries toured the facilities to witness the operations and services that are offered by different organisations.

The judge informed the management that with his visit, he also wanted to familiarise himself with the conditions of correctional centres and to check the constitutional obedience of the correctional system. He further said the findings of his visit would assist in the department in monitoring and improving the conditions of correctional facilities. He said that he wanted to ensure that offenders are treated under humane conditions and that facilities conforms to the norms and standards of incarcerating persons in acceptable conditions in line with the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the treatment of Offenders. The humane conditions should also meet the requirements of Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

After the visit, the Judge will compile a report as a channel for feedback to the Judicial Inspectorate, the director general, the minister of Justice and the parliamentary portfolio committee on Correctional Services.

The hosting Area Commissioner, Mr Barry Ekslein and his management presented the operational activities to the delegates before leading the Judge and his entourage to a tour in various cell blocks. The delegates spoke to offenders regarding the conditions of their incarceration as well as members on their conditions of employment.

The judge was also taken on a tour to the Rookigrond farm.

Intense competition was evident at the Expo as exhibitors from the private sector competed for the learners’ attention by displaying the best branding material of their companies. They included Highveld Steel and Vanadium, Columbus Stainless, Optimum Coal and Standard Bank.

Pace Career Centre provided an assessment of the learners as POCH (Pride of the Cultu
Pietermaritzburg probationers plough back to community
By Nokuthula Zikhali

Giving credeence to the correctional service’s call to utilise offender labour to aid community developments, the probationers of Pietermaritzburg Community Corrections have already done their bit.

The probationers deployed their labour towards the building of a guard room used by the caretaker at a local school called Indlelayabasha Primary. The Community Liaison Officer for Pietermaritzburg Management Area, Mr Dennis Williams and his team, worked tirelessly to make the building project a success. First they obtained a donation of building material from Build It Hardware store in the area and then deployed offender labour to construct the guardroom.

Correctional services were party at the official opening of the guard room at the school that coincided with the Fifa 2010 Football Friday Campaign for the school.

Correctional services view this success story as the means of giving back to the communities as well as profiling of offenders skills which they acquire in the correctional centres while serving on their rehabilitation paths.

The school caretaker who would be using the newly built guard room could not hold back his excitement when receiving the keys. The room was also fully furnished with office furnishers, manufactured by Pietermaritzburg offenders.

After the handover, the Pietermaritzburg Head of Community Corrections, Mr Elva Nene, the school educators, DCS officials and the representatives of the local municipality, proceeded to the school soccer field where pupils participated in soccer matches. Mr Mike McDonald, the Build It Hardware Manager, was also part of the festivities.

The day was fun for both the pupils and the spectators.

The school principal Mr Bhekisile Madlala thanked the Department of Correctional Services for assisting his school. He appealed to the department to expand its partnership with the school in other programs including offender labour to aid community developments.

Graduation ceremony: The new graduates in community of senior officials while receiving their entry tickets to contributes towards the improvement of the correctional system.

More officers on board to steer corrections
By Justice Moseki

About 52 trainees received their NQF Level 4 National Certificates to qualify as Correctional Officers Grade III on 16 May at a graduation ceremony held at Overberg Management Area following their successful completion of the training programme. The Overberg Area Coordinator, Mr Alvin Matsimela welcomed everyone and outlined efforts made by trainers and trainees in this era of ‘tighttining’ in the department, to make facilitation of the matter.

Commissioner Moyane explained that the department would have to prioritise and budget for the upgrading of the facility adding that, “there should be no more escapes at Harrismith Correctional Centre.”

Minister Mapisa-Nkula acknowledged that there were challenges around security measures at all facilities. She said Harrismith centre, being a medium facility, should not have accommodated high-risk remand detainees whose crimes range from murder, car jacking, organised syndicates and serial rapists.

She said it was worrying that strange incidents happened during that period. Her investigation revealed that other officials were involved in making excuses from any one to the other and now a grown up, I must behave like an adult. This department will not accept any excuses from any one of us. You are no longer student correctional officials. You are now recognised as full operational officials and the department expect you to behave like grown ups.”

The Area Commissioner of Overberg, Mr Modisadife Ben supported Mr Mapisa-Nkula’s sentiments and said, “I expect one thing from you, to stick to the basics and respect each other.”

He further encouraged the graduates to study further because education is the key that opens more doors of opportunities.
Baviaanspoort offenders learn valuable farming skills

There are numerous rehabilitation programmes currently unfolding at Baviaanspoort Management Area.

The programmes are aimed at helping offenders mend their offending behaviours and moreover, capacitating them to be better skilled and become self-sustainable when are they released. Better still, they also receive accredited certificates from the Department of Labour after successfully completing training programmes in various areas of interest. Thomo Ngkadima takes a closer look at how the offenders are integrated and also responding to these developments and skills programme focusing mainly in the field of agricultural farming.

Baviaanspoort Management Area is situated just about 28 km east of Tshwane and approximately 28 km east of Tshwane and is here where they learn basic skills necessary to make them employable and enables them to support themselves after finishing serving their sentence and released from prison. The total dairy herd consists of 210 animals with a milk production of approximately 20 litres per cow daily. There are 99 beef herds and beef cattle are slaughtered at a live mass of about 400 kg.

Boksaugs kicks off with “67 days” campaign

Boksburg Correctional Centre officials used the 67 days campaign in honour of the iconic former statesman Nelson Mandela to strengthen the bond with its neighbouring communities on 18 July. Not to be outdone, Boksburg stretched their 67 minutes to 67 days campaign for doing good for its surrounding communities.

The 67 days campaign kicked off at the Vosloorus Old Age Home on Friday the 23rd of July with a series of activities planned by the staff and business partners. The campaign fromtunners visited the old age home to clean and cooked delicious meals for the elderly.

When approached, Jamaica Wholesalers came and boarded to food parcels and their loyal customers.

Mr Bafana Mashego gave a very moving testimony of how people should always strive to do good everyday and not only on specific calendar days. “As public servants, we have an obligation towards the public and our senior citizens are no exceptions,” he said. He continued by thanking all officials who made it their mission to lend a hand and emphasized the importance of taking care of them as they are a gift from God.

The project leader Mr Joseph Masina, made a commitment that his team will avail themselves as and when the need arises.

Vosloorus Old Age Home representatives thanked the staff and management of Boksburg for their wonderful gesture and also highlighted a few areas of need. “We are very happy to have people of your caliber. You made the day a pleasant one for the elderly and their smiles say it all. Please don’t stop today’s activity because tomorrow is not promised. And gently to those who are dry lands, 2040 is under irrigation, 9937 are not usable and 20 885 are natural grazing land. The department is involved in the management of the prison farms which provides job opportunities to sentenced prisoners whilst formal agricultural skills is also taking place. Agri heaths on the backbone, strategic asset of Baviaanspoort prison farm.”

Business sector puts a smile on offender’s face

The sponsorship came in a form of virtual equipments namely, five multimedia projector screens, five home theatre systems and five (42) inch plasma screens. They were jointly handed over to the offenders by the Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, Ms Hlengiwe Mkhize and Mr Magnus Mgunguzi, Director at Ericsson South Africa.

The visual equipments are to be used for viewing the Soccer World Cup games and in the long term, they will be used to support other educational/vocational programmes for inmates. In addition, the visual equipments will capacitate Leeuwkop Management Area officials with valuable resources to execute their roles of rehabilitation.

“As the Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, I am honoured to join the Leeuwkop Management Area officials with tribute material resources that could be used by deserving offenders to watch the spectacular event and most importantly to leave the audience as and when the need arises. “I am greatly impressed by the drive, energy and innovative development of Leeuwkop management approached the business community with a view to contribute material resources that could be used by deserving offenders to watch the spectacular event and most importantly to leave the audience as and when the need arises.”

The event bears testimony that the department cannot succeed in its transformation agenda without partnering with business sectors to fight crime and ensure that “all South Africans are Safe and Feel Safe” in 2010 and beyond. To demonstrate its readiness for the World Cup, the department provisionally availed 3 800 beds for World Cup related incarcerated inmates and 6 000 monitors in communal cells for approximately 163 600 inmates country wide.

Ericsson South Africa has now joined a growing list of Correctional Services friends. Ms Mkhize said that the department is urging business sectors to show interest through innovation, technology, sustainable business solutions and knowledge that there are like-minded clubs such as Leeuwkop Management Area officials to extend our heart felt gratitude and appreciation to Ericsson South Africa for these remarkable gifts. The handover of the visual equipments is a clear demonstration of the business community’s continued support and leadership in the fight against crime,” said Ms Mkhize.

The day ended in high spirits as the GOG and vegetable cultivation, care of calves, theatre systems and five (42) inch plasma screens. They were jointly handed over to the offenders by the Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, Ms Hlengiwe Mkhize and Mr Magnus Mgunguzi, Director at Ericsson South Africa.

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Mordebee’ presents a memorable World Cup opening

There are a hype of activities at fan parks in places like Pretoria, Johannesburg, Midrand, Centurion, Kempton park and the all over the country, but centre based fans have often missed the fun as a result of the stinginess of their work environment.

However, the Modderbee officials challenged the notion of secluding centre based fans (officials) and gave them a real taste of what it feels like to be at a fan park. The Mordebee personnel brought the fan park right at their Mess Hall.

The creativity and innovation came about when officials, who were put on standby, could not take vacation leave to experience the vibe that comes with the hosting of this huge international tournament (2010 Fifa World Cup). The opening game on 11 June helped to reunite families from the Mordebee surroundings at a place where one would never associate with the word “fun.”

Prison premises are regarded by most people as boring and depressing, but this time around, it was overwhelming to see SAPS members, Departments of Justice and Education as well as Comair officials having a pleasant time under the same roof. Everybody blew their vuvuzelas in the name of soccer. The big screen brought the real sound and the atmosphere like that experienced by the fans who attended the match at the Soccer City Stadium. There were no regrets for the people who opted to watch the match at the maiden Mordebee fan park.

The game had everybody sited on the edge of their chairs and when Simphiwe Tshabalala scored the first goal for Bafana Bafana, the excitement moved some officials to tears in disbelief of what they were experiencing. The sounds of the vuvuzelas infiltrated the roof of the hall and connected with cheering noise that came from the direction of Daveyton (a township near Mordebee).

After the game ended at 1 all draw, there were high expectations from the fans for Bafana Bafana’s game against Uruguay but they succumbed 3-0 to dampen the spirit of the Mzansi fans.

Mordebee officials were delighted to be brought together with their external stakeholders to reinforce the relationship they have.

Mr Nico Baloyi (Modderbee Area Commissioner) was acknowledged for making the event possible for the officials and fans from around the area. He was assisted by Mr Khela Molefe and Colleen Ndala to put the fan park together.

Comrade runner makes DCS proud

One brave Correctional Official, Mr Hope Selepe, joined thousands of athletes to contest for silverware and pride at the recent 89.28 kilometres Comrade Marathon held in Durban on 30 May.

Going into the marathon, Selepe was only content with finishing the race but outdone himself by finishing in the bronze medal bracket after clocking 10 hours and 36 minutes on the finish line. He was among a group of runners who represented the department.

The Comrades Marathon is the iconic world class ultra marathon and is rated as one of the biggest road races globally. It is the race that tests all the boundaries of human endurance.

The 2010 Comrades Marathon was the 85th ultimate human race and it attracted 23 565 entries as a hallmark of celebrating its anniversary. It started from Pietermaritzburg and finished in Durban.

Over the years, running has become a part of Selepe’s life style and a dream that the runner wanted to fulfil. The Comrades is the greatest single day running event on the South African calendar and Hope started to prepare for the race at least six months prior.

“It is important for me to run comrades marathon because it a personal challenge and the distance needs to be respected. The distance is doable,” said Hope.

Hope is not rated as a top runner, but he has run a number of short distances races like the Half Marathon (21km), Full Marathons (42km), and Ultra – Marathons (52) which actually prepared him for the Comrades Marathon.

“Training requires determination, discipline, dedication as well as consistency in what you are doing,” he says.

Hope is also akeet trader who reads books like Runners World and Best Books for Competitive Running which helps him with maintaining tactical discipline during races.

Hope said of the race, “The Comrades Marathon is the longest running race in the world. It is not the toughest but it is certainly the cruellest. It takes no prisoners. The degree of its difficulty is further increased by enforced cut-offs. These areas predetermined locations along the course, where if you don’t reach them by a certain time, you are not allowed to continue.”

Greetings in the Name of Jesus

My name is Willie Jarmon. I am an offender of a crime that I committed 23 years ago. Since my incarceration, many wonderful things have happened in my life.

First of all, I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I am now living according to the word of God (the Bible) on a daily basis. God’s faithfulness to me and my faithfulness to him has allowed me to accomplish so many things right here in prison. The Bible scriptures are right in saying, “Seek ye the kingdom first and all his righteousness things shall be added unto you.”

The few most important things in life are the love and peace from God. I am writing this letter because I have been inspired by your newsletters (SA Corrections Today). So I request that you put me on your mailing list.

L E T T E R

From Willie Jarmon, Drakenstein Correctional Centre

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SA Corrections Today

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MAY/JUNE 2010
Allandale rallies behind Bafana Bafana

By Louis Reinke

Allandale Management Area held a wellness day on 20 May as their symbolic gesture of rallying behind the South African national soccer team. The wellness day was staged as a continuation of the Woza Football Friday initiative. It was held at the Obiqua Centre-Tulbach.

The day started off with an HIV and Aids memorial service with guests and schoolchildren from the local community. The event was followed by soccer matches between various centres such as Allandale, Hawequa, Paardeberg and Obiqua with seven players a side. Ladies soccer was also part of the festivities.

There were also indoor sports which included darts, dominoes, table tennis and karaoke.

The day ended with a braai and potjie. Obiqua centre was crowned the winner after their soccer team beat Allandale 2-1 in the penalty shoot out.