

## INTERNAL NOTICE TO ALL STAFF

27 September 2013



Mayor of Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, Ms Boitumelo Moloi, Deputy Minister Adv. Ramathodi and Regional Commissioner Mr Tsetsane emphasised that the yellow ribbon, always on display during Corrections Week, stood as a symbol of forgiveness.

## Ex-offenders ask for a second chance

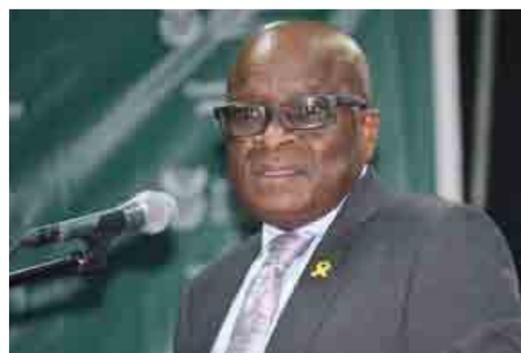
By Solly Mashabela

Problems resulting from having a criminal record as a double punishment were discussed during an ex-offender Indaba at Spirit World church in Klerksdorp, North West province, on Wednesday, 25 September.

Around 200 ex-offenders asked Deputy Minister, Ngoako Ramathodi to raise these problems at the decision-making table of government so that they can access employment opportunities without being rejected due to their previous convictions. For Mr Tebogo Kgabje, an ex-offender who completed a law degree while incarcerated, a criminal record has dealt his dream of practicing as an attorney a lethal blow. His application for pupillage which is a requirement to be admitted as an attorney was rejected by the Bar Council of Mafikeng's High Court.

Mr Kgabje, who was sentenced to 15 years for armed robbery in 2005, heeded the call while at Rooigrond Correctional Centre to leave a life of crime behind and focus on education. He enrolled for an LLB Degree with Unisa in 2008 and completed it last year, 2012, only to find out that for someone with a criminal record to be admitted as an at-

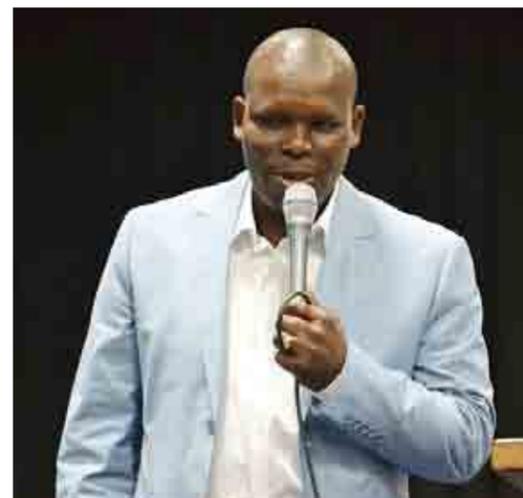
torney is a mountain to climb, involving petitions and substantial motivations. He asked that the department help him to realise his dream of practicing as an attorney. All is not lost for Mr Kgabje,



Deputy Minister Adv. Ramathodi lends an ear to the cries of ex-offenders for a second chance.

though. Advocate Keahoboka Moses, a law lecturer at North-West University, offered Mr Moses an opportunity to be a tutor of law students at the university. Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West Regional Commissioner Mr Alfred

Tsetsane mentioned that the department is considering legislation that will give ex-offenders a second chance. He said in the meantime the department will continue to roll out programmes that seek to reintegrate ex-offenders.



The sky is the limit for Mr Fanie Manganyi who left a life of crime for teaching.

Dr Tshilidzi Mashamba of University of Venda, currently leading research on conditions of ex-offenders, said ex-offenders can, through legislation, be classified as a vulnerable group so that they can find their footing in the economy and ultimately find it easier to rebuild their lives.



Officials and ex-offenders sing a spiritual song.

The Indaba proved that it was not all doom and gloom for ex-offenders. Mr Fanie Manganyi told how the ABET training he got while incarcerated helped him to move from an offender to an ABET facilitator in a mining company.

The Indaba did not end without a comical aspect though, A parolee shot up among the crowd to complain that he has not seen much in return from the department after he has shown remorse for his crime by becoming a church member and bringing other people to the church.