



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thari Ya Tsela

Le Tšhireletso ya Setšhaba

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020



Women's month operations



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From The MEC's desk

MEC for Transport & Community Safety
Hon. Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhaya

August is a very special month on our annual calendar as we celebrate the women of our country. This is the month in which our women are recognized for their important role of mothering the nation. I take pride in celebrating the milestone achieved as a country since the dawn of democracy. It is encouraging to see women occupying leadership roles and influence the direction of where we should go as a country.

Many have ventured in businesses and terrains that were previously dominated by men and they have proven to be equal to the task.

We have always envisioned and advocated equity to address the imbalances of the past. We are slowly but surely seeing patriarchy fading away, giving women platforms to play their role without prejudices. It is also encouraging to see the increasing number of women in the trades that were previously and strictly for males.

Young women at High Schools and Higher institutions of learning must be encouraged to consider professions that were reserved for men. I will be happy to see more women in Police uniform, Traffic officials, Soldiers and engineering fields to name a few. The 1956 women led March will remain a symbol that gender cannot be an obstacle to defeat any form of injustice. Our forebears such as Rahima Moosa, Helen Joseph, Sophy de Bruyn and Lillian Ngoyi have demonstrated that women in their unity cannot fail.

Our women must take a leaf from what the women of 1956 did, challenge patriarchy, assert authority and take a lead in shaping the society.

It will be a gross injustice on my part if I fail to acknowledge the role of all women within the Transport and Community Safety space.

You braved the deadly Covid19 pandemic to serve the nation with pride. Traffic officials, Police women and SANDF members were with me on the streets enforcing compliance under very difficult conditions.

It was a mammoth task as we were battling to defeat the invisible enemy and through your effort, we managed to push-back the infections. The female administrators in our offices from the province to the district level also played a pivotal role to keep our female front-liners going. You had dual roles of keeping the lights on at work and also to ensure that your very own families are safe.

Let me conclude by addressing the increasing cases of attacks and killings of our women. We are battling the scourge of Gender Based Violence and femicide which was also affirmed by the President of the Republic and the Statistics released by South African Police. | **Continues on page 3**





From The HOD's desk

Head Of Department:
MS Hanli Du Plessis

Every year, in August, our country marks Women's Month

I was raised by a single parent, my father passed away when i was still very young.

I was taught by my mother that, yes you can love a men, you can even marry a men, be happy, but never depend on a men. Make sure you that you are skilled in life in such a way that you never have to depend on a men for your survival and your livelihood.

Where i come from as the Head of Department for Transport and Community Safety we deal with law enforcement and i think being in this environment doesn't mean anything special.

You don't need to be treated in any special way and i don't think women in general should demand that they should be chosen because they are women. I think as women we should make a point of proving, not to anybody but to ourselves that yes we can do it.

Don't appoint me as the Head of Department because the policy says there must be 50% women, 50% men. Appoint me because of my capabilities and that i am the best person for that post.

Obviously on leadership positions, women come with a little bit of a different attitude and approach. We treat the department as our families, we treat the people as our families and we run it in that way.

Women's month is about honouring women for the difference that they are making in the society. We honour the women that said "enough is enough, we will not take it any longer".

If we can get back to those basics where women can say, as women we are saying enough is enough. Especially now with Covid-19, the lockdown and all the restrictions that were placed on us.

Women in leadership should should set the example that the buck stops with me. As a women, i will take care, i will make sure that i make a difference and i will make sure that whatever i deliver is to the best of my ability.

To every women out there, especially my ladies in the Police and Traffic Officials, make that difference because its up to us as women to make a difference.

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Editor's Comments

Sixty-four years ago in August, 20 000 women from all over South Africa marched to the Union Buildings to hand over a list of demands, calling for an end to the pass laws.

In this august edition of Thari Ya Tsela Le Tshireletso ya Setshaba, you can read about various Women's Month activities which were initiated by the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety across the province. The Department continues with the commitment it made to empower female officers, page seven focuses on a remarkable woman who is doing outstanding work in previously male dominated environments.

These exceptional women encourages young Traffic Officials and the youth in general, to explore the many unusual career opportunities. Several law enforcement agencies worked with the Limpopo Provincial Traffic Police in the August women led operations. Please enjoy all the informative and interesting articles that we worked so hard to bring to you!

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Women are dying in silence protecting their partners and their marriages. You are worth more than the abusive partner. The abuse you endured for a period of time must end, it cannot be business as usual. I therefore urge you to free yourselves from the shackles of relationships slavery and speak out against any form of abuse. Our police and social workers are always ready to assist you.

Do not be part of the statistics, break the silence and get help. It may look like the end but the sun will rise again with better opportunities and a new hope. I will touch-base again next month as we celebrate our heritage, stay safe and remember to sanitize, wear your mask and keep social distance. Your health is your wealth Mosadi o tshwara thipa ka bogaleng

Women-led law enforcement operations in limpopo deliver significant results

Women in law enforcement special operations reminded motorists in the province that August is women's month. The joint team of provincial traffic and South African Police Service women sprang into action for the whole month of August. The operations targeted all five districts across the province.

Limpopo MEC for Transport and Community Safety Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya in her speeches delivered at the roadside encouraged the women law enforcement officers to carry the special operations with passion, charm but assertiveness.



"We have confidence in the collective strength of our women to successfully carry out the women operations with the passion and send a message to criminals, speedsters, reckless drivers and drivers of unroadworthy vehicles that their time is up. The people of our province deserve peaceful, safe roads and neighborhoods. MEC Lerule-Ramakhaya said. The August women in law enforcement special operations stopped and checked 16 595 vehicles throughout the province during which,

733 summonses were issued, 10 unroadworthy vehicles were discontinued, 16 vehicles were impounded and 52 arrests were made.

Critical offences were mainly the transgression of the covid-19 regulations, worn out tyres, unlicensed and unregistered motor vehicles, driving without being in possession of driving licenses, driving motor vehicles with no number plates and driving public transport without public driving permit



DID YOU KNOW?



Provincial Inspector Happiness Leope is a sterling example that the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety continues to encourage the development of the youth in the organisation.

She is one of the young Female Traffic Officers stationed at Waterberg District and the only female Equipment Officer in the Province.

From humble beginnings, Happiness Leope hails from Dennilton in Sekhukhune District where she was born and raised. She attended Mpheleng primary school and Dithamaga High School in Dennilton.

She joined the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety as a Traffic Police trainee in the year 2007 and graduated as a Provincial Inspector in 2008. Her determination and passion for working prompted her to a road less travelled by her counterparts.

Happiness worked for 9 years, enforcing law and order on the road. She was appointed as an Equipment Officer in 2017, charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all Provincial Inspectors have the necessary tools to disperse services to the community.

When asked whether she enjoys her job, Happiness smiled, giggled and said: "Definitely.

Yes, this job requires bravery and dedication so I am able to overcome challenges, even if it is not always easy. I see being a Traffic Provincial Inspector as an accomplishment because I am doing what only few women are able to do, so I will work hard to do my job to the best of my ability."

"At times I arrest men who are much stronger than I am, not everyone can do it, but I rely on the training I received in my basic training period", she said with a smile. Happiness enjoys the fact that she does masculine duties and has become a brave young woman driven by the challenges that come with the job.

Happiness said that every individual should follow their dreams and pay no mind to negativity directed their way.

She also encouraged that other young female Provincial Inspectors who are starting their careers, not be afraid of challenges and to make use of the many opportunities that are available in Law Enforcement and study further.

Breaking barriers for women in the field the patriotic, Provincial Inspector believes that to change the picture for women, requires officials to treat women's issues with the sensitivity they deserve.

She starts off her day at her desk, completing any necessary administration and ensure that all Provincial Inspectors on deployment are well equipped to respond to their line of duty.

While on roadside duty, Happiness is expected to enforce the National Road Traffic Act, National Land Transport Act and Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Act.



MEC Lerule Ramakhanya commends female front - liners

Limpopo Transport and Community Safety MEC, Honourable Mavhungu Lerule Ramakhanya has commended the commitment of thousands of women who were in the forefront pushing back Covid19 since Lockdown was declared in March.

Today's operation was aimed at commending the sterling work done by female front-liners who worked alongside their male colleagues to safeguard the country against the spread of the Corona virus.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya led the inter-provincial Operation Basadi at Maubane outside BelaBela this morning.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya says women should be respected when discharging their responsibilities beyond the August month.

She was joined by female traffic officers, SAPS, SANDF from Limpopo, Gauteng and the North West.





MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya addresses gender based violence silent protest.

Limpopo Transport and Community Safety MEC, Honourable Mavhungu Lerule Ramakhanya has made a commitment that her department will make a follow up on all unresolved Gender Based Violence related cases in the province.

She was responding to the plea by extension 78 residents outside Seshego in Polokwane during their silent demonstration.

The demonstration of about fifty women was part of the national programme against the scourge of Gender Based Violence. The ANC Women's League led demonstration is calling for harsher sentences against the perpetrators of extreme violence against women.

Police are yet to make a break-through in some of the cases while others are already in court but delayed by covid19. MEC Lerule Ramakhanya says she will work closely with all the Justice cluster departments to prioritize gender based violence cases.

The case of Precious Ramabulana, Precious Magabane and the four Phasha kids killed by their father to mention a few, were some of those highlighted by the demonstrators. MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya says government has programmes in place to ensure the safety of vulnerable groups and victims are urged to speak out against any form of abuse.

"We are going to go as a cluster now because some of the issues that they raised belong to the courts, the other issues that were raised belongs to the police, the other issues belong to community safety where we need to activate our structures with information.

We will then raise this issues within a cluster and see how best we can resolve this issues, remember that the incidences of young women who cannot be buried, we have started processing to ensure that what remains with the police should be released back to the families for proper burial" Says MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.



SAPS

Mopani District

conducts

operation basadi



Joint Operation "Basadi" was on Thursday 27 August 2020, conducted along the R81 road between Giyani and Mooketsi next to Giyani Tourism information center.

The operation comprised of Vispol members, Traffic Police, officials from the Department of Social Development, Disaster Management, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO'S), Mopani Municipality and members of the South African Defence Force (SANDF) under the -

commandship of Luitenant Colonel Nkuna.

In addition, there was crime awareness campaign in relation to Gender Based Violence (GBV), monitoring of COVID-19 compliance through stop and searches during the operation. The following results were yielded: one suspect aged 55 was apprehended at Noblehoek village in the Hlanganani policing precinct for allegedly being found in possession of dagga with estimated street of value of R20 000.





Joint Operation Basadi conducted in Mecklenburg

The joint operation Basadi was conducted today in the Mecklenburg policing area outside Burgersfort under the Saps Sekhukhune District, led by the Station Commander of SAPS Tubatse Brigadier Riah Mkhabela resulted in meaningful results.

The operation comprised of SAPS members from the Police Stations, the Saps K9 Unit supported by the South African National Defense Force (SANDF), the Provincial and Municipal Traffic Police and the Department of Home Affairs.



The operation was conducted in the form of Road blocks, Stop and searches, visiting of businesses and schools and checking for compliance on COVID-19 Regulations.

The following successes and activities were achieved during the operation:

- 01 x School visited
- 333 x people searched
- 143 x vehicles searched
- 35 x vehicles tested
- 16 Road Traffic fines issued.
- 02 x Contravention of Immigration Act
- 10 x non-compliance on COVID-19 Regulations.
- 17 x spaza shops visited
- 16 x liquor outlets visited

Release Of 2019/2020 Provincial Crime Statistics: Limpopo



Following the release of the National Crime Statistics by the Minister of Police, General Bheki Cele (MP), the Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service in Limpopo Lieutenant General Nneke Ledwaba presented the Provincial annual crime picture for the period of 2019/2020 from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

The Provincial Commissioner addressed the session and started by stressing the importance of different communities to have contact details of District Commissioners and Station Commanders in their respective Districts, indicating that the Component Corporate Communication distributes Contact lists on an annual basis.

In terms of the presentation, the Province has managed to show an overall decrease of 2.1% in the 17 prioritized crimes.

The other crime categories that indicated decrease are as follows:

- Contact Crimes by - 1.4%
- Contact related crimes by - 3.0%
- Property related crimes by - 0.1%
- Other serious crimes by - 2.1%

The presentation was done in Seshego Police Station and the attendees included the Chairperson for the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety in Limpopo, Hon. Seono,

the Acting HOD for the Department of Transport and Community Safety Mr Stander, the Deputy Provincial Commissioner responsible for Policing Major General Jan Scheepers, the Deputy Provincial Commissioner responsible for Corporate Services Major General Christine Moralakadi, Provincial Heads, District Commissioners joined by the former Cluster Commanders, the Community Police Forum, the Community Safety Forum and members from different media houses.

The presentation was also streamed live on the Facebook page of the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety.



Women in law enforcement commemorate Women's Month in Lepelle Nkumpi



The month of August is observed countrywide as Women's Month. It is commemorated as a tribute to the women of 1956 who marched to the Union Buildings in protest against the extension of Pass Laws to women.

In celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women and ticking on a call to action for accelerating gender parity, our women in law enforcement in Limpopo embarked on various operations around the province, to promote gender diversity in the workplace.

A Roadblock along the R5180 (spercon) in the Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality was one of the planned operations for the Women's Month revelries.

The women-led roadblock comprised of ladies from the SAPS and Traffic Police was joined by the Mayor of Lepelle Nkumpi cllr. Merriam Molala who welcomed the team and urged the women in uniform to celebrate the month with the indulgent that they should shine as women and make the nation proud.

During the operation, driver and vehicle compliance check were done on personal and public transport, licenses scanned for warrants and outstanding traffic fines, summons issued and vehicles stopped and searched while drivers were chastised on road safety and compliance.

- 807 vehicles were stopped and checked.
- 125 vehicles stopped and searched.
- 04 warrants executed.
- 09 summons issued.

NB: We are still under lockdown, let's continue wearing masks, sanitizing and observing social distancing!