

THE NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN



Few days after the announcement that MEC Makalo Mohale would be responsible for the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA), he got down to business and met with the Senior Management of the department. This is the portfolio he has been entrusted with and day was set to introduce himself and lay the cards on the table.

MEC Makalo is armed with Baccalaureus Law (LLB Law), B. Commerce and Post-Graduate Diploma in Law. He has served people of the Free State in different spheres of government, as a former spokesperson for the former Premier Hon Ace Magashule, former Department of Human Settlements Chief Director housing subsidies, former Director for Supply Chain Management at the Department of Police, Roads and Transport and the Ngwathe Local Municipality respectively.

The energy and eagerness to serve the people of the Free State was very evident as he engaged with DESTEA senior managers. MEC Makalo Mohale informed managers of his expectations. He emphasised the importance of good customer service, respect for the public and officials,

dedication to excellent service delivery and going an extra mile to positively impact the lives of the people are matters close to his heart which all public servants should embrace. He ensured managers of his support as long as it is for the betterment of the lives of the people.

MEC Mohale acknowledged the role played by DESTEA in creating employment through working with SMMEs and its stakeholders. He urged the senior officials to improve service delivery in their respective directorates and make DESTEA the department of choice. He said,

“I have confidence that you will make it. You must speed service delivery and improve ways of doing things”.

The meet and greet did not end there, the next stage was meeting Line functions or sections to know more or go deeper into what they do which translate into the mandate of the department. This was done in a way to ensure that the MEC gets a clear picture of what this department is all about and the reasons for its existence.

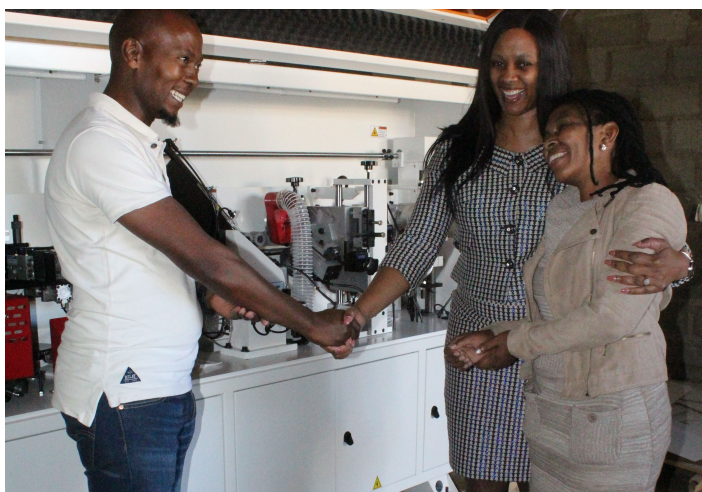
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The experience and the atmosphere was relaxed as 14 different sections including DESTEA entities took turns to engage with the MEC and shared ideas about moving the department forward.

DESTEA and its entities officials are looking forward to working with MEC Makalo Mohale in making certain that the department achieves its mandate of championing economic activities in the Free State in order to ensure that government programmes make a difference in the lives of our people.



IN THE NAME OF CARPENTRY BUSINESS



At the heart of Qwaqwa in Phuthaditjhaba in Charles Mopeli Stadium offices, you will find Zama Ubuhle Furniture & Projects Company. This is a blossoming local furniture manufacturing company founded by Jabulane and Motsidisi Tetete in 2012. Jabulane has been working with wood since 2000 and it has been his long dream to one day start his own furniture company because he believed he had talent and he can make it in this sector.

Over the years, they have been seeking help from the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and ultimately the department answered their cry for help.

Zama Ubuhle Furniture & Projects recently received the Edge Bender Machine worth R200 000 to assist and improve the quality of the work and production. "With this modern machine Zama Ubuhle will also be in a position to attract

business from other carpenters who previously would take this business to new established ones. There are many carpenters in our area who struggle with a finished product because of lack of proper tools", said Jabulani. They manufacture TV Plasma stands, modern kitchen cupboards, coffee tables, ceilings, and etc. This edge bander is ideal for building an automatic production line. Stability and controlled ability are the most important factors for this equipment to be part of production line at the warehouse at Zama Ubuhle.

Its function will mainly be pre-milling, gluing, edge cutting, end trimming, rough trimming, fine rimming, corner trimming, scraping, buffing, slotting and so on.

The company has been growing steadily over the years, it has managed to employ 12 permanent employees so far. In a five year period, the goal of Zama Ubuhle management is to supply large businesses such as Bradlows, Lewis or Gene & Richards and probably employing over 100 people.

Some of the challenges that the company is facing at the moment include the following: marketing, space in the workshop, the electricity supply, and a transformer which will be ideal for their growing business.

Expressing their gratitude, Jabulane and Motshidisi said that they are very thankful to DESTEA with the support they have given to the smmes in general and this shows the believe in the youth and women in business. They also encourage youth to enter the carpentry business because it is not saturated yet and opportunities are vast in this sector.

CLEAN AIR FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT



Every year during the first week of June, all the environmental stakeholders gather to celebrate the World Environmental Day. This year Willem Pretorius Nature Reserve was the place to be as about 120 environmental learners from three primary schools in the Lejweleputswa District Municipality flocked the provincial nature reserve on the 07th June 2019.

The Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs partnered with WESSA; Human Settlements, Water & Sanitation; Agriculture, Forest & Fisheries; SANPARKS and Coca Cola for this episode of environmental day. The event is aimed at increasing awareness towards an improved environmental ways of living and actively involve communities and individuals about precursors of air pollution, implications of air pollution on human wellbeing as well as the impact on the biological diversity.

This involves teaching young and old about daily environmental issues communities face and to bring environmental stakeholders together at one place and adopt solutions to change the behavioural patterns that are detrimental to the environment and social wellbeing by adopting sustainable ways of living.

The activities of the day included presentations on My Environment, My Life, My Environment, My Beginning, My Environment, My Ending, by Destea's Nature Conservator, Pule Matlokotsi. During this presentation learners got to know more about climate change, biodiversity, conservation and air pollution; 5 Keys to Food Safety and Air Pollution and the importance of breathing fresh air in their homes.

There was also a walk about at the exhibition stalls and a Game Drive excursion at the reserve. The role players got

to engage and speak in unison with the learners on these environmental issues.

This year's theme is "Beat Air Pollution" which is now recognised as the biggest health risk. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), about 4,2 million people die prematurely each year as a result of exposure to pollution of ambient air. The theme for commemorating the WED may differ on an annual basis as well as regions depending on the pertinent environmental challenge or priority faced by the specific region or country.

The WED is celebrated in different ways including street rallies, parades, tree planting, concerts, essays and poster competitions, presentations in schools and environment clean-up campaigns. The event was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.



GOOD GREEN DEEDS STARTS AT HOME



Everyone has the right of access to an environment that is not harmful to their health and wellbeing and to have the natural environment protected for the benefit of current and future generations. This was the central message recently when the previous MEC for the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Limakatso Mahasa rolled out this Presidential Programme at Mangaung Primary School.

The Good Green Deeds programme was launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa in the cabinet on the 14 February 2019. The provincial launch was made by Premier Sisi Ntombela in Ladybrand in Mantsopa on the 08 March 2019.

In partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs, DESTEA adopted the school as part of the eco-school programme. Eco-Schools Programme is a fundamental initiative which encourages young people to engage in their environment by allowing them the opportunity to actively protect

it and Good Green Deeds acknowledges the need to act together as citizens, if the environment is to be protected from pollution.

The MEC met with the Principal, HOD for environmental learning, and the schools governing body to assure them of the adoption of the school in the Eco-School Programme and working together on environmental issues such as tree planting and the planning and planting an indigen-

ous garden and using the

seven (7) 7-Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle, repair, refuse, redesign, rethink)

access to clean and adequate drinking water, a food garden to supplement the learners' diets.

The Eco-Schools programme is an ideal way for schools to embark on a meaningful path towards improving the environment in both the school and the local community while at the same time having a lifelong positive impact on the lives of young people, their families, school staff and local authorities. The Good Green Deeds start at home.





GOOD GREEN DEEDS

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FREE STATE LEARNERS GRADUATE FROM HOSPITALITY YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAMME



The tourism industry continues to play a vital role in the province's growing economy, through viable businesses in hospitality, food and beverages services which in return create employment opportunities. With diverse career options, young people are choosing it as a career of choice.

The National Department of Tourism together with Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTE) held a graduation ceremony in Bloemfontein to honour learners from the Free State Province who participated in the 2018 Hospitality Youth Training Programme. Ninety one (91) learners received CATHSSETA accredited National Certificates in Food and Beverages Services (NQF level 4), and National Certificates in Accommodation Services (NQF Level 2).

The National Department of Tourism approved a budget of R 4,950,000 for training of 100 learners in the 2017/2018 financial year. A total of 106 candidates were recruited and enrolled in the programme, 91 candidates have successfully completed the programme, 20 of the learners have secured permanent jobs with employers such as Black Mountain, Clarens Brewery and Friends Pub to mention but a few and there will be a database to support the remaining to find suitable positions. The purpose of the programme is to offer youth with training and skills in the tourism sector. It also seeks to empower young people with entrepreneurial prospects to create sustainable enterprises.

The learners were enrolled in a 12-month learnership programme that comprised of 30% theory, and 70% practical training at various hospitality establishments within the Free State Province.

Giving her keynote address Deputy Minister Elizabeth Thabethe encouraged the graduates to further their studies and have a meaningful contribution to tourism, "these training programmes are a step towards a better tomorrow for yourself and families, go out and explore more opportunities. Gain more skills and look for opportunities, there are government and private institutions that are willing to assist you whether you want to venture into entrepreneurship or further your studies" she said.

Rethabile Makhetha from Zastron, is one of the recipients. She obtained Accommodation Services (NQF Level 2) and received her experiential learning in Gariep Nature Reserve, this is what she said about obtaining the qualification "it helped me with more experience and I will apply for jobs in the Hospitality Industry".

DESTE is resolute in creating an enabling environment for tourism growth and transformation through youth programmes, skills development, accreditation of tour guides and establishments, award programmes, district coordination and support.



SOCCER ISN'T JUST A GAME ANYMORE, IT'S A LIFESTYLE



After being crowned champions of the inter-departmental games and Elebone social games on the 24th of November and 01 December 2018 respectively, the Department of Economic, Small business development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs football team never put the foot off the pedal. They (DESTE A football team) have since developed a never die spirit and started playing midweek and sometimes on weekends including social tournaments in and around Bloemfontein.

Their trip to the Department of Economic and Enterprise Development in Mafikeng in the North West province on the 24th of November 2018 attests to have yield good grades and attracted other departments to be more drawn into sports.

Just before the end of fourth quarter of season 2018/19, DESTE A hosted Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural development (READ) from North West in different sporting codes including netball and soccer. DESTE A went into these games with a drastic makeover in the technical area and personnel.

Mohloki "Bashin" Lesapo took over the reigns as a care taker coach and opted to give fringed players a run and get new combinations as they were not utilised by his predecessor. This fixture brought to halt a hysterical winning streak of the DESTE A as they were left with their tails tucked between their legs after losing in both soccer and netball 8-5 and 19-5 respectively.

Later that day it was all things Kasi Tourism in Mangaung, a perfect time for others to exchange contacts and start new friendship outside the borders of the Free State. As both sets of players went out to play with other kids and unwind at Mahungra Car Wash when some went to The Thoughts Lounge. **"O Reng Mood"**

On Saturday 6th of April 2019 Winburg Masters organised a four team social tournament and invited DESTE A, Ladybrand Stars and Mandela View legends. It was a second game with Bashin in charge and Marumo Marumo as his assistant. This was the return of a natural right back Mzwandile "Zz" Maqhosha after a long layoff on the side lines battling with excessive weight.

DESTE A was the first team to bite the dust and sent home early after losing 5-3 to Ladybrand Masters. N1 was busy again after Mandela View Masters also got knocked out 4-3. The final show piece saw Winburg Masters retaining their title after beating Ladybrand 3-1. "I think we gave our opponents too much respect. We could not hold the ball and make passes in their half. We did squad rotations and it didn't work. So it's back to the drawing board" Bashin said

With the care taker coach still in charge DESTE A played their third game against the National Department of Public Works on the 29th of May at Bloemspruit Air Force base. The coach made 4 changes starting with Lazio Makaota as goal keeper, bringing in Sabelo Makhaya, Marumo Itumeleng and Tshepang "Mbappe" Sebetlele. This was Bashin's first win out of 3 games as DESTE A won the game 3-1.

Next on the sword was the Free State Legislature football team as they also went down 3-0 to DESTE A. Tshepang Sebetlele scored his second consecutive hat-trick. The coach is now on 50% performance rate. "I'm happy with how the boys are playing now, we are taking it one game at a time and the players are now adapting to the new philosophy. We are now playing with confidence and knocking the ball around nicely. But I must also admit that there are certain areas where we need to improve particularly in the final third. We need goals" said Bashin.

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“You can’t play a soccer match alone, it requires team mates and opponents but more importantly team work” Unknown.

The same philosophy has been converted to day to day activities in and outside working environment and has so far yielded positive results. Strong bond and working relationship amongst all the players is quite evident including colleagues that are stationed at the departmental resorts and reserves. Playing together every week has afforded all players an opportunity to share and understand the environment they are all working in and the nature of work they are doing but more importantly to have tolerance to each other.



113 St ANDREWS CLEAN UP



It is well over a year now since the relocation of DESTE to a new environment, lodged at number 113 St Andrew Street.

Moving is one of the most stressful things one can go through. As an employer the relocation of office does not only affect the lives of employees only but that of clients as well. Repositioning to the new building came with its own challenges, having to move from a three building setup to a one building.

The location where staff can give rise to a change in the terms of the new style of life, the adjustments and everything that comes with it. This can include the mobility of employees, which may prompt their moves within certain limits. Transport concerns, the parking space and loss of access to amenities

such as banks and other facilities compared with the old location is also of a great concern.

It took a while for people to adjust and understand the surroundings but a lot has been done to make employees and clients to adapt. Employees and clients were informed of the move timorously. They knew the date of the movement, which items to pack, the name of the new building to name but a few.

On arrival to the new building, the environment was not so conducive, considering that everyone’s belongings were lying around in a pile of boxes and there was furniture all over the corridors. Although boxes were marked, many of the items were either lost or broken.

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Also some of the officials were not used to a segmented office, and due to a limited space they had to acclimatise themselves to either a shared offices or an open plan setup.

Credit should be given to Management for taking punitive measures in regards documents management, which resulted from the relocation of offices.

The positive side of the move revealed loose document management where some boxes could not fit anywhere. There was no system in place for the management of document.

The walkabout lead by HOD and his entourage unlocked a lot of space and offices are up to standard. Observation since the instruction to document management was received well by the officials. Offices are clean and so

welcoming. There are no documents and boxes lying around, one could feel the warmth of the offices and officials have the zeal to do the work diligently. Having a clean and healthy workspace is a major cornerstone when it comes to running a successful business, this is why you need to make sure your offices are regularly cleaned and maintained in order to ensure that your employees are happy, healthy and productive while also leaving a good first impression on business partners and potential customers.

We can do a little better in assisting Management with the good course. Our mind-set should always be positive to a clean environment as cleanliness is next to Godliness. Going forward IT component is working on a document management system that will assist the department to properly manage documents.

NO PAIN NO GAIN



On the 9th June 2019, marathon race fanatics were glued on their screens and along the routes as early as 05:00am to cheer runners and be part of the 2019 comrade's marathon.

DESTE's very own ultra-marathon runner Mr Thabang Selemela, Director for Tourism Development and Support was amongst the brave and unwavering runners who participated in the iconic event as a runner.

Mr Selemela is no stranger to marathons, this year's comrades was his 4th since 2016 and this year alone he has ran in the 2019 two oceans marathon in Cape Town which is 56 kilometres and the Om Die Dam marathon in Magaliesberg which is 50 kilometres.

The comrade's marathon is an unbelievable run 87 kilometres and takes blood and sweat to reach the finish line. Mr Selemela who belongs to the Old Mutual Athletics Club is a fitness enthusiastic and training and preparing for it was a lifestyle for him.

He has documented this year's experience on his Facebook page and this is what he had to say "Comrades marathon is very relenting and unpardoning, every year I do it once I get to the 75kms mark I always, without fail question my wisdom in doing so punishing race. It truly is bashing, the hills are steep and long and can really break a soul. By the time you descend those hills with gravity pushing you down and the knees taking all the pounding you I sincerely feel like quitting! Then you see all the other runners, dropping down, some taking naps on the side of the road, many throwing up, a lot limping from cramping, some attended to by medics, others losing consciousness and or suffering dizzy spells. It so resembles a war zone medical centre! And I still wondered why we do this unto ourselves!"

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Sizonqoba- Together We Will triumph was this year's Comrades Marathon 2019 theme and indeed he did triumph. His finish time was 11:01:21.

He started as early as January to build up for it by; participating in other marathons, improved and followed a strict diet, ran three (3) times a week and weekends in morning 15 kilometres and in the afternoons 20 kilometres. In May he also ran in the comrade's route to practise for the big day. This he says takes courage and determination, preparation is everything.

"To participate as a runner in this prestigious event, one needs dedication, mental strength and discipline", said Mr Selemela who is inspired by the desire to challenge himself and test his limits.

He further shared benefits of running marathons, such as health and wellness and also the opportunity to travel and

explore domestic tourism attractions. His advice to fellow colleagues who are eager to participate next year is to start preparing now, invest in good diet, train and believe it can be done.

During the marathon Mr. Selemela met colleagues from sister departments in the province, who unlike him were enjoying support of their respective sports committees. These departments have running clubs and their runners are fully supported and held in high regard, same as the soccer, netball and choir.

Secretary of the Sports Committee in the department, Ms Mankoko Salemane congratulated Mr. Selemela on his achievement, she said "on behalf of the sports committee in the department, I wish to extend my congratulatory message to our colleague Mr. Selemela. He is an inspiration to all of us".



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