

BETTER TOGETHER.

ISSUE | September 2019

34

Our Cradle of Human Culture

LEARN ONE STORY;
EXPLORE TWO ROUTES



Housing our heritage

Why Cape Town's oldest buildings are relevant today

Township economy success

Celebrating Western Cape entrepreneurship

The great gatsby

The history behind the supersized sandwich



celebrating public service and heritage

Winter is behind us, and hopefully so are the province's notorious stormy days. Not only do we get to appreciate summer rainfall and the warmth of sunnier days; we also get to appreciate the warmth of South African culture.

With Heritage Month upon us, it's only right to acknowledge the traditions, culture, and history that have moulded society as we know it today. We also celebrate Public Service Month with stories about phenomenal public servants who are living the WCG values and serving their communities.

Before zooming in on our heritage, we focus on our present and near future by introducing our provincial Ministers, their departments, and our WCG priorities for the current term and beyond [page 7]. We also delve into the meaning of Public Service Month with an article on "the values-driven public servant". Find out how being one contributes to achieving our vision for the province [page 5].

On page 16, we investigate the history behind a few local structures listed as provincial heritage sites in and around Cape Town, including the oldest surviving building in South Africa. Can you guess what it is? Explore the tastier side of heritage with the famous gatsby and its links to Cape history. One of our colleagues based her master's mini-thesis on it - read all about it on page 28.



As we celebrate our South African heritage, we also celebrate our public service values along with our value as public servants. We commemorate Public Service Month by recognising the commitment of phenomenal public servants throughout this issue, some of whom fulfil their public service role by keeping our heritage alive.

If delicious food and high-rise buildings aren't enough to satisfy your heritage appetite, visit the WCG's new heritage travel route, aptly called the Cradle of Human Culture [page 31].

Other inspiring public servants in this issue are a midwife defying stereotypes [page 14], a hero working amongst us [page 26], and our colleagues who have volunteered as Commissioners of Oaths [page 34] to relieve the administrative burden on police officers.

If you have an inspiring story to share, feel free to contact the *Better Together* magazine team.

Happy reading,

Leah Moodaley
Acting Editor

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Photograph by Dean Saville for MagicMill.



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BETTER TOGETHER.

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INSIDE INFO



1

© Floreinach Geduld

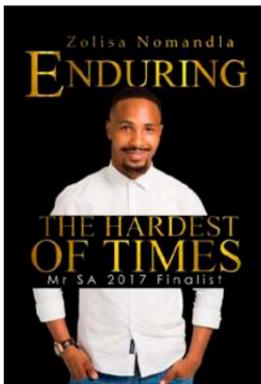
Best MyGov photo submission

Coastal sunrise captured in Arniston in the Overberg region. Photographed by: Floreinach Geduld, Western Cape Education Department

Submit your photographs to MyGov@westerncape.gov.za and your photo might be featured in the next issue of the *Better Together* magazine.

2

From gangster to self-published author



Earlier this year, Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport employee Zolisa Nomandla authored and published his very own autobiography, detailing his journey from township street corners to the Protea Assurance Building in Cape Town.

The 32-year-old logistics practitioner went from drug-dealing dropout to dedicated public servant and Mr South Africa finalist, and now hopes to use his story - titled *Enduring the Hardest of Times* - to inspire others. The foreword of his book was written by the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Anroux Marais, and according to Zolisa, "the book will really challenge people in all kinds of areas in relation to their personal histories. We are deeply influenced by our past. My story, especially the chapters about my childhood, will resonate with a lot of people."

Enduring the Hardest of Times is available for purchase on Amazon.com. To stay updated, follow [@Zolisa_Nomandla](https://twitter.com/Zolisa_Nomandla) on Twitter.



COMPETITION TIME

Two braai master kits up for grabs!

Are you any good at problem solving? One of these braai master kits could be yours. All you need to do is complete all three of the puzzles on page 40.

If you are reading the printed magazine:

- + Fill your answers in on the page.
- + Scan the page in to your computer and email it to Better.Together@westerncape.gov.za.
- + Be sure to include your full name, contact details, and department.
- + The *Better Together* magazine team will be in touch to arrange the handover of your prize.

If you are reading the magazine online:

- + Print page 40 of the magazine.
- + Fill your answers in on the page.
- + Scan the page in to your computer and email it to Better.Together@westerncape.gov.za.
- + Be sure to include your full name, contact details, and department.
- + The *Better Together* magazine team will be in touch to arrange the handover of your prize.

The braai master kit includes: an apron fitted with a cup holder and bottle opener; a cloth; a glove; a set of braai tongs; a braai fork; and a braai spatula.

Please note: **Competition closes 9 October 2019.** Only entries received before 9 October will be eligible to win. The two names will be chosen from a lucky draw.

3

Happy Public Service Month

As public servants, we have an opportunity to change lives and in so doing, impact the world around us. Let's use this month - and the months hereafter - to practice our provincial values of care, competence, accountability, integrity, innovation and responsiveness to the best of our abilities. We also have a chance to recommit ourselves to the principles of Batho Pele (Sesotho for "People First") by pledging the following:

BATHO PELE PLEDGE

- "I will engage in regular consultation with customers and citizens."
- "I will set and abide by service standards."
- "I will do what I can to ensure increased access to services."
- "I will enforce higher levels of courtesy."
- "I will provide more and better information about services."
- "I will promote increased openness and transparency about services."
- "I will acknowledge and redress my failures and mistakes."
- "I will offer the best possible value for money."
- "I will put the people first."

Ellen Pakkies (middle) pictured with the event organisers (left to right) Elouize Geyer, Beverline Thomas, Julanda Booysen and Celeste Nell.
Photographer: Tiaan Andreas



4

Visionary women: champions of peace and non-violence

On 14 August 2019, in honour of Women's Month, Ellen Pakkies visited the Western Cape Government to share her story. Arranged by the Department of Transport and Public Works as one of five Women's Month activities, the event took place in the 9 Dorp Street building foyer in Cape Town. Under the theme "Visionary Women: Champions of peace and non-violence", the event acknowledged women as agents of change in our communities.

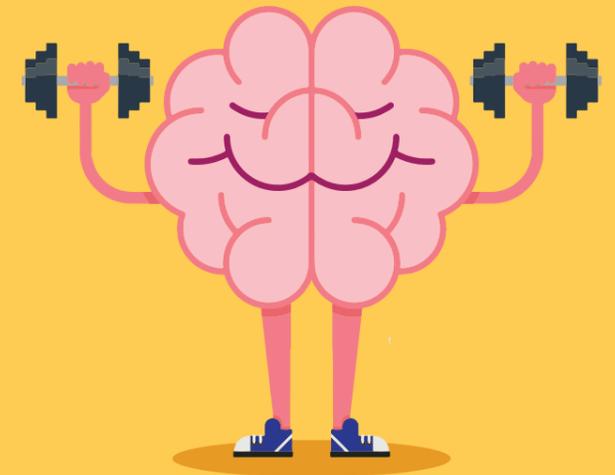
Ellen Pakkies shared a message of love and forgiveness despite betrayal and ill treatment. She reminded attendees about the gift of second chances and the importance of family. She also referenced the famous "You strike a woman; you strike a rock" quote; and emphasised that we are only a solid rock if we stand together. "Women need to stand up for one another and build one another up," she said.

The story of Ellen Pakkies is a story often untold. The Lavender Hill mother confessed to strangling her drug-addicted son Adam in 2007 after suffering years of abuse at his hands. She was arrested and given a three-year suspended sentence and community service, during which she became a community worker, leading the fight against the methamphetamine scourge across the Cape Flats.

COACH MG

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The consciousness gym



What we will share in this edition is truly one of life's little secrets. Ultimately, it's about learning to control our day-to-day life experience. We control how we move and what we say, but we often lose control of our thoughts. Some are positive, and others simply drag us down. These negative thoughts, regardless of what we do to stop them, impact our daily activities. They are what we call, ANTS.

ANTS (AUTOMATIC NEGATIVE THOUGHTS)

ANTS pull you away from being the best you can be and achieving what you want. For example, you want to be the employee of the month; make more time for your family; honour your fitness goals - suddenly, ANTS creep in and you tell yourself: "This is boring"; "I'd rather be doing something else"; "I'm good enough, so I don't need to work any harder".

When we give our power to ANTS, we choose an ordinary life with ordinary results. Is your aim to be ordinary, or do you want to be extraordinary? You have the power to choose a different experience. By using CPR (Creative Positive Response) you can breathe new life into your ANTS. Let's take a closer look:

- + **ANT: This is boring.**
CPR: What if I pay attention and learn something new?
- + **ANT: I'd rather be doing something else.**
CPR: I am here; I will make the most of this situation to take one step closer to my goal.
- + **ANT: I'm good enough, so I don't need to work any harder.**
CPR: More effort will allow me to attract even greater results.

The following steps will help you turn positive thinking into positive action:

- + **Awareness: practice consciousness so that you can easily notice when you are experiencing an automatic reaction to your negative thoughts or circumstances.**
- + **Choice: choose your context - ANTS (automatic reaction) or CPR (self-created response)?**
- + **Transformation: rewrite your story.**

Regards,
Coach MG
Head of Sport at Groote Schuur High School and certified Life Coach



LETTERS



Q I am aware of the existence of the Western Cape on Wellness initiative across our departments, but I would like to know if the WCG has a transversal gym or wellness policy? I assumed that the WCG has provided employees time during the work day for the purposes of wellness. In the case that this time is not permitted in our unit, as employees, how do we approach this with senior management?

Anonymous

A In terms of the WCG transversal gym policy provisions par 9.1, an employee may request permission from his/her supervisor to participate in training sessions during working hours. It must, however, be noted that the 40-hour work week must still be observed and the time spent participating in a training session during the employee's official working hours must be added to the normal work day. This means that time spent attending a training session in the gym is not regarded as official working hours or "time off".

For example: an employee's normal working hour arrangement is from 08:00 to 16:30. The employee has been granted permission to attend gym from 10:00 to 11:00. The time spent in the gym during working hours must then be added to his/her normal working hour arrangement, e.g. from 08:00 to 17:30 or 07:00 to 16:30.

Kind regards
 Directorate: Policy and Planning
 Department of the Premier



+
 Do you have a question?

Please send us any questions you might have about processes, procedures, programmes and projects within the Western Cape Government. We will ask the appropriate department or directorate to answer you and you might see your answer in the next issue. You can also send a letter to acknowledge, recognise or compliment service delivery or an exceptional colleague.



The WCG encourages employee fitness on the condition that service delivery is not compromised.



the values-driven public servant



WHAT MAKES A TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT? WITH SEPTEMBER MARKING PUBLIC SERVICE MONTH, WE UNPACK OUR PROVINCIAL VALUES AND VISION TO FIND AN ANSWER.



A values-driven public servant works toward a vision bigger than him/herself - he/she sees the potential of an effective and professional public service and consistently strives toward fulfilling it. He/she is interested in understanding the problems of the people and is committed to solving them.

Public Service Month is an annual public service programme dedicated to recognising public servants for their selfless contribution to realising a better South Africa. It is also about celebrating the virtue and value of service to community. The focus of this year's Public Service Month is to revive the ethos of Batho Pele ("People First") and redirect public servants back to the Public Service Charter. The 2019 theme is "**Khawuleza: taking services to the people - We Belong, We Care, We Serve**". "Khawuleza" - loosely translated as "hurry up" - echoes the urgency of our duty as public servants to serve.

We stretch ourselves, our resources, and our provincial mandate as far as possible to deliver services to the residents of the Western Cape, with a renewed and urgent focus on values, responsibility and safety.

OUR CORE VALUES

Underpinned by the Batho Pele principles (see page 2), the Western Cape Government's core values guide us toward achieving service excellence. In being **aring**, a true public servant treats citizens and colleagues with dignity, respect, and compassion. In being **competent**, a true public servant is empowered

to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and teamwork to deliver excellent services according to constitutional, legislative and electoral mandates. In being **accountable**, a true public servant is responsible for and takes ownership of his/her work, actions, and decisions; and holds others accountable for theirs. In having **integrity**, a true public servant always seeks to do the right thing and be honest. He/she does not tolerate corruption, and behaves consistently in both word and action. In being **innovative**, a true public servant is always open to new ideas and developing creative



Our five priority areas determine our desired destination, and our core values set the tone for our journey.

solutions to problems. He/she fosters an environment that encourages collaboration to achieve strategic goals. In being **responsive**, a true public servant responds with timeous action within agreed timeframes while listening actively and being accessible.

OUR VISION

The WCG vision of an "open-opportunity society for all" is captured in our five priorities: economy, empowerment, transport and spatial transformation, safety, and innovation and culture change – with a focus on values, responsibility and safety.

As true public servants, we work to empower people with the resources they need to improve their lives and themselves physically, socially, and intellectually. We work to create opportunities for people to uplift themselves and make a positive contribution to society. We will build a province in which aspiring residents can find a place of work, or start their own; a society in which hard-working parents are able to put wholesome food on the table for their children, and ensure that they grow up healthy and strong. Through education, we work to see that these same children learn the skills needed to take up jobs in the economy of tomorrow.

By ensuring adequate human settlements and communities, spatial transformation, and improved transport services, we work to make the lives of people everywhere easier. We strive towards a society where the poorest of the poor are able to live dignified lives; a society where no matter where you live, or how you move around, your life feels valued.

We work to create jobs and offer people an opportunity to work hard – the type of work

we need to build and grow our economy. Above all, we work to live free from fear. Striving towards a province in which we live free from fear is central to improving the lives of our people, because living in fear is not living at all. Underpinned by honest, clean and innovative governance, these priority areas will create a better, stronger Western Cape.

This Public Service Month is an opportunity to reflect and ask ourselves if we are doing enough, fast enough, to change and improve the lives of our citizens. It is an opportunity to address service delivery bottlenecks and cut red tape, ensure that systems and infrastructure are in good working order, understand the lived realities of Western Cape residents, spring clean our service delivery points to make sure that we put our best foot forward, and think of new ways to take service delivery closer to the people.

What makes a true public servant? Above all else: the will to be one.

Stand up and be counted as a true public servant.

SOURCE: Premier Alan Winde, State of the Province Address 2019



meet your Ministers

THE EXECUTIVE ARM OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IS LED BY THE PROVINCIAL CABINET, WHICH CONSISTS OF SELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT APPOINTED BY THE PREMIER. EACH CABINET MINISTER HAS A PORTFOLIO AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING THE WORK OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT(S) TO ADVANCE PROVINCIAL PRIORITIES.

Premier Alan Winde

Before the start of his political career, Premier Alan Winde was a successful entrepreneur; opening and operating 10 businesses in his hometown of Knysna. Following his election to the South Cape District Council in 1996, he accepted the opportunity to run for Provincial Parliament in the Western Cape. Between 1999 and 2009, he served in various political roles, including Chief Whip of the official opposition and Western Cape Provincial Finance Chairperson.

In 2009, he was appointed as the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, and five years later took up the position of Minister of Economic Opportunities, in charge of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. On 1 November 2018, he became the Western Cape Minister of Community Safety, and on 10 May 2019, following a campaign that spanned communities across the province, Alan Winde became the Premier-Elect of the Western Cape.

Along with the WCG Executive team, Heads of Departments, and all public service employees, Premier Winde remains committed to the WCG 2009 vision "to realise an open-opportunity society for all, so that residents of the Province can use their freedom to live lives they value" – with a renewed focus on values, responsibility and safety.

#LetsGetToWork



"In 2009, we committed to a vision 'to realise an open-opportunity society for all, so that residents of the province can use their freedom to live lives they value'. At the heart of this vision, was a pact between the government and the people. We undertook to provide our citizens with opportunities and - in return - we asked that they take personal responsibility for making the most of them.

I am recommitting to that vision statement – but with a new focus and sense of urgency: We will live and be held accountable to our values as a government. We will continue delivering opportunities to our people and we will expect them to take responsibility for improving their own lives with a culture of accountability. We will make this province safer – under the Rule of Law."



Minister David Maynier

FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Appointed as the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities in May 2019, David Maynier is responsible for what many describe as two “monster” portfolios. With a shrinking government budget and nationwide unemployment on the rise, the Finance and Economic Opportunities portfolios filter transversally through each of the 13 Western Cape Government departments, with a focus on meeting the needs of our key industry sectors through **targeted skills development** and **Project Khulisa**.

Prior to his role as Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, Mr Maynier served as a member of parliament in the National Assembly for ten years where he held down several portfolios, including Defence and Military Veterans, and Finance.

Apart from being a self-confessed workaholic, Minister Maynier describes himself as a “bookaholic”. Since becoming a father to Isabel in 2018, reading has taken a back seat. Born in Cape Town, raised in Port Elizabeth, and educated in South Africa and the USA, his flexibility is exactly what his portfolios will require from him and the entire provincial public service. With the support of Heads of Departments Zakariya Hoosain and Solly Fourie, and public service employees, focus areas for the current term include economic growth and job creation; stabilising public finances; promoting good governance; advancing the ease of doing business in the province by way of **supercharged red tape reduction**; and strengthening the relationship between the different spheres of government.

“When I wake up every morning, the thing that galvanises me is the knowledge that nearly 600 000 people in the province don’t have jobs or have given up looking for one. Now is the time for me to transition from saying something in opposition to actually doing something in government.”

#walkingthetalk



Minister Ivan Meyer

AGRICULTURE

Dr Ivan Meyer’s political career began in 2009 when he was appointed as the Minister of Social Development. One year later, he took up the portfolio of Cultural Affairs and Sport where he focused his energy on supporting and uplifting rural communities through sport, arts and culture. Here, he coined a concept known as “cultural warmth”, which encourages social inclusion and appreciation for our country’s cultural diversity. In 2014, Minister Meyer was introduced to the Ministry of Finance where he served for five years. Here, his main focus was ensuring good financial governance for maximum citizen impact. “My greatest achievement as Minister of Finance was taking the budget to the people. I decided that tabling the budget in parliament was simply not enough, we needed to make it real for the people.”

In 2019, Dr Meyer became the Minister of Agriculture. “Coming into the Ministry of Agriculture, I acknowledged three major risks on which I would base my strategic leadership: **water security, food security, and energy security**. With the support of the Head of Department Joyene Isaacs, and public service employees, I have outlined five focus areas for the next five years to combat these risks: 1) Promote continued research in agriculture as an evidence-based practice, and with this, endorse and support **education and training in the agricultural sector**. According to Minister Meyer, the best way to grow the economy is through agriculture, but to do this, we need more agricultural schools; 2) Support commercial, small-scale and emerging farmers; 3) Promote rural safety for farmers and farm workers; 4) **Open market access opportunities to farmers** and grow the halaal export market; and 5) Encourage innovation, partnerships, and collaboration to fight and manage climate change.”

#fortheloveofagriculture



Minister Bonginkosi Madikizela

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Minister Madikizela’s journey in Cabinet started in 2009 when he was appointed as the Minister of Human Settlements. Here, Minister Madikizela served the province for 10 years. “The Department of Human Settlements has achieved some significant feats over the years, but I think it was time to move on. The job became sentimental and when the Premier asked me to lead to the Ministry of Transport of Public Works, I agreed.

Minister Madikizela’s experience in Human Settlements may have been the best foundation to ensure maximum citizen impact in his current position. “The Department of Human Settlements supported Provincial Strategic Goal 4: enabling a resilient, sustainable, quality and **inclusive living**, along with the Department of Transport and Public Works. Infrastructure is what gets people to and from the places they live. You build houses and then make sure that people are able to get to work and everywhere else.” The Minister also emphasised the importance of coming to grips with the technical aspects of his new portfolio.

With the support of the Head of Department Jacqui Gooch, and public service employees, focus areas for the current term include the restoration and efficiency of **public transport** – specifically rail transport by strengthening relations with the national department. “Failing public transport has a major impact on the economy; people don’t get to work on time and don’t feel safe. This is a key priority for me.” Other areas of focus include resolving issues of illegal operating in the taxi industry; improving road safety; **advancing spatial transformation** by creating a network of local economic hubs within the province; and job creation through targeted skills development and practical work experience.

“This is our third term in government. It’s time to be bold; go big or go home.”

#gobigorgohome



Minister Tertius Simmers

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

After more than 19 years in politics and nine years in public office, Tertius Simmers was appointed as the Minister of Human Settlements in 2019. Raised in a rural community in the Western Cape, Minister Simmers recalls the moment he realised that he can change lives and address people’s needs. “In order to change lives and change circumstances, I realised that you need to be a part of decision-making processes within the community.” This was the awareness that led him into politics.

Over the next five years, Minister Simmers hopes to change perspectives within the Department of Human Settlements. With the support of the Head of Department Thando Mguli, and public service employees, focus areas include the introduction of a home voucher scheme; maintaining the housing beneficiary list; increasing the number of serviced sites across informal settlements; **exploring alternative building and other technologies**; and the development of rural nodes.

“Ultimately, Human Settlements is seen as a housing department; but during this term, I’d like to see a radical mind shift from this perspective. We would like to create more opportunities to **integrate our communities** and together with our residents, create a true human settlement effect.”

“I am a living token that proves that the decisions you make can surpass wherever you come from. No matter where you are, think about where you can be.”

#openingopportunities



Minister Albert Fritz

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Having been in the public service for more than 30 years, Minister Fritz has an extensive record of serving communities across the Western Cape. In 1999, he was appointed as the Judicial Inspector of Prisons in the Office of the Inspecting Judge, before being promoted to Chief Judicial Inspector of Prisons in South Africa.

In 2009, he served the Provincial Parliament as the Deputy Shadow Minister of Correctional Services, and in 2010 he was appointed as the Western Cape Minister of Community Safety. Here, he used his past work experience to contribute a wealth of information on **civilian oversight**. Following a Cabinet reshuffle in 2011, Minister Fritz was appointed as the Western Cape Minister of Social Development, where he focused his efforts on youth development; social inclusion; poverty reduction; people living with disabilities; early childhood development; victim empowerment; and the older persons programme. During this time, he was also admitted to the Western Cape High Court as an advocate; staying true to his advice to all young people to "never stop learning".

Following seven years of service to the Social Development portfolio, Minister Fritz was reappointed as the Minister of Community Safety; a portfolio that truly requires a **whole-of-society approach**. With the support of the Head of Department Gideon Morris, and public service employees, focus areas for the current term include: improving **community policing** forum functions and the election process; formalising and accrediting neighbourhood watch groups across the province; and improving rural safety, including the safety of farmers and farm workers.

#workingasone



Minister Sharna Fernandez

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

After serving as the Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament for five years, Sharna Fernandez was appointed as the Minister of Social Development in 2019. With a successful background in banking, management and more recently, politics, Minister Fernandez is well versed in the area of finance - a matter upon which the Department of Social Development relies heavily in our current austere budget environment.

Over and above her professional background, Minister Fernandez has experienced her own share of the social issues she is now obligated to address. In 2009, she was diagnosed with the H1N1 virus, which led to her resignation a day after her 50th birthday. No longer employed, she spent her time giving back to the community, working with victims of abuse. As a single parent, she was not only a victim of physical abuse herself; but her only child faced a long battle with substance abuse.

With the support of the Head of Department Robert Macdonald, and public service employees, Minister Fernandez's focus areas for the current term include reducing the rate of child neglect; **protecting** women and children; **fighting** substance abuse; and increasing disability awareness and support. "We need to start **acknowledging** the link between childhood trauma and substance abuse. In my job, it would be very difficult to speak to the mother of an addict if I didn't know the pain she was feeling; it would be difficult to assist a woman who is fighting for child maintenance or being abused if I didn't experience it. I've been there." Minister Fernandez believes that a **whole-of-society approach** is needed to deal with many of society's issues. Moreover, she believes in making use of coordinated responses amongst various stakeholders, to ensure that the department is more successful in its efforts.

"I will always place people above paper. It's not about ticking boxes. It's about changing lives."

#peopleoverpaper



Minister Debbie Schäfer

EDUCATION

In 2014, Minister Schäfer was appointed as the Provincial Minister of Education in the Western Cape. A lawyer by profession, Minister Schäfer previously served as Shadow Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development and Shadow Deputy Minister of Police in the National Assembly.

While all departments are equally important, Minister Schäfer shares that education has a massive role to play in terms of bridging the skills gap in our province and the country at large, which in turn impacts the employability of citizens. "We need to equip our children with **21st-century skills** as well as just getting the basics right, and far too many of our children are still not getting the basics right." With the support of the Head of Department Brian Schreuder, and public service employees, focus areas for the next five years include improving levels of literacy and numeracy; 21st-century skills like coding, robotics and critical thinking; reducing crime and violence affecting schools; and the arts. "The arts have been neglected for a while and international research shows that the arts impact on other subjects. Our new focus is **STEAMAC** (science, technology, engineering, agriculture, mathematics, arts, and coding and computational skills)." Another area of focus is vocational training and embracing the three-stream model, which includes academic, technical-vocational, and technical-occupational streams. Minister Schäfer is also committed to establishing the School Evaluation Authority, which was recently included in the Western Cape Provincial School Amendment Act. School evaluations will be published online, allowing parents to see how well schools are performing.

"We need to pull together as a society because our country is in a difficult place and our budgets are not responding adequately to our needs. I am also very concerned about the level of violence affecting our schools. Communities must work together and help us protect our schools."

#preparingourfuture



Minister Noma French Mbombo

HEALTH

Minister Mbombo's Cabinet journey began in 2014 with the portfolio of Cultural Affairs and Sport. In 2015, she took over the portfolio of Health. Minister Mbombo has always been passionate about empowering communities and reclaiming the voices of vulnerable population groups - a passion she was able to nurture in both capacities.

In her previous term, Minister Mbombo devoted her energy to the empowerment of health care users, especially those in rural parts of the province. This was done to ensure that all people have adequate **access** to acceptable, quality health care services. Currently, she is committed to strengthening and upscaling programmes initiated during her previous term to ensure the delivery of appropriate health services.

With the support of the Head of Department Dr Beth Engelbrecht, and public service employees, Minister Mbombo's focus areas for the current term include piloting universal health coverage; **embracing and implementing medical innovations**; ensuring that health staff are competent by investing in training colleges; keeping emergency medical staff safe; and building and maintaining health facilities and related infrastructure.

"Health is everybody's business. We cannot work towards a healthy province alone; we must collaborate with other departments, spheres of government and the private sector to fulfil our mandate."

#accessandempowerment



Minister Anroux Marais

CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT

Minister Marais was introduced to Cabinet in 2015 as the Provincial Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport; a portfolio that she has since retained. As the smallest Western Cape Government department, Minister Marais supports its potential to make the greatest impact on local communities. "We are a small but complex department. Sport, drama, poetry, art, and heritage all fall under this portfolio and these are things that celebrate our cultural diversity and bring communities together." Over and above the entertainment aspect of the portfolio, the Minister is focused on developing and showcasing the entrepreneurial aspect of cultural affairs and sport. "It's not all about the entertainment value; it's also about the economic impact."

With the support of the Head of Department Brent Walters, and public service employees, Minister Marais's focus areas for the current term include local club development; women in sport leading up to the 2023 Netball World Cup; safe cultural initiation practices; skills development and job creation in the arts and sport; and the promotion of provincial heritage routes. "Our people want to know where they come from, and they want to feel a sense of belonging. The Cradle of Human Culture and the Mandela Route are two heritage routes developed for that purpose."

"If there is one thing I've learned during my time in Cultural Affairs and Sport, it is that our youth need heroes. Sports and the arts can give them that."

#culturalentrepreneurship

To learn more about the Western Cape Government's Executive team, visit the Western Cape Government YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/user/westerncapegov
#KnowYourMinisters #KnowYourPremier



Minister Anton Bredell

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Minister Bredell has been responsible for the portfolio of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for the past 10 years, carrying the responsibility of overseeing the welfare of the Western Cape's 30 local municipalities as well as the biodiversity entity, CapeNature, for three terms running. An entrepreneur by heart, Minister Bredell learnt the meaning of responsibility well before his political career began. "Being a business owner is a major responsibility because if you don't succeed, people lose their jobs". In addition to local government oversight, the portfolio of Environmental Affairs is tasked with maintaining the right balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability. Prior to his introduction to provincial government, Minister Bredell also served as the Executive Mayor of Swartland Municipality. As a Minister of two departments, with the support of their respective Heads Graham Paulse and Pieter van Zyl, and public service employees, his focus areas for the current term include improving municipal service delivery by empowering and supporting local councils; the sustainable management of natural resources through the Dignity Basket project; the creation of green jobs and green opportunities; and collaboration with CapeNature to promote economic growth through tourism.

"We have a vulnerable environment that we need to protect and manage for the benefit of all, including future generations. The challenges are real and we will require the cooperation of all, across government and society to get us moving forward and growing together."

#keepitgrowing



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Western Cape Government

BETTER TOGETHER.

Making innovation happen
BETTER TOGETHER.

motivation

Bonani Mfeya gives back in a different way, as the first and only male nurse to work in Khayelitsha Hospital's obstetrics ward.



MIDWIFE MFEYA

IN A WORLD WHERE PRAISE AND RECOGNITION ARE DESIRED AND VALUED, WORKING IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE REQUIRES A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, PASSION.



motivation

To Bonani, the most important thing to remember while in any public service position is Batho Pele and the principles that support it. "Put people first. Listen to them, and treat them with dignity and respect."

Having grown up in the community, Bonani knows Khayelitsha like he knows himself. "I know the ups and downs of this place; the poverty and what the community really needs. It was always my goal to give back to this community. I'm pleased to do it in this way," he says.

When asked about the negative aspects of his job, he only mentions the lack of basic health knowledge of his patients. "Sometimes they don't come for their regular check-ups; they don't know that mother-to-child transmission can be prevented. We need to work harder to educate our communities about health care." He jokes that his patients sometimes refer to him as "sister" but insists that it's a small price to pay when you love your job. "People

assume that nursing is a career path for women, but things are changing. Men are doing well in this field."

To Bonani, the most important thing to remember while in any public service position is Batho Pele and the principles that support it. "Put people first. Listen to them, and treat them with dignity and respect."

Beyond his current job of delivering more lives into this world, Bonani has his own ambitions. He hopes to complete a master's degree in the near future, specialising in advanced midwifery. ●

Bonani recently received praise from a former patient on her Facebook page for his excellent service. His response to the compliment demonstrated that being praised for your work ethic means very little when you don't have a passion for what you do. "I never do my work for recognition. I do it because I find joy in serving people."

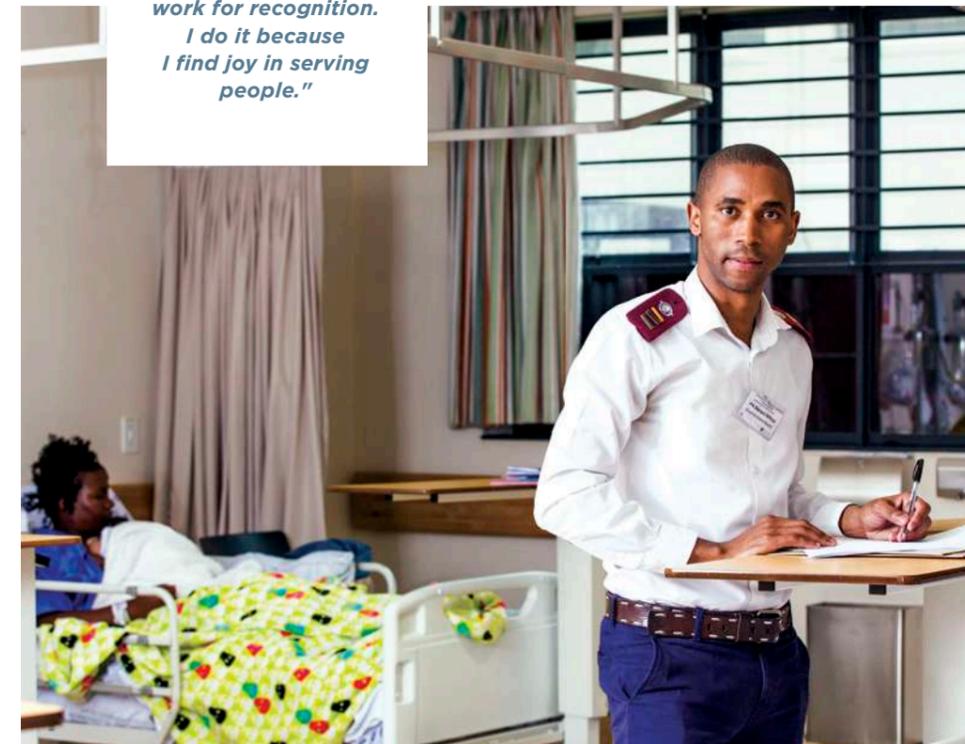
At 27, Bonani Mfeya spends his working day doing what he loves. His expressive hand gestures and excitement when speaking about his job make this clear for all to see.

Born and raised in Khayelitsha as the youngest of three siblings, Bonani had dreams of becoming a lawyer and giving back to his community. Today, he gives back in a different way, as the first and only male nurse to work in Khayelitsha Hospital's obstetrics ward.

After learning of his acceptance to the University of the Western Cape in 2011, Bonani planned to study nursing until he could change course to pursue a law degree. "I thought I'd change over when I had the opportunity, but as soon as I started learning about nursing, I fell in love with it. I didn't want to be a lawyer anymore." It was then that his second career choice became his first priority.

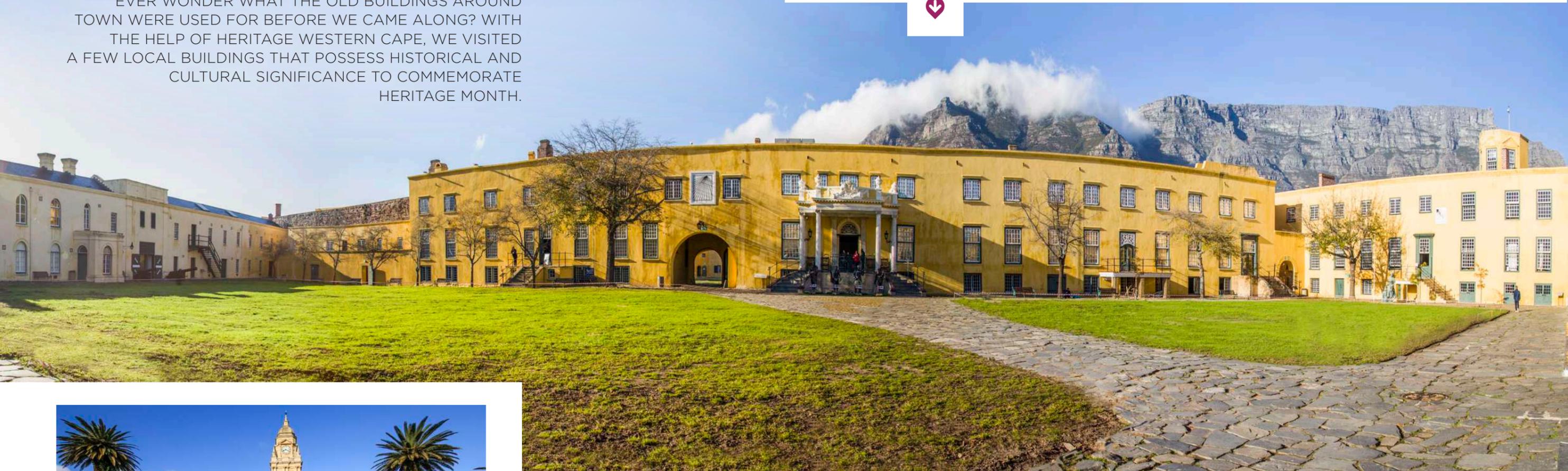
Three years into his training, Bonani realised the importance of having a mentor; someone he could truly look up to. "In my third year of studying, I was fortunate enough to have the current MEC for Health, Nomafrench Mbombo, as my lecturer. She motivated us, supported our passion, and advocated for us when no one else would." He recalls a time when Minister Mbombo urged university management to allow students to remain at their student residences during the holidays for free, to complete their work and make up for their required hours. "Over and above being our teacher, she was like a mother to us. She understood our concerns and frustrations." Listening to Bonani speak about his role model, it is clear that he has adopted the same approach, as he emphasises the value of communication in service delivery. "You can't take for granted that the people you are helping understand the processes. To provide an excellent service, you must first listen and then communicate the process, step by step. When I assist my patients, I raise their awareness at the same time. They always know exactly what's happening."

While Bonani's four years of training covered the foundations of community service, psychiatrics, and midwifery, he never once thought that an antenatal ward would be his station of choice. "I saw myself in the psych ward, you know, working in an environment with other male colleagues. This was the first time a male was placed in obstetrics at Khayelitsha Hospital and my senior kept reassuring me that I would be transferred to another ward. As time passed, I told her that I actually enjoy working here."



HOUSING OUR HERITAGE

EVER WONDER WHAT THE OLD BUILDINGS AROUND TOWN WERE USED FOR BEFORE WE CAME ALONG? WITH THE HELP OF HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE, WE VISITED A FEW LOCAL BUILDINGS THAT POSSESS HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE TO COMMEMORATE HERITAGE MONTH.



The Castle of Good Hope

C/O DARLING STREET AND BUITENKANT STREET, CAPE TOWN
ESTABLISHED: BETWEEN 1666 AND 1679

The Castle of Good Hope is known as the oldest surviving building in South Africa, and has been the centre of civilian, political and military life in the Cape since 1679. Today, it houses the William Fehr Collection managed by Iziko Museums South Africa, a permanent ceramic exhibition, and the Castle Military Museum.

A symbol of the 17th century Dutch East India Company style of architecture, the Castle was renovated in 2016 – a step toward the aim of being declared South Africa’s next UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today, focus is placed on using the Castle as a place for community dialogue and empowerment by hosting regular community meetings, social events, and workshops.



Cape Town City Hall

DARLING STREET, CAPE TOWN
ESTABLISHED: 1905

The Cape Town City Hall was built in 1905 in the Italian Renaissance style. The building is made from oolitic honey-hued limestone imported from Europe and England, with its lower walls and plinths made from granite sourced from the quarry on Signal Hill. The Hall was built to function as the centre of city administration and as such, once housed the offices of the City of Cape Town. More famously, the City Hall balcony is known as the place late President Nelson Mandela addressed more than 100 000 jubilant people just hours after his release from prison on 11 February 1990.

Heritage Western Cape is a public entity that seeks to identify and protect the rich and diverse heritage resources of the Western Cape. The title of a provincial heritage site is regulated through Heritage Western Cape and the South African Heritage Resources Agency, and covers a wide range of locations, including the built environment; archaeological, palaeontological and cave sites; and areas of geological interest. Identifying and protecting our heritage resources will ensure that they are preserved for generations to come.



The Huguenot Memorial Building

48 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, CAPE TOWN
ESTABLISHED: 1886

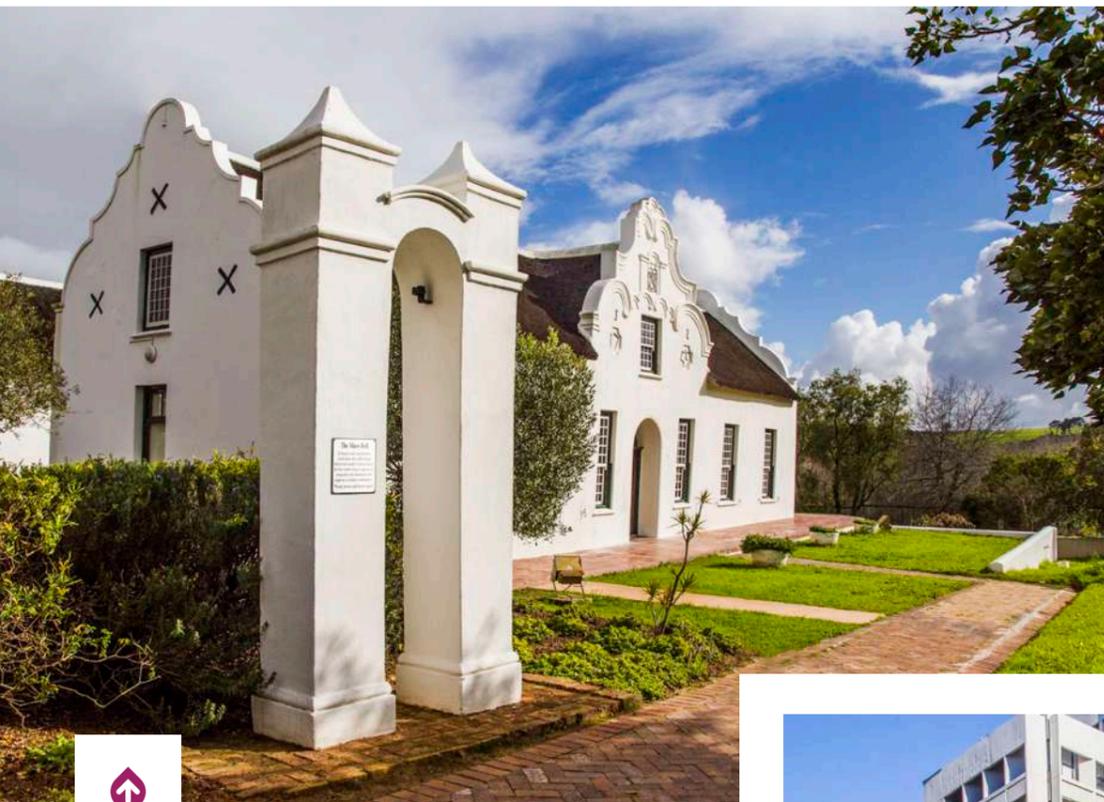
In 1886, the Dutch Reformed Church Council decided to erect a building in memory of the French Huguenots who visited the Cape in 1688. However, the cornerstone was only laid on 24 August 1899 by Sir Henry de Villiers who was the Chief Justice of the Cape Colony. The building was then made to serve as a synod (church council) hall, equipped with committee rooms and church offices. More recently, the building has also been the Cape Town Central home of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and used as office space by the Department of Social Development.

The South African National Gallery

**GOVERNMENT AVENUE, COMPANY'S GARDEN, CAPE TOWN
ESTABLISHED: 1930**

The South African National Gallery, situated in the picturesque Company's Garden, showcases art from around the world. The main building, designed by Clelland and Mullins (Department of Public Works at the time) and FK Kendall, was completed in 1930. The Gallery's art collection is regularly rotated so that there is a full programme of paintings, photography, sculptures, architecture, beadwork, textiles and works on paper on display.

Since 1990 and the birth of our rainbow nation, the Gallery has set up a collection that celebrates the inclusivity and expressive cultures of South Africa. Today, it boasts a respected collection of beadwork and indigenous sculptures along with original art pieces.



Kromme Rhee

**KROMME RHEE FARM, R44, STELLENBOSCH
ESTABLISHED: 1695**

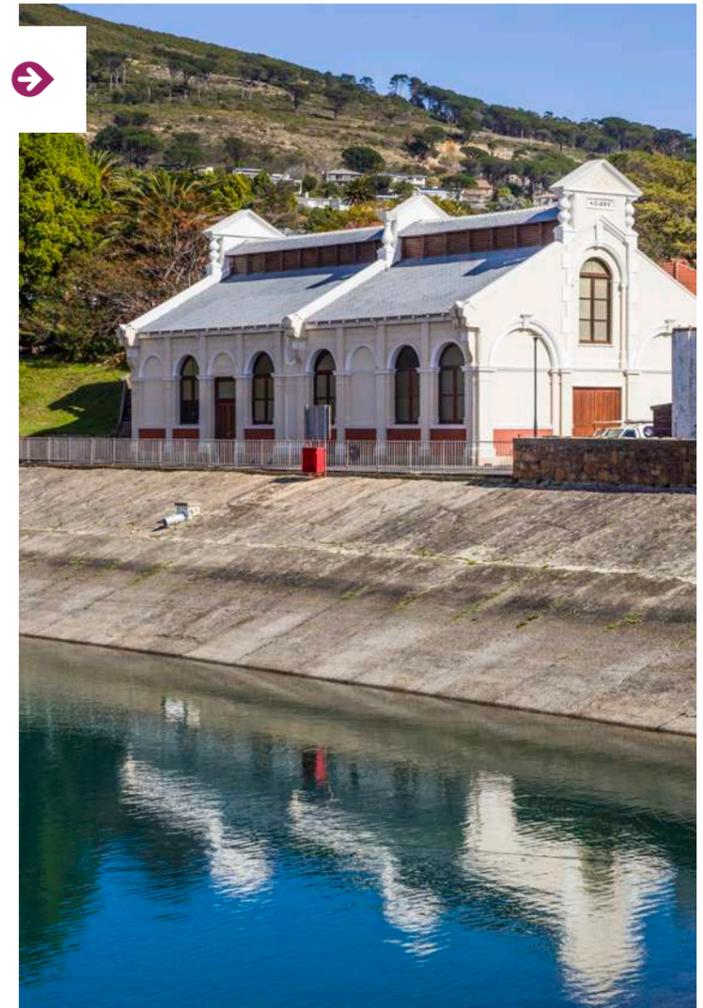
Kromme Rhee has a rich and interesting history: from the Farm's land once being owned by a lineage of farmers to it being cared for by slaves from across the world who worked as labourers, cleaners, wagon makers and washers. The site is currently a WCG training facility known as the Provincial Training Institute. The farm houses a Dutch-style building that was once Voortrekker leader Piet Retief's home, with a plaque and slave bell near the house to commemorate 184 years since the banning of slavery in the Cape.



Molteno Power Station

**MOLTENO ROAD, ORANJEZICHT, CAPE TOWN
ESTABLISHED: BETWEEN 1877 AND 1881**

The Molteno Reservoir is a 200 000-kilolitre water storage facility situated just above De Waal Park in Oranjezicht. The reservoir was completed in 1881 and is the city's oldest operational reservoir. According to the City of Cape Town, a museum is being built at the reservoir in the same building that used to house the Graaff Electric Lighting Works in 1895 – Cape Town's first power station. Interestingly, the Molteno spring (one of 20 springs that flow through the city bowl from the mountain) forms part of a series of natural waterways collectively known as "Camissa" ("sweet waters"), which is the original Khoi name for Cape Town.



Tyne Buildings

**140, 142 AND 148 LONG STREET, CAPE TOWN
ESTABLISHED: 1977**

The Tyne Buildings make up a trio of Art Deco facades that have been declared a provincial heritage site. The buildings currently house the provincial Ministry of Finance and Economic Opportunities, and other government departments.



EKASI ECONOMY BOOM

DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT THE TOWNSHIP ECONOMY IS HOT ON THE TRAILS OF JOB CREATION, ENTREPRENEURIAL GROWTH, AND ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT.

Estratweni Mobile Foods started with a R200 loan and has grown into a fully-fledged job-creating enterprise.



Over and above convenience and accessibility, these businesses offer unique and tailored experiences to their communities, and to visitors eager for a taste of Mzansi.



SOURCE: Information supplied by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism

A visit to any one of the Western Cape's townships will tell you one thing for sure — that entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well amongst our people. From pillar to post, small businesses line each street. Hair salons, barbershops, takeaways, fresh produce vendors, fast fashion, spaza shops, internet cafés — where there is a need, a budding entrepreneur recognises it.

The term “township economy” refers to businesses based in ‘locations’ or suburbs in predominantly peri-urban areas — where entrepreneurs from in and around the townships cater to the needs of local communities. Customers are able to access the products and services they need closer to home instead of making the 15-kilometre trip into the CBD.

Over and above convenience and accessibility, these businesses offer unique and tailored experiences to their communities, and to visitors eager for a taste of Mzansi.

Siphumeza Ramncwana and Thando Mavumengwana's Estratweni Mobile Foods is just one example of a township-based business doing exactly this.

Situated in Gugulethu just south of the city bowl, the goal of Estratweni Mobile Foods is “to usher in an era of culinary modernisation”. Founded by childhood friends Siphumeza “Blax” Ramncwana and Thando “Space” Mavumengwana, Estratweni is a street food social enterprise known for its affordable prices and excellent customer service. Directly translated as “on the street”, this is exactly where their food trucks are located; embodying the spirit of their aim to make good food accessible to all.

Blax and Space share a unique perspective on entrepreneurship. “Entrepreneurship is a bit different in the city where it's about self-fulfilment or following one's true passion. Here, entrepreneurship has developed from a survival



Bustling city centres and central business districts are not the be-all and end-all of the South African economy.

perspective; selling something quickly just to put food on the table. Eventually, it develops into something more; like it did with the Estratweni brand.” They highlight the reality that townships weren’t built for entrepreneurship, but clearly, the township is where entrepreneurs abound.

Blax and Space started their business in 2016, with a R200 loan from Space’s sister. The duo’s aim was to bring the variety of cuisine seen in the CBD into township spaces; to give a more substantial dining experience to residents of Gugulethu. “We wanted to create something sustainable because we were both breadwinners with no matric qualification and no job. We quickly learnt that mindset is more important than knowledge, and we became ‘the chefs on the road’; everyone loved it.” Estratweni Mobile Foods reciprocated the love their community had shown them by making the decision to give back and empower young people. The business employs local youth with petty crime records in an attempt to reintegrate them into society in a productive capacity. To date, Estratweni Mobile Foods has expanded to include three operational food trailers and one food cart;

Two of Estratweni’s employees preparing their signature boerewors rolls and burgers for hungry customers



Economy
We aim to support informal and township economies through small-business incentive schemes, help with registration for government- and private sector tenders, and mentoring services.

employing seven permanent and eight casual staff members. Blax explains that most of their casual employees are teenagers working to earn money to pay their matric farewell expenses, and that one of them recently began his Premier’s Advancement of Youth internship at the Western Cape Government.

To learn more about Estratweni Mobile Foods, visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Mobilefoodscc/>

UNLOCKING THE TOWNSHIP ECONOMY

Small business owners in townships need to be flexible, innovative, determined and skilled in order to keep their heads above water. In order to thrive, they need access to funding, some degree of mentorship, and freedom from unnecessary and excessive administrative requirements. As Blax explains, “measures and policies for small businesses are the same for everyone, but the township context is so much different than the urban context”.

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is implementing the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) Booster Fund, which supports the growth and sustainability of rural and township-based SMMEs. However, other SMMEs (metro-based or sector-specific) where job creation and retention is a real possibility, are not excluded. One focus area is infrastructure development support to SMMEs. The fund provides the necessary support to municipalities, organisations and institutions to improve and develop trading-related infrastructure such as trading spaces and storage for the benefit of SMMEs, with an emphasis on the township and informal sector within rural and urban areas.

Support will also be considered where the project or intervention will result in spin-off opportunities for SMMEs, for example, where an infrastructure development will enhance the development and growth of surrounding SMMEs.

While enormously popular, it is becoming clear that bustling city centres and central business districts are not the be-all and end-all of the South African economy. Smaller business districts, like township economies, promote overall economic growth and ensure that business activity spans beyond urban, inner-city clusters.

the invisible killer

ACCORDING TO THE 2018 UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT, AIR POLLUTION KILLS MORE THAN SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE EVERY YEAR.



The WCG Air Quality Management Directorate celebrating World Environment Day 2019 with #beatairpollution



On 5 June 2019 – World Environment Day – the United Nations encouraged global awareness and action to protect our environment against air pollution. According to the World Health Organisation, “60% of household air pollution-related deaths globally occur among women and children” owing to traditional home-based roles perpetuated in many societies.

The Western Cape Government, through the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Directorate: Air Quality Management, is working towards its vision of “clean and healthy air for all in the Western Cape”. This will be achieved by implementing

its air quality education and awareness initiatives, whilst employing air quality oversight, monitoring and regulatory services in the province, in line with its Western Cape Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The AQMP aims to ensure that our province etches closer to its goal of becoming the lowest carbon emission province in South Africa, and the leading green economic hub on the African continent.

To ensure that the AQMP vision is achieved, the Air Quality Management Directorate measures ambient air quality at 12 locations across the Western Cape (see Figure 1, p 25). From the ambient air quality measurements



collected, it is evident that the air pollutants of concern in the Western Cape are airborne particulate matter smaller than 10 microns (PM10), ozone, and hydrogen sulphide. "It is important for us to measure the air quality across the province so that we can make informed decisions on how to manage air pollution, as well as use the information to inform our climate change response," says Dr Joy Leaner, Director: Air Quality Management.

Climate change and air pollution have been regarded as two sides of the same coin that affect us all, particularly as carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane, for example, raise the earth's temperature. Recent studies suggest that the concentration of airborne pollutants in the atmosphere increase with rising temperatures, and that air pollution lingers over cities as temperatures rise. According to Dr Leaner, "a key focus should be to ensure effective air quality management and implement mitigation interventions

to decrease emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases in the province".

Air pollution is a mixture of gases and particles. When the air pollutant concentrations exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, they can cause harm to human health and the environment.

COMMON CONTRIBUTORS TO AIR POLLUTION

- + Motor vehicle emissions
- + Controlled and uncontrolled fires
- + Landfills (burning and methane emissions)
- + Burning of fossil fuels
- + Burning of household waste, plastics, tyres and "wet" wood
- + Refrigeration and air conditioning using man-made gases (e.g. Freon)
- + Industrial manufacturing
- + Commercial farming practices

Not all pollutants are man-made; however, increasing human activity and industrial development may contribute to increased air pollution, which needs to be managed.

HOW AIR POLLUTION AFFECTS OUR HEALTH

The effects of air pollution on human health depend on the duration of exposure, and the concentration of the pollutant. Common health impacts include asthma, abnormal fatigue, lung disease, respiratory disease, and various cancers, as well as short-term effects such as headaches, irritation to eyes, shortness of breath and nausea.

There is a link between air pollution and climate change, and incidents such as heat waves, extreme weather patterns and food supply disruptions indirectly affect human health.

POLLUTION FROM WASTE BURNING

The burning of household and municipal waste is common in many areas of the Western Cape. These types of fires produce small amounts of carbon dioxide and large amounts of smoke, and can release toxic gases and chemicals. All of these pollutants are released into the air at ground level, where they are easily inhaled by people.

POLLUTION FROM FARMING ACTIVITIES

Vast tracts of land are used for farming in the Western Cape; modern farming practices that are not environmentally friendly also have an impact on air quality. From crop burning, to the spraying of pesticides and the release of dust into the air from ploughing, agricultural practices can pollute the atmosphere. Modern trends in agriculture have also led to more animals being reared on farms, resulting in an increase in air emissions from animal feeding operations.

POLLUTION FROM TRAFFIC CONGESTION

The TomTom Global Traffic Index revealed that Cape Town is the most congested city in South Africa, with a global ranking of the 55th most congested city in the world. Motor vehicle emissions result in air pollution as well as climate change, and Cape Town motorists are spending 71% more time on the road during peak hour than they would in free-flowing traffic.

SO, HOW DO WE BEAT AIR POLLUTION?

In terms of Section 24 of our Constitution, "everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing," and so, we have a right to breathe clean air! This right is also entrenched in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is fully enshrined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

A few tips to reduce air pollution:

- + Use renewable energy wherever possible.
- + Walk, ride a bicycle, or car pool to your destination.
- + Choose products with less packaging, or reusable packaging.



Environmental Officer: Air Quality Monitoring, Palesa Mothiba in one of the WCG air quality monitoring stations.



FIGURE 1: Current locations of ambient air quality monitoring stations in the Department's ambient air quality monitoring network.

- + Recycle paper, plastic, glass, cardboard, and aluminium cans to reduce production emissions.
- + Do not burn organic waste; use it as compost instead.
- + Buy a fuel-efficient, low-polluting car.
- + Buy energy-efficient refrigeration and air-conditioning units that contain natural refrigerants.
- + Do not dispose of old refrigeration appliances without ensuring that the refrigerant gases are correctly disposed of.
- + Fill your car's tank in the evening to reduce evaporation.

THE AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT SMART-AIR PROGRAMME

The Western Cape AQMP introduced a programme for reducing air pollution as mandated by Section 31 of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act No. 39 of 2004, called the SMART-air Programme.

The aim of the SMART-air Programme is to:

- + raise awareness on air quality and climate change responses;
- + promote and recognise the use of emission abatement and cleaner technologies that reduce air pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions;
- + target youth and the unemployed as part of the capacity building and skills development component of the Programme; and

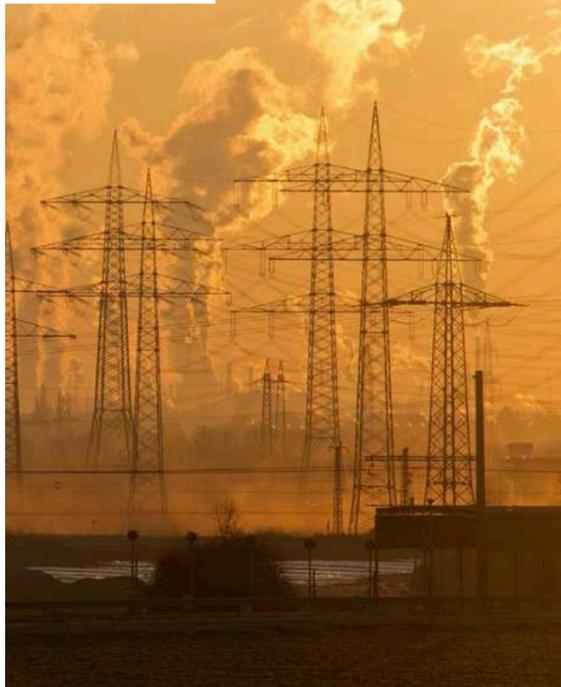
facilitate capacity building and skills development in the use of emission abatement and cleaner technologies by industry players. The Air Quality Management Directorate in collaboration with the Free State of Bavaria in Germany launched an international project on climate-friendly refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC). This RAC Project was introduced under the SMART-air Programme, as part of our climate change response interventions to reduce ozone-depleting substances and GHG emissions, in line with national and international requirements.

Currently, most refrigeration and air-conditioning appliances use fluorinated gases like hydrochloro-fluorocarbons (HCFCs) or hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs). When these substances leak, they have a high global warming potential (GWP) and are up to several thousand

times more potent than CO2. With rising temperatures, the demand for refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment is predicted to increase dramatically. Without any serious interventions, the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector could be responsible for 13% of global GHG emissions by 2030. It is important for the RAC sector to consider "leapfrogging" from using the high GWP HFCs to natural refrigerants such as CO2, ammonia or propane, which have a low GWP. In this way, there would be significant savings in terms of waste and energy, when combining energy-efficient appliances with natural refrigerant systems.

Pledge your support and help us get the word out on how to beat air pollution. We challenge you to use the hashtag #BeatAirPollution in your social media posts and tag @UNEnvironment. Together we can #BeatAirPollution.

Increasing human activity and industrial development may contribute to increased air pollution, which needs to be managed.



PRINCIPAL HERO

Being a hero in the real world is about more than beating the bad guy or winning the race; it's about lending an ear to those who have a story to tell and giving a voice to those who need it the most.

Located in the heart of Bishop Lavis, Bergville Primary School is seen as a beacon of hope in the surrounding community. According to long-standing Principal Aleem Abrahams, "hope" is their core business and their profit margin is determined by the determination and success of their learners. Bergville Primary School has been burgled four times since the beginning of the 2019 academic year. Mr Abrahams shares that only two things can solve the issue of crime in our schools: accountability and care.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr Abrahams grew up in Bishop Lavis following the forced removals from District Six in the late 1960s. "I was raised in this community and I completed my teaching practical at Bergville Primary School. I have been an educator since 1984." Mr Abrahams describes his teaching career enthusiastically, but if fate hadn't intervened on his way to register for university, his path would have been a different one. He had dreams of becoming a lawyer, but when the train he was on passed his station on registration day, he ended up registering at the Bellville Training College instead of the University of the Western Cape. "I couldn't understand how the train skipped the station, but I just told myself, 'I'm here now', I might as well just register."



BERGVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ALEEM ABRAHAMS HAS BEEN HAILED A HERO BY THE LEARNERS PLACED IN HIS CARE, THE TEAM WHO TEACH UNDER HIS GUIDANCE, AND THE COMMUNITY HE SERVES.

Certificates decorate the four walls of his office; some are symbols of appreciation, while others represent academic excellence and long service. The words "This is where the buck stops" are written boldly across his office door. "It means that I stand accountable for whatever happens in this school," he explains.

He does indeed. The last time Bergville Primary School was burgled proves it. The thieves stole all four of the school's computer hard drives; each one storing important administrative information. "We had three break-ins previously, and this time they knew exactly what they wanted. I realised then that they intended to take everything we had. No meaningful teaching or effective administration could take place without those hard drives. I needed to get them back before they erased the information and sold them. I said to myself, 'You need to get it back, you need to go.'" In a state of rage and panic, Mr Abrahams left the school alone on foot to retrieve the stolen items. "I went from door to door asking for information. It was only a day later that I was approached by two men saying that their boss had the items I needed and wanted to see me." At the end of the day, Mr Abrahams made his way to the address given and when confronted, explained that he needed his hard drives back. "The streets may not be my turf, but this school is my turf," he said to the perpetrators and their boss as he asked for the stolen items. Eventually, Mr Abrahams retrieved the hard drives. "Unfortunately, I wasn't given many options apart from taking the hard drives and walking away. Our children are the ones who suffer, and I feel responsible for their safety and their wellbeing. If I don't answer for them, who will?" he explained.

It's no surprise that Mr Abrahams's motto is "first justice, then peace".



Mr Abrahams's leadership philosophy is based on four words: "Can I help you?"



"We need to build partnerships within our communities. We need to look out for one another and care about one another's best interests. The day we truly care about our neighbour, nobody will suffer."



Bergville Primary School Principal Aleem Abrahams ensures that the school is a place of safety and learning for its 450 learners.

CARE

The task of educating students has developed into more than completing a curriculum. It is about taking care of children physically and emotionally. "My staff come from areas outside of Bishop Lavis. They come here to work; to serve. They don't come here to solve social issues, but we need to consider the type of learners in our classrooms — where they come from; their quality of life. We work with the poorest of the poor and therefore we need to teach holistically. If children are not cared for, they will not be able to learn."

Mr Abrahams's leadership philosophy is based on four words: "Can I help you?" To him, this approach introduces a degree of trust and partnership amongst his staff. "If I can help them with their problems, they can focus on their learners."

When it comes to the issue of violence and crime in our schools, Mr Abrahams urges

citizens and communities to come together and put fear aside. "We need to build partnerships within our communities. We need to look out for one another and care about one another's best interests. The day we truly care about our neighbour, nobody will suffer." He highlights the unfortunate reality that there is nothing for thieves to steal from households in poor communities, which is why schools and other public facilities are targeted. "Poverty and unemployment are not normal; these are our main problems," he says.

Despite the challenges, Mr Abrahams serves his community and school with pride and passion.

"Since that train went past that station, I have never looked back. I don't know whether or not I would have been a good lawyer, but I am sure that I have been a good teacher." ●

THE GREAT (local is lekker) GATSBY



For many Capetonians, especially those living on the Cape Flats, the gatsby is not just a supersized sandwich; it has become a symbol of culture.



Tasneem's thesis is about food, culinary heritage, tradition, politics, history, and how all these things intersect on our plates.

A WELL-KNOWN STAPLE ON THE CAPE TOWN GASTRONOMY BUCKET LIST IS THE HEARTY, FLAVOURFUL GATSBY. BUT HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHERE THIS POPULAR FOOD ITEM ORIGINATED OR HOW IT CAME ABOUT? IN THE SPIRIT OF HERITAGE MONTH, WE SAT DOWN WITH TASNEEM WENTZEL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT WHO HAS PUBLISHED A CAPTIVATING MASTER'S MINI-THESIS ON THE GATSBY. THE THESIS EXPLORES THE HISTORICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CULINARY LANDSCAPE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF RACE AND ETHNICITY THROUGH FOOD.

For her research, she focused on a very specific period of South African history - 1950 to 1980 - which was a very turbulent time in our country with the apartheid regime's stronghold on citizen's lives; where and how they lived and how they interacted with each other and other races. She used combined interviews, archival research and theoretical readings of food literature in South Africa through desktop research to collect her data. She also interviewed various businessmen in the food industry.

"Food is a very political topic and I think because we eat all the time and food is in our lives daily, we forget that it actually has meaning and plays an important role in social relations and community," she explains.

TAKEAWAYS AND HERITAGE

"Wembley Roadhouse and Super Fisheries, specifically, have cemented themselves as food institutions on the Cape Flats. Family-owned takeaways establishments that appeared on the black periphery and catered for the black consumer were popularised amid the political and economic upheavals of forced removals in the 1970s. The shifting labour market, changing work schedules, and hardening political climate were reflected in the popularisation and consumption of bread-based takeaways on the Cape Flats," explains Tasneem.

"With my research, I set out to show how the production and consumption of the Wembley Whopper and the Super Fisheries Gatsby constituted cultural signifiers of agency that were historically embedded within a set of discursive practices and a business ethic that distinguished halaal takeaways from franchised and state-subsidised food."

Tasneem used the example of people who lived in the former inner-city residential area of District Six during apartheid. They had very good access to food markets and the ingredients they needed for their meals, but with forced removals (Group Areas Act of 1950) those people were moved to areas far

Tasneem, who is an Auxiliary Services Officer (Educational Officer) at the Simon's Town Museum, compiled the mini-thesis titled "Producing and Consuming the Wembley Whopper and the Super Fisheries Gatsby: Bread Winners and Losers in Athlone, Cape Town, 1950-1980" submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for her master's degree from the University of the Western Cape. Speaking to Tasneem, it is evident how passionate she is about the often unthought-of relationship between food and heritage. "My thesis was about food and history and I chose the gatsby and the Wembley Whopper as it is food that I am familiar with. I worked with food to find out what kinds of stories could be told from things we think have no history. I found some very interesting connections between race and how food is produced."



from the city centre to neighbourhoods and communities unfamiliar to them. They also had to do the long daily commute to the city, where most of them still worked. It was evident that with their routine change came a change in food rituals because there was less time to spend preparing and eating.

She explains that this is where we see the development of takeaways on the Cape Flats and more specifically, takeaways with distinct flavours that mimicked those of home-cooked meals. Under these circumstances, foods like the Wembley Whopper and gatsby were born.

FOOD AND POLITICS

Tasneem also expanded on another interesting relationship between food and race that she had uncovered in her research, including the white bread history of South Africa. In her thesis, she explains that bread is a "historically produced commodity that links producers, consumers, and the state in dynamic and illuminating ways. Emerging from a genealogy of research, subsidisation and regulation, bread production was inextricably bound to the institutionalisation of colonial and apartheid legislation".

"Many are unaware that wheat was a political commodity from the arrival of the Dutch in the Cape because having wheat meant you could make bread; and bread is a daily staple and therefore a sign of survival."

An interesting fact, that many are unaware of, is that the gatsby was created when the owner of Super Fisheries needed to feed his workers, but there was no fish left in the shop - only polony, atchar (chutney) and a French loaf. For many Capetonians, especially those living on the Cape Flats, the gatsby is not just a supersized sandwich; it has become a symbol of culture - further proof of the intrinsic connection between food and heritage. ●



"Food is a very political topic and I think because we eat all the time and food is in our lives daily, we forget that it actually has meaning and plays an important role in social relations and community," she explains.



Ingaba wawukhe wacinga malunga nokuba igatsby le idumileyo ivelaphi okanye yavela njani? Siye sahlala phantsi nomlingane wethu emsebenzini, uTasneem Wentzel, opapashe ithisisi yakhe encinci yesidanga seMastazi ethetha ngegatsby. Le thisisi iphicotha indlela obuboniswa ngayo iindlela zokupheka eMzantsi Afrika ngokubhekiselele kubuhlanga. UTasneem ufumanise ukuba kukho uqhagamshelwano olunika umdla phakathi kobuhlanga neendlela ezenza ngazo ukutya ezo ntlanga. Ngamaxesha obunzima, kwiminyaka yoo-1970, kwezepolitiki nakwezoqoqosho kweli lizwe, apho abantu babefuduswa ngendlovu kwiindawo zabo, iiresty zeentsapho zaye zaba ziivenkile zokutya ezidumileyo. UTasneem wenze umzekelo ngabantu ababehlala eDistrict Six ngexesha localucalulo. Babefikelela lula kwiimalike zokutya kunye nezithako ababezifunela ukutya kwabo, kodwa baye bafuduselwa kwiindawo ezahlukeneyo abangazaziyo ezikude nedolophu. Ngenxa yoku kufuduswa, kwaye kwatshintsha neendlela zabo zeziqhelo zokwenza ukutya kuba babengenalo ixesha elaneleyo lokutya nokulungiselela ukutya kwabo. Kulapho Kanye zaye zanda iivenkile ezithengisa ukutya ezibizwa ngokuba zii takeaways kwii Cape Flats ingakumbi ezazithengisa ukutya okunencasa eyodwa nokunongwe ngendlela eyahlukileyo - njengegatsby - yona eyenziwe yafana nokutya okuphekwe ekhaya.



Het jy al ooit gewonder hoe die gewilde gatsby ontstaan het? Ons het met ons kollega Tasneem Wentzel gesels, wat 'n meesterstesis oor die gatsby gepubliseer het. Die tesis ondersoek die geskiedkundige voorstelling van die Suid-Afrikaanse kulinêre landskap met betrekking tot die konstruksie van ras en etnisiteit. Tasneem het die baie interessante verband uitgelig wat daar tussen ras en die produsering van kos bestaan. Wegneemeetplekke wat die eiendom van 'n familie is, het in die tydperk van politieke en ekonomiese omwenteling en gedwonge verwydering in die 1970's gewild geraak. Tasneem het die voorbeeld gebruik van mense wat gedurende apartheid in Distrik Ses gewoon het. Hulle het die bestanddele vir hul maaltye by kosmarkte gekoop, maar as gevolg van gedwonge verwydering is hulle na gebiede ver van die middestad na onbekende woonbuurte verskuif. Met hul verandering in roetine het hul kosmaakroetines ook verander omdat daar minder tyd was om kos voor te berei en te eet. Dit is hoe wegneemetes op die Kaapse Vlakte ontstaan het, en meer spesifiek wegneemetes met verskillende geure - soos die gatsby - wat dié van tuisgemaakte maaltye naboots.



CRADLE OF HUMAN CULTURE

Economy
We aim to maintain a vibrant and innovative provincial economy characterised by growth, employment, and equitable opportunities.

THE STORY OF HUMAN EXISTENCE BEGAN MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO AT THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND IN GAUTENG, AND SPREAD ACROSS THE WESTERN CAPE, SHAPING OUR CULTURAL IDENTITY AND BEHAVIOUR.
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DEAN SAVILLE FOR MAGICMILL



A journey that traces the development of human culture over the past 100 000 years, and uncovers the mysteries of what it means to be human

If someone asked you what the meaning of culture is, would you know the answer?

Culture is everything from language and the way we speak it, food and the way we eat it, religion and the way we practise it, to our beliefs of what is right and wrong, the way we say hello and goodbye, the way we express ourselves through art, and a million other things.

To Dr Mariagrazia Galimberti, Cradle of Human Culture Project Champion, “culture is what shapes us; the way we are and the way we think. It influences our behaviours and beliefs, and develops our identity and sense of belonging”.

WELCOME TO THE CRADLE OF HUMAN CULTURE

Launched in 2019 by Wesgro, the WCG Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, the Cradle of Human Culture offers its visitors a unique understanding of the physical and cultural evolution of human beings. It promotes the idea that our shared heritage is more than where we come from; it is who we are. The project team describes it as a journey that traces the development of human culture over the past 100 000 years, and uncovers the mysteries of what it means to be human. “Culture is an evolving concept and the Cradle of Human Culture shows us that,” says Dr Galimberti.

The heritage route covers a vast area of the Western Cape, stretching from the West Coast all the way down along the scenic landscapes

of the South Coast as pictured on the right. Dr Galimberti explains that over time, the sites included in the route will expand to ensure the involvement of all Western Cape municipalities.

The Cradle of Human Culture journey currently splits into two travel routes that start and end in Cape Town. The Artist’s Journey stretches up north along the West Coast, while the Coastal Journey stretches east along the South Coast. Though both routes reveal some of the province’s most scenic landscapes, the Artist’s Journey takes its visitors on a creative trip to one of the most impressive rock painting sites at Matjiesrivier Nature Reserve. Stops along the way include a San culture and education centre called !Kkwa ttu; the West Coast Fossil Park; Elands Bay Cave; Diepkloof Rock Shelter; and the Sevilla Rock Art Trail. During the trip, visitors are given the opportunity to immerse themselves in dance, oral history, rock art and the art of survival taught by descendants of the San and Khoi people. Travel stops are located relatively close to one another in distance, making the Artist’s Journey an ideal choice for a weekend away.

The Coastal Journey offers its visitors a tour along the Southern Cape Coast from Cape Town to the beautiful Garden Route and Klein Karoo. Imagine the thrill of having supper with a local in Stellenbosch after parading through the Sculpture Garden in Paradyskloof. Visitors are able to share stories about their backgrounds and cultural differences, before setting off to enjoy a tour of the Cango Caves in Oudtshoorn. The Coastal Journey offers

TOURISM AND JOB CREATION

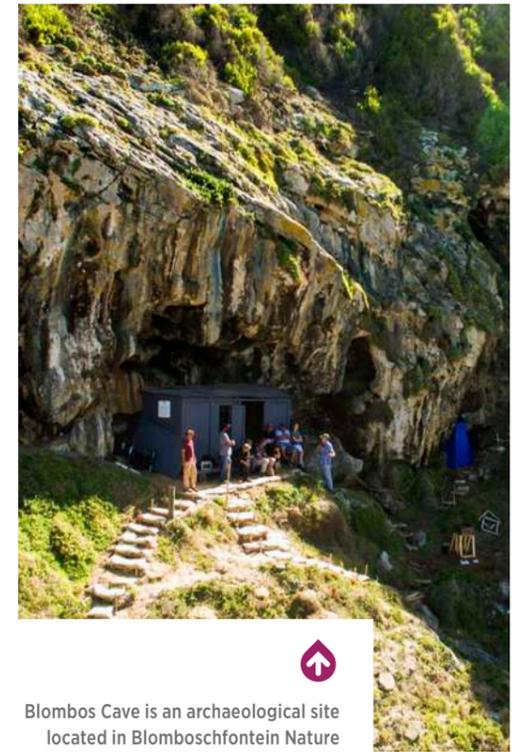
Not only does the Cradle of Human Culture recognise and expose the evolution of human culture through tourism, it also creates jobs and opportunities for local economic growth. According to Wesgro, over 55% of visitors to the Western Cape in 2017 said that culture and heritage are key activities on their travel itinerary. Last year saw a massive increase in domestic visitors engaging in culture and heritage activities throughout South Africa. Cultural activities rank among the top tourism activities in the province and are more popular than dining out, entertainment and shopping.

travellers a second opportunity to mingle with the locals in the town of George before making a few more stops to explore the norms and practices of early civilisation along the coast.

ANCHOR SITES

The evolution of human culture can be traced across the whole province, but the Cradle of Human Culture focuses on three main archaeological anchor sites: Diepkloof Rock Shelter, Blombos Cave, and Pinnacle Point. Here, our earliest ancestors began harnessing their spirituality, using fire and tools, and illustrating abstract thought. Dr Galimberti explains that the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport is in the process of nominating the three locations as World Heritage Sites, and that there are future plans to expand to an additional three sites outside of the province.

The anchor sites currently hold an unmatched record of palaeoenvironmental and human history in an important phase of human evolution: the period around 100 000 years ago when Homo sapiens started developing modern human behaviour characterised by symbolic behaviour; abstract thinking; behavioural, economic and technological innovations; and the ability to plan and strategise. For instance, at Pinnacle Point, the use of fire to heat stone to make better tools has been recorded as one of the first in history, indicating technological advancement. The engravings found at Diepkloof in numbers of up to 400 ostrich eggshells suggest interpersonal communication and symbolic thought, which represents a giant leap in human evolution. At Blombos Cave, perforated estuarine shells strung together in necklaces are a first example of body decoration and evidence of technological advancement.



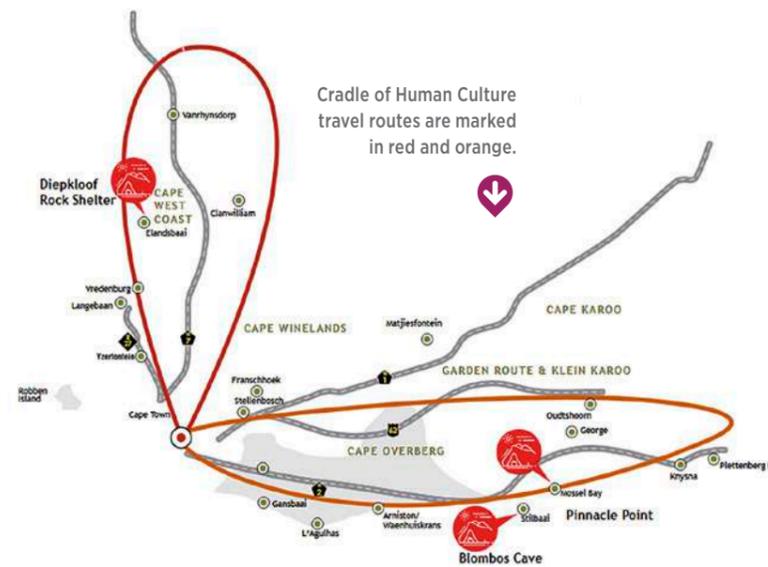
Blombos Cave is an archaeological site located in Blomboschfontein Nature Reserve, about 300 km east of Cape Town on the Southern Cape coastline.



CULTURAL INNOVATION

Although the Diepkloof Rock Shelter is currently not open to the public, the Cradle of Human Culture offers an innovative and exciting way to explore the anchor site without actually being there. “We thought that through virtual reality, we could make Diepkloof Rock Shelter accessible to the public by allowing more people to explore and experience it even when they are not physically visiting the site,” says Dr Galimberti. Diepkloof Rock Shelter, just like many other archaeological sites, is located in an area difficult to access on foot or by vehicle. Additionally, the fragility of most archaeological sites does not make for a very accessible visitor experience, especially if there is no tour guide available to tell the archaeological story. Dr Galimberti explains that the Diepkloof Rock Shelter’s virtual reconstruction offers an overall view of the site and of the period in which it was occupied. “We show the landscape in which the site developed and we explain how the excavation has taken place by superimposing the progression of the excavation grid over the years. We have recently found out that Heritage Western Cape has been awarded a US Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation, which we will be using for the preservation and protection of Diepkloof Rock Shelter. We envision that a portion of the funds will also be used to improve the current virtual reality experience, making it accessible to a wider audience.”

SOURCE: <https://www.cradleofhumanculture.co.za/>



Pinnacle Point is located just south of Mossel Bay, along the South Coast. Excavations at Pinnacle Point have revealed occupation by Middle Stone Age people between 170 000 and 40 000 years ago.



Innovation and culture change

We do what we can for the people who play their part in safeguarding our society.

The WCG Department of Community Safety has taken an innovative and resourceful approach to combating crime.



Earlier this year, Western Cape Premier Alan Winde launched the Commissioner of Oaths Volunteer (COV) Project. The COV Project allows designated police officers to focus their energy and resources on active crime prevention.

While provincial governments do not have a mandate over the police, allowing public service employees to volunteer as Commissioners of Oaths also allows police officers to be more visible on our streets.

WHAT IS A COMMISSIONER OF OATHS?

Have you ever applied for a job that required certified copies of your personal documentation? Typically, your first thought would be to find the nearest police station or post office. Here, you would wait to see a Commissioner of Oaths to have your documents certified.

A "CO" (Commissioner of Oaths) is any person authorised to verify affidavits, statutory declarations, or written statements

of facts that the writer signs and declares to be true. In the context of the Justices of Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act 16 of 1963, the role of a CO is to confirm that a person making a sworn statement (affidavit) has confirmed that the content of the statement is true. A CO does not need to confirm the objective truth of the contents of the statement being commissioned. In fact, he/she is not required to have any knowledge of the contents of the document involved. Instead, the CO is a formal witness to the fact that the person making the statement has sworn that the content of the statement is true; with the aim of protecting society from dishonesty and fraud by holding citizens accountable.

"Currently, the COV Project only involves the certification of documents as true copies of originals," says Wayne Butler, designated Project Manager of the COV Project. Wayne points out that since its launch, the Department of Community Safety has continued piloting the COV Project at the Cape Town Central Police Station to develop a volunteer model of Government Active Citizenship. "The initiative involves employees from the Department of Community Safety who volunteer two hours of their workday from Monday to Friday; a mobile safety kiosk has been parked at the Cape Town Central Police Station where certification is done from 10:00 to 14:00 daily," explains Wayne.

Active volunteers, Yoliswa Nyewe and Tshidi Japhta have supported the project since May 2019 and have not regretted the commitment. "It's a wonderful experience to engage with community members and provide a service that is appreciated," says Yoliswa. Tshidi adds that time management is a factor when balancing official tasks and volunteering, "With more volunteers, less of our time will be required as individuals. But until more officials apply to volunteer, the sacrifice is worth it. We love it and we have the full support of our manager," she says.

Wayne explains that the initiative is intended to expand and include all 13 Western Cape Government departments in the near future.

WHO CAN BE A COMMISSIONER OF OATHS?

The Minister of Justice or any of his authorised officers are empowered to appoint any person as a Commissioner of Oaths, including any person designated by the Minister as an ex officio Commissioner of Oaths, including certain members of the Administration of Justice, the South African National Defence Force, the South African Revenue Service, the South African Police Service, the South African Post Office, the South African Social Security Agency, chartered accountants, banking institutions, universities, designated members of the health service, marriage officers, designated members of parliament, **as well as officers and employees in the administrative, professional, clerical, technical or general A and general B divisions of the public service** occupying a post with a salary scale equivalent to or higher than the minimum notch of salary level two.

Volunteering as a CO is not a separate job or function. Officials simply volunteer their time on duty for the benefit of the public. The project promotes and cultivates what is known as Organisational Citizenship Behaviour, meaning that employees will go the extra mile; doing more than what is required of them. "The nature of this volunteerism project is that it does not interfere with normal work duties. In this regard, it is key that Senior Management Services, Middle Management Services and other supervisory levels embody and inculcate volunteerism/citizenship by allowing some time for volunteering. In essence, this should be a normal response as a public servant.

"Since the launch of the COV Project, over 11 000 citizens have been assisted with certification; which equates to over 146

customers on average per day. The project has freed up 18 SAPS members from document certification to perform their crime-fighting duties," says Wayne.

RESPONSIBLE VOLUNTEERING

"Current control measures include, but are not limited to, a designated safety kiosk manager, duty log sheets, and certification data forms. The safety kiosk manager's role is to assist with and oversee certification, as well as sign off and hand over completed and signed proforma data sheets when arriving at and departing from the safety kiosk. It is also the safety kiosk manager's responsibility to collect and return the certification pack (a bag containing logistics required for

How to volunteer

Simply forward your

1. full name and surname;
2. persal number;
3. contact details;
4. nearest police station;
5. day/s available; and
6. time available (either 10:00 - 12:00 or 12:00 - 14:00)

to the COV Project Team at Police.Oversight@westerncape.gov.za.

certification and data recording) before and after each session. All data is then captured to monitor and report on progress to the relevant authority," says Wayne.

MAKING USE OF THE SERVICE AS AN EMPLOYEE

If you choose to make use of the service, you may need to provide the Commissioner of Oaths volunteer with evidence of your identity, particularly if you are having an affidavit verified. So, bring a standard form of identification with you, for example, a passport or driving licence. ●

For more information about the COV Project, send an email to Wayne Butler at Police.Oversight@westerncape.gov.za.

stamp of approval

BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS ON ACTIVE PATROLLING DUTY, THE COMMISSIONER OF OATHS VOLUNTEER PROJECT TAKES US ONE STEP CLOSER TO ADDRESSING THE PROVINCIAL POLICE SHORTAGE.



Yoliswa Nyewe and Tshidi Japhta certifying documents at the Cape Town Central SAPS safety kiosk in Buitenkant Street



it's Oral Health Month!

Smile steps

- 1 Floss - loosen it all up.
- 2 Brush - clean it all around.
- 3 Rinse - wash it all away.
- 4 Say aaaaaah - see your dentist twice a year.

ENDORSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ORAL HEALTH MONTH ENCOURAGES AWARENESS ABOUT ORAL DISEASE PREVENTION AND DAILY ORAL HYGIENE.

Smile toolkit

FLOSS

- + Always floss below the gum line.
- + If your teeth are spaced together tightly, try waxed floss instead of nylon floss.
- + If your teeth are comfortably spaced, a floss pick might work well for you.
- + Floss daily to remove all of the food that gets stuck between your teeth.
- + Flossing prevents bad breath and decay (food stuck between your teeth gets rotten too).

TOOTHBRUSH

- + Use a toothbrush with soft bristles - hard bristles can damage your tooth enamel, root surface and gum line.
- + Brush in a circular motion.
- + Brush at least twice a day.
- + Brushing should last two minutes; 30 seconds for each quadrant of your mouth.
- + An electric toothbrush can work just as well as a manual toothbrush.
- + Your toothpaste should contain fluoride.
- + Don't forget to brush your tongue.

MOUTHWASH

- + A mouthwash can rinse away all of the remaining dirt in your mouth.
- + Mouthwash burns because of its alcohol content; the burning sensation is not a sign of it working.
- + Alcohol-free mouthwash encourages a good balance of bacteria in the mouth and does not burn.
- + You can use a home-made solution of salt and water as an easy and effective mouth rinse.

Plaque attack

Everyone has plaque bacteria in their mouths. When these plaque bacteria mix with the sugars and starches that are found in snacks like cookies, candies, dried fruits, soft drinks or even pretzels or potato chips, the plaque reacts to create acid, and a "plaque attack" occurs.

Each "plaque attack" can last up to 20 minutes after you have finished your snack. During this period, the plaque acid is attacking tooth enamel, making it weak. That's when cavities can start!

FAQs

- + **What are the most common oral diseases?** According to the South African Dental Association, dental cavities and periodontal (gum) disease are the most common oral diseases.
- + **Are oral diseases contagious?** Oral diseases can be contagious through the spread of bacteria. An example of a contagious oral disease is hand, foot and mouth disease.
- + **How do I know if I have gum disease?** Healthy gums are pink and do not bleed easily when brushing or flossing. Diseased gums bleed with little to no stimulation, have an odour, and are darker in colour.
- *Gingivitis is the medical term given to early gum disease. Bacteria settle on the gum line causing inflammation and swelling.
- + **Can a knocked-out tooth be put back in?** When a tooth has been knocked out, the nerves, blood vessels and supporting tissues are damaged. The nerves and blood vessels can't be repaired and will require a root canal, but the tooth can be put back in. The bone can reattach to the root of the tooth once it's put back into place. The odds of saving a tooth are highest in young children, but adult teeth can be saved if you act quickly.
- + **Is there such a thing as over-brushing?** Yes. Brushing too often or too hard can cause your gums to recede, and result in tooth sensitivity.

Quick facts

- + Teeth may be stronger than bones; but teeth cannot heal the way bones can.
- + Gum disease has been linked to strokes and heart disease.
- + Bad breath can be a result of a dental problem.
- + A toothbrush should be changed every two to three months to avoid the build-up of bacteria and ensure that bristles are not worn down.
- + Many diseases show symptoms in the oral cavity before spreading to other parts of the body, meaning a trip to the dentist could be life-saving!
- + Sugar-free gum can help to wash away plaque.
- + Waiting at least half an hour before brushing after eating acidic foods, such as citrus fruits, can prevent you from scrubbing acids across your teeth.

BABY BOTTLE TOOTH DECAY

Early childhood cavities is a painful disease that can be easily prevented. It's also called baby bottle tooth decay.

- + Hold your baby while feeding him/her. If your baby falls asleep, remove the bottle before putting him/her in bed.
- + Avoid putting your baby to sleep with a bottle.
- + Avoid letting your toddler walk around with a bottle when not being fed.



* Applicable to Corporate Services Centre departments only. The departments of Education and Health are subject to independent processes.



THE EARLY RETIREMENT PROVISION GIVES PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES AN OPPORTUNITY TO RETIRE FROM THE AGE OF 55 WITHOUT THE 0.33 PERCENT PENALTY.

early retirement Q&A

Economy
We strive toward a province in which our hard work and dedication brings us success, and opens opportunities for others.

Early retirement myths

- ✗ Early retirement is a voluntary severance package.** Early retirement is not a VSP; it is a pension benefit plan.
- ✗ Your monthly pension will increase when you turn 60.** There is no such thing.
- ✗ You may change to a resignation benefit.** Once you apply for ER, you must stick to it.
- ✗ You can be forced to take early retirement.** ER is 100% voluntary and remains subject to an approval process.

- Q What has changed under the new early retirement provision?** The penalty-free early retirement (ER) provision is only for employees who are aged 55-59 years within the limited period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2021. "Penalty-free" in this case means that the employee would not be liable to pay the penalty. Additional funds have been made available by the National Treasury to cover employee ER penalties and to assist departmental accounting officers in their decision making. Basically, government will be covering the penalty on your behalf.
- Q Are there any conditions to be met or documents needed to apply for early retirement?** The only conditions are:
 - + permanent employment in the public service;
 - + 55 to 59 years of age between the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2021;
 - + leave the public service before March 2021; and
 - + apply before the cut-off date: 30 September 2019.

- Q Why has it taken this long for an early retirement option to be implemented? And why now?** An ER option is not new. In terms of Section 16(2A) and 16(6) of the Public Service Act, 1994 as amended, ER was always available to employees. Section 16 (2A) of the Public Service Act allows for ER exits with pension penalties. Generally, ER benefits are reduced at 0.33 percent per month for the remaining period from the age 55 and 59 years, as provided for under rule 14.3.3(b) of the Government Employee Pension Fund rules. The reduction of benefits applies to both the lump sum, and the monthly pension payments. In terms of Section 16(6) of the Public Service Act, the relevant executive authority or delegated authority is empowered to, upon receipt of a request from an employee, approve an ER application without pension penalties, if sufficient reason exists for the retirement. The approval of any ER application without pension penalties, in respect of employees from the age 55 to 59, is subject

to the pension laws, criteria and conditions, determined by the employer and the availability of funding.

- Q Is early retirement intended to streamline the public service or will my position be re-advertised?** Yes, ER is intended to streamline the public service and positions will only be re-advertised based on departmental human resources planning. Service delivery must not be hampered but youth employment must be prioritised.
- Q How and to whom do I apply for early retirement?** You will need to complete an official ER application form and submit it to the Corporate Services Centre via your respective departmental CRU office. This process excludes the departments of Health and Education.
- Q Will my early retirement application be automatically approved?** No. Although it is employee initiated, it is subject to approval based on certain criteria and availability of funds from the National Treasury. For more information on criteria, contact the People Management Contact Centre: 021 483 6799.

- Q Can I change my mind once my application is sent in for approval?** No, you may not retract your application; which is why you are urged to think carefully about your options.
- Q How long after approval of my application will I be able to stop working?** Once approved, you will receive a notification of either the date that you indicated on your application or an alternative date as indicated by the employer. However, the notice period will be three months after approval.
- Q Would I be able to re-enter the public service in the coming years if need be?** Should an official be employed back into the public service it can only be on a contractual basis after the employee has reached the age of 60 years.
- Q Can I resign at early retirement age and take out a pension with another service provider, or only retire?** In terms of the PSA, you can

Early retirement facts

- ✓ You will still receive an annual increase to the amount decided upon by the GEPF Board.**
- ✓ Your monthly pension will be paid out at the end of every month rather than on the 15th.**
- ✓ You will still receive your medical aid benefit and capped leave pay-out.**
- ✓ No additional years of pension pay-out will be added if you decide to take early retirement.**

resign at any age, but it is advisable to rather take the retirement pension benefit option when you reach retirement age, which includes continuous medical benefits, capped leave and bonus pay-out.

- Q How will I know if my money will last? Do I need to change my budget/lifestyle?** It is advisable to consult a professional financial advisor before making any decisions.
- Q Are there advisory services available to me within the public service?** In terms of any work-related service benefit issues, you can contact the People Management Contact Centre or the

- Directorate: Service Benefits. However, they will not be able to offer you financial advice. In terms of the financial management of your pension pay-out and any other personal financial troubles, you will need to consult a financial advisor. You can also make use of the Employee Assistance Programme (ICAS) for financial management advice.
- Q What is the most important thing to take into account when considering early retirement?** Ask yourself the following before you consider early retirement:
 - + Will you be financially sustainable once you retire?
 - + Are your tax matters in order?
 - + Are your beneficiary details in order?

Q How long will I wait before my lump sum is paid into my account? To be safe, plan on a month. If everything is processed as it should be, your lump sum should be in your account within two weeks. However, your medical aid benefit may take up to three months to be paid out, after which it will be back-dated. You must be prepared to pay the first three months out of pocket.

Q What is government going to save by allowing employees to leave on ER? Departments are expected to manage their human resource plans and save approximately R20.3 billion in the medium-term expenditure framework period if posts are moved to where they are required according to post provisioning norms, and younger entry-level employees are recruited. ●

WHO TO CONTACT

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COMPLETE ALL THREE OF THE PUZZLES, AND A BRAAI MASTER KIT COULD BE YOURS.

Competition instructions are provided on page 3. Please note: Competition closes 9 October 2019. Only entries received before 9 October will be eligible for the lucky draw.

How well do you know your country?

ACROSS

- 4 How many official languages does South Africa have?
- 5 A natural world wonder situated in South Africa

DOWN

- 1 What does 'Soweto' stand for?
- 2 What is the second highest waterfall in the world?
- 3 The official flower of South Africa

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

A sudoku game involves a grid of 81 squares. The grid is divided into nine clearly outlined boxes, each containing nine squares. The rules of the game are simple: each row, column, and box must contain the numbers 1-9 within its squares. Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

				3				9
2			8			4		
				4	7	8	5	3
	6			9		1	8	7
				1				
1	5	7		2			4	
8	7	1	9	5				
		3				1		8
6				8				

w i j n b i z x g q k x u v r
 y i q b d h d r z w p g z e e
 d m x q c u r m i w g n a o s
 d e n b n o i t a v o n n i p
 a c c o u n t a b i l i t y o
 v q y q h t p b l c f t c t n
 z w b t o u f w o y n l j c s
 c e m p i q b m j g c b v e i
 y z r c v r p l g c y k s p v
 s c h g m e g n s u x h h s e
 f h n t t r i e o y s d k e n
 a c r e d r a w t a d y i r e
 v e n g a w e u n n a i x x s
 b c u c e i g f z x i x k g s
 e t m l c t g d h o y v f b v

WCG values wordsearch

accountability
 caring
 competence
 innovation
 integrity
 respect
 responsiveness



"A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people."

Mahatma Gandhi



HAPPY HERITAGE AND PUBLIC SERVICE MONTH

We serve the residents of the Western Cape **BETTER TOGETHER.**

THE VALUES:



Caring

To care for those we serve and work with.



Competence

The ability and capacity to do the job we were employed to do.



Accountability

We take responsibility.



Integrity

To be honest and do the right thing.



Innovation

To be open to new ideas and develop creative solutions to problems in a resourceful way.



Responsiveness

To serve the needs of our citizens and employees.

THE VISION:



Internal vision

To be the best-run regional government in the world.



External vision

Open-opportunity society for all.



Better Together

The Western Cape Government has a duty to provide opportunities.
Citizens have the responsibility to make use of them.