We gave
Bursaries to 10 Students

June 16
Celebration

N2 Gateway
MEC Dyantyi visits Langa for a community meeting

Career File:
Youth Commissioner
Vincent Domingo

2006 Youth Month Edition
From the Editorial Team

We've had a lot to celebrate recently! Firstly June is the month when we celebrate the youth - and, accordingly, this issue pays homage to the youth who sacrificed and struggled 30 years ago for the luxuries we now have today. Not forgetting father's day a very emotional event for me, as I recall my own dad. The old saying that "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" is true, indeed however let's not forget the arms that lift us up, hoist us onto strong shoulders and catch us when we fall. This is the reason this month's pick of the month is a father and also the Chairperson of the Western Cape Youth Commission (Mr. Vincent Domingo).

Secondly we're delighted to announce that the Department has made available ten bursaries to students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue a career in a housing related field. Throughout all these great events, our communication team has remained devoted bringing you an issue that is aimed at challenging, inspiring and comforting you with interesting articles to read. I can confidently say that a lot of heart and soul go into every page of every issue.

We would like to welcome Mr. Zahier Amien and Mr. Mziwonke Mpofoana, the newly appointed senior management members for the directorates Monitoring and Evaluation, Policy and Strategy respectively. This month the Department will also appoint 14 new employees that will include new appointments as well as promotions.

Zoom in on the Letsema project in Panorama and Imbizo that took place in Stilbaai. Even though it was rather chilly and on a mud-spattered site, our spirits weren't dampened. The Premier, our MEC and HOD were hard at work building a house and planting fruit trees for the community.

Looking forward to the next edition, we'll focus on Women as we all know August is the month where we celebrate Women.

Enjoy this edition and keep those "letters to staff" coming.

The Editorial Team
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Letters from Staff

Unfair

No governance and institutional support pictures on cultural day, unfair.

Loyiso Njamela
Governance and Institutional Support

We would like to appologise for not having Governance and Institutional Support pictures in the newsletter. Space in the newsletter is extremely limited and you’ll notice that most of the pictures used were generic ones where people from all the sections are together.

Kind regards,
The Editorial Team

Government Jargon!

At one of our internal management meetings I proposed that the Department or even on Provincial level compile a dictionary / list of all Acronyms used within the dept ect.

Many newcomers are entering our Dept / Prov and with the number of acronyms used (SIP, MIG, EHP, UISP, SCOPA, M & E......ect) one can get quite confused.

I would like to know if you could facilitate such a process.

Please advise.

Colin Cyster
Directorate: Human Settlement Development

Yes Colin, sometimes we as experienced employees also get confused by all the government jargon. Cape Gateway has a comprehensive glossary available at www.capegateway.gov.za/eng/directories/glossary

Thanks for raising this issue,
The Editorial Team

PS It is also our responsibility as government employees to contact Cape Gateway new acronyms that isn’t on the glossary.

We’d like to hear from you!

Please forward any queries and letters to lghnews@pgwc.gov.za or contact us at tel: 021 483 2870, fax: 021 483 2010
The Department of Local Government and Housing has made available 10 bursaries for students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue a career in a housing related field. The value of these bursaries will be worth R20 000.00 per student per year for the full duration of the course. On completion of their studies. Students are required to do their internship at the Department of Local Government and Housing.

This follows an announcement made by the MEC for Local Government and Housing in his budget speech on the 24 May 2006. “This year we are commemorating the 30-year anniversary of the Soweto uprising and following our Premier’s call, I have initiated a number of Siyabulela projects which the Western Cape Youth Commission has also completed a process of identifying 10 young students to whom bursaries will be allocated to the value of R20 000 per year for the duration of their studies. The bursaries will be in the field of scarce skills in the building environment and will include an internship in the Department” said Mec Dyantyi.

Applications were invited from qualifying students through the media from all over the Western Cape Province. 51 applications were received. All five district municipalities were targeted, namely West Coast, Cape Winelands, Eden, Central Karoo, City of Cape town and Overberg. To qualify students were expected to take undergraduate studies in the fields of Civil Engineering, Town and Regional Planning, architectural Technology, Construction Management, Survey, Property Economics, quantity Surveying, Landscape Technology, Urban and Rural Studies, Construction Science, Building Surveying, Development Planning, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Studies.

In partnership with the Western Cape Youth Commission, represented by Funeka Mpetha, they drew up a long list and then proceeded to screen the applicants. The panel agreed that the top two from the Districts would be recommended and the top four candidates from the Metro would be recommended.

A profile of each candidate was compiled reflecting amongst other things the following: Name and Surnames; Area of residence; Age; Gender; Qualifications; Race; Preferred course; Employment status; Poverty indicator; telephonic response to the following questions: Why are you the most suitable candidate.
New Appointments by Sandy Godlwana

We’d like to welcome our new colleagues who have been appointed from June 2006.

1. Mr. Keith Langenhoven, Administration Officer. He is responsible for Assets in the Supply Chain Management. Ext 4390.

2. Ms Neliswa Sipondo, Administration Clerk and is responsible for Assets in the Supply Chain Management. Ext 3712.


4. Mr Bayanda Dyani, Deputy Director, Sub Directorate: Economic Empowerment


The Department of Local Government and Housing in its approach to its Youth Development Program acknowledges that young people though part of the general community is a particular sector, characterized by its own needs, challenges and aspirations. Most importantly we also acknowledge that no program that deals around issues of young people can attain success if young people are not involved in its conceptualization, design and implementation.

On Friday 23 June 2006, the Premier of the Western Cape Mr. Ebrahim Rasool and the MEC for Local Government and Housing Mr. Qubudile Richard Dyantyi lead a Letsema project in Panorama, Hessequa and Riversdal from 10:30 to 12:00. The ten young people who were awarded bursaries by the Department and forty young volunteers recruited from the community helped in building a house for the beneficiary. This day afforded young people an opportunity to gain construction training and social skills whilst at the same time involving them in the actual construction of homes to local beneficiaries.

After the building and viewing of houses being built, the senior officials helped with the planting of trees for the community. Immediately after the Letsema project between 14:00 to 16:30, the Premier and the MEC for Local Government and Housing accompanied by MEC for Agriculture Cobus Dowry and our HOD proceeded to hold an Imbizo that comprised of the following communities, namely, Kwa-Nokuthula, Melkhoutfontein, Albertina, Slangrivier, Heidelberg at the Town Hall in Stilbaai.

The Imbizo gave an opportunity for people to share their challenges and successes to date. Community Development Workers announced in each area the times and pickup points where communities would get busses. Busses transported people to and from their locations and to the venue.
The National Youth Service Housing Project Launch 12 June 2006, Mbekweni, Paarl under the Auspices of: Age of Hope-Deepening Youth Participation in Development
by Wendy Bingham/ Aeysha Augustus (Intern)

The National Youth Commission in partnership with National Government, Provincial Youth Commission and Provincial Department of Local Government and Housing hosted a launch to commemorate the 30th anniversary of June 16.

It was a cold, rainy day outside the marquee in Mbekweni but somehow the vibrant spirit of the youth set the precedent and contradicted the mood outside. The “Age of Hope” was tangible when the “Voice for the Youth” expressed opportunity, their participation in their own development and how they’ve succeeded despite the many challenges they faced.

The aim of the project was to encourage youth to participate in community development whilst they are acquiring skills for sustainable livelihoods and the building of their communities. We wanted to show them that acquiring these skills during the housing project was just the tip of the iceberg and that the sky was not the limit, as they can become the leaders of their own destiny with the active support of Government and their endurance. The youth would also develop a sense of maturity, leadership and self-confidence during this process.

The focus on youth does not end here. The Province would continue to increase its efforts to mainstream youth initiatives and participation, in conjunction with the Western Cape Youth Commission, throughout all Departments.
It's been a hard, painful and unforgettable 30 years. To those who were in the prime of their youth at the time. June Sixteen brings back memorable events that led to the never seen revolt. For those like me who weren't even born at the time only remember this day as a day when loads of youths took upon the streets shouting “Amandla” (Power).

The month of June has come to be known as Youth Month. Throughout the month certain events take place all over the country, all in the hope of highlighting the role that the youth needs to play in our societies.

The Department of Local Government and Housing commemorated a 30th anniversary of the National Youth Day on 15 June 2006. Staff came in numbers to witness this event. The event began with a talk show whereby parents and youth raised array of problems that they encounter, solutions of those problems and ways to try to bridge the generation gap thereof. "The generation gap is not a problem anymore, slowly but surely we are seeing a change. Parents take their children for movies and to the malls to bring children closer to them", said Mrs. Shamila Kariem. "Parents shouldn't be too harsh to their children because by so doing they bring fear, which results to children being pushed away”, said Ms. Irene Wani.

All interns in the Department participated in this event. They presented a very touching poem. The poem made one feel that as we commemorate the sacrifice and struggle that our brothers and sisters underwent 30 years ago, we should remember that it is with their blood and suffering that we are where we are today. It is with their sleepless nights that we see the freedom we are enjoying in our country today. We should honour and salute those who gave their lives for this freedom. The Deputy Director of Human Settlements Mr. Amos Mboweni motivated the youth. He briefly shared his history and what inspired him to get to where he is today. He told the youth that it is important to have goals and grasp opportunities with both hands. He said youth have a lot of opportunities these days but we have to work hard in order to reap the rewards and in conclusion he stressed out the imperativeness of education.

This day marked the beginning of a long and bitter struggle that was waged by the youth against the poor inhumane educational system of the day. As with any struggle there would be those who would pay with their lives. Some got permanently disabled and never recovered from the torture that they endured. We have those who were affected by this struggle up until this day. Amandla the youth! Amandla!
It may be 30 years after the 1976 Soweto Uprising, but it seems that the youth of today especially our young males are faced with even more challenges, maybe not as oppressed as our past, but on a more societal scale.

For a young man in today's generation to ask “what does it mean to redefine our masculinity” would mean to take a step back and look at what aspects or factors in our society have a major influence on this. But how do we define being male? Male in the terms of gender differentiation can be defined by what society perceives to be male, their mannerisms and characteristics that affect their interaction within society.

Indeed our values have changed within the last 30 years and with it come a greater expectation of how we want to be perceived. The masculine role has culturally been passed on from generation to generation as part of maintaining a patriarchal society or family tradition. Generations of young men and boys have been socialised into believing not to show emotion and not to be at the receiving end of abuse. These values are then in conflict with what partners want out of a relationship in adulthood.

It's a common trait in cultures that the male is perceived to be the decision-maker and head of the household. However, due to economical factors like HIV/AIDS, women headed households are becoming a common phenomenon. The impact of the pandemic has reached economical proportions to the extent that it does not operate in isolation but affects the way youth see themselves in the very fight against HIV/AIDS. It has been proved that many youth turn to deaf ears when approached with the idea of abstaining from sexual intercourse. The young male in this situation might see it as not expressing his manhood if he does not initiate sexual intimacy. Polygamy in the context of HIV/AIDS questions whether it fuels the spread of the disease much quicker. However, culturally, men have a religious right to partake in polygamy or not.

Statistics show that 1 woman is killed by her partner every 6 hours. The increase of femicide has spurred questions of the type of male role-players that exists in our society and who are affecting the way our youth perceive the male role. What fuels some men's abusive behaviour? Women and children are constantly becoming the main victims of the product pertaining to substance abuse and poverty. What we need to see are situations where women are being empowered by themselves and by men leading the forefront in this regard.

Redefining what it means to be a man may be questionable but it has one common aspect, and that is to take a stand and to make one’s presence known in society in a positive way. So why is it that our society is the one who suffers? Is it a lack of harmonious identity despite our cultural differences?

Global changes have seen the shift of a patriarchal society to one where history is made such as women playing a more political influence. This can be taken from the first African female to be elected as president of Liberia.

Information is readily available and has never been more accessible than ever before. Despite this, ignorance and strict family traditions, however good intended, have limited our mind set in changing the male role in families and within society.

True enough that our male youth feel the pressures even more than females, however, it is the female that bears the brunt. We need to exploit the changes taking place in our world and make it work to our advantage in establishing an environment where our male youth can establish and reaffirm their status as a culturally defined male, yet recognised as an independent man.

(GAP; 2005)
On 22 June 2006, Qubudile Richard Dyantyi, the MEC of the Department of Local Government and Housing met with residents of Langa and Joe Slovo backyard dwellers.

The purpose was to give clarity on the following burning issues:

- New criteria to be used for allocation
- 70 Joe Slovo to 30 percent allocation
- Forms to filled by Bokmakierie and Bonteheuwel residents who did not take part in N2 Gateway project.
- Movement of Joe Slovo residents to Blue Downs
- Residents who were on the waiting list have green, white and red cards
- City of Cape Town is not involved in this project any more; Department of Local Government and National Housing Department will be driving the project.

The first phase comprises of 705-rental units, only for those who can afford to pay, and it will be impossible to allocate all residents who are on the waiting list.

During question time people raised concerns about the new criteria to be used to allocate N2 Gateway flats. They felt the poor and unemployed people are excluded. MEC Richard Dyantyi explained that in the second phase standing houses will be built to accommodate those who are excluded and they will be subsidised by Government.

No credit bureau screening on government houses, screening will be done when one applied for Government subsidy to avoid corruption. Department of Housing is busy with the removal of Joe Slovo dwellers, arrangements are in process, buses are organised for pupils to take them to their current school.

MEC Dyantyi said the 70 to 30 percent criteria still stand but it can be changed depending on the number of people who qualified, for instance residents who can’t afford to rent a flat but want standing houses, will be accommodated to the second phase.

Backyard dwellers raised their feelings of being ignored for many years and now residents from Bonteheuwel and Bokmakierie are welcome to apply in N2 Gateway project. The MEC said that people who are living in these areas will all be considered. For the next phases along N2 there will be variety of options for people.

A resident asked for the deadline to be extended to the end of June 2006, and the MEC promised to take that into consideration.
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> visiting us at 142 Long St, Cape Town (weekdays 8:00 - 16:00) or our website at www.capegateway.gov.za

LGH Newsletter, July 2006
1. Describe your typical day at work?
The work of the Commission on a daily basis is very challenging. The day is very busy with many meetings and different events that I attend as the Chairperson of the Commission. To be a Commissioner is very challenging because the challenges of youth are a huge task.

2. What inspires and motivates you?
I get motivated when I see that there are clear deliveries on issues of young people. I get inspired when I see young people engaging on debates in society. I like to see young people being organised in communities and being involved in projects to build and reconstruct their country. I like to work as a young person and work together with my peers. I also get inspired by my leaders and young people that have died for our liberation in the 70's, 80's and early 90's.

3. How do you define success and have you achieved it?
I am of the opinion that your success in life can only be determined if other people recognise it. Success becomes when you work in a team, and see the fruits of your work. I have been informed that the Western Cape Youth Commission has been successful in its programs. As the youth commission we have delivered according to our mandate and I think most young people in the Province have confidence in the Commission.

4. If you were given an opportunity to work with your role model, who would it be and why choose that role model?
My role model is the President of the country President Thabo Mbeki. Our President is an organic intellectual. He has all the necessary capabilities, stature to rule a country. He has been the leader of the country and the African National Congress for many years and has done excellent work. We would need to see more leaders of his calibre.

5. June is youth month, why is this day necessary?
In Youth Month we celebrate and commemorate our fallen heroes and heroines of the student uprising in 1976. This day is very special to our country and it gives a historical perspective on the bravery, the intellect and activism that was shown by young people 30yrs ago. It reminds us that young people should not be undermined and our society should invest in its youth.

6. Our Department has awarded ten youths from previously disadvantaged communities with Bursaries, what was your role in this process and feelings towards the initiative?
The Youth Commission is the brain child of the Bursary initiative. The Commission has been part of the entire process e.g. selection of the appointment of these candidates. We are currently lobbying other stakeholders to donate bursaries for young people. It is our belief that young people should be educated and acquire the necessary skills to build in the reconstruction and development of our country.

7. Three things that best define you?
Activism, Intellect and doing practical work.

8. What are you currently reading or most memorable book?
I am reading "Beyond the Eagerly Mountains" a Biography of Oliver Thambo.

9. Life philosophy:
A young cadre Anton Lembede has said, "We need young men and women of high moral stamina and integrity, of courage and vision. In short, we need warriors. This means we have to develop a new type of youth not the pleasure loving, frivolous, dissolute, light minded type of youth, we need a youth of stoical discipline, trained to endure suffering and difficulties."