



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Limpopo Government rewards excellences

The Limpopo Provincial Government has last night rewarded public servants who went beyond the call of duty to service the public.

Delivering speech on behalf of the Premier, MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Seaparo Sekoati praised public servants on the role they play transformation public service.

“As the Provincial Government, we have dedicated this special evening to appreciate, the extraordinary achievements of some exceptional men and women and teams in the public service. These are men, women and the teams that always go beyond the ordinary call-of-duty”, said MEC Sekoati.

He said that recognising these men and women speaks to our commitment to building an effective, efficient and responsive public service. This service excellence award ceremony is evidence of your commitment to the service of our people.

MEC Seaparo Sekoati thanked public servants and told them that as Limpopo government, rely on their creativity and critical thinking for leaders to do their job of taking services to the people.

In his conclusion, MEC also took the opportunity to pay homage and recognition to one of the son of South Africa who was born in Venda, Limpopo. A moment of silent was observed for Bra Joe Mafela Dzulo. He was not only an art activist, but a comedian par excellence. “His death has left us poorer. Limpopo people can be proud that we contributed and donated one of our sons to the world”, he added.

Below are the winners in various categories:

CATEGORY & POSITION	CONTENT
FRONTLINE TEAM OF THE YEAR	This category covers teams or institutions that have contributed to the implementation of Batho Pele principles. The focus was on switchboard operators within government institutions. The finalists in this category are:

Platinum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Albert Talama Morewa –Fetakgomo Municipality
Gold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Reiloe Meso –Blouberg Municipality
Silver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Kola Phillimon and Mr. Mamabolo Molefe –Dept of Transport and Community Safety
	The qualifying team is the one that has contributed in enhancing the image of the department by upholding professional ethos in the implementation of Batho Pele principles.
BEST INNOVATIVE TEAM	The finalists in this category are:
PLATINUM	AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT: TOWOOMBA RESEARCH FARM
R50000.00	The Towoomba Research Farm team consists of 2 agricultural scientists stationed in Toowoomba, Bela Bela. The team runs a pilot Rainwater Harvest and Conservation for Crop, Range and Productivity where they teach farmers how to manually dig basins and use hand hoes and spades. This project was piloted in Ha Lambane village in Venda. Through this initiative, most families around the area are now in a good financial standing. They are able to support their families and they no longer rely on buying maize meal, instead they rely on their crop production. They conduct scientific research on livestock and pasture and crops production. The water collected through the basins and rainwater stored in JoJo tanks increased the farmers yield and put them on a sound financial footing where
75%	

	<p>they are comfortably supporting their families. The improved self reliance has seen the harvest increase from 7 to 22 bags of maize meal.</p>
<p>Gold 70%</p>	<p>COGHSTA: HRCD Learnerships & Internships Unit</p> <p>The team formed partnerships with TVET, SETA and businesses to develop a specific 12 months 18.2 Learnership Programme for people with disabilities on Community Development NQF4, focusing on providing life skills which ran from Nov 2014 - Nov 2015. 25 learners were placed at various rural villages to assist PWDs with the collection of data for social needs. The knowledge gained from this programme has empowered learners with skills to assist members of the public with different social needs such as applications for orphaned children to access social grants. This involvement in real community programmes has improved participants sense of belonging and self-worth.</p>
<p>Silver 60%</p>	<p>LEDET: Nylsvlei Nature Reserve Rangers</p> <p>Responding to the service delivery challenge, the Nylsvlei Nature Reserve Rangers unit designed a suggestion box out of recycled material. The team identified and collected old redundant stock material of green plastic planks that were previously acquired and used to keep and transport animals; they cleaned planks with soap and water and cut them into lighter and smaller boxes with hanging pens for clients to write comments. This innovation the department a lot of money by utilizing in-house personnel and recycled material.</p>
<p>BEST SERVICE</p>	<p>The finalists in this category are:</p>

<p>Delivery</p> <p>Platinum</p> <p>R50000.00</p> <p>90%</p>	<p>AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Maruleng Auction Facility</p> <p>The team responded to a need by the local stock farmers from the 21 surrounding villages. The farmers had to make a long distance track to the town of Belfast to access auction and dipping facilities. This trip cost the farmers in terms of transport. Using secured donations and sponsorship, permanent staff members in the department aided by famers and their family members set out to build the auction facility in the village of Turkey. The local traditional leader donated the land where the structure was build. To stretch the construction funds further, the team used recycled building material wherever possible.</p>
<p>Gold</p> <p>85%</p>	<p>PUBLIC WORKS & ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE: Skeiding Cost Centre – Blouberg Mobile Drainage Team</p> <p>The District Mobile Drainage Team of 13 officials is stationed at Skeiding Cost Centre. They are responsible for maintenance, installation and repair function of drainage structures under the proclaimed provincial roads networks, bridges and in order to promote accessibility, safe and affordable movement of people, goods and services. The team is responsible for excavations, compactions, casting of slabs, wing walls and head walls and installation of pipes and box culverts. Before the arrival of the team in Blouberg, buses and cars could not reach local community areas during rainy seasons; Communities from over 7 neighbouring villages had a problem of access roads and other communities since 1994.</p>
	<p>SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Elim Hlanganani Home for the Aged</p>

<p>Gold</p> <p>85%</p>	<p>A team of 8 officials at the Elim Hlanganani Social Welfare Institution is responsible for providing various services to the community of Elim Hlanganani including the elderly, youth, disabled and child headed families. Despite limited financial resources, the team doesn't compromise on quality. 5 care givers dedicated to 113 vulnerable children between 5-18 years provide cooked food; teach them life skills and other recreational activities at the centre. The elderly congregate daily at the centre, where they are taught knitting & sewing skills. The products from those activities are sold to supplement their income. Free ABET lesson empowers them to handle their own SASSA transactions thus reducing their vulnerability to scam artists.</p>
<p>Silver</p>	<p>LEDET: ATHERSTONE NATURE RESERVES ANTI-POACHING UNIT –MAAK A PLAN</p> <p>In line with the “Maak a Plan” strategy, the Anti-Poaching Unit(APU) is responsible for the prevention of poaching activities in all government nature reserves in the province. High levels of poaching and the sale of endangered plants species is a priority of the short-staffed unit. It has been instrumental in the selection, appointment, training, mentoring and coaching of 120 learners under the Jobs Fund Programme. Their participation in this programme has reduced training costs for the department. The establishment and rotation of the APU has resulted in over 10 poachers arrested and successfully convicted in 2015/16. They also conduct Public Awareness training campaigns.</p>

<p>BEST SUPPORT TEAM</p> <p>Platinum</p> <p>50000.00</p> <p>85%</p>	<p>The finalists in this category are:</p> <p>TRANSPORT: PUBLIC DEBT & REVENUE MANAGEMENT/COLLECTION UNIT</p> <p>The 5 member team is responsible for operating licenses servicing 5 municipalities within the Capricorn district; for the collection and management of public debts and revenue; for Motor Vehicle Licenses Tax for motorists and public transport operators, debt cancellations; payments of summons. Despite having limited staffing complement against their extended service scope, the team increased their monthly site visits of paypoints; increased the number of public paypoints and relocation of paypoints to accessible areas, which reduced public transport costs. They ensured that corrective disciplinary measures were taken against officials confirmed to be engaged in corrupt activities with 5 arrests made. The improved collection strategies have seen the district collecting more revenue than any other district for 3 consecutive years despite increased annual targets.</p>
<p>Gold</p> <p>80%</p>	<p>COGHSTA: GITO TEAM POLOKWANE</p> <p>Responsible for IT Support Services, the team created a departmental intranet where information pertinent to the general staff is uploaded regularly; established a customer satisfaction survey mechanism; The team members travel to all districts and municipalities fro along distances and beyond normal working hours. Their dedication to spend time with clients on problem basis and not on time limitations ensures quality of provided services. This utilization of internal skills</p>

	<p>and resources to repair onsite IT equipment and systems instead of costly outsourced services complies with the national cost cutting measures. They achieved a 98% network on uptime throughout the year.</p>
<p>Silver 75%</p>	<p>PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE: FLEET TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>This 5-member team stationed in Lebowakgomo is responsible for management of 71 shared transport fleet in Sekhukhune district in support of staff to have roadworthy vehicles in pursuit of their departmental mandate. These include monthly vehicle inspection to assess roadworthiness, vehicle defects, annual licensing, authorized pre and post trips and use, maintenance, accidents and asset register. The vehicle registration and licensing as well as revenue collection at Elias Motsoaledi Municipality had several administrative challenges with costly errors and delays, including wrong registration of vehicles; standing un-operational vehicles with expired licenses. The team initiated relocation of vehicle registration and licensing function from Elias Motsoaledi municipality which improved turn-around times and eliminated administrative delays and errors.</p>

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