



PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK: 19 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Minister of Public Service and Administration, Richard Baloyi visited the Province, being part of celebrating Public Service Week. The Minister was hosted by the MEC: Police, Roads and Transport, Honorable Butana Komphela and the Director General Ms. Elzabe Rockman.

In his welcoming address and introducing the Minister, MEC Butana Komphela had this to say:

“Free State Provincial Government heartily welcomes the Minister and greatly appreciates the fact that the Minister chose the Free State to kick-start the Public Service week. Free State particularly Mangaung is witnessing a hive of activities in itself a welcomed precursor to the forthcoming major event - The Centenary Celebrations of the Ruling Party the ANC. The MEC informed the Minister that recently the Province hosted the Minister of Police; Nathi Mthethwa, National Parliament will be sitting at Seisa Ramabolu Indoor Sport Centre on 22 – 23 September at an occasion dubbed the People’s Parliament; there shall be an Exco Lekgotla on 28-30 September. The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation is also going to visit the Province and the cherry on top of the crown will be the visit by the State President of RSA on the 04 October 2011. The visit by the President will happen in the backdrop of October Transport Month and *Macufe* Annual Festival.

The MEC was very critical about some of the public service practices wherein people with less experience overtake experienced people and climb the career ladder very quickly just because they happen to have political connections. He reiterated his commitment to address gender equity.

MINISTER’S ADDRESS

Theme: Transformative Leadership in Public Administration and Governance, Creating a better future for all. “My Public Servant - My Future”

The Minister raised the following at both the briefing session and his meeting with public servants:

- They took a conscious decision to reach out to the people interact with public servants to improve employer/ employee relations.
- This noble idea was hatched in 2010 however the World Cup, public servants strikes and the Local Government Elections made it impossible to implement the programme.
- The main purpose is to engage public servants on matters that affect them in order to reconcile policy with practical experience on the ground.
- The exercise also affords policy makers an opportunity to be at the coal face by visiting service delivery points such as Police Stations.

- The Minister and MEC entourage will visit Kopano and Bloemspruit Police Stations unannounced and other teams will visit Kagisanong, Mangaung and Parkroad Police Stations. Generic questionnaires will be filled and a meeting be held to consolidate a report that will serve at the SMS Conference scheduled for 21 – 23 September in Gauteng. There are teams visiting the other 8 provinces. It is back to basics with the intention to provide solutions.
- The Conference will analyze matters arising from the visits to the service delivery points and develop a Programme of Action with clear time frames.
- Friday 23 September is set aside for a round table discussion with external stakeholders such as Business, Trade Unions, CBO's, NGO's Faith Based Organizations etc. to grapple with matters relating to Anticorruption and Public Service Ethics.

The Roundtable discussion will also deal with the perception that Disclosure of Interests is used by Public Servants as a tool to participate in corrupt activities with impunity.

- The Minister commended the public servants for their attire. He concurred with the MEC that T-shirts are not a good reflection of public servants. Presently, when people see a public servant in formal attire they think that he/she must be going for an interview.
- Throughout the world leaders of government craft policies and expect public servants to implement the policies. For example when government policy talks about a "Better Life for All" amongst other things it says there shall be houses, access to education and health care. The public servants as implementers of policy should make sure that houses are built, learners get quality education and that there is proper health care.
- He urged the public servants to act in accordance with the principles of Batho Pele. Responsible men and women implement government policies. A policy can only be good if it is implemented.
- The DPSA expects a public servant who knows where the people are what their challenges are and respond accordingly.
- People should know the Minister and the MEC and be able to call him when they have challenges.
- Stability in the country or lack of it entirely depends upon the conduct of public servants. Integrity and ethics are of paramount importance. Hence the slogan "**My Public Servant – My Future**"
- Public servants must be able to choose whether they are in business or remain in public service because experience has shown that the two are mutually exclusive.
- PALAMA is a preparatory school to link university / school with public service.

Compiled by: Z. Walaza
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