



premier

Department:
Office Of The Premier
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

PREMIER'S STARS

"LEADING WITH INTEGRITY TOWARDS GROWING AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, FOR INTEGRATED, TARGETED AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE."

ISSUE 2: 2018

THE OFFICIAL INTERNAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE KWAZULU-NATAL OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

OFFICIAL HANDING OVER OF OTP STAFF PARKING



ZANELE DAMANE

The Minister for Public Works, Mr Ravi Pillay officially handed over the OTP staff parking to the Honourable Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr TW Mchunu on 16 November 2018. The event took place at the OTP parking space.

The parking issue had been a long standing matter in the department. As an intervention, in 2014 the department arranged parking for staff at Professor Nyembezi.

However, some staff members could not utilize their allocated parking bays due to distance and other challenges and street parking near Moses Mabhida still remained a challenge.

Staff experienced different problems which included removal of logos and mirrors and attempted car theft.

The Director-General's arrival changed the story altogether as she pursued and accelerated the matter and her effort yielded a tangible outcome.

The Honourable Premier commended the Director-General, Dr Nonhlanhla O. Mkhize for her effort to make the dream a reality.



A DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE BARRIER-FREE SOUTH AFRICA BY 2030. BE THE LEGACY!

ZANELE DAMANE

The campaign, Disability Rights Awareness Month 2018 (DRAM-2018) ran from 03 November - 03 December 2018 under the theme, "A disability-inclusive barrier-free South Africa by 2030. Be the legacy!" The focus of the campaign was to report back to the nation on progress made over the past 5 years in advancing the rights of persons living with disabilities at all levels.

The campaign also focussed on launching the themes for the 2019 Disability Inclusion Summit to enable communities and persons living with disabilities to dialogue with the purpose of finding collective solutions towards a disability inclusive South Africa by 2030. All sectors of the South African population are encouraged to take action that will build disability inclusive communities. The Office of the Premier hosted the



A Disability-Inclusive, Barrier-Free South Africa by 2030. Be The Legacy.



International Day for Persons living with Disabilities at Transnet Indoor Centre, Umhlathuze Municipality on 3 December 2018 followed by a two day Parliament session. The purpose of the campaign is to reach out to the diversity within the disability sector by demonstrating that all human and socio-economic rights must and can be equally enjoyed by all persons with disabilities, irrespective of race, gender, age, sexual

orientation, type and severity of impairment, socio-economic status, educational qualification level, religion, culture, employment status or nationality. Improvement in the involvement of all South Africans, with and without disabilities, working as partners in building a sustainable and disability inclusive future is anticipated to increase.

RECREATIONAL DAY FOR ROYAL HOUSEHOLD EMPLOYEES

Health and Wellness Centre hosted the Recreational Day for Royal Household employees in Nongoma on the 14th and 15th November 2018.

The Employee Health and Wellness programme encourages employees to take charge of their own physical health and wellbeing.

The Recreational Day encourages employees to engage in active and healthy way of life.

The Recreational Day sought to achieve the following:

- To increase participation in physical fitness and health activities.
- To reduce stress, improve morale, reduce obesity through promoting a healthy lifestyle behaviour
- To provide financial awareness

It goes without saying that the event was a fruitful exercise. All employees happily participated in different activities. Employee Health and Wellness



Farewell Mahlongwa

ZANELE DAMANE

It wasn't easy for colleagues to accept Ms Swelihle Cecilia Hlongwa's sudden departure. Ms Hlongwa was a person of many talents. She was known for her commitment and dedication to her work. Her passion to serve the community of KwaZulu-Natal was noticeable. Ms Hlongwa also served NEHAWU as a Secretariat for a number of years. She also participated in sports during different department's activities. Ms Hlongwa was born on 07 December 1974 and was called to rest on 26 November 2018 after a sudden illness during her official trip in Free State. She grew up in the place called Mahlongwa and completed her matric at Hluzingqondo High School in 1995. Her

highest qualification was Masters in Business and Administration (MBA) which she obtained from MANCOSA. Ms Hlongwa joined the Office of The Premier in 2007. During her time of departure, she was working under Democracy Support. The Office of the Premier arranged a memorial service to bid Ms Hlongwa farewell. The memorial service was on Thursday, 23 October 2018 at the Pietermaritzburg City Hall.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.



Team Finance celebrating Christmas with style

RAGINI GOVENDER

Christmas is a special time of the year. It is a time whereby we spend more time with family and friends. It's a time of great joy for the "Christ Child was born." It is also a time of reflection and new beginnings as the New Year approaches. So what better time to embrace our work family.

The best way to acknowledge the staff for their dedication to the work, sacrifice of personal time was to ensure that as a section we celebrate occasions together and the old saying "Work hard and Play hard" comes to mind. The team in Financial Accounting work in a highly pressurised environment and have to meet legislated deadlines. These unsung heroes face difficult situations. It is important to acknowledge the team and ease the stress in a fun way.

As an initiative by the Director to reward and boost staff morale, staff were encouraged to decorate their offices and clusters to celebrate a theme "Vintage Christmas". They were taught to make up decorations from crepe paper which they did in their own time. This

was a voluntary exercise. We hung up crepe paper chains all over the office. We then took it a step further and staff could voluntarily decorate their own work space. In order to make it exciting and the superb effort of the team, the Director handed out prizes for:

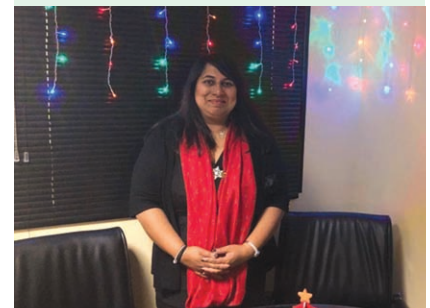
- Best Office
- Best Cluster
- Best DD Office

The competition was adjudicated from judges outside the section. Thanks to Lulama Ndlazi and Martie Milne for judging the competition at very short notice. The judges added a 3rd category: "Originality" once they saw the high standard set by team Finance. Team Finance truly showed their creative side. This culminated in the following staff winning prizes:

- Best Office: Ms Felicia Mohammed
Best Cluster: Trusha Chetty, Zama Dlungwana and Thandeka Dube
Originality: Brendon Joshua
Best decorated Deputy Office: Ms Nisha Wickins

Felicia Mohammed said:

"Thank you to Miss R. Govender for encouraging the Financial Accounting unit into the festive spirit. It brought to life the joy that we feel at this time of year. I feel honoured to have won this award. I love Christmas and all it symbolises. I also enjoy decorating. It was a pleasure and fun to bring that enjoyment into the office environment."



2018 ANNUAL PROVINCIAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND WELLNESS EVENT



OTP hosted the Annual Provincial Employee Health and Wellness event on 23 November 2018 at the Royal Agricultural Show Grounds in Pietermaritzburg.

The Provincial Employee Wellness Day is organised during the International Red Ribbon month of November each year.

It is also a build up activity towards the annual World AIDS Day in December.

A total number of 1000 employees from all levels (senior managers, middle managers and lower level officials) were invited to attend from all provincial departments.

The campaign is undertaken to achieve the following:

- To share new developments in employee health and wellness with all responsible employees.
- To commemorate the International Red Ribbon Month, to promote and raise awareness and support people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

- To encourage employees to take necessary measures to sustain a healthier lifestyle.
- To intensify HIV Counseling and Testing (HCT) through workplace health and wellness screenings.

The Office of the Premier has partnered with the Government Employee Medical Scheme (GEMS) in this year's Annual Provincial Employee Health and Wellness Day.

The formal part of the programme entails presentations, highlighting to employees the impact of ill health on productivity and the benefits of the exercise programme.

The activities have been planned to encourage employees to know their health status and participate in the exercise activities provided. GEMS and Department of Health will provide testing and counseling on site.

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