



Unite against GBV

On Monday, 1 August 2022, Head Office, CTLI and district employees formed a human chain at their respective offices in support of Women's Month.

The initiative was mirrored across the Province, with communities being urged to stand up against Gender Based Violence through the "IF YOU SEE IT, REPORT IT" slogan.

The event aimed to set the tone for Women's Month ahead of the commemoration of the march by women to the Union Buildings on 09 August 1956.

It also sets out to encourage citizens to come together in their communities to take personal action against violence against women and children; to motivate municipalities to take this message further with prevention campaigns in their specific municipal service areas and to prompt civil society on a local level to organise their communities in acting against current threats against women and children relevant to their specific community.



Staff spread love on Mandela Day

The Directorate: Examinations Administration did their part to make an imprint on Mandela Day.

The team at Head Office made sandwiches which they distributed amongst people living in informal settlements. The Maitland team served soup and bread to the community around Alexandra Hospital.

Lucia Bredenkamp, Director: Examinations Administration, said she was super proud of the teams in Cape Town and Maitland for their efforts in serving the community. She commended them for living the motto printed on their newly branded t-shirts: "Be better, do better".

Staff in the Metro North Education District continued their tradition of service on Mandela Day and took part in a sandwich drive.

The Directorate: Recruitment and Selection and the Language Services

Unit donated sanitary towels to learners at Dietrich Moravian Primary School in Philippi.

The WCED would like to commend all staff who took part in initiatives in line with this year's theme which was "do what you can with what you have and where you are".



Christmas came early in Metro East

Landeka Diamond, Director of the Metro East Education District, surprised her team in June with a Christmas-themed team building event.

The team exchanged gifts and used the occasion to express how much each team member is valued.

The event was also used as an opportunity to reflect on the first half of the year and what they can improve on, adjust and implement to ensure that they reach their performance targets at the end of the year. "It is imperative to ensure that our spirits are up and we motivate each other toward achieving the common goal we have set out for ourselves," Diamond said.



At work chatter

Western Cape Education Minister, David Maynier, announced that the WCED will be taking decisive action to address severe learning losses in the Foundation Phase (Grades 1 to 3), by allocating more time for Mathematics and Reading each week. We spoke to officials in the Curriculum team who are instrumental in ensuring the success of this initiative.



Almarek du Toit, Chief Education Specialist: Curriculum Development GET: "The extra time will enable teachers to have more time to teach reading and Mathematics in a differentiated way while doing groupwork. Furthermore, the integration of Life Skills within Languages will ensure that Life Skills still have its rightful place. Our Foundation Phase teachers are creative and innovative and together we can make this work."



Carmalita Basson, Deputy Chief Education Specialist: Mathematics: "I think it is a great decision. More time allocated to these gateway subjects could regain the learning losses particularly in underperforming schools which bore the brunt of learning losses."



Natalie Southgate, Deputy Chief Education Specialist: Foundation Phase: "I think it was the right decision that was taken. Providing learners with more opportunities to read and engage practically in mathematical concepts, with the emphasis on building strong number sense, will address specific learning gaps identified by the systemic diagnostic assessment."



Manthabi Botwe, Senior Education Specialist: Curriculum Support in the Cape Winelands Education District: "The extra time allocated to group-guided reading and Mathematics groupwork will strengthen the consolidation of basic skills. Dedicated teaching during groupwork will ensure positive results. We will support teachers daily to ensure success!"



Engela Claassen, Senior Education Specialist: Curriculum Support in the Cape Winelands Education District: "Educators were frustrated because there was too little time to catch up with the learning losses. With the extended time for group-guided reading and Mathematics, educators can stimulate all learners during groupwork from Monday to Thursday. Groupwork will encourage active learning, develop communication, comprehension and key critical thinking skills."

Official reaches out to rural children



Kubeshini Govender, Chief Education Specialist: Special Projects, brought hope to rural learners when she requested the Cape Town Hindu Seva Samaj to pack 500 soup packs for learners at Blouville Academy in Wellington, Noorder Paarl High School and Groenheuwel Primary School in Paarl.

The "packets of hope" contained rice, lentils, soup mix, stock and a packet of soup for one meal. Govender distributed the packs to the schools ahead of the school holidays.

She said the principals of all three schools were deeply appreciative.

Noorder Paarl High School used their packs to serve Grade 12 learners during the Winter School Holiday

programme. Groenheuwel's Principal, Kobus Smith, said, "At least the families will be assured of one meal."

Govender also partnered with MOT South Africa who collected school clothes and shoes for their "Courage to Care" day. The school clothes and shoes were donated to Groenheuwel and Blouville Academy.

Joanie Smith of Rural Education SA thanked Govender for reaching out to the community.

This week, Govender distributed 96 pairs of boys and girls school shoes to three schools. The schools were donated by Babu's Footwear in Wynberg.

Govender encouraged colleagues to use their contacts to assist schools where possible.

20th Public Sector Innovation Awards

Are you an innovator and have you been able to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public service delivery?

If so, the Centre for Public Sector Innovation would like to acknowledge you for making a difference in the lives of citizens.

You can enter your projects in three categories:

- **Replication and Adaptation of an Innovative Solution**
This category focuses on the enhancement of existing solutions and seeks to showcase the importance of replication and scaling of innovation in other contexts and environment.
- **Citizen-focussed Innovations harnessing non-ICT solutions**
This category celebrates the innovative use of citizen-focussed non-ICT solutions to Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery at the coalface.

- **Innovations harnessing Technology (ICT and other frontier technologies)**

This category includes the use of technology in a new way, including emerging technologies such as Blockchain, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and innovative use of big data to significantly improve service delivery.

Entry forms are available at cpsl.co.za/awards.

The closing date for entries is 26 August 2022.

