

A total of 78 firefighters and management and 10 support vehicles from the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries' Working on Fire (WOF) programme in KwaZulu-Natal were deployed to the Msunduzi Landfill Site in New England Road, Pietermaritzburg, on 21 July 2020.

The deployment of the WOF firefighters and management was welcomed by the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy.

"The team of firefighters and management worked tirelessly since their deployment on 21 July to support the Mgungundlovu Disaster Management Centre to extinguish the fire that flared up again last week," said the Minister in a media statement issued on 29 July 2020. "Their efforts and commitment at this difficult time are to be commended.

"Through the joint effort, we hope that the fire is brought under control and extinguished as soon as is possible," said the Minister.

The Minister urged landowners and community members to be vigilant and not to start any fires, even for warmth in open areas, if weather conditions do not permit. Community members have also been urged to ensure that fire extinguishers and other firefighting equipment

## Deployment to fight Msunduzi landfill site fire welcomed



are serviced and ready in case any fires occur on their properties.

"Although our teams are ready to fight fires, we rely on community members to be responsible when lighting fires and to report any fires to the authorities as soon as possible," said the Minister.

Working on Fire has just over 5 000 firefighters on standby at 200 bases across South Africa during the current winter fire season. To date, Working

on Fire has responded to close to 800 wildfires in South Africa.

As the winter season continues, the teams will continue to burn fire-breaks, trace belts and block burns to reduce the risk of fires destroying homes and livelihoods in the country, while adhering strictly to COVID-19 protocols.



Nompilo Zondi, KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Communication Officer



## Working on Fire applauded for work in forestry sector

The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Barbara Creecy, and Deputy Minister Makhotso Sotyu, delivered their revised DEFF 2020/2021 budget and performance plan during the virtual budget plenary at the NCOP Chamber in Cape Town on 23 July. In her speech, Ms Sotyu commended the Expanded Public Works Programme, Working on Fire, for various initiatives.

"Rapid urbanisation and the movement of people from rural to urban areas are placing greater pressure on existing infrastructure and

WOF is the programme that is currently meeting our needs," Ms Sotyu said. "A key area is the protection of our forests, areas vital for sustainable development."

Ms Sotyu went on to highlight the recently developed WOF Forestry Support Teams and how it will combat various issues within the forestry industry. "We are well aware of concerns around management of state forestry in the Southern Cape and the public concern has led to DEFF employing 89 workers to assist with fire prevention measures on state-owned plantations."

A total of 120 young people com-



Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Makhotso Sotyu, congratulated WOF Forestry Support Team after the graduates (pictured) were deployed to state plantations. This photo was taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

pleted the Working on Fire Forestry Support Programme to become firefighters and Forestry Project graduates.

"Without interventions like the Forestry Support Programme, our department and government face a very real threat of unwanted wildland fires

destroying our property and spreading destruction to neighbouring land, including communities who live in these areas," Ms Sotyu said.



Amanda Mthembu, Mpumalanga Provincial Communication Officer



# Celebrating 17 Years of Partnership for Success

Working on Fire is implemented by the Kishugu Holdings (Pty) Ltd group of companies (formerly FFA Holdings (Pty) Ltd) from September 2003. Over the past 17 years, the Working on Fire programme has grown from its humble beginnings with 850 participants to a globally renowned programme employing over 5 000 people, encompassing the Working on Fire, High Altitude Team (HAT), Drought Relief Project and Forestry Support Programmes.


This phenomenal growth was made possible through dynamic and growing partnerships between the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, the Kishugu Holdings group, Fire Protection Associations, Conservation Agencies, municipalities, private companies and foreign government agencies such as the CIFCC and the Government of Alberta in Canada, the US Forestry Service, Indonesia and Chile.

Among the many highlights along this 17-year growth path were many critical interventions in major disaster fires such as the the Cape Town Table Mountain fire in 2015, the Knysna fires in 2017 and the George fires in 2018, along with key events such as the 10-year Celebration at Thaba N'chu in the Free State, participation in the international Wildfire Conferences in Spain (2005), Sun City, South Africa (2011) and South Korea (2016) and the Canadian Wildfire Conference in Ottawa, Canada in 2019.

Throughout this period, we have created jobs and thousands of work opportunities, offered skills development to youth, fostered awareness around fire safety and implemented Integrated Fire Management. We have introduced a campaign logo to acknowledge and celebrate 17 years of successful partnerships. Look out for this logo on our platforms and products as we celebrate #WorkingTogether for the Greater Good.

'17 Years of Partnership for Success' logo

## Fear is the mind-killer



Contributed by Type 3 Dispatcher Kagiso Tshehla (Mpumalanga)

We all have fear because we instinctively create it to protect ourselves from harm. Often, fear keeps us from living our best lives. Ask yourself why we haven't accomplished our missions, dreams, goals, and ambitions?

To answer the question...

We all fear being rejected.

We all fear being humiliated.

We all fear to fail.

Fear is our biggest enemy that impedes us from everything that we yearn for. The moment you open your door to fear, it automatically creates self-doubt, low self-esteem, lack of confidence and procrastination. Once these things have developed in your life, your life becomes stagnant.

I need you today to start facing your fears without any fear. Don't let fear steal the things you wish.

With that being said...

Please watch your THOUGHTS, for they become your ACTIONS...

Watch your ACTIONS, for they become your HABITS...

Watch your HABITS, because they will somehow CHANGE you. And where there's change, there's always either a POSITIVE or a NEGATIVE change.

It is important to keep in touch with your inner-true self and shift your focus to the positive emotions, to believe in yourself and work towards identifying your meaning of life and your life purpose. Get support from others as they will help you diminish your fears and face your fears.

Remember that everything is possible in this world and no one is standing in your way but yourself.

Happy Mandela Month.



## BETWEEN WORKING ON FIRE, KISHUGU AND PARTNERS

### Cry Beauty, Cry!

Just as I thought that I'd get happiness, something triggered tragedy.  
You approached me with pure intentions, well I thought I knew.  
You approached me with an open heart, well I thought I felt.  
Then in my eyes, the days of Cry Beauty, Cry, faded.  
Just as I thought I'd get through, something triggered...I was held back.  
You whispered sweet nothings. Well, I thought I believed.  
You gave me that tender touch. Well, I thought it was true.  
Then in my sleep, all those nights of Cry Beauty, Cry, were just a dream.  
I felt for you, felt deep for your words.  
I felt for you, felt sincerely for your deeds.  
I felt for you, felt true for your sympathy.  
I felt for you, felt slowly for your apologies.  
It all started, Cry Beauty, Cry...  
You turned me into your punching bag.  
You turned me into your doormat.  
You turned me into your rubbish bin.  
You turned me into your soccer ball.  
I tried defending myself, but you kept on yelling.  
I tried defending myself, but you kept on kicking.  
You kept on telling me to cry...Cry Beauty, Cry.  
I do not know what I did wrong.  
I do not know what I said falsely.  
All the Beauty that's left in me has never stopped crying.  
Cry Beauty, Cry!





# MPU teams provide essential services in busy fire season

Despite facing a busy winter fire season, numerous Working on Fire Mpumalanga teams have also been assisting their base partners and Fire Protection Associations by conducting fire prevention exercises throughout the province.

The Nelspruit Team has been hard at work conducting prescribed burns in and around the provincial capital. The Dullstroom, Graskop, Mayflower and Badplaas teams also conducted prescribed burning in their respective regions.

The winter fire season has been busy, with runaway veld fires igniting in the Lowveld and Highveld regions. A total of 34 fires were recorded in June and, with the Fire Danger Index (FDI) indicating extreme weather conditions, the teams had a busy start to July.

More than 13 WOF teams and other resources were dispatched to assist partners and FPAs between 10 and 12 July. On 10 July alone, a total of nine fires was recorded.



All these activities are part of the WOF Integrated Fire Management (IFM) framework, which includes fire awareness, fire prevention, prescribed burning, resource coordination, fire detection, fire suppression and post-fire damage rehabilitation, to create a sustainable and well-balanced environment, reduce wildfire risk and promote the beneficial use of fire.



Amanda Mthembu, Mpumalanga Provincial Communication Officer

# Strong winds fuels multiple wildfires

The government-funded Working on Fire (WOF) programme's Limpopo firefighters started July with a bang as they responded to multiple fires that broke out in various areas within the province.

Since the beginning of the year, WOF firefighters have responded to 49 wildfires that destroyed more than 2 000 hectares of grass vegetation and plantations. Due to the strong winds that have been experienced in the province, there has been an increase in the number of wildfires reported.

WOF Limpopo firefighters have responded to a total of 15 wildfires to date in July. More than 600 WOF firefighters are on standby at their bases and ready to be dispatched. WOF's work is defined as an essential service in terms of the Disaster Management Act, Act 57 of 2002, and firefighters have been on duty throughout all the COVID-19 lockdown levels.

The safeguarding of the firefighters against COVID-19 is of paramount importance. Our firefighters comply with the regulations of the level 3 COVID-19 lockdown, whereby they strictly follow the protocols of be-



WOF Limpopo firefighters work hard to save lives and protect the environment

ing screened every morning and afternoon, sanitising and keeping to social distancing while on duty.

We are pleading with the communities to report all the fires that they see in their areas to their local fire brigade immediately and to refrain from starting fires in open areas, as that might cause runaway fires.



Matema Gwangwa, Limpopo Provincial Communication Officer

# More than 100 firefighters dispatched to fires

The Working on Fire teams in the Eastern Cape are being kept very busy as the 2020 winter fire season continues. Twenty fires broke out in the province in June 2020 with one of the fires continuing into the first week of July.

The fire started at the PG Bison plantation and spread to other areas, burning an estimated 120 hectares. WOF dispatched seven teams and aerial resources to assist in suppressing this fire that took about six days to be contained.

According to the General Manager of WOF Eastern Cape, Phumza Dyan-tyi, more than 100 firefighters from the Mhlahlane, Ugie, Ongeluksnek, Nqadu, Elliot, Joe Gqabi and Cata teams worked diligently to suppress the fires burning in different areas of the plantation.

"During this fire, the Fire Danger Index (FDI)\* was extremely high in most parts of the Eastern Cape," says Dyan-tyi.

"We are proud that the young men and women from WOF worked tirelessly in assisting PG Bison and the Eastern Cape Umbrella FPA in making sure that this fire was successfully suppressed. We thank

them for their hard work and dedication during this period," adds Dyantyi.

The Eastern Cape has two fire seasons - the winter fire season that affects the eastern part of the province from June to October and the summer fire season that affects the western part of the province from December to April.

While some teams are fighting fires, others are conducting community fire awareness through social media to ensure that everyone is fire safe.

Community members and landowners are urged to be vigilant during this winter fire season.

\*The Fire Danger Index is a rating system that indicates the potential fire risk for specific areas, according to the wind speed and direction, humidity and air pressure. The FDI uses a colour-coded system that, for example, assists firefighters to know when they can safely conduct controlled burns (blue indicates calm conditions, orange to red are extremely dangerous).



Nthabiseng Mokone, Eastern Cape Provincial Communication Officer



Working on Fire Eastern Cape teams battled 20 fires in June 2020

# Team praised by landowners



The Castello Team constructs firebreaks to assist landowners

The Working on Fire Castello Team is working around the clock to assist the Potchefstroom Fire Protection Association (FPA) and landowners by constructing firebreaks to prevent fires spreading from one farm to another. According to the Veld and Forest Act, Act 101 of 1998, all farmers are required to have firebreaks between their farms.

The Castello Team has already responded to a number of fires since the beginning of the 2020 winter fire season and continues to provide fire prevention measures to help landowners to prepare for the peak of this fire season.

"It's been hectic since the beginning of the fire season," says Crew Leader Modise.

The Castello Team firefighters were praised by landowners and the Potchefstroom FPA for their professionalism and dedication.

"The team's work is amazing in controlling and putting out fires and the landowners have been impressed with their service," says Potchefstroom FPA Chairperson, Dr Kobus Roux.



Maria Letsholo, North West Provincial Communication Officer



# Making a Difference in the education of South African youth

Working on Fire, a Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Expanded Public Works Programme and a global leader in providing Integrated Fire Management at local, provincial and national levels, is now contributing to adult basic education and training (ABET). It is giving participants who did not complete matric an opportunity to study through ABET.

"I am happy with the pass rate of the North West ABET students

and the learners' hard work, respect and discipline shown throughout the entire ABET programme," says Kagiso Lerefo, the WOF North West Human Resources Practitioner.

The participants say they cannot describe how grateful they were for the study opportunity WOF provided.



Maria Letsholo, North West Provincial Communication Officer



North West Working on Fire participants celebrate after receiving their qualifications through ABET

## New matriculant in Working on Fire ABET programme



Nomaphelo Mdayi passed her matric thanks to ABET studies provided by WOF

Nomaphelo Mdayi, a firefighter at the Hogsback Team in the Eastern Cape, is now a proud matriculant thanks to the Working on Fire programme.

When 27-year-old Mdayi joined the Working on Fire programme in 2013 as a firefighter, she had few skills. "Being part of the WOF family gave me the opportunity to do the First Aid, SHE Rep and Brushcutter Operator courses. I also managed to uplift myself by enrolling at IQ Academy to do an Office Administration certificate. The WOF programme also chose me once to represent them at the Azishe games," says Mdayi with a smile.

She says the biggest opportunities she got in the programme were being deployed to Canada and being part of the group that was selected to do matric through the adult basic education & training (ABET) programme.

Mdayi says that when she was chosen to study through ABET, she thought that she would not manage but, through hard work and dedication, she succeeded.

"It was a new experience to me but I had to adapt and balance my work and studies. It was not easy as sometimes we had to fight fires for long hours, get a few hours to rest and then go and attend classes. Despite all challenges, I finished and passed very well and now I have obtained my senior certificate," she says.

"I am very proud to be part of this programme which continues to be committed to changing the lives of young people in many ways," says Mdayi.



Nthabiseng Mokone, Eastern Cape Provincial Communication Officer

## Uniondale Team members sharpen their first aid skills



Allistair Ferndale, Justice de Kella, Chrizane Blaauw, Imeran Blaauw and Brentino April

Five firefighters from Uniondale in the Southern Cape had their first aid skills refreshed when they received First Aid Level 1 training free of charge.

The training was offered by Florian Emergency Solutions on behalf of the Southern Cape Fire Protection Association, a WOF partner in the Western Cape. The training is accredited with the emergency body DOL and HWSeta.

Uniondale BCR Allistair Ferndale says the group of firefighters will undertake

the more advanced level 2 and 3 training soon to ensure they will be able to save their colleagues when there is an emergency while they render firefighting services.

"The emergency training was indeed very helpful. They teach you what to do and how to react when you approach an emergency and therefore it is useful training," says Ferndale.



Limakatso Khalianyane, Western Cape Provincial Communication Officer

## Mayflower Team joins Food Security Programme

The Working on Fire Mayflower Team has joined the Food Security Programme and has already harvested some crops to give back to the community.

The team began a vegetable garden at the base and is currently growing spinach. The team intends introducing more crops to the garden as it wants to produce on a bigger scale to assist needy families in the communities.

"The team contributed financially and bought seeds to begin this garden and every day after the morning parade we take shifts tending the garden," says Mayflower Base Com-

munications Representative, Mlungisi Yende.

Mayflower joins the Graskop, Dullstroom, Sasol, Warburton and Breyten teams who are hard at work maintaining their vegetable gardens to give back to their communities.

The aim of the Food Security Programme within the Working on Fire organisation is to create food sustainability in the teams' communities as WOF's way of giving back during these difficult socio-economic times.



Amanda Mthembu, Mpumalanga Provincial Communication Officer



Participants from the Mayflower Team in Mpumalanga tend their garden



# WOF'S MANDELA DAY OF ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

The legacy of Nelson Mandela calls on us all, every day, to make the world a better place. However, during Mandela Month and particularly on Mandela Day, 18 July, people across South Africa and the world takes time to look back on what has been done and what still needs to be done. Since #MakingADifference is a very important value of the Working on Fire family, our participants and staff passionately participate in Mandela Day and Month initiatives and this year, we answered Madiba's call to action under the theme 'Action against Poverty'.



Eastern Cape staff donate food parcels to needy families in their community



The Lottering Team celebrated Madiba's legacy by sharing some of his quotes



Free State Management donated food and clothing items to the Sisanga Qomoyi Foundation which supports children in marginalised communities



The Van Stadensrus Team (FS) cleans community members' yards and provides them with hand sanitisers



The WOF Gauteng Management team does gardening at Arebolokeng Hospice and Daycare Centre



Ayanda's family was very appreciative of the groceries and blankets donated by the WOF KZN Provincial staff



The Mdala Team (Gauteng) fumigated their home base



The WOF KZN Nkandla Team does the laundry for Gogo Ngema



Learners from Phiphidi Primary School wear the new uniforms that were donated by Limpopo Provincial management and Phiphidi Team firefighters



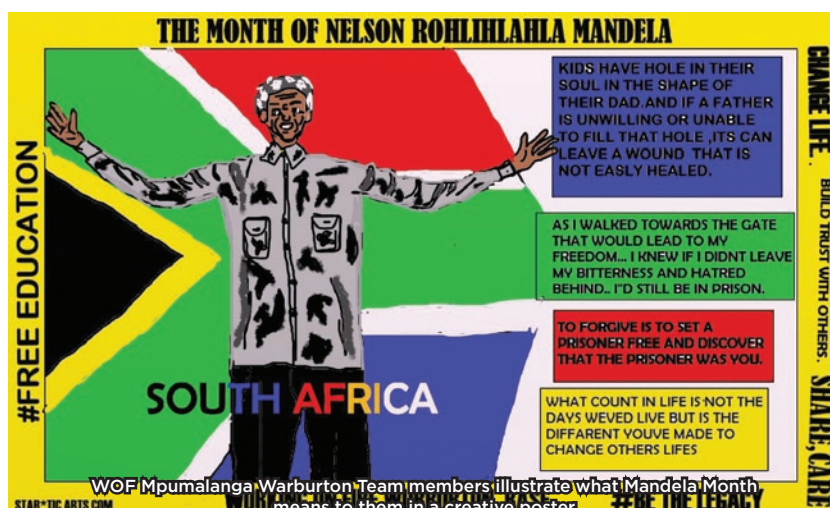
WOF Limpopo's Nebo Team firefighters create a vegetable garden for Mrs Mashego, a member of their community



The WOF Western Cape Craggs Team (WC) drew a portrait of Madiba with the caption 'Black Lives Matter'



The Castello Team in North West celebrates Mandela Day by doing spring cleaning and making gardens for elderly residents



WOF Mpumalanga Warburton Team members illustrate what Mandela Month means to them in a creative poster



The False Bay Team (WC) donated baby essentials to Hannah's Place of Safety



# MPU welcomes Bongani Nhlabathi back as AGM



Bongani Nhlabathi is back in Mpumalanga as an Assistant General Manager after a stint in KZN as Acting General Manager

The Working on Fire Mpumalanga Provincial Office welcomed Bongani Nhlabathi back in the position of Assistant General Manager (AGM).

Nhlabathi comes back after being an AGM and Acting General Manager in KwaZulu-Natal. One of the longest-serving members in the WOF organisation, Nhlabathi was recruited as a firefighter at the Piet Retief Base on 12 June 2004.

WOF prides itself in nurturing and developing its participants, with a large number of former participants now in management positions, and Nhlabathi is a good example of one who has gone up through the ranks.

His journey saw him appointed as a Type 2 and Type 1 Crew Leader at his base in Piet Retief. He then became an instructor in an old department within WOF.

"After my stint as an instructor, I applied for a Regional Manager position and was appointed," Nhlabathi says.

He managed many teams as an RM in the North West and Gauteng before being promoted to Ground Operations Manager (GOM) in his home province of Mpumalanga.

Nhlabathi's stellar work performance was recognised when he was appointed the Assistant General Manager in KZN and subsequently Acting General Manager in that province.

"Home is where the heart is and now I am back home to be AGM in my home province," Nhlabathi says.

The Mpumalanga Provincial staff wish him all the best in his new role.



Amanda Mthembu, Mpumalanga Provincial Communication Officer

## IR Training held for Ground Operations Department



Ground Operations staff during their recent workshop

The Working on Fire Ground Operations Department recently attended a Human Resources and Industrial Relations Workshop. The workshop was intended to increase the understanding and knowledge of management in regard to human capital management and gap analysis.

The workshop, which was conducted by the Eastern Cape Human Resources Practitioner, Bongani Goza, equipped the attendees with the skills and knowledge necessary to handle all proceedings and processes involved

in employee relations and developed the management staff by building on the competencies required to unleash optimal productivity in the WOF Programme.

"Our intention with this workshop was to strategise around how Ground Operations operates and to ensure they stay aligned to the Working on Fire work policies and disciplinary codes," says Goza.



Wayne Mokheithi, Free State Provincial Communication Officer

## Western Cape welcomes new Regional Manager

Working on Fire Western Cape have welcomed into their management fold a new Regional Manager, Siphosethu Noko, who will be working with the Bredasdorp and Walker Bay teams.

Noko joins the team after serving for two years as a base manager for the Concordia and Sedgfield teams for the Southern Cape Fire Protection Association (SCFPA) in Knysna, Western Cape.

The young man completed the National Diploma in Agriculture Management at Nelson Mandela University (Saasveld) and Higher Certificate in Veldfire Management, for which he enrolled after the 2017 Knysna wildfires.

"I joined Working on Fire after the horrific June 2017 Knysna wildfires. I developed a passion for rescues.

"In my new role as Regional Manager, I want to continue contributing to the strengthening of Working on Fire's vision to be a leading global integrated fire management company. I am looking forward to



Siphosethu Noko developed a passion for rescues after the Knysna fires in 2017

making a difference in communities and in the lives of firefighters," Noko says.



Limakatso Khalianyane, Western Cape Provincial Communication Officer

## Breaking the shackles of poverty

Jonas Sebothoma, a driver at the Dinokeng Team, recently completed a one-year certificate in project management at IQ Academy by studying through correspondence.

He chose the course because he is interested in business management. "I am a business person and need broader knowledge to run it," he says.

Sebothoma says getting educated will help in building and sustaining the livelihoods of his family. "I did not have the luxury to further my studies after matric. But that didn't deter me to study further. I saved money for the course. My future is in my hands," says Sebothoma.

He says the WOF Programme played a critical role in serving as a stepping stone. When asked how he juggled work, studies and family, he said it was dedication and commitment that kept each of these in their lanes.

"Weekends, I was studying and doing assignments. Sunday, I spent time with family. Obtaining the qualification is not the end product. It's time to translate it into practicality," says Sebothoma.



Parapara Makgahlela, Gauteng Provincial Communication Officer



Jonas Sebothoma, a driver at the Dinokeng Base, has completed his project management course



## WOF skills open doors to new opportunities for youth



Mzoxolo Pipe thanks the Working on Fire Programme for the skills that assisted him to get a new job

The Working on Fire Programme plays a major role in restoring young people's lives by giving them skills, discipline and confidence to seize better opportunities.

A number of its participants exit the programme every year to take up full-time employment in a variety of industries.

Already this year, more than 10 firefighters have exited the programme to start new jobs at Cape Fruits, SAPS, ECPTA, SANParks, MTO and a number of private companies. In June, six firefighters from WOF in the Eastern Cape found jobs outside WOF.

Mzoxolo Pipe is one of the former participants who got a better opportunity outside the programme. Pipe, who is living with a disability, joined

the WOF family as a storeperson in 2010 at the Addo Base.

"I had never worked as a storeperson before and WOF believed in me and gave me that opportunity. Before joining the WOF Programme I was working as a seasonal worker at Uni-Fruits," says Pipe.

He says the programme empowered him with many skills and he even acquired two certificates. Pipe is now employed as a Stock Controller at Cape Fruits.

"I would like to thank WOF for making me a better person. Now I am using all the skills I got from WOF at my job."



Nthabiseng Mokone, Eastern Cape Provincial Communication Officer

## Venturing into farming

Simphiwe Sibiya of the Roodeplaat Team has exited the programme to run a layer chicken farming project back home in KZN. His sister is a co-owner of the farming project.

"When I was down, the programme served as an economic refuge and cushion to hardships until the sky was clear," he says.

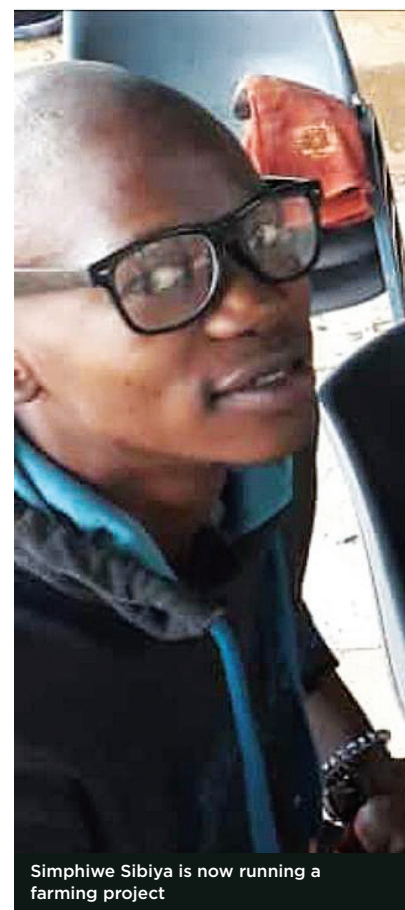
He highlights Industrial relations and safety and financial management skills among the skills that he acquired in the programme that will be useful to him as a future employer.

He resigned in March to devote his attention to the layer chicken business after they secured funding to kick-start the project. They supply eggs to the shops in the area.

"I have to be up early in the morning to feed the chickens and see if there are any mortalities in the cages," says the emerging farmer.



Parapara Makgahlela, Gauteng Provincial Communication Officer



Simphiwe Sibiya is now running a farming project

## Province educates teams on level 3 regulations



Bongumusa Nyathi conducting the team workshop on level 3

## Dedicated to protecting the environment and saving lives

"WOF gave me the second opportunity to make something out of my life. I will always be grateful to WOF for not judging me or throwing in the towel on me," says Willem Moraka, a former firefighter at Marakele Base who is employed as an Environmental Officer at

Marakele SANParks. Moraka is one of several WOF participants who were absorbed by Marakele SANParks as Environmental Monitors.

"High school was challenging as I couldn't even get to matric. Due to financial constraints at home, I was forced to go look for a job to assist my family. Luckily, WOF came to my rescue in 2012 and I was recruited as a firefighter," says Moraka.

Despite having only Grade 11, Moraka was empowered through WOF's skills development programme that took him through trainings such as basic firefighting, first aid, financial management and computer studies.

In 2017, Moraka left WOF after being recruited as an Environmental Monitor by Marakele SANParks.

"WOF groomed me like a parent grooming his child. I gained self-confidence and the ability to make a difference in the society. WOF made everything possible and my future looks so bright. I'm so thankful to WOF," says Moraka.



Willem Moraka is dedicated to saving lives and protecting the environment at Marakele SANParks



Matema Gwangwa, Limpopo Provincial Communication Officer

As the country and most of the International community are still under lockdown due to the coronavirus, the Fire Awareness and Social Development Department have been going out to teams to educate them about level 3 regulations and to also assess stress and anxiety.

The objective was to educate participants about what the regulations permitted and what was not permissible during the level 3 lockdown.

KwaZulu-Natal Fire Awareness Training Officer Bongumusa Nyathi says, "We also touched on individual behaviour and their responsibility as community members and as co-workers, to make them understand that it's not just about their safety but also that of their family, friends and colleagues."

Nyathi also covered understanding the term 'hotspot area', the topics of

finance and alcohol, what happens if people don't wear masks and the risk to themselves and people they interact with.

"As we see the rise of COVID-19 cases in the country, we also talked about how to teach children about the safety measures they need to take when at school or in public areas. There is some anxiety when parents think about taking children back to school. I also elaborated on back to school support."

The task team will continue to visit teams with updated information to educate and equip firefighters with the necessary information to assist them to ensure their safety and that of their families.



Nompilo Zondi, KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Communication Officer





# FOR OUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COLLEAGUES

**IT IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO**

# KEEP SAFE AND PRACTICE GOOD PERSONAL HYGIENE



**Wash your hands  
for at least  
20 seconds.**



**Use soap or  
60% alcohol  
sanitizer.**



**Always wear  
your mask.**



**Avoid crowds  
and keep 1.5m  
social distance.**



**Avoid physical  
contact like  
handshakes.**



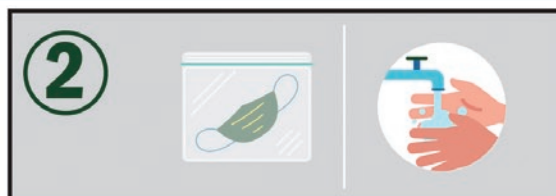
**Disinfect  
frequently  
touched  
surfaces.**

**STAY ALERT**  **CONTROL THE VIRUS**  **SAVE LIVES**

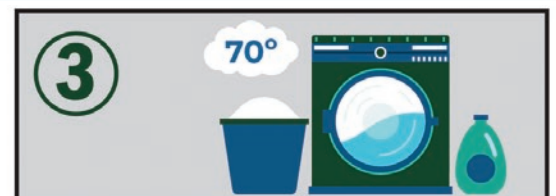
## HOW TO CLEAN REUSABLE FACE MASKS



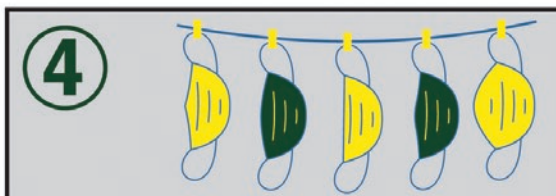
To remove mask take straps and pull forward or hold both ear loops. Unhook and gently lift to remove the mask.



Place mask in plastic bag until ready to wash. If the mask has a pocket that holds a removable non-woven filter, always remove the filter before washing the mask. Wash hands before and after removing the mask.



Hand wash gently using normal washing detergent, with warm water (around 30°C) for at least 60 seconds. You can also disinfect mask by soaking in a solution of hot water (70°C) and detergent.



Dry masks completely. To dry, place in the dryer, use a hairdryer or leave to hang and air-dry under indirect sunlight.



If needed, iron cloth masks to help them keep their shape.

If you experience COVID-19 related symptoms, please contact your health authority.

National COVID-19 Hotline: 080 002 9999 | WhatsApp: 0600 123456

WOF: Speak to Line Manager, SDP or OHS Officer | WhatsApp or SMS: 062 105 7005 | Email: [wellness@wofire.co.za](mailto:wellness@wofire.co.za)



environment, forestry  
& fisheries  
Department:  
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



KISHUGU  
FOR THE GREATER GOOD

