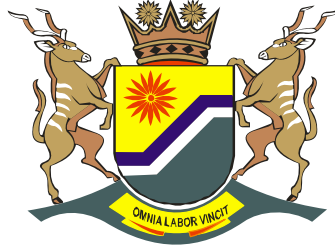


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NEWS EDITORS

MEDIA STATEMENT

19 MARCH 2014

MEC DIKELEDI MAHLANGU PRONOUNCES A GO AHEAD FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE D481 EMBULENI – EKULINDENI (PHASE 1) ROAD.

Joy and jubilation was the order of the day for the community of Embhuleni and Ekulindeni in Mooiplaas in the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality. Thousands of community members joined Mpumalanga MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ms Dikeledi Mahlangu on her service delivery drive as she officially conducted the sod turning for the construction of the D481 Road between Embhuleni Hospital to Ekulindeni (Phase 1). The event took place today on Wednesday the 19th of March 2014 at Ebuhleni Sports Ground in Mooiplaas. MEC Mahlangu was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality Cllr Busi Shiba, her Councillors and the management of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport.

During her keynote address, MEC Mahlangu stated that government will always ensure that service delivery comes first. The MEC said the 12 kilometre road which will be constructed at the tune of R28 million also seek to address the challenges of unemployment. "When we execute projects of this nature we also take into consideration the unemployment problem we face in our communities. That is why the local community here will benefit with regards to job opportunities." Said MEC Mahlangu.

MEC Mahlangu also stated that it is government's commitment to ensure that quality work is delivered. "We want to put it to you that the road that will be constructed here will last you for a very long time. We told the contractor that we want a road that will not last for a few months, but instead we want quality work because we no longer want our communities to suffer". Said Mahlangu.

The Executive Mayor of Chief Albert Luthuli, Cllr Busi Shiba thanked the Department for displaying courtesy for the local people. "We are all excited about the start of the project. We are also happy that our local people will benefit a lot from this project. We know that this is just the first phase of the project and we request that the Department speed up the process of executing the second phase.

Mandla Dube is one of the local people who is benefitting on the projects. "I am happy that I got employed. I will display my commitment on the project and ensure that I do the best of my abilities on



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME



my work. I know that after the road has been completed I will have a great story to tell my grand children that I was part of the team that built this road". Said Dube.

Tholakele Mhlanga stated that she is happy with the construction of the project because it will improve their area. "We see a lot of development taking place in towns and cities. We are happy that the development is also taking place in our area. We are proud of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport". Said Mhlanga.

The project is expected to create about 200 job opportunities for the locals. It is expected to be completed within 19 months with the start date being towards the end of March 2014 and completion date being October 2015.

Issued by the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport. For more information kindly contact Mr. David Nkambule on 013 766 6553 or 071 608 1059