

MEDIA STATEMENT

News Editors

18 October 2016

INCLEMENT WEATHER DID NOT DETER PEOPLE OF DONKERHOEK

Despite the cold and wet weather, people of Donkerhoek in Mkhondo Local Municipality came in their numbers to witness the official handover of their footbridge. MEC Sasekani Manzini accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Mkhondo Local Municipality Cllr Vusi Motha officially handed over the bridge to the local community.

The bridge crosses over a river linking villages and thus enhancing mobility and access to social amenities such as schools, clinics, graveyards etc.

In her address to the community MEC Manzini said it was a deliberate plan for government to have all people in the province prospers in their own places regardless of whether they live in urban or rural areas. "Investment in infrastructure in rural areas is testimony of this commitment", said MEC Manzini.

During construction of the R5 million bridge, 24 people benefited through work opportunities and skills development. Mr Nkosinathi Xulu is a subsistence farmer living in the area and commended government for building the bridge. "Crossing over the river for my herds during rainy season was challenging since they could not swim through the high watered - river. They would wander in the veld unsupervised, waiting for the river to subside before they could return home".

He further alluded to his luck because he uses his horse as transport to access social amenities and mobility. "Unfortunately this is not the case with the rest of the local people as they had to walk through the river to access social amenities such as schools, clinics and grave yards on the other side of the river."

Earlier in the day, MEC Manzini participated in a law enforcement road block at Ermelo in Msukalikwa Local Municipality. During the road block eleven passenger vehicles were impounded for various trespasses ranging from operating without valid operating license, expired license discs and un-roadworthy certificate.

The department will continue with the month long October Transport Month activities. On the 24 October 2016 MEC Manzini will hand over another footbridge to the community of Ronaldsey in Bushbuckridge local Municipality and convene EPWP summit on the 25-26 October 2016 which will conclude with hosting the 7th Provincial Kamoso Awards. The last activity would be the sod turning of road D236 in Barberton in the City of Mbombela.

Ends.

For more information, kindly contact Mr David Nkambule on (013) 766-6553 or 071-608-1059

