



the dpwrt

Department:
Public Works, Roads and Transport
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE



Departmental Newsletter

April 2013 - June 2013

Issue 14

FULL STEAM AHEAD ON SERVICE DELIVERY



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“Getting Mpumalanga to Work”



Editorial Comment



Welcome to a new look @ Work. As part of the realigned strategic plan, the Department has decided to merge the internal and external publications. We will no longer have an internal publication. The new tabloid size publication will include stories and activities that are focusing to both our staff and the external stakeholders. The new publication is bigger and better, as there are now more stories and better quality pictures.

This will further enhance the communication objectives of the Department as more information will be disseminated to thousands of the inhabitants our Province. We will strive to inform and educate our people about where to get services of the Department and also to get feedback on our programmes.

This publication will still be published quarterly and distributed amongst others Head office and all District offices of the Department. Contact details of our offices are enlisted at the back of this publication. We would like to thank all the readers who always give feedback about the programmes of the Department. Every input is a learning curve.

FULL STEAM AH

The entire budget of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport is R3, 971, 072.00 Billion for the current financial year of 2013/14. This lump sum amount will cater for programmes such as Public Works, Roads, Public Infrastructure to name a few.



MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu (Orange dress), HOD Kgopana Mohlasedi (3rd from right) with guests who attended the event.

PUBLIC WORKS

MPUMALANGA INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER PLAN

The Department has developed an overarching Infrastructure Master Plan for the province. This plan will translate provincial government's policy, strategy and planning outputs into tangible deliverables.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Department has completed construction of eighty six (86) schools, three (3) Social Development offices, six (6)

projects for the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation and thirty one (31) Department of Health projects in 2012/13 financial year. Several infrastructure projects will also commence in this financial year as part of this mandate. For the Department of Education The Department will implement a total number of 143 projects, of which 47 projects are multiyear, 52 are new and 44 are storm damaged projects. For the Department of Health a total number of 72 projects, 46 of which are multiyear and 26 are new projects. 19 projects will be implemented for the Department of Social Development of which

4 are multiyear and 15 are new projects. On behalf of the Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation a total number of 16 projects, of which 7 are multiyear and 9 are new projects. It is estimated that the implementation of above mentioned projects will lead to creation of 1038 job opportunities.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The provincial road infrastructure plans are divided into four categories; upgrading from gravel to tar, coal haulage, non-coal haulage and reseal.

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Talk shows

Tune in on the following radio stations every Tuesday fortnightly:
LIGWALAGWALA FM : 19H45 – 20H00
IKWEKWEZI FM : 19H15 – 19H30

Disclaimer

Although care has been taken to verify the accuracy of information, the editorial team extends sincere apologies for any inaccuracies

HEAD ON SERVICE DELIVERY

UPGRADING

The Department will upgrade roads from gravel to tar and they include amongst others, 9.2km of road D2964 between Diepdale and Swaziland border, 11km of Road D3969 and D3974 between Kildare and Cunninghammoore (Rolle - Oakley Phase 2) and 9.3km Upgrading of Road D2976 between Daantjie and Mpakeni.

COAL HAULAGE

The will also rehabilitate Coal haulage roads which includes amongst others, 16km Rehabilitation of Coal Haul Road D914 between P127/1 and R35 (South of Middelburg) and 27 km Rehabilitation of Coal Haul Road P52/3 between Kriel and Ogies. The Department will also start with new coal haulage roads that includes amongst others 15km Rehabilitation of Coal Haul Road P120/1 from eMalahleni to D914, 15km Rehabilitation of Coal Haul Road P182/1 (R542) between P120/1 (van Dyksdrift) and R35 and 14 km Rehabilitation of Coal Haul Road D686 from Leeuwfontein past Kendal Power Station over R555 (P95/1) to N12

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

The impact of flood damages on the infrastructure and budget is huge. As part of dealing with backlog created by the flood damages, the Department will construct bridges which includes amongst others the reconstruction of a Flood Damaged Culvert bridge on Road D2973 between Gutswakop and Clau –Clau, Reconstruction of a Flood Damaged Bridge on Road D2945 between Boschfontein and Gomora to Reconstruction of a Flood Damaged Bridge on Road D4392 (Near Dumphries).

TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

The Department has an obligation to provide public infrastructure to enable increased mobility and accessibility to many areas in the province especially in rural areas. In this regard, the Department will construct amongst others bus shelters at Katsibane, Makola, Magononong and Lefiso in Dr JS Moroka Municipality, walkways at Kwaggafontein in Thembesile Hani Municipality to construction of Culvert bridge in Sibange 1, Nkomazi Municipality

SCHOLAR TRANSPORT SERVICES



Scholar transport buses ready to pick up learners

The transportation of learners, safely and timely still remain a high priority for the Department. A budget of R441 916 Million has been set aside for Scholar Transport.

MOLOTO RAIL DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR

In the last term of office, feasibility study was conducted and completed about a need for rail network on this corridor. In taking forward this task, National Treasury has since requested further feasibility study which should look into a number of options or alternatives besides rail. A team comprising of all stakeholders, is now undertaking this study and is expected to complete this task by March 2014.

COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMME

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) represents Government's most direct policy instrument to tackle unemployment. Accordingly, the budget of this Programme the Department will receive a significant boost from R40, 949, 00 to R 59 512,00 for enhanced coordination of the programme. The 42% increment is in line with the Province's commitment of creating Full Time Equivalent jobs in the current financial year. The Department has targeted 76 136 job opportunities which will focus on the four sectors, namely: Infrastructure, Social, Environment & Culture and Non-State.

EMERGING CONTRACTOR DEVELOPMENT (SAKH'ABAKHI)



One of Sakh'abakhi projects in progress.

The Department has a programme called Sakh'abakhi which is dedicated to the upliftment of people to take advantage of available economic opportunities. To achieve this, 43 building projects amounting to R14, 898.00 have been earmarked for allocation to emerging contractors.

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE

Three hundred and five (305) youth beneficiaries consisting of two hundred and one (201) women and one (1) person with disability will be awarded maintenance projects to the value of R17, 227 million in all our districts. These incumbents are part of the recently established NYS Co-operatives.

The Budget in totality

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Administration | R 225 687, 00 |
| Public Works | R 567 870, 00 |
| Transport Infrastructure | R 2 107 063, 00 |
| Transport Operations | R 1 010 240, 00 |
| Community Based Programme | R 59 512, 00 |
| TOTAL | R 3, 971, 072 |

The Orange, Glitz and Glamour



The MEC (orange dress) with the Department management team

It was Four (4) Departments that were tabling their Policy and Budget Speech on the 23rd of May 2013 and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport was one of them. Orange was the colour of the day in the Government Complex on the day. Word of mouth was not needed on the entrance and exit of the Government Complex to question which Department was tabling the Policy and Budget Speech as displays of banners, trucks, and law enforcement vehicles spoke for themselves. As if it was not orange enough, the Captain of the ship, MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu was dressed to kill with her orange dress. She was breath taking as she marched to the Chamber with her entourage of senior management all wearing orange ties. Even the invited guest heeded the call of wearing orange ties and scarf's.

After a long session of attentively listening to the speech, senior management of the Department and invited guests attended a dinner session with the MEC at Building eight (8) on the 2nd floor, room two which is known to host meetings and workshop.

It was the beautiful smell of the African Cuisine food that created an appetite to most of the guests. Favourite dishes which were famous on the night were Amathumbu, Inkunku yesintfu (kwerekwere), Mancina, Umbidvo wetintsanga and lidombolo. Guest were ushered in their respective seats and a welcoming speech was given by the Chief of Staff in the MEC's Office, Mr Sipho Monareng who introduced the MEC.

The MEC thanked and appreciated all her guests for honouring her dinner invite, also emphasised that without them her Policy and Budget Speech would not be a success. "I thank you again for wearing orange and looking WOW" said MEC Mahlangu. She then indicated that she will not waste time since she could hear stomach grumbles from her guests. It was a buffet and everyone dished for themselves. Many of them cleaned up their plates and dished up for the second time.

HELP IDENTIFY STOLEN GOVERNMENT IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES



One of the schools in the Gert Sibande District built on government land

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport through the **"Operation Bring Back"** is determined to recoup all stolen provincial government properties from fraudsters after the National Department of Public Works launched the campaign in 2011. The campaign was introduced by the National Department of Public Works as plans are afoot to register all government properties.

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, which has a mandate to manage all immovable assets on behalf of the Mpumalanga province, is not exempted from the directive. According to the Senior Manager for Immovable Asset Management, Ms. Hellen Mdaka, her unit has a mandate to reconcile an asset register in a bid to attain a true state of assets in the province.

This includes properties such as residential properties, schools, clinic, hospitals, libraries, archive buildings, vacant land, offices, farms etc. **"We are conducting a survey of all our rural properties on un-surveyed state land to obtain and register title deeds. In addition, we vest and endorse title deeds of the state properties for the province as well as pay rates and taxes to municipalities for all the provincial government assets"**

she explained. She added that all the processes are part of the compilation and enhancement of the asset register. Although the section is working around the clock to update and capture all the assets, but it expresses some concerns about some of the government properties which might have been "stolen" and such might not appear on the Asset Register.

She added that lack of data or source document to confirm that indeed a property vest with the provincial government is another major challenge for the Department. However various sources like the Deeds data office, municipalities, National Public Works and Surveyor General Offices are being continuously engaged to obtain some of the data "It is against this background that the National Department of Public Works introduced the Government Immovable Asset Management Act, no 19 of 2007 (GIAMA), as there was no legislative framework that governed the immovable assets"

She concluded by saying Immovable Assets were managed in terms of the common law general principles of asset management, which proved to be chaotic for the state as different departments were inventing and implementing their own principles" she said.



Some of the scholar transport vehicles that ferry learners within the Gert Sibande and Bohlabela Districts.

SCHOLAR TRANSPORT TO CONTINUE ERADICATING LONG WALK TO SCHOOL

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport has set aside a budget of R441 916 million to ensure that learners reach schools on time and safely through the Scholar Transport programme. Amongst the measures in place to achieve this, is to ensure that all the vehicles used to transport scholars are roadworthy and reliable.

Currently the Department has two types of contract models in operation which is the Purchase, Operate and Transfer (POT) which is within the Gert Sibande and Bohlabela Districts. The other type is the Conventional Contract which operates within the Nkangala and Ehlanzeni Districts. "The POT contract involves a single operator appointed per District.

The Operator procures and operates the vehicles required to provide the service and assumes all the risks

associated with the service.

The operator is therefore required to transfer the vehicles to the department at the end of the contract period" explains Mr. Steve Tladi Manager responsible for Scholar Transport Contract. On the other hand, the Conventional Contracts involves the appointment of multiple operators in different routes per District. In this instance, operators use their own vehicles to provide the services and do not involve the transfer of vehicles at the end of the contract period.

The process of applying for scholar transport services for routes to school is governed by the scholar transport policy and the service level agreement between the Department of Public Transport, Roads and Transport and the Department of Education. The schools, circuits and Districts of the Department of Education identify scholar transport needs.

Continued From Page 04

The needs are then submitted to the Department by the Department of Education. The needs are considered and recommended by the technical and steering committees. Currently there are 66 615 learners from 362 schools benefiting from the scholar transport programme throughout the Province. The Gert Sibande District has the highest beneficiaries with 47 900 scholars in the programme and Bohlabela Region has the smallest beneficiaries recording 3 589 learners benefiting within the programme.

The Department is also subsidizing bus companies like BUSCOR so that learners who reside within areas that has transport facilities can pay less for bus tickets in order to get to school. Amongst the thousands of beneficiaries of the scholar transport programme is Tumelo Tsotetsi who resides at Standerton and attends school at Holmndeni Secondary. Tsotetsi expressed his happiness about the programme calling it a good Government initiative. "Previously it was very difficult to get to school because I used to miss the first period, with this programme the buses get us to school on time and I am able to attend the School

assemble" said the grade 12 learner who intend to study Engineering after matriculating. Another scholar who shared the same sentiment is Tsepiso Mahlangu from Mkhulu Combined School within the Nkangala District who used to hitch-hike to get to and from school. "It was very risky for me to get to school hence I was forced to hike, I am happy that there are safe buses that transport us to and from school" said the happy Mahlangu. According to Mr Stina Radebe who is a Principal at Holmndeni Secondary School the programme contributes a lot as learner's attendance and concentration has improved the school results. **"Children are now in class on time learning**



Cyril Clarke learners enjoying a ride in one of the scholar transport buses.

and their level of concentration is good unlike previously were they used to be sleepy during classes" said Mr. Radebe.

SOD TURNING CEREMONY PAVE WAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD D797

The construction of the road D797 from Naas to Tonga in the Nkomazi Local Municipality is progressing well after the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Dikeledi Mahlangu together with the Executive Mayor of the Nkomazi Local Municipality, Cllr Thulisile Khoza conducted a sod turning ceremony to pave way for the construction of the road on 26 April 2013. During the sod turning ceremony which was attended by approximately 1500 community members, Executive Mayor of the Nkomazi Local Municipality, Cllr Thulisile Khoza expressed her happiness about the construction hence the local community used to protest calling for the Government to fast track the construction of the road.

"As we are all here to witness the start of the project, we hope that our local people will benefit on job opportunities and we believe that the project will be completed on time" said Mayor Khoza.

A regular user of the road Mr. Boy Zwane who is a local taxi driver was amongst the happy community members who witnessed the sod turning ceremony. "It's about time, I was longing for this day. This road used to damage our vehicles, we are grateful that our cries have been heard" added Zwane.

Delivering keynote address was MEC Mahlangu **"Currently our provincial road network is now 13 825 kilometers of which 5 403 is surfaced. Even with**



From left to right: Municipal Manager Mr Dan Ngwenya, MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu and the Executive Mayor of Nkomazi Local Municipality. Cllr Thulisile Khoza during a sod turning.

the limited budget that the department have, we have to prioritise to ensure that road networks are in acceptable standards" said MEC Mahlangu.

The MEC added that the construction amount of the road must also speak about the quality of work expected at the end of the project. "You are doing

this project for the community, we therefore expect a quality product" said MEC Mahlangu whilst officially introducing the contractor to the community during the ceremony. The construction of the 13 kilometer road stretches from Naas to Tonga, the project started on the 13th of

March 2013 and it is expected to be completed around August 2014 at a cost R122 231 350.87. The local community is benefitting in terms of job opportunities as 110 jobs have been created during the implementation of the project.

DEPARTMENT BOOSTS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



From left: Mr Godfrey Ntombela, Senior Manager: NYS, Mr Morake Morolo, Deputy Director-General: Public Infrastructure and Chief Executive Officer of merSeta, Dr Raymod Patel signing the memorandum of Understanding.

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport cemented their relationship with the Manufacturing Engineering and Related Service Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) by signing the much awaited Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The agreement paved the way for the co-operation between the two institutions directed at prioritising the development of skills for the unemployed youths in the province.

The Senior General Manager for Public Infrastructure, Mr Charles Morake Morolo together with the Chief Executive Officer of merSeta, Dr Raymod Patel signed the agreement on the 18th of April

2013 at Pinelands Campus College in Cape Town. In the 2011/2012 financial year, the Mpumalanga Department through National Youth Service (NYS) approached merSeta for funding which was approved on the 06 June 2012. As part of the MOU, merSETA will amongst others provide accreditation, monitoring and auditing function as contemplated in the National Qualifications Framework Act as well as conduct certification of the learners. The merSeta which has a mandate to support organisation by funding training programmes in accordance with the legislature or Skill Development Act no 9 of 1999, will fund more than R2.8 million towards developing unemployed youths who are participating in the National Youth

Service Programme (NYS). A total of fifty (50) NYS participants stand to benefit from the initiative, as they will be trained for a period of four years on a National certificate for Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration. During the 2013/2014 financial year at least 50 participants will be trained and in the 2014/2015 fiscal year the remaining fifty participants will receive similar training.

They will be taught within the various Further Education and Training (FET) colleges throughout the province. After completion of training they will be awarded with certificates on NQF level 02 to 04, thus enabling them to enter into the job market armed with the acquired skills. Since the air conditioning and refrigeration

skills are rated amongst the scares skills within the field of artisanship, the Department will place the participants with identified potential employers after the completion of training.

The National Youth Service initiative has proven to be a perfect yard stick to gauge on government's achievements in terms of poverty alleviation and skills development. Since the programme was introduced seven years ago in the province, the unemployed youth have immensely benefitted as they received training within various artisanship such as bricklaying, plastering, plumbing, tiling, painting, air-conditioning and refrigeration.

REGISTER IN OUR DATABASE



Mr. Ntokozo Hlatwayo: Assistant Manager: Acquisition and Demand in Supply Chain Management

The Department has once again opened doors by inviting companies to register on its supplier database. Recently, the Department advertised on various newspapers allowing companies an opportunity to render their services to the Department.

Elaborating more on the process of registration, Ms Kgodisamang Molotsane, Senior Manager in the Supply Chain Management section, "We advertise on newspapers and on

the tender bulletin.

The process includes issuing a departmental database form detailing all the services or commodities needed for that financial year. Suppliers are therefore expected to fill the forms, attach necessary documents and submit before the closing date.

The suppliers are also expected to choose only three commodities or services that they want to render with the Department. This may include

amongst others, rendering transport services, construction, catering, printing services to stationery and many more".

Ms Molotsane further explained the requirements needed for companies to register on the database. "Companies must fully complete an application form, they must have valid original tax clearance certificates.

Part of the requirements also includes certificate of incorporation from the Registrar of Companies (CIPRO), company

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profile, brochures and proof of accreditation, registration, dealerships, affiliation to professional institutions or regulatory councils relevant to the type of service. They must also attach certified copies of Identity document (ID) of company members (ownerships), a cancelled cheque, certified copy of water and lights account, VAT Registration (if applicable) and Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) certificate", she explained. How long do companies stay on the system? Molotsane elaborated that the registration in the database is advertised yearly. Companies also stay in the system for one financial year. After the end of

that financial year, then a new database is captured and approved. Mr. Ntokozo Hlatshwayo: Assistant Manager: Demand and Acquisition touched on the challenges faced by the Department on the registration of the companies in the database. "Most of the suppliers are failing to complete the database form correctly. This problem makes it difficult to capture and approve the supplier's database forms which lead to the applicant being disapproved. In most instances the companies are failing to choose three commodities which is a requirement of the database form, instead they choose all the services listed on the forms. Some of the common challenges

include suppliers not attaching required documents, they fail to fully complete the database form and some suppliers do not state their physical address, contact details on the form". said Hlatshwayo .

How then can the public get more information on the database registration? According to Mr Hlatshwayo suppliers get their database form from the Department of Finance, Central Supply Chain. "In the form a contact person is stated when the suppliers need assistance. The registration of the companies is always finalized at the beginning of the first quarter of the financial year, which is beginning of April", he concluded.

MEC OPENS A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTH



The NYS and Sakh'abakhi Graduation Ceremony

The MEC Ms Dikeledi Mahlangu has opened a window of job opportunities for 479 National Youth Services (NYS) and 85 Sakh'abakhi graduates who were officially handed their certificates during a glittering graduation ceremony held on Tuesday the 18th of June 2013. The graduation ceremony which was attended by amongst others, the Executive Mayor of Emalahleni Local Municipality, Cllr Salome Sithole and some councillors from the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality was held at the Middelburg Banquet Hall at the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

The graduates who were all smiles; wore their difference formal attires as a sign of honouring the day. During her keynote address; MEC

Mahlangu stated that the graduates are now eligible job opportunities. "You have come this far because you have worked so hard. Your hard work and commitment has finally paid off. Go out there and embark on a journey to make use of the skills you have acquired in order to make your lives better. Do not only rely on finding employment but be the shining example by using your skills to create employment for others whilst putting food on the table for your families" said MEC Mahlangu. After her keynote address; it was time for the big moment that all the graduates have been waiting for. All graduates received their certificates which were handed to them by MEC Mahlangu and Executive Mayor of Emalahleni Local Municipality, Cllr Salome Sithole and some councillor

from the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. The graduates of the National Youth Service Programme received NQF LEVEL 2 certificates whilst the eighty five (85) Sakh'abakhi graduates received the Construction Contractor NQF Level 2, which upgrade their standing with the Construction Industry Development Programme (CIDB). The NYS graduates successfully completed 12 months of intense classroom and on the job training with various Further Education and Training (FET) colleges and the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRTT).

They were part of the unemployed youth in the province who have been recruited into the programme during the 2011/12 financial year to acquire various artisanship skills such as plumbing, bricklaying, tiling as well as air conditioning. The National Youth Service Programme remains a beacon of hope for the unemployed youth in the province as a total of 2600 participants have benefitted since its inception in 2007. Out of the 2600, a total of 1800 participants are permanently employed in various institutions. At least 305 participants have been recruited into various maintenance programme or NYS co-operatives where they are currently working for the Mpumalanga Tourism Parks Agency (MTPA) nature's reserves. They are working on maintenance and renovation for

four reserves namely the Loskop dam, Blydepoort, Manyelili as well as the Songimvelo nature reserves. Some of participants have been employed by the department doing maintenance work on Siyatentela projects.

Meanwhile 300 participants have been enrolled for further training at MRTT on building and civil construction, whereas a total of 100 are doing air condition. Some of their graduates stated that they want to make use of their skills to develop others. Lindiwe Bhengu who received an NYS certificate said "I want to make sure that I use my skills to help the government maintain its buildings so that service delivery can be effective. This because I believe that I should give back to government since they have helped me to gain these skills".

The department recruited these participants with the aim of equipping them with skills in construction so that they are able to enter the construction industry and compete for projects. In the current financial year, the department has recruited a total of forty (40) participants who are on their second phase of the programme doing construction work for the provincial government. Themba Lukhele who received a Sakh'abakhi certificate said "I want to start my own construction company because with the skills I have acquired I can create more job opportunities".

The National Youth Service as well as the Sakh'abakhi programme is a nationwide programme under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) where the unskilled are equipped with the much needed skills so that they are able to enter the construction market with the necessary skills.

A NEW SCHOOL BRINGS LIFE TO THULAMAHASHE COMMUNITY



The old school that is to be replaced by the new one



The construction of the new Frank Manghinyane Secondary School

The Department is getting Mpumalanga to work. Bohlabele District is busy with construction projects of roads, clinics, libraries and schools including a construction of a new school structure of Frank Manghinyane Secondary School. Frank Manghinyane Secondary School is based at Ludlow at Thulamahashe in Bushbuckridge Municipality with the highest performance on Matric results.

The old structure consisted of 12 classrooms that accommodated more than 600 pupils. The current structure consists of 16 Classroom, Administration block, computer centre, Library, Guardhouse, Water, Land

Scapping, Ramps and Rails. The project construction started on the 01 February 2013. The total cost of the whole project is R43, 946 million; the local people have also benefited from the project as 58 job opportunities have been created with 26 males, nine females and 15 youth.

Mr Hendry Masemola a father of five children from Ludlow who benefited from the project works on the school construction as a labourer. "I am happy now that I can be able to put food on the table for my family". said Masemola.

TWO COMMUNITIES BENEFIT OVER ROAD CONSTRUCTION



MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu, HOD Kgopana Mohlasedi and the Speaker of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, Phineus Silowe conducting sod turning.

The local community in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality in Mpumalanga expressed excitement over the reconstruction of the D3928 Green Valley-Moloro road in Bushbuckridge during a sod turning ceremony held at Green Valley-Moloro village on Tuesday the 4th of June 2013. MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu, Head of Department (HOD) Kgopana Mohlasedi, Speaker of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, Phineus Silowe conducting sod turning and his councillors and departmental management visited the municipality to conduct the sod turning ceremony for the reconstruction of the D3928 road from the R40 Junction in Green Valley to Moloro village at Bushbuckridge. The ceremony took place on the road between Moloro and Boelang and started a 10 O' Clock in the morning.

The rehabilitation of the 7.8 kilometer road will cost more than R66 million to build. The local communities will benefit immensely as local labourers will be employed during the construction process. About 131 job opportunities are expected to be created for the locals.

The construction of the road is expected to be completed on the 9th of April 2014. The project will include amongst others; reconstruction of the Hlapaoje Bridge and Boelang -Moloro Bridge and rehabilitation of the Green Valley - Boelang road. Addressing the community, MEC Mahlangu outlined

that the project is aimed at ensuring a better life for the people. "We are now starting the construction of the project. The contractor has assured us that job opportunities for the locals will be created. We have also emphasised to the contractor that there must be gender equality during the employment of the local people in the project" said MEC Mahlangu. The MEC also emphasised on the issue of quality work. "The project must be of quality work. We do not want a situation where the road becomes dilapidated after a few months of construction. We want the work to be done here to be of quality because we are doing it for our people whom we love" said MEC Mahlangu.

The speaker of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, Councillor Phineus Silowe said they appreciate the work that is done by government. "Indeed we are seen to be supporting our community. The road to be constructed will go a long way in helping our people and this shows that development is taking place within our community. We thank MEC Mahlangu for keeping her promise to come here and reconstruct the road" said Speaker Silowe. Some members of the community have also expressed their happiness over the project. One community member is Sipho Thabane. "I have been using this road for some time and it was a challenge especially during the rainy season; now we will be able to travel easily and our cars will move swiftly.

MEC MAHLANGU MAINTAINS ORDER IN THE SCHOLAR TRANSPORT

In the early hours of the morning of Friday the 10th of May 2013, the MEC Ms Dikeledi Mahlangu, the HoD Mr Kgopana Mohlasedi and senior Departmental officials accompanied by members of the South African Police Services, led by the Provincial Commissioner in Mpumalanga Lieutenant General Thulani Ntobela, and the Department's Transport Inspectorate unit visited the bus depot of the scholar transport operator (Habana Trading) to ensure that scholar transport buses are operating as normal. The MEC discovered that a few disgruntled scholar transport sub contractors had blockaded the bus depot of Habana Trading, preventing the buses from operating.

The MEC together with the SAPS instructed the disgruntled operators to remove their buses. Habana Trading buses then got back to the road to ferry learners to school. This was done under the watchful eye of the SAPS and Transport Inspectorate Unit which escorted the buses to their various pick up points. The few Scholar Transport Operators were complaining that they are not being paid in full by Habana Trading in terms of the subcontracting agreement between Habana Trading and themselves (sub contractors). This stemmed from deductions emanating from shortcomings identified by the monitors during operations which the subcontractors were contesting.

The Department tried to defuse the tension between Habana Trading and the few disgruntled bus operators at a meeting between the MEC and the sub contractor representatives (Mpumalanga Scholar Transport Organisations) which was held on the 8th of April 2013. The MEC met the MSTO despite the fact that they do not have a direct contract with the Department. The MEC instituted a task team to look at their grievances and promised to give feedback to them. Before the MEC could give feedback, as promised, a few disgruntled operators blockaded the gates of Habana's bus depot,



MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu and HOD Mohlasedi under the police guard during the blockade at Habana Trading depot

preventing them from transporting learners in Ermelo 1 and 2 circuits. They were also threatening to take over all the routes operated by Habana. This happened even after all parties had agreed on the process proposed by the MEC's task team which reported at a meeting held on Thursday, the 9th of May 2013. At this stage it became clear that this splinter group was not interested in resolving the problem but their focus was to disrupt Habana's operations at the expense of the learners going to school. "We cannot allow a situation where a few disgruntled sub contractors raise their concerns by denying learners an opportunity to go to school just because they have disagreements with the main contractor.

There are lawful channels in which they could have raised their concerns without inconveniencing the learners. Just because they have blockaded the depot of Habana Trading; that was now a criminal act which required the intervention of the South African Police Services



The tow truck hired to remove the buses that blockaded the depot gates; next to it are Departmental officials with MEC Mahlangu.

hence the forceful removal of their buses which blockaded the entrance to the depot. We will continue to monitor the operation of scholar transport in Ermelo and anyone who will be found to disturb the operation

of buses will face the full might of the law. As a Department we are saying that one day without learning is one day too many," said MEC Mahlangu.

You Are On



Getting Ready For The Beat



Smiling to the Job Well done



Esuring That We Have A Budget For Public Transport



Listening Is A Skill



Smart Fellows



Deliberating The Good Work



How About A Big Smile.



Moving Towards Service Delivery.



I Hope We Are In The Right Place!



Eish Sbali...Ziykhipa.



Thank You For The Support



The Smiling Dudes

n Camera



Doing Just Fine



This Is How We Do It



On The Job



Asisebenzeni Bakithi



Potholes Here We Come



We Are Here To Serve You



Ensuring Service Delivery



How Are Things On The Road



Hr Matters Is Our Baby



Eradicating Bad Potholes



Is Your Vehicle Roadworthy?

JOINING HANDS TO MAKE SERVICE DELIVERY POSSIBLE

The cold misty weather did not stop the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ms Dikeledi Mahlangu, the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule and the Executive Mayor of Emakhazeni Local Municipality, Cllr Xolani Sydney Ngwenya from continuing their business of the day. The two MEC's and the Mayor were keen to proceed with patching potholes at Butana Jele Street in Machardodorp in the Makhazeni Local Municipality and conduct a Sod turning Ceremony for the construction of Emakhazeni Boarding School.

Dressed in orange overall the entourage began with cutting warn out potholes and preparing the road for patching. They later sealed the potholes. MEC Mahlangu who was the project leader said ***"We want to ensure that our roads remain users friendly because we know that potholes are a huge problem. We have been patching potholes in the past and we shall continue to do so because we know that the cause of potholes is the weather and vehicles travelling on the road"***.

The MEC later proceeded to the construction site of Emakhazeni Boarding school to officially conduct a sod turning ceremony. The MEC for Education Riginah Mhaule said she is delighted with the construction of the school. ("I cannot wait for the construction to be finalised. I have seen the plans and from my perspective i believe the school will be a suitable environment for our kids to study".)

Delivering her keynote address, MEC Mahlangu said "We are committing to you that the school will be finished on time. It will be partially handed over in January 2014 and in April 2014 the school will be completed in full. The school belongs you as a community and you must make sure that you take care of it".

The Executive Mayor of Emakhazeni Local Municipality, Cllr Xolani Sydney Ngwenya expressed his gratitude for the construction. "We are very happy as the community of Emakhazeni that we will have such a beautiful school in our backyard. Indeed our children will be motivated. We will make sure that the school is well taken care of and that there is no vandalism".

The school will consist of 24 Classrooms including integrated walkways, an Administration Block, 35 Toilets, Computer Center, Library Block, Science Laboratory, Guard House, Refuse Area, Kitchen, Dining Hall, Water, Sewer, Electrical Bulk infrastructure, Fencing, Paving, Parking Facilities, 3 Sports Facilities including Toilets and Change Rooms, Land Scarping, Ramps and Rails, Grade R and 8 Boys and Girls Sleeping Units.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education has set aside R 250 million for the construction of the boarding school. The construction of the boarding school is expected to be completed around April 2014.

Speaking out of excitements, Linah Sibeko who is one of the local residents said "We are happy that we will have a boarding school in our area. This will give us confidence that our children are safe and are in an environment that will see the becoming something in life. We want to thank the two MEC's and the Mayor for keeping their promise.



Road workers hard at work with MEC Mahlangu (DPWRT) and MEC Mhaule (Education)



A road worker hard at work patching potholes.



SOD turning that paved the way for a new boarding school



Officials melting material used to patch potholes

RENOVATIONS AT PILGRIMS REST BOOSTS JOB CREATION FOR VILLAGERS

The massive renovations currently underway at Pilgrims Rest are yielding positive results for the local community, as more than one hundred and seventeen (117) unemployed people in the historic village have been recruited to refurbish the buildings. The Department as custodian of Pilgrims Rest has appointed six contractors to renovate forty nine (49) projects with local people immensely benefiting from the renovations.

Since the start of the renovations life has changed for the better for the majority of the people. Ms Rebotile Morabe, who is 25 years old is amongst the beneficiaries. She is amongst the twenty two (22) local labours that have been recruited as general workers. She is doing bricklaying at the construction site of the Jubille Potter as well as the bakery. Rebotile could not complete her grade 11 studies due to financial difficulties at home as both her parents were unemployed. **"I am very much happy because we are no longer sleeping on an empty stomach as my life changed for the better, as I can now buy grocery for my family"** she smiled.

A total of forty five (45) National Youth Service (NYS) youths are amongst the employees, who have been employed to renovate some of the buildings in the area which includes amongst others the Pilgrims Rest Primary and Secondary Schools, residential and museums, hotel, hawkers stalls, business buildings. Other beneficiaries in the process are the local hawkers who are selling local handcraft products to tourists. They will also get a slice of the R11 million budget meant to renovate the historic town, as the Department is busy with the construction of hawker's stalls. The self employed hawkers stand to benefit from the newly built structure as they use plastic covers as shelter. Ms Portia Hlongwane who has worked as a hawker in the area for the past two years did not have a proper shelter before but that

will soon change. She explained that the stalls will benefit them immensely, as they use plastic as shelter. **"It is difficult to work especially during rainy season as we have to close our business"** she said. There are more than thirty (30) hawkers within the historic town who are selling handcraft work to tourist. Meanwhile, the Department has installed the pre-paid electricity system at the historic town as part of the first phase of the refurbishment. Residents and business people in the historic town can now purchase the electricity vouchers at the nearest Iron store and Highwaymans Garage and various selected Engen garages throughout the country.

They can also recharge through their cell phones as well as the internet. The installation of the electricity meter into the entire village was divided into two phases. During the first phase the work was carried out at the up-down and down-town of the historic town. The work started in December 2012 and was completed at the end of February 2013, with only fifteen local people getting employment. The scope of work included the supply, installation, commission and hosting of the electrical vending systems. The project was worth R2 million and the installation of pre-paid in was meant to recover the monies paid to Eskom by the department for residents living in the area. A plan is underway to relocate the Newtown community to a safer place and the geo-tech study has since been instituted to establish the safety of the area and only then that



Hard at work at Pilgrims Rest

the meters will be installed. Prior the installation of the pre-paid meter the Department held a public education with the community and business people in the area on the 16th of January 2013 at the Pilgrims Rest community hall, in bid to educate and respond to some of the concerns the public might have. The tariffs of the electricity were benchmarked with that of the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality to ensure uniformity, since Pilgrims Rest falls within the municipality.

EASTER OPERATIONS A SUCCESS

The Department has once again held successful Easter operations during the Easter holidays. During the Easter period, which started on Thursday 28 April until Sunday 30 April 2013 a total of six thousand two hundred vehicles were stopped and checked.

Public transport vehicles which include buses, mini buses and trucks were stopped and checked in the various operations that were held around the province. These vehicles were checked if they were complying with the terms and conditions of their operating licenses and for their roadworthiness. Some of the vehicles that were stopped were found to be operating without proper operating licences and those were issued with fines. There are vehicles that were

found to be unroadworthy. During the operations a total of 641 public transport vehicles were impounded. Those vehicles were impounded for amongst other things, for contravening the National Land Transport Act, Act 5 of 2009. All the impounded vehicles were also issued with notices or fines of R2500 per vehicle.

The department has issued a strong warning to transport operators not to overload and that they must stick to the speed limits. Operators were also advised to rest in every two hours of their journey. The department further stated that public transport operations were not only meant for the Easter period but were for the 365 of the year.



Some of the Law Enforcement Operations conducted during the Easter holidays.

INTERNSHIP PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES

The Department empowered the unemployed graduates and students from tertiary institutions by providing work experiences for a specific period varying from a minimum of one month to twenty-four months. The internship programme is a structured workplace experience program that is agreed to between the intern and the supervisor/line-manager who is delegated this responsibility by the Department. This work experience provides exposure in a field relevant to the qualifications of the intern and relevant to the skills needs of the Department over a specified period. The Department will afford interns an opportunity to attend two skills development programmes as agreed upon by the mentor and the intern according to the departmental policy.

"An intern or learner is entitled to the same conditions of service as a contract, as completed in paragraph 27 of the Determination of Leave of Absence in the Public Service. The remuneration of interns is guided by the determination on interns and learners made by the Minister of Public Service and Administration" said Mr Simon Sambo, Human Resource Development Training Officer in the Department. Mr. Sambo said only graduate interns employed on a fixed term contract will be remunerated. The Department will remunerate interns at the end of each month provided they work 40 hours per week. To qualify as an intern the person must be either (a) studying towards, or (b) have completed a diploma or degree,



(Ms. Zandi Maluka, Ms Zani Magagula, Ms Lucia Mashaba, Ms Nelly Nkosi, Ms Nomfundo Dzondzi and Ms. Bonginkosi Dlamini) Some of the interns who were appointed by the Department

or participated in a recognized formal training programme at an institution of higher learning which is registered in terms of the Council for Higher Education (CHE) and South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) Mr. Sambo said that since the programme has been introduced, more than 81 interns were appointed in the Department. Some of those interns were absorbed in the department such as Ms. Zandi Maluka, Ms Zani Magagula, Ms Lucia

Mashaba, Ms. Nelly Nkosi, Ms. Nomfundo Dzondzi and Mr. Bonginkosi Dlamini. Some of the interns have been employed in various departments. A product of the Departmental internship, Zandi Maluka said that the programme assisted her such that she got employed in the Department permanently. She also said that she would like to encourage those who are in the programme to work hard so that they can be recognized for hard work and skills.

EPWP BRINGS CHANGE INTO THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Expanded Public Works Programme, which is part of government intervention meant to bolster job opportunities in country, has brought a new lease of life for people living with disability at Thulamahashe in the Bushbuckridge Municipality. A project for the disabled called South African Active Disabled People Associating (SAADPA) is one of the successful project under the EPWP project which has created a total of 506 job opportunities for the disabled in the province, thus increasing the number of job opportunities created through Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in the province for the 2012/2013 financial year to 49 014. The SAADPA is under the leadership of Mr. John Nxumalo who is the founder of the project and is also disabled due to a car accident is one of the best projects under the EPWP which has proven that people living with disability can contribute positively towards the economy of the country. Mr. Nxumalo explained that people with disability are often neglected and often abused by some of their family members; hence he established the project in a bid to address the plight of the disabled in his community. Mr. Nxumalo established the project in 2003. The SAADPA runs various projects where workers do work

such as beads work, pottery, sewing, weaving, carpentry, wooding, curving as well as farming. It exports some of its products to markets in the United States. "I am very much optimistic that SAADPA will grow and become independent thus create more jobs for people in the village" said John. Since its inception, it has won numerous awards such as the EPWP KAMOSO Awards, Premier's Awards as well as the Community Builder of the Year Awards in the year 2010. Ms Nora Gumede is one of the employees in the project. She is also disabled and does sewing work for the institution. She said that the incentive grant that SAADPA receives monthly from EPWP has brought hope into their lives, as nobody wanted to employ them due to their disabilities. "We are getting a monthly stipend from EPWP which has changed my life completely. I can now buy food and clothes for my kids and siblings" she explained. The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, which coordinates EPWP in the province remains optimistic about the continuous increase



The beneficiaries of the EPWP projects

in number of job opportunities created under EPWP. To date the province has reported a total of 49 014 job opportunities under the EPWP programme for the 2012/2013 financial year. The Environmental and Culture Sector is taking the lead in job creation with a total of 12 378 exceeding its target of 8706. The Non state sector has recorded a total of 4003. The Infrastructure Sector with only 14 487 and the Social sector has created at least 4977 job opportunities.



Hard at work are some of the beneficiaries

HIV/AIDS AWARENESS INTENSIFIED



Some of the officials who attended the Candlelight memorial

The Department played its part in celebrating this global memorial. During the months of May and June the Department hosted a number of celebrations in all the four Districts, including Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande, Nkangala, Bohlabela and the last celebration was held at Head Office.

During the celebrations, various stakeholders were invited and they include amongst other the Government Employee Medical Scheme (GEMS).

Through GEMS officials were able to get tested for glucose, cholesterol, blood pressure and Diabetes to amongst other things. Amongst the officials from GEMS who were in attendance was Sister Nomthandazo Ngomane who took officials through the various tests and responded to some of their health related questions.

HIV counselling and testing stations were set up in all the different celebrations where officials were able



Sister Nomthandazo Ngomane from GEMS explaining to officials

to get counselling as well as get tested for HIV and AIDS. This according to the Employee Health and Wellness section in the Department is done in order to give individuals privacy during their counselling and testing sessions.

Ms. Phumzile Nxumalo: Manager, Employee Health and Wellness section in the department said this annual commemoration is celebrated in order to remember all those who have passed on due to HIV and AIDS. "The celebrations give people an opportunity to share information about HIV and AIDS and it also assists in encouraging officials or people living with HIV to live healthy lifestyles and to comply with their medications" said Nxumalo. She concluded by encouraging officials to



The team from Employee Health and Wellness section in the department

get tested for HIV and AIDS so that they know their status. She encouraged officials to attend the celebrations in future as that will assist them to get information on various diseases.



Ms. Phumzile Nxumalo getting ready to distribute condoms to officials

NKANGALA DISTRICT STAFF MAINTAINS HEALTHY LIFESTYLE



Nkangala District officials attending wellness day

About one hundred and fifty five (155) Nkangala Regional employees attended a Wellness day on the 3rd of May 2013 at Taaljaard Sports Ground (Middleburg). Amongst the stakeholders who were part of the wellness day was the Government Employee Medical Scheme (GEMS) where they offered services such as wellness screening and HIV and AIDS testing. Liberty Life and Metropolitan was also part to assist workers with savings and investments opportunities. It did not end there; Liberty Life donated a soccer kit, netball and volleyball kit to the District. Most people are in debt and cannot manage their finance; officials from the District were assisted with personal financial management skills by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in partnership

with Mzansi debt counselling. After the workshop, employees were empowered with knowledge of how to budget and how does garnishee order works. The Workshop was held on the 09th of May 2013 at the departmental offices Hall in Middelburg. On the subsequent day, the Workshop proceeded to the Delmas employees. A total of 4 200 male condoms and 100 female condoms were distributed during a Candlelight memorial ceremony which was held on the 21st of May 2013 at KwaPhaahla Community Hall in Siyabuswa. Approximately two hundred (200) officials were educated about how to use condoms, about HIV & AIDS and the different types of STI's. A candlelight memorial pledge was made and candles were lighted in remembrance of all those who have died and those affected by HIV and AIDS.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PART OF OUR LIVES

It was Wellness Day again, on the early, misty hours of the morning, Departmental officials were all geared up in sportswear ready to take part on the planned activities of the day, which were: 5 and 10 Kilometres run, Aerobics, Soccer, Netball and Golf.

The event took place in the Agricultural College, where officials came in numbers with one view which was to outshine their competitors. It is a benefitting exercise in body, mind and soul.

Officials, who do not have gym membership, were taken by surprise when Training Edge fitness offered 30 minutes of aerobics for free. Nearly the finishing time, most officials were out of breath and could not wait for the session to be over; hence the department holds such events to promote and encourage living a healthy lifestyle.

Mrs Nkensani Makondo, who won the female 10 km run, indicated that more of wellness days are required to promote a healthy lifestyle. "It is days like these where we get to exercise and benefit a great deal from it. Once we get home after a long day at work, we end up lazing around and stuff our selves with junk food" said Mrs Makondo.

Departmental officials are afforded the opportunity to exercise, check their health status through the screenings done on that day voluntarily and in totality. Different stakeholders are invited to present information which will be useful to our officials. Mr Siphokhele, Senior Manager: Employee Health and Wellness ended the day by awarding Gold and Silver Medals sponsored by one of the Stakeholders to all the winners of the categories.



This is how it is done



Eye testing was the way to go.



Officials exercising during aerobics session.

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