



the dpwrt

Department:
Public Works, Roads and Transport
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE



Departmental Newsletter

July - September 2013

Issue 15

PREMIER AND MEC JOIN HANDS FOR MANDELA



full report on
Page 02



CONSTRUCTION BOLSTERS ECONOMY

Page 08



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MANAGER

Page 06

WORKING FOR A GOOD COURSE



Page 15

WOMEN ISSUES TACKLED



Page 07

PAYING ATTENTION TO OUR ROADS



Page 14



“Getting Mpumalanga to Work”



Editorial Comment



Welcome to our next edition of the Departmental newsletter. The Department has been hard at work as we celebrated Women's and the Mandela Month during the quarter. It was very interesting as we criss-crossed the province doing what we know best, improving our roads and public infrastructures.

The call to dedicate 67 minutes improving and helping other people during the Mandela Month was well heeded by our officials as they came out in numbers to take part in lending a helping hand to those in need. The Mandela month saw a lot of activities that included amongst others construction of houses for poor families and assisting various municipalities to deliver services to the community.

The month of August was a cherry on top as we saw our women in the Department go all out to showcase their skills proving a point that a women's place is not in the kitchen, power to the women! This publication will showcase all the glamour that we embarked on during the two important months and we hope that you will enjoy as you page through and see what we mean when we say "We Getting Mpumalanga to Work".

PREMIER AND MEC JOIN HANDS FOR MANDELA



Hard at work is Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza (yellow overall) and MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu (orange overall) patching potholes.

The Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr David Mabuza and the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Dikeledi Mahlangu switched their suits for overalls and spend 67 minutes towards service delivery to in community of Albert Luthuli Local Municipality on the 18th of July 2013. MEC Mahlangu and Premier Mabuza together with government officials and Councillors patched potholes

at the entrance of Embuleni Hospital at Elukwatini. Premier Mabuza and MEC Mahlangu assisted one another to steer and push the heavy machine that is used to patch potholes. They were hard at work with their yellow and orange overalls. After the hard work put in by the Premier and MEC they moved to cut grass around the premises of the hospital while other officials continued with general maintenance of the hospital.

Mr Richard Dibakwane, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Embuleni Hospital appreciated the work done by the Premier and MEC. **"I am happy because the Premier noticed that the hospital needed major revamps, and that the allocated budget would not have done all the difference. We thank the Premier and the MEC for the job well done".**

The Team

Editor

- David Nkambule

Sub-Editor

- Dumisani Malamule

Graphic Designers

- Mxolisi Cyril Dlamini
- Daisy Mashabela
- Bonginkosi Dlamini

Reporters

- Bongani Dhlamini
- Dimakatso Matentshi
- Lindiwe Simelane
- Mandla Nkosi
- Portia Mnisi
- Rodney Madalane
- Ntokozo Fakude
- Nothando Ndlovu
- Benika Khambule
- Rachel Nkosi

Comments or letters to the editor

Should you wish to comment on this newsletter or share your views with the readers of @Work, you can e-mail your views or comments to the e-mail below:

E-mail: dsmalamule@mpg.gov.za
Tel: 013 766 6842

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

LENDING A HELPING HAND

The Emalahleni Township in Lynville was painted orange by officials from the Department on July 17 the day before the Birthday of the former State President Nelson Mandela. The team of officials, management from the Department, members of the media were led by MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu together with the Nkangala District Executive Mayor Clr. Speedy Mashilo when they were responding to the call of dedicating 67 minutes giving a helping hand to others.

The Department commenced the morning by renovating Izodela Community Development Centre. Amongst the activities that were conducted at the centre was painting, replacing broken windows and doors, cleaning, plumbing and electric works. Infrastructure and Project Manager of Izodela Mr Nelson Ngobeni said "This wonderful work that has been done to this centre is not only good to us as Management of Izodela but it is to the entire

community hence it is the community that we target as beneficiaries" said the excited Ngobeni.

The Department exceeded the 67 minutes call as the team further patched potholes along the busy road next to Lynville Community Hall. During the patching of potholes, MEC Mahlangu and Executive Mayor Clr Mashilo were joined by Gospel musician Debora Frazer leading a team of road maintenance officers when patching a stretch of road that is affected by potholes.

Over and above the renovations and patching of potholes, the department donated 30 food parcels to needy families which included old age people, orphans and child headed families. During the donations of the food parcels, MEC Mahlangu called upon community members, business people, NGO's and the private sector to work together in order to make a positive contribution to the needy.



(From left front) MEC Mahlangu, Clr Mashilo and Gospel singer Deborah Fraser patching potholes.

CLOSING 67 MINUTES IN STYLE



Road workers at Bohlabela District hard at work painting the road.

The Bohlabela District officially closed the Mandela Month with activities held in two (2) Local Municipalities (Thaba Chweu and Bushbuckridge). The activities started on the 30th of July 2013 at Pilgrims Rest Town where sanitary towels, blankets, clothes and Food Parcels were donated. The donations were followed by grass cutting and patching of potholes at a place called Skoon Plaas. There were 43 beneficiaries of sanitary towels from Pilgrims Rest High school and Primary school. Community members also benefited from food parcels. Five (5) disadvantaged families were identified and handed food parcels, blankets and clothes during the event.

Ms Thembeni Malope from Skoon plaas said "I am so excited with what the Government has done for us. At least today we will not sleep on empty stomach, we are a family of eight members and there is no source of income". The District Head of Bohlabela District Mr.

Gillion Mashego applauded all the officials who contributed from their own pockets to make the event a success and the spirit of wanting to make a difference in the community. On the subsequent day, the 31st of July 2013 the Department's officials closed Mandela Month by sweeping the streets and painting road markings at Acornhoek in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.

One of the officials; Ms Alleta Mathebula who is stationed at Godide Cost Centre and works as a cleaner braved the hot weather condition to be part of the team that was doing road marking. She expressed her excitement over the Mandela Day initiative. "I wish we could celebrate Mandela Day every day and the whole year so that we can help improve the lives of people. I am doing this work because I respect and love Mandela, when he says we should do community service I will not hesitate to do it again," she smiled.

“AMANDLA” (POWER) TO THE WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT



Some women in management in the Department.

The Department held its Annual Public Service Women Management Week on the 26 August 2013 at Building No Eight in the Government Complex as part of celebrating the Women's Month. Women in Senior Management within the Department came in numbers. The Senior General Manager: Corporate Strategy, Mr William Mthombothi and the General Manager: Human Resource Management, Mr. Paul Khoza also attended. The meeting was chaired by the Acting Chief Operations Officer, Mrs Thokozile Ntuli.

“The purpose of the Public Service Women Management Week is aimed at providing the female leaders of the Department an opportunity to convene and discuss issues related to the 8-Principle Plan of Action for Promoting Women Empowerment and Gender Equality within

the Public Service Workplace. According to Change Management section in the Department the percentage of Women Senior Managers is at 37% ” said Ms. Thandiwe Maziko, Manager: Change Management. The national target for women in SMS which is also binding to the Department is 50%. The requirement also calls for a two (2) percent of women in SMS with disabilities. With this requirement the Department is currently at 2.25% which is more than the set requirement. The Department plans to establish a Women in Management Forum that will comprise Senior Management Service (SMS), Middle Management Service (MMS) and Assistant Directors. The forum will pave a way-forward on issues of mentoring, coaching and development on leadership roles and responsibilities. The forum will meet on a quarterly basis.

TIYASEBENTA TIMBOKODO



Heavy duty work is a child's play for these female officials.

It was a windy, cold and misty day at Emakhazeni Local Municipality, Belfast at Bhekumuzi Masango Street next to the taxi rank on the 6th of August 2013 when female officials within the Department were hard at work patching potholes as an initiative of the departmental women programme.

Female officials of the department from the level of Senior Management to Road Workers came in numbers from all the cost centres in the Nkangala District to honour women in general as patching of potholes has been previously regarded as men's work. As the trucks full of the working material arrived, it was really impressive to witness that they were driven by women.

One of the women who was operating a big cutter machine to remove the old tar road, Ms. Tiny Mokgwanyetse said “we wanted to show everybody that women are capable to equally do whatever most men do and as women

we must stop undermining ourselves”, said Mokgwanyetse. The General Manager for Infrastructure Planning in the Department, Ms. Akhona Majova, encouraged women to pursue jobs which were perceived to be those for men. “Being a road worker does not mean that only men can do the job, instead women can also do the work. It is critically important for women to empower themselves through education, as the Department offers bursaries to officials. Opportunities are there within the Department for women to be managers, but for you to get a higher post you need to upgrade your level of education,” she advised.

During the patching process, men were looking on at what the women could do including operating the stampede which is a very heavy machine used to level the premix on the ground. All in all the women managed to patch all the potholes without hassles.

The Department is getting Mpumalanga to work in the Bohlabela District as the construction of new offices for the Department of Health and Social Development is underway in Marite in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.

The new offices will consist of 16 blocks of offices and two garages. The project started on the 16th of May 2013 and is expected to be complete by end of March 2014. The total cost of the whole project is estimated at

R13 million. Local people have also benefited from the project as a total of 42 job opportunities have been created. This includes 32 males and 10 females. @Work managed to speak to one of the women from the community who benefited from the project. “I am happy that as community member we have been given an opportunity to benefit from this local project; at least I will be able to feed my children even though it is not a permanent job”. Said Maria Mashego, a single mother of three children.

A BOOST FOR ONE OF OUR OWN



The foundation of the new government offices that are built by the Department in Bohlabela District.

NEW CLINIC TO BENEFIT NTUNDA COMMUNITY

Ntunda is a small and quiet village situated in the Nkomazi Local Municipality in the Ehlanzeni District. The mood in the area has since changed since the construction of the much anticipated clinic began. The community of Ntunda could not hold their excitement upon seeing the construction of Ntunda Community Health Care Centre.

Ntunda Community Health Care Centre is one of the many projects of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport aimed at benefiting the people of Mpumalanga. The construction started on 19 March 2013 and is expected to be completed on 24 April 2014. The project includes the construction of a guard

house, new toilets and a nurses residence. About 10 community members from the local area have been employed amongst others as general workers in the project.

This includes women and youth. Not only have they been employed but they have also been equipped with business management skills. Speaking to Ms Ntombi Khoza a community member in Ntunda expressed her happiness with the new construction of the clinic. "We are so excited about the new construction of the clinic.

It was really hard for the community because we did not have a clinic. We had to travel a long distance to get health assistance and it was frustrating. The new clinic will really assist us a lot"



The new structure of the clinic under construction.

The Department has reached a milestone in the construction of new health structures, building and maintaining public buildings with construction and renovation of new schools many villages and towns benefiting through including new libraries, government offices .

PARKING MADE EASY

The Department has recently restructured the parking arrangements in the government complex. This has been done to ensure that parking is made easy for all officials visiting and working in the complex.

According to Mr. Zolile Ngono: Chief Engineer in the Facilities section; the purpose of the new parking arrangements is aimed at enabling officials to utilize the parking bays effectively without causing unnecessary parking arguments between the users. "This arrangement supersedes all previous parking arrangements. According to hierarchy, Members of Executive Councils (MEC's), Heads of Departments (HOD), Chief Directors and Directors are given priority" said Mr Ngono. The parking space has been allocated to officials and other

users in the following order: MECs, HODs and DDGs will be allocated permanent parking bays in front of the buildings. Chief Directors and Directors will park at the basement parking in buildings Four (4) and Five (5) on first come first serve basis. All other government officials will park at Building 10 (Upper and Lower Deck). No GG vehicle should park there. All Head Office (Riverside Government Complex only) based GG vehicles will park at Building 10 Upper Deck.

The open space in front of buildings has been made available for visitors, Drop off's and delivery vehicles. Mr Ngono concluded by saying vehicles that will be found to have parked in the wrong space will be clamped and only released after a payment of R100.00 fine.



The parking that has been allocated to officials in the Government complex.



Parking bays allocated to HOD's and MEC's next to the offices of Departments.

PUTTING A SMILE TO THE NEEDY

MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu once again brought a smile and the much needed relief into the lives of an impoverished family of sixteen by donating a house. The handover of the house took place on Friday the 27th September 2013 at Emagogeni near Boschfontein at Nkomazi Municipality.

Mr Lukas Mkhabela is now the proud owner of a fully furnished house. He lives with his wife, children and grandchildren. He has been unemployed most of his life thus identified as a recipient of the house due to the appalling living condition he lived under.

When MEC Mahlangu handed over the house to him, the family could not hold back their tears of joy. Mr Mkhabela explained that he only saw people on newspapers and television getting donations from government, but he never thought he will one day be counted amongst those that receive the donation. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport employed one of the family member into the Siyatentela Project, which is



FROM LEFT: Mkhabela family, MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu together with the founder of J 4 Joy Mr Jacob Mnisi cutting the ribbon during the handover of Mkhabela house.

a programme meant to bolster job creation through maintenance of roads infrastructure.

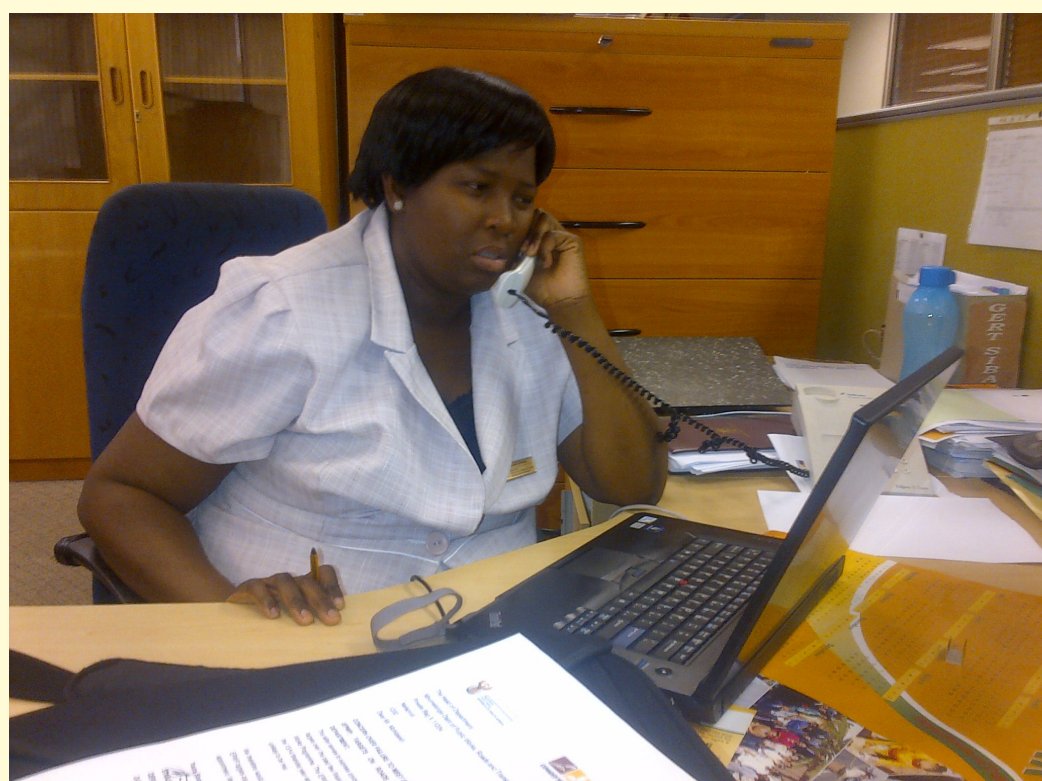
During her address, MEC Mahlangu explained that she will continue with her mission to change the lives of the less privileged through the assistance of the business people. She thanked all sponsors for their contribution in helping the needy. Some of the sponsors included the J 4 Joy, owned by Mr Jacob Mnisi.

The company bought the building material, whilst the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) donated appliances for the family. MEC Mahlangu together with her team of Senior Management hosted similar events in other districts as part of the Mandela Month celebration. The Mandela Month is celebrated annually, where people spent at least 67 minutes of their time helping the needy.



Hard at work is Andries Khoza and MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MANAGER



Ms Daphney Sithole hard at work in her office

Ms Daphney Sithole is a married woman with two kids and she comes from Barberton.

Ms Sithole was recently appointed Manager for monitoring and Evaluation in the integrated planning directorate of the Department. She joins the department after having worked for a number of NGOs, the Department of Social Development, the former National Development Agency and recently the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in their monitoring and Evaluation section. Ms Sithole's qualifications include a diploma in

Project Management, a qualification in Monitoring and Evaluation, MS Project, a certificate in Strategic management and a Degree in Development Studies with the University of Pretoria.

Part of her responsibility as a Manager in Monitoring and Evaluation include amongst other duties, managing the Performance information of the Department, ensuring that the Department complies with the Monitoring and Evaluation prescripts including its acts and policies. She is also responsible for monitoring the implementation of the departmental plans and projects. She also has to

Continued on page 07

Continued From Page 06

compile reports which are submitted to management. Part of her responsibilities include ensuring that policies are still relevant and to advise management if there are needs to change policies.

The Monitoring and Evaluation section is also responsible for reporting to oversight institutions. This is done in order to ensure that the Department accounts for all the budget expenditure

that it has been entrusted with. It is also responsible for ensuring that the budget is spent according to the operational plans. Part of her section's responsibility includes capacitating departmental districts on Monitoring and Evaluation processes. Ms Sithole said that what she loves most about her work is the fact that she is exposed to all the functions of the Department as she works with all the different directorates.

She added that her work is challenging. She added that the biggest challenge she is faced with is that people within the Department and those doing business with the Department do not really understand Monitoring and Evaluation processes. She says some people see her as someone who is a spy or who is trying to interfere with their work. She concluded by saying that for one to succeed in the Monitoring and Evaluation field one needs to have an

eye for details, high levels of integrity and very analytical skills. She added that there are institutions in South Africa that offer studies in Monitoring and Evaluation where young people can study in order to work on this field. When Ms Sithole is not busy analysing and compiling reports she goes to church and she is a member of her church choir. She said that is what she enjoys doing when she is not working.

WOMEN ISSUES TACKLED



Gospel artist S'fiso Ncwane entertains the crowd whilst the MEC (yellow dress) is dancing with her guest.

The Department hosted a Women's summit from the 22nd to the 23rd of August 2013 at Witbank Civic Centre within Emalahleni Local Municipality. The event was attended by MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu, Emalahleni Local Municipality Executive Mayor Salome Sithole, women from the Department, guests from the South African Women In Construction (SAWIC) and Department of Justice.

Amongst the topics that were discussed during the Summit were gender equality and women empowerment within the workplace. During her

keynote address, MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu motivated the packed hall with more than 1 500 female employees to take a lead in empowering themselves by taking bursaries thus being equipped with knowledge. "As we celebrate women's month, we are also celebrating all the women who took a lead and marched for the freedom we are all enjoying. Let us therefore take a lead for the march for women empowerment" said MEC Mahlangu. "As we are a technical department, let us all take a step further and be able to perform duties that were known as men's duties" added Mahlangu. Ms Promise Malomane from Pilgrim's Rest within Bohlabela

District who was amongst the thousand ladies who attended the event thanked the Department for the opportunity to discuss issues that affect female employees. Another official who was part of the event was Miss Agnes Zulu from Gert Sibande District who said she was happy to be part of the Summit. "We would like to see such events taking place at least twice a year so that we can be able to sit together and motivate one another thus being equipped both socially and professionally."

The ladies were entertained by Gospel artist S'fiso Ncwane and afro-pop group; Jaziel Brothers.

CONSTRUCTION BOLSTERS ECONOMY



Under construction is Buhle Secondary School.



The mortuary that is nearly completed.

The determination and commitment from government to provide the much needed infrastructure within the rural parts of the province is displayed once again in the small town of Piet Retief. The state of the art building has been built at a tune of more than R38 million. Excitement was written all over the locals faces when they were employed to build

the project. A total of sixty (60) local people were employed during the construction. The scope of work constitutes the construction of six (6) classrooms, computer centre, library, administration block, laboratory, casted surface bed for 22 classroom blocks, kitchen, toilet block as well as the installation of the fence. The Department is faced with a mammoth task of finishing the project in 2013.

The work started in October 2012. Meanwhile the construction of the forensic mortuary in the hospital at Piet Retief has been completed. The construction of the mortuary hopes to boost the health infrastructure in one of the impoverished municipalities in the province, Mkhondo Local Municipality. The new structure will serve residence of the area that are mainly farm dwellers. The construction

of the building has yielded some much needed economic injection with a total of one hundred and twenty (120) people getting employment, with the majority of labours being the youth. They constitute a total of 85 youths. The project has cost more than R30 million to build and it was completed eight months ago.

THE MONTH OF GIVING STARTED AT DIPALISENG



Cllr Nhlapo laying the foundation

Meet Mr Frank Sibaya; a beneficiary of a house constructed by the Department as part of celebrating the

Mandela Month. Sibaya a resident at Siyathemba in Balfour at Ward one (1) in Extension Five (5) under the Dipaliseng Local Municipality in Gert Sibande District is blind. Mr Sibaya has

been living in a one room shack with his family. He is unemployed and is a pensioner. He was one of the lucky people who were identified by the local Councillors to benefit from the three houses donated by the Department. The visible overjoyed Mr Sibaya said he was happy to receive a house during the birth month of his hero; the former State President Nelson Mandela. ***"I have been praying so hard for a decent house, thank God for showing the Department the way by constructing this house"*** said Sibaya.

The Department started to roll out the plan for the Mandela Month on July 10 2013 at Dipaliseng Local Municipality in Balfour. Amongst the key activities that were performed on the day were bursary blitz to the matriculants, patching potholes, grading of streets, the launch of three houses, donations

of food parcels and sanitary towels. All this was made possible by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, the Dipaliseng Local Municipality, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and business people.

Delivering her keynote address on behalf of MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu, Dipaliseng Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Noniqwua Nhlapo said she welcomed the positive change that the department will leave within the Municipality hence Mandela Month is a giving month. "The former State President spent most of his life fighting for the freedom we are all currently enjoying, we therefore call people to at least do their part by spending 67 minutes to bring change to the next person who is less fortunate" said Cllr Nhlapo.

MEC MAHLANGU CHANGES LIVES

During the month of July on the 19th of July 2013 the MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu together with officials from head office, which included officials from Son Joy, Bell Towers and Hope street buildings visited a centre at Msholozhi village, a village 10 kilometres from Riverside Mall towards White River. The name of the centre is Mpumalanga Christian Network.

This centre takes care of orphans and children who are homeless. Some of the kids in the centre are brought in by police officers who find them roaming the streets of neighbouring towns like White River and Nelspruit. The purpose of the visit to the centre was to try and make a difference in the centre and to lessen the burden that the people living at the centre are faced with on a daily basis.

Officials from the Department's Infrastructure maintenance as well as those from the Road maintenance attended to a number of maintenance work which included unblocking a drainage system, doing some plumbing work and

cutting grass around the centre. Officials from the Department were also hard at work during that day. There were officials who were painting the centre and others were assisting the maintenance team with grass cutting. The MEC also donated clothes and food parcels that were donated by officials in the Department who opened their hearts ensured that the Mandela month celebration was a success.

Officials from both the Department and the Department of Finance also sang the birthday song for Mandela. The cake was donated by the Department of Finance in order to make sure that the kids at the centre also celebrated Madiba's birthday.

During her address, the MEC said ***"Everyone should do their part in ensuring that we celebrate the life of Mandela and the contribution he made in order to ensure that we enjoy the freedom"***.

The MEC further made a commitment that the Department's contribution will not end on Mandela month but will continue beyond the



The MEC and HOD donating food parcels and blankets to the orphanage.

month of July. She concluded by making a commitment that the Department will continue with maintenance work and with all the other services that the centre may seek assistance with. During the event Ms. Ester Nkosi who is the founder

and Manager of the centre could hardly contain her happiness about what was happening on the day. She thanked the MEC and the Department for all the good work that has been done for the centre.

POWER TO THE WOMEN ON THE ROAD



Female Transport Inspectors were hard at work during the August Month.

Motorists in the province were caught by surprise when their roads were flooded by Department's women inspectorate team in the spirit of celebrating Women's Month Programme. The programme commenced on the 16 of August 2013 in Emalahleni Local Municipality, in a location called Vosman where they were targeting Public Transport.

Most motorists were found to be operating without operating licenses, which left school kids stranded along the roads since their transport to school was impounded. Mr Sipho Sithole one of the motorists expressed his relief when seeing the Department hard at work. ***"This is a demonstration that the Department is working hard to curb road fatalities"*** said Sithole. The

operation continued to Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, in Klaserie and Acornhoek on the 30th and 31st of August 2013. The women Transport Inspectorate team managed to stop more than 180 vehicles, of which 106 of them were impounded and had to pay R2000 fines. More than 15 vehicles were found to be un-roadworthy and had to be taken out of the road and more than 80 vehicles were found to be operating without licences.

Mrs Nomagugu Makamo, who is the Controller expressed how happy she was for the success of all the operations held. She said that the Department will continue to work tirelessly to make sure that motorist obey the rules of the road. "Operations of this kind will still continue throughout the province and we will still be visible" said Makamo.

MANDELA AND WOMEN



Man power.



We support



Doing it the right way.



Giving to the needy.



Singing our heart out.



This way please.



Contributing to a better future.



Men at work.



Doing it for mandela



Working for our community



Putting our heads together.



Road safety is our business

WOMEN MONTHS SPECIAL



Power to the women.



Proudly South African.



We were there.



Cool and collected.



Getting mpumalanga to work.



Getting ready for the job.



Not heavy at all.



Wow, now that's a good move.



This is how it is done.



The glamorous.



We still love and respect our culture.

PILGRIMS REST NOW FULLY RENOVATED

The Department has been busy with major renovations at the historic town of Pilgrims Rest, as part of the maintenance plan and normalization. The Department appointed six contractors to renovate forty nine (49) projects with local people immensely benefiting from the renovations. The tourism industry has not been interrupted during the process, as consultative meetings with all affected stakeholders including the tenants have been fruitful. The renovations included brickwork, plastering, painting, carpentry, glazing, plumbing, electrical work, replacing cutters and rusters. The maintenance started in October 2012 and was completed in March 2013. The maintenance was done in four phases. The first phase involved the renovation of fourteen (14) buildings. In addition, tenants within the town are now using the electricity pre-paid meter.

The Royal hotel which accommodates tourists within the area also received a major boost as maintenance work

has been done. The renovations of the hotel formed part of the second phase of the maintenance plan, including the refurbishment of eighteen (18) other buildings within the vicinity. The hotel is now fully managed by the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRTT). A bakery and restaurant which were burned down has been demolished and rebuilt. Major work has also been carried out at the sewage system, as new equipments have been installed at the mini laboratory. In addition to the work at the sewage system, all worn-out pumps and a standby generator have been replaced with new ones. The existing compressor has also been serviced. Hawkers also received a slice of the budget as thirty seven (37) stalls have been constructed. The caravan park was also revamped,

these renovations will change the face of Pilgrims Rest town for betterment. A total of R15 million has been spent on the project, more than 60 job opportunities were created that has benefited Pilgrims Rest community members and surrounding areas.

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. Shop owners were also excited about the renovations we

manage to speak to Ms Samantha who's the manager from Kuzzulos Imporium "I am excited and satisfied with the renovation and how it has improved the business by attracting more tourists now, the whole shop has a new look now, she further says that she's happy because they did not close down during the renovation the business was usual we didn't encounter any challenges.



One of the businesses that have been renovated.



The hawkers stands that have been built at Pilgrim's Rest.

PHYSICAL VERIFICATION OF SUBSIDY VEHICLES



Some of the vehicles that have been inspected by the Department.

The Department recently conducted a physical verification of subsidy vehicles. The verification started at Head Office and it continued to all the four Districts that includes amongst others Ehlanzeni, Nkangala, Gert Sibande, and Bohlabela.

According to Transport Section, verification is done in order to ensure that subsidy vehicle owners record their kilometers correctly e.g. Kilometers indicated on speed must be in line with log book. And also for general assessment of vehicle tyres, accident damages etc.

The verifications were conducted by Head Office Transport Officers together with District and Cost

Centre Transport Officers. Challenges experienced during the verifications were mainly that Transport Officers had to travel long hours to working outside of office. "This exercise included the inspection and verification of Government vehicles as well. It did not include vehicles on Scheme B as it is more of private use than official purposes" said Mr. Dewald Els who is an Assistant Manager: Fleet Logistics.

According to Mr. Els all officials who had their vehicles inspected complied. He said a report has been compiled for auditing purposes so that the Department can easily identify any discrepancies that may be available so that this can assist the Department to put in a good performance on fleet management.

OPENING HEARTS TO THE ORPHANAGE

The Holy word says blessed are those that give, this was evident when officials from the Nkangala District opened their hearts to the Suid Afrikaanse Vroue Federasie (SAVF) Children's Centre at Belfast in the Makhazeni Local Municipality as they donated food and clothes to the centre. Officials from the district converged to the small town of Belfast in the early hours of the morning on the 26th of July 2013 and handed over the parcels to the Social Worker of the centre, Ms Veronica Grunger, much to the delight and excitement of the orphans.

The SAVF is a home to at least eight hundred and eighty eight (188) orphanage kids who have been abandoned by their parents and some are HIV positive. It was established thirteen years ago. Ms Grunger was delighted when Ms Rebecca

Mahlangu – handed over the parcels to the centre. "Thank you for remembering us as part of your 67 minutes to Mandela Day, we really appreciate it" she said.

One of the kids at the centre, ten (10) year old Angel Jansen Van Vuuren, who is an Afrikaner and speaks Isizulu fluently, thanked and sang for officials. "We want to thank the food you brought us today, we are going to enjoy ourselves," she smiled. Earlier during the day, officials were warmly welcomed by Ms Markie Pienaar who manages the centre.

After the warm reception they got their hands dirty by washing windows, cleaning the garden before donating socks and morning shoes to Ms Pienaar. The centre manager was very much touched by the donations made by officials, "We truly appreciate all the efforts you made, the old grannies will be



Departmental officials with orphans and management of the SAVF with food parcels.

warm this winter with the shoes and socks you donated" she said. Officials were amongst the millions of people across the globe who answered a call made by the United Nations, when they urged people to spent at least 67 minutes of their time changing the lives of the less privileged. The Mandela Day is celebrated annually,



Officials busy working at the SAVF.

FACE LIFTING COMMUNITY CENTRE



Executive mayor Cllr Cadith Dlamini, MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu and HOD Mohlasedi hard at work

Community members of Shabalala Village near Hazyview could not hold their excitement during the renovation of the Shabalala Community Development Centre. The renovations were done on the 13 July 2013 as part of celebrating the Mandela Month by the Department. MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu along with the Executive Mayor of Mbombela Local Municipality, Cllr Cathy Dlamini exchanged their normal formal attire to overalls and boots during the renovation of the centre.

The event formed part of the Department's Mandela Day programme which was aimed at making a difference to the lives of the people of Mpumalanga. Community members were also hard at work in ensuring that the

centre was renovated because it was dilapidated. Shabalala Development Centre is a public place where various projects are taking place. This includes amongst others a bakery operated by various women and a hair salon. The problem is that the centre was dilapidated as there were broken windows, doors, leaking water pipe, cracking walls and leaking ceiling. But the Department came to their rescue as they renovated the centre. The day started with painting inside and outside the centre.

The roof was re-painted, the broken windows and doors were also fixed. Part of the renovations also included a renovation of the new ceiling and the installation of new water pipes.

PAYING ATTENTION TO OUR ROADS



Officials from the Department busy patching potholes during the Mandela month.

Officials from Ehlanzeni District including their management left their air conditioned offices to patch potholes in the streets of Ka-Mhlushwa on Thursday the 25th of July 2013, as part of their contribution towards the Mandela Day celebration. Dressed in their orange overalls, even the unfavourable weather condition which was extremely hot did not dampen their high spirits and dedication to participate in the special occasion. It was a relief to road

users using the road especially locals to see workers patching the three (3) km road leading to Driekoppies. Thomas Nkosi who is 34 years old who is a resident at Ka-Mhlushwa has been using the road for many years. He expressed his excitement about the patching of the road. "I am so glad that the Department is finally patching the potholes, driving on this road has been a nightmare as the potholes were damaging cars. I wish that the Mandela Day could be held regularly so that more

potholes could be patched in other parts of Nkomazi area," he said. The Manager for Properties and Facilities at Ehlanzeni District, Mr Kenneth Mathumbu, was part of the team which was energetically rolling the heavy machines patching potholes. @ Work asked him about what does Mandela Day meant for him and why he decided to be part of the team that patched potholes? He explained that the Mandela Day is a special occasion for everyone as people honour the father of the nation by

dedicating time changing the lives of the people, "as a Department we have a responsibility of making the lives of those using the road better by ensuring that they drive in a smooth and safe road," he said. After serving their 67 minutes of community work, the tired team from Ehlanzeni left the streets of Ka-Mhlushwa extremely exhausted as some have never worked on the road before, however they will cherish the day and their contribution forever.



The special school that is built by the Department.

WOLVENKOP SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

The Town of Verinah in the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality is overwhelmed with the construction of a new school named Wolvenkop Special School. The construction started on 08 February 2013 and is projected to be finished on 15 October 2013.

The building has six classes and four workshops for working service. The building structure was allocated with the amount of almost R20 million. The new building will be used for learners with special skills needs.

GERT SIBANDE ACCELERATING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



The foundation of the new Supply Chain Stores and offices in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality.

The Department is currently accelerating service delivery through infrastructure development across the district in the 2013/14 financial year. The Department is constructing the new supply chain stores and offices at Msukaligwa Local Municipality. The project has so

far employed 32 local people. According to Mr Piet Malaza a local labourer at Mkhondo Local Municipality the project assisted him to obtain skills about bricklaying and he is now able to market his skills to other people who are looking for bricklayers. While Ms Lettie Sindane of Msukaligwa Local Municipality

said that she is no longer relying only on the child grant since she is receiving a salary. "I m going to ensure that at the end of the project I get a license so that I can get a full time employment" conclude Sindane.

WORKING FOR A GOOD COURSE



Female officials busy cleaning and cutting the grass in Bohlabela District.

Female Officials within the Department rolled their sleeves and wore their overalls on the 20th of August 2013 when they were cutting the grass along the road to Mkhuhlu Kruger Gate, as part of their contribution to the Women's Month Celebration.

One of the female officials who were part of the campaign was Ms Pertunia Ndlovu, who is stationed at Thulamashashi Cost Centre. She explained that as women they want to show everybody that they are capable and able to do what most men do. "There are no jobs for men; women can equally do what men do. She added that women need to stop undermining

themselves but instead show their true potential. "We are cutting grasses today to show everyone that we can do what is regarded as a men's work" said Ms Mamma Mashego, who was also part of the team.

She urged Senior Management within the Department to employ more women in senior positions. As women, we seriously want to be empowered through education and employment opportunities. *"I am currently studying Human Resource Management and I hope to get a better job in future as an administrator, since I am currently a road worker"* she said.

GETTING DIRTY FOR A GOOD COURSE



Showing them how it is done is MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu (orange overall) and The Executive Mayor of Umjindi Local Municipality Cllr Lazarus Mashaba.

The MEC for Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, Dikeledi Mahlangu took time from her busy schedule and visited Barberton in the Mjindi Local Municipality as part of celebrating Women's Month. The MEC together with the Executive Mayor of Mjindi Local Municipality, Cllr Lazarus Mashaba led a team of female officials as they embarked on various

activities to celebrate Women's Month.

The MEC and the Executive Mayor, together with officials from the Department and the local municipality started the day by patching potholes on the D326 road in Barberton. They were hard at work as they properly closed potholes.

They then went to the Verulum Home based Care Center in the Barberton area where they cooked for orphans. The orphans do not

stay in the center but live within the local community of Sinqobile Village in Barberton. The center has been existing since 2003 and has 20 volunteers who cook food for 59 orphans. The 56 orphans include 36 children and 23 elderly people. The Manager of Verulum Home Based Care Center, Ms Busisiwe Tshembeni says they receive their food from the local mines. "We cook everyday for the orphans. We really appreciate what the MEC did today and we would like to call on other Departments and private companies to do the same and donate food" said Tshembeni.

The MEC then went on to donate food parcels, clothes, blankets and sanitary towels to two orphanage homes, the Verulum Home Based Care Center and Mbholongwane Home based Care Center in the Mjindi Local Municipality.

"We have decided to visit Barberton today because we want to take part in changing

the lives of the people. We started by patching potholes because we want to make our roads user friendly for motorists. We then cooked and made donations because our community needs our help. We as women want to demonstrate that we care for our community and it is important that they eat and dress accordingly" said MEC Mahlangu.

The Executive Mayor of Mjindi Local Municipality, Cllr Lazarus Mashaba thanked the MEC on behalf of the community. "We are blessed to have been visited by the MEC and her officials. This is a sign that our government cares for the people. We will ensure that service delivery continues to benefit our people" said Mayor Mashaba.

The Department will continue to embark on a series of activities during the August month as part of the Women's Month celebration.

Contact Details

HEAD OFFICE

Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport

Private Bag X 11310
Nelspruit
1200
Tel: 013 766 6696/6979
Fax: 013 766 8471/67

Building Infrastructure, Professional Services and Transport Operations

Bell Towers Building
Nelspruit, 1200
Tel: 013 752 4593/7585
Fax: 013 752 4043

Employee Health and Wellness, Internal Audit

Sonjoy Office Park,
Riverside Park
Nelspruit, 1200
Tel: 013 766 8589
Fax: 086 645 5921

EPWP, Property Management, Government Motor Transport, Roads Infrastructure

16 Hope Street
Nelspruit, 1200
Tel: 013 766 8594

DISTRICT OFFICES

Bohlabela District

Private Bag X 1313
Thulamahashe
1365
Tel: 013 773 0334
Fax: 013 773 0760

Ehlanzeni District

Private Bag X 11226
Nelspruit
1200
Tel: 013 762 5600
Fax: 013 752 7808

Gert Sibande District

Private Bag X 9034
Ermelo
2350
Tel: 017 801 4000/5600
Fax: 017 811 5675/27

Nkangala District

Private Bag X 4018
KwaMhlanga
1022
Tel: 013 947 2593
Fax: 013 947 3779

Operational Licensing Board

44 Murray Street
Nelspruit
1200
Tel: 013 755 1200
Fax: 013 755 1119



Mpumalanga DPWRT



@MpumalangaDPWRT