

## **New schools to benefit Busbuckridge Local Municipality communities**

The lives for the community in and around Hluvukani, outside Bushbuckridge within the Bohlabela District has changed for the better. This is because the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport as infrastructure implementing agent on behalf of client department has completed the construction of one new school and will soon be completing another state of the art high school within the area.

The construction of Mugena High school started in January 2015 and currently the project is nearing completion. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2016 at a cost of R46.1 million. The school had been in an extremely poor state of dilapidation for a long period which then necessitated for it to be demolished and be reconstructed.

Previously, the school had 28 classes with 16 pit toilets. This has since changed as the new structure consists of amongst others; new set of 28 classrooms, administration block, school hall, kitchen, library and 30 new toilets. Over and above, the school also has 28 covered parking bays, 14 uncovered parking bays, sports fields, guard house and a new science laboratory with a cost of R1.6 million.

The community of Hluvukani did not only benefit with the school itself but also benefited in terms of work opportunities as about 40 job opportunities have been created since the start of the project whilst 10 local sub-contractors were appointed.

In the same village, the Department has managed to complete the construction of Moses Mnisi Secondary School. The construction of the school started in March 2014 and was completed in July 2015 at a cost of R42.9 million.

The new school consist of 28 new classrooms, administration block, science laboratory, library, computer centre, hall, kitchen and 45 toilets. The school is also fenced with a guard house, car parking, three (3) sports fields and has electricity. A total of 51 job opportunities were created during the construction of the project.

Mrs Mavis Nkuna who is a local resident in Hluvukani said she was happy with the two projects that have been constructed in the village. " There are no words to describe how the community feels about such developments. This is an indication that our government is taking education seriously as our children will be able to attend schools that has top class facilities" said Mrs Nkuna

" We normally see such school when we visit other areas, this is indeed a life changing development in this rural village" added Mrs Nkuna

According to Mr Goodluck Sibuyi, a Project Manager within the department in Bohlabela District, the department will always ensure that it produce world class facilities in the province. " We believe that a fresh, user-friendly and a school that has all the required facilities will always be a motivator to both the teachers and the pupil thus be able to produce positive results at the end of the year. We would therefore like to urge the community to own, to take care and to look after schools and other government facilities as it take millions to construct and complete these projects" urged Mr Sibuyi.