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**MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**



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## **MPUMALANGA LAUNCHES 45 SCHOLAR TRANSPORT BUSES PG-03**



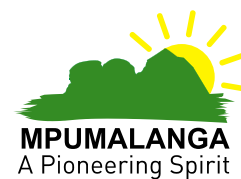
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## Editorial Comment



Welcome to yet another edition of @ Work. We publish this edition at the backdrop of many activities that were taking place throughout the Province during the 2012 financial year.

It was indeed hectic as the Department roll out infrastructure development. Roads, clinics and schools have been built to improve the lives of the people of Mpumalanga. MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu and the HOD Kgopana Mohlasedi got the ball rolling as they got their hands dirty painting and fixing community infrastructure. It was really heartening to see the many communities in the Province dancing and chanting in jubilation as their lives were improved. However, more can be done together with the support from the communities. The community needs to assist government by taking care of the infrastructure that is being built.

Well, it looks like the department will be gearing up and rolling up the sleeves once again as it will be starting with the implementation of new projects for the new financial year. Watch the space as the @ Work team will be bringing an account of all the activities in the next edition.

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## MPUMALANGA LAUNCHES 45 SCHOLAR TRANSPORT BUSES



**MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu ( with spectacles) with officials from the Department, Gert Sibande District Municipality dignitaries and learners from various schools in Gert Sibande.**

The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport in Mpumalanga, Dikeledi Mahlangu, officially launched the scholar transport buses on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2013 at AJ Swannepoel stadium in Ermelo at the Msukaligwa Local Municipality. The MEC was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Gert Sibande District Municipality Cllr Mishack Nhlabathi, Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa Local Municipality Cllr Sipho Bongwe and the Department of Education District Head in Gert Sibande Ms Nokuthula Mthethwa. More than 1500 learners and parents from the schools which benefited from the also attended to witness the official launch of the pilot project which aims to ferry learners who travel more than five kilometres to school on foot.

After five years the buses will be handed over to government. This is the first of its kind and will benefit government by saving costs and expenditure on scholar transport. All the buses are fitted with safety belts. The buses range between 65 and 75 seaters. More buses will be rolled out to other areas in the Gert Sibande District and Bohlabela Local Municipality.

During her keynote address, MEC Mahlangu requested parents to play a role in ensuring that the buses are well looked after. "The buses that we are launching today will go a long way in ensuring that your children travel to school safely that is if you

take good care of them. We will also play our role to ensure that we monitor the buses by checking whether they deliver the children to school on time. It is also your responsibility as parents to ensure that your children arrives at the bus stop on time because when your child arrive late the bus will not wait for him or her and compromise the early arrival to school of the other learners" said MEC Mahlangu.

Gert Sibande District Executive Mayor Cllr Mishack Nhlabathi said he is excited that the launch took place in his District municipality. "I thank the Department for piloting the project in this area and I believe it will go a long way in helping a large number of children to get to school safely" said Cllr Nhlabathi.

Ms Nokuthula Mthethwa who is the Department of Education District Head in Gert Sibande thanked the Department for the job well done. ***"It is very good to see that many learners will now go to school and arrive on time. We believe that the level of attendance will also improve."***

One of the learners who attended the launch is Sibusiso Nhlebeza from Ithafa Comprehensive School. He also extended his excitement about the buses. "What I like about them is that they look comfortable and I will now enjoy my trip to school. I cannot wait to get on the buses to feel the comfort."



## INTERGRATED RURAL MOBILITY ACCESSIBILITY (IRMA) CHANGING PEOPLE'S LIVES.

The Integrated Rural Mobility Accessibility (IRMA) project is a government initiative which seeks to employ innovative projects to address the difficulties facing rural communities in accessing basic service such as schools, health centers, pension payouts, graveyards and markets.

Furthermore, the IRMA project aims at finding innovative and sustainable solutions to challenges relating to accessing socio-economic opportunities by communities through, the provision of appropriate and integrated rural transportation infrastructure and service complete with adequate funding streams for maintenance and development.

The Department Of Public Works Roads and Transport has developed a programme with Integrated Rural Mobility Accessibility (IRMA) projects all over the province, some of the projects that the department is currently busy with for 2012/2013 financial year is Kwaggafontein Side Walk, Ntombe 2 Foot Bridge and Steynsdorp Culvert Bridge, with the total cost of more than R10 million.

The Kwaggafontein Side Walk which is still being constructed will reduce the number of accidents involving school children around the area; because children will now walk on the side walk instead on walking in the streets endangering their lives. This project will also create more job opportunities for the community who will be employed as labourers.

Mr Themba Nkosi from Steynsdorp who owns a number of livestock and a farm says he is excited about the culvert bridge that is being built at Steynsdorp. ***"My livestock will be able to cross to the area during winter time or when it rains, our lives will change and improve for the better when the bridge is complete"***.

Bus shelters are also part of IRMA projects, The Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality in the Nkangala District has benefited from this projects, the community around the municipality uses buses as a mode of transport.



**Mambazane Culvert Bridge**



**Sidewalk in Boschfontein**



**Foot Bridge in Ntombe two.**



## WOMEN REAPING FROM CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



*Hard at work are some of the women who benefitted from construction projects.*

**M**EC Dikeledi Mahlangu's sentiments echoed during the built-up towards the construction of the Bundu road late last year is becoming a reality where she appealed to contractors to employ more women in the construction of the projects. This was evident at the construction site of Injabulo Combined School at Dirkiesdorp 30 km away from Piet Retief at Mkhondo Local Municipality, where female construction workers are making their mark on the project.

The construction of Injabulo Combined School at Dirkiesdorp is one amongst the other construction projects within the province managed by the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport where women are employed and bring hope and change into their impoverished families. One female construction worker who made her mark on the project is 20 year old, Thembi Nkosi, who works as a General Assistant doing plastering work.

She explained that since the start of the project in February 2012, her life changed for the better as she is now able to provide for her family. "We are no longer sleeping on an empty stomach, as I buy food and clothes for my kids who are still at school, she smiled. She said that life has been very difficult for her, as there was no one in the family who was working.

The project has created job opportunities to a total of sixty four (64) laborers with youth and men included on the workforce. The majority of the workers had little or no skills when recruited into the project, hence the contractor trained them within the various skills in artisanship. The project is expected to be completed by the end of March 2013 with the construction of 9 classroom, admin block, library, computer centre, school hall, 16 toilets, steel palisade fence, electricity, water, kitchen, rails and ramps, two sports ground as well as a parking area.

Dirkiesdorp is one of the impoverished rural villages in the province with the high rate of unemployment according to the School's Principal at Injabulo Combined School, Mr. Musa Nhlabathi "Most matriculants in the area fail to continue to tertiary education despite their good performance, as most parents are unemployed. They are unable to further their studies due to the financial problems within the homes"

The schoolmaster stressed that the construction of the school has brought hope to many families in the area as they can now able to provide for their families. There is little development taking place in the area and infrastructure provision is what the community requires as it provides the much needed job opportunities. Injabulo Combined School was identified together with other projects in the province as part of the Comprehensive Rural Development Project by Premier, David Mabuza.



## DEPARTMENT ON COURSE WITH MPUMALANGA INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER PLAN

**T**he Mpumalanga Government is re-aligning the way infrastructure in the province is being implemented and maintained. This after the Mpumalanga Provincial Executive Council directed the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport to embark on a process to develop the Mpumalanga Infrastructure Master Plan (MIMP). The Department appointed CSIR Built Environment in December 2011 to assist with the development of the MIMP.

The MIMP is based on a multi-disciplinary study dealing with the full spectrum of infrastructure, including amongst others, basic infrastructure, social infrastructure and economic infrastructure intended to unlock economic development potential within the province. It also aims to give guidance on the additional infrastructure required to align planned projects within the overall strategic goals of economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation.

It is envisaged that the MIMP will ensure that there is value for money, proper planning based on needs analysis and job creation at the same time. Speaking to Mr Morake Morolo who is the Deputy Director General for Public Infrastructure, he said "We will no longer work in tantrums when we build infrastructure. The MIMP will allow us as government to work together with private sector, District and Local Municipalities where we are going to zoom into an area like for instance Kanyamazane. Before we put up infrastructure we are going to conduct an analysis research, look at the available infrastructure



**Construction projects in Mpumalanga which are planned according to the MIMP.**

like schools, the condition of the road and so forth. We are then going to look at other aspects like the population ratio. If the area has for example a population of about 15 000 people, then we will only build a clinic, if the area has about 50 000 people then we will build a hospital. The number of people in the area will also play a vital role to determine the number of health facilities we must build in the area. If for example it is a deep rural area, then a school with a boarding school is needed so that government can also save on transport costs that are where value for money becomes relevant".

In November 2012 the Department presented a final draft to Exco where the Department was instructed to conduct thorough consultations with all relevant sectors. The various sectors that need to be consulted included amongst others SAPPI, TSB, Mining housing, freight transport, Local and District municipalities. The discussions were based on getting their views and inputs on the MIMP in order to agree on what should be covered. The consultations were also used as awareness campaigns to inform the various sectors of what government intends to do. The consultations have since been finalised and final approval is awaited from EXCO before implementations phase.



**Men taking part in construction which is part of the Mpumalanga Infrastructure Master Plan (MIMP)**



## KAMOSO AWARDS BOLSTERS MORE PROJECTS INTO EPWP PROGRAMME

**T**he Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in the province is reaping the rewards of the provincial Kamoso Awards, which were designed to entice institutions to register with the programme. The department has noted an increase in the registration of projects into the programme, which has bolstered the reporting of job creation in the province.

The introduction of the provincial Kamoso Awards as well as the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, where the Premier and Mayors agreed to support EPWP programme are some of the major contributors towards the increase in number of project registration. Seeing the institutions are failing to register projects under the programme, the department launched the provincial Kamoso Awards in a bid to sway both the government institutions as well as non state organisation to report the creation of job opportunities within their projects. The provincial Kamoso Awards were introduced four year's ago by Mpumalanga after the successful launch of the awards Nationally in 2009.

"Since the awards took effect, the EPWP programme is reaping the rewards as more institutions are beginning to report" explained Mr Stephen Luthuli, Acting Senior Manager: Expanded Public Works Programme. This is encouraging indeed, as we expect to see more projects competing at this year's awards which are due to take place in September 2013," he added. This year's awards promise to be bigger and better as competitors will be competing within the twenty eight (28) categories. The various categories includes, Best Construction project, Best maintenance project, Best Local Municipality, Best District Municipality, Best Programme, Best project Early Child Development, Best project HCBC, Best innovative project ECD, Best innovative project HCBC, Best project TSM, Best project Siyadlala, Best Social project, Best environment project, Best Culture project, Best sector champion, Best reporting institution per sector, Best performing institution and Best institution arrangement.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



*Women who take part in some of the EPWP projects.*



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When @Works asked Mr Stephen Luthuli, who is eligible to enter the competition? He explained that all projects which have been registered under the EPWP can enter the competition. However, best performing projects in terms of job creation as well as the adherence to the safety regulations by institutions are some of the major requirements from participants. He further explained that the stage is set for this year's competition and interested applicants can submit the profile of the project to their offices. Last year at the National Kamoso Awards participants flew the provincial flag high, as they managed to scoop five (5) awards.

Mr Luthuli gave an account about the overall performance of the EPWP programme in the province, he explained that due to the high number of registration of projects, the overall performance of the programme in the province has improved tremendously compared to the previous year.

To date, the overall achievement of the province in terms of job creation for the year 2012/2013 financial year stands at 49 014, with the Environmental and Culture Sector and Non state sector exceeding the set target. The EPWP has reported a total of 12 378 job opportunities with a target of only 8706 whereas the latter has 4003. The other sectors namely the Infrastructure Sector is falling behind with at least 37 945 target with only 14 487 job opportunity created. The Social sector has reported only 4 977 instead of the set target of 12 980.



**Construction projects under EPWP.**



**Participants in the EPWP projects showcasing their work.**



## INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS BRINGS HOPE TO THE PEOPLE.



*Vezimfundo Primary School in Delmas is one of the infrastructure projects of the Department.*

**T**he Department has been hard at work in ensuring that the lives of people of Mpumalanga are changed for the better. As the 2012/13 financial year is about to end, looked at the progress on infrastructure projects in the Department.

**T**he projects have seen disadvantaged communities benefiting from the building of schools, clinics, libraries and hospital. Not only have the public benefited from the infrastructure projects but also on job opportunities. About 40 690 job opportunities were created on the current infrastructure projects.

During the current financial year of 2012/13 seventy seven (77) schools have been built and maintained around the province. The schools include those that were affected by storm. They include amongst others, Mhlangana Secondary School, Pugishe Primary

School, Mzimba Secondary School, Greenvalley Primary in the Bohlabela District.

Other schools that were built and maintained are in the Ehlanzeni District and they include Ekhiyeni Primary, Khanyisile Primary, Prof SS Ripinga, Mbazima School amongst others. Schools were also built in Gert Sibande and they include Qhubulwazi Combined, Enkundleni Primary, Mlilo Combined and KI Thwala Secondary.

The community in Nkangala District also benefited with various schools being built and maintained including Penolope Special School, Mantjedi Special School, Ramoshidi Secondary, Vulamehlo Primary and Ndedema Primary.

Many communities also benefited as new clinics have been built, hospitals upgraded and major

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renovations of community health centers. About 47 health infrastructure projects are being implemented. The projects which have been completed include amongst others Embhuleni Hospital in the Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, Rob Ferreira Hospital in Ehlanzeni, Tintswalo Hospital and Bongani Hospital in the Bohlabela District. Others include Delmas Hospital, Carolina Hospital, KwaMhlanga Hospital, Perdekop Community Health Centre, Mpumalanga Nursing College, Mthimba Clinic, M'afrika Clinic and various health infrastructure projects around the province.

Not only did the Department build or renovated schools, clinics and hospitals but also government offices to render better services to the communities. The Department has managed to complete five Department of Social Development offices which include KaMaqhekeza Offices where there was construction of 10 offices, Carolina Branch Office, 16 offices were also constructed.

The Department has been busy in constructing and upgrading libraries around the Province. The projects include the construction of the provincial archive building, Ermelo regional library and Masoyi Library. It also includes the upgrading of Middelburg Library.

According to Ms Akhona Majova who is a General Manager Professional Services, with the current achievement the Department has been really hard at work.

"There is still more to be done by Department in terms of infrastructure projects. Plans for the next financial year includes the phase two construction of the Traffic College, many clinics, upgrading and renovation of Mpumalanga Nursing College. People of Marite in Bohlabela will also benefit from the construction of the Department of Social Development offices in the next financial year. So many work will be done to improve the lives of people of Mpumalanga by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport", she concluded.



*One of many clinics in the province which have been constructed by the Department.*



## WASHED AWAY BRIDGE TO BE RECONSTRUCTED IN GERT SIBANDE

**A**fter heavy rain in Gert Sibande District Municipality, a pipe culvert on Provincial road P168/1 between Ermelo and Lothair was washed away by flood. A gap of about 10m (measured along the road centreline) was left, and about 10m deep estimated measurement.

The area is in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality that forms part of the Gert Sibande District Municipality. The road is classified as Class R3 (rural 3) in terms of RISFSA (Road Infrastructure Strategic Framework of South Africa).

The incident took place on Provincial road P168/1 between Ermelo and Lothair, about 8 km from the N17 on the way towards Lothair.

According to Mr Stephan Pienaar, Senior Manager of Roads Planning, P168/1 is a single carriageway paved road with gravel shoulders, in a fair condition (VCI in the order of 50 in 2011), road marking in fair condition, good sight distance at the culvert where the vertical alignment is in a sag and a traffic count of between 1 000 and 1 500 vehicles per day.

The culvert that was washed away consisted of an Armco pipe with a diameter of about 1.2m to 1.5m according to Mr Pienaar.

Mr Pienaar said "Due to its relatively small size, this specific structure is not included as a bridge in the Department's BMS (Bridge Management System), and would therefore not have been subjected to bridge-type regular inspections".

The Department has appointed a professional Civil Engineering Consultant to perform the site investigation, preliminary design and possible alternatives, detail design and documentation which has already been done.

The Department is in the process of appointing a contractor to perform the construction starting in March 2013.

An exercise is planned to locate and identify similar culverts on all Provincial paved roads and inspect each one for possible defects or risks. The key issue is the protection of the inlet by a suitable concrete headwall to channel water into the culvert without risk of erosion around it. The structure itself must also be checked for corrosion and signs of deformation concluded Pienaar.



*Signs warning motorist about the closed road.*



*work has already started on the bridge.*



*The 10 meter height of the collapsed bridge.*



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