



## Premier brings hope to Emakhazeni community



Page 03

Notorious 'swimming pool' road under construction



Page 04

'School of choice' strains scholar transport



Page 09

EPWP on the driving seat of job creation



## Editorial Comment



Well folks, without a doubt the Almighty has led us thus far. Through thick and thin the train of service delivery has remained steadily on its tracks humming through the corridors of our curvaceous landscape. Once again we have arrived at the ultimate chapter of retrospection which evokes mixed feelings. During this season, the microscope is on accountability as we surrender our books to the Auditor-General for perusal. We undeniably commenced our journey with great enthusiasm and determination, responding to the President's call to move South Africa forward. I reckon mitiro yabulabula, we shall be judged by our works.

In this 21st instalment of @Work which coincidentally ushers in the 21st year since the dawn of democracy, we bid farewell to the 2014/15 Financial Year. Like a hawk gazing sharply at its prey, we are ready to embrace new challenges head on. Without beating our own drum, nor ignoring our shortcomings, yesterday's achievements still resonate our courage to paddle against the odds.

As the handyman of the State, ours is to ensure safe and reliable public infrastructure to afford our citizens access to constitutional necessities such as education, health and freedom of movement amongst others. As a result, for the past twelve months we have been hard at work building clinics, libraries, schools, roads and bridges; tackling the soaring rate of unemployment through various programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP); transporting learners across the Province through Scholar Transport and ensuring compliance with the National Land Transport Act hence the recent recruitment of fifty (50) new Transport Inspectors.

As we wrap up the financial year, we are certainly not closing shop on service delivery but replenishing and taking stock of every challenge facing our society.

## Premier brings hope to Emakhazeni community



**OPENING THE GATES OF A BETTER EDUCATION:** Premier David Mabuza unveiling the plague together with Education MEC, Reginah Mhaule (middel) and MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Dumisile Nhlengethwa (right).

The community of Emakhazeni Local Municipality could not hold back their joy when they witnessed the opening of the Emakhazeni Combined Boarding School on the 13th of February 2015.

The Mpumalanga Premier, Mr David Mabuza unveiled the state-of-the-art facility valued at R250 million at Machadodorp in Nkangala District Municipality. The event was also graced by the MECs of Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ms Dumisile Nhlengethwa and that of Education, Ms Reginah Mhaule. There were also representatives from Emakhazeni Local Municipality as well as the senior management of both departments.

In his keynote address, Premier David Mabuza said the aim of having such educational facilities in the Province is to restore the culture of education and the dignity that should be embraced by all children since education is the key to success. "As we officially hand over this facility to its rightful owners, the Emakhazeni community. Treasure it and protect it so that future generations can also benefit from this massive investment by the Government of Mpumalanga Province," pleaded Premier Mabuza.

The School Principal, Ms Lindiwe Hadebe said she was extremely happy about the construction of the school since it has brought relief to the

poor community. "We are very excited. This is an indication that indeed the Government of the day takes education seriously as one of the Apex priorities. The school will also improve academic results due to its advanced facilities," said the ecstatic Principal.

One learner from the School said he was happy to be amongst the first pupils who will be attending at the brand new school. "I used to travel a very long distance to school however that is now a thing of the past. From now on, I will be able to wake up in the morning and be in class on time within a stone throw away," said the excited grade nine (9) learner, Petro Sithole.

The construction of the boarding school started in December 2012 and was completed in January 2015 at a cost of R250 million. The facility accommodates 685 pupils from Grade R to Grade 9 and consists of 24 Classrooms, one Grade R, one Admin block, one Science Laboratory, one Computer Centre, 40 Toilets, one Dining Hall with a multipurpose function, sleeping units for boys and girls and sports facilities.

Other boarding schools that have been built by the Provincial Government so far include Izimbali in Amsterdam, Ezakheni in Driefontein both within Gert Sibande District and Shongwe in Drikoppies, Ehlanzeni District.

## The Team

### Editor

- David Nkambule

### Sub-Editor

- Mxolisi Cyril Dlamini

### Graphic Designer

- Bonginkosi Dlamini

### Reporters

- Mpho Gabashane
- Dimakatso Matentshi
- Bongani Dhlamini
- Lindiwe Simelane
- Portia Mnisi
- Rodney Madalane
- Ntokoza 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:  
CommunicationDpwr@mpg.gov.za

Tel: 013 766 8231

### 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.



## Notorious 'swimming pool' road under construction



**ROAD REHAB: R36 road to undergo a massive rehabilitation.**

The R36 road between Lydenburg and N4 Schoemanskloof intersection has been making newspaper headlines for all the wrong reasons. One of the motorists

using the road went as far as filling the pothole with water and soap, 'took a bath' inside the pothole to make a point that the condition of road is unbearable.

The story grabbed the attention of everyone including the responsible authorities. However, the majority of people using the roads were not aware that long term solution is already underway to rehabilitate the road in the 2015/16 financial year.

It is one of many important roads in the province which require new investment for rehabilitation or repairs, against very limited funding. The R36 (P8/1) is a road between Mashishing and Bambi Schoemanskloof intersection and is a very important road for tourism and mining activities around Mashishing area.

In the meantime, the Department's maintenance team has been working tirelessly to patch potholes on the road, so that road users are able to travel safely. The deterioration of the road could be attributed by the movement of trucks which travel daily to the local mines as well as the heavy rains. Furthermore the road has reached its lifespan, hence preparations

afloat to reconstruct the road.

The Department has appointed a contractor in January 2015 to start with the rehabilitation of Phase 1 which covers 15km. A total of R120 million has been allocated towards the rehabilitation (reconstruction) of the road. The project is expected to be completed by November 2016.

Ms Lisa April from Lydenburg was with joy when road workers were hard at work putting road signs. **"We will finally drive with ease. The road has been a headache to most of us using it daily. I am glad that the department is finally reconstructing the road and the stress will be over"**, she said.

Whilst the Department is busy reconstructing phase 1 of the road, users are urged to adhere to the road signs.

## MEC Nhlengethwa demands 100% pass rate

Education is one of the pillars that ensure that a country develops and also builds the core fibre of society. As from the 14th of January 2015 until the 16th of the same month, MEC Dumisile Nhlengethwa and the Head of Department, Mr Kgopana Mohlasedi embarked on a three day school visit in Msukaligwa and Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities as part of the Provincial School Reopening Programme to monitor the reopening of schools and further assess their state readiness in terms of learning and teaching.

The focus of the MEC was on Ncikinyane Primary School, Ubuhlebolwazi and Umzimvelo Secondary Schools while the HOD visited Hendrina Primary School, Sofunda and Tshwenyane Secondary Schools.

MEC Nhlengethwa was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa Local Municipality, Councillor Bongwe; the Chief Whip of Gert Sibande District Municipality, Councillor Brown and government officials.

The purpose of the Provincial School Reopening Programme is to afford the schools an opportunity to raise challenges especially those that might also lead to poor academic results. It is also through this programme that schools are afforded the opportunity to interact with public representatives.

The visits formed part of the public representatives' oversight responsibility to monitor and support progress in the implementation of education priorities. The expectations are that learners and educators should be in school, in class, on time, learning and teaching seven hours a day.

During her visit MEC Dumisile Nhlengethwa appealed to learners and educators to improve their performance and results. She encouraged the 2015 matriculants to do more in their studies to ensure that



**A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: MEC Dumisile Nhlengethwa addressing learners during her school visit at Ubuhlebolwazi Secondary School.**

the Province achieves 100% pass rate. She also congratulated the Mpumalanga class of 2014 for doing exceptionally well in their matric examinations where the Province achieved 79% pass rate.

The MEC pleaded with educators, learners and school governing bodies to heed the call made by the former President, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, to make education a top priority in this country, when he said, "No country can really develop unless its citizens are educated."

She also conducted readiness spot checks, inspecting school facilities such as libraries, toilets, sports facilities as well as the availability of teaching material and teacher attendance.

In every school that the MEC visited, she reminded educators that they are very important in shaping the future of the learners. She also emphasized to the School Principals the need to create a conducive environment for learning and teaching.



**THE FRUITS OF KNOWLEDGE: HOD Kgopana Mohlasedi encouraging learners to work hard.**



## 'School of choice' strains scholar transport



**HAPPY ENDING:** One of scholar transport buses dropping off learners to school.

The Department is assuring residents of the Mpumalanga Province especially parents of learners that are using scholar transport, that the department is committed to assist the Department of Education in the promotion of access to education through the provision of an effective and efficient Scholar Transport. The statement comes after the recent spate of protests in which learners boycotted classes disturbing learning activities demanding to be provided with more buses.

One of the many recent scholar transport incidences in the province is the Cyril Clark Secondary School case. Learners at the school abandoned classes in January 2015 protesting against the shortage of scholar transport. The affected parties were learners who live at Msholozhi and Phumulani village. According to the Principal of the School, Ms Thokozile Masondo the learners from the two villages have increased drastically this year due to the growth of the two areas. **"We have registered more learners in January 2015 coming from the two villages, hence the increase in the demand for scholar transport. The registration process started last year in June 2014, but was extended to January due to the high number of turn-up. We could not turn-back the learner thus we opened the registration process to accommodate everyone"**, she explained.

The Department was quick to address the concerns of the learners as an extra bus was added into the fleet of three (3) busses which were already collecting learners to school. To date, the department is ferrying at least three hundred and forty seven (347) learners from Msholozhi and Phumulani villages to Cyril Clark Secondary School.

Umzimvelo Agricultural Combined School, at Gert Sibande District is another school which complained about the shortage of scholar

transport. According to reports, learners who reside at Wesseltown in Ermelo have decided to register at Umzimvelo Agricultural Combined School, which is 30 km away from home. They left most of the schools in the townships to join the school which according to them performed well in matric results. There were six busses which were operating at the school, however the figure was reduced to five (5) as per provision of scholar transport policy.

The learners in question do not qualify for scholar transport service in terms of the scholar transport policy and they were accordingly advised in 2014 by the Department of Education. Clause 5.2.1.1 of the scholar transport policy says "Scholar transport service is intended for Mpumalanga school learners who travel five kilometres or more to the nearest public school." Most of the learners come from communities where there are schools within a walking distance and therefore do not qualify for scholar transport service.

Breyten area is another area which experienced the shortage of scholar transport at Masizakhe Secondary School. Previously, the learners were transported to school by a private operator who decided to terminate his service this year. In this case, the school had to apply and follow the correct procedures for them to get the scholar transport, which consulting the authorities within the department of Education. As part of managing scholar transport, the Department receives needs from the Department of Education. The needs are then verified against the provisions of the scholar transport policy. The budget is then made available after the verification process. In this instance, no request was received to transport the learners in question.

The Department is appealing to parents and learners of schools who are using the scholar transport to work closely with authorities within the Department of Education, before embarking on any illegal protest in a bid to avert scholar transport problems.

## Districts interface with communities

The mandate to provide quality road, transport, property and community based services to the citizen of the province does not only lie with personnel at Head Office, which is stationed at Riverside Government Complex. The responsibility is further carried out by officials at districts. In this edition, @work looks at the contributions made by each district in bettering the lives of communities and some of the highlights for 2014/15 financial year.

### EHLANZENI DISTRICT

One of the districts which is known for its beauty of nature, which is situated in the Lowveld region is the Ehlanzeni. The district is headed by the Senior Manager, Mr Samuel Msiza who has a vast knowledge in the Transport Operations.

Mr Msiza is supported by a dedicated team of males and females who provide service such as maintenance of roads, property management, community based services as well as transport infrastructure. One of the highlights for the 2014/15 financial year during which the district made great strides, is the rehabilitation of D2969 road between Manzini and Swalala near Hazyview.

The Senior Manager, was part of the entourage from the department when they brought the service delivery to the community of Swalala. An investment of more than R35 million was made to the community through a roads project. Another project which improved the lives of people from the district is the Swartfontein Rehabilitation Centre. It is the Expanded Public Works Programme project under the infrastructure section. The project changed the lives of Ms Sizakele Lukhele who is works on the project. A total of 20 people are benefitting from the project.

### NKANGALA DISTRICT

The district known for its mining activities is the Nkangala District, Mr Aaron Mbatha is at the helm of the district. Similarly to Ehlanzeni district, Nkangala is catering communities within the Nkangala district. One of the major achievements of the district in the current financial year, is the opening of the P120/1 road.

The 15 km road P120/1 between eMalahleni and road D914 is a major coal haul route for delivery of coal to Duvha Power Station South-East of eMalahleni. During

the construction of the road 97 jobs were created and 78 of these were young people. In the process, all those employed were trained in various skills such; concrete work, shutter work, reinforcing steel fixing, laying kerbs, brickwork and pipe laying.

The National Youth Service programme in the district is performing well, as the participants continue to improve infrastructure facilities by renovating some of the government facilities. One of the facilities which benefitted from the programme is the Siyabuswa Cost centre, learners within the programme constructed an ablution facility system, which is expected to be completed this year.

The learners have done plumbing, electrical work and installed geyser. The participants have acquired skills on Community House Building on NQF Level 2.

### BOHLABELA DISTRICT

Bohlabela District, is another district within the department and is headed by Mr Mandla Mashale. One its achievements in the financial year, is the handing over of the road to the Oakley-Rolle community

The roads include the D3969, D4390, D4385 and D4387 phase one and two which are interconnecting between the The 1st phase of the project which includes the D4390, D4385 and D4387 roads in the Rolle-Oakley area is 16 kilometres. The project commenced in March 2013 at the cost of almost R98 million.

The second phase of the project is 11 kilometres in length and includes the D3969 road between Xhimungwe to Timiheli (Cunningmore), which connects to Oakley. An amount of R70 million was budgeted for the road which was upgraded from gravel to tar in 15 months.

### GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT

Gert Sibande District under the leadership of Ms Fikile Segwayo has brought change into the lives of people living in the district. One of the project, which has made a significant contribution is the EPWP project under the mentorship of Mr Rofhiwa Tshifhango.

The Siyatentela project created about 2544 work opportunities. The programme identified impoverished communities in the villages through their various community structures.



# National Land Transport Act protects passengers

The National Land Transport Act (NLTA) was first introduced in 2009 with an aim to further process the transformation and restructuring of the national land transport system. The NLTA, as commonly known, is implemented from the National, Provincial and Municipal levels. NLTA is one of the control measures in the transport industry. In the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport the Act is monitored and implemented under the Transport Operations programme. The NLTA prescribes on what to do and what not to do in terms of various operations in the transport industry.

With the Department responsible for public transport including taxis, buses and scholar transport, it is bound to operate, monitor and implement under the NLTA. According to the Act no person may operate a road based public transport service unless they are holders of an operating licence or permit. It also states that operating licence may authorise the vehicle to which it relates, to operate more than one service or type of service. The act also specifies that an operating licence must only be issued on application made in terms of the NLTA by the National Public Transport Regulator, a Provincial Regulatory Entity or a Municipality to which the operating licence function has been assigned.

The Act also explains that an operating licence is valid for a maximum period of seven years. Not only is the Act concentrating on the taxi industry but also on scholar transport. There are special requirements which includes supervision of scholars, special requirements for drivers, for insurance, documents that must be kept in the vehicle and special vehicle markings.



**PAPER WORK:** Transport Inspector checking driver's licence

NLTA gives a clear view and guide on various issues governing the transport sector including interaction between public transport and cross-border road transport. It also gives full information on cancellation of operating licences and permits not in use. The NLTA has changed the Operating Licensing Board (OLB) to Provincial Regulatory Entity (PRE). The OLB which has been known in the Province for applications of operating licences and permits has changed with some few functions being managed at National Level. The applications for tourists and cross provincial borders operations will be managed and authorised by the National Transport Regulator.

According to Mr Mojalefa Tsotetsi, Senior Manager: Regulations and Control, the

act outline that operators have a duty and responsibility of ensuring they transport passengers in the manner that does not compromise their safety. "It can be achieved by ensuring that the vehicle that is being used is roadworthy and has legal Operating License that allows the conveying of passengers for reward. Operators must have valid driver's license plus Professional Driving Permit. The operator must adhere to the terms and conditions of the operating license. The act also says that before any trip is undertaken it is the driver's duty to ensure that the vehicle is in an acceptable roadworthy condition. Drivers must make sure that all the necessary documents are with him/her e.g driver's license, operating license and even passengers liability insurance copy is in the vehicle," elaborated Tsotetsi.



**ENFORCING THE LAW:** Transport inspectors inspecting an unsuspecting vehicle without registration plates during law enforcement operation.

## Did You Know?

1. According to the Department Scholar Transport Policy, Scholar Transport Services may only be provided to learners who travel five (5) kilometres or more to the nearest public school with a minimum of ten learners on that particular route.
2. The National Land Transport Act of 2009 requires every person wishing to undertake an interprovincial or tourism transport services to apply for the necessary operating licence from the National Public Transport Regulation board.
3. The use of seat belts by children is required by the National Road Transport Regulation Act. This law clearly states that the driver of a motor vehicle must ensure that children from three (3) years of age must wear their seat belts at all times.
4. The Departmental Fraud Prevention Policy states that employees have a responsibility to report all allegations or incidents of fraud to their immediate managers or if the employee has a reason to believe that his or her immediate manager is involve he or she can report to the next level of management. The Department also encourages members of the public who suspect fraud to contact the Fraud Prevention Hotline Number 0800 15 25 38.



# 2014/15 FINANCIAL YEAR SERVICE



Sorting redundant assets for auction.



EPWP PSC addressing work creation challenges.



Sisters doing it for themselves, slowly but surely.



Walking the talk in unity.



Tackling men issues needs men with issues.



Mapping out the future of service delivery.



Driving the workforce.



Employment equity.



Unity in diversity.



Ehlanzeni at your service.



After a long day of hard work.



When painting, falling is not an option.



# DELIVERY HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES



Auction day to benefit the public.



Ladies gathered to be empowered.



Paying attention not detention.



Scholar transport making education a reality.



Work in progress.



A short break to pose and smile.



Out of uniform but still in service.



Clarifying the purpose of a public servant.



Bohlabela Finance team checking the rands and cents.



Success starts with registration.



Tackling weeds and littering challenges.



Ensuring a healthy environment.



# Roads infrastructure on the roll



**SMOOTH SURFACE:** Roads connecting communities.

The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Ms Dumisile Nhlengethwa during the 2014/15 Departmental Policy and Budget speech announced that the department will spend a total of R2.1 billion towards improving road infrastructure in the province. She further pronounced that the Department will improve provincial roads in a bid to enhance the mobility and access to a range of facilities, and enhance freight movement and road safety. Some of the roads, which are targeted for improvement in the current financial year includes amongst others Construction of the Bethal Control, Centre, P17/6 (R538) from Jerusalem to Casterbridge, Bridge and road at Sibange and Masibekela. In this edition of @work we take stock on the progress made thus far in improving the road infrastructure in the province.

On the subject of the Moloto Rail Corridor, National Department of Transport announced that government will spend a total of R34- billion on the development of the Moloto rail corridor. According to the initial estimates based on the feasibility study, R20 billion will go towards a rapid rail service, the R10 billion on rail stock and another R1.8 billion to improve the condition of the road that has claimed many lives. A further R2.7 billion will go towards upgrading several feeder roads along Moloto. The National Minister of Transport, Dipuo Peters signed the project over to the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) in October 2014, which will develop the rail service with Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga provincial governments overseeing the conversion of Moloto Road into a

National road to be managed by the South African National Road Agency Limited and municipalities will attend to the feeder roads. The Ministry further announced that there will be a number of programmes and initiatives to educate people along the corridor on road safety.

Meanwhile the Department had made great strides in the construction of weigh bridge along the N17 road between Bethal and Ermelo. Seeing that the N17 road is experiencing a high volume of trucks without the proper monitoring systems, a weigh bridge worth more than R49 million was constructed. The infrastructure consists of a Digital weighing scale as well as offices. The construction started in March 2011. During the construction process, the appointed contractor employed a total of one hundred and sixty four (164) workers to build the infrastructure. The workers were trained on various skills such as health and safety as well as building and bricklaying. It is estimated that more than four hundred trucks per day were passing the N17 road collecting coal from the nearest mines.

The impoverished community of Masibekela at Nkomazi Local Municipality enjoyed the fruits of service delivery, after the department completed the road and bridge worth more than R82 343 million. The project started on July 2012 and was completed in July 2014, with at least 301 community members getting employment.

The P17/6 (R538) from Jerusalem to Casterbridge which has been making news headlines is one of the projects which will bring relieve to tourists driving to Kruger National

Park as the road is currently under construction. The department injected a total of R149 million towards the rehabilitation of 16 km road. The road is expected to change the lives of the locals as 400 work opportunities will be employed.

In the 2015/16 financial year, the Department will continue to provide better road infrastructure service to communities within the province, so that road users can travel on better roads.

## Comply or face the law

In a bid to tighten up Public Transport Regulations, the Department recently recruited fifty (50) Transport Inspectors. The new Transport Inspectors will be stationed in the four districts that consist of Nkangala, Gert Sibande, Bohlabela and Ehlanzeni. The induction was scheduled for three days at Middleburg Cost Centre in Nkangala District from the 4th to the 6th of February 2015.

The purpose of the induction was to familiarise the new officials with the processes and procedures of their new working environment in order to allow them to contribute effectively and efficiently towards service delivery.

The Acting Senior Manager of Human Resource Utilisation, Capacity and Development Ms Rose Mahlalela took the opportunity to officially welcome the new Transport Inspectors to the Department. She stated that during the induction, they would be empowered with information so that they would be able to deliver on their mandate. Departmental line functions made various presentations on how they operate and how each programme is aligned and contributes towards the implementation of the overall Departmental Strategic Plan.

The Integrity Management from the Office of the Premier outlined the required conduct from the



**WE ARE READY:** Newly appointed Transport Inspectors from Gert Sibande District.



**HARD WORK PAYS:** One of the recruits receiving a diploma from Rev. MLB Moloi, General Manager: Transport Operations.

Continued on Page 7





**A TOKEN OF HONOUR:** Transport Inspectors showcasing their parading skills during induction.

*Continued from Page 6*

Transport Inspectors in terms of promoting and protecting the law. Transport Operations as a programme will then prepare the new recruits on their expectations when implementing their daily duties.

The General Manager of Transport Operations, Mr Matsemela Moloi explained to the officials the reason why they have to go the whole year for training.

He said, "It is because your country and Province will demand a lot from you. You will be required to protect the people who have no idea what kind of vehicles they get into; you will be required to protect the drivers who think they know everything, those who think they can have few beers and drive better. So is not for cowards and people who are unfaithful to themselves and the code of conduct."

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government has a constitutional obligation to ensure that road carnage is brought to a halt at all costs.

The Senior General Manager of Corporate Services, Mr Paul Khoza accompanied by the General Manager of Transport Operations, Mr Matsemela Moloi and Senior Manager of Regulations and Control, Mr Mojalefa Tsotetsi awarded the Transport Inspectors with certificates as per their competence.

The Transport Inspectors paraded and saluted their seniors to show their state of readiness to tackle public transport challenges on the road. This is another effort by the Department to ensure that road users, especially public transport operators adhere to the National Land Transport Act.

## EPWP on the driving seat of job creation

The Department held the first 2015 Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) meeting on 22 January 2015 at Ehlanzeni District Municipality Disaster Management Centre.

At the start of this fifth term of administration, Government set itself a target to create six million jobs by 2019 mainly through the Expanded Public Works programme (EPWP). Mpumalanga Province has to contribute 319 000 of these jobs.

In this regard, and in gearing itself for this mammoth task ahead, Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport convened a Expanded Public Works Programme Summit in September 2014 and was held in Gert Sibande District. To take forward the resolutions and monitor implementation of resolutions of the summit, it was resolved that the Department must convene and chair the EPWP Provincial Steering Committee (PSC). It was therefore for this particular reason that the first 2015 Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) was held.

The objectives of the Mpumalanga PSC is to monitor and evaluate the implementation of EPWP in the Province. PSC to further identify constraints to the implementation of EPWP and consider possible solutions. The roles and responsibilities of the PSC is to further report to the Executive Council of the Province on the implementation of EPWP and progress on meeting the set targets.

The meeting was attended by Management from the National, Provincial and Local government.

In his opening remarks, Head of Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport Mr Kgopana Mohlasedi said the department will continue to ensure that EPWP remains one of the programmes that are prioritized. He further

commended all the public bodies that represented the Province during the National KAMOSO Awards that were held late last year in Gauteng where the province once more performed very well.

"I would like to once again congratulate all the participants of the 2014 National KAMOSO Awards for their outstanding performance" said HOD Mohlasedi. "Your performance has indeed placed the flag of the Province higher. This goes to show that the Province is serious in implementing EPWP" added Mr Mohlasedi.

The Institutions that forms part of the Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) forum includes amongst others, National Department of Public Works, Provincial Departments, the District Managers of Departments, Local Municipalities and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

Amongst the resolutions that were taken at the end of the meeting were that; the department must develop a Provincial Infrastructure sector plan. The aim of the plan will be a mechanism of making sure that all the projects that are implemented are able to create work opportunities. The Department must continuously support and engage with none/ under reporting Public Bodies, devise strategies of ensuring full participation of the 21 Municipalities in the Social Sector. Municipalities to ensure that their Integrated Development Plan (IDP's) include EPWP projects and that there must be proper profiling of all EPWP Projects.

From the beginning of the 2014/15 financial year to January 2015, the department managed to create 39 674 work opportunities out of the 51 136 Provincial target. The EPWP Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) is expected to meet once a quarter.



**LEADING THE WAY:** HOD Kgopana Mohlasedi registering before the PSC meeting.



**PUTTING BREAD ON THE TABLE:** Some of the EPWP beneficiaries whose lives have changed for the better.



## Information security not off the record



**SORTED:** Ms Poppy Mokoena (left) and Ms Charity Mbewe from Records Management conducting monitoring and evaluation of the filing system in Supply Chain Management registry.

Nothing is "off the record" when it comes to information security. This is the sentiment shared by Knowledge Management which is the hub of intellectual property within the Department. Despite digital high-end technology, no work is done until paperwork is complete. As a result, Records Management is the catalyst of the paper trail.

During an interview, Ms Poppy Mokoena, Manager: Records Management, explained that records management is a process of ensuring proper creation, maintenance, use and disposal of records in order to achieve efficient, transparent and accountable governance. She stated that efficient and reliable management of information is the backbone of service delivery and clean audit.

**"Without a sound records management system in place, meaningful audit cannot be carried out. As a result, poor performance and fraud would not be even detected and government's**

**actions would not be open to review. Ultimately, the service delivery machinery would suffocate and collapse,"** explained Ms Mokoena.

The Department has taken giant strides to ensure compliance with various prescripts as Constitutional imperatives of records management.

These prescripts include but not limited to the Public Finance Management Act (Act No. 1 of 1999), the Promotion of Access to Information Act (Act No. 2 of 2000), the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (Act No. 3 of 2000), the National Archives and Records Service Act (Act No. 43 of 1996 as amended) and the Mpumalanga Archives Act (Act No. 14 of 1998).

According to Ms Mokoena, the filing system within these sections have improved dramatically boasting efficiency, competency and professionalism. Knowledge Management continues to monitor compliance and assist the Department through various interventions including workshops.



**THE 'A' TEAM:** The Records Management staff members that ensure that a seamless filing system is implemented within the Department.

## Department beefs up security at Riverside Government Complex

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government's Head Quarters in Mbombela, was recently overhauled with the state-of-the-art security upgrades to strengthen security measures of the Riverside Government Complex (RGC).

The National Key Point Amendment Act 47 of 1985 provides for the safeguarding of critical infrastructure by the South African Police Service (SAPS). The Department as the landlord of the RGC has a duty to implement all necessary security recommendations to ensure compliance with the Act.

The Department installed a cutting-edge technology of security scanner machines with metal detectors throughout the RGC. The

**"All officials and visitors accessing the premises especially the administrative buildings are expected to go through a security scanner which detects unwarranted items. Security measures are often not everybody's cup of tea but safety can never be compromised. Sometimes our patrons especially officials feel inconvenienced.**

**The scanner is fitted with infrared which might damage their mobile phones including other**



**SCANNING SECURITY THREATS:** Mr Jobela and security personnel assisting visitors and officials on how to use the newly installed security system.

facility will benefit the Provincial Government immensely as it will improve safety and security of staff members and state assets.

The system will enhance the safekeeping of state assets such as laptops, cameras and other mobile equipment which are often the main theft target. On the same note, prohibited items such as weapons, liquor and other foreign objects will be kept out of the premises.

The Assistant Manager for Security Management, Mr Ndiphiwe Jobela, mentioned that security officers will be responsible for the operation of the system and they have already undergone the necessary training.

**electronic gadgets. There are trays that are allocated for this purpose. We request officials and visitors to make use of those trays,"** warned Mr Jobela.

According to Security Management, the facility has only been installed at the Riverside Government Complex however plans are afoot to ensure that security upgrades are rolled out even to other government buildings. Security assessments have already been conducted in all the four District Offices and appropriate security measures relevant to their environment have been recommended for implementation.



# Government buildings to be energy efficient

Load shedding, global warming, deforestation, land degradation, waste disposal, environmental pollution, and loss of biodiversity to mention a few, are the new threats to humanity. Coincidentally, most of these environmental scuffles inadvertently occur at the centre of development Worldwide.

As the international community becomes actively aware of the

detrimental effects of dodgy environmental practices, the winds of change seem hard to grasp. However, the Department as the custodian of public infrastructure has laid a concrete foundation to address various environmental challenges through policy formulation, dispensation of appropriate legislation and compliance with constitutional imperatives. "Green living" is a new phrase that environmentalists use to

## Department prepares for clean audit

Big briefcases, formal suits and serious attitudes, you will see that they mean business. Work and no play attitude. You will see them entering the Government Complex in a group. One would wonder who these people are. They are auditors from the Auditor-General. When one enters their boardroom is full of papers and more papers. All in their laptops and working really hard, they mean business.

What exactly is the role of the external auditors in the Department? It is according to the Public Financial Management Act (PFMA) legislation that all Government departments have to be audited by the Auditor-General. The Legislation states that departments have to be accountable for the budgets allocated to them.

According to Mr Lorrimer Khumalo, Manager: Financial Accounting, the mandate of the auditors is to give the public the assurance that the funds given to the departments are being utilized prudently.

Mr Khumalo also mentioned that the two key focus areas of the auditors when auditing includes financial and performance information. Financial information is mostly financial statements. In this instance they concentrate on the budget and on how it is spent. They check on the budget allocated to the department versus the budget spent. When the auditors focus on performance information they check on the performance on whether the budget spent is equivalent to the operations of the Department. Every work done by the Department must be in line with the strategic plans as per the allocated budget.

**"When it comes to assisting as officials they**

**need to give requested information and quick response to information. Officials need also to avail themselves during Audit time when requested and necessary",** he explained

Khumalo also gave a full description and difference between qualified, unqualified and disclaimer audit opinions. He mentioned that a qualified audit it's an Audit opinion from the Auditor General whereby a department has a bad audit. It means that the audit is bad and it has many issues that need serious attention. Whereas an unqualified audit means the Department has a good Audit opinion but with findings or matters of emphasis. It means that there are issues or challenges that need serious attentions. A disclaimer is an Audit opinion where a department is in serious trouble. It is when there is non-compliance, misrepresentation of financial statement and poor performance. Whereas a clean audit is an opinion with no findings or issues that need attention."

He further elaborated on irregular expenditure, fruitless and unauthorized expenditure. It means that the Department is not complying with the PFMA thus the disclaimer.

Mr Khumalo lastly concluded that it is the job of the Auditor General to inform and check on whether the budget given to Department is spent in the proper manner to ensure service delivery. The Audit report check on whether the spending where equivalent to the goals of the Department to ensure better service delivery for the public. Thus, the reports of the Auditor-General must be made in public. The Auditor-General, is a watchdog over the government.



**ENVIRONMENTAL EYE: Mr Phumudzo Sinugo conducting an inspection at a construction site, checking construction vehicles for any leakages of oil and fuel that may cause soil contamination.**

describe sustainable environmental practices that can save mankind from extinction.

According to Mr Phumudzo Sinugo who is an Environmental Officer from the Department, the government has a duty to promote and ensure compliance with section 28 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 108 of 1998 known as "the duty of care".

Section 28(1) of NEMA states that every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation to the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution from occurring, recurring or continuing, or in so far as such harm to the environment is authorized by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped. "These requirements include the South African National Standards (SANS) regulations, which promote environmental sustainability and energy efficiency. This means that buildings (for an example) should be energy efficient and reduce green house gas emissions in order to alleviate damage to the environment," explained Mr Sinugo.

The newly built Emakhazeni Boarding School which was recently opened by Premier David Mabuza at Emakhazeni is a perfect example of a project with an eye for sustainable environment. Amongst other interesting aspects of the building, is the fact that it generates hot water off the grid (without conventional electricity) through the use of a solar system which is clean energy while the kitchen is fitted with gas facilities.

The sewer treatment system has a grey water output which is used for irrigation whilst the building has been designed to harvest rain/storm water for the same purpose. Over more, the building uses sustainable low maintenance material which means maintenance will not cost the environment and ultimately the State an arm and a leg.

Ms Phumelele Mathenjwa, the Senior Manager in Building Planning and Design, said that one of the most reasonable measures to prevent harmful effects on the environment that the Department has adopted is the development of Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) for all projects that are deemed to pose potentially significant damage to the environment.

**"Furthermore, there are several Environmental Management tools at our disposal to safeguard the environment such as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) used to predict environmental impact both negative and positive of proposed projects. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is another tool that is used to analyze and evaluate the environmental aspects of a product or service through all the stages of its life cycle, for an example, from raw material extraction to product waste disposal,"** elaborated Mathenjwa summing up the massive role played by Environmental Management.



## PMDS In pursuit of excellent performance



**THE KEY FOR PERFORMANCE:** Ms Rose Mahlalela, Chairperson of the PMDS Moderating Committee.

The Department is in pursuit of excellent staff performance in a bid to deliver exceptional public infrastructure that boasts the economy. As a result, it has made a commitment to recognize and reward competency. This necessitated the development of the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) in accordance with the Mpumalanga Provincial Policy on Performance Management and Development

System that was adopted by the Executive Council in 2003 for officials on salary level 1-12.

Through the system, the Department is able to manage the performance of employees in the execution of tasks, activities and processes that are aimed at achieving organisational strategic objectives. All officials are expected to submit their assessments to Human Resource Utilization and

Capacity Development Section quarterly. The assessments are further submitted to a Moderating Committee appointed by the Head of Department to evaluate and review each assessment.

The purpose of the evaluation which is conducted by the committee on quarterly basis is to ensure consistency and fairness across the Department. This is conducted through a common understanding of performance standards required at each level in line with the signed performance agreements.

Each District Office also has its own Moderating Committee which operates under the same principles. The Moderating Committee in Head Office consists of thirteen (13) members that represent various programmes within the Department and the organised labour unions. The Moderating Committee meets once every quarter after the closing date of all quarterly assessment submissions as well as annually at the end of the financial year.

In case of disputes around the awarding of incentives, the report of the committee is then submitted to the second level moderation committee where a final recommendation is made to

the Head of the Department for a final decision.

Speaking to Ms Rose Mahlalela, the Chairperson of the Moderating Committee in Head Office, she said, *"As a committee we experience different challenges when dealing with review of the assessments such as a high percentage of employees who qualify for incentives meanwhile overall performance remains poor. Our task is therefore to balance each score with the actual performance using various tools such as monthly reports versus the operational plan. In some cases, a Portfolio of Evidence is required to justify each score."*

Ms Nomagugu Makamo who is a Chief Control Transport Inspector at Bohlabela District suggested that the Moderating Committees stationed in various offices should rotate to ensure fairness on the assessments. "My second personal opinion is that the committees need to conduct frequent workshops to educate employees about assessments," suggested Ms Makamo. However, according to Ms Mahlalela, PMDS workshops are conducted regularly but most often there is poor attendance.

## Contact Details

### HEAD OFFICE

#### Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport

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

#### Building Infrastructure, Professional Services and Transport Operations

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

#### Employee Health and Wellness, Internal Audit

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

#### EPWP, Property Management, Government Motor Transport, Roads Infrastructure

16 Hope Street  
Mbombela, 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  
Mbombela  
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

#### Operating Licensing Board

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



Mpumalanga DPWRT



CommunicationDpwrt@mpg.gov.za



dpwrt.mpg.gov.za



@MpumalangaDPWRT



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME