



**the dpwrt**

Department:  
Public Works, Roads and Transport  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE



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## WORLD REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATED IN MPUMALANGA PG-03



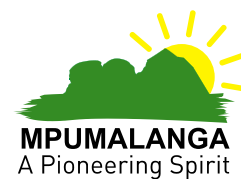
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**MPUMALANGA**  
A Pioneering Spirit

## Editorial Comment



The soccer fever hit South Africa with a bang. It appeared that the 2010 FiFA World Cup hosted by this country has brought more opportunities and fortunes. Great memories of the World Cup are still fresh in our minds and South Africa prides itself for hosting the Orange Africa Cup of Nations. With the legacy roads infrastructure, health infrastructure, stadia, etc, the prophets of doom were silent. It appeared that the ball changed for the better. There was a lot of noise about buying tickets and filling stadia.

Mpumalanga was not left out as one of the hosting Provinces. Our roads infrastructure, health infrastructure, stadium, hotels, etc, rose to the occasion. Our love for the country and patriotism made us proud as the stadium were filled. Ticket sales were never an issue in this beautiful Province as the inhabitants understood very well what it meant to be a proud South African. The Pioneering Spirit propelled once again.

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**IKWEKWEZI FM : 19H15 – 19H30**

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## WORLD REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATED IN MPUMALANGA



**Minister Benedict Martins accompanied by various dignitaries including MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu during the placing of wreath.**

**T**he World Remembrance Day is observed throughout the World, in an effort to reduce road fatalities. It draws the attention to the scale of emotional and economic devastation caused by road crashes and for the recognition to the suffering of road crash victims. It was first celebrated internationally in 1993 by countries affiliated within the World Health Organization (WHO).

The National Department of Transport, Department of Community Safety Security and Liaison, Public Works, Roads and Transport together with various church denominations within the country converged at Lynville Stadium on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 to remember those that died of road accidents as well as the Launch of the 2012 Festive Season Campaign. The event was graced by the National Minister of Transport, Benedict Martins together with the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Dikeledi Mahlangu and MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Vusi Shongwe. They were joined by their counterpart from the Northern Cape, MEC for Transport, Safety and Liaison, Mr Patrick Mabilo.

The atmosphere at the packed Lynville Stadium was inviting when the National Minister for Transport, Benedict Martins delivered his keynote address. "The consequence of road accident goes beyond physical trauma, as it affects the economy. Children have to leave schools as parents are dead due

to road accident or sometimes the breadwinners have to spend months in hospital thus no income is generated."

He further cautioned traffic officers to stop issuing drivers licenses to inexperienced drivers as it endangers the lives of other road users. The South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO), which ferry the majority of public transport users in the country, was in unison with the message of road safety. During his message of support to the audience, the President of SANTACO, Mr July Msiza expressed confidence about campaigns on road safety which his organisation spearheads.

"We are delighted that since the introduction of Hlokomela campaign in 2010, the campaign is beginning to bear fruits, as there is a decline in accidents involving taxi and the behavior of our drivers is improving", he explained.

Texting whilst driving campaign which is spearheaded by the giant mobile network Cell C, is another initiative aimed to create road safety awareness to mobile users not to text whilst driving according to Mr Graig Knott, the Chief Executive Officer from Cell C.

Later after the keynote address, Minister Martins together with the MEC's laid the wreaths and lit the candles in memory of the victims of road accidents. During the proceeding, various church leaders held h



## PILGRIMS REST UNDER MAJOR RENOVATIONS AS PART OF THE NORMALISATION PROCESS

**M**ajor renovations are currently underway at the historic town of Pilgrims Rest, as part of the maintenance plan by the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport. Businesses including tourism within the area will not be interrupted during the process, as consultative meetings with all affected stakeholders including the tenants have been fruitful.

The renovations includes brickwork, plastering, painting, carpentry, glazing, plumbing, electrical work, replacing cutters and rusters. The maintenance started in October 2012 and is expected to be completed in February 2013. The maintenance will be done in four phases. The first phase involves the renovation of fourteen (14) buildings. In addition, tenants within the town will start using the electricity pre-paid meter by January 2012 as the installation process is expected to start before the end of this year.

The Royal hotel which accommodates tourists within the area will also receive a major boost as maintenance work will be done. The renovations of the hotel will form part of the second phase of the maintenance plan, including the refurbishment of eighteen (18) other buildings within the vicinity. A bakery and restaurant which were burned down will be demolished and rebuilt. The reconstruction of the two building will start at the end of this month and forms part of the third phase of the work. In addition, seven (7) more buildings would be renovated within the third phase.

Major work will also be carried out at the sewage system, as new equipments will be installed at the mini laboratory. In addition to the work at the sewage system, all worn-out pumps and a standby generator will be replaced with new ones. The existing compressor will be serviced. Hawkers will also receive a slice of the budget as thirty seven (37) stalls will be built. The caravan park will also be revamped and the work will form part of the fourth and final phase.

The Department will spent at least R11 million to refurbish the historic town, during which final work is expected to end in February 2012. In a bid to ensure that all heritage and environmental standards are adhered to, the department work with other stakeholders which includes amongst others the Department of Water Affairs, Provincial Heritage Authority, Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation as well as Department of Agriculture, Rural development and land Administration. Work opportunities for the locals will be created, as Seventy Five (75) people will be employed



*One of the shops under renovation.*



*It's business unusual at Pilgrim's Rest.*



*Baphishekile ngemsebenti ePilgrim's Rest.*



## TRANSPORT MONTH PAVES A WAY



**MEC Mahlangu (in uniform) and HOD Mohlasedi (right) leading the team during the official opening of P13211**

The official launch of the October Transport Month started on a high note with the opening of the P132/1 road at Kriel as well as the law enforcement operation along the N12 road at Delmas. Both the events were led by MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu.

During her address at Thubelihle Community hall, MEC Mahlangu urged the community, which was packed to capacity, to support the October Transport Month initiative. "We appeal to everybody especially those that have private cars to use public transport this month, we want to ensure that we reduce the high traffic volume which has an adverse impact on the environment," she explained.

Rendering the message of support SANTACO President Mr July Msiza said that they supported the Transport Month programme and urge people to use public transport. "We urge people to use public transport in order to respond to the department's call of promoting the usage of public transport during the month of October" said Mr. Msiza.

After delivering her keynote address, she proceeded to the P132/1 road between Matla and Kriel, where she cut the ribbon, much to the delight of onlookers. The 23km road has lessen the burden of twenty two

power stations which transport coal in the area. The construction of the project started in January 2011 and ended in April 2012. The project was worth R89 million. Local people were employed during the construction process with at least 1034 people getting employment

A regular user of the road Mr Jan Sibeko who is a truck driver said the road was in a bad state before its construction. "We thank the department for constructing such a user friendly road. We are now able to reach our destination in time without the delay of potholes which were causing accidents" said Mr Sibeko who was the first driver to have used the road after the cutting of the ribbon by MEC Mahlangu.

Dikeledi Mahlangu concluded the day at a major road block at the Victor Khanye Local Municipality, where she joined the transport inspectorate in a law enforcement operation. During the road block, drivers who fail to adhere to the rules of the road faced the full wrath of the law as a total of four hundred and fifty two (452) vehicles were stopped and checked. A total of fifty one (51) summonses were issued. Law enforcers impounded eighteen (18) vehicles, out of those vehicles nine(9) were unroadworthy minibuses, one(1) vehicle was overloaded, eight (8) were operating without a driver's licence with one (1) trailer discontinued.



## ANOTHER FAMILY INCREASES THE LIST OF HOUSING BENEFICIARIES



**MEC Mahlangu and HOD Mohlasedi handing over keys of the newly built house to Ms. Christina Mabuza.**

**M**pumalanga MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Dikeledi Mahlangu once again brought change into the lives of the impoverished family for the better at Graskop. MEC Mahlangu donated a house, food parcels and sanitary towels to the Community of Graskop on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012. The event was held at the Graskop Municipality Hall. The MEC was accompanied by Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Cllr Bafana Michael Ncongwane together with member of the community in the area.

They are proud owners of a newly build and fully furnished house. The family of fifteen (15) previously lived in a four bedroom house, which was in a state of disrepair. It is against this background that the MEC galvanised support from the business people to build the family a decent shelter.

***"I am so happy that we have shelter that can accommodate the entire family. The house is beautiful with four bedrooms, a kitchen, sitting room and a bathroom. I cannot ask for more. Me and my family will now be able to sleep with peace"*** said Mabuza holding tears.

Apart from the donation of the house, MEC Mahlangu earlier that day donated food parcels to the family as well as to two orphanage centres and school children.

"We are donating to the people because we are concerned citizens of South Africa. I cannot sit around and do nothing whiles I come across needy families out there. The fact that my portfolio is on Public Works, Roads and Transport does not mean that every time I come across families that need shelter I must shy away. I am a parent and a mother so these situations touch my heart." Said MEC Mahlangu



**Ms. Christina Mabuza's house donated by the Department.**



## JOINT VENTURE ON SERVICE DELIVERY

**T**he MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule and the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ms Dikeledi Mahlangu officially handed over the site of the P95/2 Coal Haulage road from Delmas towards Gauteng border (South of Bronkorspruit) and officially handed over Vezimfundo Primary School in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality on Friday 30th of November 2012.

The event started at Extension 9 Entrance, Ward 9 in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality where the two MEC's handed over the site where there is rehabilitation of the P95/2 Coal Haulage road.

The rehabilitation of the 17.9 Km road will be completed before the end of the current financial year. The rehabilitation of the road will cost an estimated R148 million and local people will benefit in terms of job opportunities.

"I am pleased that the work is progressing. I have been in constant contact with the contractor and I have informed them that I do not expect any excuses on why they cannot complete the road on time. I believe that when they were calculating the work duration they took consideration of the rainy season and other possible challenges. I want to see the community benefiting as per the promise." said MEC Mahlangu.

After the site hand over, MEC Mahlangu and MEC Mhaule proceeded to the Vezimfundo Primary School to officially hand over the school.

Vezimfundo Primary School is situated in Delmas at Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Nkangala District. It is a fully fledged primary school that has been built and completed by the Mpumalanga Provincial Government.

The school has 21 Educators (a Principal, 05 HOD's and 15 Post Level one educators), 01 Admin Clark, 01 General Assistant and two Grade R practitioners.

Vezimfundo has 24 classrooms, one library, one computer lab, two blocks for grade R, a kitchen, an administration block, a school hall, 51 toilets, netball and tennis courts and a soccer field.



**A WELL DESERVED HAND SHAKE: MEC Mahlangu and MEC Mhaule with dignitaries.**



**FUTURE INVESTMENT: Vezimfundo Primary School.**



**ALL HANDS ON DECK: MEC Mahlangu (blue dress) during a site handover.**



## ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MATSHIPE – BUNDU ROAD



**MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu and Mayor of Thembisile Local Municipality, Cllr Ndaweni Mahlangu, during a sod turning.**

The Community of Machipe and Bundu villages could not hide their excitement when MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport in Mpumalanga Dikeledi Mahlangu conducted a sod turning ceremony for the construction of the D12916 road at Bundu Village. MEC Mahlangu delivered a keynote address during the occasion which was attended by delegates from the department and municipality including the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Cllr Ndaweni Mahlangu.

In her address, Dikeledi Mahlangu, appealed to the appointed contractor to employ local people. ***“The project is meant to improve the lives of the people of the area, we therefore appeal to the contractor to employ local people. I expect quality work from all parties, laziness would not be tolerated as I want to see the project finished within the stipulated time”*** she explained.

The construction of the road commenced in October 2012 and is expected to be completed in October 2013. The community of Bundu and Machipe village will receive the much needed economic boost from the R55.4 million projects, as employment for the locals have been created.

One of the villagers, Mr Sam Mthuli could not stop applauding efforts by the MEC. “I have a bakkie which I had to occasionally leave at home when it has rained, because the road would be potholed and not usable. Now that I see that something is being done, it means I will be able to use it once the road has been completed” said Mr Mthuli. Another local villager, Mrs Thokozile Sibeko expressed her excitement over the employment issue. I am happy that the MEC has requested the contractor to give unemployed people like us an opportunity to get work. This means a lot to us.”

The MEC later proceeded to the launching of the re-gravelling project in Sun City C, where she declared that she is making it her duty to oversee that service delivery on roads remains on top of service delivery priority list. Ms Thembeni Lushaba who lives in Phola Park extended her gratitude to the MEC for all the hard work she is doing. “It is good to see leaders such as MEC Mahlangu coming out to assist us. The project will assist us a great deal and will make our lives simpler because we will be able to travel easy”, said Lushaba. Ten villages benefitted from the project and they include amongst others Chris Hani, Tweefontein (Thokoza), Sakhile, Phola Park, Sun City AA, Sun City A, Klipfontein, Sun City C, Thembelihle and Vezokuhle.



## PROVINCIAL SANTACO OFFICES IN MIDDELBURG NOW OPERATIONAL



**SANTACO Provincial Chairperson, Mr. July Msiza and Mr. Matsemela Moloi from the Department during the official opening of the new SANTACO offices**

The South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) officially opened its offices in Middelburg, in a bid to address all challenges facing the taxi industry in the province. The General Manager for Transport Operations in the Department, Mr. Matsemela Moloi unveiled the plaque together with the President of SANTACO, Mr. July Msiza on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

Delivering his keynote address on behalf of the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Dikeledi Mahlangu, Mr Moloi appealed for unity in the taxi industry. ***"It is important for all the taxi associations within SANTAGO to work towards unity within the organization. Let members within the associations not discredit the leaderships of the institution, but work in harmony for the sake of growth in the industry"***, emphasized Mr. Moloi.

According to the President of SANTACO Mr. July Msiza preparations are underway to train at least one hundred (100) ladies to become taxi drivers. "SANTACO has launched the training academy at Welkom, where taxi drivers will be trained on customer care and other skills needed to execute their work effectively. We also have other campaigns such as operation Hlokomela programme where road safety issues are taught to both the drivers and passengers" he said.

A female taxi owner, Poppy Mbuyani from Kabokweni Taxi Association expressed her excitement about the opening of the provincial offices. "It is reassuring to know that there is a place where the public especially

commuters can report challenges they experience with taxi drivers. I want to encourage all women who are taxi owners and drivers to report any ill treatment they might experience from their counterparts"

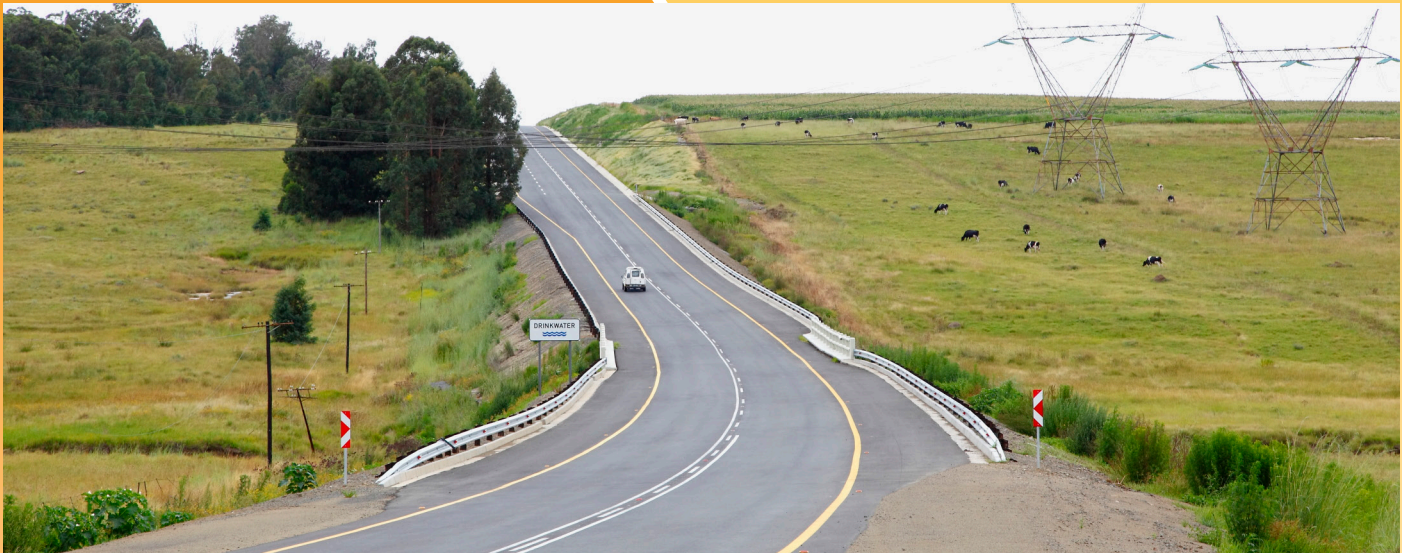
The offices will address all matters which relates to the taxi industry in the province. A total of seventy eight (78) taxi associations have affiliated under the organisation. Members of the public are urged to contact their offices for any grievances they might have related to the taxi industry; their contacts are 013 243 0334/ 013 243 0865 during office hours.



**The new offices of SANTACO in Middelburg**



## COMMUNITY HAPPY OVER FINISHED ROAD



*P50/1 Ermelo to Morgenon Road.*

**T**he Department of Public Work, Roads and Transport has completed the 42,2km road that link Ermelo and Morgenon. The P50/1 was no longer in good condition hence the department took a decision to construct the depilated road.

The contract was awarded to a contractor in September 2010 and was finished in March 2012. According to Dannie Lombaard of Lidwala Consulting Engineers the reconstruction included the improvement of the vertical alignment to allow for a 100km/h design standard and widening of the road to allow for 2x 3,7m surface lanes. "The improvements also included the construction of concrete side drains, guardrails and new sign posting" concluded Lombaard.

The local community benefited whereby 147 labourers were employed during the construction and 73 members received training. Mr Bheki Maseko, a local labourer said that he was very happy that he received training during the contract and he will be able to apply for other jobs. "I have benefitted a lot and I believe that the skills I acquired will assist me to get more jobs so that I can put food on the table for my family" said Maseko.

According to Mr Johan Van Der Merwe, a local shop owner the road has improved the business income since the road has been constructed. "Other delivery companies did not want to deliver goods sighting that the road damages their vehicles. I am very impressed about the quality of the road now" said Van Der Merwe.

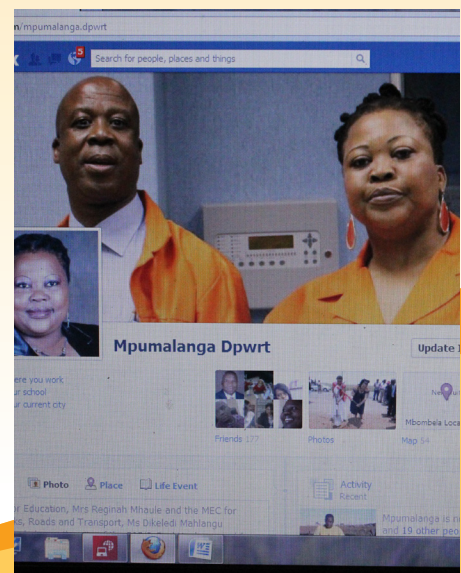
## SOHLANGANA KU FACEBOOK

**T**he Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport has joined the large group of organizations on the social network. This was done with an aim of ensuring that people who want to get more information about the Department access it easily.

The Department can be followed on face book on **Mpumalanga DPWRT**. The page bears the face of the Political head of the Department Ms Dikeledi Mahlangu. It has a cover page picture of the MEC and the Head of Department Mr. Kgopana Mohlasedi.

The page contains information that ranges from various activities that the Department conducted. It also has the updated information of current and upcoming activities of the Department. The page also allows people to interact with the Department were they ask questions and get responses within seconds.

The Department is also on twitter where tweets about the where about of the Department are sent. People can follow the Department on Twitter @ **MpumalangaDPWRT**.





## SURPRISE VISITS TO INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT IN THE PROVINCE

**M**pumalanga MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Dikeledi Mahlangu is determined to ensure that all infrastructure projects under the management of the department are of best quality and completed on time. This was evident during a project monitoring exercise on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013, where the MEC together with her team of Engineering professionals made a surprise visit to the construction sites of the P95-2 road.

The eighteen (18km) road starts from Gauteng border south of Bronkerspruit to Delmas in Nkangala district and is worth R132.293 million. During her visit, the MEC was impressed with the rehabilitation of the road which consists of the widening of pavement layers by 3.3m on either side of the existing road edges. The work started in October 2012 and is expected to be finished in December 2013.

Addressing the contractor as well as workers on site, Mahlangu expressed her satisfaction with the progress as well as the quality of work done on the road. "I am very much satisfied with the progress made on the project, despite the unfavorable rainy condition which constantly hampers progress" she explained. The project has brought the much needed job opportunities for communities at Botleng township near Delmas as a total of twenty five (25) local labourers were employed with fourteen (14) youth, six (6) women and nineteen (19) men making up the labour force. MEC Mahlangu is expected to continue with her infrastructure site visits in other areas.

The MEC also visited the Bundu-Machipe road on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2013 to check road construction progress.



**MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu with contractors during her site visits**



**Construction of Matshipe - Bundu road in progress**



**Rehabilitation of road P95-2 from Gauteng border South of Bronkrstpruit to Delmas in Nkangala region**



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