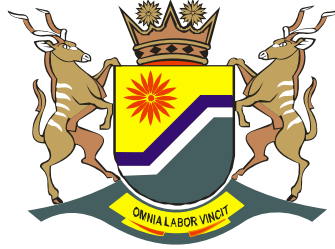


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NEWS EDITORS

MEDIA STATEMENT

11 MARCH 2014

THE HONOURABLE PREMIER OF MPUMALANGA, DAVID MABUZA PROMISES A BETTER AND IMPROVED P17/6 (R38) ROAD FOR ROAD USERS.

In a period of about 21 months from March 2014, motorist using the P17/6 (R538) from Jerusalem to the R40 at Casterbridge in White River will travel with ease, thanks to the promise kept by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in Mpumalanga to fix the road. The Department under the leadership of MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu has injected R149 million for the rehabilitation of the 16 kilometre road. Today on Tuesday the 11th of March 2014, The Honourable Premier of Mpumalanga, David Mabuza and MEC Mahlangu conducted a sod turning ceremony for the road, marking the start of the project which will see about 400 job opportunities created for the locals.

Accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Mbombela Local Municipality Cllr Cathy Dhlamini, local Councillors and provincial government management, the Premier and MEC conducted the sod turning ceremony at Masoyi Stadium near Hazyview. Thousands of local people attended the event to witness the official start of the project which will change the lives of many locals.

Addressing the community, Premier Mabuza stated that the government has been aware of the challenges on the road which made it difficult for motorist to travel smoothly. "Last year when we tabled the 2013/14 Policy and Budget Speech of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, we promised to inject funds to fix the road. Today we are here to fulfil that promise because we want to make sure that we build a quality road that will last for generations hence the financial injection of R149 million. We are not just here to fix the road, but because we care about our people, we are also here to ensure that most of you benefit on job opportunities that will be created by this project"

The Premier also urged the community and motorist to bear with the construction as there will be stop and goes while the project is in motion. "We know that when there are road constructions; there are expected delays for motorists who are travelling on the road. We argue you to please bear with us. Make sure that when you go to work you leave as early as possible to avoid arriving late to your destinations. There will be alternative or bypass routes that motorists can use" said Premier Mabuza



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME



Sibongile Hlatshwayo lives in Mganduzweni near Jerusamela. She is one of the people who got employed on the project. She is a single mother of five (5) and has been living on grants.” This project is a blessing for many of us because we have been unemployed for some time. I was happy when my local Councillor told me that I have been hired. I am looking forward to work on the project as I will be able to put food on the table for my children”.

The sod turning ceremony also pleased motorists using the road. “I have been travelling on this road for many years. I am happy that government has been able to prioritise our needs and honouring its promise to fix the road. We will cooperate with the stop and go because at the end of the project we are the once who will benefit” said Sipho Sambo who is working in Nelspruit and reside in Jerusamela.

The project is expected to be complete before the end of the year 2015.

Issued by the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport. For more information kindly contact Mr. David Nkambule on 013 766 6553 or 071 608 1059