



public works,  
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Issue 35

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## New sheriff takes stock of infrastructure provision to harness service delivery



**AT THE FOREFRONT OF SERVICE DELIVERY:** MEC Gillion Mashego leading a delegation during project visit at Rob Ferreira Hospital to inspect the construction of the new mortuary.

In a bid to reaffirm Government's commitment to accelerate service delivery, MEC Gillion Mashego hit the ground running from the first day he took office as the new MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport following the announcement by the Honourable Premier, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni on the 4th of July 2018. MEC Mashego is not a stranger to the custodian of public transport and infrastructure since he has previously served on various portfolios within the Department, as a result he spared no time but rolled up his sleeves for service delivery.

From his very first engagement with Departmental officials, the MEC did not mince his words but implored staff members to heed the President's call of "Thuma Mina" which is a pledge to serve. **"We have been called to serve our people and as the agents of the "Thuma Mina" campaign, I appeal to every official to remain committed and loyal to the President's call. Our communities are in distress and are looking upon us as the beacon of hope. We dare not betray their trust,"** accentuated MEC Mashego.

Within the past couple of weeks, the Honourable MEC crisscrossed the length and breadth of the Province inspecting projects and engaging with various stakeholders with the purpose of addressing service delivery challenges. One of the projects the MEC visited is the construction of Thaba Chweu Boarding School in Mashishing which has already generated over 500 work opportunities for the local communities in the area. The MEC was impressed with the progress of the project which will improve access to quality education.

The Parliamentary Village, Swartfontein Treatment Centre and Rob Ferreira Hospital amongst

others were some of the projects the MEC visited to inspect progress. Where there were challenges, the MEC managed to intervene however he stated categorically that poor workmanship and laxity on service delivery will not be tolerated. **"I will have no choice but to take drastic measures against any individual who undermines the integrity of Government to deliver quality and timely service to our people,"** said the MEC speaking to officials and contractors during one of the visits.

Apart from the project visits to fast-track service delivery, the Honourable MEC also met with various institutions and civil formations to tackle issues of common interest with the view of improving the Department's socio-economic impact. In not so much words but in action, the MEC has sent a clear signal that the tide has turned. This is business unusual.



**OPERATION SIYAHLOLA:** MEC Gillion Mashego with Departmental senior officials inspecting progress at Swartfontein Treatment Centre.

# Honouring the architects of the 1956 struggle for liberation

**“The struggle of 1956 was not in vain but ignited a dialogue, even against the barrel of a gun which sought to silence the voices that echoed liberation. Women stood against the furnace of segregation, poverty and inequality. These heroines, continue to endure unethical labour practices for compensation that undermines their existence. Meanwhile, it is these women who are the bread and butter of our society,”**

the Honourable MEC, Mr Gillion Mashego echoed these words during his keynote address to over 1200 Departmental female officials who were gathered at Steve Tshwete Local Municipality’s Banquet Hall in Middelburg to celebrate Women’s Month on the 23rd of August 2018.

Dressed in black and gold which resonated with the theme of the gala evening, the ladies redefined the fashion industry as they commemorated the landmark march of the 9th of August 1956 where heroines such as Helen Joseph, Lillian Ngoyi, Rahima Moosa and Charlotte Maxeke amongst others, led a protest action against the pass laws



**LADIES OF THE MOMENT:** Some of the Departmental queens who graced the occasion to celebrate women’s struggle for liberation.

instituted by the apartheid regime. In its effort to eradicate the scotch of inequality and discrimination against women, the Department organized the ceremony as a platform to spark a dialogue in order to empower the officials with sufficient information to combat various social-ills affecting women.

MEC Mashego encouraged the officials never to lose sight of the ongoing struggle against poverty, unemployment and inequality that is still facing the majority of the population especially women, youth and people with disability. **“We dare not**

**falter, lest we detract from the struggle of 1956 and turn a deaf ear to the voices of our youth who surrendered their lives in exchange for freedom in 1976. Neither should we betray our masses who petitioned their aspirations on a ballot paper in 1994 so**



**EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:** MEC Gillion Mashego delivering a keynote address in support of women empowerment.



**A ROSE AMONGST THORNS:** Mrs Gladys Pule one of Mpumalanga’s renowned radio personalities and motivational speakers.

**that the ideals of the Freedom Charter may be realized,”** emphasized MEC Mashego.

Paying homage to the guests of honour, MEC Mashego unleashed his poetic flair which sealed the night, “I am a man born of a woman. I am the son of the African soil. My skin has been nourished by the sun that rises each day with new possibilities. Within me lives the spirit of the giants: Lillian Ngoyi, Albertina Sisulu, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Rahima Moosa, Helen Joseph and Charlotte Maxeke who stood amongst the heroines who fashioned the rhythm of our liberation, whose footprints still resonate within the corridors of our enemies. I am not ashamed – I am a man born of woman!”

# MADIBA'S LEGACY HONOURED IN MKHONDO

to intensify Governments effort to improve the lives of the people through provision of adequate access roads. A motorist from the township, Mr Vusi Skosana, who uses the road on daily basis, extended a word of appreciation to the good work done by the Department. ***"The road leads to essential social amnesties so we are privileged that the Department chose to assist our municipality in patching pothole,"*** he said.

On the 18th of July 2018 the small town of Amsterdam in Mkhondo Local Municipality experienced a bee-hive of activities as the Deputy President, His Excellency, Mr David Mabuza joined the Province in the celebration of International Mandela Day accompanied by Premier Refilwe Mtshweni and her cabinet. The chilly morning started with a visit to Nganana Secondary School where the dignitaries donated a number of items including school uniform and laptops. Some of these items also went to Mlilo Combined, Ndawonye Primary and Ndlela Secondary schools.

An excited eight years old beneficiary, Mxolisi Mhlongo, commended the good work done by the Mpumalanga Provincial Government.

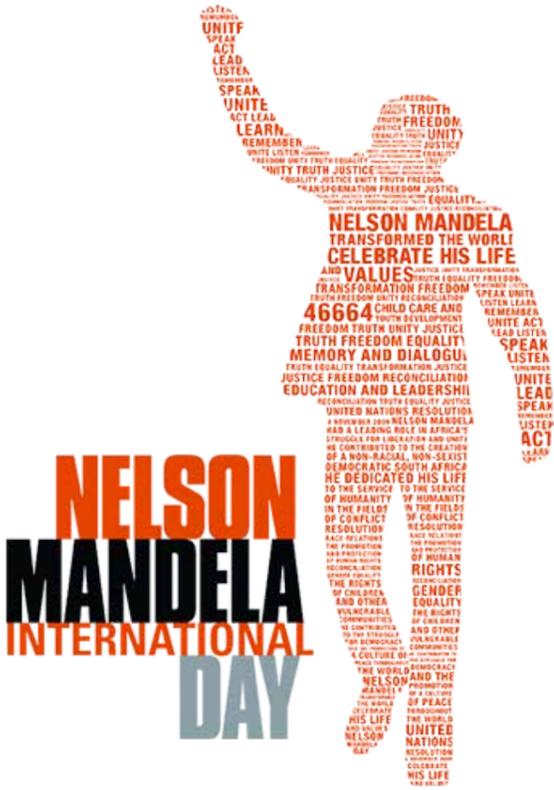
***"We truly appreciate the work that our Government has done. The spirit of Madiba lives on,"*** said little Mxolisi.

After the visit to the school, MEC Gillion Mashego led his entourage to the patching of potholes on the main road that connects



**HARDATWORK:** MEC Gillion Mashego and HOD Sindisiwe Xulu as well as departmental senior officials patching potholes at Amsterdam, KwaThandeka Township as part of Mandela Month celebration.

KwaThandeka with Amsterdam town. The MEC conveyed his gratitude to the staff members for their involvement in the advancement of the legacy of Madiba. He requested staff members that such attitude should be cherished throughout the year in response to the President's call. "The President has given us a mandate to go and serve our people in any way possible. Therefore, I would like to urge everyone of you to join the call and upscale the effort to improve the standard of living. I will join you as well from Bohlabela to Nkangala and from Ehlanzeni to Gert Sibande. The issue of potholes should be addressed once and for all," emphasized MEC Mashego.



**E**ven the extremely cold weather could not deter the enthusiasm and dedication of officials from the Department's Gert Sibande District to go an extra mile as true agents of "Thuma Mina" in lending a hand to the Local Municipality of Mkhondo. Instead, the men and women in orange overalls dedicated their time to patch potholes on the road that connects the township of KwaThandeka with the little town of Amsterdam on 17th of July 2018. The Honourable MEC Gillion Mashego together with Head of Department, Ms Sindisiwe Xulu accompanied by other senior officials, equally endured the chilly weather as they joined the team to repair the 2.8 km road stretch in honour of uTata Madiba's legacy which is celebrated worldwide.

MEC Mashego commended great work done by the District and committed himself

## Communicators spend Mandela Day with the less fortunate

**O**n the 27th of July 2018, the Communications unit within the Department took the opportunity to visit Lihawu village at the outskirts of the City of Mbombela where Mr Joseph Nyaka, his wife and their two children live. The officials visited the family in response to the President's call to serve without boundaries and also in support of Mandela Month. The family was overwhelmed with emotions as the officials delivered the much needed food items, toys and clothing.

The Nyaka family lives in a one room house built out of an old tent canvas that has seen better days. The mother is unemployed but the father works as a brick maker whenever he is called by his neighbours to assist. Whenever he manages to finish at least ten bags of cement, he would earn his wages of about R300 which more often than not is only a once a month luck.

The family was identified by the officials through the assistance of the Department of Social Development. A Social Worker spotted Mrs Nyaka and her daughter in a dumping site picking up food scraps. He tracked them and decided to help after they learned about their plight.

Although in dire condition yet the family considers itself as highly favoured by God. ***"We are very grateful for what you have done for us today, May God richly bless all of you so that you can be able to give to others as well"*** said Mr Nyaka expressing his gratitude to the officials.



**A THOUSAND WAYS TO GIVE:** Nyaka family receiving food parcels and clothes from the Department's Communications team during Mandela Month.

# TRANSPORT INSPECTORS HONOUR THE FORMER STATESMAN'S LEGACY

## Ehlanzeni paves the way to generosity



**SPIRIT OF GIVING:** Ehlanzeni District officials handing over food parcels and clothes to Mabuza family.

The Transport Inspectorate officers at Ehlanzeni District directed their blue lights to Elandshoek farm in Mbombela Local Municipality on the 23rd of July 2018. The officers joined forces with the Mpumalanga Newshorn Newspaper to change the lives of a destitute family caged in extreme poverty. The gesture was a humble intervention in light of Madiba's legacy. The family

of six (6) lives in a delapidated squatter camp house. The officers donated food parcels, blankets and clothes including school uniform. The family is amongst many families who are confined in abject poverty and appalling conditions. It is through such intervention that many are able to see the next day and can only hope for another good Samaritan to pass by and lend a hand.

## Bohlabela rekindles the spirit of giving



**A HAND WITH A HEART:** Bohlabela Transport Inspectorate ready to donate food parcels at Emmanuel's Family Home.

Bohlabela could not miss the opportunity to make a difference. The Inspectors marched to Emmanuel's Family Home in Graskop to donate food parcels inspired by the MEC's call to do more. The centre is a non-profit organization established in 2007 to care for vulnerable

children. About 60 children were accommodated for the past eleven years of which 45 have since been reunited with their biological parents while others have been adopted by relatives. The centre is currently caring for 15 children between the ages of 5 and 17 years old.



## Gert Sibande never to be outshined

As if never to be outshined, the Transport Inspectors from Gert Sibande equally heed the call to "Be the legacy" in line with the Mandela Month theme. The officers visited Mabola Primary School in Wakkerstroom, Dr Pixley Ka Seme Local Municipality where they donated school uniform and also prepared lunch for the little ones.

The officers in Gert Sibande are known for such generosity since they are also the founders of the initiative which has been adopted by all the Districts. On annual basis, the officers identify a worthy cause where they can lend a hand to make a difference in somebody's life. The spirit of Madiba will live on as a testimony that everyone can make a change.

## Nkangala Takes Its Turn

Nkangala Transport Inspectors led by Mr Absalom Jiyani dedicated more than 67 minutes for Madiba by joining hands together to help the needy. The officers bought cement and hired a contractor to plaster the house of Mrs Nonyane who lives at Vezobuhle village in KwaMhlanga. On the 19th of July 2018, the inspectors paid a visit to Mrs Nonyane and donated a bed, two reffridgirators, crockery and blankets.

The Chief Transport Inspector, Mr Lucas Mashiloane said "I am proud of what my colleagues have done today. Such an act of kindness is what the world needs. We all have a role to play and have the power to make a difference in other people's lives."



**BEHIND UNIFORM:** Nkangala Transport Inspectors with jubilant Mrs Nonyane as they offer her donations.

## MEC MASHEGO LENDS A HELPING HAND TO MATSAMO TRIBAL AUTHORITY



**THE HANDYMAN:** MEC Gillion Mashego and the Chairperson of Matsomo Tribal Authority, Mr Moses Matsebula replacing broken window panes.

Leading a delegation from the Department, Tribal Authority and Nkomazi Local Municipality, MEC Mashego spent more than just 67 minutes of his time on Friday the 20th of July 2018 refurbishing the Matsamo Multi-Purpose Centre. The team painted, electrified and fixed flooring and plumbing at the old dilapidated structure of the Matsamo Multi-purpose centre. The centre was closed due to none maintenance and it was severely vandalized. The offices were servicing communities in Schoemansdal, Jeppes Reef, Buffelspruit, Driekoppies as well as Boschfontein.

In his address to the audience MEC Mashego assured the Tribal Authority that the Department will work tirelessly to fix the building and complete the project on the 29th July 2018. **“After completion, we hope that other government offices will relocate back to Matsamo so that communities can get services closer,”** MEC said. He further promised them that the department will demolish the old unused dilapidated structure. The building will be occupied by the Department of Labour, Dept. of Home Affairs, NYDA, Childline and Age in Action.

According to Mr. Moses Mathebula, Chairperson of the Tribal Authority, the structure served as a one stop centre for the community. **“We are grateful that the building has finally been renovated, our communities will not struggle anymore and offices which relocated to other areas will hopefully move back,”** he added.

The local Councillor Mr. Cleopas Motha from Nkomazi Local Municipality thanked the department for the renovations. We are positive that our communities will not struggle anymore, as services will be much closer” he said.

The renovations were part of the Mandela Month programme in which officials dedicate 67 minutes of their time serving the less fortunate. The Mandela Month is a global call by the United Nations for every individual to serve the under privileged.

**“Dr. Nelson Mandela was instrumental in serving the less fortunate, hence today we respond to the message “Thuma Mina” that promotes service delivery to communities. The legacy which the Department leaves today is not from us but it is the Spirit of Nelson Mandela which advocates caring and giving to the less fortunate,”** the sentiments were echoed by MEC Mashego at Matsamo Tribal Authority Offices at Schoemansdal in Nkomazi Local Municipality.

## NKANGALA CONCLUDES MANDELA MONTH CELEBRATION ON A HIGH NOTE

MEC Mashego concluded the Mandela Month celebrations on a high note in Nkangala District on Thursday, the 26th of July 2018. The day was characterized by renovations and donations of school shoes at Ndayi Primary School as well as furniture and appliances at eGodeni Care Centre and Phephelaphi Orphanage Home. The MEC was accompanied by the Head of Department, Ms Sindisiwe Xulu and senior officials from the Department.

MEC Mashego commenced the day by visiting Ndayi Primary School in Kameelport. where he donated 60 pairs of school shoes, of which half (30 pairs) went to Sizabantwana Primary School. The dignitaries proceeded to eGodeni Care Centre in Vaalbank where they conducted renovations which included painting, carpentry and plumbing amongst others. The centre caters for about hundred (100) children with Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy and mental illness. The delegation concluded the day at Phephelaphi Orphanage Home in Siyabuswa by donating furniture and appliances. The Centre Manager, Ms Catherine Kutumela, expressed her appreciation for the donation. **“I am so grateful for the donation, as it will assist us a lot since we had few beds which could not accommodate everyone, so we are very thankful,”** she said.



**SWEET HOME:** MEC Gillion Mashego and HOD Sindisiwe Xulu handing over gifts at Phephelaphi Orphanage Home as part of the month long celebration.

# KANYAMAZANE DELIVERS A NEW SOURCE OF WISDOM



**NEW SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE:** Kanyamazane library to its final stage.

The Department is reaching a milestone in providing state-of-the-art libraries across the Province in a bid to empower the citizens with information. This follows the construction of a new public library in Kanyamazane Township outside city of Mbombela. Approximately R13 million project started in May 2017 and it is set to be completed by September 2018. The work entails amongst others,

the construction of a guard house and fencing. To date, the Department has built twenty one (21) libraries across the province.

The Department as an implementing agent has been working tirelessly in order to ensure that the project is completed on time. The project which has already generated 30 work opportunities shared between

the youth and women has offered SMMEs a new lease of life. This is in line with the creation of job opportunities and economic expansion for the province.

This community previously had a small library which made it difficult to deliver much needed facilities to the community and to promote the progress of knowledge. Hence, the new library was built with the intention of restoring the dignity and experience of reading. The library will not only contain books, but also computers with internet, Wi-Fi connection, newspapers, magazines, government gazettes and etc.

Completion of this library will play a very important role and will not only benefit the community of Kanyamazane but also the surrounding areas such as Tekwane South and Entokozweni. The library will be opened to all community members, poor and rich. Some students find it very difficult to buy books because of high prices, hence they can now borrow books and keep them for weeks.

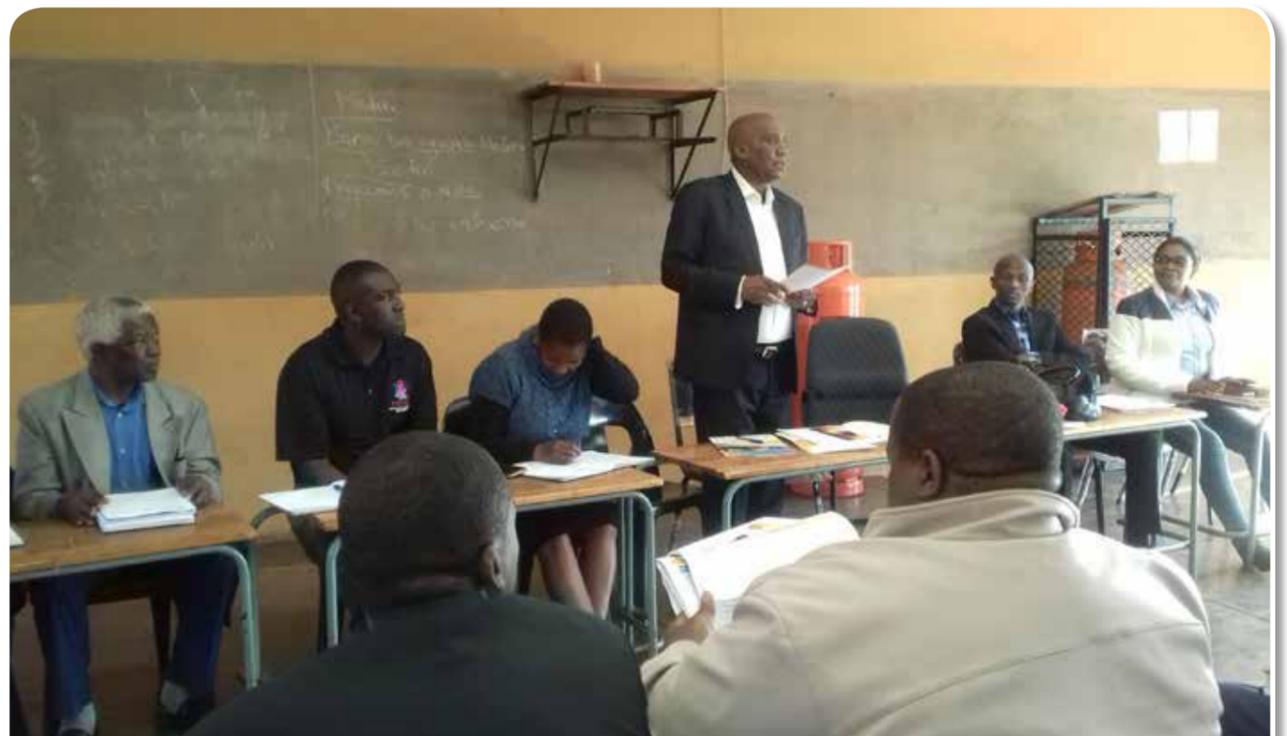
Speaking to Ms Patience Masuku who is a student and resident at Kanyamazane, said that the construction of the library will be of assistance to the community especially students. **“Libraries help to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor by ensuring that knowledge and technology is available to everyone,”** said Masuku.

# PILGRIMS' REST IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Mr Gillion Mashego, has assured the Community of Pilgrims' Rest that lease agreements for businesses have been concluded and operations will soon begin.

**“The Department has awarded a tender to the Pilgrims Pantry, Africa Silk, Scotts House, Jubilee Potters, Golf Club, Ponietskranz Arts & Craft, The Bank House as well as The Vine whilst other businesses are still at the adjudication stage,”** said MEC Mashego. The MEC made the announcement at a community meeting on the 25th of July 2018 at Pilgrim's Rest Primary School where the MEC for Culture, Sports and Recreation, Ms Thandi Shongwe; MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Eric Kholwane as well as the MEC for Human Settlement, Ms Norah Mahlangu were also in attendance.

MEC Mashego promised the Community of Pilgrims Rest that the business of a Bakery will not be awarded to any private entity instead government will empower local people with the necessary skills to run the bakery. His statement was supported by



**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:** MEC Gillion Mashego addressing Pilgrims' Rest's residents during a community meeting.

MEC Eric Kholwane who stressed that the bakery will supply bread to the local hospitals, Royal Hotel and other State-owned institutions. “Tourism attraction is critical for business in the museum town, therefore Government has concluded a study which will boost the economy in the area. Local people stand to benefit through employment opportunities,” elaborated MEC Kholwane.

The Community of Pilgrims Rest was pleased with the report presented by the delegation of the Provincial Cabinet. Ms Ditebogo Sefako, a resident in the area, expressed her appreciation for the positive response to their grievances.

**“This is the first step towards the right direction. We are relieved that eventually something is being done**

**to address challenges facing the historic town,”** she said.



**THE GEM OF LOWVELD:** Pilgrims' Rest iconic buildings ready for business.



# 2018 Women's



# Month Celebration



## Unemployed youth workshop turns the tide on youth empowerment

More than 500 young people around Bushbuckridge Local Municipality flocked at Hluvukani Nazarene Church on the 21st of June 2018 responding to an invitation on Unemployed Youth Workshop convened by the Department. The main objective of the workshop was to empower them with knowledge on entrepreneurial skills, so that they are able to enter the job market.

Stakeholders from both private and public sectors made presentations within their respective fields. Institutions in attendance included amongst others, the Mpumalanga Economic

Growth Agency; Standard Bank; Bushbuckridge Chamber of Business and Commerce; Mpumalanga Wildlife College; South African National Parks, National Youth Development Agency, Mpumalanga Traffic College as well as the Departments of Public Works, Roads and Transport; Health and that of Economic Development and Tourism.

One of the attendees was a 21 year old, Patricia Mathonsi. She expressed her appreciation to presenters who were presented on the day. **"I have gathered valuable information today which will assist me to pursue my dream career with confidence. I will now knock at the correct door in a proper manner so that the employers can realize my potential,"** said Ms Mathonsi.



**OUT AND ABOUT IN NUMBERS:** Youth from Bushbuckridge listening to presentations during Unemployed Youth Workshop.

## MTFOPHENI PRIMARY SCHOOL TO UPLIFT THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION

Education is indeed vital for the development of a society especially under the currently prevailing circumstances of socio-economic challenges facing the global community. Education has the power to change the status core through knowledge empowerment. The newly constructed Mtfopheni Primary School in Pienaar Township at the near the City of Mbombela, represents the hopes and aspirations of the community.

The approximately R51 million project which started in October 2016, is already at its completion stage. Over 40 work opportunities were created during the construction of the school where local community members benefited. The

school features a Library, Laboratory, Computer Centre, Sports Grounds and 24 Classrooms. The project is yet another service delivery milestone of the Department which will play a vital role in improving the culture of learning and teaching for generations to come.

A community member, Ms Lindi Mavuso expressed her excitement about the school. **"We believe that our community will be empowered particularly our children since the other schools are already over populated. We thank the Government for this State-of-the-art facility,"** said Mavuso.

## DEPARTMENT PUTS YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE PEDESTAL OF SUCCESS

One of South Africa's major impediment of social development is the soaring rate of unemployment. As a result, Government has introduced about 23 Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) programmes for skills development, training and education since it is clear that these are vital elements to stimulate the country's economy.

The Department has since absorbed about 54 young people to empower them with new skills so that they are able to compete favourably in the job market. There are however other graduates who have equally been placed in other public and private institutions.

Nkosinathi Sibiyi one of the interns stationed within the Department in Human

Resource Management section said: **"We are so privileged to be part of the Department. The working environment is very welcoming and the staff is friendly. As a result, we find it easy to learn new skills. We are confident that by the end of our internship programme, we would be able to venture into the job market or even pursue our own business ambitions with confidence."**

The 12 month internship programme commenced in May 2018 and will end in April 2019. The core purpose for the internship is to provide graduates with work experience and skills while receiving the much needed financial remuneration.



**THE BRIGHT FUTURE:** Newly constructed Mtfopheni Primary School almost ready to open the doors of education.

## TRANSPORT INSPECTORS JOIN FORCES TO STRENGTHEN ROAD SAFETY

The Department's Transport Inspectorate unit has been hard at work in collaboration with different stakeholders from neighbouring provinces to strengthen traffic and transport regulations. The Inter-Provincial Joint Law Enforcement Operation came as a result of Government's effort to ensure that road users particularly commuters are safe on the road at all times and transport operators comply with applicable traffic laws.

The main operation was held at Volkrust, Mkhondo Local Municipality on the 15th of June 2018, where Mpumalanga and KwaZulu Natal Transport Inspectors and Traffic Officers jointly with the South African Police Services conducted roadside checks. Out of over 300

vehicles that were screened including public transport, thirty two (32) buses and mini buses, were impounded for operating in contravention of the National Land Transport Act No 5 of 2009. Thirty (30) summonses were issued while two (2) individuals were arrested.

Commuters were impressed to see law enforcement in action in a bid to promote road safety. One of the passengers, Mr Senzo Zondo sang praises for such initiative. **"Sometimes we complain because we feel inconvenienced on our journey but our safety is of paramount importance. I salute these men and women in uniform,"** said Zondo.

# Portfolio Committee pleased with progress of infrastructure projects in Bushbuckridge



**TRACKING SERVICE DELIVERY:** Members of the Portfolio Committee inspecting progress on D3969 and D4385 roads between Justicia and Lilydale.

Members of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Transport, Safety and Security in the company of the Head of Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ms Sidsiwe Xulu made a brief visit to various projects in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality on the 20th of June 2018 as part of Taking Legislature to the People (TLP).

During the visit to D3969 and D4385 roads which pass through Justicia and Lilydale as well as the Dual Purpose Library at Merry Pebble Stream, Ms Sidsiwe Xulu indicated that the projects have generated much needed work and business opportunities for local communities. **"We have**

**a total of 10 local sub-contractors who are providing various services such as plant hire and site camp construction and at least 59 local people employed on the project"** explained Ms Xulu referring to the upgrading project of D3969 road which started in July 2016 at a tune of R219 million.

Later on day, the Committee visited the construction site of a Dual Purpose Library at Merry Pebble Stream. The project started in July 2017 and managed to create about twenty one work opportunities for the local people.

Three learners from the nearby school, Manukuse High School expressed their excitement over the construction of the new library. One of the learners, a 17 year old Kevin Hlatshwayo who is in Matric said that the library will provide learners with adequate research material. **"We will soon be able to get books and study guides which will help us with our school assignments. I am hopeful that the Library will boost the pass rate in the area"** said Hlatshwayo.

Members of the Portfolio Committee were pleased with the progress of the two projects and that local contractors were involved in the construction. **"We are pleased that the Department is implementing progressive procurement policies which advocate for empowerment of local businesses, and that service providers are paid on time. However, I want to appeal to the Department to blacklist contractors that fail to perform as they are derailing service delivery and mandate of government"** warned the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Ms Gabisile Shabalala.



**WORK IN PROGRESS:** D3928 road, one of the projects visited during TLP.

# Healthy lifestyle for accelerated service delivery

Staying healthy, fit and strong is one of the most important elements of productivity. As a result, the Department's Employee Health and Wellness (EHW) unit invited staff members from all the districts to take part in

various sporting activities which were hosted in Middelburg, Taaljaard Stadium on the 25th of July 2018.

The Department embraced the initiative with both hands as a way to harness a healthy work force that is well equipped to deal with social as well as professional challenges in order to maximize productivity and boost staff morale. This is key considering the socio-political pressure Government finds itself in.

The Director for Human Resource Utilisation and Capacity Development, Ms Rose Mahlalela who is the driver of the programme highlighted the importance of these activities and their direct impact on service delivery. **"The ultimate goal is to create a conducive work environment that promotes a healthy lifestyle so that we minimize sick leaves**

**and unproductive workforce due to ill-health. Such activities may seem like are putting service delivery on hold but every machinery requires service intervals to remain productive. Hence this is also a time for us to recharge and reflect on our collective responsibilities,"** said Ms Mahlalela.



**FITNESS CLUB:** Departmental officials doing aerobics during the Wellness Day at Middelburg



**READY TO TACKLE:** Nkangala District soccer team getting ready for perspiration.

# Boarding school rolls out work opportunities

Education is the key to success and as a result, it is one of the five key priorities of Government. Hence the Mpumalanga Provincial Government has rolled up its sleeves to tackle the provision of adequate education infrastructure particularly in rural areas in order to promote the culture of teaching and learning.

Thaba Chweu Boarding School is the 5th state-of-the-art boarding school in the Province recently constructed by the Department. The boarding school which is situated in Boshhoek village at the outskirts of Mashishing town in Thaba Chweu Local Municipality commenced in May 2018 at the tune of R377 million and is expected to be completed in May 2019.

The scope of work includes 28 classrooms, ablutions facilities, administration block, library, science and computer laboratories, learners' residences, multi-purpose kitchen-dining area, sports fields, water and sewer treatment plants amongst others.

The project has so far generated about 591 work opportunities while 51 local sub-contractors got a share of the pie. This has been a major economic boost to the local residents which MEC Gillion Mashego applauded as a step towards the right direction.

*"I am pleased with the amount of work that has been accomplished thus far. Most significantly, I am excited that we have managed to create work and business opportunities for our people. As much as we are moving with speed, the final product must be of high quality because that is our main objective,"* said MEC Mashego during a project visit on the 17th of August 2018.



**MUDDY PATH TO THE FUTURE:** Labourers hard at work at Thaba Chweu Boarding School.



**WHEN THE SUN RISES  
WE WORK HARD TO DELIVER**

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**Employee Health and Wellness**  
Sonjoy Office Park  
Riverside Park  
Mbombela, 1200  
Tel: 013 766 8589  
Fax: 086 541 2501

**EPWP, Property Management, Government Motor Transport, Transport Infrastructure**  
16 Hope Street  
Mbombela  
1200  
Tel: 013 766 8594/8502

### DISTRICT OFFICES

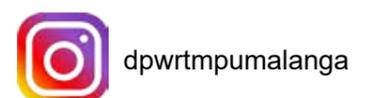
**Bohlabela District**  
Private Bag X1313  
Thulamahashe  
1365  
Tel: 013 773 8300  
Fax: 013 773 0760

**Ehlanzeni District**  
Private Bag X11226  
Mbombela  
1200  
Tel: 013 762 5600  
Fax: 013 753 7221

**Gert Sibande District**  
Private Bag X9034  
Ermelo  
2350  
Tel: 017 801 4000/4600  
Fax: 017 801 4120

**Nkangala District**  
Private Bag X4018  
KwaMhlanga  
1022  
Tel: 013 947 2593  
Fax: 013 947 3779

**Operating Licensing Board**  
Bell Towers Building  
Mbombela, 1200  
Tel: 013 752 4593/7585  
Fax: 013 752 4043



**EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME**