



public works,
roads & transport
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Departmental Newsletter

April - June 2019

Issue 38



Page 03

Driving Towards Safer Roads



Page 04

Thaba Chweu Boarding School Emerges
Above Misty Mountains



Page 05

Acting HOD Guides Public Transport Through
the Eye of the Needle



EDITORIAL COMMENT

The arrival of this episode coincides with the celebration of the world icon and former Statesman, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. His legacy remains a reminder of the struggle for freedom against the injustices of the past. Today, South Africa is flourishing with opportunities yet many are still enduring poverty, unemployment and inequality. As Madiba once said, "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." Indeed these are the same values that underpin the mandate of "The Handyman of the State" under the capable leadership of the Honourable MEC, Mr GP Mashego and the Acting Head of Department, Ms SP Xulu.

The transition from "Thuma Mina" to "Khawuleza" has been the driving force behind the Department's service delivery agenda since the beginning of the sixth term of administration. Now that the Honourable Premier, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane has officially outlined the marching orders, the tide has turned. All hands on deck.

This installment pages through the snippets of service delivery from infrastructure provision to transport operations, tracking the trail of achievements and challenges encountered along the way from the highveld to the lowveld of this beautiful Province adorned with fauna and flora. The fight against corruption, poor service delivery and various social ills is gaining momentum. Unfortunately, women and youth bear the brunt of the affliction as the most affected group both economically and socially. However, the Department is making inroads to change the narrative.

EDITOR

Mxolisi Cyril Dlamini

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Bonginkosi Dlamini
Josia Magagula

REPORTERS

Bongani Dhlamini
Dimakatso Matentshi
Portia Mnisi
Nothando Ndlovu
Benika Khambele
Rachel Nkosi
Simphiwe Mkhabela
Zinhle Ndlovu

COMMENTS

Should you wish to comment on this newsletter or share your views with the readers of @Work, you can email your views or comments to:

CommunicationDpwr@mpg.gov.za
Tel: 013 766 8231

Visit our website
dpwr.mpg.gov.za

DISCLAIMER

Although care has been taken to verify the accuracy of information, the editorial team extends sincere apology for any inconsistencies that may occur.

TURNING THE TIDE ON TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY



LAYING THE FOUNDATION: Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane and MEC Gillion Mashego, Gert Sibande District Executive Mayor, Cllr Muzi Chirwa, Mkhondo Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Vusi Motha together with Her Majesty, Chief Hlatswayo and Inkosi Yende.



KEYNOTE: Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane addressing Klipwal community members during the sod-turning ceremony.

Just a day before Freedom Day, Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane and MEC Gillion Mashego led a delegation of dignitaries to Mkhondo Local Municipality, accompanied by the Traditional Leadership and the Executive Mayors of Mkhondo Local and Gert Sibande District municipalities, Cllrs Vusi Motha and Muzi Chirwa respectively to conduct a sod turning ceremony for the rehabilitation of Klipwal road.

A fully packed marquee defined the high spirit of excitement exhibited by community members who came in

numbers to witness the sod turning ceremony of the long awaited rehabilitation of D2486 road from N2 to Klipwal in Mkhondo Local Municipality.

The approximately R88 million project is expected to create over 100 work opportunities for the locals. In the absence of any anticipated delays, the project is planned for a period of 13 months. The scope of work includes construction of base and asphalt surfaces, removal and replacement of existing culvert pipes, installation of concrete kerbs, road markings and installation of

road signage.

Local residents could not hide their excitement over the project which will not only improve access to social amenities but comes with a handful work and business opportunities. The local ward councilor and resident of Klipwal village, Cllr Manana welcomed government's intervention.

"This project will provide better and safe mobility for our rural community who depends on transport infrastructure to access services and community facilities. And mostly critical, to address the poverty challenge as it aims to appoint local people, we could not be happier to witness such an act of service delivery,"

said Cllr Manana.

ROAD SAFETY, A COLLABORATED EFFORT

Transport Inspectors, Traffic Officers and SAPS members were on the ground sweeping the streets clean to ensure a safer Easter Season during a massive joint-operation held in Standerton along the R23 road in Lekwa Local Municipality on the 17th of April 2019 forming part of many other operations that were running throughout the Province.

MEC Mashego joined the operation in Standerton to interact with road users about various issues. He reiterated his message on public transport safety, urging both passengers and drivers to exercise patience on the road. He warned passengers and drivers not to interfere with the work of the law enforcement officers simply because they are in a

hurry. ***"It is better to be late than not to arrive at all,"*** warned MEC.

Furthermore, he reminded public transport operators the importance of applying for temporary permits if they would be transporting the public outside their designated routes.

The Department managed to conduct about 322 roadside checks whereby over 1120 summons were issued for non-compliance with traffic and transport regulations. About 1114 vehicles were impounded and fined an amount between R2000 and R2 500. Offences included overloading, operating without permits and unroadworthy vehicles amongst others.



SIGNED & SEALED: Well, the MEC had to yield to their demands for autograph.

DRIVING TOWARDS SAFER ROADS



SAFETY FIRST: MEC Gillion Mashego and Mr Siyakhula Khoza during the handover of the new vehicles.



IN WITH THE NEW: New Transport Inspectorate vehicles.

The rainy condition could not dampen the mood of the Transport Inspectorate officials at Stinkhout Cost Centre, in the City of Mbombela, where MEC Gillion Mashego handed over nine brand new vehicles amounting to R2.2 million on 03 April 2019. This is due to escalating road fatalities encountered on daily basis especially on public transport hence the MEC resorted to beef up the Department's Transport Inspectorate unit with the vehicles. This will assist intensify law enforcement operations in the interest of ensuring safety on the road for all road users.

MEC Mashego applauded the work performed by Transport Inspectors in ensuring full compliance with transport regulations. "The new vehicles will ensure that we are visible on the road. However, our focus must not only be on quantity but quality of vehicles in order to adequately conduct our operations. We should rather invest more on new vehicles than to waste money maintaining

irreparable ones. Furthermore, I challenge you to change the narrative that says law enforcement officers are corrupt. We can achieve this by first taking care of state resources such as these vehicles and upscale our effort to make our roads safer for all road users. Our operations must also be intensified throughout the year, not only during the Festive and Easter seasons," emphasized MEC.

The new vehicles will be distributed amongst the four districts and would go a long way in ensuring safety on public transport. Mr Mojalefa Tsotetsi, Transport Inspectorate Director, appreciated the efforts done by the MEC, ***"We are sincerely grateful for what the Honourable MEC has done. These vehicles will help us cover other areas which were becoming impossible to reach due to insufficient fleet,"*** said Mr Tsotetsi.

Swift response yields positive results

When duty calls, there is no time to slumber but to embrace the opportunity and make a difference in somebody's life. At least that is the commitment MEC Mashego has made ever since he took office. As a result, immediately it was reported that were scholar transport challenges in Thaba Chweu and Bushbuckridge local municipalities early in June 2019, the MEC promptly attended to the affected areas to investigate the matter. It was reported that the service provider had challenges refueling the buses resulting on failure to transport learners. In the interest of ensuring that learners attend school without further disruptions, the Department was able to put measures in place to address the matter with any further delay.



SAFETY FIRST: Transport Inspectors checking one of the buses.



ALL IS WELL: MEC Mashego interacting with learners to listen to their concerns.

MKHONDO BOARDING SCHOOL BREAKS THE GROUND

Ezimbhidleni, a rural area just few kilometres outside Mkhondo is soon to own a new state-of-the-art boarding school which will accommodate more than ten farm schools around the area including primary and secondary school learners. This takes the Province a step ahead of the President's



BRIGHT FUTURE: MEC Gillion Mashego, Executive Mayor, Cllr Motha as well as Her Majesty, Chief Hlatshwayo conducting a site visit.

five point priorities announced during the State of the Nation Address where education tops the list.

The more than R473 million facility is expected to be operational within the next 18 months and set to address various challenges currently experienced by learners in school farms must due to lack of proper academic facilities such as libraries, computer and science laboratories.

Early March 2019, MEC Gillion Mashego accompanied by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Motha as well as Her Majesty, Chief Hlatshwayo conducted a site visit to monitor progress on the project.

Thaba Chweu Boarding School Emerges Above Misty Mountains



WORK IN PROGRESS: Nearly complete Thaba Chweu Boarding School.

Members of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Transport, Safety and Security in the company of the Deputy Director General: Public Infrastructure, Mr Charles Morolo made a brief visit to the construction site of the nearly complete Thaba Chweu Boarding School situated at the outskirts of Mashishing in Boshhoek at Thaba Chweu Local Municipality on Tuesday, 09 April 2019. The visit forms part of Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) programme championed by the Legislature to monitor service delivery on the ground.

During the visit the Deputy Director General, Mr Charles Morolo assured the Members of the Committee that local people and businesses are benefiting immensely from the construction of the Boarding School. "Since the inception of the project, over 340 work opportunities have been created for the locals who also benefited from various business opportunities through sub-contracting and material supply" he explained.

Members of the Portfolio Committee were pleased with the progress of the project and that local contractors were involved in the construction. **"We are pleased that the Department is adhering to policies of the ruling party which advocates empowerment of local businesses and that service providers are paid on time"**, said the former Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Ms Gabisile Shabalala

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government has invested over R380 million for the construction of this state-of-the-art facility which commenced in May 2018 and is expected to open its doors in August 2019. The boarding school will accommodate learners from several farm schools in Thaba Chweu with the aim of upgrading the standard of education. The facility will have 28 Classrooms, an Administration Block, Science and Computer Laboratories, Kitchen and Dining Block, Library, Boys and Girls Dormitories and other Support Services.

MEC'S VISITS SANITATION PROJECTS IN A BID TO RESTORE DIGNITY & HYGIENE

The Honourable MEC, Mr Gillion Mashego embraced the cold morning breeze of Gert Sibande District on the 2nd of July 2019, visiting sanitation projects in various local municipalities to monitor progress and address challenges.

The MEC indicated that he intends to deal heavily with poor infrastructure delivery throughout the Province. He called upon Departmental officials to pull up their socks in response to the *Khawuleza* programme which seeks to fast-track service delivery. In one of the schools that the MEC visited, Vukekuseni Primary School, in Lekwa Local Municipality where the Department is building 15 enviro-loo ablution facilities, the labourers registered their concerns that while the project is progressing according to schedule, the contractor does not process wages on time.

In response, the MEC indicated that such issues cannot be left unchallenged. **"I cannot allow the exploitation of our**

people. I want this matter to be addressed urgently. If this is true and the contractor does not shape up then they must shift out," stated MEC addressing Departmental officials.

The MEC also visited Bashele Primary School in Ermelo where he met with the School Governing Body (SGB) to address similar challenges in order to restore the dignity of learners and improve hygiene. The MEC discovered that the school is very old and the ablution facilities are dysfunctional. The Department has however already appointed a contractor to start with the construction of the new ablution block while providing mobile toilets. **"I will engage the Department of Education to look into the overall condition of the school so that we can determine the next course of action,"** alluded MEC Mashego.



PRIORITIZING HYGIENE: Sanitation project in progress at Vukekuseni Primary School in Lekwa Local Municipality.

GUIDING PUBLIC TRANSPORT THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE



ENGAGEMENT: Acting HOD, Ms Sindisiwe Xulu and Mr Rudzani Gadisi during the Bus Operators meeting.

During the current financial year, the Department will spend approximately R670 million to subsidize over 400 000 commuters in Mpumalanga who are using buses on daily basis. The six contracted bus operators which include Buscor, Putco, Mega Bus and Great North Transport, amongst others recently held a meeting with the Department led by the Acting Head, Ms Sindisiwe Xulu to review performance, tackle challenges and engage on future plans.

Issues such as funding, public transport integration and passenger safety topped the discussions. The convocation forms part of strategic and operational engagements the Department holds regularly with the bus operators enhance service delivery. The Acting HOD emphasized that the quality of

service and safety of passengers is of paramount importance. The recent past fatal bus accidents involving Buscor and Putco remain a yardstick in which public transport safety is measured however the Department together with the bus operators are adamant to change the status quo hence such accidents involving buses are few and far apart.

“Public transport is the catalyst of socio-economic development hence it is critical that Government and bus operators work together to develop this industry. Thousands of commuters in our Province are dependent on this mode of transport. Therefore, safety is of paramount importance and cannot be compromised,” said Ms Xulu.

Taxi industry seeks divine intervention to combat road fatalities

The Mpumalanga Taxi Council, Government and religious community gathered forces at Kanyamazane township outside the City of Mbombela on the 4th of July 2019 to petition in prayer against taxi violence, road carnage and youth substance abuse amongst others. The annual ceremony coordinated by the Taxi Council was graced by various dignitaries including the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Honourable Gillion Mashego, the Chairperson of Mpumalanga Taxi Council, Mr Fanyana Sibanyoni as well as Pastor and radio personality, Pastor Negros Manna amongst others.

The occasion which started with a prayer session on Kamagugu road at one of the notorious accident spots where many lives have been lost, proceed to Kanyamazane stadium where MEC Mashego delivered a keynote address. The MEC urged the gathering to unite behind a common vision to combat social ills and seek divine intervention. ***“We should not be ashamed to surrender our human devises to God that we may gain a new perspective of our circumstances from Heaven’s point of view... There is no law neither policy nor strategy that can restore a depleted moral conscience unless one returns to God for spiritual revival. Today we acknowledge that our strength and wisdom are limited but God is the answer,”*** said MEC Mashego.

The Chairperson of Mpumalanga Taxi Council, Mr Fanyana Sibanyoni indicated that this is the third year since the annual prayer

ceremony was introduced in 2017. He highlighted that the purpose of the prayer is to restore moral principles and combat social ills. ***“We are members of the community first before we are taxi owners therefore when our society is facing challenges such as poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, road fatalities and poor service delivery, we are all affected. We are tired of taxi violence which has left widows and orphans. However, we believe that God is the answer,”*** elaborated Mr Sibanyoni.



ENTOURAGE: MEC Mashego with some of the dignitaries who attended the prayer ceremony organized by Mpumalanga Taxi Council.



SPIRIT OF PRAISE: AboMama bomkhuleko (women of payer) taking centre stage to seek divine intervention.

TRACKING THE TRAIL OF "THE HAND





DYMAN OF THE STATE" IN PICTURES



VERENA'S R25 ROAD RESTORES HOPE

Just over a year ago, 20 learners lost their lives when their vehicle collided with a truck on the R25 Road in Verena, as a result the former Premier committed to reconstruct the road after many fatalities occurred. The depilated road had many challenges that included constant congestion as resulting from potholes and clogged-up single lane road running from Gauteng Border to Verena, and consequently, another single lane for traffic coming from the opposite direction in Limpopo Border.

As part of Department of Public Works, Road and Transport's commitment to invest in infrastructure that facilitates economic activity and leads to job creation, on the 5th of April 2019, MEC Gillion Mashego conducted a Sod-turning Ceremony to officially launch the rehabilitation of the road jointly with the Office of the Premier. The MEC and his entourage arrived at the accident scene spot on R25 to plant a tree next to the spot in remembrance of the deceased.

Close to R 141.4 million will be spent to rehabilitate approximately 13 kilometres of the road. The aim is to have the road fully operational before the end of October



SYMBOL OF HOPE: MEC GP Mashego and Cllr N Mtshweni Executive Mayor of Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Planting new hope to the community of Verena.

2020. It is anticipated that a total amount of R 30 million will be spent on Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMME) who are suppliers and subcontractors contracted which will result in 80 people being employed. The local community of Thembisile Hani Municipality will form the significant workforce that will work on the project.

"This is not an ordinary road construction project but a major rehabilitation one. By restoring the road to a useable state eliminating all potential risk and danger to road users and vehicles as well as keeping operation costs of the road and vehicles to a minimum and enhancing comfort. It was also designed to create employment and training opportunities for local communities and SMMEs", said Mr SA Mbatha, the Nkangala District Head.

He further added that the department was pleased that the intervention will improved safety and provide access to a developing business node in the area.

DEPARTMENT JOINS HANDS WITH MUNICIPALITIES TO PAVE THE FUTURE



BETTER ACCES ROAD: That links the ring road of Tonga Hospital and D2948.

The rural community of Tonga in Nkomazi Local Municipality has gained great benefits from the Municipal Support Programme implemented by the Department recently. The programme which is coordinated by the Department focuses mostly on roads maintenance and other basic services, aimed at assisting distressed municipalities towards the fulfilment of their mandate.

The 1.2 km stretch road, that links the ring road of Tonga Hospital and D2948, is being upgraded into pavement road from a gravel road. The upgraded road will reduce traffic congestion and also ensure a smooth traffic flow to Tonga Hospital and local amenities. The construction work started in April 2019 and is expected

completion in September 2019. Mr Siphso Khoza, local resident, said that it has been difficult for the public and for the emergency vehicles like ambulances to gain access to the hospital during rainy seasons. ***"I thank the Department for the good work done. The state of the road was unbearable"***, said Khoza.

Meanwhile the Department also completed the grading and re-gravelling of access roads at Magudu and Mgobodzi villages which started in April 2019. The intervention does not suspend the general operations of municipalities but rather complement their efforts. Municipalities are still be expected to continue with their maintenance programmes.

DUSTY ROAD FROM BUYISONTO TO THULAMASHASHE UNDER REHABILITATION



ROAD CONSTRUCTION: Phase two underway from Thulamahashe to Buyisonto.

Road D4394 from Buyisonto to Thulamahashe at Bushbuckridge Local Municipality under Bohlabela District is under rehabilitation. One of the major roles of the government is to give service delivery to the community that will improve people's lives. The core functions of the Department is to upgrade access roads in the rural areas within the Province as part of the service delivery.

The community of Buyisonto to Thulamahashe has benefited from one of the biggest capital projects to construct a 10km road that will cost more than R99 million. The project started in July 2017 and it is expected to be complete by September 2019.

This project has change people lives

from Thulamahashe and surrounding arrears as well as creating job opportunities for the community so that they can be able to put bread on the table. More than 39 job opportunities were created the Youth and Women benefiting more from the project

One of the community members Ms Angel Mogane who was born and raised at Thumamahashe thanked the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport and the entire government with the project ***"we have been complaining about this road since the new government took place and we are excited that at long last we are going to get a tar road,"*** said Ms Mokoena.

MUNICIPAL SUPPORT ENHANCES SERVICE DELIVERY



Promoting Better Service Delivery: Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane and MEC Gillion Mashego together with DDG Morolo and Councillors.

Assisting hand to Msukaligwa Local Municipality was extended by the Department through its Municipal Support Programme which is aimed at assisting distressed municipalities with roads maintenance and other basic services.

The act of advancing service delivery was seen during the month of April 2019, where Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane together with MEC

Gillion Mashego officially handed over the new rehabilitated Ennis and Naude streets to the community of Msukaligwa accompanied by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Buti Mkhali and other dignitaries.

About R17 Million has been invested into the month-long rehabilitation of the Ennis and Naude streets and managed to create 40 work opportunities for the locals.

BRIDGE BRINGS RELIEF TO FARMING COMMUNITY



INTACT CROSSING: MEC Gillion Mashego with workers at Kliepdrift during a site visit.

The community of Kliepdrift near Amersfoort under the Gert Sibande District Municipality is yet to benefit from the Department intervention of culvert bridge construction. It is a small intervention with a big difference as community members will now enjoy easy access to various social amenities which was previously difficult especially during rainy season since the stream would pose a great risk to residents particularly learners.

The more than R3 million project is already benefitting the locals through work opportunities. Ten residents including youth and women are now able

to put bread on the table. This is a significant top up project in addition to the service that the Government has brought to the farming community which include scholar transport amongst others.

MEC Gillion Mashego conducted a site visit to the community of Kliepdrift in a bid to monitor progress on the project.

On his visit, MEC emphasized that provision of basic services is not a favour but a human right. He indicated that the Department will upscale its effort to ensure that the ideals of the Freedom Charter are not only enshrined on paper but are guiding principle of service delivery.

SCHOLAR TRANSPORT OPERATORS UNDER MICROSCOPE

It was not business as usual for scholar transport operators in Gert Sibande District Municipality when the Department summoned them for a line verification from the 29th of April to the 3rd of May 2019.

Scholar Transport is a vital component of academic excellence especially in rural areas where learners travel long distances to access education. To ensure that this fundamental human right is upheld, MEC Mashego and his team of Transport Inspectors and Scholar Transport officials conducted a massive verification.

The purpose of the verification was to ensure that scholar transport operators adhere to their contractual obligations, meaning they have the necessary capacity and resources to deliver the service as agreed so that learners are not disadvantaged.

Speaking to officials and operators, the MEC emphasized that this is not a “PR” exercise but Government’s effort to ensure service delivery.

“Amongst other priorities, the safety of our learners cannot be compromised therefore this operation should not be construed as a PR exercise,”

stated MEC when he visited on the operations at Manzana on Friday, the 3rd of May 2019.



LEARNERS SAFETY A PRIORITY: Scholar transport inspection.

MPUMALANGA GOVERNMENT TO PRIORITIZE JOB CREATION – SAYS PREMIER

Citizens of the Province braved the cold windy weather to attend the highly anticipated Inauguration of the Premier on Monday, 27 May 2019 at Ackerville stadium, Emalahleni. The Ackerville stadium was abuzz with activities as members of the public ululated and danced to celebrate the official inauguration of the Honourable Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane.

The Honourable Premier was officially sworn in by Justice Francis Legodi before delivering her keynote address where she outlined her administration's priorities in fighting the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality

“We will create a conducive environment for investors, so that small businesses especially those owned by women and youth are able to enter the economy thus creating work opportunities,” she said. She further urged municipalities to establish youth desk so that unemployed youth can be recruited into various government employment initiatives.



READY TO SERVE: Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane during the inauguration ceremony being sworn in by Justice Francis Legodi.

Ms Dudu Dladu from Kwaggafontein traveled 80 km to express her excitement over the appointment of Ms Mtshweni-Tsipane who is originally from Thembisile Hani Local Municipality. “We are proud of her appointment and hope she will advocate the

plight of people living in the rural areas, who do not have water, housing and employment” she stressed. The day was characterized by the parading of the security services as well as the release of doves to symbolize the restoration of peace.

Khawuleza: Preparing the troops for combat

Soon after taking over the reins as the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport in the sixth administration, MEC Mashego embarked on a roadshow throughout the Province to engage with staff members on critical service delivery issues. The purpose of this roadshow was to assess the Department's human resources capacity to respond to service delivery challenges and to spell out the MEC's vision to build a competent workforce.

The MEC's first stop after meeting with Head Office officials was Ermelo, on Tuesday, the 4th of June 2019 where all Gert Sibande District staff members converged. He later dashed to KwaMhlanga to meet Nkangala District staff for the same purpose.

“I am on a fact finding mission

to assess the nature and cause of challenges behind service delivery. I believe that before you go to war, you must first assess your strength whether you are adequately equipped for combat. Likewise, South Africa is facing a war of unemployment, poverty and inequality which unless we are united in purpose, we will never win. However, together we must set the bar in which the culture of excellence will be engraved in our hearts and reflected through our performance. Understanding issues on the ground is the key ingredient for progressive policy making,” explained the MEC while addressing departmental staff members.



MARCHING ORDERS: MEC Mashego, Acting HOD Xulu, Ehlanzeni District Head, Mr Nkambule and HRMD Director, Ms Mahlalela during engagement with staff members in Head Office.



TAKING NOTE: Gert Sibande District staff members.



ALL EARS: Sabie Cost Centre, Lydenburg and Mwatibidi staff members.

CAREER EXPO FOR MATHS AND SCIENCE LEARNERS

The National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure hosted a Career Expo for Mathematics and Science learners on Tuesday, the 9th of April 2019 at Thomas Nhlabathi High School in Secunda at Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. More than one thousands five hundred (1500) learners from various schools around the area converged in the early hours of the morning to gain insight on career opportunities existing within the built environment.

According to the Deputy-Director General for Professional Services, Ms Nyeleti Makhubela well performing schools with learner achievement of 60% and above in Mathematics and Science stand a chance to benefit from the Public Works School Programme. **“Learners will be awarded bursaries to study towards careers in engineering”** she explained. One of the beneficiaries from Thomas Nhlabathi High School, Ms Thobile Mthombeni said that being part of the

programme will open opportunities for her future career. **“I want to study civil engineering after completing my matric, so that I could get employment afterwards”** she added. Exhibitors in both the private and public sectors shared information related to careers within their respective institutions.

In 2013 the National Department of Public Works initiated the Public Work's School Programme as part of the built environment skill pipeline intervention developed by the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) to create a pool of learners to access the built environment qualifications at the Universities. Furthermore, to build a solid foundation for the learners to adjust to the demand of built environment qualifications at institutions. Delegates from the National Department of Public Works, the Provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, Department of Education as well as the Lekwa Local Municipality were part of the gathering.



CHOISING THE RIGHT CAREER: Delegates from the National Department of Public Works, the Provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport and the Department of Education.

RESTORING THE DIGNITY OF YOUNG GIRLS



PUTING A SMILE ON A GIRLS FACE: Ndlela Secondary School girls receiving sanitary pads.

The Department joined other government department for an exhibition, when the Ministry of Women and Children in the Office of the Presidency brought back the dignity of school girls by launching the National Sanitary Dignity programme. The event was held at Piet Retief Rugby Stadium on Thursday the 28th of February 2019. Former Minister for Women and Children, Ms Bathabile Dlamini together with the Mpumalanga Premier, Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane gave away packs of pads to learners from various schools in the province.

According to Premier Mtshweni, the provincial government through the Department of Social Department will set aside a budget to spearhead the programme. **“We will support our school girls by ensuring that they remain at school**

even during their menstrual cycles” she said. Former Minister Bathabile said that her office plans to roll out the initiative to prisons, place of safety and other key institutions.

One of the recipient of the sanitary pack is a fifteen year old learner from Ndlela Secondary School, Ms Nokuthula Masango, who expressed her appreciation to the Minister. **“I thank government for providing us with free pads, because I struggled a lot during my menstrual cycle. I can't concentrate on my studies and sometimes I don't come to school”** she added.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE TACKLES YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport is on track in its effort to create the much needed job opportunities and provision of skills for unemployed youth. This was evident when unemployed youth converged in various municipalities to attend the National Youth Service briefing sessions. Kick started on the 20th until 24th of May 2019 within the seventeen (17) municipality.

The National Youth Service unit has been working around the clock to recruit a total of 350 unemployed youth to participate in the twelve month(12) artisanship skills training programme for 2019/20 financial year. According to the project co-ordinator Ms Linda Silinda, eligible participants will be placed within the four district maintaining government buildings. **“They will acquire various skills such as**



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT: Unemployed youth ,attending The National Youth Service briefing sessions.

bricklaying, plastering, tilling, plumbing etc during the process” she added. She further stressed that participants will form co-operatives as part of the exit strategy.

A twenty seven (27) year old Elizabeth Mashego from Simile township voiced her concerns on the high unemployment in her area. **“Most young people in my community are unemployed, as a result they resort to drug abuse and crime, but since government promised to create jobs I am positive that the situation might change”** she added.



MEC MASHEGO TACKLES YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT HEAD-ON

MEC Mashego has called for tangible outcomes after the Department hosted a successful Unemployed Youth Open Day event in Siyabuswa, Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality on the 25th of June 2019 where over 350 unemployed youth attended.

Various stakeholders including

the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Transport as well as Construction Education and Training Authorities (TETA and CETA) and the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure amongst others, graced the occasion where they explained in-depth about various opportunities they have in store for young people.



YOUTH ON BOARD: Unemployed youth converged at Ga-phaahla community Hall.



LIVE ON AIR: MEC Gillion Mashego engaging with the public live on air during Unemployed Youth Open Day.

The Honourable MEC urged the stakeholders to deliver tangible results that will empower the youth instead of mere information that they can even access themselves through the Internet. ***"This is not a talk shop otherwise I would not be here. I want the Department and stakeholders to produce tangible results that will unleash the potential of young people,"*** stated MEC Mashego.

A similar session which was held at Hluvukani village in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality last year which was attended by over 250 young people, yielded positive results since over 130 youth took advantage of opportunities presented by various stakeholders.

On the same breath, the Department is already finalizing recruitment of 350 young people in the Province under the National Youth Service (NYS) programme where they will be trained in various artisan fields while getting a stipend to put bread on the table.

CONTACT DETAILS

HEAD OFFICE

Corporate Services, Strategic Planning & Finance

No.7 Government Boulevard,
Riverside Park, Ext. 2
Mbombela, 1200
Tel: 013 766 6696
Fax: 013 766 8471

Building Infrastructure, Transport Management & Transport Operations

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

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



dpwrt.mpg.gov.za



CommunicationDpwrt
@mpg.gov.za



Mpumalanga Department of
Public Works, Roads
and Transport



dpwrtmpumalanga



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME