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# EDITORIAL COMMENT

Signed, sealed and delivered, that is how we wrap up the second quarter of the current financial year. The festive season mood is already serenading Christmas carols, ushering in a beehive of celebrations. During this season, one cannot over emphasize the road safety message as many would be traveling to various destinations throughout the country. The Department together with other role players would also be on the road ensuring that everyone arrives alive.

But first, we take a glance at our journey of service delivery throughout the four corners of *The Place of the Rising Sun* for the past couple of months. This episode tracks the footsteps of the Department from the tabling of the budget vote to the celebration of Madiba's legacy and everything in between. MEC Gillion Mashego and the Acting HOD, Ms Sindisiwe Xulu have been at the forefront of gender equality, championing the charge against gender based violence.

On the other hand, the *Handyman of the State* has been galloping towards the acceleration of economic transformation within transport and built environment sectors in order to combat the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality through the provision of work and business opportunities as well as critical public amenities. Hopefully, even learners will be motivated to pursue career opportunities within these fields.

On that note, the Department wishes the Class of 2019 great success on their annual exams pursuant to *A Better Life For All*. As Madiba once said, "No country can really develop unless its citizens are educated."

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# CABINET LEADS THE CHARGE AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



**NOT IN MY NAME:** Premier Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane together with members of her Cabinet, MECs Gillion Mashego, Sasekani Manzini, Vusi Shongwe and Norah Mahlangu joined by the community of Moloto.

**“Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression.”** These words echoed by Dr. Nelson Mandela remain symbolic of the struggle he fought for which was to liberate all South Africans regardless of race, gender or class. Over the past few months, South Africa has been making headlines of gruesome murder of women such as Uyinene Mrwetyana for no apparent reason.

Premier Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane together with her Cabinet joined the community of Moloto on the 26th of September 2019 to denounce the prevailing gender based violence. The Walk Against Gender Based Violence was joined by various community formations including religious denominations. Men took advantage of the opportunity to demonstrate their support and pledged allegiance to the constitutional imperatives of justice and freedom for all. MEC Vusi Shongwe delivered a keynote address on behalf of Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane where he encouraged women to speak out against abuse. On the same breath, he urged men to love, respect and protect women.

In one of his community engagements, MEC Gillion Mashego urged men to stand up against the scourge of violence lest they are counted amongst the perpetrators. “One cannot deny the severity of the devastation that gender based violence has inflicted against our sovereignty and in the process undermined the principles of our Freedom Charter. Our Government has taken a conscious position that women must enjoy equal rights and opportunities as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic. The recent spate of violent attacks on women are a threat to our liberation and any threat to our liberation amounts to treason. To condemn is not enough but men must take a stand and act against such tendencies otherwise their silence gives permission to perpetrators,” elaborated MEC Mashego.



**MUSIC FOR THE SOUL:** Musician Siphosiphiso Makhabane performing during the walk against gender based violence.



# R5.4 BILLION TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF MPUMALANGA PEOPLE



**PLANNING AHEAD:** Departmental Senior Management joined by Acting Director-General, Mr KM Mohlasedi to give moral support to MEC GP Mashego ahead of the tabling of 2019/20 Policy and Budget Vote of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in Legislature.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport presented a budget of R5.4 billion during the tabling of the budget votes at the Legislature in July 2019. The budget has seen a marginal increase of about 2.9% year on year, a far cry given the quantum of work faced by the Department.

***“The Department has a significant role to play in realizing the ambition to grow the Province. We are indeed mindful that our installment towards the eradication of poverty, unemployment and inequality is insufficient to cover the interests and plight of our people, and adequately address the historical injustice and discrimination accumulated over the past hundred years. However, we are determined that the rising sun will not set before we have settled our account in full,”*** elaborated MEC Mashego during the presentation.

The MEC stressed a need for stronger partnerships and collaboration between all stakeholders to push back the frontiers of poverty, which he described as the shackle of our modern age.

The budget was tabled amidst gloomy economic position which calls for doing more with less.

The MEC highlighted challenges such as increasing staff turnover in the infrastructure environment and that this remained impediments to effective service delivery. Government has used Infrastructure as an economic catalyst in the face of low global economic growth. To mitigate this challenge, the department has proactively partnered with the Council for Built Environment (CBE) to provide a structured mentorship/candidacy programme aimed at accelerating the professional registration of technical staff. This collaborative effort has already begun to bear fruit as two employees within the building infrastructure have obtained their professional registration. Another key intervention which is also bearing progress is the Young Professionals Programme which is aimed at inspiring a new generation of young people to become registered professionals.

Transport infrastructure got a lion's share of R2,5 billion, Transport operations R1.3 billion, Public Works Infrastructure got R1,2 billion with administration and community based programme netting R260 million and R86 million respectively.

“Looking ahead to 2019/20, my Department has a significant role to play in realizing the ambition to ‘Grow Mpumalanga Together’, as we implement our plans, we look forward to continuing our interaction with the people of Mpumalanga, client departments and the private sector to help us craft tactics and activities that will best achieve our socio-economic objectives,” concluded MEC Mashego.



**SOCIAL AMENITIES:** As the custodian of public infrastructure, R1.2 billion will assist in the implementation of various building projects.



**SAFETY FIRST:** To boost transport operations including law enforcement, the Department has set aside R1.3 billion.



**ECONOMIC HEARTBEAT:** Transport Infrastructure takes the largest share of the pie amounting to R2.5 billion to fix provincial roads.



# ALL EVOKES THE SPIRIT OF UBUNTU

## Madiba's legacy paddles to Shobiyane

On the 22nd of July 2019 MEC GP Mashego donated 100 Shova Kalula Bicycles to Shobiyana Secondary School in Acornhoek Circuit under Bohlabela District. The event was graced by Mnisi Traditional Authority and the School Governing Body.

The Shova Kalula programme was introduced as part of the Mpumalanga Rural Transport Strategy. The strategy is meant to improve mobility and accessibility in rural areas. The Shova Kalula programme benefits learners who stay more than 3 kilometres from the nearest schools but do not qualify for the Scholar Transport.

The initiative also addresses learners in poor rural areas who cannot afford transport to school by providing bicycles as a mode of transport. Transport services in rural areas is unreliable, costly and poorly coordinated, therefore the Shova Kalula project enables learners not to miss school days.



**EASY RIDE TO SCHOOL:** MEC GP Mashego, HOD SP Xulu and Rev MLB Moloi handing over Shova Kalula Bicycles to Shobiyana Secondary School in Acornhoek.

## Making a difference, one pothole at a time

On the 16th of July 2019 officials in Gert Sibande District opened their hands to the community of Balfour at Dipaliseng Local Municipality where they spent more than 67 minutes of their time patching potholes on Rissik street to assist the local municipality. Rissik street is one of the town's major streets as it leads to social amenities such as shops, schools, clinic and cemetery.

According to the Gert Sibande District Municipality's spokesperson, Mr Solly Bila the municipality is one of the most impoverished municipalities

with little financial muscles to address all roads maintenance challenges.

*"We truly applaud the Department for identifying the local municipality as one of the beneficiaries of such kindness in honour of Mandela's legacy,"* he added.

The maintenance team was able to complete the mammoth task within five days and handed the project back to the municipality's. Residents within the area were excited and expressed their gratitude for such an intervention.



**HARD AT WORK:** Gert Sibande officials patching potholes at Rissik street in Balfour.

## Sweeping away the injustices of the past



**CLEANING UP:** Ehlanzeni officials cleaning the streets of Mbombela.

On Tuesday, the 30th of July 2019, the Department took over the Mbombela Public Transport hub in a Cleanup campaign. MEC Gillion Mashego as well as the senior managers, City of Mbombela officials, Taxi Council and Associations joined hands to tackle the dirt problems at the Mbombela taxi rank. This was done in an effort of maintaining a clean environment that is conducive for commuters and also for business.

This also gave the MEC an opportunity to interact with the taxi drivers to hear out their concerns and furthermore to interact with the commuters. They were all excited to meet the MEC and actually have a conversation with him which was a delight to see.

*"Cleanliness is everyone's responsibility and this will encourage*

*the taxi rank users to keep the rank even cleaner since they now understand that even Government takes their business seriously,"* said MEC Mashego. He further mentioned that taxi drivers should take it upon themselves to inform their passengers not to eat inside the taxis and also to keep their surroundings clean.

Meanwhile, the day ended at the N4, Alkmaar, where the law enforcement operation took place. The Department and other law enforcement agencies embarked on an extensive law enforcement campaign. During the campaign, which was characterized by roadside checks, a total of six(6) summons were issued for various offences, drivers who ferried passengers without a Professional Driving Permits (PDP), overloading, worn out tires and without permits.

## Spirit Of Madiba Reaches People With Disability

The spirit of Madiba reached people with disability on the 19th of July 2019 when MEC Gillion Mashego spent 67 minutes of his time renovating Ekujabuleni center for the disabled. The dilapidated structure of the building received a face-lift after an intervention by Ehlanzeni district as part of their Mandela Month Celebration. Officials got their hands dirty by doing plumbing, painting the entire structure, replacing locks and installing ceiling.

According to the Manager of the Center, Ms Hilda Sibande, the center was established in 1995 which accommodates at least 45 people with disabilities.

*“During the day they perform various duties such as beadworks, gardening and sewing traditional attires and curtains,”* she said. She added that they receive funding from Department of Social Development. MEC Mashego assured people living disabilities that the department will not exclude them from job opportunities especially Siyatentela programme.

Later during the day, the entourage proceeded to the road next to the school for the patching of potholes. The road maintenance team from the department joined forces with the roads team from the City of Mbombela to patch potholes.



**EVOKING THE SPIRIT OF UBUNTU:** MEC GP Mashego joined by people with disability at Ekujabuleni centre for the disabled.

## Giving back to the communities



**ROAD MARKINGS AT LANGKLOOF ROAD:** Nkangala District Officials dedicating more than 67 minutes for Tata Madiba.

The Nkangala District Officials pledged and dedicated more than 67 minutes for Madiba by joining hands together towards a common goal to uplift communities within their District. The month long activities kicked-off by cleaning of culvert at Arnot P198 Road in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality on the 09th of July 2019 and finish-off on the 30th off July 2019 at Wolvenkop Special School in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality doing maintenance services that includes painting, plumbing, door and window repairs.

Other month long activations of the District included renovations of guard room in Delmas; patching of potholes in

Thabo Mbeki Street (Vosman), Machado P181 Road (Machadorsdoorp) and Vlaklaagte 2 Road (Vlaklaagte 2); road markings at Langkloof Road; installation of speed humps at D2918 Gemsbok Road; and donation of clothing at Zamokuhle Protective Home Base and Disability Centre in KwaMhlanga.

*“With every small act of kindness completed, Mandela’s legacy can only continue to thrive and improve the world in every small, or big way, possible. What counts is the difference we have made to the lives of others,”* said Mrs

Mahlangu, Assistant Director: Employee Health and Wellness in Nkangala District.

## South Africans Celebrate Their Heritage

According to the Heritage Council, heritage is an inheritance - what the past has conceded to us, what we value in the present and what we choose to preserve for future generations. It helps shape our identity, our heritage becomes part of what we are. Our expression of this identity shows others what we value; it highlights our values and priorities. It further helps us examine our history and traditions and enables us develop an awareness about ourselves. It also helps us understand and explain why we are the way we are.



**RAINBOW BEADS:** Officials celebrating Heritage Day in their Ndebele attire.

on the 24th September 2019. Officials in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport joined millions of South Africans who commemorated the Heritage Day this month, as they showcased their traditional attires and african cuisines.

The institution has a mandate to create awareness to South Africans about the importance of preserving their culture and traditions, hence the country commemorates Heritage Day



**PROUD TO BE SOUTH AFRICAN:** Officials showcasing their heritage.



# WOMEN'S MONTH TAKES STOCK OF GENDER EQUALITY



**IMBOKODO:** The Acting HOD, Ms Sindisiwe Xulu and CFO, Ms Helen Mdaka during Departmental Women's Month celebration in Middelburg.

Sixty-three years ago in 1956, women redefined the narrative of the oppressive system adopted by the apartheid regime to silence the voices of the people. The unprecedented occasion championed by gallant stalwarts like Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophia Williams De Bruyn in the company of more than twenty thousand phenomenal women who marched to the Union Buildings, still resonates with the democratic Government's Programme of Action.

As South Africa was celebrating Women's Month in August 2019, "The Handyman of the State" also took advantage of the opportunity to honour women within the Department during a gala evening which was hosted by MEC Mashego on the 29th of August 2019 in Middelburg. The prestigious ceremony which paid tribute to women' struggle for liberation, was attended by all female officials within the Department who feasted on a variety of discussions about women empowerment.

During his keynote address, MEC Mashego denounced the prevalent patriarchal culture of discrimination against women as well as gender based violence. *"Many women gathered here this evening are not only victims of domestic violence but even in the workplace are subjected to sexual prejudice and harassment... Hence, there is a silent struggle that is brewing within most women that goes unnoticed because a woman can carry*

*humiliation on her shoulders with a smile... We dare not betray our democratic revolution and detract from our course before we finish the race where women enjoy equal rights and opportunities enshrined in the Freedom Charter which is the blueprint of our Constitution. "The Place of the Rising Sun" is not ashamed to be led by Imbokodo, the Honourable Premier, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane because women are a formidable force. HOD Sindisiwe Xulu, needs your support, because unless women stand together, patriarchy will prevail,"* elaborated MEC Mashego.

The Department also joined the Mpumalanga Taxi Council's (MTC) Women's Desk Indaba ceremony which was held in Bethal on the 15th of August where women within the Taxi industry not only demonstrated their confidence to transform the industry but competence in the field. The occasion was graced by MEC Gillion Mashego; the Executive Mayor of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, Cllr Yvonne Ngconono and the Chairperson of MTC, Mr Fanyana Sibanyoni as well as the Secretary of Women's Desk, Ms Manana. Three schools from Bethal also received an early Christmas in a form of school uniform donated by MTC as part of their social investment programme.



**TOGETHERNESS:** SANTACO'S Women's Desk Secretary, Ms Lindi Manana encouraging women to work together to grow the taxi industry.



**FROM THE BOX:** MEC Gillion Mashego with SANTACO Chairperson Mr Fanyana Sibanyoni handing over new school shoes to learners.



**EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:** Executive Mayor of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, Cllr Yvonne Ngconono.



**WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT:** Members of the Mpumalanga Taxi Council's Women's Desk.

# 2019 WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION



# CELEBRATION GALA DINNER







# THUBELIHLE COMMUNITY GETS ACCESS TO INFORMATION



**ACCESS TO INFORMATION:** Thubelihle community gets a new library.

**H**undreds of citizens around Thubelihle community are going to benefit from the newly constructed library built by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport on behalf of the Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation. The R 15.5 million project commenced in November 2017 and is scheduled to be completed in February 2020, for the use by communities as well as schools across Kriel in Emalahleni Local Municipality.

The project was able to provide employment, skills development training, and economic empowerment opportunities to local contractors and community members. Out of 80 jobs opportunities were created that inclusive of women, youth and people living with disability, 108 were trained and empowered to form part to the success execution of the project.

One resident of Thubelihle, Mrs Masina said *“This library will enable learners to access to knowledge and information. It will assist lower grades learners, so they will get used to reading from an early age. For a matric learner, the library will mean more than just a building. It will be a safe and quit environment where they could study.”*

The scope of work includes the construction of guardhouse and main building inclusive of offices, kitchen, store room, conference room, toilets inclusive of persons living with disability, shelving space, cyber space, group discussion area, quiet area, reading area, paved parking and steel palisade fence.

## Old Welverdiend Primary School Shakes Hands With The Future



**STATE OF THE ART SCHOOL:** Welverdiend Primary School newly constructed.

The construction of the new school is valued at over R45 million and the project is scheduled for a duration of 12 months. The project includes 12 Classrooms, Kitchen, Guard house, Fence, Water, Electricity, Parking and Carport amongst others. The project created 43 work opportunities for the local while various businesses also benefited.

Ms Norah Mkhwanazi, a local resident expressed her joy about the new school which she once attended. *“Our children will be able to enjoy a safe and healthy learning environment with this new facility. I am also happy that the community also benefited business and work opportunities,”* stated Mkhwanazi.

**T**he construction of Welverdiend Primary School is progressing well at Manyeleti in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. The old structure which was built by the community ages ago has since been demolished to make way for a state-of-the-art facility.

## Social Enterprise Development Gains Traction

**I**n its quest to combat the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality, the Department conceptualised the Social Enterprise Development Programme (SEDP) as one of several strategies to transform the socio-economic landscape of the Mpumalanga Province.

Since its implementation in 2017, more than 139 SMMEs and cooperatives have been registered in the SEDP database and about R331 million worth of materials have been procured from these local suppliers. Although the amount is still below anticipated projections, it is nevertheless a significant investment to bring about inclusive growth.

Most of the challenges experienced so far have to do with quality requirement standard of materials. In this regard, the Department has partnered with Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) to develop a support programme for prospective SMMEs to ensure that testing, certification and training requirements are met.



## PARLY VILLAGE TO CURB ACCOMMODATION COSTS

**T**he parliamentary village which is being constructed in the City of Mbombela to accommodate members of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature is taking shape. The Provincial Government intends to curb accommodation costs in order to redirect savings to service delivery.

The village will also assist the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport to offer integrated services and support to the members of the Legislature including security measures in line with applicable prescripts.

The Project Manager, Mr Saeed Sadrzadeh indicated that from conception, the project was divided into phases. The first phase was mainly construction of

perimeter fencing and patrol roads while the second phase covered internal bulk infrastructure, earthworks and internal roads. *“The first phase has since been completed while the second and the third phases are being implemented which include building of upper structures,”* elaborated Sadrzadeh.

To date, over 270 people have benefited from various work job opportunities and local businesses have also scooped business opportunities to the tune of R37 million.



**OFF TO A GOOD START:** Parliamentary village taking shape.

## ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES RESTORES HOPE TO SCHULZENDAL COMMUNITY



**IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY:** The newly constructed Schulzendal clinic.

The long wait is finally over for the rural community of Schulzendal in the Nkomazi Local Municipality in Ehlanzeni District. The Department pride itself for having completed the Schulzendal Clinic on schedule on behalf of the Department of Health. Previously, residents of the community had to travel long distances to access healthcare services since there was no clinic in the area.

In the rural areas, provision of healthcare services poses a challenge because of the widely distributed villages. The project has managed to put a smile on the health workers and the community at large.

The construction of this multi-million rand project started in June 2018 and was completed

in August 2019. The project which was implemented into two (02) phases was built at a cost of approximately than R6.5 million, includes amongst others, the construction of IBT (Innovative Building Technology) structure, new perimeter fence, medical waste area, carpports, guardhouse, septic tank, electricity and water. During the construction, the project provided employment, developmental training, skills, and economic empowerment to local community members and contractors. A total number of twenty (20) job opportunities were created.

MsAnnah Maseko, one of the patients, expressed her excitement over the newly constructed clinic, ***“We thank the Department for the new facility and we are so privileged to witness the great work done.”***

## MILLIONS INJECTED TO BOOST MIDDELPLAAS CLINIC

The construction of the Middelpaas Clinic has finally been completed. The much anticipated project will improve the quality of healthcare and will also put a smile in the faces of patients and the clinic management. The new clinic will address the healthcare challenges that were experienced due to the dire condition of the main clinic.

This clinic is one of the oldest clinic in the Nkomazi Local Municipality which attracts a large number of patients to be serviced from other rural communities that has no healthcare facilities. The previous dilapidated clinic made it impossible to service patients to the required health standards hence the Department made is possible by building a new state of the art clinic in the area.

According to Ms Zandile Ratshitanga, the Acting Director: Infrastructure Implementation, the project was implemented into two (2) phases. The implementation of phase 1 covered amongst others, the construction of IBT (Innovative Building Technology) structure, septic tank, electricity and water, whilst phase 2 covered the construction of new perimeter fence, medical waste area, carpports and upgrade of existing guardhouse. The project commenced in June 2018 and was completed in September 2019. Collectively, the implementation of the project was done at a cost of approximately R6.1 million. In the process, the Department created more than 22 jobs opportunities for local people and SMMEs through sub-contracting.

@Work spoke to Mr Vusi Nkosi, who has been a resident of Middelpaas for more than fifteen (15) years, he said: ***“We really appreciate the Department’s effort of upgrading our clinic. Other community members used to get worried of being infected by other patients while queuing for healthcare service because of the overcrowded and dilapidated facility.”***



**HEALTH MATTERS:** The newly built Middelpaas clinic.

## GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT SECTOR



**BETTER FOUNDATION:** Mbuzini ECD Centre under construction.

As part of a broader strategy adopted by the Provincial Government aimed at improving the culture of learning and teaching, the Department is working around the clock to complete the newly constructed Mbuzini Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD). The centre is situated at Ndindini Village in Nkomazi Local Municipality. Previously, the community did not have such a facility and it was a struggle to prepare children for school. The construction of the centre hopes to provide a better foundation and developing the children holistically.

Mbuzini ECD centre adds to the other newly built centres that are already operational within the Province. The centre will open its doors to the public in the next coming year and is expected to deliver maximum learning

experience to develop the young ones.

The much anticipated project started in October 2018 and is projected to be completed in October 2019. The facility includes amongst others, 3 (three) classrooms for 2-5 year old children of which one is for disabled children, 1 (one) babies room with a baby bathroom and bottle sterilization room, administration office, sickbay, store, ablution facilities, kitchen and pantry. The project has already contributed significantly towards the local economy.

Approximately R7.6 million was allocated for the whole project. To date thirteen (13) local residents benefited from the project; with a split of 05 women and 08 men. Local sub-contractors also benefited from the project.

# ROAD D2950 TO MANANGA TAKES SHAPE

The Department is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the road network in the Province hence the upgrading and rehabilitation of Road D2950 to Mananga which is gaining momentum. In an ongoing effort to provide transport infrastructure to citizens, the Department has embarked in the project in order to bring hope to the community members who had to travel on a gravel road to access services.

Mananga is a rural area located in the eastern part of the Nkomazi Local Municipality in the Ehlanzeni District. The area is placed between Mozambique and Swaziland. It has been challenging for community members and emergency vehicles like ambulances to gain access to the village especially during rainy seasons. The new road will now be comfortable and safer for all users and it will also bring considerable economic benefits to emerging contractors and suppliers in the area. Community members will now enjoy easy access to social amenities (schools, hospitals, shopping malls and etc) which was previously difficult. This will also enhance access to boost tourism, basic services and local economy.



**IN PROGRESS:** Construction of D2950 road underway.

The much anticipated 13 km project started in February 2019 and is expected to be completed in September 2020. At a cost of R 175 million. The scope of work includes amongst others, site establishment, construction of new pavement layers, breaking up of existing pavement layers, earthworks, sealing, patching and repairing edge

breaks, storm water drainage system, establishing of new ancillary works, maintenance of ancillary works, erosion protection, gabions, guardrails, roads signs and road markings. The project has a strong economic empowerment factor with community members and local sub-contractors appointed to do various jobs on the project. Temporary employment was provided to 35 labourers, including women, youth and persons living with disability.

Mr Mandla Nkuna, who is a local resident, said: ***“The necessity to rehabilitate the road was of a vital importance to the community members and the users of the road. We have been waiting for this project for a long time, however we thank the Department’s efforts of bringing hope to the citizens.”***

# R100 MILLION INVESTMENT FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN ENTERPRISES

The recent Stats SA employment figures point to a delicate situation facing many South Africans. The unemployment rate had increased to around 29%. Majority of those who continue to bear the brunt are youth and women. Government has been hard at work, devising a number of interventions aimed at mitigating the scourge.

As part of many programmes for this effort, MEC Gillion Mashego announced during the presentation of Budget vote that Honourable Premier has invested R100 Million to support youth and women owned enterprises for pavement of roads in townships and rural areas across the province.

The department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, as a custodian of public infrastructure will roll out this intervention in collaboration with municipalities and a process to identify priority areas is already underway in many areas.

This massive investment complements the municipal support programme which has proven successful and timely for many municipalities under financial distress. One of such successful municipal support projects is a construction of R105 Million, 10km road in Louisville which has supported over 38 SMMEs and seen 181 people finding job opportunities.



**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES:** 10 kilometer road in Louisville benefited the Youth and Women.

# Mpumalanga invests in tourism routes



**TOURIST ATTRACTION:** One of tourism roads undergoing rehabilitation.

Mpumalanga Province is internationally renowned tourism destination given its massive scenic beauty. The province is home to wild life, bio-diversity and rich cultural heritage. Tourism is touted as the major economic catalyst in the province and is one of the four major economic sectors on which the provincial economic is based. Adequate and efficient Roads infrastructure is therefore an essential element to the continued growth of the industry in the province.

The department of Public Works, Roads and transport as custodian of both build and road infrastructure, has not rested on its laurels in improving the road infrastructure along the tourism routes with six tourism routes under construction. It will boost tourism in those areas and downstream beneficiaries.

***“Road infrastructure plays a key role in the growth of the tourism sector and economic development,”*** said MEC Mashego during the budget presentation.

The construction of these roads is not only an important tourism boost, but also goes a long in creating much needed job and business opportunities for the local people where these projects are being implemented. These roads are; rehabilitation of a 9.96km road between New Forest and Thulamahashe, phase 2 rehabilitation of an 18km road between Bambi and Mashishing, rehabilitation of a 11km road between Acornhoek and hluvukani and rehabilitation of phase 7.7km phase 2 road between Hazy View and Sabie.

## FARMING COMMUNITY PLEASED WITH WAR ON POTHOLES CAMPAIGN

The farming community in Brondal are reaping the rewards of War on Pothole programme introduced by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in Mpumalanga aimed at eradicating potholes on the provincial roads. Some members of the community extended their gratitude to the Department's road maintenance team on its effort in maintaining the road. The maintenance of the D1749 road started in March 2018 and is expected to be completed later this year. Work includes pavement repairs, pothole patching, edge break repair and slurry seal application.

One happy resident of Heidelberg valley area in Brodal is Mr Rob McQueen who thanked the Department on behalf of the entire Heidelberg valley community. "On behalf of the entire Heidelberg Valley and all other users of the White River to Brondal road we want to express our sincere thanks for the work your

people are doing on the road. The terrible state of this road damaged tyres over the past year. These repairs could have not come at a better time, Thank you!!," quote from letter written by Mr Rob McQueen.

The Chief Director for Roads Infrastructure in the Department, Mr Dancy Malatjie emphasized that government is committed towards maintaining provincial roads. **"Maintenance is a necessary intervention on the road. We have long term and short term maintenance plan. In the short term, we plan to patch potholes, clean drainage systems and do grass cutting along the roads. The ideal intervention would include rehabilitation/ reconstruction of the road, but due to budget limitation that may not take place in the current financial year. But the department will continue to carry out routine**

## Footbridge brings relief to Boekenhouthoek community



**COMMUNITY GETS AN UPGRADE:** Newly constructed footbridge in Boekenhouthoek.

Most people who live in deep rural areas are unable to access basic services due to lack and poor infrastructure and transport services in these areas. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport brought relief to the community of Boekenhouthoek by constructing an R 2.8 million footbridge in the outskirts of Thembeisile Hani Local Municipality.

It took only under four months to construct the footbridge which commenced in November 2018 and was completed in March 2019, In time for use by residents, in particular school children to cross the stream during rainy season.

To incorporate aspects of Expanded Public Works Programme, emerging contractors were empowered with sub contracted work on the project, whilst local community benefited from skills development, work opportunities, with women, youth and persons with disabilities given priority. Furthermore, a total number of local sub-contractors also benefited.

**"It became a challenge when there was a lot of rain because school children could not cross the river without facing the danger of being swept by the water. This posed a very risky, safety hazard and danger to our children. Ambulances and police could not reach the communities for assistance during rainy seasons. And now, we can access shops, clinics or any other service that is across the river,"** said Mr Shangu, one of the villagers.



**SMOOTH RIDE FOR FARMERS:** War on potholes reaches the farming community in Belfast.

**maintenance work on the road periodically to keep it safe and in traffic-able condition. Furthermore we will intensify our campaign on War on Potholes programme this financial year,"** he explained.

The War on Pothole programme was introduced in May 2017 in a bid to aggressively attend to pothole across the provincial road network together with all social partners which include amongst others municipalities, government agencies, private sectors and communities.

## PHASE 1 OF MOLOTO CORRIDOR COMPLETE

The recent completion of phase 1 of the upgraded Moloto Road is celebrated. Sanral has elevated this project to a national priority and major engineering interventions are being introduced to improve the safety and facilitate the mobility of the more than 50 000 commuters who travel on this road every day. The construction of phase 1 of the upgrading of R573 Moloo road, a 137km stretch from Gauteng to Mpumalanga and Limpopo is complete. It started in 2015 at a cost of R3.7bn for the whole project, over a period of six years. The budget is for Mpumalanga and Limpopo sections only. The scope of work for the first phase included the construction of four roundabouts; three in Mpumalanga –

at Vlaklaagte 1&2 and Tweefotein and one in Limpopo at the intersection of the N11 and R573 in Marble Hall. **"We further welcome the major road upgrade that are being undertaken on the N4 between Belfast and Machadodorp and also between Kaapmuiden and Malelane. The upgraded road will provide better and safer mobility for rural communities who depend on transport infrastructure to access services,"** says MEC Gillion Mashego.



**FREE FLOW:** The recently upgraded Moloto corridor now open for traffic.



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



*“Okae Molao: 365 Days Waya Waya”*



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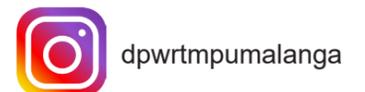
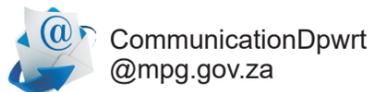
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**EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME**