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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Unwrapping the new year, congratulations are definitely in order for the wonderful performance of the class of 2019 which has raised the bar to new heights. There is certainly no doubt that the class of 2020 will prove its worth with flying colours too. For those who did not make it, the new year represents a fresh start to hold the bull by its horns.

That is exactly what the Department's Transport Inspectorate team did during the Festive Season, holding the bull by its horns and secured the Province first prize under the best performing transport inspectorate category of the Ministerial Awards. The awards are meant to inspire excellence in a bid to curb road accidents and fatalities at the backdrop of the Arrive Alive, 365 Days Waya-Waya road safety campaign launched by the President last year October.

As a result, this episode is mostly dedicated to the heartbeat of the economy, transport, as well as the men and women on the road. For as long as road accidents continue to wreak havoc with impunity while many innocent lives pay the ultimate prize, the pursuit of liberation remains an unfulfilled ideology. To this end, transport and law enforcement agencies have joined forces to fight the scorch of road carnage but attitude seems to be the biggest culprit.

MEC Gillion Mashego and the Acting HOD, Ms Sindisiwe Xulu were at the forefront of various programmes and activities championed by the Department for the past few months from the transport arena to the built environment and every in between. The Departmental Men's Forum was the cherry on top advocating for gender equality in support of women. Thus how the Handyman of the State bid farewell to the year 2019.

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

SOUTH AFRICA JOINS FO



JOINT OPERATION: Minister Fikile Mbalula together with MEC Gillion Mashego during the launch of 2019 October Transport Month.

Writer : Cyril Dlamini

The transport and traffic law enforcement fraternities have recommitted to strengthen road safety initiatives 365 days in a bid to combat road accidents and fatalities. President Cyril Ramaphosa together with Minister Fikile Mbalula, Gauteng Premier, David Makhura and MECs responsible for transport from all nine provinces converged in Hiedelberg, on the 5th of October 2019 to launch the "365 Days Waya-Waya Safety initiative as part of October Transport Month. The President urged South Africans to join forces against the scourge of road accidents and fatalities that are crippling the country's economy. He further highlighted various Government's efforts to curb the carnage. ***"In recognition of these challenges, South Africa has committed itself to the United Nations' Decade of Action for Road Safety, which seeks to reduce road fatalities and injuries.***

As part of this commitment, government has introduced several measures that will usher in a fundamental change in the manner in which road traffic safety issues are addressed," said President Ramaphosa



PRESIDENTIAL ORDER: President Cyril Ramaphosa delivering a key note address during the launch of 2019 October Transport Month in Hiedelberg.

referring to the new Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO) Act which comes into effect in June 2020.

The President stated that this is one of the interventions to forge a more effective and efficient link between enforcement as well as a transparent and fair adjudication process. The Act will introduce a demerit system to provide meaningful consequences for reckless, negligent and inconsiderate conduct on the road.

The launch preambled festive season law enforcement operations which saw Mpumalanga's Transport Inspectorate unit scoring a Ministerial award for best performance. Mpumalanga managed to impound the greatest number of public transport vehicles for

FORCES TO CURB ROAD CARNAGE

contravention of the National Land Transport Act thus the effort of the officers were instrumental in curbing potential road accidents and fatalities. MEC Gillion Mashego joined forces with the Department's Transport Inspectorate team throughout the Province during the festive season to ensure safety of all road users.

"As Government, our mandate is to provide safe, reliable and affordable public transport system that promotes socio-economic development. However, it remains everybody's responsibility to arrive alive. Great consideration, patience and tolerance are prerequisite for safety on our roads especially during this season," elaborated MEC Mashego.



Mec Mashego Boards Buscor Bus As Part Of October Transport Month

Writer : Benika Khambule

On a chilly Friday morning of the 04th of October 2019 at 4am, MEC Gillion Mashego, traded his car for a Buscor bus services to get a first-hand experience of public transport system. The activity was part of the October Transport Month Programme. MEC Mashego was joined by the Executive Chairperson of Buscor, Dr Norah Fakude, Buscor Senior Management as well as Management from the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport. The boarding of bus started at Mbombela Buscor Terminus and travelled to Mkhuhlu and back to the City of Mbombela.

Commuters were standing in amazement to see the MEC and his entourage boarding the bus. This was an opportunity for the MEC to assess public transport especially during the rush hour and also to inspect how Buscor treats its passengers in particular the people with disabilities. The commuters also used the opportunity to share their frustrations with the MEC, on the matters that includes safety, services and infrastructure. Mr Lawrence Zitha,

a commuter from Mkhuhlu, explained that they only have one operating bus from Cunningmore to Mbombela. ***"The bus leaves at 05:15 and returning at 18:00 daily, we wish that Buscor and the Department can add more buses in our area,"*** he added.

The company has modified the buses to accommodate people living with disabilities especially the wheelchair users. The Executive Chairperson of Buscor, Dr Norah Fakude mentioned that Buscor is committed in ensuring safety of all the passengers, hence the buses have yellow handlers to help those who are short-sighted. ***"We have automatic lifts for helping wheelchair users when entering and leaving the buses comfortably. We are trying by all means to make our passengers feel comfortable while using our buses, as some use the buses from as early as 03:00,"*** she added.



JOINING THE MASSES: MEC Gillion Mashego boarding public transport to gain first hand experience.

MEC Mashego emphasised the significance of partnership. ***"We want all public transport including busses and taxis to be safe and comfortable for our people to travel from home to work. We will therefore visit all bus companies operating in the province to see what our people are experiencing when they use the public transport"*** he stressed.

Bus Drivers Awarded For Keeping Passengers Safe On The Road



AWARDING CHAMPS: MEC Gillion Mashego and Ms Norah Fakude together with winners during the Driver of the Year Competition.

Writer: Benika Khambule

A leading passenger bus company in the province, BUSCOR BUS, hosted the Bus Driver of the Year (DOTY) Competition. The initiative is aimed at producing quality drivers who will ensure passenger safety thus curb road accidents on the road. The competition was held at Mbombela Buscor Terminus on Saturday, the 12th of October 2019.

A total number of 36 bus drivers from various bus companies participated in the competition. The companies include, My Boet Transport, Khisane Transport, Sizwe Transport, Phola Coaches, Shongwe SS Transport and Buscor. The occasion was graced by MEC Gillion Mashego, the Executive Chairperson of Buscor, Dr Norah Fakude as well as management from the other bus companies. Bus drivers were awarded in various categories.

Under the female category, Ms Margaret Maphanga from Buscor scooped the first position leading with 1460 points, in which she received a trophy and a cheque of worth ten thousand rand (R10 000). Furthermore, she was named the overall winner where she received an additional cheque of R5000 and a trophy. @work spoke to her about her outstanding achievements. According to her, she has been winning the competition for past ten (10) years however, she never received an overall winner title before. **“I encourage other drivers who did not make it not to lose hope and**



continue practicing, as their time to shine is coming,” she said.

Mr Isaac Maseko from Khisane Transport won the Best Male Category with 1170 points. Mr Maseko said that it was his first time participating in the DOTY competition. **“I worked very hard during the preparations and listened to my instructors,”** he said. Mr Maseko went away with a trophy and a cheque worth R10 000.

The Executive Chairperson of Buscor, Dr Norah Fakude on her address highlighted that the competition is mostly about promoting unity within bus operators. **“As bus operators it is very important to unite. When you see a bus from certain company stuck in the roadside, you should stop and offer assistance,”** she stressed. MEC Mashego congratulated all the winners. **“DOTY competition is not about competing and winning but is about the safety awareness of the bus drivers. This is a form of creating harmony and unity amongst the bus companies operating in our province. Such competitions are needed for our bus drivers to encourage them to practice safety on the roads and also to up skill them on their driving ,”** he emphasised.

PROGRESS ON MOLOTO ROAD GETS THUMBS UP

Writer : Mpho Gabashane

The notorious Moloto road is now fully a national road, this after Gauteng Province became the last to hand over the stretch of this road under their jurisdiction and completion of road works in the section. To mark this important milestone, Minister of Transport Mr Fikile Mbalula accompanied by MEC'S from the three provinces of Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo, presided over the hand over on the event held on the 15 November 2019, at Moloto Village.

The entire road is approximately 162 kilometres in length and is sub-divided into sections that fall under the jurisdiction of three provinces; Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. The Gauteng portion of the road is 46 km long while Mpumalanga and Limpopo portions are 56 km and 60 km long respectively. Moloto road is running from Sefako Makgatho Drive (formerly Zambezi Drive) in Pretoria to the N11 Route junction in Marble Hall.

While the road is being utilized on a daily basis by residents of Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces to various destinations in Gauteng province for economic and other purposes, it is mainly utilized by Mpumalanga residents who are destined to Tshwane on weekdays for employment purposes.

The fragmentation of Moloto road portions, belonging under the three provinces has on several occasions resulted in administrative discrepancies and challenges. Therefore, for administrative



MILESTONE: Minister Fikile Mbalula (pink shirt), MEC Gillion Mashego (black jacket) and other dignitaries dring the handover of Route R573 Moloto.

efficiency and effectiveness and in an attempt to minimize such challenges relating to management and administration of Moloto road's activities, a Political Oversight Committee ("POC") of the Moloto Development Corridor resolved on 18 December 2013 that Moloto road be proclaimed a national road and be incorporated into the national roads network.

The road has been undergoing renovations and improvements in the past five years in the two provinces of Mpumalanga and Limpopo. In

Mpumalanga, the scope was to build four (4) intersections at a value of R106 Million whilst on the Limpopo side the scope included reconstruction of 24.5 km up to Mable Hall for R244 m (incl. VAT). The estimated number of job opportunities created over the five (5) year period is 12 500 and has been staggered as follows; Gauteng Province-6250, Mpumalanga Province-3250 and Limpopo Province-3000. Furthermore, several SMMEE's benefited on all subcontracting opportunities and provision of materials.

"WOMEN MUST DRIVE THE ECONOMY," SAYS MEC MASHEGO DURING KULLDTA AWARDS



THE WINNING TEAM: MEC Gillion Mashego together with Cllr Nomsa Mtshweni during KULLDTA Awards.

Writer : Cyril Dlamini

"This November we salute one of our struggle stalwarts, Helen Suzman, who was born on the 7th of November 1917. Although she was not only white but also a woman, her life was characterized by a fearless struggle for liberation and equality. That is why even within the taxi industry, we need women who will calm the storm when temperatures are high," said MEC Gillion Mashego during KULLDTA's Awarding ceremony held at KwaMhlanga on the

21st of November 2019 where the taxi association recognised excellent performance within the taxi industry.

The MEC emphasised on the need to involve women in order to reflect the aspirations of liberation. **"In our effort to transform the image of this industry and in our attempt to improve customer service as well as our commitment to promote road safety, gender inequality remains one of the most**

disturbing pandemics of our time. Unless women are equal participants to the economy, our democratic liberation is null and void," warned MEC Mashego.

The KwaNdebele United Local and Long Distance Taxi Association (KULLDTA) hosted the annual event in a effort to encourage excellence within the taxi industry. The Chairperson, Mr Roy Ntuli expatiated on the journey the taxi industry has travelled as well as the challenges and opportunities within. "This is not a business for the faint hearted but demands patience, tolerance and of course a thick skin. My vision is to transform the image of the industry into an attractive and viable business model to create work and business opportunities for our people. Most importantly, our objective is to restore the dignity of our passangers because they are our bread and butter," elaborated Mr Ntuli who also scored an award from his peers for his leadership. Other categories included best driver, owner, taxi and queue marshal of the year

The MEC pleaded with taxi drivers to obey the rules of the road in order to curd road accidents and fatalities. "As the custodian of transport infrastructure, there is a dire need to upscale the provision of roads in order to stimulate economic growth but also to make sure that our vehicles remain in good condition. However, the cost of road accidents and fatalities on our economy undermines the State's capacity to allocate necessary resources. As a result, our socio-economic development agenda is at a deficit," said the MEC.

TRANSPORT OPERATIONS SET TH



SET THE TONE FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON



DEPARTMENT PRIORITISES MEN'S ISSUES TO EN



ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY



MEN TAKE ACTION TO ADDRESS GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND OTHER PERTINENT ISSUES

Writer : Benika Khambule



ENGAGEMENT: MEC Gillion Mashego and Mr Pelky Makahane distributing fliers during Men's Forum Awareness.

The Department's Men's Forum in conjunction with the Transformation and Diversity Management section hosted a Men's Dialogue to engage men on various issues related to Gender-Based Violence in an effort to train men within the Department to be agents of change in the workplace and also in their respective communities. The forum took place on Friday, 29 December 2019 at Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency in Mbombela.

The event happened four (4) days after the launch of 16 days of activism against Gender- Based Violence by the President. Therefore the Department pledged to do the awareness 365 days as expected. Various professionals were invited to engage men in conversation, to motivate, engage, and inspire them to build a society for non-sexist where everybody live a free and fearless life.

According to the Chairperson of the Men's Forum, Mr Pelky Makahane, the men's forum seeks to inspire all men in the workplace to be more open and speak out about issues that negatively and positively affects them. ***"We have noted in concern that men are great contributors to Gender Based Violence, therefore, the forum seeks to empower them through availing various professionals to provide awareness on the consequences,"*** he said.

The day started at the Riverside Government Complex, whereby a group of male officials led by the MEC Gillion Mashego were distributing pamphlets with key messages to raise awareness. MEC Gillion Mashego has beseeched male officials within the Department and Riverside Government Complex to lead the charge against Gender-Based Violence in response to the President's call of 16 days of activism against women and children.

“RECRUIT MORE FEMALE TAXI DRIVERS” – URGES MEC MASHEGO

Writer: Dimakatso Matentshi

MEC Gillion Mashego urged SANTACO in the Province to recruit more women as taxi drivers to help curb the high unemployment rate and road fatalities in the province. **“Women are more patient and tolerant on the road than their male counterpart, and this might help curb the high road fatalities. Furthermore, the majority of women are single parents thus employing them will address the high poverty and unemployment rate”** he said. MEC Mashego made the address during the October Transport Month cleanup campaign at Blue Taxi Rank in eMbalenhle, Secunda, Govan Mbeki Local Municipality on Friday, 11 October 2019. After the cleanup exercise, he interacted with taxi operators and

commuters where they voiced their frustrations and unhappiness. According to one commuter, Ms. Deliwe Zungu who was traveling to Newcastle, overtaking on barrier line and speeding are some of the contributory factors to accidents. **“Taxi drivers get angry when we tell them to slow down. We also need to know where to report negligent taxi drivers”** she appealed.

The provincial secretary for SANTACO, Mr. Simphiwe Sibanyoni explained that the institution introduced skills programmes aimed to address challenges experienced by commuters. Taxi operators are trained on customer care and advance driving as part of skills training programme. **“I appeal to you to report bad drivers at your nearest taxi ranks (SANTACO offices)”** he concluded.



SPACKLE: MEC Gillion Mashego with officials during the cleaning campaign at Blue Taxi Rank.

Glimpse of hope as msholoji gets a new school

Writer : Mpho Gabashane

Msholoji, a new settlement near White River in Mbombela, is to get a new school as a construction of a new primary school got under way in 2019/20 financial year. This settlement has shown rapid growth/expansion since its inception, thus

necessitating investment in social infrastructure such as schools, health facilities and other social amenities.

The construction of Boschrand primary school was scheduled to begin in August 2019 but got delayed due to stakeholders’ engagements. The new school will be constructed at a cost of R51.7 Million and like many such projects, it is expected to create much needed job opportunities for the local people, provide training and help stimulate economic activity through subcontracting to local business people. The projected is scheduled to be completed by November 2020.



LAYING THE FOUNDATION: Construction of the new school in Msholoji in progress.

MATSULU PAVES THE WAY TO ADDRESS UNEMPLOYMENT

Writer : Benika Khambule



BETTR ACCESS: Road D2978 at Matsulu in progress.

The community of Matsulu will now enjoy the benefits of service delivery through the construction of the new road. The D2978 road connects Matsulu A and Matsulu B at Ehlanzeni district in the City of Mbombela. This is one of the projects that showcases progress made in the delivery of transport infrastructure in the province. The Department invested at least R24 million towards the construction of this road.

The scope of the road include amongst others, the rehabilitation of the road layer works, surfacing, storm water control including new culverts, subsoil drainage, v-drains, kerbs, walkways, road signs and road markings. The project will be implemented using labour intensive methods in a bid to maximise job opportunities. According to the Project Manager, Mr Bheki Shabangu, the construction of

the 2.14 km stretch road has already started with at least 32 local people employed on the project and it also provided local SMMEs an opportunity to participate. The much anticipated project started in September 2019 and is expected to be completed in April 2020.

One of the workers on the project is the 29 year old, Mr Mduduzi Mathebula from Matsulu. He started working on the project in September 2019 as a labourer. He said that he is now able to take care of his family since he started working on the project. **“It feels good to have a job and earn a salary every month and my life is changed now,”** he explained.

SIKHULILE CIRCUIT BRINGS NEW HOPE FOR MSOGWABA COMMUNITY

Writer : Benika Khambule

The Provincial Government has a vision to roll out service delivery to ensure that all citizens in the province get closer or in touch with government. In the previous years; government offices were centralised in one place; making it difficult for other areas to access services from various offices. It is all in the past now since the Department has built various offices in the province to bring closer service delivery to the people.

As an implementing agent, the Department has now completed the construction of Sikhulile Circuit Office at Msogwaba in Ehlanzeni District. The Department has done an exceptional job in delivering the state-of-the-art structure. This



SEALED AND DELIVERED: The complet Sikhulile Circuit Office.

has been done to ensure that communities' access information and get assisted easily thus expanding service delivery. It will also help to improve educational access and help schools in the local circuit to achieve excellence in learning and teaching

This state-of-the-art circuit office is equipped with 10 offices, 6 administration rooms, 4 store rooms, 6 toilets, boardroom and kitchen. The project commenced in November 2018 and was completed in December 2019. The structure was built at a tune of approximately R9 million. In an effort to combat unemployment, the project created more than 45 work opportunities for local people and SMMEs through sub-contracting.

Government takes a stance in prioritising education

Writer : Benika Khambule

One are the days where learners used to be crammed in one classroom because there was not enough space available. The Government has made an apex priority in education. Through the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport as a custodian of Public Infrastructure the province today boost high standard of Education Infrastructure.

The Department has since constructed number of schools that includes the construction of Klipspringer Primary School in the City of Mbombela which is underway. The school which is over 40 years old, has old structures and accommodates about 781 learners. Hence the construction of the school will address challenges such as overcrowding due to the influx of children from neighbouring communities,

including Matsulu, Kamagugu and Kanyamazane coming to urban schools. According to the Project Manager, Ms Pinky Makhongele, the Department is working tirelessly to ensure that the project is delivered on time.

The scope of work includes the demolition of existing structures, alterations, construction of 6 classrooms, 2 grade R centres and 10 toilets. The project commenced in July 2019 and is projected to be completed in September 2020. The implementation of the project will be done at a cost of approximately R9 million. The project has already contributed significantly towards the local economy. In the process, the project created more than 40 jobs opportunities for local people and SMMEs through sub-contracting.



BRICK AND MOTAR: Construction at Klipspringer Primay School take shape.

SAKHABAKHI PROGRAMME GETS OVERHAULED

Writer : Mpho Gabashane



MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM: Sakh'Abakhi participants ready to take off.

The flagship contractor development programme, Sakhabakhi, is undergoing changes meant to bring more benefits and produce better results. Sakhabakhi is a development programme aimed at bridging the gap in the built environment by providing skills training for emerging and aspirant contractors who were previously marginalised. Participants are enrolled for a period of 24 month, with the firth 12 months allocated for theoretical training and the latter for

on-site training. Participants are taught on all key aspects of built environment to empower them to run successful construction firms.

During his Policy and Budget Speech, Hon MEC Gillion Mashego announced major and improved changes to this flagship construction programme. Whereas in the past the flagship programme gave participants practising space only in the building sector, the programme would now enrol participants

even in the transport infrastructure projects. In addition, announced MEC G Mashego, it will be mandatory for appointed contractors to partner with Sakhabakhi contractors as part of programme enhancement. The other critical aspect of these envisaged changes is to transform the programme into a wholly female participation within the next two years.

Mr Smangaliso Mpila is a young constructor who participated in Sakhabakhi iii (3) and did both the one year theoretical training and the practical thereafter. He narrated his experience when @ Work spoke to him.

"I got my first project which was intended to serve as a practical for the knowledge and skills that I have acquired, which I completed it successfully and uninterrupted for the duration of two months. Public Works further assisted me with other projects and that resulted in me receiving grade 5 GB, four 4 CE and two 2 SO. Through this project I managed to learn so much and I am now 13 years in the industry."

Commenting on the proposed enhancement aspects, Mr Mpila believed this will further expand the reach of the programme and more importantly diversify the skill mix beneficiaries get from the programme. I comment the department on the continued innovation and this can only serve beneficiaries even better." Concluded Mr Mpila.



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“Okae Molao: 365 Days Waya Waya”



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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME