

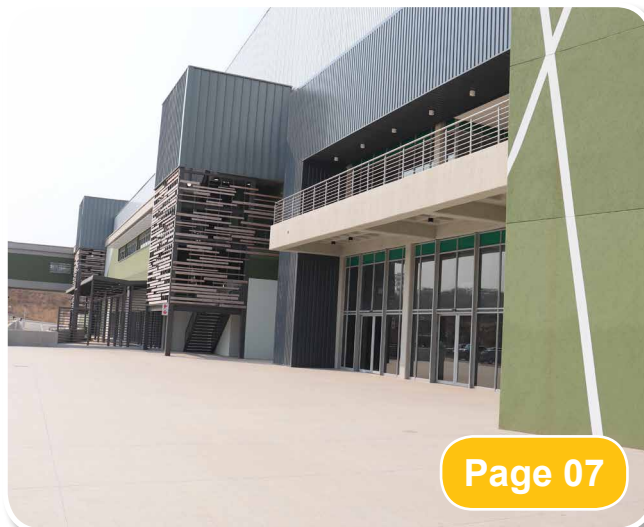


# ACCELERATE SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENT IN 100 DAYS: MEC THOMO



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TRANSPORT INSPECTORATE PUTS SCHOLAR  
TRANSPORT UNDER MICROSCOPE



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MPUMALANGA INTERNATIONAL FRESH  
PRODUCE MARKET DONE AND DUSTED



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WELISIZWE FOOTBRIDGES BRINGS RELIEF  
TO THEMBSILE HANI COMMUNITIES



# Perspective



The National Development Programme Vision 2030 continues to serve as yardstick to broader strategic framework, to reduce an alarming level of youth unemployment, inequality and poverty.

The State President during the State of the Nation Address set the tone for the next five years, detailing the three strategic priorities; Firstly to drive inclusive growth and job creation, Secondly, to reduce poverty and tackle high cost of living, Thirdly, to build a capable, ethical and developmental state. Government decided to put inclusive economic growth at the top of the national agenda. Unemployment rate has reached an alarming rate of 48.1% signaling a mammoth task ahead. The Department is at the forefront of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) co-ordination with youth and women pinning their hopes on work opportunities created through the programme and we dare not fail them. With the official launch of Phase V in October 2023, expectation for exceeding or increasing the number of work opportunities are high.

As a leader of administration in the Department, let me extend a congratulatory note to the newly appointed MEC Thulisizwe Thomo, whom the Honourable Premier of the Province, Hon. Mandla Ndlovu has assigned to steer the political ship of the Department. During the official opening of the 7th Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature on 31st of July 2024, Premier Ndlovu outlined his plans for the province, thus giving us a mandate to serve and deliver quality services to the people of Mpumalanga.

We officially welcome our new MEC to this Department, we want to reaffirm our stance and commitment to support our MEC as he spearheads some of the province's critical and life changing projects and programs.

This year marks 30 years since we attained our democracy, and therefore this gives us pleasure and honour as a Department to re-affirm our commitment to serve our communities with pride. We fully support all initiatives and priorities as set out by our Honourable Premier, Ndlovu and we shall not fail our people who are still yearning for quality services and job opportunities.

## ACCELERATE SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENT IN 100 DAYS: MEC THOMO



The 18th of June 2024 marked a new dawn for the Mpumalanga Province with the newly appointed members of the Executive Council sworn in. Premier Mandla Ndlovu announced his new cabinet, assigning the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport Portfolio to the youngest member of the Executive Council, MEC Thulasizwe Thomo. Subsequent to his appointment, MEC Thomo embarked on an intense 100 days in office Action plan which featured Staff meetings, Stakeholder engagement, Feedback sessions with Women in Parliament, Women and Youth Symposium, Sod turning ceremonies and Law enforcement operations etc.

MEC Thomo's objective of the action plan was clearly articulated during the Budget Vote, with key focus on accelerating service delivery on strategic priorities. The initiative emphasizes on fast-tracking the completion of long-overdue infrastructure project.

Below are some of the projects that we ear marked for completion

### MPUMALANGA INTERNATIONAL FRESH PRODUCE MARKET (MIFPM)



**MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT OF 100 DAYS IN OFFICE,** MEC Thomo handed over the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market (MIFPM) on the 12th of July 2024 to his counterparts, MEC for Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) Ms Nompumelelo Hlophe and MEC for Economic Development and Tourism (DEDT) Ms Makhosaze Masilela. Located in the heart of the City of Mbombela, Mpumalanga international Fresh Produces promises to provide local farmers with access to local, regional and international fresh produced market.

The development will become a key enabler of the broader fresh produce ecosystem in Mpumalanga thus create a platform for greater value for stakeholders across the entire value chain. The project consists of a market building with all its pertinent support facilities, an agro processing building as well as all required access control facilities, roads, parking and related enabling facilities. The construction of the facility opened opportunities for SMME's creating at least 600 work opportunities with more work expected once the structure is fully operational.

### MKHONDO BOARDING SCHOOL



**FAST-TRACKING THE COMPLETION OF LONG OVERDUE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT:** MEC Thomo stood firm to his words and this was affirmed when he conducted a site visit to Mkhondo Boarding School. Since construction of the project started in March 2019, it was marred by serious hurdles which hampered the completion of the project on time. These challenges range from the COVID-19 National Lockdown, exposure to vandalism and contractor cash-flow issues which extended the completion date to 31 August 2024. The revised cost of the project is R727 million, with at least 246 work opportunities being created.

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



**PARLIAMENTARY VILLAGE**

**HOUSING OF MPL:** Since its inception, the construction of the Parliamentary village has been plagued by various challenges ranging from community protests, work stoppages due to non-payment of subcontractors and the Covid-19 National Lockdown. These resulted into delays of the project, with Phase 2 yet to commence.

MEC Thulasizwe Thomo has vowed to fast track the completion of the long-overdue project. On the 10th of July 2024 he made a brief visit to the parliamentary village, which is earmarked to house at least 50 members of legislature. The project will offer affordable and state-owned VIP residences to Members of the Mpumalanga Legislature.



**SOD TURNING: D3954 AND D3958 ROAD BETWEEN ZOENOG AND CASTEEL**

**EASING SERVICE DELIVERY PROTESTS:** The construction of D3954 and D3958 road between Zoeknog and Casteel will ease tensions between government and local communities. MEC Thomo kept his word to disgruntled protesters when he conducted a sod-turning ceremony of the construction of D3954 and D3958 road from Casteel to Zoeknog signifying government's commitment to upgrade the 9km road. The 20 month project commenced in June 2024 at a tune of R119 million.



**SOD TURNING: D1723 LUPHISI ROAD**

**SMOOTH TAR FOR OPERATORS:** Taxi operators operating along the D1723 Luphisi road will beam with joy over the news that the construction of the road is underway. Few months ago, operators locked horns with the Department over the deteriorating state of the road. On the 19th of July 2024 MEC Thomo conducted a sod turning ceremony, kick starting the construction of the project which will provide economic opportunities for residents in Pienaar and other surrounding areas.



**MIDDELBURG DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

The state of the art Middelburg District Hospital at Steve Tshwete Local Municipality epitomises world class health facility. MEC Thomo visited this facility during his 100 - days plan of action. MEC Thomo said it is essential that government fix and improve public health facilities and build new hospitals and clinics to expand access. This facility will be provided with adequate medical equipment.



The comprehensive facilities of the new hospital includes outpatient services, general care, a maternity unit, a 600 seat auditorium, accommodation for both staff and students, a training centre, and a trauma unit to mention just a few.

The operating theaters in the new hospital will be equipped with cutting edge technology that will enable specialist consultants to monitor procedures and provide assistance when necessary remotely.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**



**PROJECT OVERSIGHT VISITS**

**100-DAYS OF ACTION PLAN GAINED MOMENTUM:** on the 16th of August 2024 when MEC Thomo embarked on an oversight visit to the newly rehabilitated D1875 road from Tweefontein to Gembokspruit in Thembeisile Hani Local Municipality. Stakeholders from the Department including a delegation from Thembeisile Hani Local Municipality witnessed work done on the R3.7 million project which created work opportunities for local people.



**WHEELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY LANDED** in Hendrina on the 18th July 2024, where the upgrading of the coal haulage road P182/1 project between Van Dyksdrift and Hendrina is underway. MEC Thulasizwe Thomo introduced the new contractor to the Executive Mayor of Steve Tshwete, Cllr Mhlonishwa Masilela as part of the Department's efforts to expedite lagging projects. An estimated budget of R140 million will be spent towards the construction of the coal haulage road P182/1 project between Van Dyksdrift and Hendrina.



**EFFORT TO CURB ROAD CARNAGE**

MEC Thomo's 100 days in office has been a mixture of optimism for the future coupled with the unfortunate harsh realities of road fatalities. In Delmas, 10 people were killed and 24 seriously injured on the R42 collision. In July, 6 learners lost their lives when their school bus collided with a train in Wonderfontein, with 20 other learners sustaining serious to minor injuries. The injured learners were rushed to Middelburg hospital. MEC Thomo responded with renewed urgency as he intensified law enforcement operations in the entire province. He conducted unannounced visits in Middelburg to conduct scholar transport monitoring on Friday, 23 August 2024 in the early hours. The ongoing law enforcement operation is aimed at fighting and clamping down the number of public transport operators who are operating on the roads without valid operating licenses and unroadworthy vehicles.

MEC Thomo also made a follow-up visit to Morelig Combined School, which was tragically affected by the recent bus-train accident. Upon arrival at the school 11 buses were issued with summons of which 7 were impounded and 4 discontinued. The overall operation resulted to 74 public transport vehicles stopped and out of those the 30 were issued with summons for non-compliance with the National Land Transport Act (NLTTA) around Middelburg and Wonderfontein. A total of 26 public transport vehicles were impounded: 18 with no permits, 07 for unroadworthy and 01 for overloading with 04 discontinued notices. He reiterated his stance on taking decisive action against operators who fail to comply with regulations, which puts the lives of learners at risk.

In addition, MEC Thomo joined a successful multi-disciplinary law enforcement operation on Moloto road R573 which was led by an all-female team of transport inspectors in commemoration of Women's Month.



## 2024/25 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH SET AN OPTIMISTIC TONE FOR AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION

The 7th Administration unleashed a New Dawn in the political landscape with MEC Thulasizwe Thomo at the helm of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport. A young, vibrant Captain of the ship is steering the Department and he delivered a significant Policy and Budget vote on the 06th of August 2024 at Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature.

His 2024/25 Policy and Budget Speech focused on driving an inclusive growth and job creation through various programmes such as the implementation of EPWP Phase V. *“In pursuit of driving inclusive growth and job creation, the Department will focus on public procurement in order to achieve diversity, equity and inclusion”* he said. MEC Thomo indicated that the rolling out of massive infrastructure will create a demand for labour and other construction materials. “In recognition of this, we have a responsibility to prepare the historically marginalized women, youth and people with disabilities for upcoming economic empowerment opportunities” he added.

High unemployment rate remains government's biggest challenge with the current rate reaching an alarming 48.1% with women and youth being the most affected. Despite the challenge, the province created 177 188 work opportunities through EPWP in the past five years, with at least 220 575 work opportunities expected within the Medium Term Development Plan (2024-2029). These work opportunities will be created using labour intensive methods within the four EPWP sectors namely: Infrastructure, Social, Environment & Culture and Non State sector.



*“Recent road carnage involving scholar transport has been a cause for concern,”* MEC Thomo said. To address fatalities on the road, MEC Thomo assured the audience that the Department will scale up law enforcement operations and intensify monitoring of scholar transport to curb reckless behavior, prevent overloading, ensure compliance with safety regulations across both public and scholar transport sector. *“We further appointed 98 additional transport inspectors to deal with non-compliant operators. The availability of transport inspectors require 24-hour, seven-day a week and 365 days Arrive Alive campaign,”* he stressed.

For the economy of the country to flourish, this will depend entirely on various factors including the provision of high-quality road infrastructure. As

the overall overseer of this critical mandate the Department allocated a bulk of its budget amounting to R2.7 billion on Transport Infrastructure. The funds will be channeled towards maintaining existing damaged roads and rehabilitation amongst others. A total budget of R307 million allocated for the implementation of various capital projects during the 2024/25 financial year, which includes an ongoing tourism upgrade of roads P33/4 between Hazyview and Sabie (Phase 2) 7.7km. Rehabilitation of section P8/1(R36) between Mashishing and Bambi Phase 3 (11km) as well as upgrade and rehabilitation of road D4382 between Belfast and Justicia (13.60km).

The Department, which is at the forefront of providing social infrastructure will support client departments through Public Works Programme with at least 156 projects expected to be completed during the 2024/25 financial year.

## PROVINCIAL CABINET LENDS A HELPING HAND IN HONOUR OF MADIBA



MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Thulasizwe Thomo honored the legacy of Nelson Mandela with Premier Mandla Ndlovu and other Cabinet members in a packed Thulamahashe stadium, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality on the 27th of July 2024. People sang, danced, ululated giving praise and honour to the late global icon, Nelson Mandela, who dedicated his entire life advocating for peace and reconciliation in the global arena. Even the scorching weather condition failed to deter the mood of excitement in the stadia. The Provincial Cabinet joined in the festivity accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, Cllr Lydia Moroane and the Chairperson of Mpumalanga House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena.

The honourable Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr Mandla Ndlovu delivered a keynote address during the proceedings, urging humankind to emulate the late statesman in changing the lives of the less privileged. *“Let us all dedicate time and effort to change lives of those that are less fortunate than us, dedicate 67 minutes of your time to better the lives of those that are poor thus create a better world for all humankind,”* he appealed. He assured communities in the province about government's commitment to address service delivery challenges *“I am aware of service delivery*

*issues in Embhalenhle, Kanyamazane, Thembisile Hani and other parts of the province, my administration will work speedily and decisively to address them without any failure”* he stressed.

The Provincial Government's act of giving was well received early during the day when they made a donation to Oakley Home Based Care and Kgotsotatso stimulation center. Part of the donation entailed 10 000 litres of Jojo tanks, vegetable seeds, garden equipment's, stoves, pots, refrigeration and other office equipment's. In addition, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport built two toilets with ramps and the same centers. Three more centers received relief efforts from Provincial Government, these centers are Mathomomayo in Buffelshoek, Goromane home Based Care and Ntalo Old age in Gottenburg.

The 18th of July has been declared as the celebrations of International Nelson Mandela Day since it was launched by the United Nations in 2009 where individuals are encouraged to dedicate 67 minutes to helping others every year on Nelson Mandela's birthday, 18 July. His legacy shines as a beacon of hope and healing, and as a potent reminder of the power of the human spirit to overcome impossible odds. His sole focus was on healing his country's divisions and bringing old enemies together to rebuild in common cause



## DPWRT STAFF TACKLES POVERTY IN HONOUR OF MADIBA



Millions of people in the world's poorest countries remain imprisoned, enslaved, and in chains. They are trapped in the prison of poverty. It is time to set them free"- a quote from a global peace icon Nelson Mandela. Setting the poor free from the shackles of poverty, is what officials from the Department adhered to in honour of Nelson Mandela when they donated groceries, toys, tables and chairs to Siyaqhubeka Multi-Purpose Centre, situated in Carolina. The centre was established in 2010 and renders day care service to vulnerable and orphanage children. It accommodates a total of 60 children, including 28 boys and 32 girls between the ages of 7 and 19 years.

After the generous donation at Siyaqhubeka, Multi Purpose Centre a team of staff members led by the Head of District in Gert Sibande, Ms Fikile Sengwayo reached their second destination, Badplaas shelter, where they switched into their orange overalls and painted, replaced ceiling and repaired carpents of the shelter. The Badplaas shelter houses victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV). It was established in December 2005 and it is equipped with a team of qualified staff.

The day concluded with the patching of potholes between Badplaas-Lothair road. The activities took place on the 24th of July 2024 at Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality.

## Mandela spririt prevailed in the hearts of DPWRT Nkangala officials

"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive" a powerful sentiment echoed by the world renowned spiritualist Dalai Lama. The statement depicts the selfless act of humanity displayed during Mandela Day, wherein millions of people globally dedicated 67 minutes of their time showing an act of kindness towards the less privileged. This act of kindness is a global call by the United Nation to honour the late President Nelson Mandela. The Departmental officials in Nkangala District were part of these global festivities and they sought support from all stakeholders to make a difference to the lives of the poor.

A team of dedicated men and women from Nkangala District rolled over their sleeves plastering, plumbing and painting an Empilweni Home Care Centre for the old age and people living with disabilities. In terms of the team leader, Ms Catherine Mahlangu, who is a district coordinator in Transformation and Diversity Management, the Department identified the centre due to the nature of services it provides for local communities. "Empilweni Home Care centers accommodates and take care of the most vulnerable members of our society, namely



the aged and disabled. We extended a helping hand to the center after seeing the hardship and struggle they face due to non-availability of facilities which caters for the disabled. People living with disabilities staying in the centre cannot access other areas of the building due to lack of wheelchair ramps and rails, however that has changed because we installed those key amenities in the building" she stressed.

Empilweni Home Care centre accommodates a total of 40 elderly citizens and eight (8) people living with disabilities. It was established in February 2021 by the late manager, Ms Pinky Mnguni, owing to her own personal experiences since her own mother did not have a caregiver. **"She felt the need to start the center and accommodate the elderly and disabled who are mainly neglected by society,"** said Ms Phumzile Mnguni, the current Manager of the center. The centre is self-sustaining, relies on pension and disability grants received by dwellers. "We will appreciate any donation in a form of pads for elderly, heaters, groceries, transportation, blankets, clothing or any form of donation is welcomed," she appealed.

## THE GREATEST WEALTH IS HEALTHY LIVING



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), globally, 23% of adults and 81% of adolescents (aged 11-17 years) do not meet the WHO global recommendations on physical activity for health. Regular physical activity is a well-established protective factor for the prevention and treatment of the leading non-communicable diseases (NCDs), namely heart disease, stroke, diabetes, breast and colon cancer. It also contributes to the prevention of other important NCD risk factors such as hypertension, overweight and obesity, and is associated with improved mental health, delay in the onset of dementia and improved quality of life and well-being.

The WHO estimates for South Africa show that 38.7% of people are insufficiently active; men have higher levels of activity (47% in men vs 29% in women). It was found that 57% of South African learners age 8 to 14 engaged in moderate levels of physical activity; 31% did not meet internationally recommended amounts of moderate to vigorous physical activity.

It is against this background that government introduced policies to curb the scourge of non-communicable disease (eg heard

disease, stress, high blood etc). The Wellness Management is an educational programme designed to address health promotion issues at the workplace. The programme is aimed at addressing the issue of Stress, Drugs, Alcohol, Violence, HIV & AIDS, Tobacco, Nutrition, Healthy Sleep, Physical Activity and Economic Stress in an integrated way. It is based on the recognition of the interdependent relationships between psychosocial factors and other health related behaviors and their underlying causes in the workplace (work organization, working conditions, labour relations).

As part of the Wellness programme, the Department convened a wellness day at Valencia Sports Ground on the 08<sup>th</sup> of August 2024. Officials from the four districts, namely Bohlabela, Ehlanzeni, Nkangala as well as Gert Sibande took part in various sporting codes namely Netball, Soccer, and Volley ball. Those that enjoys jogging, were treated to a 5km and 10km walk, they later flexed their muscles with a session of aerobics.

Other festivities of the day, included an exhibition from the Department of Health, SA Home Loans, Old Mutual and Virgin Active.



## DPWRT'S PROUD RECORD ON CHAMPIONING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The recent study by Statistic South Africa shows that more than 51% of the SA Population are female and more than 42% of households are headed by females. Women in South Africa are more likely to be unemployed than men and are less likely to participate in the labour market than their male counterparts. The study further reveals that most women rely on grants followed by remittance as their main source of income, while their male counterparts indicated income from business and salaries as their main source of income.

Women empowerment is central to the global development agenda. In South Africa the constitution promote non-discrimination and gender equity goals, hence this year's Women's Month was celebrated under the theme "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment with the aim of raising awareness to elevate women's socio-economic empowerment. This gender equity goals were well explained during the Women's Parliament feedback session which was held at Verena Community Hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2024. The sessions were organized by the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature wherein women from across the province converged in Verena, Thembisile Hani Local Municipality to hear progress made by government in terms of appointing women in positions of leadership. The Women's Parliament received feedback from Government Departments.



MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Mr Thulasizwe Thomo, was part of the presenters. He gave a progress report on women empowerment within the Department. He indicated that by the end of 2023/24 financial year, the Department had a total of 2 550 employees of those includes 1 200 (47%) women and total of 37.5% are in SMS positions. *"A total of 177 188 work opportunities were created in the Province under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) between 2019 and 2024. A total of 114 922 (65%) of these beneficiaries were women. Empowerment of women is core to South Africa's processes of sustainable development, hence the Department awarded more than R6 billion of contracts towards economic empowerment of women. Incapacitation has always been cited as a major contributor hampering women to access government opportunities, however strides have been made to develop their skills through various programmes such as Internship (218 women), Learnership (127 women), Sakhabakhi (59 women) with 1 female acquiring skills within Young Professional Programme"* he stressed. He also highlighted on interventions introduced by the Department to address the construction mafia. *"The Department liaises with SAPS to deal with construction mafia. We have a Social Facilitation Strategy that allows for broader community involvement from the project feasibility stage through to construction"* he concluded.

## WOMEN AND YOUTH SYMPOSIUM UNLOCK OPPORTUNITIES IN CONSTRUCTION



MEC Thulasizwe Thomo indicated that the Department's commitment to the empowerment of women and youth is evident in the Expanded Public Works Programme which created a number of work opportunities of at least 177,188 work opportunities with 114,922 (65%) of these beneficiaries being women.

He further reiterated the importance of the collaboration with banking sector in bridging the financial gap that hinders women's participation in the industry, by providing accessibility and affordable funding options.

With the issue of financing in mind, National Youth Development Agency gave a detailed presentation on how they can assist women and youth with financial and non-financial support to entrepreneurs. "We are here to provide co-operatives with pre-incorporation training, gap analysis and needs assessment as well a training in technical and entrepreneurship development"

The President of the South African Roads Federation (SARF) Ms Mirriam Ramoba is a true symbol of success in a male dominated sector, where she acquired an undergraduate degree in civil engineering, then later received a pavement engineer qualification. Her first project entails widening R37 Section 2 of the road in Limpopo province. She said that 40% of women leave the sector due to lack of support from public and private sectors, therefore it's important for women to acquire knowledge by reading engineering news and other magazines related to construction,

Ms Nomshado Madonsela from Basadi in Construction explained that she has at least 20years in the construction industry, highlighted the significance of grooming the girl child. *"It is important for us to empower the girl children so that they enter the industry at an early age"* Madonsela emphasized.

Despite the positive outlook and opportunities which exist for women in construction, NHBRC's Ms Refilwe Maluleke issued a stern warning to builders that do not comply with standards. *"Poor workmanship will not be tolerated, we therefore advise contractors to register with us, so that we monitor the quality of work performed"* she stressed.

A beautiful sunny weather made for a conducive morning for a network session for women and youth in construction sector. Attendees, mainly women gushed with elegance, roared with confidence and crashed with fashion statement impossible to ignore at the Women in Construction Symposium event held at the Nkangala District Mayoral's parlor, in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. It was convened on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2024. MEC Thulasizwe Thomo delivered a keynote address in a ceremony graced by delegates from Basadi Construction, NHBRC, SAWIC, SANRAL and SARF.

During his address, MEC Thomo explained that the symposium aims to bring together stakeholders to share solutions and strategies to empower women and promote gender equality in the construction industry. "Through the symposium, the Department aims to catalyze inclusivity, foster partnerships, unlock opportunities for women in construction. We are committed to working together to build a more inclusive industry where everyone has an equal chance to succeed," he stressed.





## PARLIAMENTARY VILLAGE GAINING MOMENTUM



As part of his first 100 days in office, MEC Thulasizwe Thomo identified his key priority infrastructure projects that will be implemented by the Department. One of the identified projects was the completion of Parliamentary Village which is still under construction in the City of Mbombela. This is one of the three projects that has been classified as special projects including the International Fresh Produce Market and Mkhondo Boarding School.

MEC Thomo was accompanied by members of the Senior Management when he visited the project on Thursday, 10 July 2024. The meeting was attended by the City of Mbombela Councillors, Contractor and Sub-contractors. The project has been faced with various challenges since its commencement, which has resulted in its delayed completion. In his remarks, MEC Thomo said *"The project must be completed soon so that*

*the Department can focus on the implementation of phase 2 since the number of Members of Legislature have increased."* He also emphasized that the Department must ensure that service providers are paid within thirty days so that there should be no unnecessary delays in finishing the project.

The project entails provision of affordable and state-owned VIP residences for members of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature. At the time of conceptualisation, the Mpumalanga legislature consisted of 30 seats (members) which has now increased to 51 members.

Speaking on behalf of the City of Mbombela, Cllr Mkhonto appreciated the visit by the MEC. He mentioned that they are happy as the Municipality that the project has created job opportunities for the community of Mataffin and the surrounding areas.

## MPUMALANGA INTERNATIONAL FRESH PRODUCE MARKET DONE AND DUSTED

The Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market (MIFPM), has been finally completed and handed over. This is one of the biggest projects in the Province, which the Department implemented and classified as a key project. MEC Thulasizwe Thomo, officially handed the MIFPM over to his counterparts, the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA), Nompumelelo Hlophe, and the MEC for Economic Development and Tourism (DEDT), Makhosazane Masilela on Thursday, 01 August 2024 at Mbombela.



The development of the MIFPM was initially conceptualized by the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) while its implementation was initially overseen by the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) before being transferred to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT) in 2018.

The project created opportunities for SMMEs and more than 500 jobs were created for local people. MEC Thomo said that several challenges were experienced in the construction of the project. *"We experienced a number of challenges which of course are challenges which many projects are experiencing. Part of them will be stoppages due to sub-contracting people wanting opportunities in our projects that we are implementing. But we've managed to come this far and completed this project,"* said Thomo.

Constructed at a value of approximately R1.6 billion, the market is set to provide access to local, regional and international fresh produce. It consists of a market building with all its pertinent support facilities, and an agro-processing building and all the required access control facilities, roads, parking and related facilities.



## 19 MILLION INVESTMENT ON HEALTH FACILITY FOR IMPOVERISHED CASTEEL COMMUNITY

The Department is a key player in the delivery of social infrastructure handling over 300 projects worth billion per annum. A total of 11 projects were implemented in the 2023/24 financial with Middelburg Hospital, Rob Ferreira Hospital Phase A, B and C being on government's top priority list. This was revealed at the Policy and budget Vote for the Department.

The construction of a clinic in Casteel at Bushbuckridge Local Municipality is one of the many projects under implementation in the current financial year 2024/25 affirming the Department's commitment to providing world class social infrastructure. A total of more than R19 million

was invested towards the project which created at least 30 job opportunities, with youth and women being the main beneficiaries. Construction started in September 2023 with building expected to finish soon.

@Work engaged with community members about the newly built project, Ms Chiloane expressed her excitement over the newly built structure. *"I am very happy about the clinic since we will soon be able to do my medical check-ups nearer to home than to travel to Dwaarsloop and Acornhoek which is very far,"* she said.







# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE POLICY & BUDGET SP



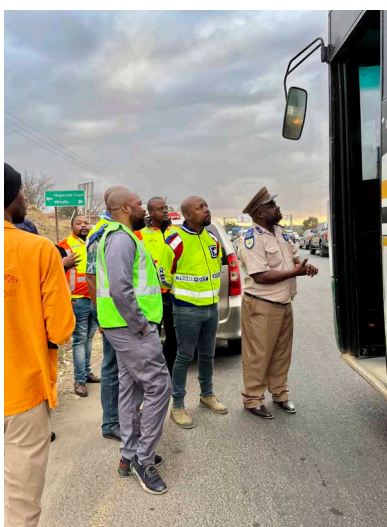




# EECH 2024/25



# MEC THULASIZWE THOMO PUSHING THE AGENDA OF SERVICE DELIVERY





## RESIDENTS GIVE A NOD TO THE NEW KANYAMAZANE CHC

According to the World Health Organization, health care infrastructure in developing countries like South Africa is lacking, especially in rural areas. There are only few health facilities available, and some of them are damaged. They are often insufficient or inadequate to meet the health needs of communities. Many existing facilities are inadequate or lack basic utilities such as water, sanitation, electricity and waste services. With that in mind, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government stand resolute to change the status quo of the health infrastructure in the province. Premier Mandla Ndlovu reaffirmed government's commitment to provide quality healthcare infrastructure to citizens of the province. ***"Healthcare is a right not a privilege. Every man, woman and child in South Africa should have access to good quality health service,"*** he said during the opening of the legislature.

The Department which oversee the implementation of public works programme, which supports client departments to deliver health care infrastructure amongst others, has built the state of the art Community Healthcare Centre (CHC) in KaNyamazane. Construction commenced in December 2020 at a cost of R169 million, with 60 work opportunities for local people created and several SMMEs benefiting.

The good news were very well received by local community members including a 35 year old Ms Masenza Nkosi, who lives in the area. ***"We are excited with the new structure because the demand for health care service is very high at KaNyamazane. The old clinic is very old and dilapidated. We are happy because the new clinic will address an influx of patient from other surrounding areas,"*** Ms Nkosi concluded with a joyful smile.



## FARMERS IN DELMAS REAP REWARDS OF P36/1 R50 ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Delmas is a small farming town located 19km North-East of Springs and 73 km south-east of Pretoria and east of Johannesburg. It is a town known for its production of chicken, maize, potatoes and wheat, therefore contributing vastly to the provincial economy. The town renowned for its poultry, connects two main road, the R555 and R50 road which connects the town to the N12 freeway junction linking Johannesburg and eMalahleni wherein the R50 south connects the town to Standerton. With that in mind, the surge of heavy trucks traversing through Delmas has become a familiar sight, placing an extra burden on the R50 road and causing serious damage to the road.



The rehabilitation of Coal Haul Road P36/1(R50) will finally bring a sigh of relief for motorists traveling on the road, as major roadworks are currently underway in Delmas. Mpumalanga Public Works, Roads and Transport, which oversee the provision of transport infrastructure appointed ACTOPAMBILI roads to build the R50 road between Delmas and the N12. Construction started in July 2020, however protest action from local community members, rainfall, borrow pit challenges are some of the factors which hampered the completion of the project.

Despite the delays, the construction process has brought some relief for local contractors who were subcontracted on services ranging from plant hire, culverts, toilet hire, fencing, OHS services, site

camps rentals, security, office furniture, lab appliances and tipper trucks hire. Imvula is one of the sub- contractors reaping the rewards from the construction of the project, and they supply tipper trucks on-site. According to Tumelo Rusmay, the project bolstered his business financially and he will be able grow and pursue other business opportunities. ***"Access to funding has always been a stumbling block for most SMMEs, so government must do more to assist them"*** he appealed.

The Department invested at least R130 million on the rehabilitation of P36/1 (R50) which created at least 62 work opportunities were created for local community members.

## TAPPING INTO THE WORLD OF APPRENTICESHIP WITH ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Lack of qualified artisans in the country to sustain industries and support economic growth prompted government to identify artisan training as a priority area for skills development. Artisan training was launched in the wake of the high demand to successfully implement the country's Strategic Infrastructure Projects, which includes the building of roads, schools, universities, harbours, power stations and other social and economic infrastructure. South Africa needs at least 60 percent of school leavers to pursue artisan-training in order to meet the country's demand for scarce skills.

In view of the above, the Department joined forces with the National Department of Higher Education and Training as well as various SETAs to train learners in various artisan trades. Learners receive on-going training under the mentorship of qualified artisans. The programme seeks to ensure that learners obtain artisan qualification, by undertaking a trade test. After completing the 3 to 4 years artisanship programme, they will receive an Artisan Certificate issued by the Quality Council for Trade and Occupation (QCTO). The training constitutes 30% theory and 70% practical curriculum.

The positive contribution towards the programme, which the Department makes can never be underestimated because 45 learners are currently acquiring practical training at various cost centres. Delmas Cost Centre is amongst the other cost centres which absorbed participants into apprenticeship programme. They are training a 26 year old Mojalefa Kenneth Mofokeng in electrical. @Work had a one-on-one conversation with him about his future prospects.



He indicated that apprenticeship opens opportunities which were never tapped into before especially in both private and public sector. ***"I pursued a career in electricity because of endless opportunities which exist within the career, I want to work at Eskom or mining sector because of the high demand of artisan trades."*** Mojalefa works under the mentorship of Mr Thaba Mathibedi who taught him power generation maintenance, construction 3 phase and single phase wire connections. Furthermore, they attend to faulty

wiring at Bernies Hospital, government residence houses, rehab centers and clinics.

Steve Tshwete Cost Centre absorbed eight students, with four stationed at Middelburg hospital. They acquire training in various trades such as welding, carpentry, plumbing, electrical and other artisan trade. Precious Nkosi is one of the female student acquiring training in the male dominated field. She works with a team of men at Public Works workshop, attending to all essential services required by various clinics and residential houses.



## PROFESSIONALIZING PUBLIC SERVICE IS NOT LIP SERVICE



Government is determined to professionalize the Public Services with an objective to have employees who are skilled, selfless and honest. Cabinet approved the National Framework towards the professionalization of the Public Service in November 2020 with five critical pillars. The five pillars are pre-entry recruitment and selection within the public service, induction and on boarding, planning and performance management, continuous learning and professional development and career progression.

While other public servants such as doctors, nurses, auditors, lawyers etc belong to professional bodies/ councils, have the dual benefit of navigating their way through detailed codes of conducts that are externally managed, the majority of public servants whose occupations are not regulated by independent professional associations rely on existing generic framework used by the Public Service.

It is against this light that National Department of Public Works & Infrastructure (DPWI) embarked on series of consultative workshops to engage stakeholders within the Built Environment to develop the Built Environment Professionalization and Skills Development Strategy for Public Service. According to Ms Joyce Ntsoko from DPWI, the workshops were meant to get inputs from stakeholders to produce a holistic responsive strategy towards the Built Environment sector demands.

This is notwithstanding the lack of clarity and mechanisms on how the Public Service is leveraging the benefits of external professional membership to enhance the professionalism of its employees,

*“The Built Environment (BE) Sector is a vital part of the economy of South Africa and the implementation of the BE capacity. Building programme mainly through the BE Skills Pipeline Strategy has proved that the success of the sector depends on the availability of skilled and professional workforce as required by cabinet NSG National Framework for Professionalization of the Public Service”* she explained.

This was announced during the 5<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders Consultative workshop on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2024 at Building 8, Riverside Government Complex at the City of Mbombela. Stakeholders from Department of Education, Department of Health, COGTA, DPWRT and other entities were part of the meeting.

Cabinet approved publication of the draft national implementation framework towards the professionalization of the Public Service. This is in line with the commitment made by the sixth administration to create a capable, ethical and developmental Public Service.

The Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF 2019-2024) of Government, commits explicitly to the professionalization of the Public Service as an imperative for the building of a capable, ethical and developmental state. The work of professionalising the Public Service is part of a bigger project of strengthening state capacity – thus it must be seen as one element of such.

## TRAVELERS PIN HOPE ON D2916 ZITHABISENG ROAD CONSTRUCTION



Road users traveling to Zithabiseni resort and surrounding areas will soon drive with ease with the construction of D2915 and D2916 road underway. The resort which lies in the heart of Mabusa National Park is known for its tranquil, hospitality scenery with lots of music festivities. It is one the province's tourist destinations and the economic returns in the area prompted government to invest on roads infrastructure to the value of R29 million.

Local communities are pinning their hopes on the (6)six months project which promises to yield work opportunities to ninety one (91) unemployed local communities. The 9km stretch of the road links R25(VerenaandDenilton)intersection

to Zithabiseng resort. Scope of work involves the construction of pavement layers; laying of interlocking pavement blocks; construction of culverts; maintenance of existing culverts; construction of stone pitched stormwater open channels; installation of sub-soil drainage; and road furniture among others. Upgrading of the road started in April 2024 with completion date expected to be in October 2024.

The Project Manager Mr Aubrey Ngake in Nkangala District indicated that more job opportunities will exist for local people, with labour intensive method of work to be utilized if the need arises. Local SMMEs will also benefit from the allocated budget through their services.

## Welisizwe Footbridges brings relief to Thembisile Hani communities



Most people who live in deep rural areas are unable to access basic services due to, amongst others, lack and poor infrastructure and transport services in these areas. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in partnership with Department of Transport (DoT), Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) and the South African National Defense Force (SANDF) brought relief to the communities of Rietfontein, Vezubuhle, Leratong and Zakheni by constructing Welisizwe Bridges at the cost of R 27.6 million in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality.

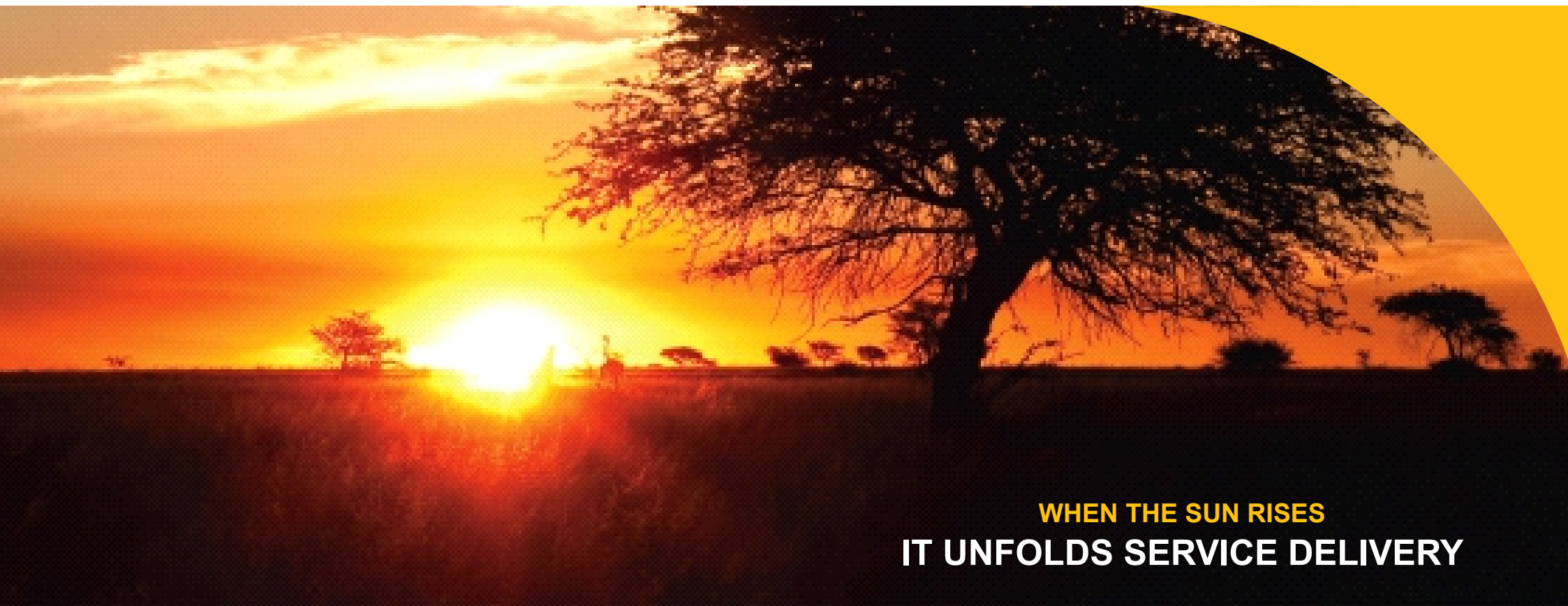
It took under seven months to construct the four (04) footbridges consisting of 2 foot steel bridges and 2 single vehicle crossing steel bridges. These projects commenced last year in October 2023 and were completed in May 2024. These bridges are aimed at connecting communities and guarantees their safety, in particular school children to cross the stream

during rainy season.

To incorporate aspects of Expanded Public Works Programme, economic enterprise contractors were empowered with work on the project, whilst local community benefited from skills development, 160 work opportunities were created with women, youth and persons with disabilities given priority. Furthermore, local sub-contractors also benefited from the projects.

*“We always experienced 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.





**WHEN THE SUN RISES  
IT UNFOLDS SERVICE DELIVERY**

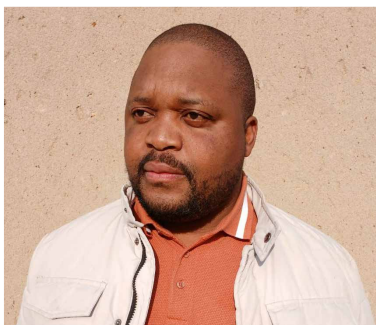
# MEET THE NEW FACES OF THE POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION



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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

