

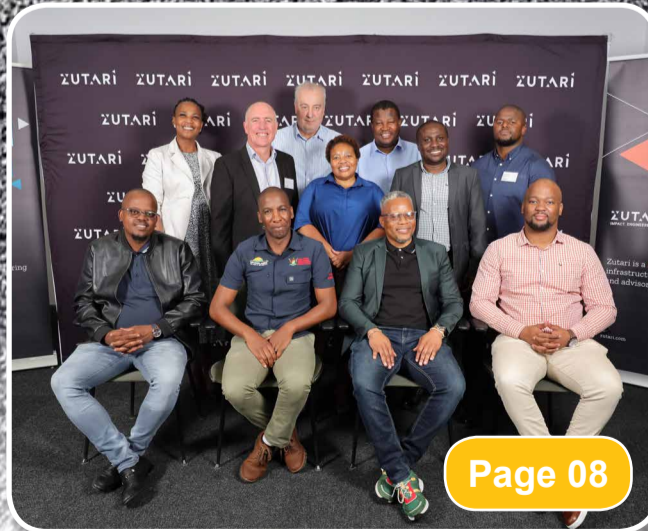


# Mpumalanga Premier Launches “Kubhunya Lutfuli eMpumalanga” Program to Combat Potholes



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Perspective



Welcome to the second edition of our Departmental Newsletter, where we take pride in highlighting the remarkable strides made during the second semester. This edition focuses on our transport initiatives and the vibrant activities of the Festive Season, showcasing our ongoing commitment to road safety and infrastructure development within the Province.

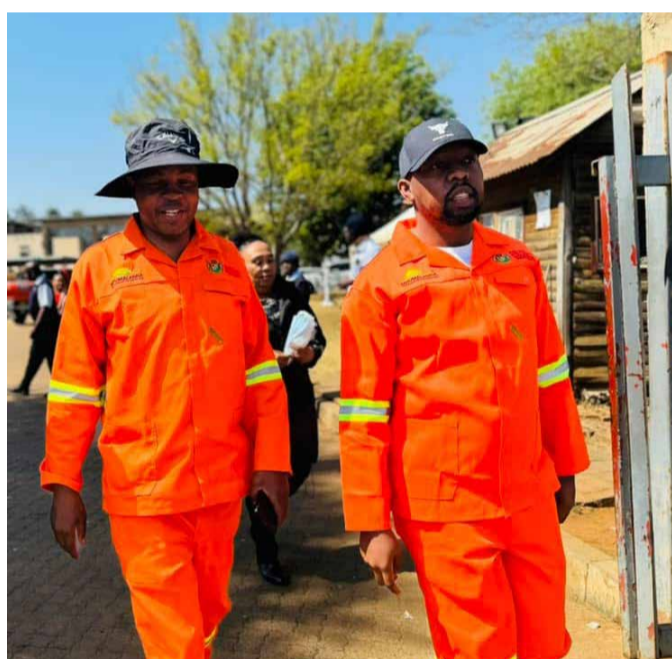
Together with the Hon. MEC, Mr Thulasizwe Thomo, we have remained steadfast in our mission to enhance service delivery and expedite lagging projects. A notable highlight is the successful handover of the Welisizwe bridges by the State President, a testament to our dedication to improving mobility for our communities.

As we look ahead to Mpumalanga's hosting of the G20 meetings in September 2025, we are prioritizing the rehabilitation of our Tourism Routes to ensure that our roads are in optimal condition. This will not only support our provincial tourism industry but also align with our commitment to providing a safe and efficient transport network.

Moreover, we are proud to continue collaborating with our client departments to construct state-of-the-art institutions, including schools, healthcare facilities, and social services. These projects are vital as they lay the foundation for sustainable development and enhanced quality of life for all our residents.

I would like to thank the Hon. MEC, Mr Thulasizwe Thomo for his continued leadership and support and also the departmental management and all employees for their commitment towards improving the lives of the people of the place of the rising sun, Mpumalanga.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with our initiatives. Together, we are building a brighter future for our Province.



## Mpumalanga Premier Launches "Kubhunya Lutfuli eMpumalanga" Program to Combat Potholes

On October 07, 2024, the Honourable Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr Mandla Ndlovu, alongside MEC Thulasizwe Thomo, officially launched the "Kubhunya Lutfuli eMpumalanga" program - a flagship initiative designed to bolster municipal support with a focus on road maintenance across the province's districts. The event took place in Belfast, Emakhazeni Local Municipality, as part of the government's ongoing commitment to improving infrastructure and accessibility for all residents.

During the launch, Premier Ndlovu highlighted the significance of addressing the pressing issue of potholes, which have long been a concern for commuters and local businesses alike. "Potholes are a serious problem," he stated, emphasizing that the provincial government will collaborate closely with municipalities to strive for a future with zero potholes, especially on key tourism routes.

In his address, Premier Ndlovu emphasized the importance of well-maintained roads in facilitating access to amenities and serving the community's needs. ***"Our communities want to access various amenities, and it is our responsibility as government to ensure that our roads are accessible and properly maintained using all the available resources,"*** he remarked.

The "Kubhunya Lutfuli eMpumalanga" initiative is set to revitalize both the provincial and municipal road networks through a focused approach that will significantly improve targeted roads throughout Mpumalanga. The program encompasses comprehensive efforts, including graveling, grading, and pothole patching. Notably, the initiative will primarily utilize internal resources, including the deployment of employees and machinery.

This strategic program signifies a pivotal step toward enhancing the quality of infrastructure throughout Mpumalanga, with the ultimate goal of supporting economic growth and improving the daily lives of residents. The launch event marked the beginning of a concerted effort to bring about tangible changes in the province's road maintenance landscape, fostering safer and more efficient travel for all.

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**PHOTOS:** Courtesy of Kgobana Malika

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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.

## MEC Thomo “Content” about the completion of Coal haul road P36/1 (R50 Road) at Delmas under the Nkangala District Municipality.

Mpumalanga MEC for Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport Mr Thulasizwe Thomo officially handed over the recently complete R50 Road on Friday, 13 December 2024 at Delmas (open field along the Samuel road and R50 intersection) within Victor Khanye Local Municipality. The ceremony was also graced by the attendance of Cllr KV Buda from the Victor Khanye Local Municipality and senior officials from SANRAL, from the Local Municipalities and from the Department.

The construction of the road, commenced in 2020 and it was completed in December 2024 at the cost of R181 997 530.48. During the construction period, Small, Medium and Micro enterprise (SMMEs) were provided with work opportunities in various packages such as plant hire, stormwater culverts, walkways, kerbs and channelling. During the implementation of the project, a total of 77 jobs were created, comprising of 21 young women, 20 young men and 36 men.

Delivering his keynote address during the handover ceremony, MEC Thomo said he was happy to be handing over such a project to the community of Victor Khanye Local Municipality.

**“I would like to encourage all communities to ensure that they look after our roads and building infrastructure. It takes a lot of planning, time, and money to implement such projects. Therefore, I urge our citizens not to burn schools if they want water, not to burn our roads when they want clinics. There are proper channels and peaceful ways to communicate with our government.”** Urges MEC Thomo

## Rehabilitation of Provincial road D1723 (Luphisi road) on track



In our ongoing effort to ensure that communities have reliable access to vital public amenities, including schools, clinics, and shopping complexes - the rehabilitation of the D1723 Luphisi Road is a significant priority for the residents of Ehlanzeni District. For years, the communities around Lihawu, just outside the City of Mbombela, faced considerable challenges accessing these essential services, particularly during rainy season during which road conditions worsened.

Shortly after his appointment in June 2024, MEC Thulasizwe Thomo prioritized key infrastructure projects as part of his commitment to service delivery within the first 100 days in office. Among these projects was the crucial rehabilitation of

Lihawu Road. A sod-turning ceremony which was held in July 2024, marked the project's official commencement, symbolizing a new chapter for the road.

The long-awaited rehabilitation of Provincial Road D1723, situated between D636 and DP258/1, is now underway, with a contractor actively on-site. This twelve-month project commenced in September 2024 and it is planned for completion before the end of 2025/26 financial year at an estimated cost of approximately R83.7 million rand

The scope of the project involves significant upgrades over a 6.82-kilometer stretch, including the construction of a 30mm asphalt surface,

installation of sub-soil drains, erection of guardrails, replacement of Armco culverts, and the application of new road markings and signage.

Local business owner Zweli Mabaso, who operates a car wash along the road, expressed his enthusiasm for the upcoming improvements. **“This is one of the busiest routes serving the major settlements of Pienaar. Many of my customers used to complain about the state of this road, and business was becoming slow because the potholes were getting worse.”** He believes the completed road will significantly benefit small businesses and boost the local economy, creating job opportunities, particularly for young people.

Taxi operator Mr. Sibusiso Masilela, who transports passengers daily from local areas to the City of Mbombela, echoed these sentiments. **“We waited so long for this road to be fixed. It was not drivable during rainy periods, and the potholes were damaging our vehicles.”** He added that it is reassuring to see the contractor working diligently, and he anticipates that the road's completion will be a relief for many community members, especially motorists.

The project is also expected to create opportunities for local SMMEs (Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises), including services like plant hire, drainage installation, road signage, guard rail construction, erosion protection, and concrete kerbing and walkways. Local community members can look forward to job opportunities that arise from this project.

As the work progresses, the department encourages motorists to exercise caution when approaching construction areas and to remain patient during this important process. Together, we are paving the way for a safer and more accessible future for all.



## Reporting a on D1875 Road upgrade undertaken

In keeping with its constitutional mandate, the Department's MEC, Mr Thulasizwe Thomo took an initiative to conduct routine oversight visit to various departmental roads and building infrastructure projects throughout the Province.

The newly rehabilitated D1875 Road from Tweefontein to Gembokspruit in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality was one of the projects picked for a visit on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2024. The aim was to interact and report back to stakeholders and to find out if they are happy with the upgrade.

Close to R 3.7 million was spent to rehabilitate approximately 0,5 kilometres of the road as an add-on from the previous kilometres already done. Improvements that were made included a construction of storm water open channels, pavement layers, culverts and laying of the interlocking pavement blocks.

During construction, the project was able to provide employment, skills development training, economic empowerment opportunities to local contractors and community. Furthermore, a total number of 13 jobs opportunities were created.

## SPOT CHECK ON SERVICE DELIVERY

MEC Thulasizwe Thomo expressed his satisfaction with the significant progress made on the D2943 road between KaMhlushwa and Langeloo project during his site visit on 17 January 2025. The road, which is crucial for enhancing connectivity and improving access to essential services in the Nkomazi Local Municipality, has been receiving extensive attention as part of government's commitment to infrastructure development.

MEC Thomo was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Nkomazi Cllr Phindile Magagula, officials and community stakeholders as he toured the project. He noted the positive impact that the improved phase 1 (11km) road conditions will have on local communities, facilitating better movement for goods and services, and ultimately aiding in economic development. The Department will also focus on phase 2 of which will cover the remaining part of the 21 km road.

*"The D2943 road project is a vital investment in our infrastructure that will promote mobility and foster economic opportunities for the people of Nkomazi. I am truly impressed by the quality of work being undertaken here and I commend the teams for their dedication and commitment,"* said MEC Thomo.



In addition to the road project, MEC Thomo also assessed the Mlumati bridge, at Driekoppies for which designs have already been completed by the Department. The bridge is expected to significantly enhance safety and accessibility for residents and travellers in the municipality, especially during rainy seasons.

*"The Mlumati bridge is an essential component of our infrastructure plan, and I am pleased that the design phase has been successfully completed. We are committed to ensuring that this bridge is constructed efficiently and meets the needs of our communities,"* he added.

MEC Thomo emphasized the importance of efficient infrastructure in reducing travel times, improving safety, and supporting local economies. He reiterated the provincial government's ongoing commitment to prioritizing infrastructure development for the benefit of all Mpumalanga residents.

The MEC's visit underlines the government's commitment to transparency and community engagement as they continue to prioritize infrastructure development within the Province.

## MANANGA ROAD PROVIDE NUMEROUS WORK OPPORTUNITIES

The upgrading and rehabilitation of D2950 road in Mananga village at Nkomazi Local Municipality has created numerous work opportunities. More than 201 local people were employed, with women and youth making up the majority of labourers. The outcome of the construction had positive economic spin-off as local subcontractors reaped benefits.

The construction of the road will improve the flow of traffic and road safety in the area. Over the years, the road had deteriorated to a bad state and as a result the Department came to the rescue.

Mr Vusi Nkosi, who is one of the labourers, pleaded the Department to create more work opportunities in the area in order to empower the youth with much-needed skills and work experience. I wish Government can capitalize more on infrastructure so that more work opportunities can be created," he said.

Empowering local business has been the cornerstone of Government from the onset. Small businesses contribute to local economies by bringing growth and innovation to the communities they serve. They also help stimulate economic growth by providing employment opportunities. One of the sub-contractors, Ingwe Security Services (Pty)Ltd was contracted to provide security services on site.

A total of more than R113 million was awarded towards the project, which constitute the construction of a 6km road including 240m river crossing, earthworks, pavement layers, double seal surfacing, road markings and signs, relief culverts, walkway (within built-up area), lined drains (within built-up area), In-situ cast concrete culverts 3x of (2.1x5m openings). Work started in October 2021 and completed in March 2025.



## INTERNAL TEAMS COMPLETE WITTENBERG CULVERT REHABILITATION PROJECT

We are excited to announce the successful completion of the Wittenberg culvert rehabilitation project on Road D 2232 in the Mkhondo Local Municipality. The project, which began on August 16, 2023, was officially completed on February 15, 2025. This achievement marks a significant milestone for our team and the community. What makes this accomplishment even more special is that it was entirely carried out by our internal teams from Mkhondo, Mayflower, and Chief Albert Luthuli (Carolina), showcasing the exceptional talent and dedication within the department.

This project was initiated out of necessity after severe floods in the Gert Sibande District during the 2021/2022 financial year washed away essential hydraulic structures, including the culvert on Road D 2232. This road is vital for school transportation and for local farmers, and its inaccessibility greatly impacted the community. The scope of work included designing and reconstructing the damaged Armco corrugated circular pipe to ensure the road's safe use. The estimated cost for the project was R 3,500,000.00, but the final cost amounted to R7,531,062.87, reflecting the complexities and unforeseen challenges encountered along the way. However, this investment was well worth it, as the restored culvert will serve the community for years to come.

Utilizing our internal teams and resources not only saved costs but also allowed us to build capacity, transfer skills, and strengthen our organization. The journey was not without hurdles, the team faced various challenges, but, despite these challenges, our teams remained resilient and focused, ultimately delivering the project in full.



In the words of Mr. Tsepo Malope, Senior Road Foreman, *"This project is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our various teams. We came together to deliver results for our community."*

This project exemplifies the impact of leveraging internal capabilities and working collaboratively to overcome adversity, reminding us of our skills, determination, and resourcefulness in achieving meaningful results.

## CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN MPUMALANGA



The Mpumalanga Provincial Government, led by Honourable Premier Mr. Mandla Ndlovu, is making significant progress in enhancing road infrastructure across the province through the ongoing initiative called "Kubhunya Lutfuli eMpumalanga." Launched in October 2024, this comprehensive road maintenance program is a collaborative effort involving the provincial government, local municipalities, and dedicated maintenance teams, all aimed at ensuring safer and more reliable roads for residents.

The initiative focuses on key areas such as pothole patching, road grading, and regravelling. Advanced mechanized Jet-patchers are being utilized to efficiently address road defects. MEC Thulasizwe Thomo, who has been actively leading this effort, emphasized the importance of the project, stating, "Our dedicated teams continue to move across the province as part of our extensive road maintenance initiative. We are using our mechanized Jet-patchers

to tackle potholes and improve gravel roads, ensuring a better road infrastructure network for the province."

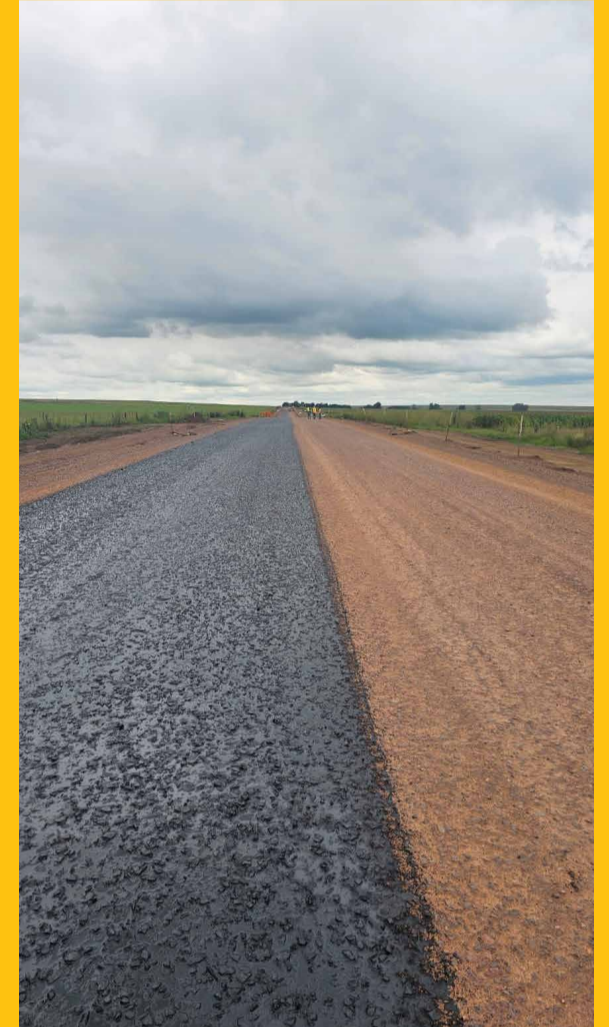
The program has received strong participation from various municipalities, including the Gert Sibande District and the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality. In Standerton, within the Gert Sibande District, MEC Thomo and the departmental team were joined by District Executive Mayor Cllr Mngomezulu, Local Executive Mayor Cllr Mngomezulu, and councillors from the Lekwa Local Municipality. Similarly, in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, MEC Thomo collaborated with Executive Mayor Cllr Nkadimeng, showcasing a unified commitment to improving infrastructure.

"Kubhunya Lutfuli eMpumalanga" is a testament to the provincial government's unwavering dedication to addressing infrastructure challenges and promoting economic growth through improved road networks. This ongoing project will aggressively expand throughout Mpumalanga, with joint efforts from provincial and local stakeholders ensuring that it reaches every corner of the province.

Through this collaborative approach, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government is not only addressing immediate road maintenance needs but also laying the foundation for long-term infrastructure development, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for all residents.



## Road P182/1 Phase 3 upgrade undertaken



The Department has officially commenced Phase 3 of the P182/1 road upgrade project - a major infrastructure initiative valued at R149 million. This key rehabilitation effort covers a 12-kilometre stretch of the coal haul road from Hendrina (P52/2, R38) towards P30/1 (R35), located within the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

This upgrade forms part of the Department's broader mission to enhance the condition and safety of key arterial routes. Designed to extend the road's lifespan by 20 years, the project will improve both surface and subsurface drainage systems. In addition to road enhancements, the project also prioritizes job creation, local skills development, and empowerment opportunities for Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs).

Scope of work will include:

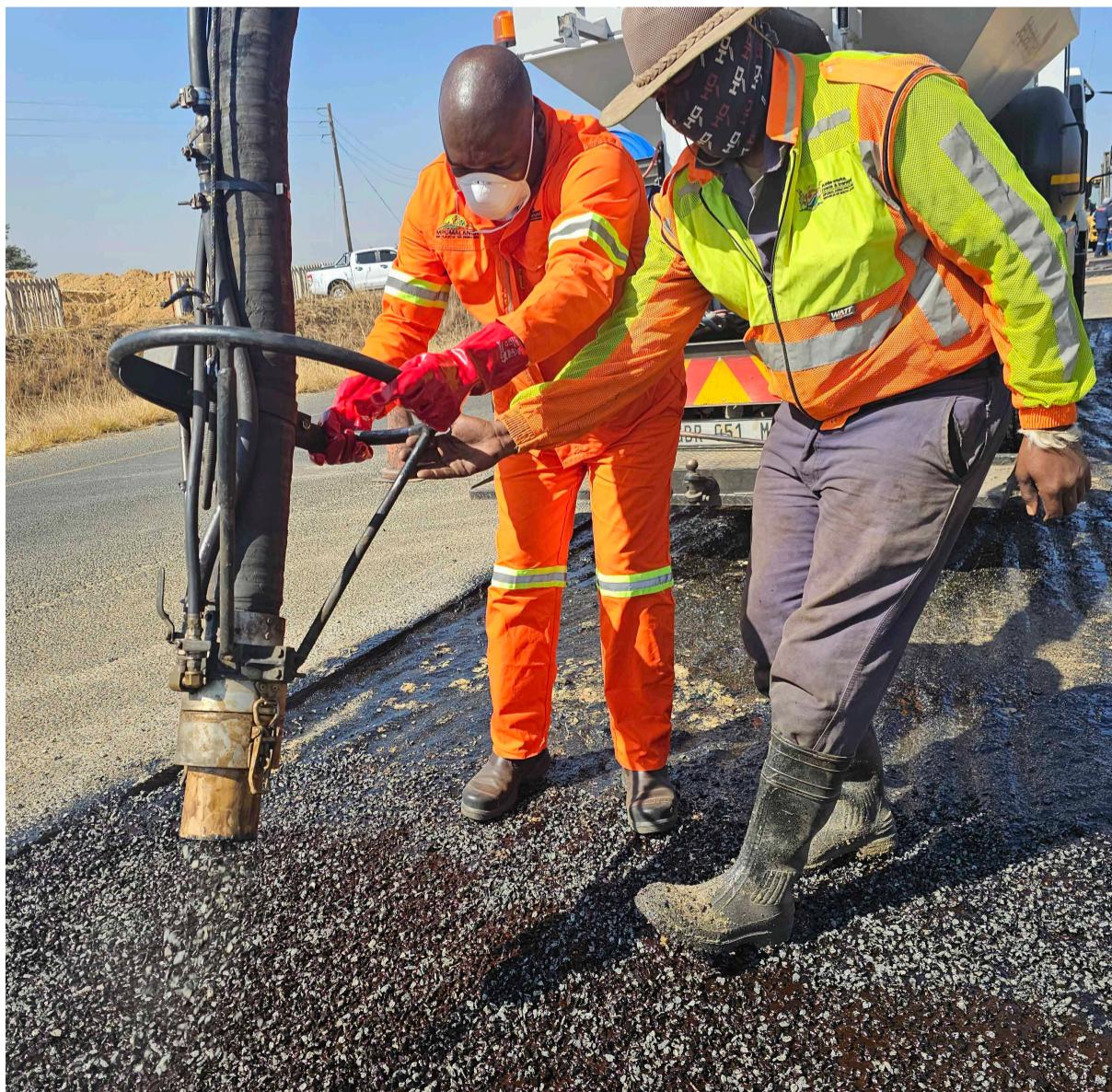
- Excavation of existing gravel shoulders
- Construction of pavement and base layers
- Installation of new gravel shoulders and asphalt surfacing
- Construction of concrete-lined side drains and subsoil drainage systems
- New road markings, kilometre posts, and stubs
- Upgrades to bridge parapets
- Installation of new fencing and guardrails where necessary

Cebekhulu Construction, in partnership with Moba & Associates, has been appointed to carry out the project, which is scheduled for completion within seven (7) months.

The Department advises all motorists and road users to proceed with caution when approaching this section of the road, as construction activities may cause delays. Your patience and cooperation are appreciated as we work towards safer, more efficient transport routes.

# SNAPSHOTS OF *Service Delivery*





# Celebrating Remarkable Advancements In Education Infrastructure



The Department is excited to share great news about the progress made by the Mpumalanga Provincial Government in improving education opportunities in the Province. A key highlight of this effort is the New Ermelo Primary School (Phase 2), which is now nearly 97% complete.

This important project is being led by the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Transport (DPWRT) in collaboration with the Department of Education. It promises to change the learning experience within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, located in the Gert Sibande District.

Since construction began on February 19, 2021, we have built a modern administrative block, an interactive library, and a high-tech computer center. Additionally, there is a fully equipped kitchen and two dedicated Grade R classrooms, along with 32 more classrooms and necessary bathroom facilities. The project also includes outdoor spaces like a soccer field and two combi courts, all aimed at enhancing education in Msukaligwa.



Although we've faced some unexpected challenges that have caused delays, we remain committed to completing the project in first quarter of 2025/26 financial year. Originally, it was set to finish in April 2023, but we have made five extensions to ensure we maintain high-quality standards. Importantly, this project has created job opportunities for 53 local workers, including 18 women and 40 young people, as well as six local subcontractors. This aligns with the government's goal of boosting the economy through job creation and skill development in our communities.

To ensure quality and transparency, we conduct monthly checks on progress through site visits and meetings. The expected total cost of this transformative project is R64.2 million - an investment in our children's future that will provide lasting benefits. The New Ermelo Primary School (Phase 2) represents our strong commitment to improving educational facilities. As we complete the final touches on this modern school, we look forward to welcoming learners and providing them a positive environment for learning and growth.

## Natural Disasters Hinder Progress on Road Infrastructure in the Province

Persistent heavy rains and extreme weather conditions have significantly impacted the province's road infrastructure, leading to multiple structural failures across various municipalities. The increasing frequency of culvert failures, bridge collapses, and pavement deterioration highlights the ongoing challenges the province faces in maintaining a resilient road network. However, with swift intervention and dedicated efforts, the department is committed to restoring and upgrading critical transport routes.

Recent heavy rains have caused extensive damage to key road links, compromising the safety and accessibility of communities. A major drainage failure occurred on the bridge between Nokaneng and Katjibane, undermining its foundation and resulting in the temporary closure of that route. Similarly, the collapse of a corrugated metal culvert bridge along the P177 route between Carolina and Chrissiesmeer has necessitated urgent emergency repairs, redirecting traffic through alternative routes.

In the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, pavement failures between Trichardt and Bethal have been assessed, and efforts are underway to repair the affected section. Meanwhile, in the Nkomazi Local Municipality, the Mlumati Bridge in Driekoppies has been prioritized for upgrades after assessing its condition after the recent floods. Additionally, a damaged culvert bridge between Wonderfontein and Arnot Power Station

is receiving urgent attention to restore its functionality for passenger and freight transport.

Despite these challenges, the Department in collaboration with local municipalities and engineering teams, is taking decisive action to repair and upgrade critical infrastructure. Emergency response teams have been mobilized to ensure repairs are carried out efficiently while long-term plans are developed to enhance the durability of road structures.

Mr Ronny Masia, Chief Director of Roads Infrastructure, stated, ***"The Department is prioritizing the replacement and strengthening of vulnerable culverts, bridges, and drainage systems to mitigate future failures. While efforts to rebuild and restore roads are ongoing, we urge communities and road users to exercise patience, as these projects require time to ensure sustainable and effective solutions. We remain committed to restoring safe and accessible roads for all, recognizing the vital role of infrastructure in economic growth, trade, and community development."***



In a significant achievement for the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Transport the Mahamba Road, a critical link between South Africa and the Kingdom of Eswatini, has successfully reopened following extensive repairs. This milestone highlights the department's unwavering commitment to improving road infrastructure and connectivity in the Mpumalanga province.

The journey to this achievement began on August 17, 2024, when a team from the department along with representatives from Mkhondo Local Municipality visited the bridge to assess the damage to the Mahamba culvert bridge. The culvert, a crucial drainage structure along Road P130/1, had collapsed, resulting in partial road failure and disrupted traffic. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the Department promptly initiated emergency repair works, pledging to complete the project before the festive season.

True to their commitment, the department delivered on this promise. The repairs, which included the replacement of the collapsed Armco Pipe Culverts, construction of a concrete slab, installation of stormwater pipes, and asphalt overlay, were completed on December 12, 2024. The road has now been fully restored, ensuring smooth connectivity between South Africa and Eswatini through the Mkhondo Local Municipality.

MEC Thulasizwe Thomo, who has been at the forefront of the road infrastructure improvement

## Mahamba Road Reopens From Mkhondo To The Kingdom Of Eswatini



agenda in Mpumalanga, expressed his satisfaction with the project's success. *"The reopening of the Mahamba Road is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team. We understand how important of this route is for both local communities and international travelers, and we are proud to have restored it in time for the festive season,"* said MEC Thomo.

The scope of work was extensive, involving excavation, backfilling, pavement construction, and the installation of safety features such as guardrails and road markings. The total cost of the project was R7,568,565.37, with 100% of the budget utilized efficiently.

In line with the department's objectives, the project also prioritized local economic development. Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) were engaged for various tasks, including the supply of plants, site security, and stone-pitching. Additionally, the project created 11 work opportunities, with a focus on empowering women and youth.

This project exemplifies the significant progress being made by the department. It reflects the department's dedication to improving infrastructure, promoting economic development, and enhancing the quality of life for the people of Mpumalanga. As traffic flows smoothly once again, the Mahamba Road stands as a symbol of progress and resilience.

## Building the Future: Long Tom Secondary School Project



The Department plays a crucial role in developing public infrastructure across our communities, including schools, hospitals, and government offices. One of its most significant undertakings currently underway is the construction of the Long Tom Secondary School, located in Mashishing within the Thaba Chweu Municipality.

This new educational facility will be comprehensive, featuring an array of essential structures, including 24 classroom blocks, 4 additional classroom blocks, an administrative block, a computer center, a library, and a science laboratory. Furthermore, the school's design incorporates a school hall, kitchen, guardhouse, refuse area with 25 toilets (comprised of 2 Type-C waterborne toilets and 2 Type-E waterborne toilets), and impressive sports facilities that include 2 combi-courts and a soccer field. Alongside these structures, the project will provide 28 covered parking spaces, covered and uncovered walkways, extensive fencing, and ramps and rails to ensure accessibility for all.

Initiated in January 2024, the project is on track for completion by February 2026, with an overall budget of approximately R70 million. This significant investment not only aims to enhance educational facilities but also to create numerous job opportunities within the local community.

We had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Chilwane, a recent graduate from a Further Education and Training (FET) college, who has benefited from the job opportunities generated by this project. He expressed his gratitude: *"I would like to thank the government for this opportunity. At least I will be able to put food on the table for my family, even though it is not a permanent job. But it will make a huge difference,"* he said.

The construction of Long Tom Secondary School is a step toward fostering education and growth in the Thaba Chweu Municipality, paving the way for a brighter future for the community and its students.

## Government Invests Over R76 Million in New Social Development Offices in Graskop and Acornhoek

In a significant move to enhance service delivery, the government has allocated more than R76 million for the construction of new offices for the Department of Social Development in Graskop and Acornhoek respectively. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in Mpumalanga is serving as the implementing agent for both projects.

The construction of the new offices in Graskop started in September 2023 and the project is expected to be completed in May 2025. The project is currently estimated at 70% towards completion. About R32 million has been budgeted for the completion of the project.

In Acornhoek, the office project started in October 2023 and is progressing well, with an expected completion date of April 2025. This project, which has a total investment of R44 million, is already 85% complete, reflecting the contractor's

efficient management in overcoming initial hurdles.

Project Manager, Mr JG Mathebula, from the Boihabela District highlighted the positive impact of these developments, stating that numerous job opportunities have been generated. Local SMMEs from various wards have also benefited from the contracts associated with these projects, promoting economic growth within the communities.

The new offices will bring significant advantages to the residents of Acornhoek and Graskop, reducing the need for long travels to access services provided by the Department of Social Development. This initiative not only aims to improve service delivery but also strives to uplift the local economy, making it a win-win for the communities involved.

Stay tuned for more updates on these important projects as they progress towards completion!



## ENSURING SCHOLAR TRANSPORT SAFETY THROUGH YEAR-ROUND MONITORING

The safe transportation of learners in Mpumalanga is a top priority for the Department. The Department is committed to monitoring and enforcing compliance in scholar transport operations, recognizing the crucial role that safe and reliable transportation plays in education. Transport Inspectors are working diligently to enhance their monitoring efforts across the province, ensuring that learners arrive at school safely and on time.

Monitoring scholar transport is not a one-time effort; it is an ongoing commitment aimed at addressing safety concerns on the roads throughout the year. Daily inspections are conducted in various parts of the Province, where transport inspectors uphold the highest safety standards. These inspections help identify and rectify issues such as unroadworthy vehicles, overloading, and non-compliance with permit regulations.

Recent operations at Zendeleng Combined School in Entombe, as well as in Mabola, KwaNgema, Mkhondo, and Campsiding, yielded positive results, resulting in 15 summons issued to buses

for various offenses, including vehicle impoundment. These measures align with the National Land Transport Act (NLTA), which governs the operation of public and scholar transport services.

The recent increase in scholar transport-related incidents has necessitated a firm approach to enforcement. By holding non-compliant operators accountable, the province aims to prevent further tragedies and protect the lives of young learners who depend on scholar transport. In addition to law enforcement, the Transport Inspectorate is committed to raising awareness about road safety among transport operators, school authorities, and parents.

The Scholar Transport Programme, officially adopted in 2015 by the Department of Transport in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education, ensures that learners, particularly those in rural and disadvantaged areas, have safe and reliable transportation to school. The programme supports learners who reside more than five kilometers from the nearest school.



## NYS Candidates Empowered Through Infrastructure Development In Gert Sibande District



involved replacing a steel palisade fence with a 130 meter brick wall. This 10-month project is a two phase project and is expected to be completed by 31 March 2025 and has created job opportunities for more than 20 NYS participants and trainee plumbers. This initiative provided practical construction experience for NYS candidates, equipping them with masonry and project coordination skills.

Another significant project was aimed at enhancing the water supply in the Dipaliseng Cost Centre Office. Here, a new Jojo tank stand and pipes were installed. This one-month project, led by departmental artisans, offered opportunities for more than 7 NYS participants and trainee plumbers. It introduced candidates to plumbing, water system installation, and pipe fitting-key skills in the water and sanitation sector.

Additionally, the candidates completed the installation of a Jojo tank in Mayflower cost center office. This involved constructing a steel stand, performing earthworks, and installing a water stand and pressure pump, with a project value of R25,415.90. This project has engaged 9 NYS candidates and exposed young trainees to civil engineering concepts, preparing them for careers in construction and water infrastructure maintenance.

Finally, a carport construction project at the Mayflower cost centre office included excavation, concrete work, and roofing, with a project value of R20,545.80. This project was completed in one month by a team of 9 NYS participants. Through this project, NYS candidates gained experience in metalwork, roofing, and structural installation, enhancing their employability in the construction and fabrication industries.

The National Youth Service (NYS) Programme is a government initiative designed to equip young people with valuable skills and work experience by involving them in various infrastructure projects. The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads, and Transport is committed to enhancing service delivery while providing hands-on technical training for the youth. The NYS Programme serves as a vital pathway for career development, allowing young individuals to gain technical skills and project management experience, thereby increasing their competitiveness in the job market.

In the Gert Sibande District, the office had enrolled 75 NYS candidates for 18 months, starting from June 2023 until November 2024. During their tenure in the department, candidates were placed in various cost centre offices, where they actively worked on several projects related to the refurbishments of departmental residential houses, construction, plumbing, and project management as detailed below:

One notable project is the construction of a security wall at the Standerton Cost Centre Office, which

These projects reflect a strong commitment to empowering youth and improving community infrastructure. The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads, and Transport continues to invest in both people and progress, fostering a skilled and empowered workforce. Since its inception in 2007, the NYS Programme has effectively tackled youth unemployment and promoted community service by recruiting 5577 young people which have been imparted with Mechanical Engineering, Built Environment, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation skills.



## DISABILITY INDABA TACKLES ISSUES THAT CAN BE AN OBSTACLE IN THE LIVES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MEC Thulasizwe Thomo led persons with disabilities in the Department as well as delegates from Disabled Persons Organisations (DPO's) during a Disability Indaba that was held at Sydney Choma Banquet Hall, in Middelburg under the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2024.

The MEC was accompanied by Nkangala District Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr TD Ngwenya, Departmental Senior Management as well as its stakeholders. The two days round table Indaba was aimed at discussing issues that can be a barrier in the lives of persons with disabilities such as, accessible public transport, access to government institutions/ buildings and access to opportunities such as procurement services and learnership/internships.

Presentations by Stakeholders during the Indaba focused on universal design and access in terms of public transport, transport services, economic empowerment and development.

*"It is expected that from the outcomes of all the deliberations that will be engaged on, resolutions taken will be consolidated into action plan in order to pave a positive way forward for the Department to be able to improve on challenges faced by persons with disabilities and to further create opportunities"* said MEC Thomo during his address to delegates of the Indaba.



## Mpumalanga Leads The Way In Road Maintenance Innovation With Zutari Partnership



The Mpumalanga Provincial Government has made a significant advancement in road maintenance management by introducing an innovative Road Maintenance Management System (MMS). Developed in partnership with ZUTARI, this system aims to transform the management of the province's extensive road network.

Roads are essential to any economy, as they connect communities, support businesses, and promote economic growth. However, maintaining a vast and heavily trafficked road network presents challenges, such as aging infrastructure and high traffic volumes. This is particularly true in Mpumalanga, where mining and trade activities place considerable pressure on the roads.

The new MMS is designed to transition from a reactive to a proactive maintenance approach, ensuring that issues are identified and resolved before they escalate. By centralizing road maintenance data, the department can manage operations more efficiently, optimize resource allocation, and improve service delivery.

At the core of the MMS is a real-time monitoring dashboard that provides an overview of all maintenance activities across the province. The system tracks work schedules, team performance, material and fuel usage, vehicle availability, and fleet hours worked.

With real-time data at their fingertips, decision-makers can allocate resources more effectively, prioritize repairs, and monitor costs. *"The MMS is revolutionizing our management of the road network,"* says Mr. Ronny Masia, Acting Chief Director of Transport Infrastructure. *"It gives us complete visibility into maintenance operations, allowing for a more coordinated and efficient approach."*

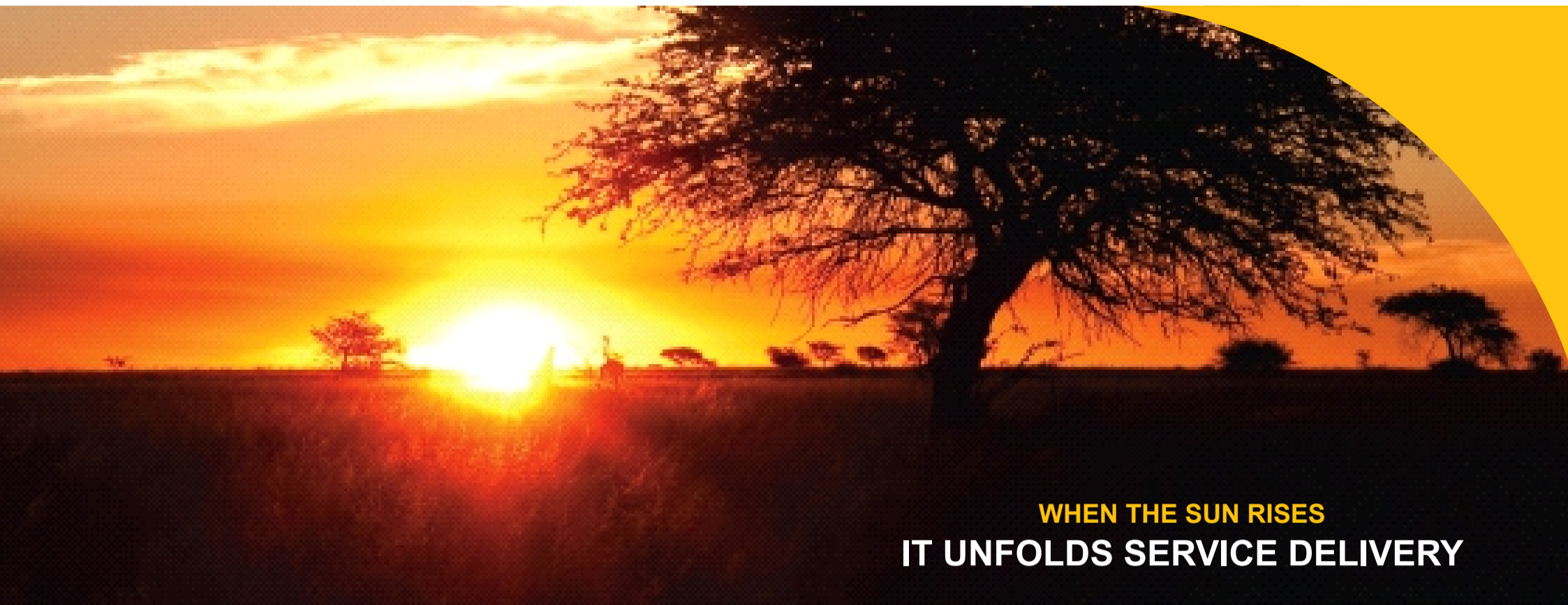
Mr. Masia further emphasized that, beyond improving internal operations, the system is designed to empower both maintenance teams and the public in several ways:

- A Mobile APP for foremen that replaces traditional paper-based work orders, allowing teams to digitally log tasks and capture on-site evidence of completed work.
- A Pothole Reporting APP that enables citizens to report road defects instantly, helping the department respond more quickly and keep roads safer.
- Training and capacity building for over 100 road workers, who have already received instruction on effectively using the system to ensure smooth implementation.

Additionally, a key advantage of the MMS is its improvement in accountability and transparency. The ability to track every aspect of maintenance operations allows for optimized budgets, reduced waste, and better resource allocation. This, in turn, enhances public trust in the department's responsiveness and commitment to road safety.

*"The introduction of this system is a transformative step for the department. It empowers us to manage and maintain our road network with greater precision, ultimately enhancing mobility and accessibility across the province. Moreover, the adoption of digital road maintenance solutions like the MMS has the potential to reshape infrastructure management industry-wide. By leveraging data-driven decision-making, departments across South Africa can work towards more sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective maintenance strategies,"* says Mr. Charles Morolo, the Head of Department.





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

## BATHO PELE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

### Public Servants Rolling Up Sleeves To Spring Clean Service Delivery Points

#### 1 CONSULTATION

All stakeholders should be consulted on the nature, quantity and quality of services to be provided in order to determine the needs and expectations of the end users. Citizens can be consulted through the following:

- Customer surveys
- Campaigns
- Izimbizo
- Workshops

#### 2 SERVICE STANDARDS

Citizens should be told what level and quality of public services they will receive so that they are aware of what to expect

- Service charters
- Strategic plans
- Booklets with standards
- Service level agreements

#### 3 ENSURING COURTESY

Citizens should be treated with courtesy and consideration e.g. tools, measurements & systems put in place to effect customer care – customer care units & staff

- Right attitude!!

#### 4 ACCESS

All citizens should have equal access to the services to which they are entitled, e.g.

- Decentralized offices (MPCC, one stop shops etc)
- Extended business hours
- Use of indigenous languages and sign language
- Service charters displayed
- Improved service delivery to physically, socially and culturally disadvantaged persons (including infrastructure)
- Signage must be clear and helpful
- All frontline staff should wear name tags

#### 5 INFORMATION

Citizens should be given full, accurate information about the public services they are entitled to receive e.g.

- Braille and functional sign language, help desks, brochures, posters, press information to be available at service points, in various official languages
- Weekly newsletters
- Frontline staff training
- Induction training is made compulsory to all new employees

#### 6 OPENNESS & TRANSPARENCY

Citizens should be told how departments are run, how much they cost and who is in charge. The Citizen should know who the Head of the Unit is. The management must be transparent and open to all staff members, e.g.

- Appointment circulars
- Regular staff meetings with Management must be encouraged

#### 7 REDRESS

Establish a mechanism for recording any public dissatisfaction e.g.

- Toll-free number, suggestion boxes & customer satisfaction questionnaires
- Each Unit must have a complaints handling system in place
- Staff must be trained to handle complaints fast & efficiently

#### 8 VALUE FOR MONEY

Public services should be provided economically and efficiently in order to give citizens the best possible value for money e.g.

- The use of expenditure controls, improved internal controls (e.g. private use of phones, budget reviews)
- Costs per unit of services delivered

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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

