



Department of
PUBLIC WORKS

Mishumo

Official newsletter for the Department of Public Works

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MEC LIVES UP TO HER COMMITMENT TO DELIVER TO COMMUNITIES

BY: Tshidavhu T & Sebyeng P

It might have taken two years for the MEC to return to the communities of Sundani, Njhakanjhaka in the Vhembe District, under Makhado Municipality, Ga-Mothele in Bolobedu, Mopani District and Madietani Village in Capricorn District to finally deliver on the commitment, but MEC Thabitha Mohlala led from the front and re-visited people who thought government had reneged on its promise.

It was in 2011 when the Department of Public Works hosted sod-turning ceremonies to launch the construction of schools for these communities. For two years the projects stalled due to short-age of material, but the communities held on to hope. In May 2013 their patience paid off, when the MEC returned to finally hand over site to contractors who will build the four schools with the scope of work having in-creased from the initial commitment. The joy of the leadership of the community and schools was evident, with the Principal of Mhluri Primary School appreciating the visit as history having been made "You are the first MEC to visit this school and today you have also become the 2nd MEC to visit this school after yourself, meaning you are the only MEC, and the joy you have brought is immense, you are an honest leader" said principal Rikhotso in his appreciation.

His words were reiterated by *Vhamusanda Vho* – Sundani, of Sundani Village when he said" I would like to thank the MEC who stands when things are tough and who personally comes to apologize and not send a representative, who also comes to report that things are well...you are an honest and fearless ,leader...you are a fire eater" *Vhamusanda said*.

- The initiative to use internal building staff has brought financial savings to the department and continues to create direct work opportunities in areas where construction is taking place
- During her speech the MEC showed the department's commitment to the statement, she also indicated that the commitment is escalated further by the National Development Plan, which places infrastructure delivery as the bridge that MUST help the country to navigate the journey from poverty to prosperity.



Contractor, Vho-Musanda vha Sundani and MEC



MEC Handing over site to the contractor

The heartland of Southern Africa - development is about people!

MODIMOLLE COST CENTRE

HARD AT WORK

BY: Happy Lekgothoane



Mr. Ramasenya leading MEC, Mme Thabitha Mohlala through the project

The recent visit by MEC, Mme Thabitha Mohlala at Rapotokwane Traditional Office was to assess the current phase of the project. The project is one of the in-house projects including Ha-Mulima and other traditional offices being constructed by skilled LDPW teams. The Rapotokwane project is being constructed by Modimolle Cost Centre under the supervision of Mr. Mulaudzi NE supported by 37 skilled team members. The current status of the project is at 82 percent, soon after completion the project will be handed to Chief Vuma Mahlangu of Kwa-Litho Traditional Council.



Current phase of Rapotokwane Traditional Office

The Cost Centre is also providing service delivery to the community and it also provides maintenance to Social Development offices, Clinics, Hospitals and Schools around Modimolle Local Municipality.

MEC VISITS MOTHAPO PRIMARY SCHOOL

BY: Happy Lekgothoane

Limpopo Department of Public Works' MEC Mme Thabitha Mohlala together with officials from LDPW on the 26th of April 2013 visited Mothapo Primary School at Ga Molepo (Sebjeng Village) Polokwane Local Municipality.

This was part of the Executive Council Outreach (EXCO) Public Participation Programme. Members of the Executive Council (MEC's) visit projects and interact with community members to obtain first-hand information on service delivery outputs and challenges.



The principal of the School, Mr Raoano Malesela shared some of the challenges encountered by the school that related to norms and standards, text-books, sports facilities, cooperation between School Governing Body (SGB) and accommodation which derail smooth operation of the school.

These are issues that the Public Participation team coordinate and draft deliberate intervention plans, together with respective line Departments, which eventually forms part of the EXCO agenda including municipal and community structures.

Public Works In-house Teams Hard at Work

BY: Happy Lekgothoane

MEC for Public Works Mme Thabitha Mohlala performed symbolic Sod Turning ceremony at Roka Malepe Tribal Council on the 25 of March 2013, wherein a Tribal Office will be constructed as per the commitment during 2012/13 financial year.

The project will be constructed by the Public Works in-house building team of the Tubatse Cost Centre. The Cost Centre is headed by Mr MJ Kgatle and it has forty (40) staff members that provide service delivery to the community and stakeholders in the Tubatse area.

The initiative to use internal building staff has brought financial savings to the department and continues to create direct work opportunities in areas where construction is taking place.

The Nebo Cost Centre headed by Mr T V Malata has forty five (45) staff members who provide service delivery to the community and stakeholders in the Nebo area. With the technically skilled personnel, the cost Centre has constructed a store room for the Cost Centre's utilization. The Cost Centre is also responsible to build the Elias Motsoaledi Cost Centre, which will assist in bringing service delivery closer to the local community.



Foundation Phase



Completed Project

PUBLIC WORKS CONTINUES TO WORK.....

RE A SOMA BUDGET VOTE 9 2013/14

BY: Nikiwe Mokono

On the 25th of April 2013 MEC Thabitha Mohlala tabled the departmental budget to the Provincial Legislature. The MEC started by quoting from President Jacob Zuma's speech during the January 8 statement; *"The infrastructure development plan has introduced the national and central co-ordination for the building of dams, roads, bridges, power stations, schools, hospitals, two new universities and other infrastructure that will change the landscape of our country and the lives of our people. We call on government to hasten the implementation of all 18 strategic infrastructure projects; especially those directed at the 23 poorest districts in the country"*

During her speech the MEC showed the department's commitment to the statement, she also indicated that the commitment is escalated further by the National Development Plan, which places infra-structure delivery as the bridge that MUST help the country to navigate the journey from poverty to prosperity.

The MEC highlighted the department's success of 2009-13 which are as follows:

The department delivered 318 infrastructure projects on behalf of client departments;

- 237 schools were completed for the Department of Education;
- 31 Hospital were upgraded for the Department;
- 23 Libraries were completed and handed over to the Department for Sport Arts and Culture;
- 6 market stalls for Limpopo Economic Development and Tourism (LEDET) Department and;
- 14 one-stop- centers for the Department of Social Development;
- 5 Traffic Stations for Roads and Transport; and Completed 2 electrification projects on behalf of the Department of Agriculture.

In 2011, the Department embarked on a pilot to test its capacity to deliver projects using its internal expertise, wherein both Ha-Mulima and Rapotkwane Traditional Council Offices in Makhado and Bela-Bela Municipalities, respectively were built by the staff of Public Works.

This initiative by the Department brought the province financial saving and created 136 direct work opportunities.

During the 2012/13 financial year the department committed to complete three hospitals which are under the revilitasation programme, namely Letaba Hospital which is currently at 99 per-cent completion, Thabamopo Hospital is at 90-percent and Maphutha-Malatjie Hospital has been completed.

The Department delivered 6 libraries; Musina and Saseleman in Vhembe District, Mulati in Mopani District; Shongwane in Waterberg District; Vlakfontein in Sekhukhune District and Molepo Library in Capricorn District.

Under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the Department had a target to coordinate the creation of 102 763 work opportunities in the 2012/13 financial year. Through coordination the Department achieved 91% by creating 93 377 work opportunities at the end of the 4th quarter.

The construction of three Tribal Construction Offices in Mopani Ga-Sekororo, Capricorn in Moletsi and Sekhukhune in Roka Malepe has commenced and the Public Works in-house building teams are hard at work.

MEC Mohlala further indicated that the department will focus on massive infrastructure during the 2013/14 financial year:

- 72 projects in the five districts through the departmental construction management programme;
- 3 new libraries to be constructed, upgrade 8 libraries and renovate 10 libraries;

The overall budget for the 2013/14 financial year for the Provincial Department of Public Works is R877 Million.

PUBLIC WORKS.....RE A SOMA!!

PUBLIC WORKS WENT... IT SAW... IT CONQUERED!

BY: Tendani Tshidavhu

Hlanganani Cost Centre is a village Centre situated in Bungeni. Workers in the Centre of whom most are elderly personnel, discharge their duties from two modest structures, that serve as office space. Their clean surroundings and organized offices speak volume of the caliber of men and women representing the Provincial Department of Public Works in the vicinity.

It is from these humble surroundings that one of the best teams in the Province emerged as a winner of the Premier's Excellence Awards of 2011/12. This was after the Department embarked on an ambitious task to build Traditional Council Offices using in-house teams in order to save costs and test capacity of the Department to deliver. Hlanganani Cost Centre did not disappoint when constructing the Mulima Traditional Council office in Vhembe District.

The team was awarded a Gold prize for their sterling work in the departmental level. It participated in the provincial level and their work was confirmed as good when they were again awarded a gold prize, making them ideal ambassadors of Public Works family.

The prize was finally handed over to the cost Centre and was received with excitement.

"Today we have come here to say thank you for the excellent work and finally hand over your prize, you made us proud", Madidimalo Chaamano, Head of Department, said as he congratulated the



HOD FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HANDING OVER THE AWARD TO THE HLANGANANI COST CENTER

staff gathered to witness the hand over.

In the 2011/12 Premier's Excellence Awards the Department of Public Works emerged as the best Department in the Province having scooped the only platinum award in the competition through the Giyani cost Centre cleaning team in the Service Delivery category.

The overall Premier's Excellence awards had nine trophies and out of the nine, Public Works received two trophies and two went to Department of Roads and Transport. This left all other Departments sharing the 5 remaining trophies. Of the 5 trophies, none was platinum status, meaning the Department of Public Works was the overall top achiever in the 2011/12 Financial Year.

A Silver award was also officially handed over to the Vhembe District landscaping team for excellence achieved in the 2010/11 Premier's Excellence Awards in the innovation category

Public Works Activities in Pictures

- Officials commemorating Youth Month dressed in school uniform in support of young people of June 16 uprising.
- MEC visiting ,Mothapo School as part of EXCO
- Candle Lighting Ceremony





LDPW OFFICIALS HELD A CANDLE LIGHT MEMORIAL

BY: Lethabo Moloto

The Departmental Officials came together with the world in the global fight against HIV/AIDS by holding its own version of International AIDS candlelight memorial recently.

Officials gathered on May 31st 2013 to light candles in act to raise awareness around AIDS / HIV and remember the loved ones lost to HIV/AIDS.

And later in the Day there were services that the wellness unit organized which are : Financial Management (What banking channel/s are you using?, Are you using the right account?, How much is your bank charges?, Do you know your financial rights?, Are you prepared for unforeseen circumstances?) Wellness screening e.g. HCT, BP, cholesterol, body Mass Index etc. HIV,STI & TB.



OFFICIALS DURING THE CANDLE LIGHT MEMORIAL

TAKE A GIRL/BOYCHILD TO WORK CAMPAIGN 2013

BY: Belinda Chabalala

Special Programmes held a take a girl child to work campaign on the 06th June 2013 in Botlokwa Village at Rasema High School.

Take a girl child to work is a project initiated by Cellc in 2003 with the purpose to enable girl children to aspire and plan their futures progressively regardless of whom they are and where they come from. The Department has been part of this campaign since 2003- to date and has already hosted over 1000 girl learners in all 5 districts, in 2011 there was a further initiative of including boy children identifying the fact that boys are starting to feel left out of empowering initiatives. Take a girl/ boy to work campaign provides girl/boy children in grade 10,11 and 12 with real-life platforms to broaden their horizons and aspirations. The event was a success as the school management was happy and so were the learners.



DITEBOGO THINDIZA AND ROSSETA ZWANE PRESENTING TO THE LEARNERS OF REASEMA HIGH SCHOOL



RASEMA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TOGETHER WITH DPW OFFICIALS

May Day >>>> For Workers

BY: Belinda Chabalala

Workers Day also known as May Day is a national public holiday in South Africa held on the 1st of May annually. This year the day was commemorated under the theme “**A united working class for radical economic transformation**” It was inaugurated as an official national public holiday following the first democratic elections of 1994, It has been officially observed since then. Traditionally this day has been known to be a day to protest for better wages and working standards.

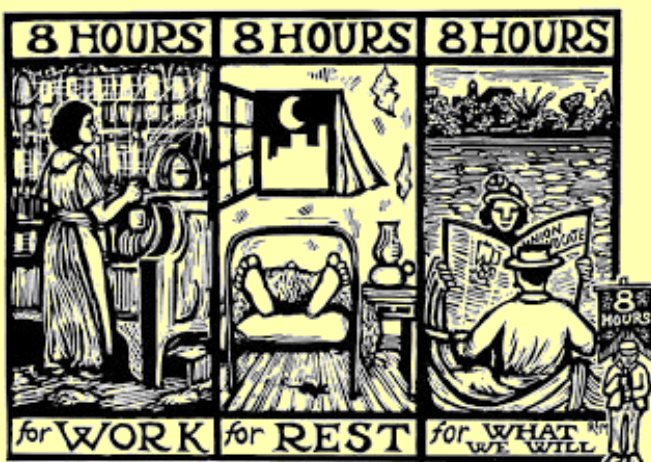
The history of Workers Day goes back to the 1886 Haymarket affair in Chicago, where police tried to disperse a large crowd of striking workers who were protesting for a shorter workday of 8hrs. Then in 1891, it was after a successful annual demonstration that Workers Day was formally inducted into the official calendars of as many as 80 countries honoring the date and what it stands for, South Africa included, it is unsurprising that South Africa commemorates this day.



Six rallies to celebrate May Day were held in six provinces hosted and organized by the congress of South African trade unions.

Limpopo Province held two events one at Kgapane Stadium in Letaba, the rally was focusing on vulnerable workers and specifically challenges farm workers face, another rally was at Marapong Stadium in Lephalale which focused on challenges faced by vulnerable workers and in particular defending the National Union of Mine Workers and National Un-ion of Metal Workers against emerging fake unions.

May Day is celebrated world wide, to emphasize the need to establish fair labour practices and employment standards and to celebrate the fallen lives of workers who fought for fair labour practices and better wages back in the days.



SOURCE: Internet

Africa Day 2013

TIME TO REFLECT ON AFRICAN UNITY

Source: Internet

In the 1980's South Africa was a country on the verge of implosion. Opposition to the apartheid state was at its peak, a groundswell of popular resistance had emerged and pressure was brought to bear from within and outside the country. Sensing that it was losing its grip on power, the apartheid government declared a State of Emergency that lasted for much of the 1980's.

However, the will of the people would not be silenced, resistance continued to grow and opposition to apartheid came from all quarters. On the continent the then OAU, formed on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, led a chorus of voices calling for an end to apartheid.

From its inception, the OAU was committed to ridding the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonization and apartheid, while promoting unity and solidarity among African states. In the 1980s it played a pivotal role in pressurize Western nations to impose sanctions on apartheid South Africa; this ultimately contributed towards the demise of this unjust system.

On July 25, 1986, days before being elected as chairman of the OAU for a second time, then president of Zambia Kenneth Kaunda met British foreign secretary Geoffrey Howe and made it clear that apartheid had to end. "As a fellow human being, Sir Geoffrey, I must welcome you. But as a messenger of what you have come to do in South Africa, you are not welcome at all."

Kaunda said these now famous words in reaction to the reluctance by Britain and the U S at the time to implement stronger economic sanctions against the apartheid state.

On April 27, 1994 our new nation was born and a few weeks later on May 23 1994 we became the 53rd member of the OAU. Our journey came full circle on July 9, 2002 when the OAU was disbanded by its last chairperson, former president Thabo Mbeki, and replaced by the African Union (AU).

Each year on May 25 we celebrate Africa Day and look back at the road travelled by Africans since that momentous day in Ethiopia all those years ago. This year's celebrations take on an added significance as they mark the 50th anniversary of the birth of the OAU.

On Africa Day we have an opportunity to reflect where we came from, appreciate where we are today and most importantly, plan where we would like to be 50 years from now. Having collectively defeated colonialism and white rule, the continent's focus has changed from liberation to development and integration to ensure greater socio-economic growth.

Upon reflection one can see the influence of the OAU on where we are today. It was the organization's extensive work on fostering co-operation and unity that has helped position Africa at the center of the current revolution in global economic power.

The vision of the continent was recently outlined by President Jacob Zuma during the World Economic Forum on Africa. He spoke of the May 25 milestone and its impact on us to-day.

"When we gather at our headquarters in Addis Ababa later this month, we will reflect on the progress made and the challenges. We will also be thinking ahead to the Africa we want to see and live in, in the next 20, 30 and even 50 years," he said.



The president spoke passionately about how perceptions of Africa have changed, from once being called a hopeless continent, to what is now referred to as the rising continent due to its impressive growth rates. Highlighting the new-found hope and optimism sweeping the continent he said: “We have the opportunity to define our own future as Africans and create the Africa we desire. An Africa that is united, integrated and free from the scourge of poverty. An Africa that has conducive conditions for trade and investment. An Africa that will enable the creation of sustainable and de-cent jobs for our people, particularly the youth.”

His words are indeed a clarion call; they are an indicator of the Africa that has begun to emerge. Under the auspices of the AU there has been greater solidarity and unity between African countries, and the dream of greater socio-economic integration and peace, security and stability still burns brightly.

Much work has already been done to leverage the economic clout of the continent. In 2011 the tripartite Initiative was established which aims to bring together the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Southern African Development Community and the East African Community.

Negotiations for a free trade area are on track and will be concluded by next year, with implementation scheduled for 2015. The first phase of regional integration will see the expansion of existing regional communities and the creation of large trading blocs. The broader free trade area would embrace 26 countries with between 600 million and 700 million people, and a combined gross domestic product of \$1-trillion (R8.9 trillion).

Government calls on all South Africans to join us on May 25 when we celebrate Africa Day and commemorate the 50th anniversary of the OAU. We must never forget the unyielding support of fellow African countries during our struggle for freedom. The founding principles of the OAU are just as important as they were 50 years ago.

In the spirit of Africa Day, let us embrace and partner with our fellow African brothers and sisters residing in South Africa and elsewhere on the continent. We must be forever mindful that peace and security on the continent remain prerequisites for development and integration, and that our mutual growth and prosperity is inexorably linked.

HAPPINESS COMES FROM WITHIN

BY: Anonymous

I was reading the news update circulated to us by newsroom the issue on Workers Day, and for the first time reading it attentively. On the front page there is a picture illustrating to us the eight hours we work, the eight hours we sleep and the eight hours we relax and do whatever makes us happy, which will be weekends, public holidays and annual leaves. As I came to the end of the newsletter I read "*happy people and professionalism*" and I am smiling to myself thinking how many people are really happy at work or have a happy state of mind????

My reasons for asking myself this question was that in the morning when I come to work happy because I am from home "*my cosy home*", coming to work to invest more in my cosy home with the salary that my boyfriend (government) is going to give me on the 15th which lasts only one day, makes me happy but yet when I walk into the building, I meet my colleagues and ask the common question "*how are you*"?, my fellow workers give me all kinds of stories not personal or home related but how sad they are to come work for my boyfriend (government to be precise Public Works). LOL! (Laughing Out Loud)

Happiness is a personal state of mind; you have to know it to feel it. Happiness is inhaling fresh air every day, is being able to walk every day and happiness is having food in your stomach every day. If you have all these basic things you are happy the rest is just your personal state of mind.

Workers claim the employer needs to make us happy for we spend most of our time at work, I agree but how many of us meet the employer halfway, my state of mind needs to be happy, to be made happy.

Being happy can open so many doors for me, just by accepting my circumstances that I have created for myself and acknowledging the challenges I have overcome makes me happy.

You cannot be professional if you are not happy because professionalism starts with a smile. Sometimes when my fellow workers complain of their working conditions their unreasonable supervisors and their workload which in other instances they are just too lazy to do, I just agree, nod my head and sympathise with them. I listen because I think if they let it out all out they might slightly see the light of happiness and move on. Again....LOL (Laughing Out Loud). I told myself that no one will change my state of mind I am happy wherever I am, I am HAPPY!



WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND A DRUG FREE SOUTH AFRICA

BY: Belinda Chabalala



LDPW OFFICIALS IN
COMMOMERATION OF JUNE 16

Youth Day commemorates the events triggered by discrimination within the education system. On 16 June 1976 more than 20,000 students from schools in Soweto started a protest march that led to clashes with police and a spate of violence leaving an estimated 700 people dead. Youth Day celebrations reflect on these events, but focus on opportunities available to young South Africans today.

Because 16 June was on a Sunday this year, Monday 17 June was Public Holiday. The department celebrated this day on Friday the 14 of June where colleagues were wearing school uniform in remembrance of the 1976 students' heroes whom lost their lives fighting for a better education.

Make health your 'new high' in life, not drugs

BY: Belinda Chabalala

By resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987, the General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. This resolution recommended further action with regard to the report and conclusions of the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

This day serves as a sharp reminder of the goals agreed to by members of the states of creating an international society free of drug abuse. The day further raises awareness for two important world issues namely; World Drug Day and Blue Heart Campaign against human trafficking. Drug and substance abuse is a very serious challenge that affects everyone. Drug abuse is happening everywhere, at the workplace, schools, in our communities and in our back yards that is why we can't just turn a blind eye on them. People need to take a global action for clean communities without drugs and make health our new high in life and leave no space for drugs. Let us all be smart, think health and say **NO** to drugs.



Let's unite and fight this killer habit.

Source: Internet

VISION

A leader in the provision and management of land and buildings.

MISSION

Optimal utilization of resources in the provision and management of provincial land and buildings and the coordination of Expanded Public Works Programme.

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The heartland of Southern Africa - *development is about people!*

Re a Soma