



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Re a Soma



Official Departmental Quarterly Newsletter

January—February 2024 Fourth Quarter Edition



**19 provincial roads
transferred to SANRAL**

**120 EPWP
Participants
given tools of
trade**

**Operation Siyahhlola in
Vuwani**

**Budget Speech
Highlights**

**Construction of
Limpopo
Provincial
Theatre starting
soon**



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Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) will be allocated R5,272 billion in 2024/2025, 4,770 billion in 2025/2026 and R4,529 billion in 2026/2027 financial years. In 2024/2025, the allocation will be utilized to implement various infrastructure projects including ZCC R71 Interchange Road Projects at R125 million, purchasing of new yellow fleet at R100 million, refurbishment of LEDET Suid Street building at R20 million and MMSEZ Road Infrastructure project at R15 million with R150 million set aside for the settlement of municipal rates and taxes. As per EXCO resolution, a total budget of R100 million is allocated for purchasing and owning office building in order to reduce rental costs.



said Mr Seaparo Sekwati, MEC for Provincial Treasury during the 2024 provincial budget speech

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VISION

A leader in the provision and management of provincial Land, Buildings and Roads Infrastructure.

MISSION

Optimal utilization of resource in the provision and management of sustainable social and economic infrastructure including implementation and coordination of Expanded Public Works Programme.

VALUES

The Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads & Infrastructure prides itself on the following core values:

Accountability

Every officials will be held responsible for own action and ensuring single point accountability,

Integrity

All officials will be truthful and honest in execution of duties in their area of competence.

Professional Ethics

All officials will perform diligently with necessary proficiency in the execution of duties in their area of skills backed by acceptable moral code.

Excellence in Service Delivery

All officials shall dedicate their energy and time strive to deliver as a joint and cooperate amongst themselves for service excellence,

Transparency

The Department will always uphold Batho Pele Principles and deliver accordingly.

Answerability

The Department will collectively take liability for poor service delivery.



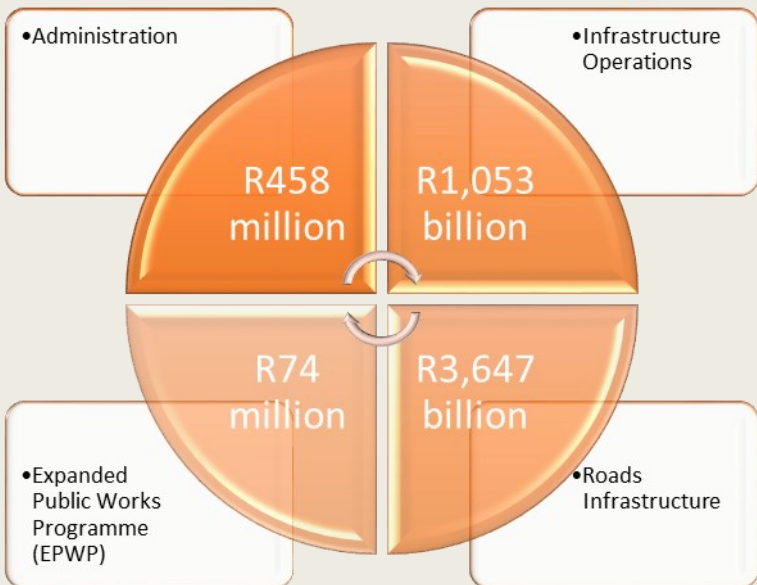
From Left: Chief Risk Officer Mr David Kutama, A/Head of Department Mr Daddy Phukuntsi, Chief Financial Officer Ms Mahlasedi Mhlabane, MEC Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, Chief Director District Coordination Mr Pat Twala, Chief Director Health Infrastructure Ms Melitah Modiba and Chief of Staff Mr Witness Tiva.



Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale
MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2024 BUDGET SPEECH

Highlights



BUDGET ALLOCATIONS: The Allocation is distributed as follows:

- Programme 1:** Administration – R 458 million
- Programme 2:** Infrastructure Operations – R 1.053 billion
- Programme 3:** EPWP – R74 million
- Programme 4:** Road Infrastructure – R3.647 billion

The Department will transfer **R2.557 billion** to the Roads Agency Limpopo comprised of an equitable share of R1.152 billion and Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant of R1.406 billion.

ACHIEVEMENTS :

- Regravelling of **110 kilometres** of gravel road
- 552599 square meters** of blacktop patching
- 3406 jobs** created under road infrastructure
- 25 new graders, 17 light delivery vehicles** and **1 excavator** procured

CANDIDACY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: This is a Structured Engineering Professionals Development Programme for acquiring engineering

2024 BUDGET SPEECH

Highlights

professionals skills in the built environment sector focusing on Civil, Electrical and Mechanical, Quantity Surveying, Construction Project Management, Architecture, Valuers and Town Planning. The programme is hosting **twenty-three (23) candidates with five (05) joining the course during 2024/2025** financial year—all funded by the departmental bursary programme.

COMMITMENT TO ARTS INDUSTRY: The contractor has commenced with the **construction of the Provincial Theatre** which will have 600 seating capacity in the main building, secondary theatre with 200 seating capacity including amenities such as restaurants and bars, coffee shop, bookshops and poetry spaces.

DEPARTMENTS OFFICE ACCOMMODATION: The Department will in 2024/25 financial year continue to acquire office accommodation to further reduce rental costs and **R100-million set aside**. The department is currently refurbishing the LEDET Suid Street Building in Polokwane at an **earmarked allocation of R20-million**. The department concluded the procurement of the sale and transfer of 27 Hans Van Rensburg office building, Limpopo Gambling board and Limpopo Tourism Authority buildings.

EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE: In the 2023/24 financial year, the department began construction of **27 school projects across** the province. **Seven (7)** of these school projects have been **completed**. Sixteen **(16) new projects** will be completed in the 2024/25 financial and **four (4)** will be completed in the 2025/26 financial year. There are **nineteen (19)** new school projects planned to commence with construction in the 2024/2025 financial year.

EPWP Phase V will be launched in 2024/2025 focussing on massification of work opportunities and exit strategies through the Infrastructure & Environment and Culture sectors. EPWP is exploring partnership with TVET colleges, SETAs, NPOs, Private Sectors and other entities of government focusing on training and enterprise development as **exit strategies from the programme**.

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (EPWP): Through National Youth Service under EPWP, the department trained young people and recently held a ceremony to handover tools of trade to ensure these young people are active and productive once they exit the programme—departmental commitment to growing the pool of professional led us to focus on Candidacy Development Programme.

HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE: There have been laundry upgrades in Witpoort, Ellisras, Mokopane, FH Odendaal, Musina, Donald Fraser and Louis Trichardt hospitals respectively. Sekhukhune District received new Bosele EMS satellite station, and Capricorn District received Mothiba clinic, while several upgrades and additions were implemented at Letaba hospital in Mopani District. **Completion of Maphutha-Malatji hospital's Out-Patient Department (OPD)** is scheduled for end of April 2024.

Infrastructure development is essential for the survival of people in our province. It supports every facet of our people's livelihood be it in agriculture, tourism, mining, retail and financial services. The state of our provincial infrastructure indeed powers the provincial economy in many ways.

LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE: The department delivered the Seleteng library in Lepelle-Nkumpi, Mavalani and Runnymede libraries in Mopani District respectively. The

construction of Tshaulu, Mampane, Vleifontein and Botshabelo, libraries are at different stages of completion. Three more libraries will be implemented in the 2024/25 financial year, and they are at Ha-Makhuva, Bungeni and Matlekereng villages.

LIMPOPO CONTRACTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: The second phase known as **Vuk'uphile Programme** will from 01 April 2024 **enrol 36 young, aspiring and emerging contractors** who are currently on the CIDB level 2. **This thirty-six (36) months** with intensive training programme seek to empower the youth of our province and allow them participate in mainstream economy of the province. **An amount of R78 million** with road infrastructure managements is earmarked for this purpose.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE: In the past 5 years the department completed 149 road work projects comprising of upgrades from gravel to tar **(30 projects)**, preventative maintenance **(95 projects)** and attending flood damaged bridges and roads **(24 projects)**. Through engagements with National Department of Transport, the department **transferred 19 critical road networks** in the province to SANRAL.

The department has welcomed **ten (10) Cuban Technical Advisors (CTAs)** and **three (3) in-house professional and colleagues from Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA)**. The CTA team joined the departmental officials in implementing social economic infrastructure projects while DBSA team serves as supervisors and mentors to candidacy and contractor development programmes.

An amount of **R150-million is set aside** to ensure that municipal rates and taxes are paid. It is very important for government to lead by example and pay for its consumption of municipal services just like everyone else residing in serviced areas.

The past five year period, **which started in the 2019/2020 financial year to 2023/2024 financial year**, the Department delivered socio-economic infrastructure facilities that the province has been able to utilize to render services to our people. These facilities contributed to economic transformation agenda of government, towards building a better life for all.

The **Small Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs)** benefited and grew from contracts awarded as part of the broader government empowerment scheme. This empowerment was a deliberate policy decision of government that **a minimum of thirty-percent (30%)** of the contract value should be **sub-contracted to competent and capable small businesses NOT . construction mafias**, the criminal gangs masquerading as business people. The construction mafias must be eliminated, working together with law enforcement agencies. The Department only have space for legitimate business people. Communities should be on high alert and report such incidents wherever they rear their ugly head.

TRADITIONAL COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE: The Department restores dignity to the members of Royal Houses in the province by implementing traditional council office projects as part of upholding the provinces commitment to support and honour traditional leaders as they enhance the work of government at a local level. **Seven (7) traditional council offices completed and four (4) in the process** of completion. The Department will be focusing on the refurbishment of the Makuya, Litho Ndzuza and Mampane

2024 BUDGET SPEECH

Highlights

traditional council offices in the 2024/25 financial year. A new contractor has been appointed to continue with work on the Bakone traditional council office which will be completed in the 2024/25 financial year.

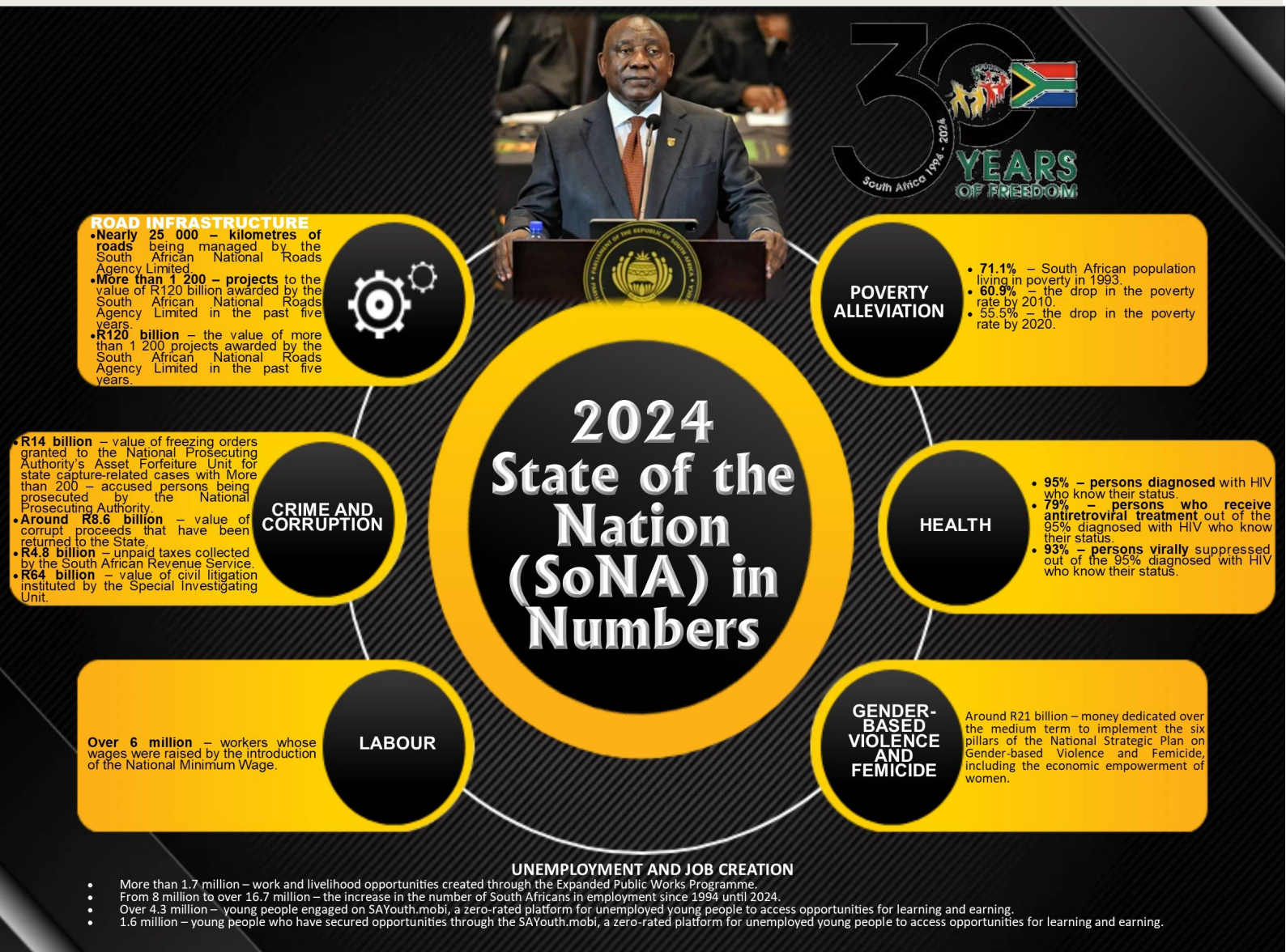
TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE: The implementation of the Limpopo Traffic Training College, with accommodations Blocks A and B is completed. This Traffic Training College **The construction of Block C is underway** along with the construction of a new canteen and the construction works is underway at the Thohoyandou and Seshego K53 traffic stations and progressing well.

WELISIZWE BRIDGES : The department, National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and South African National Defence Force will **construct 17 planned Welisizwe bridges**, 4 are being implemented while 13 will be done in the next financial year—all implemented by the

SANDF.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES: The province has **created 489317 work opportunities** through EPWP, an over-achievement of 103% against the 5-year work opportunities target of 475358 set at a national level.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT: The Department will resuscitate mechanical workshops **to provide artisan candidates** from various TVET colleges with practical skills. The department is engaging various TVET colleges **to source those artisan candidates for placement**. Providing functional workshops will address issues of unemployment and poverty alleviation through skills development and transfer.



SOD-TURNING CEREMONY FOR LIMPOPO THEATRE: "THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR CREATIVE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRY"



The Limpopo journey to showcase talent to the world is about to begin. "A game-changer for artists in Limpopo"

Acting HOD Mr Daddy Phukuntsi, MEC Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, MEC Mme Nakedi Kekana and Premier Chupu Mathabatha. As the SOD turning happens led by Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha on the far right

Johannes Mangena

A major construction is set to start as the Limpopo government commits to bring a contemporary space for the cultural and creative industry to the Limpopo Province artists. The Limpopo theatre has since been anticipated to develop the talents of artists in the province across theatre, film, video, craft, poetry, comedy, opera, choral music, and more. The collaborative effort by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will ensure that the construction of the Limpopo Theatre is complete. This was during the Sod Turning ceremony where Premier Stanley Mathabatha said that the Limpopo Provincial theater will be more than just a physical structure, and that it will play a pivotal role in developing and growing the arts in our province. He further mentioned that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as the implementing agent will ensure that the theatre becomes fully operational in 2026.

MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure Nkakareng Rakgoale highlighted that the department will deliver a quality structure on time as a

contractor is already appointed. The facility will consist of a theatre of 600 seats and a secondary building with capacity of 200. This is a multi-million project that will be completed in 2026 creating about 100 jobs.

Acting Head of Department Daddy Phukuntsi also said that the state-of-the-art theatre will have various facilities, including its own township development, restaurants, a dance studio, book shop and library. This is one of the tourism development along R37 road towards Lebowakgomo.

Premier Mathabatha envisioned the theatre as "the heartbeat of our creative and cultural industry" and a pivotal development for the arts in Limpopo. "It will be a safer space for electrifying theatre performances, nurturing creative talents, and contributing significantly to the creative economy and the growth of our artists" explained the Premier.



19 PROVINCIAL ROADS

transferred to SANRAL

Khomotjo Serumula

Following Minister of Transport, Mme Sindisiwe Chikunga's provincial oversight visit in the first quarter of 2023/2024 financial year, the department identified and transferred nineteen (19) roads from the provincial road network to South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) in an effort to improve road infrastructure in the province. During the oversight visit, Minister Chikunga reiterated that roads are central in the economic activities

and play a strategic role in connecting all modes of transport to enable a seamless movement of goods, labour and access to market. The decision to transfer these roads was taken by the Limpopo Provincial Executive Council which was held in January this year.

The roads were selected based on their proximity to national roads, traffic assessment and economic activities. These are roads that connect major cities where issues of tourism, mining and agricultural activities were taken into account.

This transfer means that all activities

related to the planning, design, construction and maintenance of these road networks (stated on a table below) will henceforth be the responsibility of SANRAL.

SANRAL aims to provide and manage a safe national road network to enable and contribute to economic growth and social development. They utilise the primary road network system to spatially transform the national road network in an effort to integrate cities by ensuring accessible resources, facilities and locations.

WHAT IS A PROVINCIAL ROADS? It is a road that connects cities and municipalities without using national roads, and roads connecting major provincial infrastructure. The construction and maintenance is done by the department through Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL).

A total of 1084,83km transferred to SANRAL

Road Number	Description	Length (km)
D21	Ofcolaco to The Oaks (R36 to R36)	47,86
P116/1	Origstad to Bavaria	29,79
D3840	R81 to Giyani to Makhuvu to Palaborwa	50,44
P43/3	R71 to Eiland Spa	30,00
D4	From N1 to Matsekali	125,60
D9 (R81)	From Giyani to Malamulele	46,60
P278/1	N1 to Sibasa	61,40
D19 and D3580	Polokwane to Bavaria to N11	87,71
P94/2	(R521) Vivo to Alldays	50,54
P169/1 (R555)	Settlers to Burgersfort	32,37
D2219	Steelbridge (Ga- Malekane) to Jane Furse	28,52
P85/1 and/2	Bela Bela to Marble Hall	61,21
P51/3	Groblersdal to Stofberg	56,76
P62/2	Monsterlus to Stofberg	49,78
P95/1 (R25)	Groblersdal to Mpumalanga Border (Towards Verena)	29,46
D887	Tom Burke to Alldays (R572)	136,09
P134/1	Roedtan to Moletlane (R518)	94,94
D1554 (R561)	Marken to Baltimore	36,16

RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR 2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

Thabelo Mugwedi

On its bid to improve school results, the provincial government continues to monitor the re-opening of schools in the beginning of the school year. The Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure visited two schools (primary and secondary) at Nzhelele village under Makhado Local Municipality in Vhembe District, on the day of re-opening of schools (17 January 2024).

The MEC was accompanied by the departmental District Director Mr. T Tshindane and the circuit manager Mr. M Ramutsheli. The visit started at Mandala Primary School and proceeded to Dzata Secondary School, whereby the School

Governing Body (SGB), educators and learners welcomed the MEC with open arms.

The aim was to motivate the learners to start their new academic year with a positive mind and high expectations in order to get the best results at the end of the year. She further encouraged primary educators to “keep on doing wonderful job” as they are “the conveyer-belts to secondary schools”.

Together with the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture the MEC handed over sport equipment's to



MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale and district representatives handing over sport equipments to the learners of Mandala Primary School

the learners of Mandala Primary School as a way of encouraging learners to participate in sports.



From Left: Cllr Frida Nkondo, MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale, Minister Sihle Zikalala, MEC Florence Radzilani and Cllr Gabriel Maluleke

OPERATION SIY AHLOLA IN VUWANI TO UNBLOCK SERVICE DELIVERY

Johannes Mangena

The programme Operation Siyahlola that aims to fast-track essential infrastructure projects that have experienced challenges continued at Vhembe District as the Minister for Public Works and Infrastructure Sihle Zikalala visited Vuwani South African Police Service Station and Magistrate court and also engaged with the local traditional councils as well as the community on infrastructure related issues. These are projects

that have had challenges which halted the completion of the SAPS building in particular. Minister highlighted that the reconstruction for the police station will start in March 2024, and it is envisaged to be completed in 18 months. MEC for Limpopo Department Public works, Roads and Infrastructure Nkakareng Rakgoale indicated that the visit by the Minister is an actual intervention directed at serving the people, she further highlighted that the mission seeks to accelerate service delivery

in under-served areas especially rural areas and to assess first-hand the impact of infrastructure provision. Referring to the police Station MEC Nkakareng says the government is committed to expand service delivery by building police station and thus creating safer environment for the community of Vuwani.

Re a Soma

From Left: MEC Mme Mavhungu-Lerule Ramakhanya, MEC Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, Acting Mayor Fetakgomo-Tubatse Cllr Mashego and Premier Chupu Mathabatha



LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CELEBRATES ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

The premier also called upon all South Africans to use the whole month, to reflect on the achievements by the government. “To promote respect for basic human rights and restore human dignity in line with the Bill of Rights.”

The Constitution of South Africa is hailed as one of the most progressive in the world. The Constitution is the ultimate protector of our Human Rights, which were previously denied to most of our people under Apartheid. We commemorate Human Rights Day to reinforce our commitment to the Bill of Rights as enshrined in our Constitution. These rights include:

- Equality** – everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.
 - Human dignity** – everyone has inherent dignity and have their dignity respected and protected.
 - Freedom of movement and residence** – everyone has a right to freedom of movement and to reside anywhere in the country.
 - Language and culture** – everyone have the right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of their choice.
 - Life** - everyone has the right to life.
- There were also messages of support from the Progressive Women’s Movement of South Africa (PWMSA), Human Rights Commission, Commission for Gender Equality and the IEC.
- Additional source:** <https://www.gov.za/HumanRightsMonth2024>

Happy Lekgotsoane

Limpopo Provincial Government Celebrated Human Rights Day at Mapodile Stadium, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality in Sekhukhune District. This year’s commemoration was held under the theme “Three Decades of Respect for Promotion of Human Rights”. The Human Rights Month is commemorated in March to remind South Africans about the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of democracy in South Africa.

This was characterised by systematic defiance and protest against apartheid and racism across the country on 21 March 1960, were community of Sharpeville and Langa townships, and other fellow compatriots across the country, embarked on a protest march to protest against pass laws.

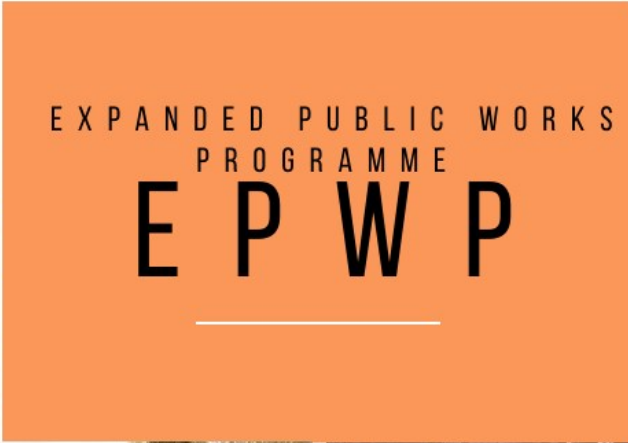
The apartheid police shot and killed 69 of the protesters at Sharpeville, where many of them were shot while fleeing. Also, many other people were killed in other parts of the country. The tragedy was recognised by the democratic government as the Sharpeville Massacre, and it exposed the apartheid government’s deliberate violation of human rights to the world. Premier Stanley Mathabatha delivered a keynote address during the Limpopo Human Rights Day Celebration by outlining the achievement by the provincial government in delivering of

- services to the people.
- ⇒ Paid tribute to the 30th anniversary of freedom and democracy in South Africa
- ⇒ reflected on the achievements, milestones, and huge strides by the Provincial Government.
- ⇒ Promotion of human rights and restoring human dignity in line with the Bill of Rights.
- ⇒ Building of 476 clinics in Limpopo and 216 of those operate 24 hours.
- ⇒ The construction of the Limpopo Central Academic Hospital is well underway.
- ⇒ Reaching of 80 per cent in the provision of access to water reaching more communities, because of various countervailing factors.
- ⇒ tarred road network covered more than 6 thousand kilometres since April 1994 and almost all rural areas in Limpopo are having tarred road.
- ⇒ The April 1994 democratic breakthrough, less than 30 per cent of rural households had access to electricity.
- ⇒ Electrification of at least 94.6 per cent of rural households in Limpopo.”



The community of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality during the 2024 Human Rights Day commemoration

TOOLS OF TRADE TO 120 EPWP ARTISANS AS THEY COMPLETE THEIR TRADE TEST



welding, electrical works, diesel mechanics, fitting and turning. The 120 participants coming from various districts in Limpopo Province gathered in Polokwane on the 22 March 2024 joined by Acting HOD Daddy Phukuntsi representing MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale. This is a programme that will help the youth to become entrepreneurs, one of the beneficiaries Mr. Vusani Munyai highlighted on how the programme has changed his life, he indicated that through the programme he has been able to start a small welding business and has since employed 9 people out of 20 that he trained. The Acting HOD indicated that the artisans who venture into business should be nurtured, mentored, monitored and supported “this will continue towards regional local economic development and create opportunities and jobs within our communities,” Phukuntsi said.

Johannes Mangena

The Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure handed over certificates and tools of trade to the National Youth Service participants

who were being trained as artisans under the Expanded Public Works Programme in partnership with MerSeta. The handover of tools and certification comes after participants have successfully completed the trade test in

mentored and supported “this will continue towards regional local economic development and create opportunities and jobs within our communities,” Phukuntsi said.


SHARING IDEAS TO EMPOWER EPWP PARTICIPANTS IN PROVINCES

Martha Modiba

National and provincial departments implementing National Youth Services (NYS) programme through EPWP met in February outside Polokwane to report progress on EPWP youth recruitments and employment statistics, to discuss and share ideas on ways to empower the youth who are EPWP Participants in their respective provinces. The delegates uses the ministerial determination to implement the rules and laws governing employment even on ways of monitoring work being done by the EPWP NYS participants. Stakeholders such as National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and

Transport Education Training Authority (TETA) were in attendance to present to the participants on the way both government and the entities can leverage resources through partnership in order to deliver training while empowering the EPWP participants. The partnership between such entities and government department will ensure that the EPWP participants are equipped with adequate skills, qualifications and experience when exiting the programme. The team also had the site meetings at Phumzile Engineering Services, Grace and Hope Special School and Limpopo Jewellery where the department has placed the EPWP participants. At Phumzile Engineering Services there are three (3) Diesel Mechanical and Fitting

students, Grace and Hope Special School there are fourteen (14) DEAFSA participants helping in administration, landscaping, assisting students in the classrooms and halls, cleaning and cooking. Meanwhile at the Limpopo Jewellery there are hundred (100) participants who are learning skills in the production of jewellery. At the centre the students undergo a four-level training thereafter engage in trade test in order to qualify as artisans. The centre has opened a kiosk at China City Mall to display learners' merchandises being sold to the general public. The national and provincial delegates were treated by having their jewellery cleaned and polished by the learners during the site visit.



Sandriver Road Camp Manager, **Mr. Mzwandile Hlazo** explained that the two gentlemen Mr. Lamola and Mr. Sioga have the experience required for road maintenance and will leave a huge dent in the road camp staff compliment when time come for them to go on pension



Frans Lamola is from Rosenkrans, Matlala. He started working as a contract worker installing electric lines and poles in 1988 thereafter he joined the department as a Road Worker Aid under Road Maintenance at Sandriver Road Camp. Mr. Lamola's duties include blacktop, potholes and resurfacing cracks patching, mixing and spreading asphalt concrete, bush-clearing even laying kerb slabs and paving stones. "When I first joined the department there were no machinery, we would use picks and spades to construct a road – doing hard labour" explained Mr. Lamola. With his pension year approaching, Mr. Lamola uses the opportunity at site to show others how to perform road maintenance duties so work can continue "there are few who are reluctant to learn while others show enthusiasm and always eager to learn" he explained. Lamola advises the new incoming to work hard and use the opportunity to learn skills moreover as he will be exiting the working environment soon. Post working environment, Lamola said he will continue waking up early to maintain being flexible even resting when need arise.



DEDICATION TO WORK CELEBRATED AND APPRECIATED

Khomotjo Serumula

Departmental districts, cost centres and road camps are full of men and women who are dedicated to their work. Most started to work in the department as early as the 80's before machinery were used, when hard labour was the order of the day.

Mishumo took a short left to Sandriver Road Camp and Polokwane Cost Center both offices are under Capricorn District to sit with Mr. Joseph Sioga, Mr. Frances Lamola and Mr. Gert van Rensburg for an interview. These gentlemen deserve to be given their flowers when they can still smell them.

They have dedicated their youth to ensuring service delivery rendered, now they are nearing their pension age, sitting with them was a breath of fresh air.

When trying to engage Sandriver Road Camp road workers they jokingly said "they can still raise a pick, they should not go on pension anytime soon."

These men's dedication, hardworking spirit and leadership roles in their individual corners ensured that the department is able to continue providing service delivery with the same attitude. Their love for their work makes it difficult to let them leave.



Joseph Sioga is from Kutama village in Vhembe District. He started working in 1985 under the former government working with drainage system and joined the department as a Road Worker Aid in 2004 also at Sandriver Road Camp. Mr Sioga in addition to the normal Road Worker Aid duties also work as a Grader Operator. "Back before the 1994 elections, there was no job security, no one was safe from job loses however post democracy things looked better," explained Mr. Sioga. "Then we used picks to work on the roads even to insert pipes unlike nowadays when a grader is able to do all the hard labour activities," elaborated Sioga further. When referring to the road network infrastructure, Mr. Sioga said "most roads were constructed 40 to 50 years ago, resurfacing cracks or patching potholes on such roads is difficult as the potholes resurfaces at the next spot closer to the one that was just filled. The storm waters, burning of tyres affect the soil underneath the tarroad as it make the soil detach hence there are so many potholes on some roads. The huge and heavy vehicles to mines and farms also causes damages to the roads," explained Mr. Sioga further. Post working days, Mr. Sioga plans to have a vegetable garden at home to sell to the community to pass time and keep himself busy even having the courage to wake up early "I would not want to sit and do nothing as that will make me get sick as I was used to working," elaborated Sioga. To the coming generation in the working environment, Mr. Sioga said "use all the opportunity to learn how to do proper road maintenance work while we are still around, tomorrow there will be other new employees who will be relying on you to show them work, if you did not learn then what will you show them?"



Mr. Gert van Rensburg with Ms. Stella Mothiba and Mr. Rufus Mogano

Gert van Rensburg started working as a mechanical student thereafter taken to Gauteng to attend mechanical engineering studies. After completion Van Rensburg worked as a Fitter and Turner working on a lathe machine. He is now working as the only Mechanical Artisan in Capricorn District, responsible for water supply - (fixing borehole & water pumps and installing watertank stand) and welding, fixing pool pumps, installing and fixing gates, he is a jack of all trade. 'I wish the department would employ tradesmen in order to do skills transfer. Currently I'm having two EPWP participants who I'm teaching welding and reading a tape' explains Van Rensburg. Mishumo found Mr Van Rensburg team ready to deliver a gate to matoks which was delivered broken and rusted. The team replaced palisades, installed new support structure on the gate and wheels so the gate can work properly. "This job needs someone with practical knowledge not just academic theory, someone who is experienced in water pumps, knowledge on how to read tapes, welding, different skills and most definitely not afraid of heights", emphasized Mr Van Rensburg. I'm punctual always and disciplined like that. I never miss an appointment unless there is a valid reason. Maintaining the punctuality discipline must start at the top management -

lead as an example. "Back when I started working giving your supervisor excuses of car problem, supervisor would sent you back to fix car and return when it's fixed then u will never be late again", joked Mr Van Rensburg. Talking to Ms. Stella Maloka and Mr. Rufus Mogano the two EPWP Participants intake under his supervision said: 'Oom Gert is a good supervisor. I came here with no practical work experience, today I can confidently go fix any issue alone. One thing about Oom he starts a structure from beginning,' explained Ms. Maloka. Transferring adequate skill is crucial as that will ensure that the work is done independently by the subordinate in the absence of the supervisor. To be honest I did nothing on this gate, they fixed it themselves. The team always strive to provide quality work with no comeback. Allowing them work independently ensures that when they exit at the end of program this march, they are able to generate income,' emphasized Mr. Van Rensburg. Mr. Van Rensburg has been with the department for a long time disciplined in his work, dedicated, open minded, always on time and will always tell if he is unable to be on time or fix the issue - a spirit of workmanship that everyone should adopt in order to improve service delivery.



- The road infrastructure network delivered 6000 tarred kilometres since 1994. Presently the provincial target is to surface 13800 kilometres from gravel to tar.
- Limpopo is in top three province which experience an increase in employment from 2019 to 2023, creating 182000 in 2023 making the province 2nd largest province in job creation. About 21800 work opportunities were created through construction of government buildings in order to empower women, youth and people with disabilities.
- There are roads at various design stages, contractor appointed while other under construction. The road infrastructure projects have created employment moreover where construction has begun. SANRAL and RAL has signed a MOU for the construction of ZCC Moria Interchange Bridge for St Engenas ZCC—SANRAL busy completing detailed designs.
- Completed library facilities in Seleteng, Mavalani and Runnymede with Tshaulu, Sekhukhune, Botshabelo and Vleifontein still under construction.
- Completed 12 schools that were devastated by severe storms. The province is left with 80 from 380 schools identified in 2017 as having inappropriate sanitation in order to eliminate pit latrines.
- Eight Southern Limb mining houses contributed over R127 million for the construction of Malekana Bridge.
- Construction underway for Limpopo Traffic College including construction of new residential and catering facilities.
- Completed Raphanleio, Bakone ba Matlala and Bakwena ba Matsepe Traditional Council Offices as an effort to strengthen provincial cultural heritage and governance structures.
- Upgrading of laundry facilities at various hospitals and construction of new medical facilities to ensure communities have access to quality healthcare services.
- Refurbished the Schoemansdal Museum and Thohoyandou Government Complex. SOD turning ceremony for the Limpopo Provincial Theatre done—this construction will unearth new talent and position Limpopo as a key player in the creative arts economy.
- Since 2022 about R1,2 billion has been invested in skills development in the province benefiting 26000 learners and students. For 2024/2025 merSETA will provide funding of R137 million for 960 learners in various sectors including apprenticeships in motor mechanics, diesel mechanics, mechanical fitting, welding and electrical trades.



From Left: Amhed Leandro Valder Macias, Victor W Barrios Brito, Orlis Gonzalez Acosta, Indina Galindo Granades, Jose Manvel Nunez Hernandez, Rafael Rodriguez Barreda, Ernesto Andrian Simonot Reyes, Yamilka Suarez Santos, Yordanis Blancar Sanchez and Neidel Lugo Sancez

THE INTAKE OF CUBAN TECHNICAL ADVISORS PHASE 3

MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale welcomes technical assistance from Cuban engineers.

Johannes Mangena

Successes made by Cuban Technical Advisors has tremendously made an impact since South African government and Cuban Ministries entered into a bilateral agreement that has been going on since 2007. This is seen through the National Department of Public Works acknowledging the contribution made by the Cuban Technical Advisors into the sector. The National Department of Public Works officially welcomed phase 3 of the CTA's that will be placed to Provincial Departments of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. This was during the induction of the Cubans in Gauteng.

The Phase 3 of the Cuban Technical Advisors has been welcomed by MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale and Acting HOD Daddy Phukuntsi in Polokwane on 29 January 2024. This has been motivated by the positive impact recorded against the involvement of CTA's in strategic projects assisting to achieve the departments targeted priorities. MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale highlighted that the department is welcoming the Cuban technical advisors with the full view and understanding that they will once more contribute immensely to the work that has been

done by the department in the space of infrastructure development.

In welcoming the Cubans, HOD Daddy Phukuntsi made a brief presentation of what Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is, saying that it is critical to delivery of infrastructure both in Public Works, Roads and local government; in this regard we are the custodian of provincial infrastructure and we are aspiring to be the preferred implementing agent according to the Limpopo Infrastructure Delivery Management," Phukuntsi elaborated.

Furthermore, Cuban Technical Advisors will contribute in building condition assessments to technical and administrative responsibilities, skills transfer initiatives and participate in execution of special projects. It is expected that phase 3 provides the enhancement of professionalism, responsiveness, integrity, dependability and efficiency.

The Limpopo Cuban Technical Advisors will be assisting with engineering expertise in civil engineer, architect, electrical engineer, mechanical engineer and hydraulic engineer, under Infrastructure Operations with all core chief directorates of the department.

MEC Rakgoale said "it will help us improve infrastructure development"

THE ROLE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL



WHAT DOES THE AUDITOR-GENERAL DO?



THE AG CHECKS THE SPENDING OF PUBLIC MONEY BY LOOKING AT WHETHER IT HAS BEEN USED IDEALLY AND FOR THE PURPOSES INTENDED.

THIS IS DONE BY CHECKING ALL GOVERNMENT SPENDING YEARLY, AND THIS IS CALLED AN AUDIT.



THE AG'S ANNUAL AUDITS EXAMINE

3 AREAS:



1 FAIR PRESENTATION AND ABSENCE OF SIGNIFICANT MISSTATEMENTS IN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 RELIABLE AND CREDIBLE PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FOR PREDETERMINED OBJECTIVES

3 COMPLIANCE WITH ALL LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING FINANCIAL MATTERS

DIFFERENT OUTCOMES TO AN AUDIT

EACH ENTITY SUBMITS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS EVERY YEAR, WHICH THE AG AUDITS.



A CLEAN AUDIT
EVERYTHING DONE THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.



UNQUALIFIED AUDIT WITH FINDINGS

NOT BAD, BUT COULD COMPROMISE ACCOUNTABILITY, IF NOT ALREADY DOING SO.



QUALIFIED AUDIT

DID NOT MANAGE AND ACCOUNT FOR FINANCES TO ACHIEVE BEST RESULTS.



ADVERSE AUDIT

LOTS OF PROBLEMS EVERYWHERE, AND NOTHING DONE ACCORDING TO CORRECT RULES AND PROCEDURES.



DISCLAIMER

THINGS WERE SO BAD, THEY COULDN'T EVEN PRODUCE RELIABLE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE AUDITOR-GENERAL



AUDITOR-GENERAL SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence

BE PART OF THE SOCIETY

DON'T BE HURT IN ISOLATION

2024 MEN SEMINAR



Khomotjo Serumula

Hundreds of departmental men participated in a men seminar held at Ngoako Ramathodi Sport Complex outside Polokwane to engage, learn from each other and advice one another on issues faced by men in general. This is because most men do not discuss issues that affect their lives and resort to drastic decisions that put their lives and loved-ones lives at risk. The event was sponsored by Old Mutual.

The participants received information, advices and were afforded an opportunity to engage on issues about financial planning, wealth creation and protection even drafting of will with Old Mutual representatives, mental health by Psychologist Dr. Rasodi, gender based violence by Captain Maleka of the SAPS, even societal and marital challenges by social workers and Rev. Madumo of the South African Council of Churches. Issues such as street muti which men tend to consume to eliminate or improve their sexual challenges were discussed in detail with the traditional healer who was part of the presenters on the day.

Men were cautioned on the importance of work-life-balance in order to be better fathers and to understand issues of gender transformation in the workplace and homesteads.

Acting Head of Department Daddy Phukuntsi said “men do not discuss issues that affect their lives and are over-committed which make

absorbing life challenges difficult. Demand exceed salary which result in having difficulties to cope financially.” Mr Phukuntsi advised men to follow healthy lifestyle and to make health decisions to test regularly “men do not make your wellbeing and health a high priority, a healthy lifestyle and consultations can help save life of most men and prevent illnesses.” Some of the take home advices the participants received were:

- ◇ **Be financially disciplined—bid what you can chew when you know better you do better financially**
- ◇ **HIV/AIDS status results of spouse does not guarantee own status—test so you know your own status**
- ◇ **Don't wait until 60 years to plan for your retirement because financial planning starts when you start working.**
- ◇ **Get financial advisor to help manage your finances**
- ◇ **Invest in your children's future and education**
- ◇ **When you die your responsibility remain—make a will.**



Acting HOD Mr Daddy Phukuntsi addressing the men at the Departmental Men Seminar held at Ngoako Ramathodi Sports Complex, Seshego



The gents of the Departmental Men Seminar participating in the activities during the event.





Waterberg District officials during the Employee Health and Wellness health screening

Polokwane to provide eye care education and screenings.

2. Pulse Health- provided men's health education and HIV testing.

3. Department of Health (Phagameng Clinic)- Provided general health education, BP and Sugar diabetes screenings, distribution of condoms.

4. GEMS- Medical benefits education, reviews and new applications.

5. Department of Sports, Arts and Culture- Provided Simulation Activities such as Aerobics, team building, morabaraba, ground Ludo, games.

6. Department of Social Development- Presentation on Social issues and Gender-based violence.



Mothlasedi Makie

Employee Wellness days are essential for the department as they are aimed at improving the employees physical, mental, social health and wellbeing, which in turn creates a positive and productive workplace. Employees need to be assured that the employer cares about them.

Various factors that cause employee stress include workload pressures, tight deadlines, and a lack of managerial support. There are also many other factors that cause work

related stress, including anxiety or depression, and in order to create a productive organization there is a need to have healthy and happy employees which can be achieved through wellness programmes.

Taking note that healthy employees cost the department less since they reduce high staff turnover, increase staff productivity and decrease absenteeism.

The stakeholders which participated on the day event were as follows:

1. IWISE optometrists from

MENTAL HEALTH KNOWS NO GENDER

7 HEALTH FACTS MEN NEED TO KNOW

- DRINKING:** Those who consume 4 to 10 drinks per week at the most have a **lower** risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Drinking more than 10 drinks a week almost **doubles** your risk of type 2 diabetes.
- ACTIVITY:** Men who climb 50 stairs or walk 5 city blocks a day may lower their risk of heart attack by **25%**.
- MENTAL WELLNESS:** Inactive men are **60%** more likely to suffer from depression than those who are active.
- SLEEP:** Men who sleep 7-8 hours a night have about **60%** less risk of fatal heart attack than those who sleep 5 hours or less.
- NUTRITION:** Getting the correct serving of fruit and veggies a day is as easy as; for example one glass of orange juice, a large carrot, half an avocado, one potato and an apple.
- 7-8 HOURS:** (Associated with Sleep)
- Genetics:** Only **30%** of a man's overall health is determined by his genetics.
- Lifestyle:** **70%** is controllable through lifestyle.
- Overall Health:** Men live 9 years in poor health - mostly preventable by making small lifestyle changes.

stress syndrome (PTSD), or you simply would like to improve your thoughts and general outlook, every person should be careful to regularly tend to their minds.

Men are often expected to be the breadwinners and to be strong, dominant and in control. Though these are not bad however they can make it harder for men to reach out for help and open up.

It is mostly observed that most men turn to use negative coping mechanisms that in a long run they worsen their situations. They tend to misuse alcohol and drugs, develop escapist behavior, violence, gambling and be unproductive at work. These few list above may lead to few of the following; sudden anger, increased loss of control, risk-taking, aggression, lack of cooperation at work, easily irritability and most dangerous is suicide.

While there are many ways to address mental health, from therapy to medication to yoga and meditation. Employee health and wellness is the most safe help channel that employees are advised to utilize. If there will be a need for referrals both the wellness officer and the employee will agree upon.

In conclusion we say, people must break the silence and know that help is always available for them. They must never feel alone or embarrassed.

Mothlasedi Makie

Just like physical health, mental health is something that all of us should care for every day of our lives. Whether you've been diagnosed with a mental health condition like anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, or post-traumatic



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DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE


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ISSUED BY COMMUNICATION AND STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT