



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME A RAY OF HOPE TO MITIGATE UNEMPLOYMENT

By: Thulare Bopape



Acting Premier Mr. Seaparo Sekoati delivering his speech during EPWP Phase 4 Launch

Limpopo Provincial Government recently launched Phase 4 of Expanded Public Works Programme which seeks to continue with job creation. The launch was attended by different stakeholders including senior officials from all spheres of government at Makhado Show Grounds, in Vhembe District.

The Expanded Public Works Programme is one of government's key programmes aimed at reversing poverty and creating an income relief



MEC Mme Monica Mochadi giving her speech at EPWP Phase 4 gala dinner.

through temporary work for the unemployed. As it is a nationwide programme covering all spheres of Government and SOEs to increase labour intensity of government-funded infrastructure projects for people to be hired irrespective of their educational background.



Delegates and guests at EPWP Phase 4 Launch gala dinner

EPWP Phase 1 achieved its one Million work opportunities target by 2008, which was a year ahead of the set schedule. The unemployment rate did not improve as envisaged, that challenged the issue of planning which resulted in existence of EPWP Phase 2. This phase has witnessed new developments, among which were the introduction of the non-state sector, which had some programmes; the Community Work Programme (CWP) and the Non-Profit Organisation programme (NPO's) and the National, Provincial and Municipal EPWP Incentives. It allowed South Africa to move in new transition path for development and has been beneficial to various communities. In addition, EPWP Phase 3 employment target for 2014/15 was projected at 1 075 189,

growing progressively each year to the five-year target of 6 million, which was met at the end of the phase. The targets were divided into several sectors, like infrastructure, environment and culture, social, non-profit organisations and community work



EPWP beneficiaries at EPWP Phase 4 Launch.

programmes.

During his address at the official opening of the provincial legislature on the 05th July 2019, Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha indicated that the current employment rate in the province sits at 18.5% however, the province has taken a decision to build an economy that will be a major contributor to the national wealth by 2030. Phase 4 will be used as a fundamental stage to reduce unemployment as its set target over the five-year period (2019/2024) is to provide work in all sectors of EPWP.



Chief Director for EPWP Mr. Walter Mothapo assisting the Acting Premier Mr. Seaparo Sekoati, in signing the pledge at the EPWP Phase 4 launch as MEC for Public Works, Roads and infrastructure looks on.

MEC Dr. Monicca Mochadi expressed confidence that EPWP will assist in bettering the lives of the people to deal with their financial constraints. "This programme is central to ensure that work opportunities are created for people to gain skills for better life for themselves." said MEC Mochadi.



HOD Mr. Dikgole Seroka giving his remarks at EPWP Phase 4 launch gala dinner

During the launch, Acting Premier Seaparo Sekoati encouraged mayors to submit reports on the operation of EPWP so that provincial government can assist to ensure that people are employed. "Since Limpopo Province aims to create 475 358 work opportunities through EPWP, we urge our Mayors to submit reports on the work and development of EPWP to enable our people to be equipped with work through Phase 4 for development", said Sekoati. The acting Premier highlighted that the success of EPWP also restores the dignity of the people in particularly parents who are enabled to provide basic needs for their families.

Municipalities, represented by their respective mayors, signed protocol agreements as a sign of commitment to deliver on the number of jobs targeted. This was done at the gala dinner held on the eve of the official Phase 4 launch

Projects aimed at restoring Dignity of Traditional leaders and benefit communities

By: Thulare Bopape



Cuban International Technical Advisor officials at Mphaphuli traditional council office construction site.

The South African government has always acknowledged the critical role of traditional leadership institutions in the country. Chapter 12 of the Constitution also states that these institutions, status and roles of traditional leadership are recognised. During one of the Public Participation programmes hosted in Limpopo Province, it became apparent that although these institutions are held at high esteem, more needs to be done in developing the infrastructure were these leaders and their councils operated from.

Most council meetings were held in dilapidated infrastructures that threatened the lives of community members who gather for council services.

These conditions did not indicate that government held these offices in high esteem.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure saw an opportunity to showcase its internal capacity by designing and implementing 17 traditional council office projects across the Province. The delivery model was focused on using professionals and artisans already employed by the department,

delivering quality infrastructure with low construction costs, sourced from its own allocated funds.

Plans for the offices were designed through the technical team attached to planning and design component of the department. The only expenditure that was incurred was through procurement of material as well as payment of stipends to EPWP beneficiaries. What would have cost the department R8.9 million per project, costs R2.3m, with the R2-million being spent on material and about R290- thousand on stipends for EPWP labourers who were appointed as part of creating work opportunities and transferring skills during project implementation.

The workmanship was impeccable, so much that the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) in the province, set aside budget for the construction of 11 new offices for other traditional leaders CoGHSTA approached Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to be the implementing agent of choice.

Mishumo visited construction sites of the Rammuda and Mphaphuli Traditional Council offices to engage with the project manager and beneficiaries of the offices.

Mutshutshudzi Mphaphuli, a community member, said that the project is going well and it has brought huge development to the community.

“The multi-million Rand projects will serve about 75 villages that will benefit from government offices such SASSA, SAPS to help with certifying of documents and many more.” He concluded.

All structures are approximately 277m2 consisting of the following:

Chief's Wing: Main Office, Secretary's Office, and Boardroom

Chamber Wing: Main Hall, Chairperson's Office, Kitchen, and Dining Area

Admin Wing: Chief Advisor's Office, Accounting Clerk's Office, and 3 Optional Offices.

Ablution Block



Mudavula Traditional Council New Offices.

Double Garage.

Guard House

The Rrambuda Traditional Office under Chief Avhatendi Ratshibvumo Rambuda will in particular, render services to more than 40 villages with an estimation of 480 000 population spread across villages such as Tshixwadza, Muswodi, Pile to name a few. Twelve members of the community were employed during the beginning of the project of which ten were youth and two female employees. Four TVET students are also doing their experiential learning at the projects

Project manager Prince Swuhana is working together with the Cuban technical advisors to ensure that the projects are completed and are of quality, within time and within costs.

The Mphamphuli Traditional council office is at 41% and Rrambuda office at 61%. The latter is scheduled for completion this financial year

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

.....The next 5 years, towards 2030

By: Thulare Bopape



MEC Mme Monicca Mochadi giving her remarks during strategic planning session

The road to vision 2030 has become shorter with only 10 years to go, it has become critical for government to develop plans, and implementation strategies that will lead to the realization of the vision for South Africa as outlined in the National Development Plan.

A South Africa, who's economy is strong and sustainable, a South Africa that has people's lives transformed for the better, a South Africa that is developed and free from poverty and other social ills.

The NDP warns that this kind of a South Africa can only be achieved, if there is strong leadership and focused implementation of plans.

This why the department retreated for a 3 day session to develop the 2020/2021 financial year plan as well as the 5-year strategic plan.

In opening the session, the MEC for the department, Dr. Monicca Mochadi reminded

the sitting to get their mandate from the governing party's election manifesto, which informed the Seven (7) priorities of government announced by the President of the country Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa during his State of the Nation Address of 2019.

MEC Mochadi emphasized the need to develop clear implementable plans that result in impact for the people of Limpopo " This is the time to focus on impact of everything that we do, the people are tired of promises, they need services and can no longer exercise patience".



Delegates attending strategic planning session

Strategic planning programme, led from the front providing guidance on the new planning framework that also supported the MEC's position of demanding impact.

The new framework requires that all plans developed should be outcome based and when a target is developed an institution need to already have the desired impact in mind. This will assist in one navigating the implementation easily

The officials broke into commissions to share ideas on how to approach this great task in order to have an impact and reclaim the mandate of being the infrastructure-implementing agent of government and to be exceptional job creators through the coordination and implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme.

The three day culminated in a draft currently undergoing refinement towards approval and subsequent implementation.

TABLING OF BUDGET SPEECH 2019/2020

By: Thulare Bopape



MEC Mme Monica Mochadi at Limpopo Legislature during tabling of budget speech 2019/2020

MEC Monica Mochadi tabled her maiden budget speech 2019/2020 for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure on the 25th of July 2019 at the Limpopo Legislature, Lebowakgomo. The speech was delivered during the Mandela Month celebrating the struggle icon Tata Rolihlala Nelson Mandela.

MEC Mochadi reported on achievements over the period 2014/15 to 2019/19 financial years which focused more on infrastructure strategic planning hub, Artisan Development Programme, Limpopo Contractor Development Programme, creation of decent work and sustainable livelihoods through increasing the labour intensity of government infrastructure funded projects as well as improvement of provincial roads infrastructure through maintenance and upgrading to ensure easy access and mobility. MEC said it has been a

long journey full of challenges but the department has made huge strides in delivering on what it had committed.

Even though the department has achieved so much in the last 5 years plan, MEC Mochadi said “we need not to rest as the battle against alleviation of poverty, unemployment and skilling our people is not yet done”. She then outlined the plans for 2019/2020 financial year with infrastructure on top of the list on the government agenda because it is imperative for economic growth and the government will focus more on it. There are currently eighty-seven various built-environment officials working under the infrastructure HUB comprising of registered professionals and candidates and twelve Cuban Technical Advisors that are qualified in the built environment professionals who assist the department in transferring technical skills to the candidates in infrastructure.



HOD Mr. Dikgole Seroka at Limpopo Legislature during the tabling of budget speech

The department will be doing many socio-economic projects for clients Departments in this financial year. Roads infrastructure being the biggest service delivery factor which has been one of the causes for protests. MEC Mochadi said she will be

focusing on the need for roads infrastructure. Through all the challenges, roads will be constructed in different districts all over the province.

Destroying existing government infrastructure of any form to register a grievance is a criminal act and a non-progressive move” said MEC Mochadi as she indicated that the act of protesters burning tyres on the roads and destroying government infrastructure as they protest. MEC Mochadi further said “I call upon the people of Limpopo to appreciate the work done in the past 25 years of democracy in relation to delivering surfaced road network in the province.

MEC Mochadi further highlighted that Expanded Public Works Programme as the main critical programme for providing work opportunities, it has achieved 493,962 work opportunities in the 5th administration. Phase 4 which started in April 2019 and to end in March 2024 has the objective to continue to put in motion efforts to reduce the scourge of poverty and unemployment.

The Budget is broken down as follows:

Administration: R400 Million

Infrastructure operations: R849 Million

Expanded Public Works Programme: R45 Million

Roads Infrastructure: R2.3 Billion

R1.4 Billion is transferred to the Roads Agency Limpopo in entity of the Department that is tasked with the responsibility of providing roads infrastructure

PAVING THE WAY FOR THE YOUNG GENERATION

By: Thulare Bopape and Sophie Shai



Officials from Infrastructure Hub giving guidance to the learners.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure joined the career exhibition organized by the Department of Education at Fetakgomo Secondary School in Sekhukhune District. This is an annual event attended by grade 12 learners from 7 schools with the aim to assist learners to make relevant career choices. Engineering is a scarce skill in South Africa, the department as a technical department needs to recruit as many engineers as possible.

Learners with hunger for success written all over their faces were guided by professionals from Sekhukhune District and Head office who shared with them information on what the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is all about. The professionals gave details on each of their professions and explained all the requirements in order to become professionals in different fields. Demonstrations were put in place for the learners to see and have an idea on how different fields of engineering works.

Civil engineers, electrical engineers, architects, structural engineers and plumbers all got a chance to speak to the learners in small groups from different stalls as the learners rotated from one stall to the other. Structural Engineer Ntokozo Nkwinika encouraged the learners to start applying for

tertiary admission early. He was concerned that most of the learners did not apply for admission to study at higher institutions next year." Make use of your phones to apply at universities of your choice" said Ntokozo. He further said to the learners that there are many career options which does not require one to have studied mathematics and science as many learners were worried that they are not good with mathematics and physical science.

Learners were told about the departmental bursaries and learnerships which the department offers aimed at empowering upcoming engineers. Bursary forms were presented to the learners to apply for funding next year.



Learners attending career exhibition as the professionals give them guidance.

Learners in rural areas are facing many challenges regarding their studies and career choices because of lack of access to information and resources. This usually results in many learners studying courses they don't know or like and that causes a high number of learners dropping out from tertiary.

 *Re a Sana*

PREMIER CELEBRATES WOMEN'S DAY AT MAKHUVHA STADIUM

By: Thulare Bopape



Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha delivering his speech at Makhuvha Stadium

“We are celebrating this day because 63 years ago, in 1956 women of this country marched to the union buildings to reject the apartheid policy which wanted to extend pass laws to women” said Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha on the 09th of August 2019 at Makhuvha Stadium in Vhembe District. This was a day to commemorate the women of 1956 who stood against the harsh apartheid regime.

Premier Stanley Mathabatha was with his executive council, Municipal and accompanied by MEC's, Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr. Dowelani Nengudai, Mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality Cllr Avhashoni Tshifhango and the Venda leader, Vho Thovhele Gole Mphaphuli to celebrate this historical day in the history of South Africa.



Community members attending women's day celebration at Makhuvha Stadium

It was a day full of joy and praises with lots of entertainment from different cultural dance groups and artists giving the people entertainment.

People from all over the province came in numbers to commemorate and to honour struggle icons who risked their lives to ensure that South Africans can enjoy being liberated Premier Mathabatha indicated that South Africa should continue to honour and celebrate women such as Lillian Ngoyi, Hellen Joseph, Albertina Sisulu, Rahima Moosa and Sophia Williams. “ They have taught us valued lessons about unity and bravery, it is because of their efforts that we now have the 09th of August as a public holiday, Premier said”.

“The government is committed to ensuring that women are exposed to opportunities that will enhance the quality of their lives. These include employment opportunities, business opportunities and social opportunities,” Said Premier Mathabatha emphasizing the need for women to be given exposure and equal opportunities as men. The government is also committed to equality between men and women which resulted in more women being deployed as Councillors, Mayors, MEC's and Members of Parliament. Premier said that women are doing well in those positions which they are deployed at, they must be given all the necessary support instead of pulling them down so that they fail.

The Premier is

concerned about the challenge in the private sector but government will work with private sector so that women are hired for higher positions. "We want to see women taking up leadership positions in those sectors which are dominated by men." Premier Mathabatha emphasized.

Women in South Africa are still facing many other challenges such as physical, emotional



Venda traditional dance group entertaining the audience

and economic abuse even in a democratic era. Premier made it clear that the violence against women and children is unacceptable and it will not be tolerated. Mathabatha further said that the police and the courts should help stop this violence and abuse against women and children with longer jail terms for those who are convicted of any form of violence against women and children. The Premier mentioned another form of violence against children being failing to support your child as a man. "We are also tired and impatient with those men who need to be reminded through court orders about their responsibility to support their own children." He said.

Premier Mathabatha concluded by reminding all women that unity is power and with all the challenges they are facing today, acting as one solid force will make them win. "Through unity, you will win against poverty, unemployment and abuse" he emphasized.

MEC MOCHADI STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

By: Khomotjo Serumula



MEC Mochadi and HOD Mr. Dikgole Seroka engaging with community members at Vuwani

One of the infrastructure need that our people have raised countless times and made me hit the ground running is the need for roads infrastructure" MEC Monicca Mochadi said during the budget speech .MEC Mochadi with delegation from RAL and Road Infrastructure directorate visited Folovhodwe, Vuwani and Khakhu to engage them on construction of tar roads in their respective communities. The respective community representatives visited the department to deliver the queries and complains regarding upgrading, maintenance and construction of tar roads, which prevent communities from receiving basic services and also affect investments to this communities.

The communities have indicated that they received lots of false promises from various stakeholders regarding the upgrading of the roads in the various communities. These promises cost the department a lot as some are not in the Annual Performance Plan. The MEC addressed by community saying

henceforth “people who pronounce that they will provide roads they should give LDPWRI funds to construct those roads.”



Vuwani community members during stakeholder engagement with MEC Mochadi

The community members that attend these meeting gathering said it clearly they are tired of promises without implementation and timelines, as the processes and engagements are restarted with every new political head in the department. A representative from Folovhodwe said “our road is not prioritised like other villages that protests.” To this MEC responded by saying communities should avoid from destroying other government infrastructure however “people who loot government funds should be held accountable” as their actions impact on service delivery and delay on implementation of roads across the province. To date RAL has consulted local municipalities and district municipalities to submit their priority list.

All the three communities agreed to give the MEC time to request additional funding in order to address the backlogs. MEC Mochadi promised the community that she would return to provide feedback .



CELEBRATING 67 MINUTES FOR MANDELA DAY

By: Thulare Bopape and William Ramollo



HOD Mr. Dikgole Seroka and MEC Mme Monicca Mochadi during Mandela day celebration

Mandela Day is a day in honour of Nelson Mandela. This is an annual celebration on the 18th of July on Mandela’s birthday. MEC for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Mme Monicca Mochadi celebrated Mandela day in Tzaneen Local Municipality, Mopani District at Road D3895 at Maake Plaza by doing road marking for the community.

MEC Mochadi gave a brief history about the life of Mandela and how he changed the lives of South Africans and Africans in large.

The day is for people to give back to the community by working for the community with the aim of making the communities better to simply do good for others.



MEC Mochadi, HOD Mr.Dikgole Seroka together with departmental officials being hands on .

MEC together with Acting Mayor of Greater Tzaneen municipality Mr. Given Malatjie, Maake royal family and also departmental officials celebrated the day by being hands on as they started by doing road markings on the D3895. Nelson Mandela once said “it is in your hands to make our world a better one for all” which is exactly what MEC Mochadi and the officials did as they worked on the roads to make it better for the community members who have been complaining about the road being unmarked and with no road signs.



DEPARTMENTAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION 2019

By: Thulare Bopape



MEC Monicca Mochadi together with officials doing a 5 km walk

Picnic setup, camp chairs and picnic towels, umbrellas and colourful attires as women from the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure came in numbers to celebrate Women's day in style. This went in line with the theme **“promoting and celebrating emancipation of women in the workplace in style.”** The theme was to make sure that all women within the department get together and be able to relax and have fun as they also receive important information from different speakers. Issues concerning women at the workplace was top on the agenda .

It started with a 5km walk which was done within the premises of Jaagban Lodge where the event took place. The walk was led by MEC Monicca Mochadi who after the walk encouraged women to keep taking walks and doing exercises daily as it is good for their health. She said “This should not be something that is done today only as they are celebrating women's day but it should be done regularly because it very

important to have a healthy life” she said.



MEC Mochadi giving her speech to departmental women in attendance.

The women were relaxing with their shades on and networking with fellow colleagues from different districts and programmes. Speakers from different sectors shared information with women all day.

“Women are affected by too much stress at work places and the fact that they hardly consults psychologists or talk to someone is concerning”, said Psychologist Ms. Lefhuno Thingu. Ms. Thingu encouraged women to love themselves and be happy with how they



Waterberg District officials showing off their moves

are regardless of what other people may think. She further advised women to consult psychologists especially at public hospitals “Many illness which you always go consult on are caused by the stress you are having which may be cured by just visiting a psychologist” she indicated.

MEC Mochadi extended her gratitude to all women in the department and appreciated them for their hard work .



Officials relaxing during the departmental Women’s day celebration

“Inequality and gender balance still an issue in many workplaces. Men are still dominating at higher positions than women which need to change,” Mochadi further indicated that women should take strategic senior positions in both public and private sector. “Now is the time to intensify the campaign of women emancipation in our work places and outside the workplace” she said.

MEC Mochadi concluded by challenging women to pause and make self-evaluation/introspection, and stop the pull her down syndrome. She encouraged women to open dialogues amongst each other, establish group discussions and empowerment study groups to support each other for the emancipation of the women of this country.



LDPWRI EMPOWERS THE GIRL CHILD

By: Thulare Bopape



MEC Mme Monica Mochadi motivating the learners at Motjedi Secondary School

Learners in Grade 10 to 12 at Motjedi Secondary School in Tafelkop received firsthand information from practicing Engineers on how to work towards entering the Engineering fields in the

different disciplines.

This was when the department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructures engineers, visited the school as part of the take a girl child to work campaign led by MEC Monica Mochadi.

“The Department is here today, as our work is not in the offices but out here in the communities where we construct infrastructure

information that can help you achieve your goals”. Mochadi said.

An all-female engineering team from the Department led the students through demonstrations of different models, which included electrical works, plumbing and civil



Civil Engineer Mosili Modisaesi giving her motivational speech to the learners.

engineering works to get the girls and some boy learners excited about their prospective line of study.

The Head of Department Mr. D.T Seroka also spoke about his journey on becoming an engineer, which he



Motjedi Secondary School learners at the site visit at Stevenel Training Construction & Civil

on behalf of the provincial government, we have come today to empower you and provide

said was full of hardships. “My journey was full of obstacles which affected many black people during the apartheid era. Going to school with no shoes and no lunch box was part of the journey but that did not stop from going for what I really wanted, it was not easy,” said Seroka as he

further encouraged the students to commit and fight for their dreams



Demonstrations in line with engineering on display.

Motjedi Secondary school is situated in Elias Motsoaledi local Municipality in the Tafelkop area, an area that is increasingly becoming infamous for nyaope use, alcohol abuse and teenage pregnancies. These are social ills that the community and the school in particular are concerned about, as young people can easily be derailed.



HOD Mr. Dikgole Seroka giving his speech during Take A Girl Child To Work Campaign

Warrant officer Rampedi who is part of social crime prevention division was at hand to educate on the dangers of substance abuse and how using drugs at a young age and having

a criminal record can affect a person's future. "The criminal record you obtain today as young as you are will be part of you forever and it will be flagged when applying for work opportunities



MEC Mme Mochadi, HOD Dikgole Seroka, Sekhukhune District Municipality Acting Mayor Mme Leah Sihlangu, handing out the sanitary towels

The learners committed that they will focus on nothing else but their studies and they will not rush to have children while they are still busy with their studies. "Even if you are having a child already, that does not mean is the end of the world, you can still go after your dreams", said MEC Mochadi concluded.

The take a girl child to work campaign is an annual initiative which was started by cell c in 2003 and is endorsed by the Department of Education.



Events in Pictures





LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure

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.

Editor in chief

Tendani Munyai

Editor

Nikiwe Mokono

Reporters & Photographers

Happy Lekgothoane

Rosemary Mahapa

Khomotjo Serumula

William Ramollo

Thulare Bopape

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For comments



newsroom@dpw.limpopo.gov.za



[@ldpwnewsroom](https://twitter.com/ldpwnewsroom)



Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure

