



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department of
**Public Works, Roads and
Infrastructure**

SPEECH DELIVERED BY MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, Ms NANDI NDALANE ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOD TURNING CEREMONY AT GOLDEN ARROWS SPORTS GROUND ON 26 JANUARY 2018.

The mayor of Blouberg Local Municipality, Cllr Pheedi

Kgoshi Seakamela and other traditional leaders present here

Councillors present here

The Head of the Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure, Mr Professor Mushwana

The Chief Executive officer of RAL Mr Maselaganye Matji

Executive management from both the Department and RAL

Setshaba sa gesho

Thobela

Today is a significant day and a milestone for the community of Ga-Matshaba, Avon and Indermark. For a very long time these communities were subjected to the reality which some described as inadequate service deliver. This unfortunate description emanated from the incomplete tar road famously labeled bermuda road. The road D1468 for a long time remained incomplete resulting in serious discontent from community members. When the upgrading of the road D1468 was under construction the community ululated with euphoria, however, that was short-lived as the road was not constructed to the community's expectation. The once joyful community became disgruntled and a huge disappointment arose. I am aware that Blouberg Local Municipality was inundated with community leaders who demanded that the entire stretch of the road be tarred. The deafening demands by the community reached our offices. We must, however, point out that as government we knew about the community's frustrations and their demands. As a result of constraints many which are financial impeded us from delivering this road as the community desired.

Programme Director

As government we are aware that communities no longer accept lack of budget or financial constraints as a reason for not getting a much sought after tar road. Communities argue that for a very long time they have perpetually been informed that government is unable to deliver a tar road in their communities as a result of lack of budget. While we fully understand the communities' point of view the reality is the financial resources are hugely constrained. Government is forced to do more with less. On weekly basis and sometimes on daily basis communities come to our offices demanding a tar road. All these communities demand that

they be prioritized and that their road must be built tomorrow. As a consequence of this it is apparent that we have a huge work load and demand. I am deliberately informing you of this stark situation so that as government we begin to communicate with our people the difficulties we face as authorities. We want you to appreciate the frustrations we face in our effort to deliver quality road infrastructure to all our people. It is our heartfelt desire to provide quality road infrastructure to all our people. We know that our people need tar roads. We know that tar roads make lives better for our people. We know that tar roads bring economic development to our villages resulting in job opportunities. We know that many businesses thrive when they travel and deliver their goods on quality tar roads. All these things and many benefits that are brought about by the tar roads we are fully aware as government and as your leaders. It is unfortunate that with the resources at our disposal we are unable to deliver tar roads at once to all our people. We have, however, put a meticulous plan to ensure that as we prioritize it is done in line with the economic development needs of the province as well as the needs of our people. At all material times we endeavor to strike a balance. The wait may be frustrating but eventually the road shall arrive.

Programme Director

The road we are bringing here connects Senwabarwana with villages, Ga-Matshaba, Avon and Indermark. It is a 9.55km road upgrade which will cost us over R96 million. For the duration of the construction which is expected to be completed in 18 months the community will greatly benefit. I'm talking about job opportunities as well as business opportunities as a result of the construction

project. Our people will acquire skills which will help you in future endeavours. I am calling on the municipality, community leaders and the community at large to work as a united force on this project. Without unity you will encounter problems which may affect the delivery of this project. You must work in unity during labour absorption as well as subcontracting opportunities. Many projects in the past were stalled by differences on these two important aspects of road construction. I do not expect the community to fight over this instead I expect the community to work well together for the benefit of each one of you. I trust that this project will bring unity in the community and not the opposite. Unity is strength.

Programme Director

The governing party, the African National Congress at the conclusion of its 54th elective conference held at Nasrec in December last year adopted 2018 as the year of renewal, unity and jobs. When the ANC adopted this theme it was not sloganeering. It was adopting this fundamental theme relevant to the current socio economic situation in the country and the party's resolve to approach 2018 with that theme to the benefit of our people. It is therefore of critical importance for the community to realize the importance of unity which in this instance will bring job and business opportunities through this project. I would like to congratulate Road Agency Limpopo for eventually delivering on this project. You have delivered this project amidst a lot of pressure you are getting from our communities. The struggle continues. When you return to your offices you can be rest assured that you are going to find another community demanding a tar road. My advice to you is that do not despair, you have been called to serve the people

of Limpopo in this capacity and therefore you have no alternative but to deliver despite the challenges. I will at all times provide you with my support and get guidance from Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha in order for our people to obtain a better life.

Programme director

Let me thank the community of Senwabarwana for your patience. We know your frustrations and the fact that the gravel road has been a misery to your travelling. We hope that the new road will improve your lives and the economy of your communities. Much appreciation to the municipality for providing leadership when our communities lose hope. To both RAL and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure we still have a lot of work ahead of us. Let us roll our sleeves and deliver to our people. United we stand, divided we fall. Together taking South Africa forward.

KEA LEBOGA.