



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, Ms NANDI NDALANE DURING THE SOD TURNING CEREMONY AT MAILA VILLAGE ON 13 FEBRUARY 2018.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

KGOSHI MAILA

KGOSHI THULARE

KGOSHI DINKWANYANE

KGOSHI KGAPHOLA

KGOSHI MORWAMOTSHE

THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, CLLR MAILA

THE MAYOR OF MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, Cllr MINAH BAHULA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF RAL, Mr MATJI

**THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Mr MUSHWANA**

ALL COUNCILLORS PRESENT HERE

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

A VERY GOOD MORNING TO YOU

THOBELA

For the many of you gathered here and those who are unable to be part of this event today, I know you are pleasantly saying this is indeed a long walk to victory. I concede that indeed you are legitimately correct to describe this day as victorious for your patience, perseverance and importantly your tolerance. Standing in front of you here today, I share the sentiment that says from the government's point of view this is a massively victorious day. As government years and months of planning have finally come to fruition as we present to you this important road infrastructure. Who will among you dare question us when we legitimately say today is a day of victory, joy and happiness. I themed my address today on victory. This is in line with the victory achieved by the heroes and heroines of our struggle who never relented but fought ferociously and defeated the apartheid system. As a consequence of that the father of our democracy, Tata Nelson Mandela was released from prison exactly 28 years ago. On Sunday this week countries of the world and fellow South Africans commemorated the release of Mandela which was officiated and addressed by the President of the ANC and the Deputy President of the Republic, Cde Cyril Ramaphosa at the iconic grand parade in Cape Town. This was the celebration of victory and many years of selfless struggle for freedom and democracy.

Programme director

Indeed all of us gathered here is celebrating victory. The victory of upgrading road D4200 from gravel to tar. Let me hasten to acknowledge the struggle the community and the municipality went through in your pursuit to get this road. It has not been easy. I am aware of the many meetings which were held as well as many trips you made to

Road Agency Limpopo and our Department demanding the road. I must say I appreciate the perseverance but importantly as I mentioned before your tolerance and restraint. The demand for roads upgrade in this province is staggering. It is overwhelmingly high. This high demand in some areas is threatening social stability. You may have heard through mass media that in some areas in the province schooling has been disrupted while the security of public property is at risk. This is as a result of the urgent demand of tar roads in the province. Government's response to all this is that all gravel roads must be upgraded. We are however, frustrated and constrained by the reality of inadequate financial resources. We do not have the billions of rands required to upgrade all gravel roads at once. We work very hard to distribute the available resources equitably throughout the province with no bias to one area. This is a very delicate balancing act that we work meticulously to get it right. Difficult as it is we came to appreciate that this is not easy for our people to understand because it means in some areas communities have to wait for a number of years before their road can be upgraded. Fellow community members this is a sad reality that confronts us on daily basis. As your leaders and government we will not despair and relent because it is tough and difficult. We will at all material times confront our difficulties and challenges with high octane energy, enthusiasm and will. I am calling on you to realize this mammoth task facing us of upgrading roads in the province. It is not easy. All of us from the Department and our agency RAL do not sit in our offices neglecting your demands. Your legitimate demands for roads infrastructure on daily basis confront us and challenge us to come with creative ways of funding for our roads. The fiscas alone will not be able to deliver.

Programme Director

Road Agency Limpopo has forged a creative partnership with the private sector to raise much needed funds to build our roads. To date we have been able to raise R382 million through this partnerships and this has gone a long way in helping our government to

deliver road infrastructure in Limpopo. I have implored on them to continue engaging the private sector who equally need quality road infrastructure for their businesses. Sekhukhune district is blessed with many mining houses that need quality roads infrastructure to deliver their goods safe and on time. It is on this basis that I'm encouraging RAL to continue engaging these mining houses for further partnerships in building our roads. I trust that working together with the mining houses will to a great extent assist us in building our roads at our rural communities.

Programme Director

Today we are here to bring a much needed road a massive victory as I said. The project is for the upgrade and rehabilitation of road D4200 from road D4252 at Mphanama through Ga-Maila and Madibong to road D2219 at Jane Furse. The extent of the road is 24km. I know you are aware by now that building a road is a very expensive process. This road we are bringing to you which shall include rehabilitation of 4km will cost us well over R300 million which shall be built for the period of 36 months. The construction of the road brings with it many economic opportunities including jobs. We are glad to inform you that an amount of over R13 million shall be set aside to provide jobs for our local people. This means members of the community will directly participate in the building of their road. At the completion of the project you will indeed be justified to say this road was built by us through our sweat. It will therefore give you a legitimate responsibility to look after it for yourselves and the coming generations. I'm further glad to inform you that the project will to a greater extent provide business opportunities and income to the local businesses people. An amount of over R79 million which is 30 percent of the total budget of the project has been set aside for local small business development. I therefore urge interested local business community to ensure that you comply with necessary requirements in order for you to benefit. You will only benefit from this project if you duly qualify. You are welcome to request information

from RAL who will assist you with information in this regard. We will not accept a situation where the project is frustrated by business people who need opportunities while they do not meet necessary requirements. Knowledge is power. Kindly seek information so that you are not left behind. Wa lala wa sala.

Programme Director

We are here to celebrate this victory of bringing road infrastructure to the community. I call upon each one of you to work together for the smooth construction of this road. As government the work ahead of us is still huge. Kindly look after this project as its benefits are massive. We will continue to work hard as government of the people to eventually achieve the noble objective of a better life for all.

Rea Leaboga