

Message from the Director-General

The year 2006/2007 has been crucial in the transformation of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government. It is the year in which the Office of the Premier has effectively aligned its programme structure to deliver on its mandate and give effect to our slogan of "Mpumalanga in Action". Constructive strategic support to the Provincial Administration is now in place, along with efficient monitoring of the Provincial Programme of Action.

The following strategic objectives were met:

1. **Accelerated Capacity Building:** An executive management development programme is in place and we have implemented improvements in the recruitment process, promotion of job retention and performance management and development, with the aim of having capable officials and senior managers who can deliver on the priorities of the Office of the Premier.
2. **Strengthened Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation:** The Mpumalanga Policy and Strategy Network have been established to enhance planning, monitoring and evaluation and coordination. Forums such as the Government Information Technology Office (GITO) Council have been strengthened and the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS) has been reviewed and enhanced.
3. **Branding and Marketing for Mpumalanga Province:** The re-branding of the province is under way and a major marketing drive is being undertaken to improve the profile of Mpumalanga Province in order to attract investment and boost tourism.
4. **Improved Executive Decision-Making:** The capacity of the Clusters and the Provincial Management Committee has been improved to give quality support to the Executive Council.
5. **Initiation of the "Big 5" Flagship Projects as part of "Mpumalanga in Action":** As announced by the Premier, these projects include the Maputo Development Corridor, the Moloto Rail Corridor, Greening Mpumalanga, Heritage and Tourism and Water for All.

The Office of the Premier is also proud to report the following achievements:

- Initiation, launch and roll-out of Module 1 of the Executive Development Programme (EDP) which resulted in the training of 143 senior managers.
- Implementation of the Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) programme whereby 1610 certificates were issued.
- Establishment of the District House of Traditional Leaders.
- Establishment of the 2010 World Cup Coordinating Programme, and the development of the 2010 Master Plan for the Province.
- Development of quarterly, mid-term and 12-month monitoring reports for use by Exco Makgotla.
- Unqualified audit report by the Auditor-General with no matters of emphasis. This is a very good foundation to position the Office of the Premier as a centre of excellence.
- Coordination of the identification and approval process of the Provincial Flagship Programmes.
- Repeal and/or replacement of fifteen pieces of Provincial legislation.

These achievements have set the standard for what needs to be done during the next financial year and I am confident that everyone within the Office of the Premier will be equal to the task ahead of us.

In conclusion I would like to extend my gratitude to our Honourable Premier for his outstanding leadership during the year under review, and to the Senior Managers and all the staff of the Office of the Premier for their tremendous effort and dedication to the realization of our objectives.

Khaya Ngema
Director-General