

INHLABAMKHOSI

MPUMALANGA STATE OF THE PROVINCE [ADDRESS 2022]

JOB CREATION INITIATIVES

- Mpumalanga Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (MERRP) to place the provincial economy on a growth trajectory that creates more job opportunities for the people of Mpumalanga.
- The provincial and local municipalities will intensify existing programmes such as the Social Enterprise Development Programme, Government Nutrition Programme, Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Siyatentela Roads Maintenance Programme, National Youth Service, Paving of township and municipal roads, Emerging Contractor Development Programme and Skills development to create massive job opportunities.
- 44 applications were finally approved by the Mpumalanga Youth Development Fund for funding and sent to MEGA for disbursement.

completion in 18 months”.

- Vodacom has announced that they will invest R450 million into their network and power backup upgrades across the Province.
- Launched the sky walk project located at the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve along the Panorama route in Thaba Chweu Local Municipality. The sky walk will turn Gods window into a global must see location and offer visitors a 360 degree panoramic view, with a 12 m walkway suspended on the cliff. To create more than 100 permanent jobs and during construction 300 job opportunities.
- A recent study by the Goldman Sachs investment bank found that the cannabis industry will average 20% growth over the next decade. As the Mpumalanga Province, we are blessed with weather patterns that make the cultivation of cannabis a sustainable revenue stream for the Provincial fiscus.

the Mountain View Regional Dam within the City of Mbombela.

- Facilitate partnership with the Private sector to implement the District Development Model One plan for all in order to fast-track the delivery of services to communities.
- We have collaborated with the Ministry of Water and Sanitation to accelerate the implementation of the Loskop Bulk Water Project which entails the construction of abstraction works at Loskop Dam, a 20 ML/day treatment module, a 40 km bulk pipeline, 4 booster pump stations and a storage reservoir.
- The total cost of the project is R1 049 000 962. This will directly benefit over 13 000 households in both Thembekele Hani and Dr JS Moroka Municipalities.

INVESTING IN THE MPUMALANGA ECONOMY

- Lufthansa Airlines, through their Euro-Wings division, will soon establish a route from Frankfurt in Germany to Mpumalanga Kruger International Airport.
- We are making significant progress with the development of a new hotel and conference facility in Middelburg. The project is currently at earthworks stage. We anticipate

BULK WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- In partnership with local government and other key stakeholders, the Province will implement the following as part of Integrated Human Settlements:
- Finalize the Provincial Water Master Plan to guide the planning and implementation of Water and Sanitation Infrastructure in the Province, and expedite the implementation of

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- We shall accelerate the completion of infrastructural projects across, including but not limited to the parliamentary village, the Mpumalanga Fresh Produce Market, Tekwane South bridge, Bethal hospital, Mapulaneng hospital and Mammethlake hospital, interrupted by illicit forums extorting money and blocking the delivery of services.
- Planning for the Linah Malatjie Tertiary hospital is progressing well and construction is to start in the 2022/2023 Financial Year.





- We have initiated new projects including providing 176 schools with water and sanitation, 183 schools undergoing maintenance and refurbishment; 40 new classrooms in fast growing towns.
- To deliver 2 453 housing units through Rural Housing Programme, Military Veteran Housing Programme, Finance Linked Individual Subsidy and Individual Subsidies.
- Through Revitalization of Mining Towns, the housing targets are 217 housing opportunities planned for Emalahleni, 208 housing opportunities planned for Steve Tshwete municipality and 40 housing opportunities planned for Thaba Chweu.
- SANRAL, the national road agency will invest R9 billion on road infrastructure in the Province.

STRENGTHENING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM POST PANDEMIC

- We have committed ourselves to improving EMS Response rate through a multi-pronged approach.
- Medicines and surgical sundries at medical depot should be at 95% availability through the Stock Visibility System (SVS) in hospitals.
- The department of Health has been instructed to reduce contingent liabilities by more than 80% in the short to medium term period and by more than 90% in the long term period.

- The department will implement the two pronged provincial litigation strategy which includes clinical management to prevent further litigations and digitisation of health records to improve data management and availability of records.

GAME CHANGING INTERVENTIONS

- The Mpumalanga Industrial Development Plan will guide the rollout of interventions, i.e Nkomazi Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Nkomazi municipality and the Petrochemical Industrial Technology Park in Govan Mbeki municipality.
- The top structure buildings for the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market will soon be completed and to be operationalized within the 2022/2023 Financial Year.
- Will host a trade and investments conference within the next three months focusing on Technology, Agro-processing, Mining, Green Economy and Manufacturing.
- Established a Just Transition and Climate Change Working Group to enable Mpumalanga to tap in the R131 billion, promised by the industrialized countries to help South Africa implement a Just Transition to low carbon.

MUNICIPAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT

- We urge all municipalities to waste no time

in filling all the critical management positions as part of building and strengthening their administration.

- We will continue to work closely with ESKOM by engaging the affected municipalities and monitor the honouring of reasonable repayment agreements.
- We will take decisive action to curb the increase of cable theft and other electrical equipment such as transformers and illegal connections.

SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

- The province continues to work closely with the Institution of Traditional Leaders in pursuit of social cohesion and nation building.
- The ushering of the Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Act that came into effect from April 2021 requires , amongst others, we sort out the historical land disputes associated with distorted jurisdictions, resolve succession disputes and issues related to the recognition of traditional leaders, head-men and head-women. This will culminate in the reconstitution of traditional councils by 2023.
- A Provincial Initiation Coordination Committee (PICC) for the proper coordination of the important work of ensuring the safety of our young people during their rite of passage to adulthood, has been established.

Editorial

The establishment of the digital hub in Mpumalanga, earlier this year, may have escaped the attention many, especially those with an entrepreneurial spirit. The hub is a rare establishment by the government to use technological means to revitalize the economy, through the support of SMMEs. The establishment is a major step towards the right direction to jerk the economy amid the unfavourable economic conditions perpetuated by the COVID-19 restrictions to stall the spread of the disease. As you read the article on Page????? you will realize that SMMEs seized with the development of drone technology, cybersecurity, advanced engineering, artificial intelligence, biotechnology will be the main beneficiaries.

The establishment of the hub and the switch from analogue to digital on TV platforms have undoubtedly thrust Mpumalanga to a whole new digital level. The migration to the digital TV platform, driven by SENTECH provides communities in Mpumalanga an opportunity to watch their TV sets with improved pictures. It puts the province in an equal footing with all other provinces that are gravitating towards digital platforms. With all these interventions, it is clear that Mpumalanga is on its way to book its place in digital history.

At 45.4 percent, the writing is on the wall that the unemployment rate in Mpumalanga is at its peak. The proverbial desperate times call for desperate measures, is applicable. The steps taken by the Provincial Government, led by the Premier, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, to introduce job creation initiatives, signal the government's fundamental push against unemployment. These measures include the implementation of the Mpumalanga Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (MERRP), the investment attractions and infrastructure development plan. These measures, are practical solutions to the unemployment challenges, as tabled by the Premier during the State of the Province Address (SOPA).

There is a sense of optimism amongst the youth that the 6th Administration is confronting this matter head on. The 44 approved applications for the Mpumalanga Youth Development Fund is evidence enough. The Sky walk project also spurs hope that tourism is being expanded as a vital lever for the creation of the much needed jobs in Mpumalanga. The soon to be established route of the Frankfurt-Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport affirms Mpumalanga as a tourists destination province in the country. We are under no illusion that the SOPA extracts in Pages 1-2, will ignite the desire for you to revisit the speech to make a determination of whether government is not pulling out all stops to confront unemployment.

This Inhlabamkhosi edition marks the end of the 2021/22 financial year, and furthermore, completes the circle of the four editions geared towards bridging the information gap that government is often accused of, that of not communicating adequately. This edition complements the myriad platforms designed to keep you and the six million or so citizens of Mpumalanga informed about the activities of the government you voted for. We encourage you to continue to pay attention to the radio slots on Ligwalagwala FM, Ikwewezi FM, Rise FM, the Community Stations and the newspaper publications.

As we mark the end of this financial year, similarly we also mark the end of the name 'Inhlabamkhosi', as a title of the publication. After more than 10 years of Inhlabamkhosi, it is about time that we introduce a new name that will inspire hope amid all the socio-economic challenges, exacerbated by Covid-19. We encourage you, the reader, to suggest that new name. An editorial team has been established to lead the selection process. Once the vigorous selection process has been finalized, the new name will appear in the next edition to be printed in June 2022. Send your suggestions to the Editor, Mr Eustace Jansen on ejansen@mpg.gov.za. Looking forward to your participation and creativity.

We hope you will enjoy reading this edition.

Your comments and inputs are welcome. Send them to the Editor, Mr Eustace Jansen on ejansen@mpg.gov.za



MEC Vusi Mkhathshwa on-site visits to assess Municipalities

MEC Vusi Mkhathshwa has embarked on a series of visits to Municipalities to assess financial performance and state of readiness for the tabling of adjustments budget.

Together with Provincial Treasury officials, MEC Mkhathshwa took his first engagement with the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality to strengthen support on financial management and local economic development strategies.

During the meeting, the MEC urged the Municipality to prioritise services and be accountable to the citizens.

He said Municipalities must have workable plans, ensure budgets adhere to all legislative prescripts and that the recommendations of the Provincial Treasury meant to assist them are sufficiently considered to improve the credibility of municipal budgets.

"We have established a sufficient base from where we can take the financial governance on an upward trajectory, as exemplified by the improvements in the recent audit outcomes of this Municipality," said MEC Mkhathshwa.

"We must work with urgency to translate the commitments to all our people into pragmatic programmes to grow the local economy and build institutions, including at the local government that is capable, developmental, ethical and accountable to the people."

MEC also visited Msukaligwa Local Municipality and is scheduled to conduct similar engagements with all other Municipalities in the Province.



Launch of digital hub thrust Mpumalanga into digital business world

A nationwide institution that support young technology entrepreneurs was established in Mpumalanga. The Mpumalanga Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Digital Hub, was launched by the Minister of Small Business Development and seeks to support local small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs). Its establishment comes at the time when Mpumalanga is hard at work to revitalize the economy, hit hard by the restrictions of COVID-19 activities designed to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

The hub is geared towards accelerating businesses activities for the benefit of communities within Mpumalanga. The focus will be to develop drone technology, cybersecurity, advanced engineering, artificial intelligence, biotechnology and networking. In a province where the unemployment rate is at 45,4%, according to Statistics South Africa, the establishment of the hub is one of the fundamental intervention measures designed to revitalize the economy. "The hub is a positive step towards creating an inclusive digital economy and curbing joblessness in the

province. The ministry and Seda have played an integral part in establishing the hub so as to bring skills to communities in the province and cultivate strong tech SMMEs that can uplift the region's economy", Ndabeni-Abrahams explains.

The hub was first established in Cape Town in 2018 and has since opened up centres in Johannesburg, Nelspruit and a drone academy in Secunda. Its establishment is an outcome of a partnership between the Department of Small Business Development and public-based development funder Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda).

For businesses to be part of the incubator, they would need to meet a number of criteria, the most crucial being that the ability to develop technologies that uplift communities. According to Mr Sivuyile Zwedala of the 4IRI when assessing an applicant, the hub looks at how innovative a business' idea is. "Our tech experts draw up a report on the merits of the applicant. They talk about whether or not their idea is ground-breaking and how the product would fit in the market," Zwedala explains.

The business viability is key for approval to be granted, and as such the hub has set this as part of the criteria, according to Mr Zwedala. "I sit down with our team of financial experts and evaluate the business, looking at the industry in which it exists and its competition. While profitability is an important criterion, it is not the deal-breaker. A viable business is not only profitable but one that can repay and scale upwards," he expatiates.

Although support for small business is provided to all forms of business owners, however, black women are encouraged to participate. Zwedala says the hub is striving to attract more black women inventors, by exploring new criteria. "I believe world-class solutions can come out of South Africa and particularly from black women. Private sector and government need to have more confidence in black women and the skill sets we have here," he concluded.

The hub currently works with the likes of the French Embassy, Russian Business Council, Singapore Business Council and the Chinese-Africa Trade Council to create trade links and exposure for its SMMEs.



Celebrating the outstanding achievements of learners in the Mpumalanga Province

The Mpumalanga Matriculants class of 2021 has fought a good fight and came out triumphant. Despite the challenges and barriers posed by Covid-19, which affected their learning, they managed to pull through with outstanding results.

Every year, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government holds a ceremony to announce and honour the best students in the Province in various categories. Mpumalanga Premier Ms. Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane congratulated the class of 2021 for their brilliant performance at the University of Mpumalanga and awarded the learner who came at the top.

She said that the Mpumalanga Class of 2021 recorded a 73,6 overall pass rate, and that 21 044 candidates obtained Bachelor passes, which open doors for them to further their studies in Institutions of higher learning. Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that this figure represents 31,5% of the 2021 cohort of matriculants, which is an improvement of 1,1% compared with the 30,4% in 2020.

A KwaMhlanga Secondary School learner, hailing from the Thembisile Hani Municipality Ms. Angela Mpaka Kgothatso was announced by the Premier as the Province's overall best 2021 Grade 12 pupil. She was awarded seven distinctions: Level 7 English as her First Additional Language, IsiNdebele Level 7 of the Home Language, Level 7 in mathematics she obtained (300 out of 300), Level 7 in Physical Science also (300 out of 300), Level 7 in accounting (300 out of 300), Level 7 in Life

Sciences and Level 7 in Life Orientation.

The Department of Education awarded Kgothatso with a bursary to cover tuition, housing, books, and a living allowance in recognition of her accomplishment.

The Standard Bank awarded her R10000 in cash and another 10 thousand Rands from SASOL for being the top student in Mathematics and another R10, 000 for being the best student in Physical Science. SAICA awarded her with R10, 000 for being the best Accounting learner who obtained (300 over 300), the IDC also awarded her another R10000 for being the overall best learner in quintile 2 schools. In addition, she received Data & Tablets from Vodacom, a Laptop and a bag from SAICA, a Luggage bag, bar fridge, microwave, a travel bag, a sandwich maker, a sports bag, a kettle and a brand new Toyota AGY.

Kgothatso said that COVID-19 favoured her because she learned to be determined and had to develop self-discipline at home.

"I knew how to manage time effectively and that prepared me to write my matric examination. I spent much of my time was studying and I did not compromise when it came to reading my books. With all that I saw a lot of improvement in my performance. Determination is a mother of success," said Kgothatso.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane stated that more female learners passed grade 12 compared to their male counterparts.

She said that there were 49133 learners who passed grade 12 and 26 918 of them are girls.

"We are encouraged by this outcome and commitment of the girl child towards acquiring education and as a government we will continue to support them," she said.

District performance

In the Mpumalanga District, the Ehlanzeni District recorded the highest pass rate compared to the two other Districts by registering 75,6% as compared to 74,5% in 2020.

"This constitutes a 1,1% improvement. It is the only District that performed above the Provincial Average, this District also registered 19173, which is the highest number of candidates for the National Senior Certificate Examinations in the Province," said Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane. The Bohlabela District recorded 74,2% as compared with 74,6% for 2020.

"This is a decline of 0,4%," she commented.

The Districts of Nkangala and Gert Sibande both obtained 72,2% pass rate.

Municipal Performance

Looking at the municipal performance, the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality recorded an 82% pass rate that surpassed all the 17 local municipalities within the Province.

The top five municipalities in terms of learners domicile performance are:

- Steve Tshwete;
- Thaba Chweu;
- Emalahleni;



- Chief Albert Luthuli;
- and Dipaleseng.

Circuits

Out of 71 Circuits within the Province, Mbombela is the overall best circuit by recording a 91,4% pass rate as compared with 90,3% in 2020, which is an improvement of 1,1%.

Maviljan and Nkululeko Circuits were also congratulated for being the most improved circuits for registering 73% and 70,3% respectively, they had an improvement of 11,6% by both these circuits.

"It is encouraging to note that 45 out of 71 circuits performed above 60%. Slowly but surely we will achieve our goal of ensuring that all circuits perform above 60%," said Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane.

The top 10 performing circuits in the Province are:

- Mbombela;
- Steve Tshwete 03;
- Msukaligwa 02;
- White Hazy 01;
- Dundonald
- eMalaheni 01;
- Thulamahashi
- Mpuluzi
- Steve Tshwete 01
- Dwarsloop

School performances

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane reported that in 2021 the Province had a total of 559 examination centres administering grade 12 examinations.

She said that learners in 19 of these Examination centers registered a 100% pass rate compared with 30 in 2020. She added that out of these 19 schools, 15 are fee-paying schools whereas 4 are no fee-paying schools. "A total of 357 of our examination centres performed above 70% in 2021 and a total of 458 centres performed above 60%," she said.

Underperforming Schools

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that the Province has recorded a total of 2021 schools with a pass rate of below 70%.

"We will continue to implement the interventions to augment support to learners and improve performance at these schools," she commented.

Subject performance

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that the Province is still committed to increasing participation and performance in the gateway subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Technology.

"This is done to ensure that our learners are able to adapt to a rapidly developing world," she said

According to her, 101 OR Tambo MSTA Secondary Schools designated to offer Mathematics and Physical Sciences as mandatory subjects, have registered an overall pass rate of 65,9% in 2021.

According to her, 28 580 candidates in the province wrote Mathematics and passed with a rate of 54%.

"I have spoken to both the MEC and the Head of Department to pay special attention to this development. The Mathematics pass rate and uptake must be improved. We are targeting a 70 % mathematics pass rate by the year 2026. It is encouraging that 15 668 out of 25 471 learners that sat for the examinations, passed Physical Science as compared with 13 082 in 2020. This represents a 61,5% pass rate," said Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane.

Technical Secondary Schools

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane announced that the 27 Technical Secondary schools in the province obtained a 83,7% pass rate from a total of 3871 candidates.

"1775 of these candidates have obtained admission for undergraduate degrees at institutions of higher learning and a total of 1062 have obtained admission to complete diplomas," she said.

No fee boarding schools

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that the Province has established five boarding schools to guarantee quality education to learners from rural and farming communities and that out of these five boarding schools, four participated in the examination, and have performed as follows:

- eMakhazeni Boarding School obtained a pass rate of 66,7%;
- eZakheni Boarding School obtained a pass rate of 47,2%;
- Shongwe Boarding School obtained a pass rate of 88,2%;
- Izimbali Boarding School obtained a pass rate of 82,1%;

"We further wish to confirm that the top three learners from each of these boarding schools will receive a full bursary from the Provincial Government to further their studies in an institution of higher learning of their choice," she said.

"We reiterate our call that all boarding schools attain a 100% pass rate. We will therefore continue to work very closely with these schools for their realization of this target," she added.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that 17 623 who wrote the national senior certificate examination candidates did not make the grade, which reflects a 26,4% failure rate. She encouraged those who did not pass these exams to reintegrate back into the school system to obtain their certificates and complete the work they started.

"I implore all those who have not succeeded, not to lose hope. We will afford you a second chance. We request parents and community members to support these learners and not to subject them to undue pressure or ridicule. Let us encourage all those who could not make the grade, to take advantage of the second chance programme. We therefore make a humble appeal to all our principals to provide the required and necessary support to these learners," she concluded.



Mpumalanga Premier hands over Aerorand Primary School

Mpumalanga Premier Ms. Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane has officially handed over Aerorand Primary School to the learners, parents and the Aerorand community in Middleburg, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, during the school reopening.

The state-of-the-art school boasts an array of facilities, among them 24 classrooms, grade R centre, library, computer centre, electricity, water reticulation system, fencing, fire protection system and sports ground.

The school will accommodate 402 students intake of 24 Grade R students and 378 students between Grades 1-6. A phase in process of Grade 7 learners will ensue from next year. The school will also house an administration block that will centrally manage operations and the 32 officials employed in various capacities.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that the new institution is a significant investment in the development of the Aerorand community and a weapon to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Furthermore, she said that this is also part of government's project to asserting the rights of all children to receive quality education in quality educational infrastructure with water, electricity and adequate sanitation, through this school.

Addressing community members and some dignitaries at the ground breaking ceremony of Aerorand Primary School, Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that government

is on a mission of taking steps to provide quality education through construction of supportive infrastructure that speaks to the new curriculum nationwide.

"We will not rest on our laurels until we eliminate the brutal legacy of poor infrastructure we inherited upon the advent of our constitutional democracy. We will not rest until all our children in Mpumalanga attend schools with proper sanitation and not constructed with harmful materials such as asbestos," she commented.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that the construction of such state of art schools will be the new approach for the benefit of communities in this period of advanced technology.

"The maintenance and infrastructural upgrades of 28 schools, is in the pipeline. We are determined to complete such work before the end of the financial year. This will be expanded to even more schools in the new financial year," she said.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said providing quality education requires collaboration between government, communities through School Governing Bodies and the private sector.

She outlined that the initiative requires a societal responsibility to equip children with the best opportunities to enable them to be productive members of society in the future. Never before has it been more pertinent than

now, that schools from primary level adapt and adopt new technology and tools in order to continue their learning. More than that, technology itself has changed, now more than a tool, it has become integrated with daily lives, and influences the way people learn and improve the quality of education. Technology is now enabling even the youngest children to join the rapidly changing world of technology. Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane commended MTN, a company that has committed itself to be joining government in handing over the school to the community of Aerorand by donating over 50 tablets for utilisation in the school's laboratory.

"This support will boost our efforts to digitise learning and to equip our children with skills that will shape the 4th industrial revolution such as coding and robotics," she said.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that government will ensure that Aerorand Primary School will benefit from numerous skills development interventions in early cognitive development in primary schools to ensure that children that are able to comprehend Mathematics, Science, ICT, Language, Literacy and Numeracy are moulded.

"We will also utilise the skills development interventions to provide temporary employment opportunities for unemployed graduates within our communities in an effort to empower the school community," she concluded.



Late Emalahleni Executive Mayor and her husband laid to rest

The Late Hon. Mrs. Linah Malatjie and her husband Mr. Eseau Malatjie, have been laid to rest on the 9th of January at their last home at Emalahleni, Nkangala district.

The couple, Mrs Linah Masellane and Mr. Essau Sepetlele Malatjie died in a car accident on Monday, January 3 on the road between KwaMhlanga and eMalahleni.

In their eulogies, most speakers extolled the late Mayor's virtues and described her as a humble servant of the people who left many footprints of development, especially in education in the Nkangala District.

Addressing mourners, Mpumalanga Premier Ms. Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane said the late Mayor's death left a huge void that will be difficult to fill within the Mpumalanga Government. She described the death of Mrs. Malatjie as a great loss and a big blow to the Mpumalanga Government.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that the late Mrs. Malatjie was a selfless leader who lived a life of purpose, a life of impact and displayed an unwavering commitment to the empowerment and liberation of the marginalised and disenfranchised.

"Mme Malatjie was a strong proponent of the adage that education is the key that unlocks the doors of progression and prosperity, and as a teacher by profession, she moulded the minds of many in attendance today.

She spoke fondly and with pride whenever she relayed stories of the impressive strides her former students were making in life. It is by no means a surprise that she lobbied relentlessly for government and the private sector to provide bursaries to deserving students, regardless of their race or creed," she said.

"Her track record of championing the provision of bursaries to deserving students, both at the Nkangala District Municipality and Emalahleni Local Municipality, remains unmatched," she added.

Furthermore, Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that everyone who knew her could attest to

the fact she executed her responsibilities with great skill, precision, selfless dedication and unwavering commitment to serving with integrity. She cited her enormous skills and insights on spatial planning, municipal finance and accelerated service delivery programmes, which made her a rare breed within the local government sphere.

In honour of all her contributions, Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that the Emalahleni Local Municipality must give full momentum to the accelerated service delivery programme which she championed.

For having played a central role in coordinating the participation of all role players from the Private and Public sectors to develop a retail mall in the area adjacent to the taxi rank. Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said in a couple of weeks, she will oversee the sod turning ceremony that will birth the mall that will be named after the late Malatjie, stating that she will ensure that the legacy of Malatjie lives on. In addition to that, she said that she will name a tertiary hospital which is currently under construction, the Linah Malatjie academic hospital, upon its completion.

According to the Premier, when she delivered the State of the Province Address last year, committing to commence the process of constructing a tertiary hospital in Emalahleni, the late Malatjie, along with the Municipal Council, proactively identified and availed land for purposes of this project.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane outlined that her proactiveness in the project was the evidence of her commitment to accelerate infrastructural development for the benefit of the people of Emalahleni.

Family spokesperson, who is a son to the late Mr. and Mrs. Malatjie, Mr. George Maila, described their parents as pillars of strength and unifiers to the family.

"The loss of our parents is a blow to the Malatjie family, relatives and our entire community. Our parents were not looking only after us as their

children, but extended their love to relatives, friends and the entire community members. We shared everything with everyone who came to our house," he said.

"Our parents even went to an extent of helping people to find jobs while hosting them and encouraging them to fulfill their objectives, we will never forget their immense contribution they made in our lives and for the emancipation of our people, they will be greatly missed," he added.

Maila also read a tribute letter from their daughter, Kgaugelo Malatjie, during the funeral service.

In the letter, Kgaugelo said she never thought that she would one day bury both her parents simultaneously.

"Knowing that I will never receive phone calls from both of you has shred me into pieces," said Kgaugelo.

Minister of Mineral Resources Gwede Mantashe praised the late Mayor Malatjie for being a distinctive leader who always attended government events, he also applauded her late husband for allowing her to work with people and to be away from home most of her time.

"Every time we came here to deliver something, comrade Linah was there. She was a soldier who died in her boots," Minister Mantashe commented.

The late Malatjie served as the Mayor of Emalahleni since 2018. She was a dedicated activist who served in the African National Congress, in the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU), she also served as an education and gender convener for the greater Highveld Region. She also stood very firm against discrimination, the oppression women and fought many battles against Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). The late Mayor also served as a teacher by profession and later a Deputy Principal at Elukhanyisweni Secondary School for 14 years. The couple has been laid to rest at the Witbank cemetery.

Team Mpumalanga returns to playing fields

Team Mpumalanga recently made a return to competitive sport at the National School Sports Championships in Bloemfontein, Free State with a 106-member team - consisting of athletes, coaches and managers.

The Championships featured all nine provinces fighting for supremacy in tennis, wheelchair tennis, chess and football. "The team was excited about the return of the School Sports Championships and it was good to have our athletes playing sport again," explained Culture, Sport and Recreation spokesperson, Sibongile Nkosi after the conclusion of the tournament, which was played from February 4 to 5.

It was the first time in two years that the premier school tournament took place due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Team Mpumalanga were out to make a big impression in the City of Roses in tennis, chess and football. The province did not have a team for wheelchair tennis. The boys and girls from the Place of the Rising gave a good account of themselves in the other codes.

For the return tournament, government introduced a new incentive in football in which the winners of the u/16 division represented the country at the Pan African Championships in Democratic Republic of Congo. The winners were (girls) Edendale Technical High School from KwaZulu Natal and (boys) Rosina Sedibane High School from Gauteng. At the time of going to press, Edendale had qualified for the finals.

According to Nkosi, the South African School Sports Championships were initially scheduled to take place in December 2021 with a full compliment of sporting codes but were postponed due to the resurgence of Covid-19 in the country. The following codes: basketball, cricket, hockey, gymnastics, netball, rugby 7s, table tennis, softball and volleyball will be played later in the year. "The School Sports Championships are a bedrock of development with most current sport stars discovered at this level," concluded Nkosi.

The final standings at the championships were as follows: 1. Gauteng 2. KwaZulu Natal 3. Western Cape 4. North West 5. Eastern Cape 6. Free State 7. Limpopo 8. Mpumalanga 9. Northern Cape



Wa bulal' iphoyisa wabul' umphakathi



Police officers are regularly called out to crime scenes, they witness the most of grisly murder and violent crime scenes. They are also among the first respondents to dreadful crash scenes on our roads. On daily basis they also put their own lives on line to protect you and me. Seeing wretchedness on the faces of the victims and survivors is synonymous with their work.

This they do to protect the community and also enforce the laws of the Republic. That is why they are not afraid to apprehend their own, if the need arises. The uniform they wear inspires multitudes to feel safer.

Sadly, there are also criminals who attacks them for merely doing their work. In the words of Mpumalanga MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Vusi Shongwe, when police are attacked, communities are attacked. Hence the MEC came up with a slogan: "Wabulal iphoyisa, Wabulal' umphakathi."

The MEC has not only declared war on crime, but on anyone who attacks the police and other law enforcers. The purpose of the slogan is to rally communities to assist in sniffing out those who attack the police. He also wants police officers to remain vigilant and ensure that those who attack them are swiftly brought to justice. He insists that the law enforcers must support each other and always be ready to defend themselves against heartless felons. "The state relies on the police and other law enforcement officers to protect its citizens and to maintain law and order. Therefore, we should not allow any person to attack the police or any member of security cluster. Such tendencies

are repudiated in the strongest possible terms and it should not be allowed space to thrive in our society," says Shongwe.

The MEC was responding to several cases of attacks on the police recently. The latest attack occurred when the Elukwatini Station Commander, Colonel Beauty Marivate's life was brought to an abrupt after being shot while she was responding to a robbery scene in Elukwatini towards the end of December.

In July 2021, South African Police Service (SAPS) Tactical Response Team (TRT) member, Sergeant Joseph Kutu was shot in his home in Vosman in Emalahleni. He later died in the hospital. Three suspects have since been arrested and one of them is his widow. Several other SAPS members were also pounced on in Barberton, Komatipoort and Bushbuckridge respectively.

MEC Shongwe expressed confidence in the security cluster saying he know all those who are responsible will be punished. He has implored on the community to work with the police to ensure that propagators and perpetrators are arrested.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

VOTES



Office of the Premier
R377 mil



Provincial Treasury
R566 mil



**Cooperative Governance and
Traditional Affairs**
R690 mil



**Agriculture, Rural Development,
Land and Environmental Affairs**
R1.289 bil



Education
R24.273 bil



**Economic Development and
Tourism**
R1.743 bil



Provincial Legislature
R371.8 mil



**Public Works, Roads and
Transport**
R4.993 bil



**Community Safety, Security and
Liaison**
R1.584 bil



Health
R16.824 bil



Culture, Sport and Recreation
R604 mil



Social Development
R1.616 bil



Human Settlements
R1.506 bil

