



Human Settlements MEC Speedy Mashilo, Public Works Roads and Transport MEC Sasekani Manzini, Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza, Social Development MEC Busi Shiba and Community Safety Security and Liaison MEC Pat Ngomana

Premier Mabuza reshuffles cabinet

Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza has reshuffled his cabinet, with Mr Vusumuzi Shongwe assigned from being the MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison to being the new MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Mr Speedy Mashilo, has been appointed as the MEC for Human Settlements, Ms Sasekani Manzini, appointed as MEC for Public Works Roads and Transport, Ms Busi Shiba, appointed as MEC for Social Development and Mr Petrus Ngomana appointed MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison.

Meanwhile, the former Social Development MEC Nomsa Mtsweni has been appointed mayor of the Thembisile Hani local mu-

nicipality in KwaMhlanga, and the former MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Dumisile Nhlengethwa is now a speaker of the Msukaligwa local municipality in Ermelo. Premier Mabuza said that a review and assessment of government work at both provincial and local government had to be done, he also commented that this will be an ongoing process, and as a result of the assessment that was made, he said that the cabinet had to be reshuffled in order to enhance the quality of service delivery that will benefit the people.

“As the Premier, I am constitutionally and personally responsible for all the departments. It is my prerogative to put members of the executive to run the departments on

my behalf. Equally so, I also have a right to reorganize the executive council,” he said. “Obviously, when rearranging the executive council, one assesses the strengths of the members, and places them where we believe they will make a positive impact,” he commented.

Premier Mabuza said that the Mpumalanga Provincial Government will continue to be the servant of the people.

“We will ensure that we accelerate the level of service delivery. At the municipal level, we have already deployed capable leaders who will ensure that the people are served,” he said.

The new cabinet has been sworn in at the Legislature and has already resumed duty.



Mpumalanga Premier Mr DDMabuza with Statistician General Mr PJ Lehohla sit over the presentation of the results of the Mpumalanga Community survey results for 2016.

Mpumalanga Community Survey results

The Mpumalanga Community survey results 2016 researched by Statistics South Africa were handed over to the Premier of the Mpumalanga Province David Mabuza and his Executive Committee by the Statistician General, Mr. PJ Lehohla, Statistics South Africa.

The result of the research states that the Mpumalanga Provincial Government has made improvement in the health sector, the life expectancy in the province is now 62, access to basic services such as water, electricity, sanitation, flush/ chemical toilet has increased.

According to the results, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government should prioritise on improving on the education sector and reducing unemployment. Other sectors such as health and water have been seen to have taken serious strides as compared to other provinces.

Responding to the findings of the research report about the Mpumalanga province, Premier Mabuza said that prioritizing to decrease the unemployment level and to improve on education in the Mpumalanga Province would change the lives of the citizens in the province, guarantee them a better life and boost their economy. Statistician General, Mr Lehohla said that the Community Survey is the second largest survey undertaken by Statistics South

Africa following the one that was conducted in 2007. He said that the objective of the report was aimed at providing the extent of comparability between CS 2016 and at least the previous Census and data regarding priority socio-economic indicators, to provide a comparison of figures for access to basic household services between CS 2016 and the previous censuses and to provide figures for newly incorporated questions for the purpose of narrowing the information gap.

To attain results, Mr Lehohla said that the community survey followed a sampling methodology, questionnaires informed by national priorities were used, survey co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation, data editing and evaluation, municipal categorization and analysis methods was followed.

HOUSEHOLDS

According to the Mpumalanga Community Survey 2016 results delivered to Premier Mabuza, the total population recorded for Mpumalanga in 2016 was 4, 4 million, an increase from the population of 4, 1 million in 2011, making it the fourth smallest province in the country in terms of population size, after the North West. 49, 3% of the population in the province are male and 50, 7% are female. The number of

households increased from 1 075 488 in 2011 to 1 238 861 in 2016. Average household size in the province decreased from 3, 8 in 2011 to 3, and 5 in 2016. Ehlanzeni (483 903) has the highest number of households. The research report also states that the Mpumalanga Provincial Government has contributed highly in terms ensuring that there is a decline in a rate of infant mortality and that the life expectancy has increased to 62%.

MIGRATION

The report reveals that between 2011 and 2016, the Mpumalanga experienced a net-migration of -38 267, which was a result of 668 people emigrating from the province and 630 074 moving to the province from elsewhere. The report states that about nine in every 10 residents of Mpumalanga were born in the province and about 14, 6 people were born somewhere else.

According to the findings of the report, the majority of the population (3, 7 million) currently residing in the Mpumalanga were born in the province. About 169 172 Mpumalanga residents were born in Gauteng and 116 132 from Mpumalanga were born outside of South Africa. Those that were born in Limpopo (155 000) migrated to Mpumalanga.

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HOUSING

In terms of housing, the report stipulates that over four-fifths (84, 7%) of the population reside in formal dwellings and 10, 9% in informal dwellings. Mpumalanga recorded a (19, 5%) proportion of households who reported that their main dwelling was a RDP/government subsidized dwelling as compared to other provinces. Over three-fifths (62, 5%) of the households in the Mpumalanga reported that their dwellings were owned and fully paid off.

The research also found that the Mpumalanga has the country's second highest proportion of households living in formal dwellings, with about four in every five households residing in a formal dwelling. The report also states that about a fifth of households have benefited from a government subsidized dwelling, with 19,5% of households in the province reporting that they reside in a government funded dwelling.

The results states that the provincial government has performed well in terms of eradicating shacks, it stipulates that the

percentage of shacks has declined from the rate of 14.5percent in 2006 to 10.9 percent in 2016.

BASIC SERVICES

In terms of access to basic services, the report states that 29% of households in the Mpumalanga had access to piped water inside the dwelling. A further 44, 4% had access to piped water inside the yard and 5, 4% had access to piped water from an access point outside the yard. 77, 3% of households in the province reported that they had access to safe drinking water. The province recorded a high percentage of households that had access to electricity for cooking 79, 8%, an increase from 69, 3% recorded in 2011.

POVERTY

According to the outcome of the survey, the poverty headcount in Mpumalanga achieved a slight decrease from 7, 9% in 2011 and 7, 8% in 2016. 273 886 of households in Mpumalanga reported that they had ran out of money in the last 12 months before the survey was conducted. 14, 8 % of households in Mpumalanga missed a meal

over the same period.

Commenting on the findings of the research report, Premier Maua said that more money will be increased to improve and support students for higher learning and other programmes of education in the Province. He said that the reflection of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government's performance depicts that the province has maintained stability by 71% and that there are other areas that still need improvement, he said that government was always prepared to make changes.

"I am proud that the Mpumalanga citizens are satisfied about the provincial government's delivery and that we are now competing with the best provinces in the country," he commented.

"Just by educating a person, there are a lot of factors that can improve a person's life. They stand a lot of chances of reducing poverty and are guaranteed a better life," he added.

Looking into the future, Premier Mabuza said that the satisfaction level of the Mpumalanga citizens should be assessed on a continuous basis in order to check if it remains consistent.

Tourists urged to take a shot' left

The MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane is urging locals to take a shot' left and explore the unique product offerings that Mpumalanga has to offer. The MEC was speaking during the launch of 2016 tourism month at the Lowveld Botanical Gardens on Spring Day, 1 September.

Speaking during the Media Launch of Tourism Month Activities under the theme 'Universally Accessible Tourism' MEC Kholwane said Tourism has been identified as a key sector towards economic growth in Mpumalanga. "Tourism has the potential to help fight the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality." As a result, we have identified it, in our provincial Economic Growth and Development Path (MEGDP), as one of the priority sectors to be exploited taking into consideration the role that the tourism sector have played in contributing towards job creation in Mpumalanga, said the MEC."

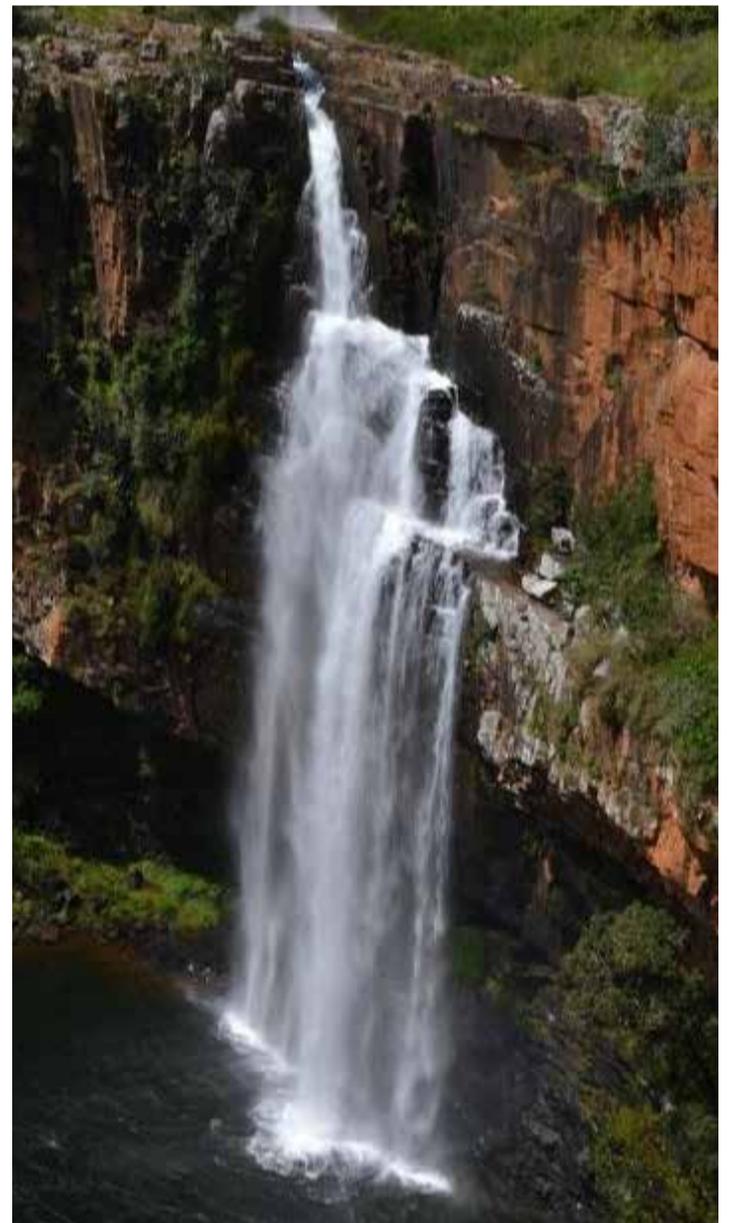
Globally, tourist arrivals grew by 4.4 percent in 2015 to reach a record 1 billion 184 million arrivals, contributing 1.4 trillion US dollars in revenue, the foreign tourist to South Africa decreased from 9 549 236 visitors in 2014 to 8 903

773 visitors in 2015 a decrease of 6.8 percent ."

The decrease was mainly due to a combination of factors , namely unfounded fears to contract Ebola treat in South Africa, continual global economic challenges and the unintended consequences of our new immigration regulations " said MEC kholwane . The MEC kholwane's sentiments were echoed by Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) Deputy chairperson Nomaswazi Shabangu-Mndawe and Acting CEO Mr. Abie Sibiya. "As we celebrate Tourism Month our intentions is to promote tourism to all South Africans irrespective of gender, race or any status. As the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks and Tourism Agency our intention is to encourage everyone to travel domestically to get the understanding of the affordable exiting and world class attractions that are available on their doorstep .

It is during this period where we embark on extensive awareness campaign aimed at encouraging local people to travel and explore our province," said the Deputy Chairperson.

This year World Tourism Day will be celebrated in Parys, Free State Province on 27 September 2016.



Berlin Falls in the Lowveld.



Human trafficking manifest in various ways such as forced labour for the purpose of exploitation.

Human trafficking, an act of modern slavery

The Office of Women, Office of the Premier, together with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, held a workshop for stakeholders on human trafficking at the Ingwenyama Lodge, Whiteriver.

Lindiwe Ntuli-Tloubatla, Deputy-Director, Office of the Status of Women, said that the purpose of the workshop was to create awareness on the level of human trafficking in the province and to lobby community structures, NGO's and concerned citizens to work together with government in defeating this atrocity.

Human trafficking is a global threat to vulnerable men, women, and children worldwide. It is a highly organized and lucrative business and an injustice that affects millions of people every year on every continent and at all socio-economic levels.

According to research more than 80% of women and girls are being trafficked every year from one province to another, inside the country and across the border. Once enslaved, victims are typically forced into unsanitary and stressful living conditions and receive little to no healthcare or basic services. Their movement is often restricted, their personal documentation withheld, and most experience significant physical, emotional, sexual, and psychological violence. Escaping from slavery is extremely difficult and dangerous, putting the victim at great personal risk.

If rescued, integration back into society is incredibly difficult because of the shame, stigma, threat of retribution, and trauma experienced during enslavement. Training the workshop attendees, Advocate Christa Duplessis, Department of Justice, defined Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. She said that exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. "People who are on the lookout for jobs, be very careful, check every job application you are doing if possible, google the details of the company and confirm if it is registered. Some people have been deceived for working in ships and end up being trafficked for prostitution and labour exploitation" she said.

"We have had many cases of people who were also trafficked for debt bondage, whereby their passports have been confiscated towards the liquidation of debts," she added.

Advocate Du Plessis also strongly warned

people who are involved in acts of dating unknown people on facebook, she said that many people ended up becoming victims of dating and some of them even murdered by strangers.

"Communities, NGO's, civil society, and many community structures should take responsibility, work together and create awareness through various ways that will reach, educate people and create alertness," she said.

Advocate Du Plessis said that most of the reasons for human trafficking are poverty related, gender related, due to drug trafficking, because of unemployment, false promises for education opportunities, poverty related prostitution, and many many reasons that people need to be educated about.

Lindiwe Tloubatla, Deputy Director, Office of Women, Office of the Premier said that the Office of the Premier, working together with other departments, community structures and NGO's should strengthen the awareness campaigns and always work together to conquer human trafficking.

"Let this be everybody's responsibility to ensure that we save the lives of innocent people and ensure that we sensitise everyone to be vigilant about any contracts they sign, and agreements that can put their lives in danger. We call upon the community structures, NGO's, the SAPS, all relevant government departments, to unite with us in fighting this evil," she concluded.

New state of art health centre at Naas



MEC for Health Gillion Mashego handing of the Naas Community Health Centre.

The MEC for Health, G.P Mashego officially handed over of the new Naas Community Health Centre to the community of Naas in Nkomazi Municipality on the 05th of July 2016. The project started in July 2014 and was completed in May 2016 with an amount of R31 287 000 allocated for the project. The event was graced by the presence of Nkomazi Municipality's Councillors led by the Executive Mayor Thulisile Khoza and the first lady of KwaLugedlane Tribal Authority. Since 1975 the Clinic used to operate in small building with 3 consultation rooms, leaking roof, falling ceiling, leaking drains

and its labour ward was a 1 bedded room which made it difficult to deliver pregnant women. The structure was not ideal for 24hrs Primary Health Care services.

In line with the departmental strategic objective of improving health facility planning and infrastructure delivery in the province, the department has built a new Community Health Centre for Naas community with 2 sections, namely; General section and Maternity section.

General section has 7 consultation rooms, 1 waiting area, 1 admin office, 1 filing room, 1 managers office, 1 pharmacy, 1 treatment room, 1 store room, 1 dental room, 1 IT hub

room, 1 compressor room, 6 social workers offices used as lay counsellors rooms, 1 staff kitchen, 1 rest room and 1 cleaners room and ablution facilities for both staff and patients. Maternity section has 1 nurses' station, 1 waiting room, 1 emergency room, 2 observation rooms, 1 delivery room, 1 meal kitchen, 1 baby room, 1 laundry, 1 sluice room, 1 equipments store room, 1 medicines store and ablution facilities. The department has also drilled borehole and is providing water to the facility.

MEC Mashego appeal to the community to be jealous of the facility by protecting the scarce resource our health professionals and the structure from people who have different agenda. He also warned the public not to destroy the facility if they protest for something else. In terms of the six priorities areas Mashego said "Naas Community Health Centre is doing well, but in other areas there is still a room for improvement. On availability of medicine the Community Health Centre is at 75 percent which is acceptable, cleanliness at 73 percent, improved patient safety and security at 67". A patient by the name of Ms Irene Nzokole said: "the new The Community Health Centre has space that accommodate all of us, no more congestion compared to the old CHC and the clinic environment gives hope". The land to build the new Community Health Centre was allocated by Nkomazi Local Municipality in 2014 and is located within 500m away from the old community health centre behind the offices of department of Social Development.

Modernising health services and infrastructure for rural communities in the province

The Mpumalanga Department of Health in the realisation of a collective aspirations of government in building a developmental state that is able to provide an improved health facility planning, infrastructure, and a satisfactory health services to the people of Mpumalanga, the Department attest to such utterance by official opened a new clinic for the rural community of Tweefontein G near Kwamhlanga. The construction of Tweefontein G clinic began last year and was completed in May 2016.

The clinic is situated 16 km away from Kwa-Mhlanga Hospital and providing comprehensive primary health care services to the community of Tweefontein G, Tweefontein J and H communities.

The New clinic was launched by MEC Mashego who was accompanied by former Mayor of Thembisile Hani Municipality Mr Ndaweni Mahlangu. The clinic will serve more than 8000 residents, with a price tag amount over R26,000,000. The clinic will provide health care for 24 hours.

During his key note address MEC Mashego "the clinic will also provide referrals to Kwamhlanga Hospital whenever the need arises.

MEC further went on to say "even though there are challenges the department will work tirelessly to put systems that will add capacity in the function and service provision in the clinic to the people mainly to ensure there is adequate staff to assist service delivery going forward.

Mashego urged residents not to damage the infrastructure that is constructed to be utilised by them, you must guard it against vandalism and burglary". Said Mashego Services that are rendered at Kwaagafontein G Community Health Centre are as follows

management of chronic conditions

- Diabetes mellitus
- Hypertension
- Cardiac condition
- Mental health services
- Integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI)
- TB, HIV/AIDS and STI services
- Family planning services
- Management of minor ailments
- Emergency care service
- Health promotion

MEC Mashilo accentuates proper planning



Newly appointed MEC for Human Settlements, Mr Speedy Mashilo addressing councillors during first municipality meeting at Ehlanzeni District Municipality.

With an effort to respond to the persistent challenges of sustainable human settlements in the province, newly appointed MEC for Human Settlements, Mr Speedy Mashilo heeded the call to address challenges relating to the mushrooming of informal settlements, non-availability of land, proper beneficiary management and the allocation of basic services such as water, electricity, sanitation and social amenities in communities.

Mashilo met recently with various human settlements Councillors (MMCs) and Executive Mayors from across the province during his first MuniMEC meeting at Mbombela City where he outlined his plans to avert such trends. He highlighted mushrooming informal settlements as a huge impediment to the Department's proper

planning and allocation of houses with appropriate services.

"Informal settlements are a huge problem. When people invade the land and form those informal dwellings it becomes a torrid task to deal with especially when we need to properly develop the place with services such as good infrastructure, water, accessible roads and the sewer systems," outlined Mashilo. He however questioned the method in which beneficiaries are being identified in order to receive government low cost houses (RDPs) saying that this is another area that needed swift intervention.

"It is embarrassing that in this 22 years of democracy we still have old people living without decent houses, many of our beneficiaries today are young people who in the main can still await their turn to receive these houses," pointed Mashilo. Emakhazeni Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Thomas Ngwenya called for municipalities to develop and enforce municipal by-laws to ensure that informal settlements are dealt with every time they emerge.

There was a consensus amongst the representatives that proper planning, cooperation with traditional leadership and development of strong policies could be solutions to service delivery challenges, especially in human settlements. Mashilo added that municipalities must play a role in identifying land so that the middle income

earners can be assisted since they do not qualify to own a government low cost house.

The MuniMEC comes shortly after Mashilo had just met with the Department's senior managers to map out a new way forward in order to carry out the mandate of the Department. He addressed the managers in a meeting which was arranged to welcome him in the Department.

During his address, he emphasized that the Department won't tolerate any shoddy work from its contractors and that incompetent contractors failing to deliver as per their expectations would have their work terminated. "We don't develop contractors, we deliver houses and infrastructure to our people," charged Mashilo.

He further explained that officials should not confuse what human settlements is but remember that it entails the building of adequate houses and creating habitable infrastructure for the people of the province. "Contractors do not deliver houses, but we do. Their interest is in making profit," he said.

The MEC warned sternly against the illegal allocation of government low cost houses to people who do not deserve them and maintained that this should be checked thoroughly to bring an end to it. He said, "Houses have been built but given to wrong beneficiaries. Such negligence cannot be tolerated."

Young people have more influence to end road crashes

Ten learners who topped other young people during the Road Safety Provincial Debates Competition will represent the province nationally. The debates are conducted annually by the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison where learners from grade 8 to 11 are given an opportunity to deliberate about different motions pertaining to road safety. This year's competition was held in Makaase Combined School in Phola (Ogies). Participants were debating on motions such as; 'Traffic Law Enforcement in South Africa is adequate to ensure safer vehicles on our roads' and 'This house affirms that road traffic crashes have a negative effect on the economy of the country'.

Before the provincial event, debate competitions were conducted at schools level, circuits and later escalated to the regional

level.

Road Safety Debate Competitions are an initiative of the Mpumalanga Province which started in 2004 with the aim of reducing road crashes. The province had since won the national debates three times, in the year 2007, 2010 and 2011.

Speaking during the event, the department's MEC, Pat Ngomane said that it pleases him to see young people being actively involved in road safety.

According to him, as much as these debates sharpen public speaking skills on the young people, it should not end in the debate halls but should be the beginning of a journey towards making communities where they come from safer by becoming road safety ambassadors.

"Young people are very influential in our communities and grooming them to become responsible road users can benefit government and the whole



MEC for Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison with the winners.

country to reduce lawlessness on our road and crashes. So it is very important that we start instilling responsibility on them at a very young age.

The province has experienced a number of crashes involving young people and most of these crashes occur in the early hours of the morning after a long night of partying. Other crashes occur because young people drive and text, drag-race and speed.

These young people here are a beginning of hope spreading road safety messages. They are

the future of a road-crash free environment," he said.

The MEC further thanked WOK-ZA, a company that donated two laptops, eight tablets with R300 worth of airtime, 20 medals and trophies for the winners and all participants.

One of the learners who came top, Nothando Manana from Lugebhuta High School in Nkomazi said that this was a great opportunity for young people and they are going to use the platform to educate their peers about the importance of road safety.



Inductees of the Skh'abakhi Emerging Contractor Development Programme.

EPWP elevates emerging contractors

In an effort to elevate skills of emerging contractors in the built environment, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport recently recruited and inducted 55 emerging contractors from across the Province as part of a the Sakh'abakhi Emerging Contractor Development Programme under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The inductions which were conducted in all the Districts of the Province, kick-started at KwaMhlanga in Nkangala District on the 19th of July 2016 and continued to Ermelo in Gert Sibande District on the 20th of

July while Thulamahashi in Bohlabela and Mbombela in Ehlanhleni took the 21st and 22nd of July respectively.

The programme intends to develop emerging contractors into fully fledged contractors who are able to compete effectively in the open market within the build environment. The Project Coordinator, Ms Mavis Simelane stated that the programme is largely targeting women, youth, as well as persons living with disability. The training is provided in accordance with National Qualification Frameworks (NQF) level two (02) under the auspices of the Construction Education and

Training Authority (CETA).

“On completion of their training, participants will move on to larger and more complex projects,” said Simelane. During the two year programme, the contractors will undergo classroom and on-the-job training with the aim of enhancing their skills in construction. At the end of the two-year training period, the contractors would be equipped with entrepreneurial and technical skills to handle large contracts,” concluded Simelane. Since the programme was initiated by the Department in 2006, a total of 125 contractors have been developed.

The fight against Substance Abuse intensified

Under the theme “listen first” the Mpumalanga Department of Social Development commemorated the 2016 International Day against Substance Abuse and Illicit trafficking in Kwaggafontein on Tuesday 28 June 2016. The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is commemorated annually on the 26th of June to build awareness on the negative effects of substance abuse among the youth and the communities as a whole. As part of this year’s commemoration, the Mpumalanga Substance Abuse Forum as

led by the department of social development embarked on a 1.5 km march which commenced at Kwaggafontein old taxi rank to Kwaggafontein Community Hall in the Thembisile Hani local Municipality. As part of the department’s work in the fight against substance abuse, community dialogues, door-to-door sessions as well as roadshows are continually conducted. From these activities, it always appears that some of the factors that influence the indulgence in substance abuse are; peer pressure, experimentation, recreation, lack of parental guidance and circumstantial situations. Factors such as

ignorance, modelling, rebellious and acting out against authorities also play a role. The formation of the Provincial Substance Abuse Forum is one initiative through which the government collectively fights substance abuse in all corners and levels. This forum consists of government departments, traditional leaders, religious leaders, media, youth formations, liquor board, business sector, Moral Regeneration Movement and communities in general. All members of the community are encouraged to play a part in the fight against substance abuse.



Class sessions at the Gert Sibande District.

SALGA rolls out Integrated Councillor Induction Programme

After every municipal election a nationwide programme of councillor induction is undertaken. As the voice and the representative of local government, it is SALGA's role to co-ordinate and develop such a programme, and this year is no different.

For the year 2016, this programme has assumed a new name - Integrated Councillor Induction Programme (ICIP). The ICIP caters for newly elected and returning councillors. For newly elected councillors contact sessions are arranged over 5 consecutive days to orientate them on their roles and responsibilities and for returning councillors, a refresher induction is offered with the option of delivering it through contact sessions or over an e-learning platform.

Among others, the revamped 2016 ICIP has the following features:

- It is an accredited LGSETA programme, whereby an NQF Level 3 & 5 certificate of competence will be awarded to a councillor upon successful completion;
- Twinning of facilitators is envisaged, ensuring a blend of NQF aligned theory and local government experienced facilitators are assigned to train councillors.

The Roll-out kicked off successfully in Mpumalanga province, at the three (3) district venues: Ehlanzeni District Municipality Disaster Centre (Mbombela), Lilian Ngoyi Centre (Secunda) and Nkangala

District Municipality (Middelburg). Clr Flora Maboja-Boltman (NEC Deputy Chairperson) officially opened the ICIP week at Gert Sibande district, Clr Mavis Charles (PEC Deputy Chairperson) at the Ehlanzeni district and Clr Rhoda Mathabe (PEC Deputy Chairperson) at Nkangala district.

“This is a good time to take stock of the gains that local government has made, as we start a new term of office of local government and celebrate fifteen years of democratic local government in South Africa”, Clr. Maboja-Boltman said in her opening address at Gert Sibande district.

Clr. Mavis Charles emphasised in her opening address at Ehlanzeni district that, the local government sphere continues to play a significant role in terms of delivering services to communities”.

Further to these, “local government is perfectly situated to understand and capture the diversity of situations and needs of local citizens and communities” said Clr. Rhoda Mathabe who officially opened the session at Nkangala district.

The following modules were covered during this ICIP week:

- **Module 1:** Programme Overview
- **Module 2:** Municipal Governance
- **Module 3:** Legislative Overview
- **Module 4:** Role Players and Stakeholders
- **Module 5:** Municipal Procedures and Protocol
- **Module 6:** Municipal Planning and Strategy
- **Module 7:** Municipal Finance

Management

- **Module 8:** Municipal Performance and Accountability
- **Module 9:** The Councillor as a skilled leader

SALGA exists to steer the local government sector to deliver on its development mandate and inspire service delivery. Over the last twenty years, SALGA has consolidated itself as the representative of organised local government and contributed to the legislative framework of the local government sector as the White Paper on Local Government was being operationalized. Within the legislative framework of the Republic of South Africa, SALGA has effectively ensured that the interests of local government were factored into the legislative framework and amended legislation in areas relating to traffic management and water management. Labour stability in the local government sector has been created through multi-year wage agreements as SALGA exercised its mandate as an employer body, reducing the severity of the impact labour strikes had on the sector. SALGA has effectively increased its influence and profiled the sector on international platforms and successfully hosted the United Cities and Local Government forum, presiding as the elected chair of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA). SALGA's influence on the continent and in the region is on account of it being the most stable and most developed local government association.



National Book Week ambassador, Zakes Bantwini, MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Norah Mahlangu and Chief Albert Luthuli Mayor, Cllr DP Nkosi read to pupils of Phumulani Primary Lethu Mbetshe, Luyanda Mabizela and Zithembiso Ngcombo during the Mpumalanga National Book Week celebration at ZM Mkhwanazi Library in Glenmore.

National Book Week for indigenous literature

Read books written in your mother tongue this National Book Week to help preserve and promote indigenous languages, urged Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Norah Mahlangu. During her speech, Mahlangu described books as instruments for education, culture, heritage and economic progress in our society. Mahlangu added that having more books written in the dominant languages of Mpumalanga, would send a positive message to the youth that these languages are as important as English.

The MEC was speaking the provincial National Book Week celebration, which was held at ZM Mkhwanazi Public Library in Glenmore. “The aim of National Book Week is to popularise books and promote the love for reading, especially in indigenous languages. National Book Week is held annually in September. She also used National Book Week to encourage the community to brush up on their history by reading literature on South African national history. “I am delighted that National Book Week coincides with Heritage Month celebrations in the country.

This offers us an opportunity to hit two birds with one stone by using National Book Week to encourage one another to read books that tell the undiluted history of the liberation struggle such as Gert Sibande after whom this district was named after. Sibande was the leader of the 1950s Potato Boycott in Bethal. Or the history of Chief Albert Luthuli,” said the MEC, who was joined by national book week ambassador, Zakes Bantwini and the mayor of Chief Albert Luthuli, Cllr DP Nkosi. The trio went on to read to pupils of Phumulani Primary books written in indigenous languages.

Musical careers for 30 singers launched

As it is its mandate to promote matters of arts and culture in Mpumalanga, the department of Culture, Sport and Recreation partnered with Siphosiso Makhabane to give young singers a chance. The partnership helped launch the musical careers of individuals from all corners of the province. Through vigorous auditions the best 30 choristers were chosen from hundreds to be part of Mpumalanga’s very own choir, befittingly named, Mpumalanga

Praise. September 3 saw the live recording of their debut DVD, which will be launched on December 17 at Mbombela Stadium. Spokesperson for the department, Sibongile Nkosi stated that through various projects, the Department continues to support and develop young talent and the formulation of “Mpumalanga Praise” is one of such projects. Nkosi further stated that the DCSR would continue to support the choir as it has from the audition stages and is proud to be a part of something so great and magical.

Big Fish expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the thousands of music lovers who came out to show their support and he thanked the department for its unwavering backing in the project. He commended the Department on its continuous nurturing of young talent, as forming this choir has been a lifelong dream of his. Other performers on the night were Sifiso Ncwane, Hlengiwe Mhlaba and Mpumalanga’s very own Rebecca Malope, Donny and the Big Fish himself.



MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Mr Vusi Shongwe at the vaccination of dogs and cats at Springvalley to mark World Rabies Day.

MEC encourages vaccination against rabies

The MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Hon Vusi Shongwe took part during the vaccinations of cats and dogs against Rabies at Springvalley near Reyno Ridge outside eMalahleni on 8 September 2015. Hundreds of pet owners turned up to have their dogs and cats vaccinated, with MEC Shongwe interacting with them on their pets. The Rabies vaccinations take place annually during the month of September, to coincide with the commemoration of World Rabies Day on September 24th.

The Veterinary Services Directorate started with the campaign in the Reyno Ridge area after an incident involving a young girl who was bitten by a highly rabies-suspicious dog that went on the loose from a residential complex on 21 August 2016. The little girl was sent to the local hospital for urgent medical attention. Meanwhile, the dog was euthanized and its brain was immediately sent to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute in Pretoria for confirmation of

rabies; the tests came back positive. Accompanied by the Head of Department Ms Sindisiwe Xulu, MEC Shongwe applauded the team of Veterinarians and Animal Scientists for their prompt reaction in containing a possible outbreak and spreading of the rabies in the area. "We are really proud of your response to this; you quarantined the area and immediately started with vaccinations including in the surrounding areas to avert any further reports of infections. That needs to be applauded; let us do the same to other areas in the province, with particular focus in the Nsikazi and the Bushbuckridge areas, because of their proximity to the Kruger National Park. Let us also encourage and remind the pet owners to love their animals. This will ensure that their pets are well-looked after, including having them vaccinated", said MEC Shongwe as he motivated his staff.

The vaccinations at Reyno Ridge started at the focus of the outbreak, and 785 dogs and 99 cats were vaccinated within a week. Rabies is a disease of most mammals,

affecting mainly dogs and cats, including wild animals especially yellow mongoose. Other mammals that become occasional victims are livestock, and it can also be transmitted from animals to human beings. Once the clinical symptoms and signs set in there is no cure for the disease. The golden method of dealing with the disease is prevention by means of vaccination as recommended by Veterinarians.

In dogs and cats the following signs may be seen:

- Inability to swallow, dropped jaw, fear to drink water, biting foreign objects, paralysis of any muscles including in coordination of muscles, seizures, increased salivation, change in barking tone, behavioural changes like aggression and restlessness, and sudden death.

In humans some of the symptoms that may be seen are:

- Tingling sensation around the area the animal bit the patient, fever, headache, muscle pains, fear of water, loss of appetite, nausea and fatigue.



Drugs Shorten Your Life
Ke Phela Gabotse Kantle Le Diokobatsi
Lalela Kucala
Drugs Are Not Cool
Ek Is Reg Sonder Dwelms
Nyaope Kills
Drugs Disorders Are Preventable And Treatable



Premier of Mpumalanga Mr DD Mabuza with celebrates with Mpumalanga fresh produce farmers as the diminutive model of the International Mpumalanga Fresh Produce Market is unveiled.

MIFPM - creation of a modern fresh produce market

Farmers from across the province converged in numbers at Mbombela stadium to attend the engagement ceremony with the Premier Mr DD Mabuza on the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market (MIFPM) project as well as the official sod turning ceremony to mark the inception of the construction phase of the project. This day also saw farmers and key stakeholders given an opportunity to view the MIFPM diminutive model.

The Provincial Government has placed the agriculture as a high priority emanating from the five medium term priorities “Rural Development Linked to Land Reform and Food Security” and addressing Outcome 7 of the current five-year plan. In 2013, the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs signed a land availability agreement with local farming, property and investment business, HL Hall and Sons, to locate the landmark Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market, a site which is located on

the Sabie/ Mashishing road close to Nelspruit and the Riverside Park mixed-use regional node.

One of the potential markets identified includes amongst others, the Oman as a gateway to the Middle East. Addressing the farmers and key stakeholders the Premier said, the concept was born two years ago when he visited Oman whereby he spoke with their leadership and this is where the concept of a fresh produce market was born. MEGA was therefore given a task to ensure that the concept becomes a reality. The fresh produce market will necessitate farmers to benefit them instead of always benefitting middleman, as farmers are the ones who are hard at work in production, said the Premier. Other international trips undertaken included China to ensure that the concept becomes a reality, eluded the Premier. The modern international fresh produce market facility will ensure job creation within the agricultural sector its primary aim will be to stimulate economic activity in the

province by creating and improving market demand thereby stimulating enhanced production.

The Premier said there is an opportunity for farmers as they have good soil and enough land to produce more what needs to be looked at is water increase to assist the farmers to increase their yield. The Premier further said the Oman delegation will brought to the province to secure market for the farmers. This was a beginning of a journey therefore we must hold our hands together, be it black or white we need to ensure that the land is tilled and this we can achieve if we work together”, said the Premier.

The Premier further cited that all emerging farmers will get a stake at the fresh produce market free of charge and commercial farmers will have to contribute at a minimal. Farmers’ Union applauded the Premier by making commitments that they will ensure that they work the land to produce enough food that will also be exported.

Improved municipal audits results

The 2015/16 Audit Outcomes for key governance departments indicate that there is a glimmer of hope for improved service delivery and financial management at the local government. The Office of the Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA) presented the latest Audit Outcomes of the Provincial Departments and Public entities during the sitting of the Executive Council in August 2016.

According to AGSA report, Both the Departments that are key in the implementation of the Integrated Municipal Support Plan, the Provincial Treasury and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs received unqualified audit opinions, commonly referred

to as the clean audit, for the year ended 31 March 2016.

The MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Kholwane said the recent audit outcomes indicate the capacity of the Provincial Treasury to help other public institutions to improve financial governance across the Province. MEC Kholwane reiterated that accountability-inclined governance enhances the credibility of the government and lead to acceptance of the work which the Department performs on behalf of the citizens of Mpumalanga.

“We will continue to exercise oversight and result-oriented support to other departments to move to unqualified audit status.

“The clean audit outcome of the Department should translate into improved service delivery and good corporate governance in all public institutions in order to present a fairly credible statement on the level of financial governance in the Province,” said MEC Kholwane.

The Provincial Treasury has already started to analyse the audit improvement plans to address key issues that AG has raised in the management letters and the audit reports of the provincial departments and public entities. These action plans are analyzed to ensure that all matters are included and Accounting Officers are provided with an analysis report with recommendations for improvement.

EXECUTIVE MAYORS

EHLANZENI DISTRICT



Cllr. Jester Sidell
Executive Mayor: Ehlanzeni District Municipality



Cllr. Sbusiso Mathonsi
Executive Mayor: City of Mbombela Local Municipality



Cllr. Thulisile Khoza
Executive Mayor: Nkomazi Local Municipality



Cllr. Selinah Mashigo-Sekgobela
Executive Mayor: Thaba Chweu Local Municipality



Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo
Executive Mayor: Bushbuckridge Local Municipality

GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT



Cllr. Muzi Chirwa
Executive Mayor: Gert Sibande District Municipality



Cllr. Flora Maboja-Boltman
Executive Mayor: Govan Mbeki Local Municipality



Cllr. Mafunda Makhubu
Executive Mayor: Dipaleseng Local Municipality



Cllr. Dan Nkosi
Executive Mayor: Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality



Cllr. Vusi Motha
Executive Mayor: Mkhondo Local Municipality



Cllr. Linda Dlamini
Executive Mayor: Lekwa Local Municipality



Cllr. Solomon Nkosi
Executive Mayor: Msukaligwa Local Municipality



Cllr. Phalaborwa Malatsi
Executive Mayor: Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality

NKANGALA DISTRICT



Cllr. Linah Malatjie
Executive Mayor: Nkangala District Municipality



Cllr. Lindiwe Ntshalintshali
Executive Mayor: Emalahleni Local Municipality



Cllr. Nomsa Mtshweni
Executive Mayor: Thembisile Hani Local Municipality



Cllr. Michael Masina
Executive Mayor: Steve Tshwete Local Municipality



Cllr. Thomas Ngwenya
Executive Mayor: Emakhazeni Local Municipality



Cllr. Eva Makhabane
Executive Mayor: Victor Khanye Local Municipality



Cllr. Jim Skosana
Executive Mayor: Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality