



**Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane displays a tablet to learners at Ubhlebuzile Secondary in Mkhondo Municipality**

## EDUCATION IN MPUMALANGA GOES THROUGH A REVOLUTION

In what is referred to as education revolution in Mpumalanga, 55 000 learners received tablets, loaded with software and e-Content and data ready for offline use. Grade 12 learners from the quintiles 1,2 and 3 schools throughout the Province, were identified as beneficiaries for the support in accordance with the Provincial e-Learning Programme. With the delivery of 6700 laptops for teachers, it is envisaged that this revolution will contribute towards upscaling education to national and international standards. The Premier, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane confirms the assertion. "There is more to these technological tools. They are the fruits that stem from the 4th Industrial Revolution era that we are in", she explains. Research-based evidence suggests a plethora of benefits where education and

technology are integrated, as stated below:

- The gadgets will serve as tools of clarity for teachers who struggle to articulate themselves in class;
- This technology will serve as a research tool for learners to improve knowledge capacity;
- It will help with effective assessments wherein teachers monitor the progress of their learners for immediate intervention
- Offers learners an opportunity to study and comprehend subjects at their own pace.

Ubhlebuzile Secondary in Mkhondo was the first school to receive the consignment of gadgets, and were handed over by Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane. The delegation included MEC Bonakele Majuba of Education, Head of Department, Ms Lucy Moyane and

Senior Managers. Members of the School Governing Body and parents attended the function to witness a revolution of education unfolding.

The e-learning programme is part of the provincial government's methodology to achieve the objectives set out in the Strategic Framework for Schooling 2030, the Mpumalanga Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. As the Premier substantiates, the gadgets are catalysts of change to thrust both learners and teachers into a digital age in which their capacity will be elevated to national standards.

The security of the technological facilities against criminals, according to MEC Majuba, lies in the support of communities, for the e-learning programme.



## EDITORIAL PERSPECTIVE

As we venture into your space, we invite you to join the editorial team into a service delivery information-packed journey, through the Lilanga Letfu edition. This is a new name that replaces Inhlabamkhosi, a name that survived more than ten years. The new name is an outcome of a consultation and a rebranding decision process which seeks, not just to give the publication a new look and feel, but the aggressive posture of the editorial team to present to you service delivery information in a different approach. Media research suggests that consumers are bombarded with massive generic information at the same, and that little effort is made for quality assurance. Brace yourself for a publication which subscribes to the high quality standard, set by our fore-bearers in the communication field, such as Mr Sammy Mphatlanyane, Mr Joseph Mabuza, Mr Harry Molamu, to mention but a few, whom we honour, as we put together this edition. May their souls rest in peace!

In the advent of Social Media, in this 4IR era, we have observed the paradigm shift in the consumption of information, where in many of you are gravitating towards online platforms. We are leaving no one behind, hence this is a multimedia copy to cater for online readers and those who prefer printed copies.

Lilanga Letfu will serve as a 1 stop shop for a focused provincial government information, based on the 7 key priorities of the current administration, the 2030 National Development Plan (NDP), the State of the Province Address (SOPA) and the Policy and Budget speech commitments. You will be taken into confidence regarding the recorded progress of the service delivery agenda of the current administration.

This edition compliments other communication measures used by the Provincial Government to communicate key messages, as we grow Mpumalanga together, in the print and electronic space. The Provincial Government is becoming even more aggressive in keeping you informed. The approval of the Provincial Integrated Communication Strategy, is a case in point. This aggressive approach can also be seen in the Local Government sphere. Recently a communication training programme, attended by the Executive Mayors and the Council Speakers in the three Districts, was conducted to keep the momentum.

You are welcome to share with us your suggestions. Send them through to the Editor, Mr George Mthethwa via email: [gpmthethwa@mpg.gov.za](mailto:gpmthethwa@mpg.gov.za).



**MEC Ndlovu of COGTA hits the ground running, after his appointment by Premier, Mtshweni-Tsipane.**

## COGTA MEC, TACKLES LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHALLENGES HEAD ON

Newly appointed MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Mandla Ndlovu is tackling local government challenges head on. Mr Ndlovu's appointment as new MEC was announced by the Premier, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, as one of the measures undertaken to strengthen the work of the Executive Council in order to improve efficiency of the work of government and to improve the delivery of services. Mr Ndlovu is not new to Local Government, after serving as a Councillor at the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. Working with MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Vusi Mkhathshwa, a team of seasoned Local Government and practitioners and financial experts, Mr Ndlovu are developing an audit action plan in response to the audit findings for the 20 Municipalities in Mpumalanga and service delivery challenges. During the announcement, the Premier said: "My take is that once we continue to record gradual improvement, year on year in terms of audit performance, our next step is to improve the efficiency of service delivery and most importantly, positioning

municipalities as key sectors of economic development through the implementation of effective frameworks that promote intergovernmental co-operation through the district development model," she said. The Premier described MEC Ndlovu as a leader with natural ability to be analytical and solution driven, and that this will aid the provincial government's efforts to operate in a coordinated and much integrated manner with the local sphere of government. The appointment of MEC Ndlovu, resulted in the appointment of MEC Busi Shiba as the new MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA). She was acting in the position, while responsible for the COGTA portfolio. The Premier said Shiba's appointment will strengthen the stability of the department as a key component of the Mpumalanga Economic Recovery and Reconstruction plan, which of paramount importance to food security for the province and the nation. In her stint as MEC, MEC Shiba is credited for the role she played in the integration of women owned enterprises in the agricultural value system.





**Solar energy through solar panels is the future for the green energy**

## MPUMALANGA - ON A GREEN ENERGY TRANSITIONAL PATH

Mpumalanga is arguably the leading source of electricity energy in South Africa, with several coal stations located in Nkangala and Gert Sibande Districts. As a matter of fact, one of the prominent towns, Emalahleni (a Nguni word for coal), derives its name from the coal industry. Apart from Emalahleni, Middleburg and Secunda, are coal-rich towns, which attract a plethora of people throughout the country in search of economic opportunities.

Research-based evidence suggests that the coal industry employs over 82 000 people in Mpumalanga. Apart from the mine workers, truck drivers are a vital component of the value chain of the energy industry, whose key role is to keep the conveyor belt running to churn out energy.

As the global community respond to a global call of moving away from the fossil to green energy, Mpumalanga is gearing itself for the transition. The recent energy summit in Emalahleni, the launch of the Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency and an agreement signed between the Department of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism and Eskom and the establishment of A Just Transition and Climate Change Working

Group and Advisory unit in the Office of the Premier, led by the Director General, Mr Makhukhu Mampuru, are an impetus for the energy transition programme.

Key stakeholders are now exploring the conversion of wind and solar resources into energy, as part of the energy mix and to augment energy sources in the Province. Communities in the mining towns, will bear the consequences of the transition. Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane confirms this. "Transitioning to a low carbon economy, less reliant on fossils-fuels will have a devastating impact on individuals and communities in these areas unless proactive and deliberate actions are taken".

However, all is not lost. The transition recognizes the impact of the transition, hence measures are explored to create opportunities of re-skilling and re-integration of the affected individuals into the mainstream economy, through training initiatives.

MEC Vusi Mkhathshwa describes the Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency as a giant step in the province's preparation for the energy transition. "The agency is created to advance sustainable and inclusive green

economy. Its membership comprises of representatives from the Provincial Government, industry and the academia. It is expected to create an enabling environment to catalyze job creation opportunities, and to propel investment in the green economy", he emphasized.

By estimation, the transition will take place over the next 20 years, and the energy summit resolved to take bold steps to make the transition to renewable energy, a worthwhile opportunity for the Mpumalanga economy and its citizens. These include, but not limited to:

- Build and support a local green economy network and industry;
- Provide policy support to entrench the Mpumalanga Province as a great place for green economy businesses;
- Ensure appropriate, accurate delivery of green economy skills training and development;
- Drive appropriate local content and trade opportunities for the manufacturing of green technology components;
- Create an ecosystem of supportive of the Green Economy growing new jobs and new opportunities in the region.





**Nkangala District's Executive Mayor, Cllr. Leah Mabuza (3rd from left) leads the sod turning excursion.**

## NKANGALA DISTRICT SUPPLEMENTS WATER SUPPLY IN VICTOR KHANYE MUNICIPALITY

More than twenty-four thousands households in Victor Khanye Local Municipality will soon enjoy access to water. This as the Nkangala District Municipality is upgrading the Waste Water Treatment Works in Delmas. The water supply will increase from from 4.5 ML to 12 ML per day. R 258 447 840.82 is set aside to complete the 3 phases project. A sod turning ceremony to mark the start of the construction, and an appeal by the Nkangala District's Executive Mayor, Cllr Leah Mabuza, set the tone for the two year project. "The completion of the project to deliver water

within the stipulated period, depends entirely on you. Beyond the construction point, we depend on you as beneficiaries, to protect the project jealously, against vandalism," cautioned Cllr Mabuza.

The project is timely. In a country where low rainfall patterns are experienced due to climate change and the high water demand due to the general rising population, the move to upgrade the water reservoir, is significant to mitigate the impact. Delmas has a history of water contamination due to dolomite underground. The project is viewed as a solution to some of the water

challenges, exacerbated by the many farms in the area, which contribute to a high consumption through irrigation.

All measures are in place for the project to be completed within the stipulated two years period. Cllr. Mabuza urged all stakeholders, including the community, to work together to achieve the target. "We must desist against any sort of disturbance and disruption. If there are any challenges during the implementation of the project, stakeholders must work together to resolve whatever challenges that may arise," she emphasized.

## MPUMALANGA TREASURY WELCOMES NEW TRAINEE ACCOUNTANTS

Mpumalanga Provincial Treasury welcomed thirty (30) new trainee Accountants to its Public Finance Management (PFM) Learnership Programme last month.

The trainees will be placed in various Provincial Departments, Municipalities, and state entities to undergo a three-year blended training Programme that is facilitated by the South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA).

This is the second group of trainees after the first successful group was recruited by the Provincial Treasury in 2019.

Speaking at the launch and induction of the second cohort of recruits, the General Manager: Assets and Liabilities Management, Mr. Cyril Dlamini said the Programme is part of the critical "pathway in the Department's mission to enhance fiscal discipline, accountability, and effective governance in PFMA and MFMA institutions through capable and professional workforce.

"We have committed ourselves to build appropriate capacity in the department as well as amongst all professionals within the financial administration

to provide sound and credible management of public resources in the Province," he added.

The Programme is one of the many skills development initiatives that the Department is implementing to improve capacity in all financial management disciplines in the Province.

The Head of Education, Training, and Support at SAIPA, Mr. Karl Smith, welcomed the collaboration with the Mpumalanga Provincial Treasury, adding that it assists the institution to supply pool of competent and qualified accountants that are required by the economy.

All trainee Accountants have been allocated mentors who are qualified professional accountants at a management level at the provincial and local government spheres.

SAIPA has undertaken to provide hands-on support to the learners to make their blended training Programme a success as they join over three million accountants worldwide.

The Programme is offered at NQF level 8 (Honours). It includes academic and practical work experience to develop technical and practical competencies of the trainees.



**A cohort of Accountants have been deployed in various public institutions to share their knowledge and skills.**



## MPUMALANGA'S OPERATION HLASELA MA-POTHOLE GAINS MOMENTUM



**.MEC Latchminarain leading a team of officials in Balfour to fix potholes**

Roads are an integral part of the country's economy. In Mpumalanga, the coal industry relies heavily on the roads network to transport coal from the mines to the power stations. Eighty percent of the country's energy, is, by estimation, produced in Mpumalanga. This signifies the role that Mpumalanga plays in the value chain of the energy sector, and in keeping the lights on in South Africa.

However, the potholes depict the poor state of the roads and the urgent need to fix them. Research-based data suggest that heavy-duty trucks are the major contributors to the damage on the roads. The heavy rains that normally leave a trail of damage in summer, exacerbate their conditions, notwithstanding efforts by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWR&T) to fix them.

The Provincial Government has declared war on the potholes. In this declaration, the government is introducing 'Operation Hlasela', a campaign aimed at intensifying measures to fix the potholes. 'Hlasela' is a Nguni word for attack. "We must embark on Operation Hlasela, a campaign aimed at fixing the potholes. We must utilize the four the jet patchers, to patch and reseal them. Through this approach, the war against potholes, will be won," the Premier, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane announced during a recent sitting of EXCO in Mbombela. Already engineers have been dispatched to the affected roads to determine costs implications to fix the roads, as a long term measure. Already, the DPWR&T is hard at work to fix the roads, with MEC Mohita Latchminarain, on the lead. She led a team of officials in Balfour, Dipaleseng Municipality recently, in line with the aspirations of Operation Hlasela



**New look Tekwane South bridge that connects Kanyamazane and Mbombela.**

## TEKWANE SOUTH BRIDGE READY FOR ROAD USERS

The reconstruction of the Tekwane South bridge has been completed. The bridge collapsed last year due to the tropical storm, Elois. The incident left dozens of road users travelling between Kanyamazane, Tekwane South, eNtokozweni and the Mbombela town, stranded. They were compelled to use alternative roads, such as the N4 and temporary roads, for the duration of the construction.

The completion of the project is recorded as one of the major milestones in the Provincial Government's rehabilitation programme of the infrastructure, damaged by the tropical storm. In a report presented to the Executive Council (EXCO) recently, by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), the rehabilitation programme included access roads, bridges and culverts, storm water drainages,

electricity, water and sanitation in several Municipalities.

The programme was implemented in two phases. Like the Tekwane South bridge, the rehabilitation of all other infrastructure created job opportunities for the unemployed. According to the report, 1025 job opportunities were created, with the local communities given priority.





Human Settlement Minister Mamoloko Kubhayi and Steve Tshwete Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mhlonishwa Masilela hand over a new house to Nkwanyana.

## 50 YEAR OLD RESIDENT TAKES OWNERSHIP OF NEW HOUSE

A fifty (50) year old resident, Ms Emma Nkwanyana has joined dozens of beneficiaries in Mpumalanga to own a house. Ms Nkwanyana's house is among the hundred units at Rockdale North in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. Sheltering of her family of four, is among the benefits of owning a house, constructed by the Department of Human Settlements in Mpumalanga.

Nkwanyana's asset is founded on the Department's mission, stated as follows: To facilitate the creation of integrated sustainable human settlements. She represents many beneficiaries of her age whom the Department prioritizes for ownership. This is asserted by MEC Speed Mashilo, who states that 'the Department's policy ensures the prioritization of the elderly, orphans, people with disability and child headed'.

The completion of major housing projects and the hand over to the beneficiaries in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, provide evidence about the Department's commitment to the human settlements cause. The projects entail the following:

- A hundred and seventy six (176) housing units at Mhluzi Township;
- 200 housing units at KwaZamokuhle Ext. 9 in Hendrina.
- A 100 units at Rockdale North.

The housing projects are among the many delivered across the province in line with the Human Settlements Master Plan approved by the Executive Council in 2014. Apart from these projects, the Department is credited with the finalization eighty one (81) settlements, of which fourteen (14) of them are now fully serviced, with municipal engineering services and top structures, while 30 new settlements and 37 informal

settlements, are still under implementation. The milestone achievements were recorded, notwithstanding the challenges associated with the human settlements sector, among them, population growth, land Invasions and land acquisition delays.

The Department is poised to increase the number of beneficiaries, such as Ms Nkwanyana, through a differentiated approach. This will be achieved through the review of the Master Plan, to align it with the District Development Model (DDM), where in all the three government spheres will work collaboratively to deliver bulk services, coordinated at the level of the District Municipalities. Furthermore, the revised plan will take into consideration the inclusion of bulk infrastructure from the inception phase of every housing project, to ensure access to basic services by the beneficiaries, such as Ms Nkwanyana.





MEC Mkhathshwa visited the Gert Sibande District exhibition stall at the recent Africa Travel Indaba to promote tourism.

## GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT TURNS TO THE TOURISM SECTOR TO GROW THE ECONOMY

It is now five years since the Barberton Makhonjwa Mountainland was declared as a World Heritage Site. The site comprises 40% of the Barberton Greenstone Belt, one of the world's oldest geological structures. It represents a preserved succession of volcanic and sedimentary rock, dating back 3,6 to 3,25 billion years when the first continents were starting to form on primitive earth. This historic natural site is among the many tourists attraction sites that make Mpumalanga unique, apart from the world renowned international site, the Kruger National Park. Of late, the Graskop Gorge in Thaba Chweu Municipality, is a draw card for adventurers. By introducing the swing and the zip lines, the gorge has positioned itself as one of the contributing factors for the growing Mpumalanga tourism.

District Municipalities are on an intensification mode to advance the tourism. One of them is the Gert Sibande District (GSD). When the Mpumalanga tourism sector committed itself to the revival of the Triland route, during the annual Africa Travel Indaba route, at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in Durban, the GSD seized the opportunity to showcase tourists attraction sites, through the distribution of information material at an exhibition stall.

MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Vusi Mkhathshwa, accompanied by the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), represented Mpumalanga during the signing of the agreement. The GSD was among the 800 exhibitors at the venue, joining forces with Ebutsini Cultural Village, Wakkerstroom Tourism Organisation and

Makena Guesthouse, to showcase tourists sites.

The triland route is a strategic collaboration between the Kingdom of Eswatini, Mozambique and Mpumalanga intended to advance tourism marketing and development within the Southern African Region for major international tourists.

Tourism's resilience in a period of economic turmoil, was evident at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when fewer jobs were shed, compared to other sectors. In the economic reconstruction process that Mpumalanga has embarked on, the Gert Sibande District will put more emphasis on tourism as part of the economic revitalization plan.



## YOUTH FUND BOOSTS 64 YOUTH ENTERPRIZES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION



**Mr Sifiso Masombuka (extreme right) with some of the successful applicants of the Youth Fund during the youth day commemoration in Kwamhlanga recently.**

Several enterprizes, owned by the youth received a major boost when the Mpumalanga Provincial Government granted them funds in support of their businesses. This as government intensifies support measures for youth, amid the unemployment rate.

The government initiated the three year pilot phase of the Youth Fund to stimulate the participation of the youth in economic activities and for job creation, as one of

the fundamental measures to fight youth unemployment. R90 million was set aside for disbursement in the first phase. Since then, sixty four (64) youth businesses across the 17 municipalities, have received the financial support, with a total amount of R81,95 million grant disbursed. Among the beneficiaries, is Mr Sifiso Masombuka, whose company received five million rand. Like the other sixty three (63) companies, Mr Masombuka submitted an application

with a convincing business case, to secure the grant, after an unsuccessful attempt from various financial institutions, including the banks. He cited the financial support as a quantum leap towards the advancement of his business interest. "My business is focusing on the mining sector. Without the mining facilities, securing contracts, proved to be an insurmountable task to accomplish in the mining industry. I relied heavily on other business entities to survive," Mr Msombuka said this during this year's Youth Day celebration in Kwamhlanga recently. He has since purchased the required machinery and is performing duties for the mines. An amount of R60 million rand is set aside for the 2022/23 financial year, for the realization of youth support in the second phase. The Premier, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane says the process to disburse grants to new applicants is underway. "The closing date for the new intake was on the 20th of May 2022. A number of applications from all 17 local municipalities were received. We will double our efforts to finalize the adjudication process, and disburse the allocations to youth enterprises with a strong business case, in line with the set criteria", the Premier explains.

The adjudication process of the new applications will be finalized in August 2022. The Premier says the process is conducted with integrity and that decisive action will be taken against officials who will act on the contrary.

## TOP MPUMALANGA COP MEANS BUSINESS

Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General, Semakaleng Manamela has earned her stripes as a crime buster. Amid the gory picture of murders, sexual violence and assaults, depicted in the latest crime statistics, Manamela is not deterred on her mission to fight crime head on.

The top cop's undeterred nature draw the attention of the nation when Police Minister, Mr Bheki Cele and Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane singled her publicly as a public servant who never sleeps on her job. In the gruesome murder of young Hilary Gardee, Cele was brimming with enthusiasm about Manamela's crime fighting efforts, following the arrest of the three suspects. "Ungawathathela phansi lamantombazane, kodwa ayasebenza (You can undermine these ladies at your own peril, but they take their job serious)", he told a funeral service in Mbombela.

She endeared her name when she led a team of police specialized unit which led to the arrest of suspects involved in the gruesome

murder of 6 year old Bontle Mashiyane of Mganduzweni. "The arrest of suspects in the brutal death of Hillary Gardee, as well as suspects in the murder of 6 year-old and other victims of Gender Based Violence and Femicide, is the result of the countless hours, Lieutenant-General Manamela and her team have dedicated to fighting crime across the Province. The team's efforts must inspire optimism in our society. It demonstrates that police are not sleeping in their jobs, and that the perpetrators of GBVF should know that their days are numbered, whenever and wherever they touch innocent souls", warned Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane when addressing legislators in the legislature.

Manamela's efforts have boosted Mpumalanga's efforts to fight Gender Based Violence and Femicide. Her role in the Provincial Task Team on Gender Based Violence & Femicide, to be launched soon, is clearly demarcated and will give the fight an impetus.



**Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General, Semakaleng Manamela (right)**





The Aquaponics hub on display in Acornhoek.

## DARDLEA AND CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA INITIATE AN AQUAPONICS HUB TO ADVANCE FARMING IN MPUMALANGA

Climate change remains the biggest threat to food security globally. The international community is in pursuit of measures to mitigate the impact of the climate change phenomenon, in agriculture. Although South Africa is not on the brink of food shortage, however, experts have cautioned that this may be short lived, if the country does not devise new strategies to mitigate the risk. According to Statistics South Africa, 23,6 percent of the country's citizens were affected by moderate to severe food insecurity, while almost 14,9 percent experienced severe food insecurity. The figure may rise due to the impact of COVID-19. Households with meagre or no income at all, are already feeling the

pinch due to high food prices. Innovative means and a policy shift, are cited as key measures to drive the country's food security programme, to avert the risk. In Mpumalanga, efforts are already underway to exploit the innovative methodology for the advancement of agriculture. This after the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) collaborated with Conservation South Africa to establish an Aquaponics hub and training centre. The Acornhoek-based centre in the Bushbuckridge Municipality, is regarded as the latest innovation in the agricultural sector, aimed at developing green skills by training farming enthusiasts

through the use of climate-smart agricultural methods.

The centre will function both as a commercial and an educational Aquaponics hub. It represents DARDLEA's commitment towards the realization of food security. This was affirmed by MEC Busi Shiba at the launch recently. "The Department will ensure the smooth implementation of this pilot project, and ensuring that the subsequent roll-out of similar projects across the province is achieved," she explained.

The centre is also positioned as a research site on matters of food security, climate-smart agriculture and local economic development.



# IN BRIEF



1. MEC for Health, Ms Sasekani Manzini pays an unannounced visit to the Kabokweni Clinic to interact with patients and staff as part of her oversight role.
2. MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr Vusi Shongwe makes a plea to Executive Mayors and Councillors in Mbombela to intensify measures against Gender Based Violence and Femicide as part of public safety.
3. Public participation in action in Carolina during the Presidential Imbizo, led by President Cyril Ramaphosa.
4. MEC for Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Ntshalintshali leading a team of young Ambassadors to KwaZulu-Natal. She was accompanied by the Head of Department, Mr Sarel Mtsweni.
5. The coronation of Kgoshi Shaun Chiloane of the Moletele Traditional Council in Buffelshoek marked the new era for the local community.
6. Officials interacting with the community about government services during the Youth Month commemoration in Kwamhlanga recently.





MEC Thandi Shongwe shares a lighter moment with the team.

## PUMAS' CURRIE CUP TRIUMPH OVER THE GRIQUAS BRINGS GLORY TO MPUMALANGA

"I am elated with the win. It is a triumph for Mpumalanga rugby, the people of Mpumalanga and for the brand Pumas, which has been long time coming," this sentiment was shared by MEC for the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation (DCSR), Ms Thandi Shongwe, after the Pumas' Currie Cup win in a nail-biting game. The two sides clashed during the final game of the Currie Cup in Kimberly, with the Pumas winning the cup 26-19. The Currie Cup victory is recorded as the Captain Willie Engelbrecht-led team's first win of the cup, in a game tipped in favour of the Griquas, who enjoyed a home ground advantage.

The Mbombela-based team's victory has re-ignited the province's passion of rugby development and the prospects of contributing towards the Springbok's recruitment. This was reiterated by MEC Shongwe. "We are happy that our team has put us right back in the spotlight of rugby development, which we are passionate about. We are optimistic that the Pumas will be the future production line of the Springboks," she emphasized. MEC Shongwe's sentiments represent the views of ordinary people, rugby enthusiasts, including the first citizen, Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane. Mtshweni-Tsipane says

the Pumas' victory is more than just a win. "The Pumas has lived up to our expectations as ambassadors of Mpumalanga. This victory will inevitably spur our sport participants into action, in a quest to occupy their rightful place in various sporting codes," the Premier explained. There are calls for the team to visit various corners of the province as a strategy to mark the victory celebration and to expand the fan base. Meanwhile, the DCSR congratulates the netball team, the Sunbirds for securing a second place win at the Telkom Netball League, at the Mbombela Stadium recently.





Get the latest updated on the Mpumalanga Government's programmes and community based initiatives by tuning in to your local radio station and social media platforms on **MONDAY** (once a month) on the following time slots 19h30, 19h45 and 20h15.





**"LET'S GROW MPUMALANGA TOGETHER"**

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# Speak Out, Do not turn a blind eye on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF)

*Together, we can achieve a violent free and safe society for all.*

**National Command Centre  
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Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane  
Premier of Mpumalanga