

Lilanga Letfu

LET'S GROW MPUMALANGA TOGETHER

2024/25

2ND
EDITION



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Editorial Comment. . . .



Welcome to yet another Provincial Government Publication – Lilanga Letfu. The content is a summary of few of the many activities and programmes which took place during the second quarter, and include ground-breaking milestones in the development and growth of our province. This publication will highlight on amongst others, infrastructure development, service delivery interventions, social welfare, and empowerment programmes. As you may note, the contents are not necessarily covering all activities and programmes that took place during this quarter (July – September), however, key programmes and ground-breaking milestones in the development and growth of the Province.

In his official Provincial Address in July 2024, Premier Mandla Ndlovu placed more emphasis on collaborations with the private sector, good governance, and infrastructure development, amongst other interventions. His presentation committed the Province through departments and entities, humongous resources towards the realization of planned outputs – much to the betterment of people’s lives. Over the past 30 years, the government has completed numerous projects in education, health, houses, transport, and other sectors. These projects advanced people’s lives, enhanced service delivery and improved access to services by the people of Mpumalanga.

The world continues to suffer from climate change, and South Africa is not spared from the economic results. Extreme weather patterns are bringing devastating consequences for an increasing number of people and countries, and so is the impact to the economy. To this end, the Provincial Government has entered into a Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) pact with Seriti Green to explore alternative power generation to reduce fossil emissions. The multi-million rand renewable energy scheme launched at the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality is touted as the future source of environmental conscious energy intervention.

Notwithstanding challenges that continue to bedevil communities, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government prides itself on making significant strides in improving health care services for its citizens over the past 30 years. The Health and Social Development Departments continue to roll out a series of awareness campaigns on health and welfare matters. The rollout of these programmes and other interventions are reason enough to breed a healthy and productive society. The province is certainly on a right track in addressing social ills, ranging from domestic violence, contact crimes and schools safety. This is evidenced by the 1st Quarter crime statistics, published on Page 11.

Arguably, one of the most diverse countries in the world, South Africa gets to display unity in diversity, during the month of September. Heritage Day on 24 September recognises and celebrates the cultural wealth of our nation. Equally, the Province celebrated the day by remembering the cultural heritage of the many cultures that make up the population of South Africa and Mpumalanga in particular. The day was celebrated at Hluvukani Village in the northern Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. On the day, different cultural groups exhibited their beautiful heritage through their regalia, dance and song. Continuing to be one of the best sporting and tourist destinations in the country, the Province hosted the Springboks and Argentina Rugby Championship, which the South Africans conquered.

That’s it for now.....

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CODE OF CONDUCT

Our aim is to provide accurate, truthful and balanced reporting. As a publication that subscribes to The Press Code of Ethics and Conduct for South African Print and Online Media, we are serious and remain committed to accurate and fair reporting.

MPUMALANGA'S PATH TOWARDS RENEWABLE ENERGY



The world continues to suffer from adverse global challenges in almost every aspect of our daily lives. The effects of global warming, climate change and surging population, amongst others, put a strain on resources - such as energy or power. Experts are re-imagining a globe where electricity costs are replaced with a cheaper and greener option – through renewable energy. Renewable energy comes from natural sources that are constantly replenished, so they never run out. This includes sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, biomass, and heat from the earth.

To this end, an investment worth R25 billion will boost the Province's aspiration to produce renewable energy, without emission. To kick start the scheme, R4.8 billion is set for the construction of Phase 1 of Umbila Emoyeni Project, a wind farm situated a few kilometres outside Bethal in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. This will be the first of its kind in Mpumalanga and the second in the country. It is spearheaded by South Africa's largest majority black-owned coal mine, Seriti Green. An entourage led by the Premier, Mr. Mandla Ndlovu, accompanied by MEC's, Executive Mayors; the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Seriti, Mr. Peter Venn and Group CEO, Mr. Mike Teke visited the project.

The wind farm will contribute to South Africa's sustainable energy future while maintaining Seriti's coal operations until a long-term phase-out is achieved. In the first phase, the 155 MW wind energy facility of 125 turbines will be constructed, and will be completed by mid-July 2026, according to Mr Venn. In addition, R1.5 billion will fund the main 500MVA sub-station grid infrastructure that will collect wind energy from the farm and connect to Eskom power lines potentially supporting 500 000 households with power.

"The entire project, will ultimately generate 900 MW of power. The 750 MW from wind and 150 MW from solar, is scheduled to be fully operational by 2027," Mr Venn explains. He added that the overall project will also include 800MWh of storage capacity. The project is a game changer to the country's plan to reduce carbon emissions. A zero-net emissions by 2050 is the target set for countries around the globe. Mpumalanga's coal mines are cited among the major sources of carbon emissions, which contribute to global warming.

The wind energy project is viewed as a major breakthrough to the country's exploration of renewable energy, and to meet the growing demand.

"Scientists tell us that we must keep global warming below 1,5 degrees Celsius if we want to avoid the worst of climate impacts. To do so, we need to cut carbon emissions dramatically over the next three decades. As a province that contributes to almost 80% of the country's source of energy, it is exciting to see another project of this nature that aims to alleviate the current shortfall in generating capacity of energy supply, reduce carbon emissions, fight climate change, and create growth and jobs for people in the surrounding areas", he stressed.

According to Venn, the project's local economic impact is of major proportions. "800 jobs will be created over the next twelve months. There will be a sourcing of equipment locally, as well as exploring options for local manufacturing of components. The project features an on-site training simulator to support sustainable job creation in Mpumalanga," he expatiated. Energy experts argue that one of the major advantages of green energy is that, unlike fossil fuels (oil, coal, and gas), which take millions of years to form and are limited, renewable energy sources are sustainable and much less harmful to the environment. Clean energy development is vital for combating climate change and limiting its most devastating effects.

FRESH PRODUCE MARKET TO ENHANCE AGRIC SECTOR

Mpumalanga is one of South Africa’s most productive and important agricultural regions. It offers an ideal climate and topography for forests, major mineral resources, formidable manufacturing capacity and a sophisticated tourism sector. About 14% of the province’s land area is natural grazing land, which is used in the production of beef, mutton, poultry, dairy and wool. The province plays a crucial role in the export profile of South Africa, primarily in fruits and nuts.

To take full advantage of these opportunities, the Provincial Government has invested massive resources to construct a state-of-the-art Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market (MIFPM) facility to exploit this sector. The completion of the construction phase, which

is an important milestone for the province, will serve as an impetus to stimulate trade between Mpumalanga and the international markets. The official hand over of the structure by MEC Thulasizwe Thomo of Public Works, Roads and Transport to MEC Nompumelelo Hlophe of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs opened a new page that will bolster Mpumalanga’s position as a reputable player in the agricultural space.

During the handover, the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) announced that efforts are now underway to operationalise the facility, which also include preparing smallholder farmers through trainings and workshops. MEC Hlophe said the MIFPM would boost economic spin-offs for the province, attract investments from neighbouring Mozambique and Kingdom

of Eswatini, and continue creating more job opportunities, empowering locals and women in particular. This facility is touted as a catalyst for change in the agriculture sector.

The Province’s Ehlanzeni District is South Africa’s second-biggest producer of citrus fruit, while more than half of South Africa’s soya bean crop is produced in Mpumalanga’s Highveld areas. This sector in the province can be divided into two broad categories, namely - Summer Cereals and Legumes, which consists of maize, soya, canola, and sunflower that has – in the main – been cultivated in the Highveld region of the province and Tropical, Subtropical and Citrus Fruits, Nuts, and Cane Sugar. These are mainly cultivated in the Ehlanzeni (Lowveld) region. It is envisaged that the MIFPM will boost employment, food security and reduce poverty in the agricultural chain ecosystem.



ENGRAINING AN INTEGRATED DELIVERY APPROACH

Proper development and planning require a coordinated effort by all government spheres and to a certain extent all stakeholders. To put this into action, the province approved the Mpumalanga Human Settlements Masterplan. The planning blueprint plays a crucial role in advancing the province's initiatives, particularly the rapid land release programme and the development of Priority Development Areas (PDAs). By providing a comprehensive framework for integrated planning, the Masterplan ensures that housing projects are aligned with broader socio-economic development goals, promoting spatial transformation and sustainable communities.

The Masterplan streamlines the identification and release of well-located land, which is essential for the rapid land release programme.

It helps the province strategically target areas for development that are close to economic hubs, transport corridors, and existing infrastructure. This approach accelerates the availability of serviced sites, making it easier to deliver both subsidized housing and self-built options for residents.

In terms of Priority Development Areas (PDAs), the Masterplan provides the strategic guidance needed to focus resources and investments in areas with the greatest potential for growth and spatial transformation. By identifying and prioritizing these regions, the Masterplan ensures that housing projects in these areas are accompanied by essential infrastructure like schools, healthcare facilities, and transport networks. This integrated approach ensures that PDAs are not just residential zones but become thriving, inclusive communities.

Additionally, the Masterplan supports the development of 16 mega human settlements projects across various municipalities. These projects are designed to create large-scale, mixed-use developments that include socio-economic amenities, contributing to sustainable urban growth. The Masterplan's alignment with national frameworks, such as the National Development Plan (NDP) and the District Development Model (DDM), further strengthens these initiatives by ensuring that they are implemented in a coordinated and efficient manner.

In his Official Provincial Address (OPA) in July 2024, Premier Mandla Ndlovu stressed on the importance of sound and integrated planning. As he puts it, "In addressing the silo effect of building human settlements without bulk infrastructure, we have decided to merge the two departments, namely Human Settlements and Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs into one of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA)"

Overall, the plan is pivotal in ensuring that initiatives like the rapid land release program and PDAs are not only successful but also contribute to long-term, sustainable urban development. By integrating land, housing, and infrastructure planning, the Masterplan is helping the province address its housing needs while fostering economic opportunities and improving residents' quality of life. The Integrated approach is in line with the United Nation's Habitat safe and smart cities ambition.



TACKLING SANITATION DISPARITIES

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is a human right. It is essential not only to health, but also to poverty reduction, food security, peace and human rights, ecosystems and education. In 2025, world leaders came together at the United Nations and made a historic promise to secure the rights and well-being of everyone on a healthy, thriving planet when they adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sustainable Development Goal 6 focuses on ensuring access to water and sanitation for all. Billions of people will lack access to these basic services in 2030 unless progress quadruples. Demand for water is rising owing to rapid population growth, urbanization and increasing water needs from agriculture, industry, and energy sectors. The demand for water has outpaced population growth, and half the world's population is already experiencing severe water scarcity at least one

month in a year. Water scarcity is projected to increase with the rise of global temperatures owing to climate change.

In her 2024/25 Budget Vote presentation, Education MEC, Ms. Cathy Dlamini committed to accelerate the eradication of pit latrines in the province. She has visited various schools, among them, Sibuko Setfu Sibukosetfu Secondary School at KaMajika in the City of Mbombela. The objective was to monitor

progress made in the eradication of pit latrines at schools. At the time, construction was still on going and the site was busy with the construction of 24 enviroloos toilets and one drinking fountain. The construction of the enviroloos was at an advanced stage and almost complete. "The provision of proper sanitation infrastructure is about human dignity of our teachers, non teaching staff and learners", charged MEC Dlamini.

The provision of proper ablution facilities is not only a standard measure, but also a right that guarantees human dignity. Ablution facilities are an important feature in a school as they may directly or indirectly influence that attendance and non attendance of learners especially girl learners. Toilet facilities for academic and non-academic activities need to be properly put in place to provide an optimal sanitary environment, which is safe and conducive for physical, mental and emotional health. School Governing Body Chairperson, Mr. Fanyana Sambo was appreciative of the construction of the enviroloos and to that



effect stated that, “the dignity of the learners will be restored as well as improved hygiene standard”.

According to the UN, over two billion people still lacked safely managed drinking water, including 703 million without a basic water service; 3.5 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation, including 1.5 billion without basic sanitation services; and 2 billion lacked a basic handwashing facility, including 653 million with no handwashing facility at all around the globe. By managing our water sustainably, we are also able to better manage our production of food and energy and contribute to decent work and economic growth. Moreover, we can preserve our water ecosystems, their biodiversity, and take action on climate change.

This intervention ought to be viewed in a broader perspective to broaden endeavours of making schools habitable. Furthermore, prioritising hygiene and sanitation make learners to understand and practice consistent hygiene habits at all times. Such practices of adhering to norms and standards will give full effect to the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign. Civil society organizations should work to keep governments accountable, invest in water research and development, and promote the inclusion of women, youth and indigenous communities in water resources governance. Generating awareness of these roles and turning them into action that will lead to win-win results and increased sustainability and integrity for both human and ecological systems.

ROADS AND BRIDGES BENEFIT STAKEHOLDERS



Delmas is a small farming town in Victor Khanye Local Municipality located 19km Northeast of Springs and 73 km Southeast of Pretoria and east of Johannesburg. It is a town known for its production of chicken, maize, potatoes and wheat, therefore contributing vastly to the provincial economy. The town renowned for its poultry, connects two main roads, the R555 and R50 road which connects the town to the N12 freeway junction linking Johannesburg and eMalahleni wherein the R50 south connects the town to Standerton. With that in mind, the surge of heavy trucks traversing through Delmas has become a familiar sight, placing an extra burden on the R50 road and causing serious damage to the road.

To this end, the rehabilitation of Coal Haul Road P36/1(R50) will finally bring a sigh of relief for motorists traveling on the road, as major roadworks are currently underway in Delmas. The Provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, which oversees the provision of transport infrastructure appointed ACTOPAMBILI roads to build the R50 road between Delmas and the N12. The construction started in July 2020, however, protest

action from local community members, rainfall, borrow pit challenges are some of the factors, which hampered the completion of the project.

Despite the delays, the construction process has brought some relief for local contractors who were subcontracted on services ranging from plant hire, culverts, toilet hire, fencing, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) services, site camps rentals, security, office furniture, lab appliances and tipper trucks hire. Imvula is one of the sub-contractors reaping the rewards from the construction of the project, and they supply tipper trucks on-site. According to Tumelo Rusmay, the project bolstered his business financially and he will be able grow and pursue other business opportunities. “Access to funding has always been a stumbling block for most SMMEs, so government must do more to assist them” he appealed. The Department invested at least R130 million on the rehabilitation of P36/1 (R50), which created at least 62 work opportunities for local community members.

Meanwhile, rural communities who are unable to access basic services due to, amongst others, lack and poor infrastructure and transport services

in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality are set to benefit from the Welisizwe Footbridges. DPWR&T in partnership with the National Department of Transport (DoT), Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) and the South African National Defense Force (SANDF) brought relief to the communities of Rietfontein, Vezubuhle, Leratong and Zakheni by constructing Welisizwe Bridges at the cost of R 27.6 million in the locality.

In just under seven months, the four bridges consisting of two-foot steel bridges and two single vehicle crossing steel bridges were achieved. They are aimed at connecting communities and ensuring their safety, particularly schoolchildren to cross-streams during rainy season. To incorporate the Expanded Public Works Programme, economic enterprise contractors were empowered with work on the project and 160 work opportunities were created. “We always experienced a challenge when there was a lot of rain because school children could not cross the river without facing the danger of being swept by the water. Sometimes ambulances and police could not reach the communities for assistance during rainy seasons”, charged villager, Mr Desmond Shabangu.

ERADICATING ASBESTOS TO MITIGATE HEALTH HAZARDS

Delivering decent adequate housing must be free from health hazards and safe for human habitation. It is for this reason that the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements is embarking on an aggressive campaign to eradicate asbestos roofs across the province. Asbestos, commonly used in pre-1994 government provided houses, poses significant health hazards, including respiratory diseases and cancers such as mesothelioma. With 20,056 houses identified across 17 municipalities, the



programme is focused on ensuring a safer living environment for thousands of households.

In the 2024/25 financial year, R63 million has been allocated for the replacement of asbestos roofs on 756 houses as part of the first phase of the project. The targeted areas include municipalities such as Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge, and Chief Albert Luthuli, where houses were identified through a comprehensive survey and audit. This initial phase will lay the groundwork for future work, with Phase 2 set to assess and replace roofs on 910 additional houses in the 2025/26 financial year. In his Budget Vote presentation, MEC Speed Mashilo charged that, “In tackling a possible health hazard, the National Department of Human Settlements is supporting provinces to remove asbestos roofed houses. Based on preliminary survey data, 20 056 asbestos roofed houses have been identified throughout the province.” To this end, consultations with

municipalities have been completed, and geo-mapping of affected houses is in place. Eleven contractors have since been appointed, and the physical removal and replacement of asbestos roofs began in July.

This process is being closely monitored to ensure that it adheres to safety standards and protects public health. However, the programme is not without challenges as the lack of a designated asbestos dumping site in Mpumalanga has led to increased transportation costs for safe disposal. Additionally, balancing this asbestos removal initiative with other housing programmes aimed at reducing the province’s housing backlog is difficult. Questions around the handling of asbestos roofs on homes occupied by undocumented foreign nationals or privately owned properties also add complexity to the project.

Despite these challenges, the benefits are undeniable. By removing dangerous asbestos roofs, the program is creating safer, healthier homes while also providing economic opportunities through job creation for local contractors. The Mpumalanga Government’s commitment to tackling this issue reflects its dedication to improving both public health and housing conditions across the province.

LEARNERS WARNED ABOUT UNDERAGE GAMBLING

Communities are dealing with a myriad of social ills and one such issue is gambling. Gambling means that an individual is willing to risk something, they value in the hope of getting something of even greater value. It can stimulate the brain’s reward system much like drugs or alcohol can, leading to addiction. To mitigate and tackle such addictions, the Mpumalanga Economic Regulator (MER) has programmes in place. MER’s Ambassador, Ms Bajabulile Thela has described underage gambling as a new societal problem. It has got bad repercussions on schoolkids as this may lead to poor academic performance, higher rate of school absence and eventually dropping out of school.

The Ambassador indicated that young people under the age of 18 are increasingly engaging in activities like sports betting, casino games, lotteries, and online gambling. It is understood that due to the high rise of digital platforms, minors find it easier than ever to gamble without leaving their homes. The main concern has been that these kids are often doing this because there is no proper age verification. There are number of various reasons, which lead to underage gambling. These include amongst others: peer pressures and the desperation for quick money. This has prompted the MER to take a stand, embark on an awareness campaign to fight against this scourge. In partnership with the South African Responsible Gambling Foundation (SARGF), the Economic Regulator participated in the “Taking Risks Wisely

Schools Programme”. The main focus of the programme is to educate young learners about the dangers and risks associated with gambling. It highlights amongst others, the power of community action and responsible leadership in tackling societal challenges, including the choices young people make today, that will impact and shape their future.

The campaign which is spearheaded by Miss Mpumalanga has since reached thousands of learners in various schools. It ran from the 12 to 16 August 2024, targeting learners at Dumisani High, Magwagwaza High, and Bushbuckridge Secondary Schools in Bohlabela. Learners were engaged on issues like the dangers of underage gambling, a growing concern that exposes minors not only to socially, but one that poses serious legal and psychological risks.

Ms. Thela has cautioned learners about gambling at a young age, “it is not just dangerous, but also illegal and it carries heavy penalties. I therefore encourage every learner to make better choices; focus on your studies because education is the only path to a better and brighter future. I challenge all of you to resist the lure of gambling, it is never too late,” she concluded. In addition, she encourage learners who struggle with gambling addiction to seek help through the National Responsible Gambling Programme, which offers free counselling and support.

NB: Illegal gambling activities that are prevalent in communities include betting on street games like dice (amadayizi), playing cards and using unlicensed gambling machines known as “50c machines. Such gambling activities may trigger severe mental health issues like anxiety, depression, addiction etc.



FASTRACKING DRIEKOPPIES DAM WATER PROJECT



Water availability is becoming less predictable in many places. In some regions, droughts are exacerbating water scarcity and thereby negatively impacting people’s health and productivity and threatening sustainable development and biodiversity worldwide. Ensuring that everyone has access to sustainable water and sanitation services is a critical climate change mitigation strategy for the years ahead, but wait. Challenges of clean and drinkable water supply will soon be a thing of the past for the people of Nkomazi once the Driekoppies Regional Bulk Water Supply Project is concluded.

The project which is funded by the Department of Water and Sanitation and the implementation agency is the Ehlanzeni District Municipality. Once completed, the project is expected benefit nearly 200 000 people residing in 14 villages in the Nkomazi Local Municipality. Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) MEC, Mr. Speed Mashilo, recently visited the project as part of monitoring progress. The initiative is expected to deliver access to safe drinking water, which is essential for curbing waterborne diseases and fostering healthier communities.

The project was to be within five years from 2018; however, only four of the seven planned phases have since been finalised. “The delays in completing this project have undoubtedly adversely affected the intended beneficiaries. It is important that we address these challenges obstructing this project through the District Development Model (DDM),” Mashilo said. He highlighted the necessity of identifying and resolving all issues hindering progress, emphasizing that underperforming contractors undermine government service delivery. The UN’s Sustainable Goal 6 has committed on the following by 2030:

- Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally;
- Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity;

- Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate;
- Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes;
- Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Sharing the same sentiments, Ehlanzeni District; Executive Mayor Cllr. Terrance Shabangu who explained that the five-year project, which was expected to be completed in 2023, has prolonged enough. Cllr. Shabangu said the MEC Mashilo’s intervention would yield good progress on the project. “The locality has suffered enough, we need action now. We cannot allow contractors to abandon such critical project for community development, this is violation of human’s rights” reacted Cllr Shabangu. Mashilo committed to have a meeting with the Minister of Water and Sanitation and the Executive Mayors to discuss possible solutions to address the challenge.

SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR MAKOMETSANE



Water is life and it is a basic human right. In 2022, over 82% of households in the country had access to piped water either inside their dwelling or inside their yard, according to Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) Census 2022. There is an increase in the proportion of households that had access to piped water inside their dwelling, from 32, 3% in 2001 to 46, 3% in 2011 and to 59, 7% in 2022. The proportion of households that accessed piped water off-site (from a water source outside the yard such as a neighbour or from a community stand) halved from 17, 9% in 2011 to 8,9% in 2022.

Households in the Western Cape (27,7%) and Gauteng (40,5%) reported the lowest proportions of water interruptions, below the national average of 48,4%. In contrast, a significantly larger proportion of households in Mpumalanga (60,9%), North West (65,2%) and the Northern Cape (65,8%) reported experiences of interruptions. As a rural municipality, the Dr. JS Moroka Local Municipality is making serious interventions on water supply. Residents of Makometsane Village will now have an access to clean drinking water. This as the Executive Mayor of Nkangala District Municipality, Cllr. Thomas Ngwenya and Local Executive Mayor, Cllr. Nomsa Mtsweni announced the successful completion of the water supply project in the village.

During the ceremony, Cllr. Nomsa Mtsweni stated that, "This is a clear demonstration of our government's dedication to promoting collaboration between public entities and communities'. The project include amongst others, the drilling of two (2) boreholes and equipping, installation of package plant equipped with reverse osmosis equipment, Installation of pumps, bulk pipeline from borehole to package plant 1.8KM (160mm), supply and construction of a 0.7 Mega litres (ML). It also include elevated steel tank, supply and installation of pipelines between infrastructure and the connection to the existing water distribution network, installation of Isolating, air, scour valves with chambers; installation of fencing and guardhouse, Eskom connections and ancillary works.

The water project will benefit the local village consisting of 450 households with an estimated population of nearly three thousand community members. Meanwhile, the Nkangala District Municipality came to the aid of the locality by handing over a honey-sucker truck to them as part of the district's efforts to ramp up service delivery across all local municipalities. This latest acquisition will surely accelerate and enhance service delivery in this rural municipality.

ACTING AGAINST ILLEGALITY

Knives are out and there is no retreat. This is the stance of eMalahleni Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Vusi Nhlapo as he declares war against people illegal practices within the locality. Some unscrupulous residents and businesses are illegally connecting electricity, water to their places of residence and businesses including unlawful occupation of buildings in towns. This phenomenon has proven to be a headache for the municipality, thus derailing essential services.

Cllr Nhlapo and his team went out to the streets during the Letsema Programme and inspected businesses and residential areas around the mining town. This is a programme of the municipality designed to visit communities and inspect service delivery. "It has come to our attention that there is a serious problem of unauthorized electricity and illegal water meter connections in various places within our municipality. Moreover, there is a growing challenge of unlawful occupations of buildings in our towns," he bemoaned.

He warned perpetrators of these crimes that lawlessness would not be tolerated anymore in eMalahleni and other places under the jurisdiction of his municipality. "These illegal connections are not only violating

our laws, but it also pose significant dangers, including electrical hazards. We are therefore committed to maintain the safety, integrity and well-being of our communities. Furthermore, it must be noted that, the rise in illegal occupation of buildings that bypass the necessary permits and inspections compromises the structural safety of our communities" he added. \

The municipality is adamant that it would not allow any actions, which may violate zoning laws and diminish the quality of life for citizens.

Members of the community are urged to report any suspected illegal connections or unlawful occupation of buildings to the municipality. There are already dedicated teams that will investigate all reports and take appropriate action, including dismantling illegal structures and removing unauthorized utility connections. It is hoped that if municipality and community can work together, such can bring a safer environment for everyone.

The municipality is prioritising financial viability, service delivery, local economic reconstruction and recovery, clean administration, good governance, spatial transformation and social cohesion in its 2022/27 integrated development plan (IDP). Among its strategic objectives during this period are efforts to increase revenue collection to 80% and above, ensure a 100% funded budget and reduce service delivery backlogs for water, sanitation and electricity by 20%. It has listed water, sanitation, electricity, roads and storm water drainage, human settlements and waste, as well as the environment and illegal dumping as its priority areas.



PRIORITISING HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

South Africa has a legal obligation to provide older individuals, including those with limited mobility or requiring daily support, with access to adequate health care services, community and home-based services to name just a few. The leave no one behind drive is being constantly emphasized in Mpumalanga as it reminds us that even the frail and old deserve equal and adequate health care services.

Mpumalanga is one of the two provinces in the country with the lowest number of older persons. Despite this fact, it has recorded a steady increase in its older population from 2017 to 2022, hence the Provincial Department of Health prioritizes the elderly to be able to access a number of health services, which include promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care. These include health promotion, chronic diseases and geriatric, eye care, oral health, disability and rehabilitation, mental health programmes, and primary health care.

- Health Promotion and disease prevention - These are programs that focus on keeping people healthy with the aim to engage and empower individuals and communities to choose healthy behaviours, and to make changes that reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases and other morbidities.
- Chronic Diseases Programme - This programme is mainly focusing in managing chronic diseases and prevention of complications.

- Eye Care Programme - It supports people suffering from eye conditions including management of patients with cataracts
- Oral Health Programme - Supports older persons with oral health including dental loss and dental carries, as they are common in old age.



Eye care services is the most needed service, that almost 99 % of older persons definitely require some form of eye care services it can be in a form of medication, spectacles or operation. Under the stewardship of MEC Sasekani Manzini, the department is able to procure, manufacture and distribute 5000 spectacles per annum through the department's eye care unit. During the last financial, the department managed to operate 3 756 patients throughout the province.

To further accelerate eye care services, 100 days/100 cataract operations campaign for all facilities in the province will be launched to ensure that a minimum of 100 patients receive sight from cataract operation in the province. As older person are growing older each day, some are losing teeth and need dentures, the department has ensured that our Gogos and Mkhulus (Elderly) receive sets of dentures throughout the province that improve their nutritional status. Our elderly also received hearing aids after been assess by our health professionals.

Services such as Routine pap smears for sexually active women and Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) tests for prostate cancer screening in men can also contribute to increase longevity of senior citizens, and ultimately benefit the entire country. The department strongly encourages everyone young and old to continue to seek medical assistance from Healthcare professionals to get an early diagnosis and treatment of ailments.

- Disability and rehabilitation programme -This programme supports those older persons that requires rehabilitation and assistive devices where necessary such as wheelchairs, walking frames etc.
- Primary Health Care - This umbrella programme provides primary health Care package to older persons as well as the general population.

AGE IS NOTHING, BUT A NUMBER

Senior citizens from 60 years and above from Gert Sibande District have demonstrated that the Active Ageing Programme is one of the sporting code that plays a vital role in ensuring that senior citizens are fit and healthy. This was signaled by the stamina showed in different sporting codes, their skills displayed by those senior citizens and energy during the district active ageing programme, which was held in Swanepoel Stadium, Gert Sibinde District Municipality early September 2024.

The Active Ageing Programme saw senior citizens participating in different sporting codes such as soccer, athletics, relay, and sporting codes endorsed by the Department of Culture & Recreation. According to Ms. Sibongile Nkosi, Sub-District Manager, the programme has assisted the senior citizens to be fit and healthy and given them a new lease in life for the participant of the Active Ageing Programme and today winners will represent the districts in the provincial Active Ageing Programme.” We are hopeful that the games will be able to attract more private sector to partner with the department in ensuring that the games becomes bigger and better ”said Ms Nkosi. Outlining the significance of the Active Ageing Programme, Provincial Programme Manager, Ms. Nonhanhla Mkhwanazi said, “When the programme started it was known as a golden games and

later it was changed to be known as Active Programme, and the programme has ensured that senior citizens that are participating in those programmes are fit and healthy”.

These programmes both at national and provincial level, cater for activities such as participating in choir competitions, and beauty pageant and all those of those initiatives makes senior citizens to participate in the Active Ageing Programme. Last year the province hosted the successful Active Ageing Programme and this year the province will participate in the provincial games where the

province will select the team that will represent the province in the national active ageing to be hosted in North West said Ms. Mkhwanazi.

The District Active Ageing Programme brought together a number of senior citizens from Lekwa, Victor Khanye and Mkhondo Local Municipalities, which will represent the Gert Sibande District Municipality in this year’s provincial active ageing programme. The programme was hosted in partnership with the Departments of Culture, Sport and Recreation, Department of Health and Gert Sibinde District Municipality.



CONFRONTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE

As we commemorate the International Overdose Awareness Day in the country, we must be mindful about the language and the manner in which we as the society use when discussing or approaching substance abuse matters. This was the appeal from the Departmental of Social Development and its stakeholders on substance abuse during the commemoration of the International overdose day celebrated under the theme “Together We Can Highlight the power of our community when we stand together held at Vezubuhle Community Hall in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality.

The celebration of the International Overdose Awareness campaign was two pronged one was to commemorate the International Overdose Day event and the other side was to raise the awareness about the silent killer that is overdose and the stigma that surrounds overdose fatalities. Outlining its purpose, Manager for Substance Abuse & CDA, Ms. Faith Mazibuko said, “the country in the midst of a crisis of substance abuse that manifests itself through cases of abuse of drug, alcohol and other substances substance abuse in the country, more needs to be done to address the overdose of substance abuse immediately”.

In strengthening the fight against substance abuse the department is moving towards the right direction the department commit to work closely with institutions such as Provincial Drug Forum, Department of Health, South African Council on Alcoholism and the Drug Dependency, treatment Centre, Recovering Services User and Parents.” said Ms. Mazibuko.

Providing testimony, recovering addict Mr. Nhlanhla Mahlangu shared his emotional journey on how he managed to stay clean after being admitted at Swarfontein Treatment Centre. “After I was admitted at Swarfontein Inpatient Treatment Centre, I then realised that I must turn the new lease in my life by ensuring that I grab the opportunity with both hands thought it was not an easy journey and today I am grateful that I am clean.”

In his support for the programme, Mpumalanga Chairperson, Mr. Marcus Masemula stated, “As the provincial structure, we fully support any initiatives aimed at addressing substance abuse and we commit ourselves to work closely with government in addressing substance abuse in the

province. Our approach this year is less talk and more implementation as we have realised that we have talked and engaged almost every stakeholder about the issues of substance abuse and now is the time to intensify our approach towards substance abuse.”

We are also confident that the Drug Master Plan approved by the Executive Council will yield positive results in its quest to address substance abuse in the province, concluded Mr. Masemula. The awareness day brought together a number of stakeholders of substance abuse who committed in collaborating with the department to address substance abuse in the country.



1ST QUARTER CRIME STATS DECREASE

While the number of reported crime remains high, Mpumalanga was the third best performing province in the country in reducing crime for the first quarter of the financial year 2024/25. This is according to the latest crime statistics that were released by the MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr. Jackie Macie and the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Major General Dr. Zeph Mkhwanazi in Mbombela recently.

Reported murder cases were reduced by 11,4 percent for the period under review while robbery with aggravating circumstances was reduced by over 7 percent. Sexual offences have risen by 5,8% in the province during the fourth quarter of 2023/2024 and the first quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year. Car jacking’s decreased by 7,3 percent. The below tables, depict a clear presentation of the crime categories and statistics.

CRIME CATEGORY	April 2020 to June 2020	April 2021 to June 2021	April 2022 to June 2022	April 2023 to June 2023	April 2024 to June 2024	Count Diff	(%) Change
CONTACT-RELATED CRIMES							
Arson	36	82	65	63	48	-15	15 counts lower
Malicious damage to property	953	1 492	1 274	1 313	1 185	-128	-9,7%
Contact-related crime	989	1 574	1 339	1 376	1 233	-143	-10,4%
PROPERTY-RELATED CRIMES							
Burglary at non-residential premises	1 539	1 211	1 240	1 120	1 063	-57	-5,1%
Burglary at residential premises	2 720	3 006	2 944	2 534	2 592	58	2,3%
Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle	252	430	334	403	365	-38	-9,4%
Theft out of or from motor vehicle	928	1 216	1 041	1 119	975	-144	-12,9%
Stock-theft	639	736	680	600	681	81	13,5%
Property-related crime	6 078	6 599	6 239	5 776	5 676	-100	-1,7%
OTHER SERIOUS CRIMES							
All theft not mentioned elsewhere	2 712	3 454	3 175	3 199	3 070	-129	-4,0%
Commercial crime	914	1 531	1 349	1 581	2 067	486	30,7%
Shoplifting	511	683	717	768	728	-40	-5,2%
Other serious crime	4 137	5 668	5 241	5 548	5 865	317	5,7%
17 Community reported serious crime	16 275	22 799	20 609	21 393	21 264	-129	-0,6%
CRIMES DETECTED AS A RESULT OF POLICE ACTION							
Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	107	176	182	212	170	-42	-19,8%
Drug-related crime	822	944	1 105	1 246	1 104	-142	-11,4%
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	219	491	653	519	458	-61	-11,8%
Sexual offences detected as a result of police action	1	3	1	1	0	-1	1 count lower
Crime detected as a result of police action	1 149	1 614	1 941	1 978	1 732	-246	-12,4%

MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Jackie Macie, said the statistics should be used to strengthen efforts to make communities safer. “The onslaught on women and children is worrying us and it is something

that all of us must collaborate to ensure that it is brought to an abrupt end. Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) needs a concerted effort from all of us to work together,” said MEC Macie.

CRIME CATEGORY	April 2020 to June 2020	April 2021 to June 2021	April 2022 to June 2022	April 2023 to June 2023	April 2024 to June 2024	Count Diff	(%) Change
CONTACT CRIMES (CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON)							
Murder	134	321	313	332	294	-38	-11,4%
Sexual offences	524	859	776	720	762	42	5,8%
Attempted murder	176	380	321	338	339	1	0,3%
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	1 474	2 409	2 083	2 554	2 532	-22	-0,9%
Common assault	1 361	2 065	1 796	2 046	1 969	-77	-3,8%
Common robbery	283	561	410	475	528	53	11,2%
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	1 119	2 363	2 091	2 228	2 066	-162	-7,3%
Contact crime (Crimes against the person)	5 071	8 958	7 790	8 693	8 490	-203	-2,3%
SEXUAL OFFENCES - BREAKDOWN							
Rape	428	734	644	614	646	32	5,2%
Sexual assault	74	87	97	73	81	8	8 counts higher
Attempted sexual offences	8	24	19	19	26	7	7 counts higher
Contact sexual offences	14	14	16	14	9	-5	5 counts lower
SOME SUBCATEGORIES OF AGGRAVATED ROBBERY							
Carjacking	122	394	302	356	330	-26	-7,3%
Robbery at residential premises	239	353	333	366	364	-2	-0,5%
Robbery at non-residential premises	273	516	522	375	371	-4	-1,1%
TRIO Crime	634	1 263	1 157	1 097	1 065	-32	-2,9%
Robbery of cash in transit	1	6	4	5	3	-2	2 counts lower
Bank robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 count diff
Truck hijacking	15	54	54	64	37	-27	27 counts lower

Both MEC Macie and Major General Mkhwanazi are positive that the police are geared up to tackle all forms of crime in the province. This, they said, it is informed by the number of breakthroughs made in bringing many suspects to book. “As we scrutinize these figures, we must recognize that while some categories of crime have seen a reduction, contact crime continues to pose a significant challenge for us all. The crime is still a problem, and we need to deal with it. It is a matter of grave concern, and I assure you that we are

dedicated to address it with the urgency it demands,” said Major General Mkhwanazi.

Contact Crime refers to different types of crime committed against a person. This refers to murder, sexual offences, and assault with the intention to do grievous bodily harm, common assault, common robbery and robbery with aggravating circumstances.

TCLM EMPOWERS VOLUNTEERS

In a country like South Africa, individuals, institutions, stakeholders and volunteers ought to join hands in confronting social challenges. Celebrated globally for over 30 years, The International Volunteer Day seeks to celebrate the power and potential of volunteering. Many people are actively involved in developing their communities. In fact, social engagement plays a vital role in our understanding of what it means to be a business person. In true voluntarism spirit, the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality forged ahead to empower volunteers to assist during natural disasters.

Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM) in partnership with South African Red Cross Society conducted a three-day basic training on First Aid for 30 Community Volunteers focusing on the northern parts of the municipality. Mr. Katlego Phungwayo from Society indicated that the most fundamental aspect of the training is to provide community volunteers with the necessary skills and confidence to respond effectively to medical emergencies such as injuries, sudden illnesses, and accidents. "In addition, the training will cover essential topics such as CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), wound care, choking relief, snake bites and burns

and basic life support techniques" he explained. EDM's Mr. Tseko Kgopane reminded attendees about the importance of Community Volunteers and understanding of their roles. "These community volunteers act as advocates, educators and first responders within their communities. They are addressing various disaster risk reduction concerns and promoting preventive measures. As a result, training of volunteers is also part of preparedness measures in promoting safer and resilient communities," he said. He stressed this by stating that the first aid training is essential for community volunteers to demonstrate their competency and adherence to established standards in their interventions during incidents.

Community Services General Manager Dr. Mapula Mkhathshwa echoed his sentiments by emphasising that the certification programme must ensure that volunteers undergo comprehensive training and assessments to validate their knowledge and skills. Members of the Portfolio Committee on Disaster Management also attended the training. It is believed that collaborative efforts with humanitarian organisations such as Red Cross are integral to the success of the programme.



PRIORITISING LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES



The Library and Information Services of the Department of Culture, Sports, and Recreation (DCSR) play a vital role in providing equitable access to information and fostering a culture of reading throughout the province. This initiative aligns with the mandate set out in the South African Constitution, supported by the Community Library Conditional Grant.

The primary aims of the Library and Information Services sub-programme include enhancing public library access, constructing new libraries,

upgrading existing facilities, and cultivating a reading culture. Since the advent of democracy in 1994, the Department has successfully established 31 state-of-the-art libraries. Key capital projects during the 6th Administration include:

- New Libraries:** Four new facilities have been constructed at Sakhile, Thubelihle, Thulamahashe, and Matsamo.
- Upgrades:** Four existing libraries were modernized: In Standerton Regional, Lydenburg, Emalahleni Main, and Cassim Park.

- Maintenance:** Eighteen libraries received significant maintenance, including KwaGuqa, Lynville, Mafemani, and others.
- Ongoing Projects:** Two libraries are nearing completion (Thandukukhanya at 75% and Newtown at 98%), while KwaMhlanga Public Library was handed over on August 30, 2024. Additionally, three new multi-year library projects (Louieville, Mmamethlake, and Warburton) have been initiated for future completion.

LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND ICT INTEGRATION

The Department is committed to modernizing library infrastructure with cutting-edge ICT resources. Libraries are equipped with:

- Free Internet and Wi-Fi for research and web browsing.
- Photocopier Services for document duplication.
- Headcount Systems to manage visitor data.
- Book Anti-Theft Systems to protect library materials.

To ensure uninterrupted service, Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) systems are installed in all 120 public libraries, and the Department has invested in 90,000 new books and 5,745 electronic books to keep pace with the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

SERVICES FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

In partnership with the South African Library for the Blind (SALB), the Department has established Mini-Libraries in selected public libraries. These facilities provide essential assistive technologies and reading materials for visually impaired individuals. Currently, 39 libraries offer services for the blind and partially sighted, with 555 active members. A notable pilot project includes a Narration Studio, which has converted 13 books into audio format.

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Archives and Records Management sub-programme is essential for maintaining and preserving public records of historical significance. The provincial archival repository in Mbombela, completed in 2014, serves as a central hub for:

Acquisition and Preservation: Public records with historical value are carefully managed and preserved.

Accessibility: Ensuring that records are accessible and utilized effectively.

Compliance: Government bodies are inspected annually to ensure proper record management practices, with training provided as needed. Records are categorized for either archival transfer after 20 years or destruction based on professional guidelines and institutional needs. In summary, the Library and Information Services of the Department of Culture, Sports, and Recreation are dedicated to improving public access to information, fostering a culture of reading, and preserving valuable records for future generations.

ABSORBED ON SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



Skills development is certainly critical in our country for achieving increased productivity, inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction. Government is investing resources to levy-funded companies, however, the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) have not yet made major contributions to resolving the problem of skills development, especially when it comes to linking companies to skills training institutions, ensuring learners are afforded opportunities to be exposed to work experience in the workplace.

The lack of relationship and coordination between skills development institutions and industries is very evident and requires serious attention. SETAs are expected to enable these linkages by fostering relations between training institution and the place of work.

The Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRTT) - a mandated skills development entity - has taken the issue of skills development a step further to ensure the existence of an impactful and value adding skills development initiative are implemented to benefit our local communities. Initially this started as a challenge that was facing our skills development beneficiaries but was later turned into an opportunity to improve our skills development interventions and initiatives.

MRTT has since made some seriously notable strides in addressing this challenge of linking their artisan development skills training and development programme with real workplace training especially within the Building & Civil Construction industry.

To date the entity has repaired, maintained and renovated more than 800 schools in all districts across the province through its artisan development learners. These were achieved through various projects including a project COVID-19 Vandalised School project, where 140 schools were repaired; the annual Randza Xikolo Xawena; the Presidential Youth Empowerment Initiatives (PYEI) in which MRTT was appointed as the preferred skills provider to run it for three years which training the youth to renovate schools in their own local municipalities. Witnessing the impact of skills development within various school through the improvement and safe learning and working environment for both teachers and learners is gratifying, especially since young people within the very same communities bring about the change.

A greater achievement for the entity within the skills development-working environment resulting from a secured sustainable provider-employer skills training relationship was for MRTT being recognised and certified by the construction SETA, Construction Education & Training Authority (CETA) as a recognised learner-host employer, equating the entity to recognised industry employer eligible to host learners for workplace training. This recognition resulted from the provider-partnership that was created with the mother department through the various school infrastructure project that the entity was able to complete.

Through the secured long-term partnership between training provider and employer for workplace training, the entity has been able to produce semi-skilled and fully qualified artisans in various building and civil and construction related trades, of which most have secured employment and are today in the country economic activities. Furthermore, MRTT will be contributing to the National Development Plan 2030 (NDP2030) planned target of producing 30 000 fully qualified artisans, thus representing the Mpumalanga province well in this space as the mandated skills development entity.

CONSIDERATION ON YOUTH AND LOCAL TOURISM



The tourism industry in the Mpumalanga Province is one of the economic levels and has the potential to contribute to job creation. The Province boasts excellent parks and reserves, astonishing botanical gardens, rivers, and lakes. The Provincial Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDT) in partnership with the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency hosted the 2024 Provincial Tourism Awareness Day at the Masibekela Recreational Park in Nkomazi Local Municipality. The 2024 Tourism Awareness Day was hosted under the theme “Tourism and Peace: 30 Years of Connecting People, Places and Culture”.

The key message on the day was about creating awareness on the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value.

“In our quest to create awareness on local tourism, we chose Masibekela Recreational Park Site exclusively because it is a pristine site located within the deep rural village of Nkomazi. Hence our focus on stimulating rural and township tourism to help diversify and disperse the benefits of tourism to the less-visited sites in the Province”, explained MEC Makhosazane Masilela.

“This sector has over the past three decades demonstrated its ability to unite South Africans, hence it is labelled a sector made by the people and for the people. This sector is not only about travel and leisure; it is also about how it impacts the lives of ordinary citizens by creating the much-needed jobs” Masilela continued. She also described tourism sector as a breadbasket of Mpumalanga’s economy.

This sector has a substantial potential of aiding government in the fight against the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality through the creation of sustainable jobs.

As part of its initiatives to address the triple challenges faced by the province, the department also launched the Mpumalanga Tourism Youth Fund at which seeks to empower the youth who are in the business of tourism with financial support. The Tourism Youth Fund will enable young people to grow their businesses and create job opportunities for their peers. This came because of a Memorandum of Agreement signed between the Department and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), which seeks to address challenges facing youth-owned enterprises in the tourism sector. “We also supports the development of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) through enterprise development,” Masilela declared.

MEC concluded by indicating that as one of the critical pillars of the province’s economy, the tourism sector will continue to provide people, women and the youth in particular with immense economic opportunities. It is for this reason that local tourism was declared a new gold for real economy. Despite the lackluster global economic growth and the decline in disposable income, foreign and domestic tourists have been steadily visiting Mpumalanga’s shores. According to the MTPA’s 2022/23 Annual Report, the tourists’ arrivals in the Province signaled a trend of more than 75% of domestic tourists compared to the 40% domestic arrivals in 2019; thus, showing a sustainable tourism sector with domestic dominance.

ANOTHER PT’S CLEAN AUDIT

Business ethics require organisations or companies must not carry on its business recklessly, with gross negligence. This practice is called corporate governance. This is the system by which companies are directed and controlled. “Whilst Management processes have been widely explored relatively little attention has been paid to the processes by which organisations are governed. If management is about running businesses, governance is about seeing that it is run properly”, (Cadbury Report, 1992). To be exemplary, institutions have to present credible financial and governance performance.

In Mpumalanga, the Department of Finance has been excelling in this regard. MEC, Mr Bonakele Majuba, welcomed and commended the Provincial Treasury for retaining the clean audit for financial year ended 31 March 2024. MEC Majuba said this audit outcome reflects the institution’s commitment to responsible financial management and governance in a developmental state and should instil confidence in its ability to provide qualitative support to other institutions. He attributed this outcome to strong governance, oversight and institutionalized internal controls



that provided confidence in the institutions’ operations and processes during the year under review. “We will continue to support departments, entities, and municipalities in reviewing financial statements and providing general policy advice in areas such as assets and supply chain management to drive the campaign for clean administration in the province,” said Majuba. The clean audit outcome means the department’s financial statements are free of material misstatements, its performance information is

reliable, and it has complied with key legislations. The Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA) report revealed that the Mpumalanga Provincial Treasury is one of the five provincial institutions that have maintained unqualified audits without matters of emphasis for the 2023/24 financial year.

The report also reflect on key issues in the audit of all provincial departments and public entities for the same reporting period, with a specific focus on areas that require the attention of the MEC and the Provincial Treasury as coordinating institutions in the

accountability ecosystem. The AG recommends that the Provincial Treasury should perform impact assessments of the desired outcomes of planned interventions to support provincial and local government. The MEC welcomed and accepted recommendations of the Auditor General to promote the institutionalisation of preventative controls and enhanced accountability mechanisms in all public sector institutions.



7th PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION



Mr Mandla Ndlovu
Premier of Mpumalanga

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