



PREMIER REPORTS BACK on state of province

When Premier Cassel Mathale speaks from the podium in the Legislature this morning, his third State of the Province address is expected to report back to the people of the province on important issues affecting their lives.

Mathale is expected to give an update on his first two addresses and also align his speech to the most recent State of the Na-

tion address of President Jacob Zuma, specifically focusing on job creation.

Economic development in the province and foreign investment would most probably rank high on the list of matters to be touched on.

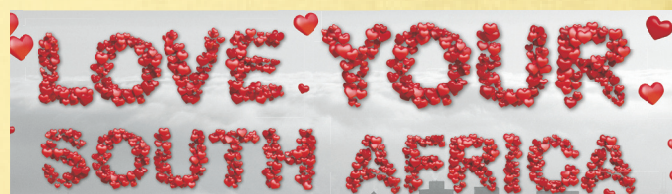
At the same time the 2010 Fifa World Cup hosting, the improved matric pass rate, the

Muyexe Rural Development pilot project, the Lephalale development and the roll out of the proposed broadband infrastructure as well as the Premier's hotline could further be addressed.

Tonight guests will gather for the annual gala dinner marking the State of the Province address delivery.

The 2010 Fifa World Cup hosting, the improved matric pass rate, the Muyexe Rural Development pilot project, the Lephalale development and the roll out of the proposed broadband infrastructure as well as the Premier's hotline could further be addressed.

Premier
Cassel
Mathale



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at top of agenda
of latest
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Measure to address HUNGER and FOOD security

The Department of Agriculture (LDA) in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Development and other sector departments hosted the Food Park Consultative Summit in Polokwane on Tuesday. The summit was staged after the MEC for Agriculture, Ms Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba saw a need for integrated efforts in which all Sector Departments, private sector and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

could work together to fight hunger in the province.

"The Food Park concept is an addition to various Government interventions. Food Park is referred to as Food Banking in other countries. It is a tested approach to fighting hunger. This approach allows for the reclamation of surplus food and redistribution to those in need. It is adaptable to any situation where there is surplus of food and a community

of goodwill where charitable, business and government leaders' work together to generate the capital and other resources necessary to build the Food Banking infrastructure," Spokesperson for the Department of Agriculture, Mr Kenny Mathivha said.

He further indicated that although government could initiate Food Parks, they operated as non-profit charitable organisations that collect surplus, donated or purchased food and

groceries and redistribute them to low-income individuals or families and community-based charitable organisations.

The summit was attended by representatives of organised agriculture; farmer unions, women and youth in agriculture and rural development, Food Bank South Africa, financial institutions, supermarkets, government and beneficiaries of social grants.



Ms Jane Thupana (General Manager Land Agrarian), Prof Edward Nesamvumi (Head for the Department of Agriculture) and Ms Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, MEC for Agriculture at Food Summit Consultative Summit at South Gate Lodge on Tuesday



LIMPOPO NEWS

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Health & Social development: Limpopo potential unleashed

Newly appointed Health and Social Development MEC, Ms Dikeledi Magadzi is tasked with heading one of the biggest departments and now one that has two administrative heads reporting to her.

However Magadzi, who has gone full circle in political leadership, is not perturbed by the challenge and seemingly Premier Cassel Mathale could not have chosen a better MEC to head the complex department.

Magadzi said the two portfolios would receive the same attention and programmes are already in place for the Social Development portfolio's organisational structure from the top down.

"We know the size of the two departments is not the same but what is important is for us to be able to always have our finger on the pulse so that nothing is left by the wayside," she said.

The department also plans to strengthen its partnerships with non profit organisations and in the process do away with some duplication of services in some of the communities.

Magadzi said in this regard certain social services workers such as community development workers (CDWs) will have to be trained on other disciplines to be multi-skilled.

The Social Development department further aims to decrease the turnaround time to process all grant applications and formal queries.

She conceded that Limpopo as one of the rural provinces has not

found the going easy in attracting medical professionals, but said there has been significant progress in retaining medics in the system which has in turn resulted in better health services for millions of people.

The Health Department has made a lot of improvements in upgrading medical equipments in health facilities and that along with medical professionals' accommodation remain just some of the matters that top the list of priorities.

The health sector in the province is also in line to receive the first and only multibillion Rand academic medical campus in the country. The campus which will be built in Polokwane is aimed at producing enough medical professionals to remedy not only the province's backlog but the entire country's with time.

The milestone project was also mentioned by State President Jacob Zuma in the recent State of the Nation Address and will see the province unravel its potential to excellent service delivery in both health and social development.



Health and Social Development MEC, Ms Dikeledi Magadzi is ready for the challenge.

57 000

new jobs for Limpopo

As part of its key objectives the provincial government continues to create employment in a bid to adhere to national directives and contribute to the betterment of lives. Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) Quarterly Labour Force Survey indicates that Limpopo's economy has created 57 000 jobs in the last quarter of last year.

In a most recent statement Provincial Government Spokesperson Tebatso Mabitsela referred to the survey, that covers October to December, saying that it further indicates that there was a substantial decrease in the unemployment rate in Limpopo which is down by 10% during the quarter under review, unlike the 8,2%

observed during the previous one.

In terms of the year on year contribution per sector, the survey shows an impressive increase in

- agriculture that has created 8 000 more jobs than during the same period last year,
- utility which notched up by adding 2 000 more jobs to the provincial economy, primarily,
- the construction industry that increased its employment capacity by 3 000 more job opportunities,
- community and social services which employed 17 000 more people and
- private households which absorbed 18 000 more people

"However, it is noteworthy to mention that the mining and manufacturing sectors are still impacted by the global economic challenges," it was stated.

"However, it is noteworthy to mention that the mining and manufacturing sectors are still impacted by the global economic challenges," it was stated.

"Our government is committed to implement the five key priorities of the current electoral mandate with particular focus on the creation of decent work and sustainable livelihoods. Our institutional co-ordination through structures such as the Premier's Employment Growth and Advisory Council and its underpinning technical working groups have been engaging in innovative programmes about job creation. The creation of 57 000 jobs in our province demonstrate that our government clusters have taken con-

crete steps to respond to the challenge of unemployment", Premier Cassel Mathale was quoted saying.

The Limpopo Employment Growth and Development Plan with its eight High Impact Growth Catalytic Projects is a key driver of employment and growth in the province. The LEGDP seeks to put the province in a high economic trajectory for it to contribute the double digit Gross Domestic Product to the national economy.

"In the spirit of working together we can do more, social compact towards job creation through government partnership with strategic partners in labour, the private sector, civil society and other key stakeholders should continue to engage openly to identify further solutions in the creation of sustainable jobs for the people."

Mathale is expected to give further indications on how the provincial government will assist in creating more jobs in the province when he delivers the State of the Province address in the Limpopo Legislature this morning. This will be in response to President Jacob Zuma's call for the creation of jobs made during the most recent State of the Nation address.



Mr David Masondo takes the oath during his swearing in as member of the Legislature.

Two new MECs sworn in

Premier Cassel Mathale has recently introduced new faces to Limpopo's Executive Council (Exco) following the latest provincial cabinet reshuffle.

The swearing in of two newcomer Legislature members, Ms Thabitha Mohlala and Mr David Masondo in Polokwane a fortnight ago preceded their swearing in as Members of the Executive Council (Exco) in Thohoyandou that same afternoon.

Officiating at the mid-morning ceremony at the Parliamentary Village in Polokwane was Legislature Speaker Rudolph Phala. At the occasion Premier Cassel Mathale was joined by, among others, members of his Exco, department heads, ANC Provin-

cial Secretary Joe Maswanganyi and ANC Youth League President Julius Malema. The proceedings were taken further at the High Court in Thohoyandou at around lunch that afternoon where the two new members were sworn in as MECs.

The latest provincial cabinet reshuffle resulted in Mohlala taking over the Public Works portfolio from Mr George Phadagi, who replaced Ms Dikeledi Magadzi as MEC for Safety, Security and Liaison. She was given the position of former Health and Social Development MEC, Ms Meriam Segabutla and Masondo that of Mr Sa'ad Cachalia as MEC for Provincial Treasury.



Mr David Masondo, Limpopo's new MEC for Provincial Treasury, has a warm hug for Premier Cassel Mathale as he congratulates him upon being sworn in as member of the Legislature in Polokwane recently.



Mr David Masondo, Limpopo's new MEC for Provincial Treasury, is being congratulated by Premier Cassel Mathale after Masondo was sworn in as Legislature member.



Ms Thabitha Mohlala is being congratulated by Limpopo Legislature Speaker Rudolph Phala upon her taking the oath as new member of the Legislature.

LIM REJOICES

over increased Matric pass rate

Provincial Government has managed to live up to its promise of prioritising education and its efforts have borne fruits much to the delight of the people of Limpopo.

Following a disappointing drop in



Mr Nyambeni Litshade, Principal of Mbilwi Secondary School with the trophy the school won for once again being the top school in the province during the Department of Education's matric results awards ceremony.

the pass rate for the class of 2009, in which more than half of all Grade 12s failed, last year the province narrowly missed its ambitious 60% pass rate target by just three percent. The province's 9% increase, from a disappointing 48,9% to a decent 57, 9% ,was the country's third biggest after KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Cape provinces.

Of the 94 632 learners who sat for the third Outcome Based Education (OBE) Matric examinations last year, 54 809 passed. The number of learners who obtained total marks in Mathematics increased from three to 13 and the overall performance in the subject has increased by 0,3 % while the performance in Physical Science has also improved by 9,5% and six learners managed to score total marks.

Announcing the provincial results at Bolivia Lodge in January this year during the awards ceremony, a delighted Education MEC, Mr Dickson Masemola said the increase was a

Limpopo's pride: Top Learner in the Province Tsakane Ngoepe and her proud father, Mr Phuti Ngoepe.



reflection of the intervention by the department aimed at making up for class time lost because of the interruptions throughout the year, including the Fifa World Cup, the three-week long public servants' strike and the subsequent students strike.

Masemola attributed the significant improvement to the department targeting underperforming schools, which previously stood at 737 but have now been significantly reduced by 144 to 593.

Addressing an audience that

included His Grace the Right Rev Dr Bishop BE Lekganyane, Premier Cassel Mathale, Members of Provincial Legislature and African National Congress Youth League President Julius Malema, among others, he went on to give credit to teachers and parents who supported the learners throughout the year.

The National Youth Development Agency also added their congratulations and called on the class of 2011 to follow in the footsteps of the Class of 2010.



Mr Dan Mabote, Department of Education Senior Manager Capricorn District with Capricorn District Executive Mayor, Cllr Lawrence Mapoulo during the Department's matric results awards ceremony held at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane.



Mr Moloko Matsapola, right, Principal of Dendron Secondary School with the trophy awarded to the school for passing all its 161 matriculants. Looking on is Member of Provincial Legislature and Education Portfolio Committee member, Mr Ishmael Kgetjepe.

Muyexe: poverty-stricken

village transformed

Two years after State President Jacob Zuma announced that the poverty-stricken village of Muyexe in Giyani would be used as a pilot project for the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP), the village has been transformed and become an

overwhelming success not only of the province but of the entire country. The majority of the 25 needs identified by the 900 households of the village have been met and at least one person in each household has been provided with a job.

The holistic developmental pilot led by Provincial Government and the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has resulted in more than 360 houses being built, sustainable economic development

being in place and the three pillars the programme is based on, agrarian transformation, rural development and land reform having become a reality. The project has also demonstrated government's superior ability to pull out all stops in delivering a better life for all through cooperative governance.

Through the initiative, government has now convincingly indicated that CRDP is not only possible but is also indispensable to the country's socio economic developmental path.

JOB CREATION

tops agenda at Exco Lekgotla

Job creation and skills development topped the list of priorities discussed during the Executive Council (Exco) Lekgotla held at Mokopane last month.

Setting the tone with his opening address for the two-day gathering Premier Cassel Mathale said the two issues should be tackled head on and a clear framework formulated without neglecting and compromising other fundamental areas of service delivery.

"We should not embark on an academic debate as to what a decent job is. Our people are not interested in such debates, they are interested in being afforded the opportunity to work in an environment that is friendly and respectful to labour laws of our country," he said.

Mathale further said government may not be able to deliver

as many jobs as needed because of the skills shortage.

"We may not be able to deliver decent jobs in large volumes that meet the needs on the ground, owing to the fact that most of our people are not yet skilled and trained and our economy has not been able to create such jobs.

But it is possible that in the immediate future decent job opportunities can be created as we have introduced the New Growth Path," he said.

He conceded that government had previously devoted attention to short term planning whilst neglecting long term planning.

"Whilst we accept that planning is not an event but a process, we must still reject planning that is not complemented by practical action that makes a meaningful

change in the lives of our people."

In a media briefing on the day, Chairperson of the Governance and Administration Cluster and Local Government and Housing MEC, Mr Soviet Lekganyane said the R300 billion capital investments in Lephalale area, which may be the third biggest in the world, would also be able to assist in meeting government's job targets.

"All departments have their job targets and we are happy with the progress made so far on our 2030 vision," he said.

The gathering was attended by MECs, heads of department, chief directors of national departments in the province, chief executive officers of parastatals, municipal managers and mayors, some of whom were attending the last Lekgotla as their municipal terms would be ending soon.



Premier Cassel Mathale wants more employment opportunities being created and less academic debate as to the nature of a decent job.



Chairperson of the Governance and Administration Cluster and Local Government and Housing MEC, Mr Soviet Lekganyane.

"We should not embark on an academic debate as to what a decent job is. Our people are not interested in such debates, they are interested in being afforded the opportunity to work in an environment that is friendly and respectful to labour laws of our country," he said.



Newly appointed Health and Development MEC, Ms Dikeledi Magadzi (centre) with the two heads of the department, Dr Deliwe Nyathikazi (left) and Dr Aggrey Morake (right) during the first day of the Exco Lekgotla at Protea Hotel The Park in Mokopane.

Spreading

development

Under Premier Cassel Mathale's leadership, Provincial Government has been able to attract billions of rands in investments and to decentralise development it has adapted a holistic approach by identifying 11 Provincial Growth Points across five districts which are prioritised for developmental

programmes, especially the Integrated Sustainable Human Settlement initiative.

The initiative requires all basic amenities to be closer to the people and would address efficiently the needs of the 11 fast-growing municipalities.

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They are Tubatse, Elias Motsoaledi, Polokwane, Lepelle Nkumpi, Lephalale, Bela Bela, Thabazimbi, Tzaneen, Ba-Phalaborwa, Makhado and Musina municipalities.

Government has made sure that developments in all the growth points involve and benefit the people economically thereby alleviating poverty.

Further government has been able to attract an estimated R300 billion

in potential capital investments to the Lephalale area, a milestone that is internationally recognised as possibly the second biggest capital investment in the southern hemisphere.

The investments will see Lephalale being transformed to a whole new mining town with endless possibilities and being the 'new Gauteng' as it is being dubbed.

MEDUPI SUPPLIER

Grootegeluk gets off ground

One of the Medupi Power Station's main suppliers, the Exxaro-owned Grootegeluk mine, kicked off construction of its expansion project with a symbolic sod turning ceremony at the site in Lephalale in June 2010.

The event was attended by among others, Premier Cassel Mathale, Lephalale Mayor, Cllr Rosina Mogotlane, Local Government and Housing MEC, Mr Soviet Lekganyane and Exxaro Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sipho Nkosi. Speaking during the brief formal proceedings, Nkosi assured that construction would be on schedule and within budget.

"The Grootegeluk expansion represents one of the largest mining growth projects

in Southern Africa and the progress we are making bears testimony to the ability of Exxaro to successfully plan, develop and implement projects of this magnitude," he added.

The Project, called the Exxaro Grootegeluk Medupi Expansion Project, will cost around R9,5 billion and will supply the multibillion rand Eskom-owned Medupi with coal over the next four decades.

The project is set to start supply coal from the first half of 2012 while full coal production is expected to be reached three years later in 2015. The company also said all major supply

contracts for the projects will be finalised next month

"We expect to spend about R4,5 billion of the total capital cost by end of May 2012 and to date we have committed R1,38 billion and spent R505 million on the project. Most of the required funding arrangements are in place," Nkosi added.

At the time Exxaro also announced its completion of the first 270 employee housing units of 794 planned for the area.

Development around Medupi alone are expected to double the area's economy, a major breakthrough for the province.



Cllr Rosina Mogotlane, Mayor of Lephalale, Local Government and Housing MEC, Mr Soviet Lekganyane, Premier Cassel Mathale and Exxaro Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sipho Nkosi during the sod turning ceremony in June 2010.

LIM and CHINA

sign and pledge to do more together

Chinese giant parastatal China Coal Technology and Engineer Group Corp (CCTEG), Limpopo Economic Development Enterprise (Limdev) subsidiary Corridor Mining and the province's two universities have signed memorandums of understanding meant to strengthen relations between the two countries.

A CCTEG delegation led by its Chairperson, Professor Tian Huli and Vice President, Mr Shen Boahong were hosted by Premier Cassel Mathale during a lavish dinner event and signing ceremony at Fusion

Boutique Hotel in November.

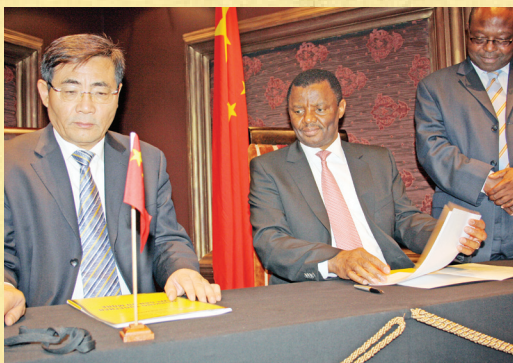
Delivering his address, Mathale hailed the signing of the agreements as a milestone that signalled a migration from the planning phase to the implementation of the Limpopo Employment, Growth and Development Plan (LEGDP).

"These memorandums of understanding will promote and expand our international understanding, development and cooperation by stimulating and supporting educational and research projects that should make a contribution to the sus-

tained economic growth of our province," he said

He added that the universities would benefit through qualitative research-based exchange programmes and collaboration in geology and surveying.

The event was attended by, among others, MECs of Education, Mr Dickson Masemola, and Roads and Transport, Ms Pinkie Kekana, Limdev Chairperson, Mr Pat Malabela, Vice Chancellors of the University of Limpopo, Professor Mahlo Mokgalong and of Venda, Professor Peter Mbat



China Coal Technology and Engineer Group Corp Chairperson, Professor Tian Huli and University of Limpopo Vice Chancellor, Professor Mahlo Mokgalong sign memorandums of understanding.



University of Venda Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter Mbat and Prof Mahlo Mokgalong.

India, Lim relations strengthened

Bilateral relations between Limpopo and India, particularly Punjab State, would be strengthened after Premier Cassel Mathale was invited to India to explore new possible trade opportunities last year.

India's Consul-General to South Africa, Mr Vikram Doraiswami paid a courtesy visit to the province last October and discussed with Mathale matters of mutual interest between the two states ranging from culture and trade to agriculture and tourism.

"We are more than ready to receive them (India) and link them to relevant departments. We have long had relations with India even before 1994, during our struggle against apartheid," Mathale said.

Doraiswami also made an undertaking to tap into his native country's strong cooperatives market to assist Limpopo set up more cooperatives for emerging farmers.

He further expressed interest to establish a cultural centre in the province, this after the recent visit by two cultural performance group coordinated by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

Four years ago Punjab State signed a memorandum of understanding which focused on education, agriculture, trade, investment and tourism, science, technology and research while the University of Venda also signed similar agreements with three universities in Punjab.



India's Consul-General to South Africa, Mr Vikram Doraiswami greets Premier Cassel Mathale.

SAFETY and SECURITY

remain non-negotiable

"However, initial investigations could not directly link the murder to ritual killings. The incensed community set up barricades on the main road in the area following the gruesome find," stated Premier Spokesperson Phuti Mosomane.

As safety and security remain a non-negotiable to the provincial government, the protection of the people of Limpopo ranks high on the list of priorities.

Most recently the practice of ritual killings reared its ugly head and in reaction to this Premier Cassel Mathale called on the Police to intensify the

investigation into such incidents in the Malamulele area. Last week the mutilated body of a 74-year-old woman, Ms Tsatsawane Macheke was discovered in her house with body parts missing. "Today the community ran amok after another body was discovered in a trench in the vicinity. However, initial investigations could not directly link the murder to ritual killings. The incensed community set up barricades on the main road in the area following the gruesome find," stated Premier's spokesperson Phuti Mosomane.

Mathale at the same time appealed to residents of Malamulele to practice restraint in the face of the senseless killings. He was quoted saying "The community must contain their tempers as the Police are trying to bring to book

every suspect involved these criminal acts. We are calling on the police to act swiftly to arrest the people involved in the murders".

Mathale also attended Macheke's funeral in the village of Mahonisi in sympathy with the family and the community of Mahonisi, to also listen to their concerns. During the funeral Mathale appealed to the community to cooperate with the Police and not be overtaken by emotions in trying to administer justice to those involved in the murder. In his address Mathale emphasised that "Those with information must go to the Police and if the Police are not acting on the information they must be reported to the Provincial Police Commissioner Amon Mashigo or MEC for Safety and Security

George Phadagi".

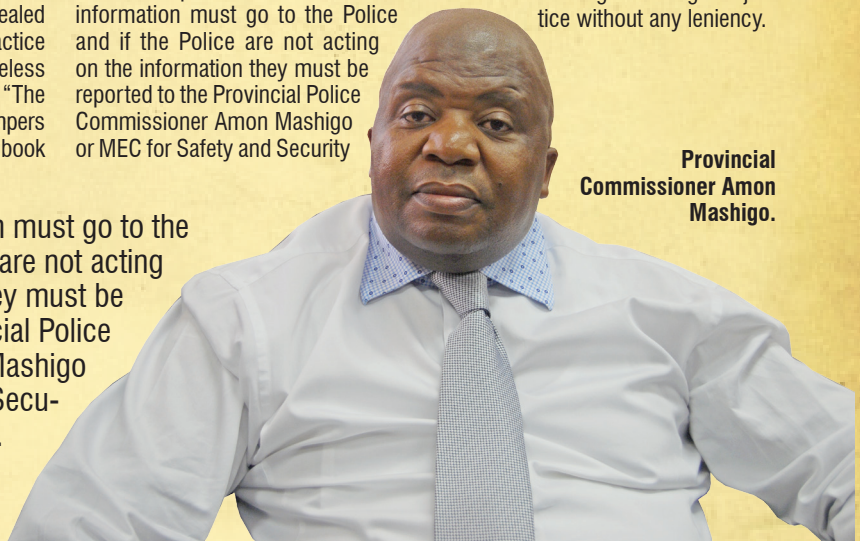
The Premier reassured the community that government is committed to providing support to the residents in the midst of this immoral practice. Mathale also told those attending the funeral that it was a fallacy that businesses can be made successful by using body parts. He called on the youth to get educated in order to be successful in life.

He lastly appealed to the courts to ensure that the five suspects that have been arrested in connection with the ritual killing are brought to justice without any leniency.



Safety, Security and Liaison MEC George Phadagi.

"Those with information must go to the police and if the police are not acting on the information they must be reported to the Provincial Police Commissioner Amon Mashigo or MEC for Safety and Security George Phadagi".



Provincial Commissioner Amon Mashigo.

The Department of Roads and Transport officially launched a R7 million system set to change the corrupt image of traffic officers, bust a lot of criminals still collect millions in outstanding fines at the same time in 2010.

The system, called Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPRS), uses high quality vehicle mounted video cameras that scan licence plates and make available all information relating to the licence, including outstanding fines and warrants, from various law enforcement databases in the country.

The cameras can detect speed of other vehicles from different angles and is also linked to a central surveillance control room where it is recorded and can be used as evidence of any contraventions, including bribery of officers.

DRT launches R7 million crime buster system

MEC Pinky Kekana joined tens of the department's officials, including traffic officers at a road block at Madiba Park last year to view the system's effectiveness.

"The system also picks up a lot of crimes other than traffic related offences," she said addressing the media. An excited Kekana further said the 20 vehicles which will be fitted with the system would go a long way change public perception that some traffic officials are corrupt.

A total of 25 officials have already been trained on the system while 11 of the 20 vehicles have already been rolled out and are operational through-

out the province.

"With this system even when an officer takes a bribe or a motorist attempts to bribe him, we can see it happen," she said.

The two-hour long operation saw 25 people being nabbed for outstanding warrants of arrest and hundreds of cars being stopped.

The system will also speed up the department's drive of collecting fines which are said to amount to millions of Rand as outstanding fines will require to be paid on site with the alternative being immedi-

ate incarceration.

"Most importantly, it will go a long way towards curbing the disturbingly high accident statistics in Limpopo purely because motorists will be forced to be more compliant with the law," said Ms Clarissa Naidoo, Spokesperson for the department.

In December the system managed to nab 635 offenders including those with outstanding warrant of arrests during the Operation Dumbu initiative collecting more than R200 000 in the process.



Roads and Transport MEC Pinky Kekana officially launched the zero tolerance anti-crime system, Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR).

GRASSROOTS

development on the up



MEC Soviet Lekganyane.

The economically turbulent climate despite, the province has been able to drastically increase the number of municipalities with favourable audit reports. The number of municipalities with disclaimer audit opinion decreased by five to only nine while eight more have unqualified audit reports.

Still on the grassroots front, the Provincial Planning Forum has rated 15 of the 25 municipalities in the province as high performing, 12 as medium and only three as low performance municipalities.

Of the 513 wards, a whopping 85% are now functional compared to only half a year before.

According to the MEC's assessment report, which is legally commissioned by the Municipal Systems Act, more municipalities have now improved in linking and harmonising their Integrated Development Plans (IDP) with their budgets.

Intergovernmental Forum strengthens services coordination

In a bid to strengthen coordination for better service delivery political and administrative heads of provincial departments, municipalities, parastatals and traditional leaders converged in Polokwane for the



Education MEC and Acting Premier, Mr Dickson Masemola said during the Premier's Intergovernmental Forum held at Bolivia Lodge in November that government is impressed with traditional leaders who came to the party in providing services to communities.

Premier's Intergovernmental Forum shortly before the Christmas break.

Education MEC Dickson Masemola, delivering the opening address as acting Premier, said the gathering should pave the way for a better integrated, planned, monitored and evaluated environment that would make for better and faster service delivery.

He said government was worried about the inconsistent performances of municipalities and attributed the matter to incompetent personnel.

"Political leaders in municipalities must take full ownership of the people they employ in their respective municipal administrative positions. In this regard the mayors, speakers, councillors and municipal managers must be held accountable and liable personally and jointly for the state of their municipal finances," Masemola said.

He further said municipalities have an obligation to meet the clean audits deadline of 2014 and the forum should also discuss ways of improving municipal finances.

Housing department gets R131 million boost

The Department of Local Government and Housing (DLGH) received a late Christmas present earlier this year when the Department of Human Settlements announced that R131 million would be injected into Limpopo to enable it to reach its housing target. Human Settlements Minister Tokyo Sexwale announced that the province along with the Northern Cape Province housing department would get millions in additional funds to build more houses while non performing provinces would have to forfeit their housing grants.

The DLGH made the request for the budget boost during the MinMec (Minister and MECs) meeting held in Polokwane late last year.

The department has already built 10 000 of the 15 489 target set for the current financial year and the rest are scheduled to be completed before the end of the current financial year.

The department's Medium Term Expenditure Committee chaired by National Treasury met recently to discuss among other things the department's newfound financial leeway.

Municipal Scopas under spotlight at Speaker's Forum

The planned introduction of Standing Committees on Public Accounts (Scopas) in all municipalities was under the spotlight during Provincial Legislature's Speaker's Forum Workshop held at the Protea Hotel The Ranch in August.

The committees would be one of the many interventions by government aimed at making sure all municipalities get clean audit reports in 2014.

Speakers from all municipalities in the province had gathered at the workshop and were addressed by various experts on the workings of such a committee and the establishment and strengthening of internal functions at municipal level, among others.

Provincial Legislature Speaker Rudolph Phala said the committees would all be in place only after this year's local government elections.

He said the workshop would also discuss the uniform running

of all councils.

"We are working hard to make sure there are uniform rules on running the house, uniform rules regulating debate and uniform rules around things like the dress code because members of municipality councils are public representatives just like members of provincial or national legislatures," he said.



Limpopo Auditor-General, Mr Dirk Strydom said during Provincial Speakers' Forum that though there are municipalities who have managed to get unqualified audit reports, none have obtained a clean one yet.



Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Mr Rudolph Phala said during the Provincial Speakers' Forum that all municipalities will have Standing Committees on Public Accounts after this year's local government elections.

2010 FIFA WORLD CUP

changes lives

Last year's successful hosting of the Fifa World Cup, a phenomenon that came to change lives in an unexpected way, is expected to feature in Premier Cassel Mathale's State of the Province speech when he addresses the Legislature.

The 2010 Fifa Soccer World Cup is widely reckoned to have delivered a lasting legacy that ensured the implementation of infrastructure projects accelerated by the hosting of the mega games and improving the lives of many. The new Peter Mokaba Stadium is a showpiece any resident of Limpopo can be proud of and is testimony to local expertise and workmanship. Nowadays the once vacant piece of land on the far side of Polokwane remains alive as the structure plays host to some of the biggest sporting events in the country.

The 2010 Fifa World Cup created an opportunity for Limpopo, its

people, attractions, cultures and traditions to be showcased to the world at the Cultural Village in Polokwane, where foreign nations flocked to see southern Africa in action as a feast of music, dancing, arts, craft and cuisine unfolded. Upon conclusion of the games it remained a permanent fixture accessible to the local community.

Due to scores of enthusiasts coming to Polokwane the city prepared itself for a mass gathering of a month and a half by extending existing infrastructure, such as road linkages across the provincial capital, and building new ones, like the bridge linking downtown Polokwane with the Central Business District (CBD). The international airport and cricket club in the capital received an upgrade. A water reservoir and an electricity supply line were developed. At the same time a visitor information centre established itself in the heart of the city.



Mr Tom Boya, Polokwane-based business personality and ardent soccer fan, in full regalia ahead of the big games.

The less tangible consequence of Limpopo having been co-host of the global event was most surely the introduction of an unknown comradeship among patriotic

South Africans who crossed the cultural divide to learn an otherwise unbeknown tolerance.

Now that calls for a well-deserved Viva, Afrique du Sud!

Premier Mathale impressed with African Cultural Village



Premier Cassel Mathale during a visit to the African Cultural Village erected at Capricorn High School for the Fifa World Cup expressed his satisfaction with the project.

Mathale, addressing visitors at the village shortly before the onset of the tournament, said the village where artists from six countries were hosted would go a long way in strengthening Limpopo Province's ties with Southern Africa Development Community (Sadec) countries.

Accompanied by MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Ms Joyce Mashamba and former MEC of Provincial Treasury, Mr Sa'ad Cachalia, Mathale thanked the participating countries, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Ghana, Swaziland and Botswana, for their contribution to the success of the initiative.



Premier Cassel Mathale during his visit to the African Cultural Village.



Premier Cassel Mathale, centre flanked by MEC of Sport, Arts and Culture, Ms Joyce Mashamba and former MEC of Provincial Treasury, Mr Sa'ad Cachalia during a visit to the African Cultural Village.



Businesspeople Tom Boya and Alice Phatudi arrive in the security zone which, by then, was already a hive of activity.



Premier Cassel Mathale, his wife Mokgadi (back, left), Speaker Rudolph Phala and Deputy Speaker Meriam Ramadwa outside the Legislature after a stroll on the red carpet.



Former Provincial Police Commissioner Calvin Sengani greets Speaker Rudolph Phala on arrival at the Legislature, with Premier Cassel Mathale looking on.



State of Province address 2010

For the first time members of the Police's Mounted Unit formed part of the procession at the Legislature when they preceded the arrival of Premier Cassel Mathale and Speaker Rudolph Phala ahead of a parade by the Police.



Democratic Alliance (DA) Provincial Leader Desiree van der Walt in a striking blue suit.



Fabulous fashions were seen all round at the occasion.



Traditional dancers entertained the crowds in different locations on the Legislature premises.



Limpopo Gambling Board Chief Executive Officer Serobi Maja arriving at the Legislature.



Band members with impressive instruments at the entrance to the Legislature in Lebowaqomo.



Mr Amie Chaya, commonly referred to the Minister of Blankets for his sustained gestures of goodwill.

PREMIER MATHALE

hails SACC for struggle role

In an effort to strengthen its ties with government, Premier Cassel Mathale addressed the South African Council



Rev Sidwell Mokgothu during the South African Council of Churches (SACC) Provincial Biennial Conference held in Polokwane last year.

of Churches (SACC) Limpopo Provincial Biennial Conference last year and managed to get a buy in from them on their participation in ensuring the success of the Limpopo Employment, Growth and Development Plan (LEGDP).

During the meeting Mathale also commended the South African Council of Churches (SACC) for their invaluable contribution to the liberation struggle.

"The leadership of the SACC confronted the brutal system of apartheid without any reservation and offered to the noble cause of liberating this country a matchless contribution," he said.

He further said government looks upon the organisation's involvement in the fight against crime and other social ills in a serious light.

"The church is expected to play an active role, together with other pri-



Premier Cassel Mathale during the South African Council of Churches (SACC) Provincial Biennial Conference last year. With him are SACC Provincial Executive Committee members, Revs Ruth Khoza (right) and Mautji Pataki (left).

mary stakeholders in ensuring that the LEGDP affirmatively changes the lives of the targeted groups," he added.

The SACC Ecumenical Secretary, Reverend Mautji Pataki, said the gathering was aimed at discussing the organisation's policy direction for the

next two years and addressing broader social issues.

Speakers who addressed the four day gathering included renowned political economist, Dr Mohau Phoko and the organisation's president, Professor Tinyiko Maluleke.

The Department of Public Works officially launched its five-year Limpopo Green Campaign during a lavish Limpopo Green Gala event mid last year to mark the race to planting at least a million trees.

The event was attended by Premier Cassel Mathale, MECs, National African Federated Chamber of Commerce's entire executive committee led by National President Lawrence Mavundla, Capricorn District Mayor Lawrence Mapoulo, South African Football Association President Kirsten Nematendani and prominent business people from beyond the province.

In his keynote address Mathale said the campaign is also government's intervention of mitigating global warming related natural disasters.

"Through this campaign we hope to make a contribution in

GREEN LIMPOPO

campaign takes off

the resolution of the climate change crisis," he said.

During the gathering, Mathale pointed out the landslides in China and Turkey and the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti earlier in the year, Mathale further said the introduction of the green economy in the Limpopo Employment, Growth and Development Plan is also another resolution aimed at a sustainable biodiversity and the creation of green job opportunities.

"Going green should also find expression in our infrastructural expansion programmes. We must build green buildings ranging from offices, health care and school infrastructure including recreational facilities," he

added.

During the event, the Green Ambassadors, who will be the faces of the initiative, were also announced. They are the entire Provincial Government Executive Council, international motivational speaker Dr Elijah Maswanganyi, SABC Regional General Manager Victor Ravhaundzo, business personalities Tom Boya, Sonny Leshika, Solly Noor, Mboya Simango, Jannie Moolman, Hassim Dockrat, Nedbank's Tony Plaatjies, Dr Tienie Burgers, Brig Muthewana Ramushwana, Foskor's Johan Horn, Bishop Barnabas Lekganyane, Dr Tshifhiwa Muligwe, Kgoshi Sefologe Makgeru, Khosi Vusani Netshimbupfe, Hosi

Lwandlamuni N'wamitwa II, Khosi Fhumulani Kutama and members of the Legislature Pharephare Mothupi, Lydia Komape and Ike Maphoto.

Former Head of the Department of Public Works Morongoa Ramphela said in her brief presentation that the campaign would see all five districts contributing towards the one million trees annual target till 2014.

Earlier this week the department reported 21 000 trees already planted in only the first few months of the campaign.



Former MEC of Public Works George Phadagi and MEC for Education Dickson Masemola during the Green Gala event at the Polokwane International Airport.



Some of the Green Ambassadors who attended Green Gala event at the Polokwane International Airport.

PREMIER and MEC

get their hands dirty for Madiba

The pair spent the day in orange overalls among several corporates and Polokwane Municipality Councillors doing their bit in building 67 houses for 67 families in Ga Molepo village on the day last year.

Head of the Department of Local Government and Housing Clifford Motsepe holds up a shovel while Premier Cassel Mathale lays bricks during Mandela Day celebrations at Ga Molepo.

Premier Cassel Mathale and Local Government and Housing MEC Soviet Lekganyane joined thousands of other high profile personalities countrywide in getting their hands dirty for 67 minutes in commemorating International Mandela Day and celebrating former President Nelson Mandela's 92nd birthday last year.

The pair spent the day in orange overalls among several corporates and Polokwane Municipality Councillors doing their bit in building 67 houses for 67 families in Ga Molepo village on the day.

In a later event held at the nearby Tshebela Sports Ground and attended by hundreds of people, Mathale praised Mandela and his generation for sacrifices in their era.

"International Mandela Day

is not a public holiday, but rather is a day in which all people must dedicate at least 67 minutes of their time to community work and make a positive deference in the lives of others, especially orphans, destitute families, the elders, and people in home based care centres," he said.

He also thanked them for being good hosts during the 2010 Fifa World Cup.

"We must use this day to invent a sense of patriotism amongst ourselves and teach each other one of the most important lessons of life; that no person can succeed without the assistance of others," he said.

The beneficiaries of the 67 houses were people who were already on the department's waiting list for housing.



Local Government and Housing MEC Soviet Lekganyane (right) with one of the 67 beneficiaries, Ms Rebecca Molepo at Ga Molepo village during Mandela Day celebrations last year.



Local Government and Housing MEC Soviet Lekganyane takes time to admire his work during Mandela Day at Ga Molepo village.

GRADUATES

urged to form cooperatives

Premier Cassel Mathale has pledged undivided government support to graduates who form cooperatives.

Delivering the keynote address during the University of Limpopo's first National Diploma in Animal Production graduation ceremony late last year, Mathale said cooperatives would enjoy special support from the state as outlined in the Limpopo Employment, Growth and Development Plan (LGDP).

"We have indicated through our LGDP that cooperatives will receive special support from government. We are urging you to form cooperatives in this regard and you will enjoy our undivided support," he said.

He further said tertiary institutions in the province should structure their curricula in a manner that reflects the province's economic plan especially in the three main pillar sectors of mining, agriculture and tourism.

"It will be a waste of time and resources to educate people in disciplines which are outdated and out of touch with the reality of the ground," he added.

He also told the university management that the planned academic

medical multi million rand campus would also offer Veterinary Science.

The qualification was structured in conjunction with Provincial Govern-

ment and AgriSeta, which is also responsible for assessing the students.

Among those in attendance were the university's Vice Chancellor,

Prof Mahlo Mokgalong, then Acting Director-General, Ms Rachel Modipa and PricewaterhouseCoopers Director, Ms Glory Khumalo.



Premier Cassel Mathale and University of Limpopo Vice Chancellor, Prof Mahlo Mokgalong during the graduation ceremony for the National Diploma in Animal Production at the institution's Mankweng campus late last year.

MOZA LABOUR MINISTER

happy with nationals' behaviour

In an oversight visit meant to strengthen bilateral relations, Mozambican Labour Minister Helena Taipo expressed her satisfaction at the general behaviour of her countrymen residing in the country and especially in Limpopo.

Speaking during her meeting with then Director-General Dr Nelly Manzini and Agriculture MEC Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba at the Premier's Office, Taipo said her week long visit to the country had raised several labour related concerns but added she was very impressed with Mozambican nationals' overall behaviour in the country.

"We are happy to hear that most Mozambicans have been very well behaved in the country especially in the workplaces," she said speaking through an interpreter.

She also raised concerns about the state of accommodation of farm workers which Letsatsi-Duba also admitted to being a noted concern for government.

"As government we are also struggling with decent accommoda-

tion for farm workers because the conditions in which they are living is mostly unacceptable," Letsatsi-Duba said.

The Mozambican delegation, which included the country's High

Commissioner Mr Fernando Fazenda and the Consul of Mozambique for Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces, Mr Artur Verissimo had earlier in their countrywide trip visited mines and

industrial sites.

The delegation later on the day proceeded to the ZZ2 farms in Mopani District for another site inspection.



"We are happy to hear that most Mozambicans have been very well behaved in the country especially in the workplaces" she said speaking through an interpreter.

Mozambican Labour Minister Helena Taipo receives a framed Baobab Tree as a token of appreciation from Agriculture MEC Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba during the Mozambican delegation's visit to the Premier's Office last April.

MARULA FESTIVAL

thrives for national appeal

The MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Mr Pitsi Moloto said the annual Marula Festival should not only be about drinking Marula beer but stimulate tourism and make the festival a national brand. Speaking at the recent launch of the sixth Marula Festival at Phalaborwa, Moloto said it is time for the festival to take its rightful place as a national event and appeal not only to the community of Ba-Phalaborwa but to the rest of the country.

"In order to obtain a national appeal we will have to think out of the box and provide uniquely Limpopo products which have the potential to attract all South Africans. Besides the tourism treasures we have, Limpopo boasts cultural diversity like no other. We will tap our cultural diversity and grow the Marula Festival as an uniquely Limpopo brand," Moloto said.

"We are ready to welcome hundreds of people in Phalaborwa. We call all the people of South Africa to come in their numbers and become part of

the Marula Festival activities. With the effort put into the preparations we can confidently tell the people of South Africa that the Marula Festival is ready to provide fun and entertainment to all our people," concluded Moloto.

The festival will be officially opened on 24 February by Moloto, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Ms Joyce Mashamba and Ba-Phalaborwa Local Mayor, Cllr Gloria Mudunungu at Impala Park Stadium. On the day the Department will host the Cuisine Ala Marula cooking competition aimed at developing special dishes out of Marula fruit.

The annual Golf Challenge is expected to take place at Hans Merensky Golf Estate on 26 February. Later on the day there will be an open-air concert which will feature the award winning kwaito sensation Professor, Liquid Deep, Revolution and Judith Sephuma.

The tickets for the festival can be purchased at Computicket, Shoprite and Checkers at R80 for adults and R20 for children.



Ms Refilwe Mashale exhibits Marula beer during the Marula Festival media launch at Sefapane Lodge.



Mr Harrie Steegers and his wife Ineke Steegers from Netherlands enjoy the Marula beer during the media launch of Marula Festival at Phalaborwa at Sefapane Lodge.



Messrs Chief Executive Officer for Limpopo Tourism and Parks, Rob Tooley and MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Pitsi Moloto proposed a toast to the Marula Festival during the media launch.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

from Mother Nature's offerings



Mss Agnes Malesa, Meladi Mailula and Suzan Thobejane wait in queue to sell Marula fruit to the production plant in Phalaborwa.



Some community members with Marula fruit ready to sell to the Amarula production plant in Phalaborwa.

While many grumble they no longer benefit from our indigenous resources a group of women from Phalaborwa are hard at work to generate income from the ripened fruit of the Marula.

They wake up as early as 04:00 to book their spot at the Amarula production plant so that



Ms Busisiwe Masele shows off the Marula fruit which is about to sell.

they can sell their harvest of fallen fruit from the previous day.

Ms Meladi Mailula from Lulekani says harvesting Marula fruit it is a tradition in Phalaborwa, especially between January and March every year.

"I have been collecting the fruit for more than 15 years. Many families benefit from this exercise because it is a profitable one. We sell in bags and get paid from R25 for a 80 kg bag to R11 for a 25 kg bag. The number of bags here shows how passionate we all are about collecting the fruit. This also keeps the younger generation informed about the harvesting and its cultural and economic implications," Mailula said. At the production plant the atmosphere is vibrant as queues upon queues of women with bags bursting at the seams with the yellow fruit await their turn at the delivery point. Others queue to receive cash for their pickings as there is no set

payday.

"It's good to see these women walking away with their remuneration. It will enable them to support their families," Mr Simon Maluleke, an employee at the production plant says.

Ms Emma Mahomane, Brand Home Manager at Amarula Lapa says these women play a big role in the production of Amarula. "Some of them there are not aware of the impact they have in the production of Amarula. The same fruit they sell to the factory will be pulped and put into huge tanks which are transported to Stellenbosch in the Western Cape for the production of Marula cream. The remaining pips are collected dried and then given back to the community who use the oil from the inner nuts to prepare various ointments. In essence they can generate two incomes out of every fruit picked, a sustainable living from Mother Nature's offerings," Mahomane says.

THOUSANDS PITCH

hundreds abstain and tens record nil

A total of 218 982 people visited Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) voting stations over the recent registration weekend to either register as new voters, re-register or check their registration details. IEC Provincial Electoral Officer, Ms Nkaro Mateta announced during a media briefing at the organisation's provincial office in Bendor thereafter that the figure was reached despite 232 trained Registration Officials not showing up on the days and 20 registration stations recording zero or minimal activities.

Mateta said the first day of the two day registration period saw only 14 669 people registering, 3 698 re-registering and 60 391 inspecting the voters' roll while Sunday saw the number improving drastically with 44 660 registrations, 9 552 re-registrations and 158 591 inspecting the roll.

"We are also excited to say in addition to the people who visited the voting stations to register, re-register or check their voting details, more than 97,000 people visited the IEC website since Saturday morning until 23:00 on Sunday to check their details nationally. We received 129,000 SMSes from people wishing to reconfirm their registration details and more than 13, 000 used our call centre facility to enquire about their details nationally," she said.

She said only three districts experienced major problems.

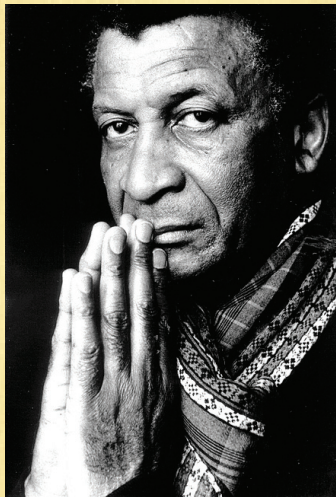
"Capricorn at Mankele across the Olifants River, Sekhukhune at the Leolo Mountains at the Makobote Primary School due to accessibility challenges on the first day and the Malebogo Mountain in Blouberg where accessibility was on foot and took more than 5 hours," she said

She pointed out that the commission had noted that rural communities were not aware of the home visit application facility that was available at the stations. "We intend to spread the message to particularly those citizens that are too sick to visit the stations," she added.

Mateta further said the commission was concerned about the low number of the re-registrations despite at least 391 voting stations across the province being affected by demarcations.

"This observation is exemplified when the registration figures of the old station at Oosskool in Bendor, are compared with the newly established station in Mitchell House School. These figures are 119 and 22 respectively. The suspicion here is that some voters that should have registered in the new voting station simply went to

the old station. A similar observation can be made in Flora Park. In rural areas, this problem is even more profound as areas like Selaelo Primary School in Blouberg and Tshondo Primary School in Lwamondo area of Vhembe recorded zero registration figures," she said. The registration drive would be open at the municipal IEC offices until the Minister makes a pronouncement on the date of the elections and Mateta said the date would definitely be between 2 March and 30 May this year.



Legendary Ibrahim

on stage in Polokwane

Limpopo remains on a winning streak as it continues to produce and host some of the world's most prominent personalities on its soil. With performers ensuring music from a variety of genres, audiences can regularly expose themselves to the sounds they prefer.

Tonight a local crowd is set to

catch iconic Abdullah Ibrahim, South African-born pianist, composer and band leader who has made strides internationally, on stage in Polokwane. Formerly known as Dollar Brand, he comes across as a soulful and inspired artist with a worldwide audience that remains in awe of his talent and music.

Of course the possibility exists that guests at tonight's gala dinner in celebration of Premier Cassel Mathale's State of the Province address to the Limpopo Legislature in Lebowakgomo may very well consider joining the crowd at Jack Botes hall in Polokwane for some serious sounds afterwards.



Working together we can do more

LIMPOPO

a breeding ground for stars

Known as a land of legends, Limpopo is a breeding ground for stars. Not only is it home to ancient lands and pre-historic secrets but also to several stars that compete wholeheartedly representing South Africa and bringing out the spirit like only patriots of Limpopo can do. Limpopo is about developing people.

Limpopo beauty, **Bokang Montjane** is the latest newsmaker when she was crowned as Miss South Africa 2010, becoming the official representative of her country to the 2011 Miss Universe and Miss World pageants. She also participated in Miss International 2009 and was placed in the Top 16 at Miss Earth 2007.

Bokang has won a number of titles including Miss Teen Limpopo 2004, Miss UJ 2006, Miss Earth 2007, Face of Fashion Eastgate 2010 and Miss Rivonia 2010.

Mokgadi Caster Semenya, born on 7 January 1991 in Ga-Masehlong, a village just outside Polokwane, is a South African middle-distance runner and world champion. Semenya won gold in the women's 800 meters at the 2009 World Championships with a time of 1:55.45 in the final.

Following her victory at the 2009 World Championships, she made international contributions to the media when questions were raised about whether Semenya had a physical condition that might give her an unfair advantage over other female racers. She was withdrawn from international competition until 6 July 2010 when the IAAF cleared her to return to competition. In 2010, the British magazine *New Statesman* included Semenya in its list "The World's 50 Most Influential Figures 2010". Semenya attended Nthema Secondary School and now attends Pretoria University as a second-year sports science student.

Retief Goosen is a South African professional golfer who was in the top ten of the Official World Golf Rankings for over 250 weeks between 2001 and 2007. His main achievements have been two U.S. Open wins in 2001 and 2004, and heading the European Tour Order of Merit (money list) in 2001 and 2002. Goosen was born on 3 February 1969 in Polokwane. He is the son of Theo Goosen, a local real estate agent and amateur golfer.

Lyndon Ferns another Polokwane born sport star is an Olympic gold-medalist and former world record swimmer. He swam for South Africa at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics. At the 2004 Olympics, he was a member of the South Africa's Men's 4x100 m freestyle relay that won the event in a world record. Three of the team were a part of the relay that broke the record and won gold at the 2006 Commonwealth Games. He is also the holder of the several African records: 100 m freestyle, 4x100 m freestyle relay and South African records: 100 m freestyle, 100 m butterfly, 4x100 m freestyle relay.

Mbulaeni Mulaudzi was born in the small dusty village of Muduluni in Venda and was it not for the watchful eye of Makonde Makhumisane the world may never have known this awe-inspiring and gifted 800 m runner. Makhumisane plucked Mbulaeni off the soccer field and started him in running. Mulaudzi carried the flag at the opening ceremony of the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece for his native country. He became South Africa's first black athlete to be ranked number one in the world.

Masilo Michael Modubi is a South African footballer who currently plays for the Belgian Pro League club K.V.C. Westerlo. He began his career 1992 at Real Gunners and in January 1995 moved to Ria Stars. It was from the Polokwane based team that he scouted 1996 scouted to the Transnet Sport School of Excellence in 2003. He was sold to Chelsea F.C. The London based club loaned him to K.V.C. Westerlo in July 2003.

Victor Matfield is one of Limpopo's biggest rugby idol's especially among young local. Matfield is the South African Rugby Union player for the Springbok rugby team as well as the Blue Bulls in the Currie Cup series and the Bulls franchise in the Super 14. He is generally considered one of the best locks in the world and has had a long successful partnership with Springbok and Blue Bulls teammate, Bakkies Botha.

Besides almost always winning his own line-out ball, Matfield is known for his exceptional skill at disrupting opposition line-outs – this skill was a cornerstone of their 2007 World Cup success, where he was crowned IRB (International Rugby Board) player of

the Rugby World Cup – and his speed around the field led former Australian coach Eddie Jones to comment that he should be an Olympic sprinter instead. In 2008 he became the first international captain to beat the All Blacks in New Zealand since Martin Johnson in 2003.

Dale Willem Steyn, born in Phalaborwa, is a South African cricketer who plays Test and One Day International matches for South Africa. He is currently the number one ranked Test bowler in the world. Steyn plays domestic cricket in South Africa, of which the next is the upcoming IEC World Cup tournament for Cape Cobras. He is a right-arm fast bowler and bowls at speeds of around 145–150 km/h. Steyn holds the record for the fastest South African to reach 100 wickets in Test Match cricket, a feat he achieved on 2 March 2008. Steyn currently has the third best bowling strike rate of all time in test match cricket. He achieved a tally of 78 wickets at the world class average of 16.24 in Season 2007/08 and was subsequently rewarded with the prestigious ICC 2008 Test Cricketer of the Year Award.

Es'kia Mphahlele, South Africa's preeminent man of letters and philosophy, writer, academic, artist and activist, born Ezekiel Mphahlele in Marabastad in 1919, died in Polokwane in 2008, just over a month before his 89th birthday. Mphahlele's first book of short stories, *Man Must Live*, was published in 1947. Banned from teaching by the apartheid government in 1951, Mphahlele supported himself and his family through a series of clerical jobs before leaving South Africa to teach in the British Protectorate of Basutoland. He also wrote, among others, the hugely popular *Down Second Avenue*.

Judith Septhuma is a South African jazz and Afro-pop singer. She grew up in Polokwane and moved to Cape Town in 1994 to study as a jazz vocalist. In 1997 she graduated from the University of Cape Town with a Performer's Diploma in Jazz and went on to further study. In 1999 she won the "Best Jazz Vocalist" at the Old Mutual Jazz Into The Future competition and signed with the African division of Bertelsmann Music Group (BMG).

Photos & info: Internet



Bokang Montjane



Semenya



Retief Goosen



Lyndon Ferns



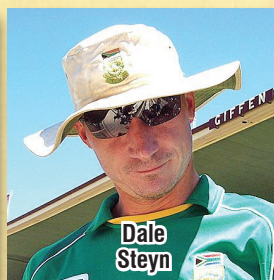
Mbulaeni Mulaudzi



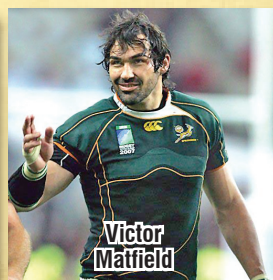
Judith Septhuma



Es'kia Mphahlele



Dale Steyn



Victor Matfield



Masilo Modubi