



BAOBAB NEWS



www.limpopo.gov.za Limpopo Provincial Government official Newsletter

September 2014

EXCO visits Musekwa for feedback IMBIZO

Maanda Mulaudzi



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Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha and his Executive Council visited Musekwa Village in Makhado Municipality on the 29th of August in order to give feedback to the community with regard to the issues raised during EXCO which was held in the area in 2012 at Khomela. The Imbizo Programme is part of government's commitment to give feedback to communities.

Government has since built a house for Ms. Muofhe Masithulela of Khomela village. She was living with her daughter and five children in a shack. They now live in a safe, secure and comfortable decent house.

Issues raised in 2012 include shortage of water, stock theft, no stipends for home based care givers in Ward 37, lack of transport, lack of network coverage at Khomele village, lack of the community libraries, need for RDP houses, shortage of medication at Matsa, Straider, and Khomele clinics.

The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Mr Tshitereke Matibe said that his municipality was embarking on a Water Billing System in the district to communities that are getting

water for 24 hours. Prepaid metres are being connected to the communities in urban and rural areas.

He indicated that in communities that are getting water 8 hours per day, his municipalities were drilling boreholes. He further indicated that Nzhelele Dam could not assist communities in the area because the department of Water Affairs gave the licence for using water to farmers only.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has managed to tar 12 kilometres of the Tshituni to Musekwa. MEC Jerry Ndou indicated that the second phase for the roads is envisaged to start during 2014/15 financial year. Premier Mathabatha said that when he visited the area in future he wanted find the road tarred.

With regards to shortage of classrooms, ablution facilities, an administration block, library and science lab at Tshianane Secondary School, it has been reported that toilets were built in 2013 and that classrooms, administration block and ablution facilities were under construction and that the school has been renovated. The Department has also secured two buses to be used as mobile laboratories.

Targetted schools are those in remote rural areas. Maangani Primary School has been allocated five educators.

Premier Mathabata said that he was happy to realise that about 80% of the issues raised in 2012 were addressed by different departments, Vhembe District Municipality and Makhado local Municipality. The remaining challenge in the area was still the provision of water in some other villages.

He said that his government would engage with the department of Water Affairs to also give licence to allow local communities to use water from Nzhelele Dam.

This feedback session Imbizo forms part of the government's operation to strengthen intergovernmental relations and seeks to promote interaction between the provincial government and the people to create a better life for all.

Police Commissioner condemns crime related to witchcraft, ritual murders and mob justice

Clarence Mashiane

Police Commissioner, General Riah Phiyega has strongly condemned crimes related to witchcraft, ritual murders and mob justice that remain a serious challenge to the inroads made by some sectors of the community and police in achieving and maintaining peace and stability in the province.

Contextualising the dialogue in relation to the murder of Mrs Dyna Catherine Chauke, who was killed on 28 April this year, following the accusations of the witchcraft-related activities in the Thomo Village, the seriousness of violent crimes against women in the society becomes apparent. She is not the only one in this province who has been murdered because of such accusations.

An outreach event was held during Women's Month, and the community raised their concern among police management during discussions.

General Riah Phiyega said the first worrying situation was encountered in Dzinghi-Dzinghi. The community members in the village took the law into their own hands when they assumed that the police were taking long to arrest a suspect who had been on the run. The suspect was, however arrested in the North West.

Another incident in Mninghinisi was sparked by what was perceived to be the witchcraft-related death of a woman who went missing and was later found dead. As a result, the community pointed fingers at the family members and burnt down their houses.

The SAPS was there to openly engage with the community they serve on how they can significantly reduce and ultimately get rid of unlawful killings, witchcraft and mob justice.

General Riah Phiyega told the community "South Africa is a country emerging from a past characterised by horrific scenes of violence. As we continue to witness extreme violence perpetrated against women and children. We are seeing acts of gross violation of basic human rights. Vigilantism, ritual killings and mob justice have no place under our Constitutional democratic dispensation."

She continued to say "women, the elders and children remain the most vulnerable. If we are to make a progressive Limpopo a reality, a shift in our mind-sets and perceptions is of paramount importance. We feel that it is time to gather and talk about where these beliefs emanate

from. It is time that we call on our traditional leaders, community police forums (CPFs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and other community leaders to deliberate on these issues, because they affect each and everyone



Police Commissioner
General Riah Phiyega



First Lady recognises domestic workers

Maanda Mulaudzi

The First Lady of Limpopo Mrs Maggie Mathabatha honoured and recognised excellence from various women in Limpopo. The occasion was held at The Ranch Hotel outside Polokwane on the 21 August.

She Launched the First Lady Women of Excellence Awards under the theme "moving forward by unifying women for Limpopo's excellence". Domestic workers and some government employees were given gifts in the form of overalls, hats and dairies.

They had the opportunity to be massaged, enjoy a Joy Rithey de to the game park and dined with the First Lady. Mrs Mathabatha indicated that the theme was meant to remind women of Limpopo that their desire to excel could not be achieved if they are not united and that all women in Limpopo, black and white, rich or poor are vital in the emancipation of women.

The First Lady told women who graced the occasion that the idea of the First Lady Women of Excellence Awards was to appreciate the fact that most of our women continue to move

our province forward through their selfless and hard-work. She further said that during difficult times women continue to move on to build a better life for their families. The Limpopo first lady indicated that she was humbled that so many women came to support the initiative.

According to the First Lady, the awards are also meant to recognise all hard working women of our province beyond the racial, political and class positions as well as to encourage women to strive for excellence in whatever they do.

"Personally I get embarrassed to see some of our own achievers being recognised and honoured on foreign soil without us even having noticed their talents. There is no greater honour for any person, whether in literature, music or sports than to be honoured and to be appreciated at home, by your own people" she said.

Ms Mathabatha also reminded women that amongst them there were great women who despite being domestic workers, rose to the occasion. She announced that the Awards which she was launching would know no colour.

The awards were divided into 14 categories and these categories include Ambassador of the Year Awards, Best Domestic Worker Award, Best Local Fashion Designer Award, and Best Local Artist.



First Lady of Limpopo
Mrs Maggie Mathabatha

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development is about people

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Limpopo hosts Female Entrepreneur Awards

Samson Mabunda

The best female farmers received awards at the Ranch Hotel; Polokwane during the Limpopo Female Entrepreneur Awards (FEA) on 7 August 2014. Waterberg's Christina Rabothe, Tsakani Hlungwani from Mopani and Mohloa le Maite Florist [enterprise] of Capricorn went home R50 000.00 richer each as they were crowned champions in the; Best Female Worker, Best Subsistence Producer and Best Processor categories respectively.

Letta Kale from Capricorn, Olifants Farm Workers Trust's Onicca Kobe and Tatshule Trading & Projects from Waterberg and Vhembe went to the bank smiling with R60 000.00 each as new heroines in Best Smallholder Producer, Commercial and Export Markets categories respectively.

Limpopo Department of Agriculture MEC Joy Matshoge indicated that participation of women in Agri-business, which is currently male dominated industry, was needed. She said FEA was designed toward eliminating the skewed participation in the sector.

She said, "The objectives of the programme include [awarding and rewarding] the efforts and contribution of women, young women and women with disabilities in the sector to food security, job creation, economic growth and poverty alleviation through leveraging these entrepreneurs from being subsistence to commercial farmers."

Matshoge said true liberation cannot be attained without the emancipation of women. She criticised discriminatory past which limited women from acquiring land. Emphasising women empowerment she said "we must therefore examine the past and confront the obstacles that stand in the way of women acquiring land". The MEC acknowledged female farmers' contribution in the fight against hunger, unemployment and poverty.

The hall was filled with fun as all and sundry danced and sung. Had there been additional category of dancing, adjudicators would have found it difficult to declare a winner. It all started with the LDA Head of Department (HOD), Ms



Female farmers received awards at the Ranch Hotel

Jacqueline Maisela who offered the audience free lessons on African dance when she ascended the stage to introduce the MEC. In return, MEC Matshoge gave a lecture on how it was done as she danced and pitched a song whilst challenging the HOD after delivering her speech.

It was a special day for food producing women; their singing and ululating dominated the hall as winners in third, second and first positions were announced. All the top winners credited hard-work and support they received from the LDA officials.

"I am happy to receive the award and would like to thank our Agricultural Technicians from the department for their support. I thank God," said Tsakani Hlungwani from Mopani. Letta Kale and others echoed Hlungwani's sentiment.

Top winners received prize monies and certificates. They will represent Limpopo in the forthcoming national Female Entrepreneur Awards in Mafikeng, North West Province.

North West and Limpopo provinces meet halfway

The Limpopo and North West are joining forces to construct and refurbish roads that link the provinces.

North West Acting Head of Communication, Bonolo Mohlakoana, said the two provinces have committed to jointly construct Mokgalwaneng road in Moses Kotane Local Municipality, and to enlarge the R510 road between Rustenburg and Thabazimbi, which straddles the two provinces.

She announced this after Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha and North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo had a meeting on Tuesday, 26 August 2014 at Sun City.

She said that the Premiers acknowledged the need for the Rustenburg-Thabazimbi [Mokgalwane] road to be expanded, as "its narrow structure and high traffic volume are the main causes of increased accidents registered on that road".

Mohlakoana said the Premiers made a commitment to make funds available for the construction of

Mokgalwaneng road and getting support and options from national government.

"The two Premiers agreed on the development of a project plan, which will lead to the signing of a memorandum of agreement and the rolling out of the project," she said.

The North West Premier said affected communities will be informed about the new developments.

"We owe it to the Mokgalwaneng communities and users of that 11-km road to get it constructed. This area was identified as the most deprived and relevant for piloting our province's Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)," Premier Mahumapelo said.

Mohlakoana said the two Premiers will also allow the North West MEC for Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development, Manketsi Tlhape, and Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure MEC Jerry Ndou of Limpopo, to explore other areas of cooperation such as agriculture, environment, tourism, mining and health services.

Premier Mathabatha said his province is willing to work with the North West, and that forging relations with other provinces is a good strategy.

The meeting was attended by MECs of Public Works and Roads from the two Provinces, Jerry Ndou and Madoda Sambatha; MEC Manketsi Tlhape, Finance, Economy and Enterprise Development MEC Wendy Nelson; MEC Gaoage Molapisi of Community Safety and Transport Management, and Mayors from Moses Kotane and Thabazimbi Local Municipalities.



Premier Mathabatha and Premier Mahumapelo join forces to construct better roads

Limpopo government and Absa partner to fight unemployment

Maanda Mulaudzi

Absa and Limpopo Provincial Government officially announced their partnership at a meeting held at the Fusion Boutique Hotel in Polokwane.

This is corporate social investment by Absa to help Limpopo create jobs for young people and reduce the high rate of unemployment in the province.

The inception of this initiative also seeks to groom young people into becoming entrepreneurs.

Premier Mathabatha also indicated that he had seen the projects that Absa was developing and that they were good initiatives the partnership should continue to talk about. He said that his government was battling

with the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

He also said that his government was soon going to hold several summits within the Mining Industry and education sector in the province and that these type of initiatives would be done so that the government should have a closer relationship with the private sector.

Premier Mathabatha also announced that the government has developed a blue print document that seeks to guide government in the next five years and beyond 2030.



Absa works with government to create jobs

MEC's budget to improve health services

Phaladi Seakgwe

Health MEC Ishmael Kgetjepe recently delivered the department's budget speech at the Legislature in Lebowakgomo. The budget speech touched on key areas that will receive attention during the 2014/15 financial year with a clear objective of improving service delivery in the province.

Kgetjepe told the people of Limpopo that a total of R7.6 billion has been set aside to address challenges experienced in the health care system emphasizing the importance of Primary Health Care as the first line of call in terms of access to public health.



MEC Ishmael Kgetjepe pledges to improve service delivery

Health facilities in the province will also receive a major boost as some of the 2011/12 infrastructure projects originally with public works will be reinstated. A portion of R145 million of the overall infrastructure

budget has also been set aside to purchase and repair critical equipment for hospitals.

The MEC further pronounced that the fight against HIV/Aids as well as TB continues. "As we work towards the elimination of the virus, the target set by 20th International AIDS Conference in Melbourne dictates that we should talk about 90, 90, 90. This means 90% of the people know their status, 90% of those that are HIV positive are on treatment and 90% of those on treatment are virally suppressed," said Kgetjepe.

Further measures to strengthen the fight will include embarking on an aggressive approach to follow up on the most critical sources and groups of infection being the sex workers, prisoners, mine workers, drug pushers and so on. It was also revealed that the department had since targeted to initiate 48, 244 patients by the end of March 2014 and that the target has now been surpassed with well over 54,000 people initiated on ART by end of March 2014. The department has allocated R48 million for TB and R978 million for HIV and AIDS.

Regarding the NHI, the MEC said that national treasury has allocated the province an amount of R7 million in the form of a conditional grant to ensure that work around NHI continues. The pilot site is in the district of Vhembe and roadshows have been conducted there with major stakeholders brought on board.

Malaria prevention and control received an injection of R94

million. The province is doing well as compared to other years as there is a clear indication that the situation has improved. "Our facilities are equipped with all necessary Malaria diagnostic test kits to handle and provide treatment to all who tests positive for malaria," highlighted Kgetjepe.

When the MEC arrived in the department of health, one of the major areas that he detected required urgent attention was the state of the Emergency Medical Services fleet.

Certainly this area will now receive serious attention as he declared that R20 million has been allocated to purchase 50 new ambulances that will be delivered in trenches with the first batch of 27 expected to arrive by end of September this year. The rest of the ambulances will be delivered before end of March 2015.

The Cuban partnership is yielding positive results as the province gears towards the implementation of the NHI. Last year the department sent 100 students to study medicine in Cuba. Kgetjepe announced that for this financial year, an additional 110 students will leave for Cuba to study.

The 2014/15 overall budget for Health vote has increased by an average 6.6%. Equitable share grows by 7.1%, and 3.2% on conditional grants. In monetary terms, the total budget indicates a growth from R13.4 billion last financial year to R14.3 billion in 2014/15.

Events in September

15th

- Official opening ceremony of SA Age Group Games in Polokwane

19th

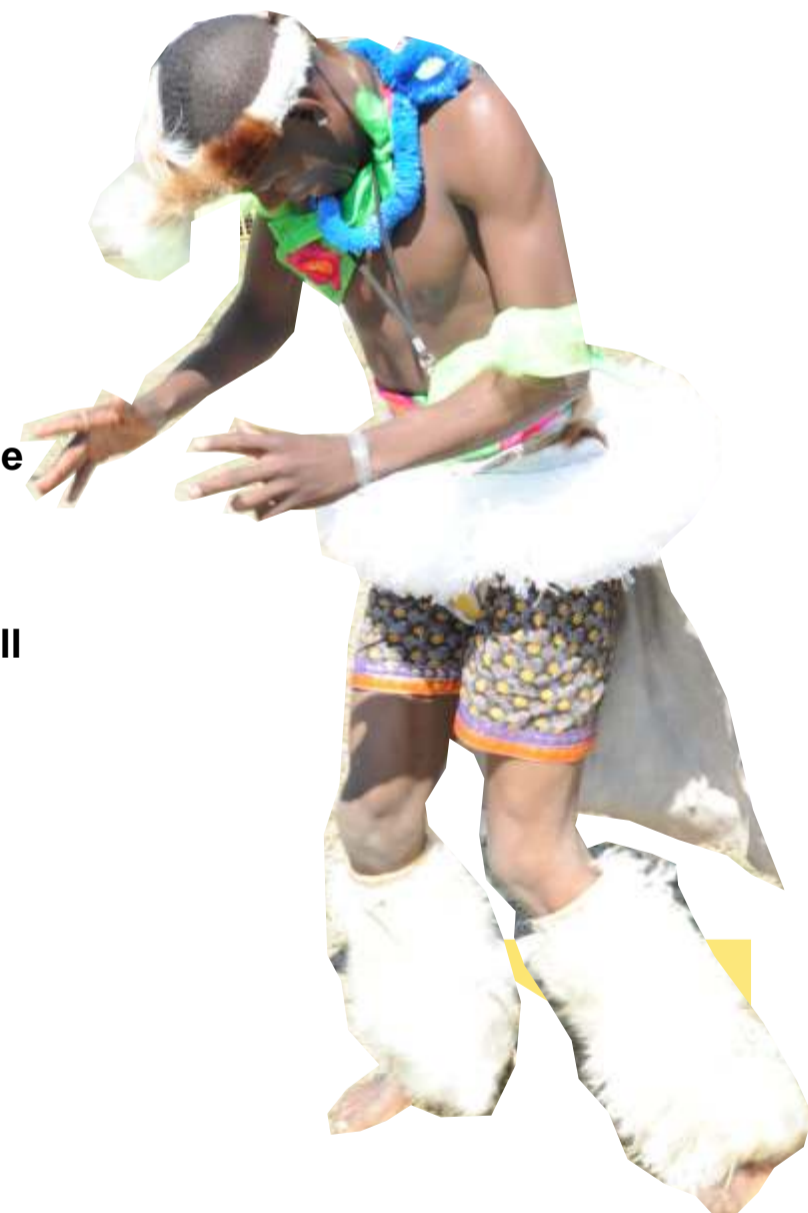
- The official opening of Provincial house of Traditional leaders will take place in Vhembe District

24th

- Heritage Day

26th

- Government celebrates 100 days in office



Heritage Day 2014

Celebrating 20 Years of Democracy:

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Introduction of Baobab News



PREMIER CHUPU MATHABATHA

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this refreshed edition of Baobab News (formerly, Limpopo News).

The re-birth of this Newsletter is consistent with our government's believe that; at the core of democracy lies in the recognition of the right of all citizens to take part in society's decision making process. It is also our constitutional obligation to run an open administration that shares information with the public.

Our commitment is therefore to arm our citizens with necessary information about the services offered by government, challenges and opportunities available to them.

Baobab News is therefore about your past, your today and indeed about your future. The content of this Newsletter is about you, because everything we do in government is aimed at meeting your needs.

Within the trunk of this 'great tree' you can be assured of enticing content such as information relating to basic services, infrastructure development, education and health services, job opportunities, safety and security etcetera.

We challenge you to embrace the Baobab News as your reliable ally in proactive government communication and education for total citizen empowerment.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Publisher's Comment

We understand the value of penning things to our readers in the manner that we will not be ashamed when they understand them. Through this publication, the Provincial Government wants to share information with our stakeholders. But this is not a one way communication machinery, write to us and we will respond.

It is not coincidence that we are re-launching during the Public Service month but this is a determination and commitment to put our people first.

As we remain unforgotten, let's not forget our people. Our Constitution is not just a booklet.

Welcome back.



Publisher: Phuti Seloba



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Youth must take heed of the available opportunities

Mahlatshe Baloyi

Socio-economic factors have driven young people in Limpopo to despair. Many young people in Limpopo province seem to be pessimistic about the chance of furthering their studies and finding employment. Limpopo provincial government urges youth not despair as it avails bursaries, learnerships, internships and Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) support .

These initiatives are aimed at eradicating socio-economic problems that have embattled our province. The Limpopo Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha during a fund raising gala dinner for the Premier 's Trust Fund at Bolivia lodge, stressed the importance of investing in education.

Government bursaries are available for impoverished learners who are academically deserving. He further mentioned the essence of giving young people the opportunity to acquire adequate skills which will make them employable. It is in this context that young people are encouraged to be on their wits, and continually make the most of these opportunities available in various government departments.

At the beginning of this month, Limpopo government and Absa introduced a partnership designed to put weight behind young entrepreneurs with small businesses and reduce the unemployment rate in Limpopo. It goes without saying that socio economic problems are still extant in our country in spite of 20 years of freedom. However, bursaries, learnerships and SMME support are some of the remedial measurements that Limpopo government implemented to put poverty, inequality and unemployment to their demise.

Art is a unifying factor- Premier Mathabatha

Maanda Mulaudzi

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture recently hosted the Limpopo Arts and Culture Indaba.

The event took place from 04 to 05 September 2014 at MJ Gateway Lodge, Polokwane Municipality, Capricorn District. The primary objective of the Indaba was to conduct a diagnostic analysis of the status quo of arts and culture in the Province.

In his opening remarks Premier Chupu Mathabatha encouraged the participants to engage in robust deliberations. The Premier called upon delegates to ensure that the indaba would produce achievable programmes that would also highlight the targets.

Mathabatha said that the arts are a unifying factor as they bring people of different cultures together consequently creating social cohesion. He further praised and appreciated the contribution made by artists during the apartheid era though their creative work.

Premier Mathabatha further emphasized that government should support artists and the entertainment industry as this would nurture and retain home brewed talents. He further said that Limpopo was home to renowned , celebrated artists such as Jonas Gwangwa, Selaelo Selota, Seputla Sibogodi, Pat Shai, Florence Masebe, and many more.

“Government bursaries are available”



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Faces of Limpopo Provincial Government



Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha
Premier



Ms Joyce Mashamba
MEC: Department
of
Social Development



Mr Seaparo Sekoati
MEC: Department
of Economic
Development,
Environment and
Tourism



Mr Kgolane Phala
MEC: Department
of Treasury



Mr Ishmael Kgetjefe
MEC: Department
of Health



Ms Nandi Ndalane
MEC: Department
of Sport
Arts and Culture



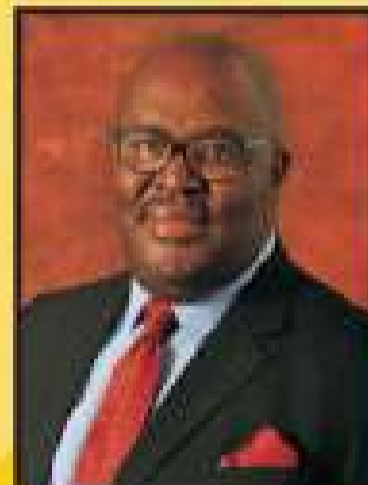
Ms Joyce Matshogo
MEC: Department
of Agriculture and
Rural Development



Ms Makoma Makhurupetje
MEC: Department
of CoGHSTA



Ms Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana
MEC: Department
of Transport, Safety and
Liaison



Mr Jerry Ndou
MEC: Department
of Public Works,
Roads and
Infrastructure



Ms Thombi Nwendamutswu
MEC: Department
of Education

Plans to reduce water backlogs

Maanda Mulaudzi

Strides to develop water infrastructure and move closer to clearing water and sanitation backlogs will get a major boost after the Capricorn District Municipality received intervention from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). This comes after the district municipality met with DBSA about plans and support models to accelerate infrastructure development in Capricorn.

The Bank pledged its support during an engagement with the Municipality and gave CDM different models of support to choose from, both financial and technical support. The engagement took place between the DBSA, the Mayoral Committee, led by Executive Mayor Cllr Gilbert Kganyago.

During the engagement, analysis and assessment was made about the status quo of service delivery in Capricorn. "We must indicate that this kind of support is only given to municipalities that are not metros, and the aim is to develop their water infrastructure and further reduce backlogs in water," said Dawie Mocke of the DBSA.

Some of the available finance support interventions include

loan facility, frontloading and project finance while non-financial support models include institutional capacity support and asset management.

"Planning support process takes about five stages where a municipality approaches DBSA for intervention, do an assessment on infrastructure delivery, agree on areas that require such support, then enter into agreement before funding or support is provided", said Mocke.

The proposed intervention comes at a time when the District Municipality is pressing ahead with programmes to reduce infrastructure delivery backlogs especially in bulk water supply, owing to limited capital funding, over-reliance on boreholes, ageing infrastructure, dysfunctional completed projects and scarcity of natural water sources.

Now the council has to evaluate available models of funding and choose appropriate support that is suitable before soliciting any assistance or partnership.

Executive Mayor Kganyago said they were pleased that the Bank was impressed by their project planning and

implementation capacity".



Executive Mayor
Cllr Gilbert Kganyago

How to Apply For Identity Documents or Smart Cards

DID YOU KNOW!

In terms of the law, all 16 year old South African Citizens must apply for Ids or Smart ID Card at Home Affairs offices.

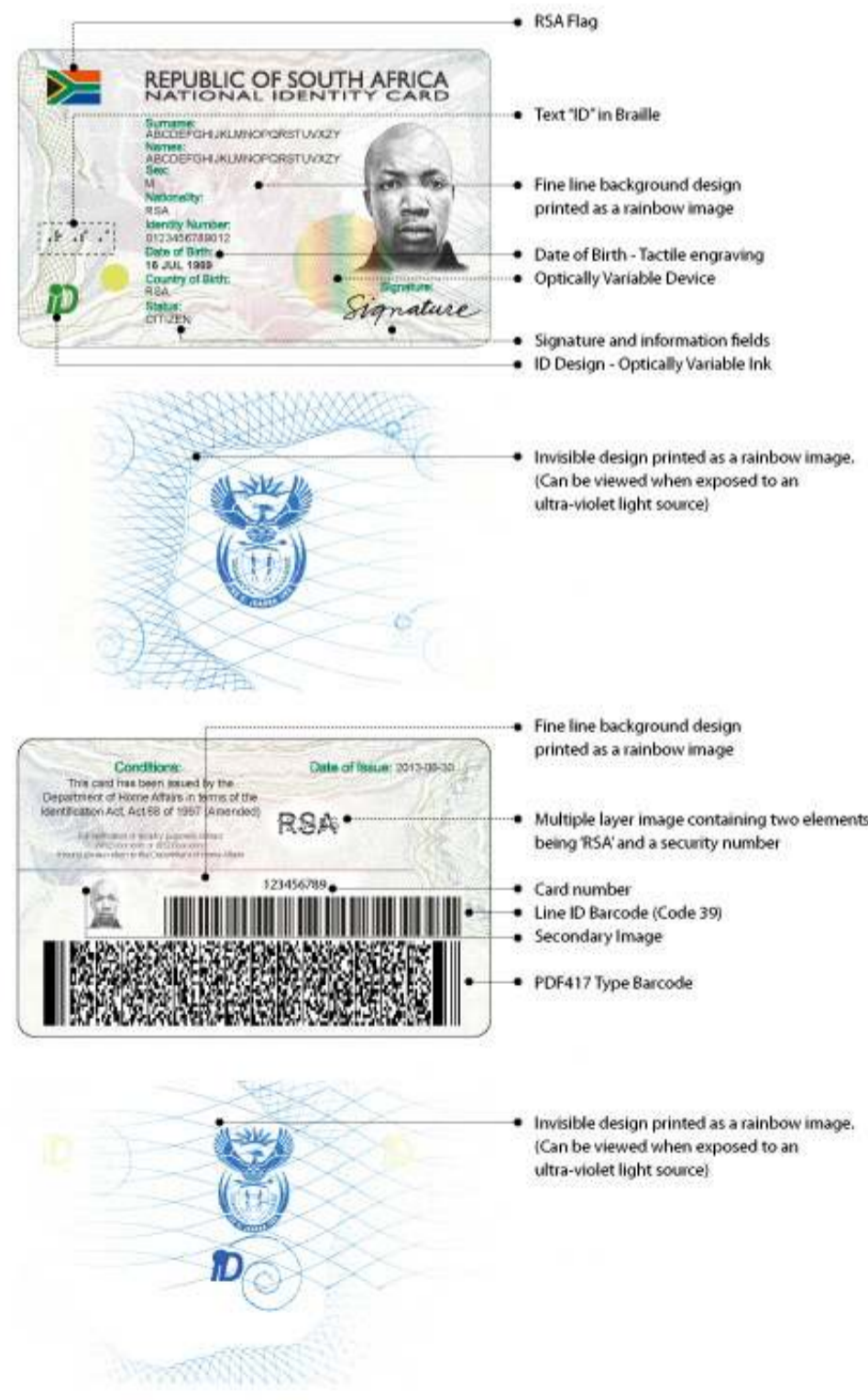
AMONG OTHER THINGS, AN ID WILL ENABLE YOU TO:

- . Write your Grade 12 (Metric) examinations
- . Apply for bursary/ scholarship
- . Access government services
- . Apply for your driver's licence
- . Apply for a job

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION OF ID/SMART ID CARD:

- . Applicants need to be 16 and older
- . Two recent ID-size photographs (Not required if applying for Smart ID Card)
- . Original copy of your birth certificate
- . Certified copy of one of the parent/legal guardian/informant's identity document
- . Death certificate or certified copy if parents are deceased
- . Proof of residence (where it is available) or provide residential address
- . It is free of charge for first time applicants

Know Your New Smart ID Card





BAOBAB Sport NEWS

Province takes part in netball tournament

Maanda Mulaudzi

Limpopo Province participated in the Netball South Africa National Championship Tournament held in Durban on 7 June 2014.

Amongst all districts, Capricorn was the only one with a male team. The men performed well and brought home silver medals.

Furthermore senior teams in the province took a tour to Cape Town to participate in the Spa National Senior Netball Championships which were held from 11 to until 16 August 2014.

The tournament started from the 8 to 14 June 2014. All five districts took the under 19, under 21 and male netball teams to the tournament.



2014 Indigenous Games Festival

The annual Indigenous Games Festival will take place at Tshwane Events Centre in Pretoria from 20-24 September 2014. The following traditional sports will be played:

- Ncuva
- Dibeke
- Intonga
- Kho-kho
- Jukskei
- Diketo
- Morabaraba
- Kgati
- Drie Stokkies



PUBLIC SERVICE MONTH

1- 30 September 2014

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