



BAOBAB NEWS

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MUNICIPALITIES INSTRUCTED TO DEAL HARSHLY WITH ILLEGAL CONNECTION OF WATER SUPPLY

By: Emmaculate Cindi

With an estimate population of 6 146 972 across five (5) district municipalities, the Limpopo provincial government has held their Water and Sanitation Summit at Warmbaths Forever Resort in Bela Bela District Municipality.

The summit comes after all 5 District Municipalities and water sectors has held their own summit to find solutions. The provincial summit is set to discuss shortage of water in the province. When he addressed more than 500 delegates, Premier Stanley Chupu Mathabatha said the summit was a follow up Water Summit that was held in Tzaneen back in 2015.

"This summit stands to address the provision of bulk infrastructure and water resourcing planning, issue of water reticulation, water to support economic development, treatment works and rural sanitation operations and maintenance"

The summit aims to address bulk infrastructure operation and maintenance plan with practical and implemental plan with targets and times frames which will be easy to monitor and evaluate based on targets and timeframes.

The summit is held when the province is currently recovering from drought session which have severely impacted negatively on the 2015 Tzaneen resolutions.

"This shortage of water supply has impacted negatively on the implementation of our Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) targets, bold plans we have enumerated in the LDP are depended on the availability of reliable and sufficient water supply"

The Premier has called on municipalities to deal harshly with illegal conduct of residents who are connecting water supply to the main water pipelines which results in huge water lose. He has called on to the communities to guard against the fraudulent use of the infrastructure.

It has been established that most municipalities are being billed for consumption that has never been used by communities due to leakage and theft.

"I am happy that national representatives are here to listen to our views because I want to tell you that the current licencing system is outdated, water usage has significantly changed over time, We are currently talking Musina Makhado Special Economic Zone (SEZ) which is expected to revitalize industrial up and down stream and will change the consumption and use of water in the province"

Currently Limpopo has received 1 159 water use licence application and total of 1 067 have been finalised with 92 applications in progress to be finalised.

Giving an update on the implementation of the 2015 Water and Sanitation Resolutions, Deputy Director General for Planning in the Office of the Premier Ms Magwaza took audience through resolutions and admitted that the province has not made progress in all resolutions, and that drought played a major role in implementing all taken resolution in a summit held in Tzaneen.

Amongst those that were implemented, is the bulk infrastructure and a master plan which was developed to address the infrastructure in the province.

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ENGINES OF DEVELOPMENT



"THUMA MINA CALL"



SUCCESSFUL YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

In 2015 Limpopo sanitation was at 43% which was way below that of the 71% provision by national average for households. A draft plan has been developed and will be consulted with relevant stakeholders before the end of the 2018/2019 financial year.

To address maintenance and operations, 10% of the operational budget has been set aside which

will focus on hot spots where communities take to the streets to demonstrate their dissatisfaction with inadequate supply of water in their areas.

To engage and review the presented Master Plan, delegates were taken to commissions which dealt with the following issues;

- Provision of bulk infrastructure and Water Resource Planning

- Water to support Economic development
- Waste water treatment works and rural sanitation
- Operation and maintenance

Commissions will report back to the summit by end of the summit and resolutions taken will form part of those taken in 2015 to improve maintenance and bulk infrastructure with the aim of improving water

Editorial:

Message from The Limpopo Provincial Government

We are back with a fresh copy of the Baobab news. This coming out at a time the public services is dealing with threads to the constitutional principles.

The public service commission in the province has organized a refresher programme on the constitutional principles. And we just had a successful Provincial Water Summit on the 16th October 2018 in Bela-Bela.

This Summit has produced a blue print that will help Limpopo Province realize access to portable water. It will go a long way in our programme to restore the pride and dignity of our people. Time to make promises and excuses has lapsed.

But another issue worth mentioning is the “so called” VBS Saga. The clear message should be that those involved should own up to the mess and apologies to the people of this province, and also appreciated the consequences.

We can't have people getting involved in wrong things but pleading ignorance of the hardships they caused to those municipalities and the people they are serving.

Betraying the ordinary people should remain a punishable matter and a strong message should be sent out in order to mitigate the trust deficits. This should be carried out without fear or favour.

COGHSTA ENDORSE PARTNERSHIP IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS TO UPLIFT THE IMPOVERISHED



The emotional son of 98 year old Matome Moto thanking all those that were involved in affording his father a home he could be proud of.

By: Elvis Tshikhudo and Rirhandzu Nkobyane

The Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), The First Lady with Zorha Khan Developers have proven that it is never too late to deliver services to the people, regardless of age when they donated a fully furnished house to 98 year old Matome Moto from Ga-Mathata-Madikana, Molemole Municipality.

The official handover of the house to Mr Moto took place on the 3rd of October where CoGHSTA MEC, Jerry Ndou expressed how elated was to be part of the event. “Our job as the Department is to ensure that

we deliver not just services but proper housing to the public and that is what brought us to Ga-Madikana today,” he said.

Mr Todi Manthata of the Manthata Traditional Council thanked the Department, First Lady Trust and Zohra Khan Developers for the kind gesture given to Mr Moto and his family.

In conclusion, Molemole Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr. Eddie Paya shared the same sentiments as Manthata that he was humbled that the MEC, First Lady Trust and Zohra Khan for their splendid work to offer the Old man a decent house with furniture.

IBoabab News

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COUNCIL MEETING GOES TO DEEP RURAL VILLAGES

By: Wilson Dzebu



Captured shortly after the Musina Municipality Council meeting at Ha-Manenzhe are from left to right: Council Speaker, Cllr Gilbert Netshisaulu, Thovhele Mmbangiseni Manenzhe and Musina Mayor, Cllr Mihloti Muhlope.

Senior traditional leader, Thovhele Vho-Mmbangiseni Manenzhe has urged other traditional leaders to work closely with government to develop their communities. Manenzhe was speaking shortly after the Musina Municipality Council meeting which was held at his area of jurisdiction, Ha-Manenzhe. Manenzhe is one of the senior traditional leaders who has been allocated a seat at the Council of Musina Municipality.

Manenzhe said he was impressed by the fact that the municipality has state of the art facilities in Musina town, but they decided to hold their important meeting in a deep rural village to interact with ordinary citizens.

He continued: "It is important to work with our political leaders to bring services to our people. The municipality is the catalyst for service delivery and we as traditional leaders, only provide land. If there is no cooperation between the municipality and traditional leaders, ordinary people suffer most because they will not receive the much needed services. Indeed, we are very

impressed about this important visit.

We will definitely work hard with the municipality to make sure that we develop our communities as efficient as possible. I also make a call to all stakeholders and community members to put their differences aside and hold hands with the municipality for community development."

Musina Mayor, Cllr Mihloti Muhlope said the visit continues to pave a way to create a platform to engage citizens on issues related to service delivery. "I'm happy because traditional leaders are taking our visits very seriously. Traditional leaders are one of our main stakeholders because a huge land in our municipality belongs to them.

It is important to take them on board so that we can have a common understanding on community development initiatives. The fact that we have allocated them seats in our council is a clear indication that we are ready to work with them." Muhlope said the Council meetings will rotate to all senior traditional leaders who seat in the Council of Musina Municipality.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR PAVES HIS WAY TO SUCCESS

By: Wilson Dzebu



Young entrepreneur, Mpho Michel Phupheli (left) explain to Mayor Mihloti Muhlope how his scrap metal business operates. Also in the picture are Cllr Prince Sakala, Visect Phupheli and Domnic Nkwana (Personal Assistant to Musina Mayor).

Young people should stand up and create their own jobs instead of waiting for the government to give them golden opportunities. This is the positive message from Mpho Michel Phupheli (29) of Musina, whose entrepreneurship spirit is lifting up young people's desires of becoming their own bosses. The young man, who established Walaza De Mkupe Projects three years ago, deals with scrap metals which he later sells to licenced dealers around the country.

Phupheli's hard work, perseverance and zeal to succeed has caught the attention of Musina Mayor, Cllr Mihloti Muhlope who paid him a visit in his workshop last week.

The young entrepreneur said he wants to correct people's perceptions that the scrap metal business is designated to a certain group of people. "When we grew up, we used to see a large group of the white population in this kind of business. Now that South Africa is a free country

and we have equal rights, I want to prove that everyone can succeed in every business venture that we choose. The most important thing is to work hard, set your targets and have achievable goals."

Phupheli, who works with his younger brother Visect who is full time employee of the company says he employs four to five people per month on temporary basis depending on the load of the job. "These people can put some bread on the table because of this business and I'm happy that I'm contributing to their families' livelihood. I plan to employ more than twenty people on full time basis in the next five years."

He pleaded to the Mayor to provide his business with land because he is presently renting someone's yard.

Mayor Mihloti Muhlope said she is pleased that Phupheli is making a difference in the local community. "We will send a team to assess how best we can assist this young man to grow his business.

He is a true example that anything is possible in our democratic country. I hope other young people will learn from him that South Africa is full with opportunities and young people should grasp them with both hands. Indeed, we are very proud of this young man."

LIMPOPO CONVENED PROVINCIAL MEMBERS ASSEMBLY

By: Thipa Selala



Limpopo Provincial Office of SALGA convened a two-day Provincial Members Assembly at the 2Ten Hotel in Sibasa in Thulamela Local Municipality. The Assembly was held in a historic year that marks 100 years since the birth of struggle icons, Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu who dedicated their lives in the struggle for freedom and contributed immensely to the birth of a new South Africa, as we have come to know it since 1994.

In terms of the SALGA constitution, Limpopo as a provincial member shall, at least once a year, hold a meeting of members to be known and described in the notice calling such meeting as the Provincial Members Assembly. The Provincial Members Assembly considered the adoption of SALGA's programme of action, business plan and the budget as approved by the Provincial Executive Committee; reflected on reports from provincial working groups and oversight bodies; and dealt with issues emanating from the provisions of SALGA Constitution applicable to provincial members, among other issues.

The Assembly brought together Executive Mayors/Mayors, Speakers, Chief Whips, Municipal Managers and Chief Financial Officers under one roof to explore new and innovative ways to empower, resource, and capacitate municipalities to live up to the ideals of good governance, financial sustainability and universal access to good quality services. It also, amongst others, addressed issues around effective performance solutions; support programmes to vulnerable groups; impact of Aids and TB on local government; municipal demarcation and effect on governance and financial sustainability; councillor support and welfare; key infrastructure challenges in rural municipalities and solutions; and roads classification and socio-economic development.

Presentations were received from the Director of Manto Management Consulting, Mr Gary Moonsammy about developing effective performance solutions and IEC's Provincial Electoral Officer, Ms Nkaro Mateta on Preparation towards 2019 National and Provincial Elections. There was also a panel discussion on "making municipalities viable for investment" with panellists ranging from Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), Road Agency Limpopo (RAL) to Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF).

The Provincial Executive Committee of SALGA in Limpopo used the opportunity to announce newly elected members of the NEC and PEC. This was done in accordance to Clause 13.5 of the SALGA Constitution, as amended, which stipulates that "any vacancy, which occurs in the office of any of the office bearers and/or additional members between National/Provincial Conferences, shall be filled by the National/Provincial Executive Committee" (the insertion of Provincial is to give effect to clause 21.5.3 which states that the provisions of 13.5 shall apply mutatis mutandis to Provincial Executive Committees). The NEC or PEC therefore has the constitutional prerogative to fill the vacancy and could do so by either appointing from within the current membership of the NEC/PEC or may consider any other councillor which may not necessarily be a member of the NEC/PEC. Should the NEC or PEC appoint a member from the current NEC/PEC, cognisance must also be taken that a need will still arise to fill the vacancy that would be created by such appointment.

In a media statement, the organisation welcomed changes effected to the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC). SALGA ,articularly thanked Cllr Thembi Nkadimeng and Cllr Keamotseng Ramaila for all their work done during their tenure as Provincial Chairperson and 1st Deputy Provincial Chairperson respectively. "We wish them well in their new responsibilities as Deputy President and National Executive Committee (NEC) Member of SALGA as appointed by NEC and PEC respectively", read the statement.

SALGA welcomed the appointment of Vhembe Executive Mayor, Cllr Florence Radzilani as the new Provincial Chairperson and Ba-Phalaborwa Mayor Cllr Pule Shai as 1st Deputy Chairperson of SALGA in Limpopo.

The new SALGA PEC stands as follows:

- o Chairperson, Cllr Florence Radzilani (Vhembe District Municipality)
- o 1st Deputy Chairperson, Cllr Pule Shai (Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality)
- o 2nd Deputy Chairperson, Cllr Mosema Mpe (Capricorn District Municipality)
- o 3rd Deputy Chairperson, Cllr Morris Mataboge (Waterberg District Municipality)

PEC Members:

- o Cllr Julia Mathebe (Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality)
- o Cllr Jack Maeko (Lephalale Local Municipality)
- o Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale (Mopani District Municipality)
- o Cllr Joyce Bila (Collins Chabane Local Municipality)
- o Cllr Cromwell Nhemo (Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality)
- o Cllr Sophie Makhubele (Greater Giyani Local Municipality)

- o Kgoši Malesela Dikgale (House of Traditional Leaders)
- SALGA Provincial Women's Commission
- o Cllr Orginia Mafefe (Sekhukhune District Municipality)
- NEC Deployee:
- o Cllr Thamsanqa Ngubane (Umvoti Local Municipality)
 - o Cllr Maphefo Letsie Mofgale (Mefarong Local Municipality)
- NEC Members:
- o Cllr Keamotseng Ramaila (Sekhukhune District Municipality)
 - o Cllr Thembi Nkadimeng (Polokwane District Municipality)

SALGA was ready to work diligently with all of them to move the sector forward and accelerate service delivery.

CLLR FLORENCE RADZILANI HAS A CLEAR VISION FOR THE ORGANISATION

In her closing remarks, the newly appointed Chairperson of SALGA in Limpopo Cllr Florence Radzilani thanked municipalities for their participation in the Provincial Members Assembly. She said the Assembly was successful, alive and filled with eloquent comments and participation. Cllr Radzilani urged delegates to respect and strengthen the implementation of resolutions adopted. "For as long as we are weak in implementation, we must expect that we will repeatedly discuss the same issues until they are properly implemented," said Cllr Radzilani.

The Chairperson acknowledged delegates and all stakeholders who played a role during the Assembly. "We thank the Premier of Limpopo, Mr Chupu Mathabatha for the inspiration, our traditional leaders for their unfailing guidance to us, MEC for CoGHSTA for the support he pledged", thanked Cllr Radzilani. She also expressed gratitude to SALGA NEC deployee Cllr Thami Ngubane and CEO Mr Xolile George for "always keeping us up to date on the progress we are making on all issues. All the stakeholders who emphasised many issues of partnership and innovations, we thank you all".

Cllr Florence Radzilani made her vision for the organisation, members and communities very clear:

- o to see us all progress;
- o to see us getting closer to our communities;
- o to see us receiving at least unqualified reports without findings;
- o to see us live the spirit of Nelson Mandela and Mme Albertina Sisulu; and
- o to see our women living in peace and prosperity along the men folk.

She, however, feels that vision is nothing if "we don't preach good governance, if we fail to support the IEC to stage successful elections, if we don't stop the fight between Councillors and Senior Managers, between Managers, Councillor and factions."

"I will not rest until together as a collective we resolve the issue of the MCPF, councillor remuneration is fair and just, municipalities in Limpopo are able to attract the best skills and resources to serve the beloved communities of province," she emphasised.

"I thank the previous chairperson who is now the SALGA deputy president, for laying the foundation on which we could all move forward with high speed in matters of service delivery and in enhancing the representative role of SALGA," concluded Cllr Florence Radzilani.

Continued next page

Municipalities should remain our strategic engines of development

Limpopo Premier, Chupu Mathabatha started by expressing his appreciations and that of the Limpopo government for the generous invitation to participate in the SALGA Provincial Members Assembly. Before he went further, he should took the opportunity to congratulate newly elected National Deputy President of SALGA Cllr Thembi Nkadimeng.

“We are convinced that representing us at that level will accrue some benefits for us in the Province. We wish you all of the best in your new responsibilities,” said Premier Mathabatha.

On Women's Month, Mathabatha said it was the duty of government to ensure that “we break the historic barriers which have denied women opportunities to provide for themselves and their families.

As leaders, we must also empower women to be able to stand up and reject oppression in all its manifestations. One of the better defences we can provide for women is to ensure their socio-economic liberation. In this regard, I must really commend the local government sphere for having done relatively well when it comes to the issue of gender parity.” He urged SALGA, as an association of municipalities, to carry its mandate to ensure that municipalities take basic services to the people. “We must always ensure that the local government space is democratised, allowing the voices of our people to guide development in their own communities. It is also your responsibility as SALGA to ensure that our municipalities are well-oiled machines for effective and efficient delivery of services to our communities,” emphasised Mathabatha.

He noted some of the challenges that the Provincial Members Assembly should assist municipalities in overcoming:

- o The challenge of poor accountability and relationship with communities;
- o Problems with the political administrative interface;
- o Poor compliance with the legislative and regulatory frameworks;
- o Corruption and fraud;
- o Lack of proper planning and poor project management;
- o Lack of forward and integrated planning on current and capital projects;
- o At times lack of suitably qualified and skilled personnel; and, above all
- o None and under-expenditure of the Municipal



Premier of Limpopo Stanley Chupu Mathabatha during SALGA

Infrastructure Grant.
“All these challenges deserves our immediate attention and action, however, we need much tenacity when it comes to the issue of inability to spend on conditional infrastructure grants.” He said MIG issue has been a problem for most of “our municipalities”. “This meeting would have betrayed its purpose if it can't sufficiently deal with this matter. Whatever the problems are, there should be a solution, and that solution should be found in this meeting. Earlier this year, we met with you in a meeting convened by the Auditor General and amongst other issues, the MIG spending was discussed.”

“Municipalities are, and should remain our strategic engines of development. You all know about our SEZ initiative. You would also know that such a massive development project is taking place in the space of local government. This SEZ initiative is expected to revitalize Limpopo's industrial economy by utilising our local mineral resources and integrating the industrial chains of both the upstream and downstream. Several plants will be constructed under this SEZ projects.”



LDARD CELEBRATES CASUAL DAY AT TANANI MATIKO COOPERATIVE:

By: Matsobane Manaka

Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD) celebrated the Casual Day at Tanani Matiko Disabled and Multi-Purpose Cooperative at Shawela village, Giyani Municipality, Mopani District on the 7 September 2018.

The annual event acknowledges Persons with Disability and also celebrates the nation that embraces everyone. “It is important for all of us to understand the significance of Casual Day which among others is to raise disability awareness, remove stigma and discrimination attached to the disability which stems from the way society views disability,” said LDARD Eastern Cluster Chief Director, Mr Lesetja Kola.

The Bill of Rights in South African Constitution states it clearly that all people have equitable opportunities and equal access to education and employment. The United Nation Convention (UNC) also acknowledges the dignity and freedom of Persons with Disability; fairness between women and men with disability.

The UNC simply highlights the leveling of the playing field to create and promote equal opportunities for all. In the presentation, South African National Association for the Blind (SANAB) called employers to remove obstacles and create enabling environment to Persons with Disabilities to ensure that equal opportunities are realised. However, Ms Kate Rakomako from SANAB who delivered presentation through the braille, advised employers to have reasonable accommodation such as wheel chair ramps, rails, talking lifts, braille embossers, user-friendly devices, sign language workshop and computers with speech.

In terms of employment equity, LDARD prides itself for exceeding the set target of 2 per cent following the Cabinet’s resolution that was adopted in 2009. Furthermore, the Department hosts the annual Persons with Disability in Agriculture and Rural Development (PDARD) Awards. These Awards recognise PDARD’s contribution to food security, employment and poverty alleviation.

Tanani Matiko Disabled and Multi-Purpose Cooperative is one of Agricultural cooperatives that LDARD supports to increase production. LDARD MEC Basikopo Makamu also handed over seedlings and farming implements to the cooperative. The cooperative has created permanent employment to 14 women and five men. Project leader, Ms Brenda Mathebula who has impaired vision, thanked LDARD for its continued assistance.

Casual Day is an initiative by National Council of/for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) meant for fundraising by selling merchandise ranging from T-shirts to caps and donation of accessories such as wheelchairs among others, to make a difference to the lives of Persons with Disabilities. This year was celebrated under the theme, “Be an everyday hero with Persons with Disabilities.”

UPDATE ON LIMPOPO COUNCIL:

By: Samson Mabunda

Limpopo Provincial Government Executive Council (EXCO) has met on the 26 September 2018 to discuss issues having impact on the improvement of service delivery in the Province of which the Provincial Communication and Liaison Services updated the media at the Office of the Premier a day later.

Provincial Government Spokesperson Mr Phuti Seloba briefed the media mainly on the Thohoyandou Taxi Rank status, hosting of 2018 Provincial Golden Games, National and School Indigenous Games and Limpopo Annual Sports Awards, stabilisation of Modimolle-Mookgophong and Collins Chabane Local Municipalities, review of the EXCO Izimbizo Programme, illicit, expired goods and illegal businesses and Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

He said an appointed Structural Engineer conducted a detailed structural assessment on Thohoyandou Taxi Rank structure and found several structural defects. The taxi facility could therefore not be operational. Government was working on the plans to correct the situation. Construction of this structure started in June 2011 and [literally] reached completion in June 2013.

Regarding sale of expired goods and illegal businesses which sparked looting, violence and damage to property of foreign businesses in Gauteng, Limpopo’s Justice, Crime Prevention and Security cluster has developed a preventative approach to combat similar occurrences in the Province, it was reported.

Some of the factors which pose a similar risk in the Province and required pro-active approach were;

- Asylum seekers managing, renting and or operating business contrary to

legislation.

- Foreign businesses operating in rented structures and garages that do not seem to comply with health and safety regulations as well as building regulations.
- Lack of inspectorate capacity at municipalities, department of health and Consumer Protection
- Lack of coordination of health and safety inspectorate oversight in the Province.

“The Provincial joints committee will develop a multi-disciplinary operational plan with all stakeholder departments to deal with illicit goods, expired foodstuff and illegal businesses in the Province,” Seloba indicated.

Concerning Musina-Makhado SEZs, he said, “A service provider has been appointed to finalise the environmental impact assessment. Limpopo Province with the Department of Trade and Industry undertook an outward mission to China during 23-27 May 2018...

“During this visit, Memorandums of Agreement were signed with 10 companies which committed to investing more than \$US 10 billion in the Musina-Makhado SEZ and four of these agreements were signed on 24 July 2018 at the Union Building by Presidents of South Africa and China. Two of the companies, Power China and TISCO, have already undertaken a visit to the Province as part of their due diligence exercise.”

On the allegations of nepotism levelled against Collins Chabane Local Municipality, Seloba said Government would investigate and wrongdoers would be punished.

He said people should be appointed based on merits, qualifications and experience. Such media briefings are held monthly a day following EXCO’s meeting.

Limpopo nominated for the National Lilizela Awards

By: Elvis Tshikhudo

The Provincial Department of Economic Development and Tourism led by the honorable MEC Seaparo Sekoati recently held provincial Lilizela Awards at Meropa Sun Casino and Entertainment World on September 2018.

The “Lilizela” a Zulu word which means celebrating and praising by ululating when someone has done well awards is aimed at rewarding and celebrating excellence across the tourism sector which is seen as an opportunity to heighten professionalism, creativity and innovation in the industry.

The awards are held in the month of September as part of the Tourism Month Programme.

Tourism products and individuals from Limpopo Province will join winners from other provinces at the National Lilizela Awards for the National honours on the 17th November 2018 at the Sandton International Convention Centre.

Speaking during the Awards, MEC Seaparo Sekoati said excellence in customer service delivery from every individual and entity is integral to the continued growth of the entire tourism sector.

“One of the most important components of the visitor experience is the quality of the interface between the visitor and the tourism worker, and their experience with tourism service providers. It should be the obsession of all of us in tourism sector to provide an award winning service to our customers, who will in turn spread positive messages about our special services, which is award on its own”. Said Sekoati

Customer service centers strongly on responsible tourism, which can be defined as a management

strategy that embraces planning, product development, operations and marketing.

Responsible Tourism seeks to bind the power of travel to bring about positive economic, social, cultural, and environmental impact. Responsible Tourism is regarded as a central pillar for South African's.

MEC Sekoati added that the use of ungraded facilities by any wing of Government in the Province, will seek to undermine efforts of improving customer service in the sector.

“We will still continue to make a clarion to all product owners who have not graded their facilities to consider doing that, as that is the right thing to do”.

Meanwhile the CEO Ms Nomasonto Ndlovu said Lilizela Awards are South Africa's Premier Travel and Tourism Awards recognizing and rewarding those who work passionately and with pride to deliver a world-class product and service and whose delivery grows South African's global destination competitiveness.

Ndlovu said this is an annual event since its inception six years ago. The purpose of the awards is to recognize and celebrate tourism excellence, to encourage key players to strive for excellence in order to grow global competitiveness in tourism, to reward the individuals who deliver excellence in tourism, to give the industry players motivation and reason to rejoice, to give the public a voice that counts through the feedback/reviews they provide and to create an awareness about the value and importance of tourism towards growing South Africa's economy.

She added by saying that Lilizela Tourism Awards can be used as a platform to provide operators and product owners with exposure to growth and develop their business. It gives tourists comfort in knowing the best in the industry have been selected based on consumer feedback and adjudication process. South African Tourism on behalf of Minister of Tourism and the National Department of Tourism deliver the awards.

MINISTER AND MAYOR DISCUSS MUNICIPAL GROWTH

By: Wilson Dzebu

The fact that Musina Local Municipality is a provincial growth point, a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and its strategic location as a border municipality count on its advantages of becoming a city in the near future. Government will give full support to this municipality because its growth benefits everyone in South Africa.” These were the words of Dr Zweli Mkhize, the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA). Mkhize was addressing a delegation from Musina Local Municipality in parliament, Cape Town. The meeting was convened to discuss amongst others, Musina Local Municipality's overview, future growth and development.

Mkhize said it was impressive to see the leadership of Musina Municipality seeking for assistance in the municipality's growth and development. “The government, in particular my department, intervenes in cases where leadership from different municipalities are fighting over political squabbles, positions and other things that are not related to service delivery. I'm very happy that I'm here today to assist the municipality to grow instead of intervening in petty activities that do not benefit ordinary community members. I hope other municipalities will learn from Musina Municipality that the focus should be on future growth and community development instead of focussing on political battles. I'm really impressed with the good and focused leadership of Musina Local Municipality.”

Mkhize said he will work with his team to give the necessary support to Musina Local Municipality. “Assistance does not only come in the form of finance. Where we cannot source finance, we will make sure that we connect you with the relevant stakeholders.”

When addressing the ministerial team, Mayor Mhloti Muhlope touched on the strategic advantages of the municipality, challenges and proposed interventions, proposed projects and costs, urgent needs of the municipality and recommendations on how the municipality can be assisted.

She said the municipality has the potential to grow based on its stable political environment. “The municipality is situated in the busiest border post in the sub-Saharan area and a second busiest port of entry in Africa after OR Tambo. Venetia Mine, which is found in Musina, is the largest producer of diamond in South Africa.

There is also a suitable landing strip in Musina which can be turned into an international airport. The world heritage site of Mapungubwe is found in Musina. These are just a few things that consolidate our potential for growth.”

Muhlope thanked the minister and his team for making time to meet the delegation from Musina and appreciated their gesture in assisting the municipality to grow.

COGHSTA BESTOWS BEST HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ROLE PLAYERS MOSIMA MASHAO

Each year, the Limpopo Department of



Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) strives to ensure that all the role players in the human settlements value chain in the province are honoured through the Govan Mbeki Awards.

The elegant black-tie gala held at The Ranch Protea



Hotel on the 25th of September 2018 had developers, contractors, building suppliers, community based organisations and professional associations gathered as human settlements role players were bestowed during the Govan Mbeki awards. Delivering his keynote address, CoGHSTA MEC Jerry Ndou said that the Govan Mbeki Awards ceremony by the Department is not about honouring the real construction legends of the province, but also showing the youth and women of today on what they can execute and accomplish if they are dedicated and passionate to the course. He further added that the awards provide a platform for sharing information, examining lessons learnt and strengthening existing partnerships between government and construction contractors.

“For those who will be receiving awards tonight, you



have and continue to make us proud. We salute and urge you to represent Limpopo Province during the National Govan Mbeki Awards on the 29th of November 2018. Congratulations and keep up the good work,” he concluded.

The runner-ups and winners of the night are as follows:

MERIT AWARDS

- Best municipality in supporting Human Settlements Development
- Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality
- Lephalale Local Municipality
- Best Media House
- SABC
- Capricorn FM
- Housing Institutions
- National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC)
- Housing Development Agency (HDA)
- South African Women In Construction (SAWIC)
- Anglo Platinum
- Risima Housing Finance

BEST EMERGING YOUTH CONTRACTOR IN SUBSIDY MARKET

- Mathara Investments (Runner-up)
- Molanco Trading Enterprise (Winner)

BEST EMERGING WOMAN CONTRACTOR IN THE SUBSIDY MARKET

- Mikateko Trading Enterprise (Runner-up)
- Mathara Investments (Winner)

BEST ESTABLISHED YOUTH CONTRACTOR IN THE SUBSIDY MARKET

- Ramkol Construction and Projects (Winner)

BEST RURAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

- Ramkol Construction and Projects (Runner-up)
- Mikateko Trading Enterprise (Winner)

MUSINA TRADITIONAL LEADERS ASSEMBLY A HUGE SUCCESS

By: Wilson Dzebu

“A government that works hand in hand with traditional leaders produces excellent results in service delivery. Traditional leaders provide land and the government's responsibility is to bring infrastructural development.” Said Headman Thivhilaeli Gilbert Mukununde of Ha-Mukununde village.

Headman Mukununde is one of the traditional leaders who attended the Musina Mayoral Traditional Leaders assembly that was held at Muswodi.

Mukununde said he and his colleagues are impressed by the good working relationship displayed by Musina Municipality towards the traditional leaders. “Apart from converging here as traditional leaders, we have seen the Mayor of Musina coming to our kraals to discuss service delivery issues. The fact that we also have senior traditional leaders who seat in the municipal Council demonstrates that the municipality values traditional leadership very seriously. We are very blessed to have political leaders who work closely with us to develop our communities.”

Mukununde's sentiments were echoed by Headman Litshani Mabila of Matatani village. “We are very pleased to be part of this important gathering where the Mayor is giving us feedback on issues relating to service delivery. Based on the various previous interactions, we now understand how the municipality operates. We understand that there are challenges but we are happy that we are informed on how those service delivery challenges are being addressed.”

When addressing the traditional leaders, Mayor Mhloti Muhlope said the municipality is happy to get full support from the traditional leaders. “We have inherited 58 villages from the defunct Mutale and those villages are under traditional leaders. We are doing our best to make sure that those villages are serviced accordingly despite the challenges we are encountering as a municipality.”

Muhlope thanked the traditional leaders for their availability and full participation in the discussions. “We know that traditional leaders are very busy but the fact that you have decided to put everything aside to come and attend this important meeting is a step forward to service delivery.”

"THE CHURCH HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN ENHANCING SERVICE DELIVERY" – MAYOR MUHLOPE

By: Wilson Dzebu



Captured during the meeting are seated from left to right: Pastors Takalani Tshikhudo, Mabore Ravhuhali, David Murimba and Ezekiel Mbedzi. Seated are Pastor Joseph Luvhengo, Mayor Mhloti Muhlope and Pastor Jeremiah Negogogo.

"The church plays a meaningful role in enhancing service delivery. It has also been in the forefront for the fight of freedom which we are enjoying today." These were the words of Musina Mayor, Cllr Mhloti Muhlope when addressing local pastors at Musina Municipality offices.

Muhlope said she was happy that various churches in the municipality avail themselves for municipal public participation interactions. "We see representatives of the local council of churches, individual pastors and church representatives forming part and raising service delivery issues in our

meetings. This is a clear testimony that the church is one of the most important stakeholders that the municipality cannot live without. As political leaders, we are soldering on in our role to lead people with distinction because of their prayers."

She also thanked local churches for assisting the municipality with needs like accommodation, chairs and ablution facilities during public participation meetings. "Some of these churches provide us with these services for free of charge because we have a very good working relationship. The church, considering its divine functions, is a platform for rebirth and making government to succeed. We know a lot of pastors who were in the forefront of the struggle for the freedom of our country. We should always commend these icons for fighting the freedom war with the bibles in their hands."

However, she cautioned that the freedom should be enjoyed with responsibility because there are people who lost their lives for us to live freely.

Pastor Mabore Ravhuhali is one of the pastors who attended the meeting. She thanked the municipality for giving the church an opportunity to contribute in service delivery.

"The municipality operates with the assistance of various stakeholders and the church is one of them. Nothing will ever succeed without a prayer and that is why we keep on praying for our municipality to service communities with diligence. The leadership of the municipality is always in our prayers because we want God to give them wisdom to lead our community effectively."

MDM INTERVENES ON CHALLENGES OF LACK OF WATER AT MUYEXE

The residents of Muyexe in the Greater Giyani Municipality are breathing a sigh of relief after they started receiving water from communal taps and some in their yards. This after the intervention by the Mopani District Municipality. The district just reverted to the old means of supplying water in Muyexe, by resuscitating three reservoirs that were no longer receiving water from four of the nine boreholes that were previously drilled in Muyexe about eight years ago.

Consistent water shortage has led to the collapse of some agricultural projects that were started by cooperatives just after former President Jacob Zuma declared Muyexe a pilot project under the comprehensive rural development programme. Since then a number of RDP houses, a satellite police station, a sporting facility and a Thusong Centre were built among others. Lack of water remained an area of concern for both the district municipality and the residents. Joint efforts by the Department of Water and Sanitation and Lepelle Northern Water at times covered some parts of Muyexe with water provision, while some residents could not get water from their yards and communal taps. Those residents who have the means have drilled boreholes in their yards and, in turn, sell water to those who solely rely on government for water. In a recent move which has been led by the district's Director for Engineering Services Paradise Shilowa, a pipeline is now abstracting water from Nsami Dam to three reservoirs in Muyexe. "We have decided to intervene in Muyexe after communities in Muyexe spent years without running water, as the water authority we have a responsibility to ensure that our communities across the district get water. In that light we started engaging our partner, Lepelle Northern Water asking them to allow us to come in and also play our part and help to supply water to the community, as you would know that Muyexe is a national project." said Shilowa.

A number of thirsty residents of Muyexe are now seen fetching water from communal taps and some from tanks that have been put in their yards. Forty-six-year-old Khensani Mabedle is one of many residents who say they were surprised to start receiving water, way after reticulation and drilling of boreholes were done in the area. "We no longer pushing wheel barrows for long distances to get water from a borehole that is far from where we residing. We are delighted that we now getting water from communal taps that have been idling for a long time. We are pleading with authorities not to cut water supply to this area again they must continue supplying us with water, water is life we can't survive without." Said the delighted Mabedle.

The Mopani District Municipality has also started conducting tests on five other boreholes in a bid to get them to argument water supply in Muyexe. It is anticipated that the full operational of nine boreholes will go a long way in finding a long lasting solution to water challenges in Muyexe. Residents who are now receiving water in their yards are urged to use water sparingly at all times. Meanwhile a contractor who has been appointed to lay a water pipe line from Nsami Dam to Muyexe is currently doing tests and soon the capacity of water supply in Muyexe will be boosted.

1. Census of Commercial Agriculture

Statistics South Africa in partnership with the National Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is conducting a Census of Commercial Agriculture with the aim of generating fresh data on the number and nature of farming enterprises in the country. The scope of the project includes the following:

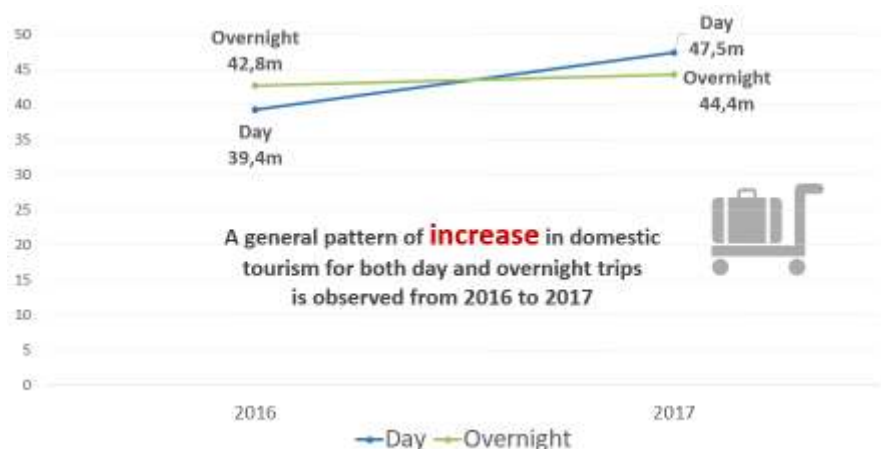
- Crop production
- Livestock farming
- Fisheries
- Forestry
- Game farming

A total of 400 contract Field Workers were recently appointed to collect data nationally. It is estimated that about 60 000 farming enterprises will be visited. Data collection commenced on **15 October 2018**. **Stats SA is appealing to all stakeholders in particular the farming communities and the farmers' unions to support this project.**

2. Domestic Tourism Survey 2017

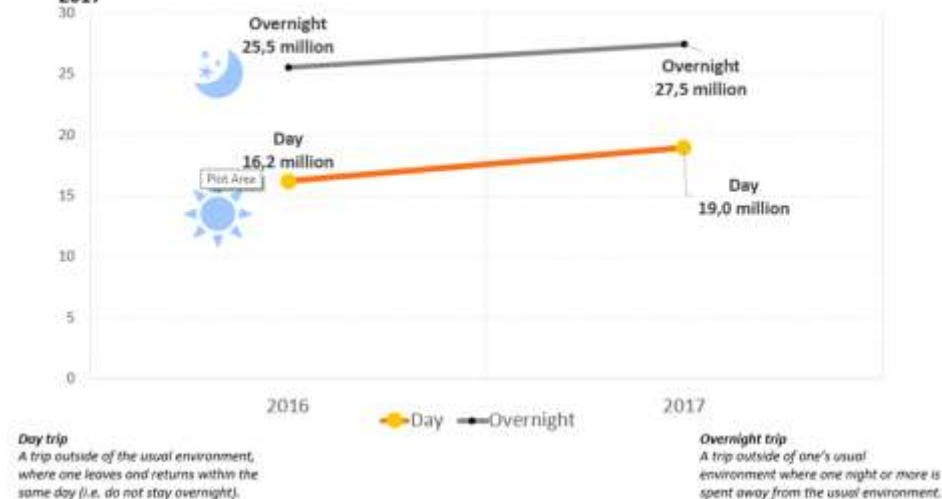
The Domestic Tourism Survey (DTS) was introduced in 2008 primarily to meet the needs of National Accounts for the compilation of the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA). The South African Tourism (SAT) has been conducting a similar survey, albeit with a greater emphasis on tourism marketing information, since 2001. The key findings of this survey cover the domestic activities for the period from January to December 2017. In some instances, comparisons have been made between the DTS 2016 to 2017 because these surveys have the same reference period, which is January to December.

Total number of trips (million), 2016 – 2017 (RSA)



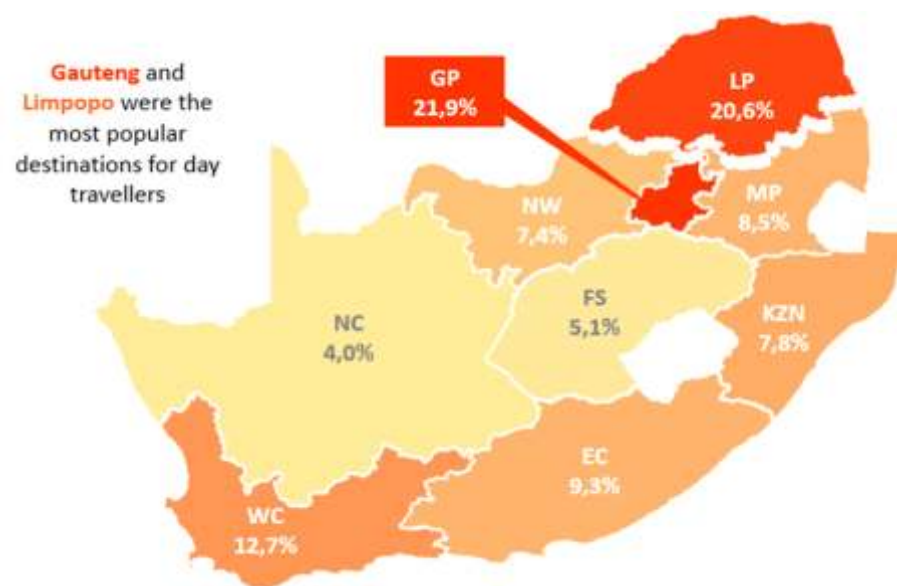
Generally, there has been an increase in the total number of day and overnight trips between 2016 and 2017. The number of day trips increased from 39,4 million in 2016 to 47,5 million

Most recent trips has seen an increase in both day and overnight trips between 2016 and 2017

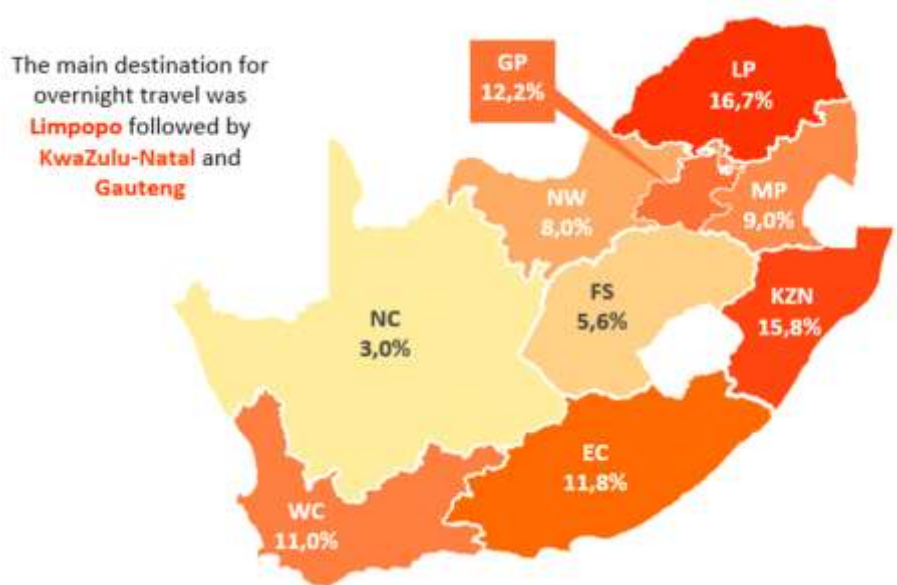


The number of most recent person day trips increased from 16,2 million in 2016 to 19,0 million in 2017. The number of most recent person overnight trips also increased from 25,5 million in 2016 to 27,5 million in 2017.

Percentage of most recent day trips by province of destination, 2017

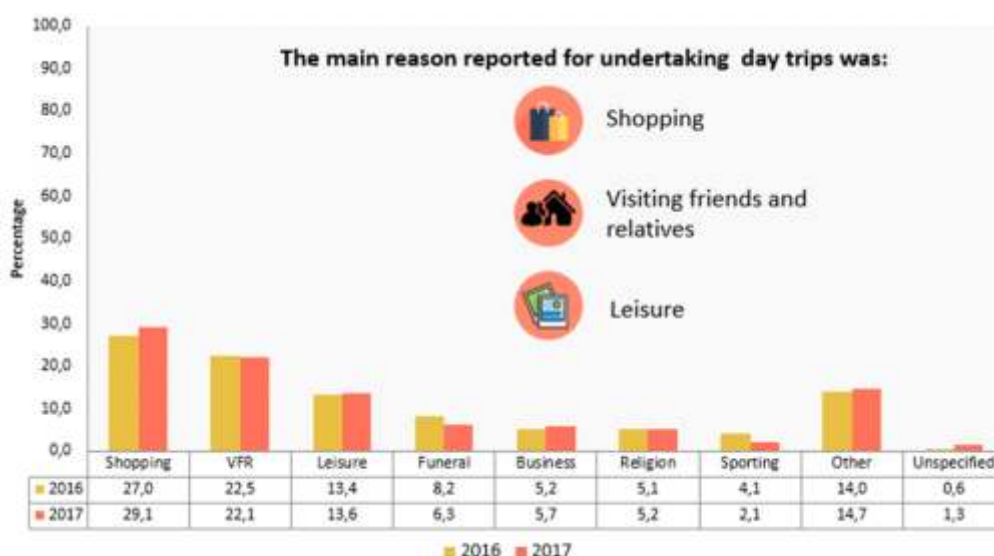


Percentage of most recent overnight trip by province of destination, 2017



Limpopo was the most visited destination for overnight trips 5,0 million in 2017 which constituted 16.7% followed by Kwa-Zulu Natal with 15.8% then Gauteng became the third with 12.2%.

Main purpose of most recent day trips, 2016 - 2017



The results indicate that in 2017, provinces which were the main destinations of most recent day trips were Gauteng (21,9%), Limpopo (20,6%) and Western Cape (12,7%). In 2017, Northern Cape was the least visited province with 4,0% of day trip travellers.

Main purpose of most recent overnight trips, 2016 – 2017



The main purpose of most recent overnight trips in 2016 and 2017 was visiting friends and relatives, leisure and funeral.

1. Our Fieldworkers

All Statistics South Africa Field Workers carry an identity nametag and travel on branded vehicles.

Statistics South Africa appreciate the support from all stakeholders at all levels for supporting its work.

The organisation continues to appeal to all stakeholders in the province to support data collection activities by opening their doors and providing accurate information when asked to do so.

Mr Lindani Ntshulane and Mr Daniel Thema, Survey Officers responsible for the General Household Survey (GHS), Domestic Tourism Survey (DTS) and the Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS).

1. Our Publication Schedule

Statistics South Africa publishes about 300 statistical products in a year, which includes series reports, and the schedule from 11 October to 31 October 2018 is as follows:

P2041 - Mining: Production and sales, August 2018	11 October 2018 (Thursday)	11:30
P3041.2 - Manufacturing: Production and sales, August 2018	11 October 2018 (Thursday)	13:00
P6242.1 - Retail trade sales, August 2018	17 October 2018 (Wednesday)	13:00
P0041 - Statistics of civil cases for debt, August 2018	18 October 2018 (Thursday)	09:00
P6141.2 - Wholesale trade sales, August 2018	18 October 2018 (Thursday)	10:00
P6343.2 - Motor trade sales, August 2018	18 October 2018 (Thursday)	11:30
P5041.1 - Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions, August 2018	18 October 2018 (Thursday)	13:00
P0351 - Tourism and Migration, August 2018	22 October 2018 (Monday)	09:00
P6410 - Tourist accommodation, August 2018	22 October 2018 (Monday)	10:00
P7162 - Land transport survey, August 2018	22 October 2018 (Monday)	11:30
P6420 - Food and beverages, August 2018	22 October 2018 (Monday)	13:00
P0043 - Statistics of Liquidations and insolvencies, September 2018	22 October 2018 (Monday)	14:30
P0141 - Consumer Price Index (CPI), September 2018	24 October 2018 (Wednesday)	10:00
P0142.7 - Export and import unit value indices, August 2018	25 October 2018 (Thursday)	11:30

P0142.1 - Producer Price Index (PPI), September 2018	25 October 2018 (Thursday)	11:30
P0151.1 - Construction Materials Price Indices , September 2018	25 October 2018 (Thursday)	12:00
P0211 - Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), 3rd Quarter 2018	30 October 2018 (Tuesday)	11:30
P9103.1 - Financial statistics of higher education institutions, 2017	31 October 2018 (Wednesday)	11:00

MEC HEEDS “THUMA MINA” CALL:

By: Muifha Tshifhiwa & Mashegoane Tlou

MEC for Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Basikopo Makamu and Vhembe District Mayor, Ms Florence Radzilani jointly visited farmers under Makhado Municipality on Saturday the 8 September 2018 on the Presidential “Thuma Mina” call.

During their visit, they handed over fertilisers to farmers whereby the two leaders interacted with them listening to their achievements and challenges. The MEC commended Mr Rerani Nyadzani, a young farmer who has employed seven permanent employees and mentoring 12 students from Madzivhandila College of Agriculture. Makamu saw this as Rerani’s commitment to fight unemployment and improve the lives of South African youth.



MEC Basikopo Makamu handing over fertilisers to one of the beneficiaries during his “Thuma Mina” call visit in Vhembe District, Makhado Municipality

Rerani is a smallholder farmer who operates in an 18 hectare land situated at Mphaila village. He produces cash crops such as butternut, different types of chillies, Macadamia, peppers (Green, Red and Yellow) and baby marrows among others.

His produce is sold locally and at National markets. Through the Department's Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme, Rerani received about 800 bags of fertilisers for his Agri-business.

“South Africa needs people like Rerani, youth who are zealous and geared for progress, life changers who would stop at nothing until the lives of those around them and beyond are changed.

“These are the youths whom as the Department, we do not hesitate to extend a supporting hand through our various farmer support programmes,” said the MEC.

About 13 more farmers from Makhado Municipality also received fertilisers from the LDARD MEC Basikopo Makamu on that day. Approximately 414 X 50kg bags of 234 fertilisers, 322 X 25kg bags of KN03 fertilisers and 86 X 50kg bags of Ammonium Sulphate were handed over to the farmers.

Visibly moved by the LDARD intervention, Mr Ntsaka Matome, a farmer from Hlanganani Service Centre, appreciated Makamu's support and requested him to further assist farmers with infrastructural development and land acquisition.

In his response, MEC touched the ongoing land debate. He assured local traditional leaders that expropriation of land without compensation will not affect the land in their jurisdiction. He pleaded with

BAITSWE SECONDARY SCHOOL WELCOMES DONATION

By: Conscious Chiloane



Cllr Jack Moloko Maeko donate sanitary towels to female learners and school shoes to all the learners.

On 07 September 2018, the Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr Jack Moloko Maeko, visited Baitswa Secondary school in Motlhasedi (Ga-Seleka). The purpose of the visit was to have a discussion on issues that are faced by learners, educators and school governing bodies and also to donate sanitary towels to female learners and school shoes to all the learners.

Some of the issue raised by learners was lack of adequate support in their studies and that they would appreciate to have more extra classes in order for grade 12 learners to prepare for final examinations.

The Mayor urged educators to respect learners, maintain a culture of learning and instill discipline. He further advised the learners to focus on their studies in order to be able to have access to opportunities provided by the government and private sectors.

Speaking at the event, University of Limpopo COSAS Secretary, Madile Abishel, advised the learners to focus on their studies and to work hard towards achieving their goal which is to get educated. "As learners you must make sure that you are at the schools premises on time. You are the future leaders of this country so it is very important that you

come to school clean and presentable" he said.

Madile further said the donation of school shoes and sanitary towels is a gesture which clearly shows commitment by the Municipality under the leadership of Mayor Maeko towards prioritizing education. "It is your responsibility as learners to ensure that you work hard and further your education. Make use of all the available opportunities. Be the nation that leaders like Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu".



Cllr Jack Moloko Maeko at Baitswa Secondary School

COLLINS CHABANE MUNICIPALITY COMPLETES XITLHELANI RING ROAD AND XIKUNDU ROAD

By: Maano Nekhavhambe

The Xitlhelani ring road project at Malamulele, Collins Chabane Local Municipality, has been completed.

The 3.6 km road construction project commenced in September 2017 and the initial time frame for completion set by the municipality was a six month period but it has reached its climax earlier in January after only four months. On this project, the municipality spent R27 million on the upgrade from a gravelled road into a tar road and the contractors appointed are done with the final snag listings.

Prior to this project, motorists around Malamulele were driving on a gravelled Xitlhelani ring road in poor state especially during the rainy weather conditions, there were no free flowing movements of cars, taxis and buses something which commuters found very challenging. Following the completion of the Xitlhelani ring road earlier this year, there is a free flowing movement of cars without traffic congestions and this delights Malamulele road users due to the fact that building new roads is a great way to boost the local economy.

Nearby properties can benefit from improving transportation networks. Nice, new roads means that more people will be attracted to the area, which boosts local tourism and supports local businesses. Plus, newer roads that are easier to drive on which means that your daily commute will be faster and put less wear and tear on the vehicles.

Also, the building up of a community's infrastructure such as Xitlhelani ring road is a great way to pass on cost savings that will benefit property values. Meanwhile, the Municipality has also completed a 7km Xikundu road project outside Saseleman village. The initial project was started by the Thulamela Local Municipality in 2016 before Collins Chabane Local Municipality was established.

The contractors appointed by Thulamela Municipality continued with the constructions until the end. No amount of funds spent on this project has been disclosed at this stage but however, the total approved Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) for all projects including Xitlhelani ring road and Xikundu road is estimated at R61.6 million. Xikundu road is also a National government project to honour the late former Minister of the Department of Public Services and Administrations (DPSA), Honourable Collins Chabane, and the road is heading straight to his house after diverging from the R524 Punda Maria road.

TRANSPORT MEC STRESSES OVER CONSISTENT ROAD FATALITIES

By: Maano Nekhavhambe

MEC for Transport and Community Safety Mme Makoma Makhurupetje has expressed her concerns over a number of road collisions that are continuing to claim lives in the province's N1 High way recently.

This follows a multiple vehicle tragic accident which occurred on the N1 between Kranskop and Nyl Toll Plaza on Friday, 19 October 2018, when a fatigued truck driver lost control of his vehicle due to a tyre burst, leading to him crashing into a number of other vehicles, in an on-coming traffic, including the 22-seater Quantum coming from Bochum heading to Thembisa and a Ford bakkie with a driver and one passenger on board.

A total of 26 lives including of two children were lost.
“I am worried about the manner in which the accidents are happening in this province, more especially the recent ones on the N1 between Kranskop and Polokwane. It was very devastating when I got to the scene, it was too bad.” Laments Makhurupetje

The area where the accident happened is actually demarcated as the High Accident Zone and that shows that there are number of accidents occurring either at the same spot or on the same road.

Makhurupetje has insisted that the Limpopo Provincial Government's main concern is that the road is too narrow to an extent that if the accidents happen on the other side between Kranskop and Pretoria, certainly the on-coming traffic would not be affected unlike between Kranskop and Polokwane.

The MEC highlighted that the Limpopo Provincial Government is concerned about the condition of the road itself also taking into consideration that at the beginning of September, on the same stretch of road, 22 people died in two separate accidents involving buses. One bus from Zambia veered off the road near the Caltex garage (30km outside Polokwane) and 10 passengers lost their lives. Within a space of a week, another bus coming from Zimbabwe claimed 12 lives after veering off the road on the N1 between Mokopane and Modimolle.

Makhurupetje called for the South African National Road Agency (SANRAL) and National Department of Transport to prioritise the road in order to avoid more fatalities.

“What happened is a disaster and the accident happened in an area clearly demarcated as a high accident zone. Given the fact that this is a third accident to happen within a short space of time on the N1 road. We think it is now time for SANRAL and the national government to declare a disaster on this road - as we cannot continue to lose lives in this manner.” She concluded

Meeting with the bereaved families of 26 deceased at Mokopane Hospital on Sunday, 21 October 2018, Limpopo Premier Stanley Chupu Mathabatha has assured them that the provincial government will assist with burial arrangements.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION



Lephalale Local Municipality and Eskom Medupi Power Station jointly with the Local Department of Education hosted the Annual Arbor Day celebration at Thabo Mbeki Community Hall on 19 September 2018.

Arbor Day originated in 1872 in Nebraska (USA) while in South Africa the first National Arbor Day was celebrated in 1983 with the intention to promote the love for knowledge of trees and to encourage the planting of trees for commercial as well as non-commercial purposes.

In South Africa, the first week of September each year is declared as National Arbor week. During the course of National Arbor Week, South Africans are provided with a better knowledge of trees and how trees affect their day-to-day lives. Awareness about the dangers of forest fires is raised and emphasis is placed on the importance of the forestry industry and on trees in general. Trees are planted and landscapes are made greener.

Lephalale Local Municipality planted 1591 trees in the past three financial years of which mostly were fruit trees. This was done in line with the promotion of urban and rural greening. For 2018, the Arbor Month campaign is focusing on promoting the planting of two indigenous species which are Shepherd Tree and Breede River Yellow wood Tree.

Acting Mayor, Cllr Louisa Shongwe gave words of encouragement to the learners as they are approaching their final matric examinations.
“The time to study is now, do not wait until the last day to prepare” she said.

She further encouraged them to take careers in environmental studies.
“Our Municipality has partners with Eskom and other investors to assist local learners with bursaries to further their post matric studies. There is no excuse for any of you not to further your studies, all you have to do is to study hard and pass well” she concluded.

The program ended at Palala Circuit where the planting of trees took place.

LIMPOPO PROVINCE CELEBRATES SPORTING ICONS

By: Maano Nekhavhambe

Various dignitaries within the sporting fraternity gathered for a glittering annual Limpopo Province Sports Awards held at the Jack Botes Hall in Polokwane, Capricorn District, on Saturday 29 September 2018.

This year's awards were orchestrated by the national Department of Sport and Recreation in partnership with Coca-Cola, Love Life and the National Lottery. They were celebrated under the theme, The year of Nelson Mandela: Advancing Transformation of South Africa's Heritage Landscape.

The Purpose of the gathering was, amongst other things, to honour and recognise athletes and sports personalities who are flying the Limpopo Province flag high both on national and global sports through their exploits.

Amongst other inspirational winners were Anna Ngobe, who walked away with the Sports Woman of the Year with Disability accolade and Ishmael Nkuna walking away with the Sports Man of the Year with Disability award. Both athletes pocketed R50 000 each. Notable winners in the MEC's Excellence Awards includes Black Leopards FC following their triumph in the PSL/National First Division (NFD) relegation and promotion play-offs, in May 2018, and bounced back to the Absa Premiership for the on-going 2018/19 campaign.

Here is the full list of winners:

1. Developing School Team of the Year: Hasani Mningisi (R20 000)
2. Indigenous Games Team of the Year: Ncuva Structure (R15 000)
3. School Team of the Year: Morwathebe Combined School (R20 000)
4. Recreation Body of the Year: Diketo Structure (R15 000)
5. Photographer of the Year: Lebohang Makwela (R15 000)
6. Volunteer of the Year: Bernard Boshomane (R15 000)
7. Newcomer of the Year: Lucas Lamola (R15 000)
8. Team of the Year: Limpopo Volleyball Junior Girls Team (R20 000)
9. Provincial Federation of the Year: Limpopo Softball Association(R20 000)
10. Sports Administrator of the Year: Moshailo Matsela (R20 000)
11. Journalist of the Year: Robert Mathye (R15 000)
12. Coach of the Year: Thabo Malokomme (R20 000)
13. Sports Man of the Year With Disability: Ishmael Nkuna (R50 000)
14. Sports Woman of the Year With Disability: Anna Ngobe (R50 000)
15. Sports Woman of the Year: Alice Matsela Motsai (R50 000)
16. Sports Man of the Year: Chris Moleya (R50 000)

MEC's Excellence Awards

1. Phuti Kgomo
2. Cecelia Molokwane
3. Frans Mogashoa
4. Kenneth Neluvhalani

Phuti Kgomo also walked away with the MEC's Excellence accolade after making history of being the first ever Softball umpire from Limpopo Province to umpire at International level. He umpired during the Word Baseball Softball Junior Men's Championship, held at Prince Albert, Canada in July 2018. The ever green Mme Ria Ledwaba also made the cut on the MEC's list. "The Godmother of the local game" as she is affectionately known was voted in as the first Woman Vice President of the South African Football Associations (SAFA) in the National Council meeting in June 2018.

The Provincial MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture Mme Thandi Moraka utilised an opportunity to emphasize the effect of transformation in sports for Africans and White people. "We must not have sports for the whites, we must also not have sports for Africans. Sports is and must always be a unifier of our society." Moraka said

Moraka further expressed that she is well aware of the challenges experienced by athletes especially in rural areas. She has committed to the fact that the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture would work as a collective with the sporting fraternity to ensure ways of improving the quality of services to give to the athletes.

In the same breath, the MEC has urged the supporters of three Limpopo based Premier Soccer League (PSL) teams Black Leopards, Baroka FC and Polokwane City to always go in their numbers to rally behind the local teams as it is a historic season to have three teams, within the province, competing in the top flight football.

Mapungubwe Arts Festival 2018

By: Maano Nekhavhambe

Limpopo Province MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture Mme Thandi Moraka has, on Monday 05 November 2018, officially launched the 17th edition of the Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Festival at Mapungubwe Heritage Site, Musina Local Municipality.

Initially, the festival was called the Melting Pot Festival, adopting the name Mapungubwe back in 2006 in the quest to reassert the African heritage. This years' festival will be divided into three various legs consisting of the Youth Festival which is aimed to attract young people across the province to celebrate with the Limpopo Provincial Government in this years' edition.

Prior to the main event, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture confirmed that they will host a Comedy night on the 14th of December 2018 at Jack Botes Hall as a curtain riser to entertain and also accommodate comedy fanatics. However, the main Heritage Festival is set to take place at the Polokwane Cricket Club on Saturday 15 December 2018 and that will include Jazz, Gospel and other music genres.

The confirmed artists line-up for the upcoming festival includes the likes of Lady Zamar, Mafikizolo, Mr Bow, Steve Kekana, King Modada, Sho Madjozi, Zonke, Benny Mayengani, Vusi Nova, Joe Shirimani, Dr Colbert Mukwevho, Majoy, Condry Ziqubu, Makhadzi, Sands, Candy Tsamandebеле, Pleasure, Berita, Selaelo

MEC Moraka has confirmed that a budget set aside for this years' Mapungubwe Arts and Heritage Festival amounts to R7million. "The R7million incorporates the assistance and support we received from our national Department of Arts and Culture. They gave us R4million to help us implement this festival." Confirmed Moraka

"Ourselves as the department, we've not done justice to the process of budgeting itself. We have only put aside an amount of R3million and adding to the one from the national department amounts to R7million."

LIMPOPO PROVINCE RECOGNISES EXCELLENCE AND HARD WORK

By: Jermina Kaka

It was a night of glitz and glamour when Limpopo Province held its Sport Awards Ceremony to reward and honour individuals and sport personalities who excelled on and off the field in various sporting codes and categories, recently. The attendees included the likes of athletes Kgothatso Montjane, the international wheelchair tennis player and administrators such as Netball South Africa President Cecilia Molokwane, DSAC Sport Administrators, Limpopo Sport Confederation and Federations.

When she delivered her speech during the ceremony, the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture in Limpopo, Ms. Thandi Moraka said we have assembled recognise and award the best performing athletes, federations, recreation bodies, school teams, administrators and the media for the impressive role they play in promoting various sporting codes in the province.

“The awards took place after the week-long 2018 National Indigenous Games Festival hosted at Seshego Stadium where, according to the MEC, they witnessed with pride the great sportsmanship and remarkable success of the games” said MEC Moraka.

In terms of advocating resources of the department, MEC emphasised the necessity of advocating for more resources to be deployed to schools in order to encourage mass participation in various sporting codes. She added that such an investment will ensure a highly engaged youth as well as healthy and cohesive communities in the province.

She further spoke on issues related to sport transformation. “We need to effect transformation in sport so that we do not have sport for Africans and whites. Sport is and must always be a unifier of society. I wish to applaud the amazing determination and efforts of head of department, Mothlake Phukuntsi, the Sport and Recreation team lead by the energetic Kgathane Choshane, sporting federations and other stakeholders for putting together this spectacular show,” Moraka emphasised.

She continued to say that the province has experienced a sudden and unexpected departure of young athletes, and experience that has left the sporting fraternity shocked and numb and the province robbed of great talent. Moraka stressed the need to develop policies and responsive ways of dealing with such episodes and conveyed condolences to the families and friends of the fallen athletes.

The MEC further commented that the department was aware of the challenges experienced by athletes and undertook to find ways to improve the quality of services given to the athletes by working together with sporting fraternities.

In terms of Limpopo teams in the PSL she said “Limpopo has, for the first time ever, three teams in the Premier Soccer League and stressed that under no circumstances should the local support waver”

Limpopo Sport Confederation President Eric Muneri pointed out that the gathering recognised excellence among athletes while they are still alive. Phukuntsi in turn indicated that women and men in sport play a crucial role in society. He encouraged youngsters to participate in various sporting codes to adopt a healthy lifestyle and also earn a decent living.

Sport, Arts and Culture MEC, Thandi Moraka presented the awards to winning individuals and sport bodies in 17 categories, including the MEC's Excellence Awards category.

2018 Limpopo Sport Awards:

The winners received trophies and cash prizes from R15 000 to R50 000. They are: Hasani Mninginisi (Developing School Team of the Year) Ncuva Structure (Indigenous Games of the Year), Morwathebe Combined School (School Team of the Year), Diketo Structure (Recreational Body of the Year), Lebogang Makwela (Photographer of the Year), Bernard Boshomane

(Volunteer of the Year), Lucas Lamola (Newcomer of the Year), Limpopo junior girls' volleyball team (Team of the Year), Limpopo Softball Association (Provincial Federation of the Year), Mashilo Matsetela (Sport Administrator of the Year), Robert Mathye (Journalist of the Year), Thabo Molokomme (Coach of the Year), Matsela Motsai (Sportswoman of the Year), Ishmael Nkuna (Sportsman of the Year with Disability), Anna Ngobe (Sportswoman of the Year with Disability), and Chris Moleya (Sportsman of the Year).

MEC's Excellence Awards

These awards recognised nine individuals and a football club who represent the province on national and international stages in various sporting codes. The winners received an award and R15 000.

The recipients are: Phuti Kgomo for being the first softball umpire from Limpopo to umpire at International level during the World Softball Junior Men's championships held in Prince Albert, Canada in July; Cecilia Molokwane for her appointment as NSA president; Frans Mogashoa for his selection as the National Manager in the South African Football Association (SAFA) responsible for coaching education; newly appointed chairperson of the University Sport South Africa responsible for football, Kenneth Neluvhalani, Mike Makhubela, General Secretary for Volleyball South Africa and Moses Ngobeni for his appointment as Vice-Chairperson of the South African Majorettes and Cheerleading Association.

Awards also went to president of Chess South Africa, Joe Mahomole, Montjane for being the first black South African woman to compete at and reach the semi-finals at Wimbledon; Ria Ledwaba, 'godmother of the local game' as the first woman Vice-President of Safa and Black Leopards FC for progressing to the Premier Soccer League.

MEC Moraka congratulated all the winners and urged them to continue shining and making the province proud.

RESIDENTS OF VILLAGES IN MARULENG TO GET WATER SOON.

The residents of about 15 villages in the Mametja-Sekororo areas in the Maruleng Municipality outside Houdspruit will soon get running water. This as the completion of the construction of a water treatment plant T at The Oaks is at an advance stage. Residents of The Oaks, Finale, Turkey, Santeng and Madeira among others will benefit from the first phase of the project. A total of 28 villages will get water in the area when all phases of the project are fully completed.

The Mopani District Municipality's Director for Water Services, Paradise Shilowa says the water treatment plant at The Oaks is expected to start supplying water to communities towards the end of this year. The actual laying of pipe lines from Richmond, a water source that abstract water from Blayde, that started a few years ago has already been completed. The main pipe line will abstract water from Richmond to The Oaks water treatment plant.

The Mopani District Municipality Executive Mayor Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale is pleading with communities who are still living without water to exercise patience. “I must indicate that as the district municipality we are determined to ensure that all our communities across the district get water, contractors who have been tasked with the responsibilities of building water infrastructure are working tirelessly towards making sure that water is supplied to all our communities in the five local municipalities, including Maruleng.” Said Executive Mayor Rakgoale.



BAOBAB NEWS

Sport

LIMPOPO STAGES PROVINCIAL BIG WALK 2018

By Jermina Kaka

The 7th of October, the past Sunday was a fun-filled day with loads of entertainment that encouraged young and old from across the province, families, communities and athletes to actively participate in various recreational activities during the Limpopo Provincial Big Walk 2018 at Polokwane Rugby Grounds. The aim of the programme is to promote family togetherness; living healthy and active lifestyles.

The event offered participants the chance to take on the 5, 10 or 15 km walk and every participant received a medal for their efforts. However, the healthy fun did not end with the walk and continued throughout the morning with aerobics sessions for everyone as well as face painting and a jumping castle for the children. Leading by example was Sport, Arts and Culture MEC Thandi Moraka who took the 15 km challenge in her stride and then proceeded to lead the aerobics class with much enthusiasm. In completing her 15 km walk, MEC Moraka said it is healthy to walk as it is effortless but energising. "It is a wonderful family activity and the health benefits are untold," MEC Moraka said.

The Limpopo Big Walk Project manager, Ms. Mpho Ledwaba said the event was a success. "The implementation of this programme was not an easy one, but we are glad all went well and it was a success. People came in numbers to support. We really appreciate" said Ledwaba,

The province of Limpopo joined the rest of the country in staging the seventh edition of the Big Walk with an anticipation of attracting young to senior citizens of the province. The 'BIG WALK' Programme is established by the National Department of Sport and Recreation and it is suitable for all, rich and poor, people with disability, young and old and has no financial implications.

The main aim of the programme is to promote social cohesion and nation building furthermore to encourage people to take up the habit of walking on regular basis, and to begin to engage in walking as a conscious choice in leisure-time activities. The programme was prompted by the ever increasing number of obesity and high incidence of heart attack amongst the communities. Walking is an effective form of physical activity for improving the cardio-vascular system that is the heart, blood vessels and lungs.

CAPRICORN PUT LIMPOPO ON THE MAP

By Elvis Tshikhudo



Capricorn Netball Team

The Capricorn Male Netball Team Coached by Ms Cosy Rabothata has put Limpopo Province on the map after they have received Bronze Medal for position three in the Annual National Netball Championships that was held at Hoy Park Sports Complex in Durban from 1-6 October 2018.

The Limpopo Province was represented by Capricorn District, Sekhukhune District and Waterberg District. The Province was amongst other provinces such as Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, Kwazulu Natal, Mpumalanga, North West, Northern Cape, Western Cape and Associate members SANDF.

Speaking during the opening, Ms Cicilia Molokwane President of Netball South Africa said they have been promising in the past that they will have international competitions for the selected teams, but the challenges were that they did not get enough contenders to make this a reality.

"This year we met and part of the discussion was for countries to also put together male national teams for competitions. This we will strive to make sure that it takes place and our selected team this year get to represent South Africa before the next Championship in 2019".

She further applauded 40 teams that have represented their districts during the competition. Chairperson Ms Gugu Ngema said the eThekweni Metro Netball anticipates yet another successful Male National Netball Championship the hosting city for their hospitality.