

# MMILENG

Welcome to Our Road Network

## BIG INTERVIEW

Board's Social & Ethics  
Committee Chairperson  
**Motlhanke Phukuntsi**



The Gospel Truth  
**WINNIE  
MASHABA**  
Ga-Phasha Road –  
Musical Journey

**SIGNED, SEALED  
& DELIVERED**  
Mphanama to Jane Furse •  
Ga-Masemola •

# GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT ON ROADS

LIMPOPO SOPA + LDPWRI BUDGET



Roads Agency Limpopo new office building sign installation

Providing quality and sustainable provincial road infrastructure network for the economic development of LIMPOPO PROVINCE.



ROADS AGENCY  
**LIMPOPO**  
TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS

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# INTRODUCING...

# NEW RAL LOGO

# RAL



**1994**  
South Africa's First Democratic  
Government (of National Unity)  
Established

**1999**  
Company  
Established

**2000**  
Company  
Starts  
Operations

**2001**  
Company  
First Logo  
Adopted

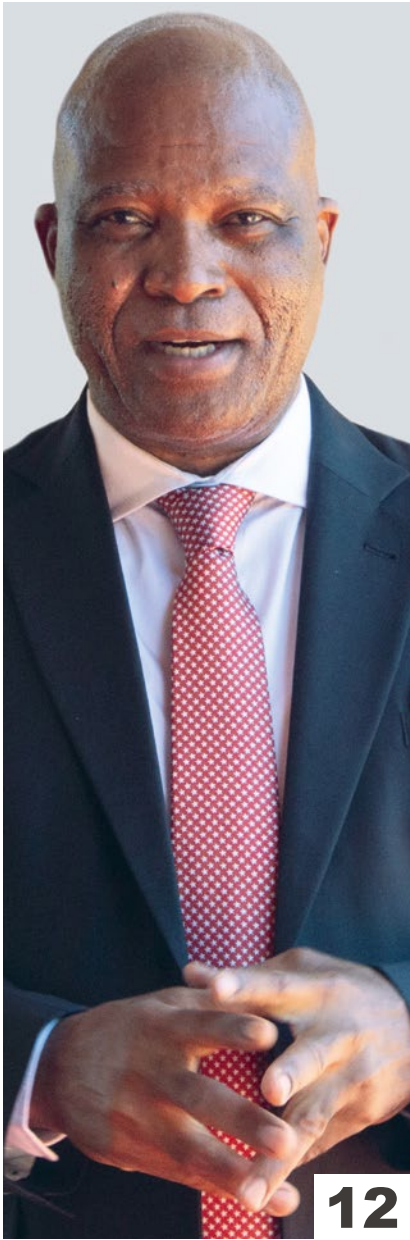


IT'S HERE...

# NEW RAL LOGO



2020  
Company  
Second Logo  
Adopted



12



20



36

**COVER STAR**

This Edition's Cover Star is Winnie Mashaba, the popular Sekhukhune-born Gospel Singer-Songwriter.

# CONTENTS

Issue 1 of 2021



30

**Note from the Editor**

**4** Long Road to Normalcy is Proverbially Hard But Not...

**From the CEO's Desk**

**6** Community Consultations Key to Equitable Distribution of Roads

**State of the Province Address**

**8** Makarapa Lost For Words at Quality Roads

**10** SOPA in Numbers

**LDPWRI Budget**

**12** Doing More with [Even] Less: RAL Budget Cut

**Shareholder Engagement**

**16** The Board of Directors for Roads Agency Limpopo

**Stakeholder Engagement**

**18** Road Infrastructure Delivery in Limpopo

**24** RAL Engages Communities on Hollywood to Gumbani Road

**26** #RALatWork Social Media: Complaints and Compliments

**29** Vox Pop: Mintirho Ya Vulavula

**45** Vox Pop: Mintirho Ya Vulavula

**Big Interview**

**20** Free State of Mind

**RAL at Work**

**30** Benefits Galore as Jane Furse to Mphanama Link Six Villages

**40** Ga-Masemola Old Town Road Gets an Upgrade

**SMME Empowerment**

**34** Six Villages Share Over R100m Job Opportunities Bonanza

**Personality**

**36** A Nursing Dream Turned into Spiritual Healing

**Inside RAL**

**46** Enterprise-Wide Risk Management Training Workshop

# LONG ROAD TO NORMALCY IS PROVERBIALY HARD BUT NOT...

**W**elcome to the facelift of your favourite read, *Mmileng* – the official, quarterly, corporate publication (magazine) for the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL). As always, the publication is filled with intriguing news.

We would like to introduce to you, our valued stakeholder, a refined, modern and bolder logo for the Agency. The logo will reenergise us on the emotionally tough road to normalcy.

Even though infrastructure investment has been touted as a key driver on the road towards post-Covid-19 economic recovery, for the heavily backlogged road infrastructure province such as ours, it is a case of more of the same, and perennially so. Doing more with (even) less is nothing new for the Agency and we will continue to deliver on our mandate with competence and sincerity as we embark on new beginnings.

RAL's parent department, the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), and effectively the Agency itself, has been appropriated reduced funding for road infrastructure (upgrade and maintenance) in the 2021/22 financial year.

**“DOING MORE WITH (EVEN) LESS IS NOTHING NEW FOR THE AGENCY AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DELIVER ON OUR MANDATE...”**

This year, the Agency will focus, mainly, on completing ongoing multi-year road infrastructure projects across all the five district municipalities of Limpopo that were delayed by various lockdown alert levels imposed by national government to help curb the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. We will also be maintaining several roads and still do upgrades, from gravel to tar, however limited the funds.

These plans for the province, and specific to road infrastructure, for the current fiscal year were unveiled by the Honourable Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha and expounded on by the MEC for the LDPWRI, Honourable Namane Dickson Masemola, when they delivered the State



**Dr Maropeng Manyathela**  
RAL Head of Communications

of the Province Address (SOPA) and the LDPWRI Budget respectively. More on this on page 8 and 12, in our lead story.

The core DNA and content that has made *Mmileng* your trusted source of road infrastructure news in the province is retained. This includes the RAL at Work project profile, and its offshoot SMME Empowerment, community feedback page, Mintirho Ya Vulavula, a peek at inside RAL machinery, and of course the popular personality feature.

Also, in response to digitisation of the media space, we have introduced links to some of our related visual content on our various digital platforms to enhance your reading experience. And as part of enhancing the immediacy of this experience, several of our pages have trusted Quick Response (QR) Codes that can be accessed through a simple scan on most smart devices. You are more than welcome to give us feedback in this regard.

We hope you will enjoy the refreshed reading experience.

# We Connect Limpopo...

Today, Limpopo boasts a good road infrastructure because we are creating and designing modern bridges and roads, making transportation of people and goods reliable and opening access to the rest of Africa.

**Making it all happen...**

[ral.co.za](http://ral.co.za)



ROADS AGENCY  
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# COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS KEY TO EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF ROADS

In recent few months, the Honourable President Ramaphosa, through the State of the Nation Address (SONA), outlined a clear plan to be followed in contributing to the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. Part of the plan is focused on a massive infrastructure rollout throughout the country and creation of jobs.

Following the SONA, the priorities laid out by the Honourable Premier of Limpopo, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, and the MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Honourable Namane Dickson Masemola give a clear direction of what Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) needs to focus on to make a meaningful contribution to the socio-economic problems of the Limpopo Province.

In April 2021, Hon. Namane Dickson Masemola announced a budget allocation of R1.109 billion to be transferred to RAL for operational costs, road maintenance and upgrades of assets for the 2021/22 fiscal year. The amount includes R615 million to be spent on 25 road maintenance projects, while another R42.9 million is earmarked for the improvement of infrastructure delivery. From the pronouncements made by both the Premier and the MEC of Limpopo, it is clear that the work that has to be done is demanding and with continued shortage of funds in the country which ultimately affect provinces, more difficult to make major achievements.

The task ahead to strengthen the delivery of road infrastructure services requires the continued collaboration between RAL, led by MEC Masemola and our communities. We will continue to consult and work with them to ensure effective service delivery to the residents of Limpopo. We are in constant consultation with our communities pre-, during and post project implementation.

In recent months, the MEC has handed over projects in



**MR GABRIEL MALULEKE**  
RAL Chief Executive Officer

the Blouberg, Collins Chabane, Greater Letaba, Mopani District and Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipalities. These projects were part of the commitments made by both the Premier and the MEC on behalf of the Limpopo government. The handing over of the projects by MEC recently is a clear indication of the seriousness with

**“THE HANDING OVER OF THE PROJECTS BY  
MEC RECENTLY IS A CLEAR INDICATION  
OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE LIMPOPO  
GOVERNMENT TAKES ITS RESIDENTS.”**

which the Limpopo government takes its residents.

The Limpopo government keeps the promise it makes. It is only when we work with the people we serve, communities, that we are able to understand and recognise the reality of their needs.

As we build and maintain the provincial roads, we do so within the confines of the financial laws of South Africa in order to derive value for money.



**BOLDER**

The Premier of Limpopo Province, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha delivering the 2021 Limpopo State of the Province Address (SOPA) during the hybrid sitting of the Limpopo Legislature from the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.



# MAKARAPA LOST FOR WORDS AT QUALITY ROADS

**T**he head of the executive council for the Limpopo Provincial Government is pleased with the improving state of road infrastructure in the province. Speaking during the ‘road infrastructure’

part of the 2021 Limpopo State of the Province Address (SOPA), delivered on the occasion of the official opening of the third session of the sixth Limpopo Provincial Legislature for the 2021/22 financial year, Honourable Premier Chupu Stanley

Mathabatha also commended the partnership with national government for these tangible developments.

“Regarding the improvement of our (Limpopo) road infrastructure, one of the attributes of good leadership (is) if you are

in an area; a district, a region, a local or a province is to be in the position to can rally national resources to your province,” said Hon. Mathabatha.

“And in so doing we were able, together with SANRAL, to complete the much-awaited Polokwane/N1 Ring Road.”

Hon. Mathabatha was giving feedback after he had announced in the previous SOPA the resumption of construction at the then stalled South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited (SANRAL) project for the N1 Polokwane Ring Road (R101/N1 and R37/N1 and Silicon/N1 and R71/R101).

“*Makarapa a a timela ge a etla mo gae matšatši a,*” he said gleefully of the domestic travellers VFR (visiting friends and relatives) getting lost at the ring road due to the rapid road infrastructure developments in the province.

Hon. Mathabatha also gave an update on the now under construction 10 kilometre (9.93km) SANRAL road project for the improvement of R81 from Munnik to Ga-Sekgopo in the Mopani District, which is expected to ease traffic congestions and reduce the number of road accidents in the area when complete.

The February 2021 SOPA was also the first one since the first Covid-19 lockdown restrictions of 26 March 2020.

In this regard, Hon. Mathabatha stressed how investment in infrastructure in general will be a lodestar for post-Covid-19 economic recovery.

To move Limpopo forward to a destination of equality, prosperity and a better life for all, said Hon. Mathabatha, “we have aligned our work for the year ahead with the four national priorities outlined by (His Excellency) President Mathamela Ramaphosa in the State of the Nation Address”.

“And these priorities are; defeating the Coronavirus pandemic, accelerating our economic recovery, implementing economic reforms to create sustainable jobs and drive inclusive growth, and lastly, fighting corruption and strengthening the state,” said Premier Mathabatha.

“The focus of this address is on measures to alleviate the devastating Covid-19 impact on our economy. We will focus on the programmes to reposition Limpopo on a trajectory of inclusive

socio-economic recovery, development and growth.”

He said to breathe life into the struggling economy; there should be a focused investment in infrastructure.

“The relationship between infrastructure development and economic transformation cannot be over emphasised. Infrastructure is a magnetic force that attracts investments.”

“Ending the legacy of unequal development is our priority. Our goal is to upgrade rural areas through equitable distribution of development and investment to bring them on par with developed areas,” he said.

## “THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION CANNOT BE OVER EMPHASISED.”

Premier Mathabatha announced that SANRAL has road projects in design phase in the following areas:

- 13km of road D2919 from Tshikanoshi to Malebitsa in the Sekhukhune District
- 29.5km of road D3810 from Thomo to Hlomela in the Mopani District
- 43.6km of road R524 from Louis Trichardt to Albasini to Tshakhuma in the Vhembe District
- Upgrade project in conjunction with SANRAL of road R555 from Steelpoort River (km62.0) to Kokwaneng (km72.9) to Ga-Mapodila (km17.4) to Burgersfort (km37.4)
- Maintenance project in conjunction with SANRAL of road R555 from Steelpoort River (km63.0) to Ga-Mapodila (km17.4) to Burgersfort (km37.4)
- Maintenance project in conjunction with SANRAL of road R555 from (km44.0) to Steelpoort River (km62.0) and from Stofberg (km2.0) to Steynsdraft (km44.0)

Background on the partnership between provincial and national government on some of the abovementioned roads is available in *Mmileng* Issue 4 of 2020.

A stable Roads Agency Limpopo, a

road infrastructure implementing entity of the provincial government, will be a key driver of this road infrastructure development in the province in the coming year.

The Honourable Mathabatha also announced that the ongoing programme for the rehabilitation of provincial roads will include, but not limited to:

- Road D1589 from Ga-Makgatho/Kromhoek to GaKgobokanang to De Vrede in the Capricorn District
- Road D2537 in Penge in the Sekhukhune District
- Road D4150 from Praktiseer to Burgersfort in the Sekhukhune District

- Road D11 from Ga-Mamaila to Kolobetona (connecting the R81) in the Mopani District
- Road D3200 from Lebaka to Mohlabaneng (connecting R81) in the Mopani District
- Road D3840 from Giyani to Phalaborwa in the Mopani District

SOD-turning ceremonies and introduction of contractors to respective communities for the six road projects listed above was conducted early this year, February 2021, with the estimated time of completion on most of these projects targeted for August 2021.

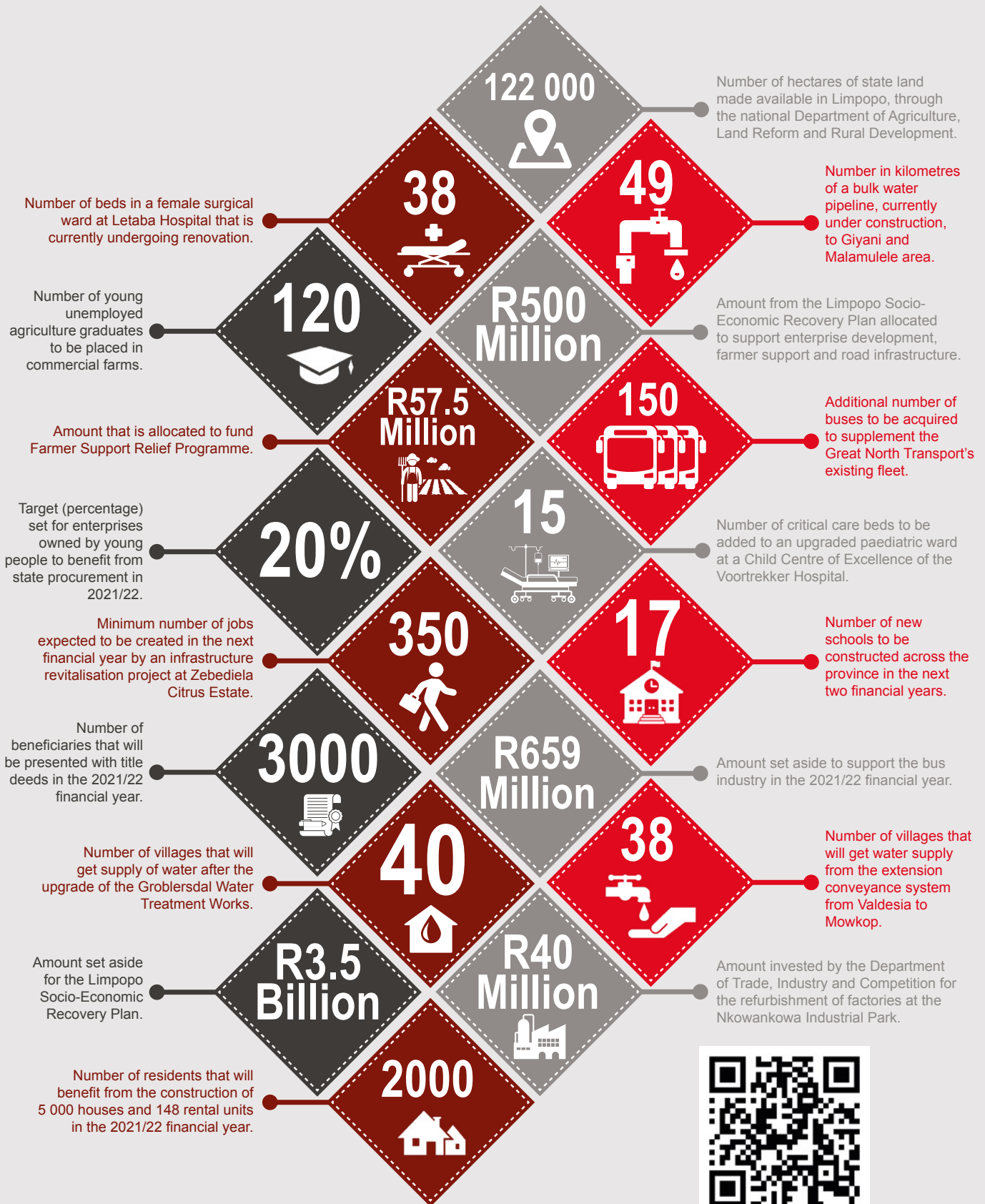
Premier Mathabatha further announced that RAL will be maintaining several roads in the province, including the flood damaged roads, during the course on the 2021/22 financial year.

Detailed plans on this and other road infrastructure projects for the province were tabled during the presentation of the 2021/22 Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure Budget. Story on page 12. [m](#)

- For the full SOPA speech, go to ‘newsroom’ at [www.limpopo.gov.za](http://www.limpopo.gov.za)

# SOPA IN NUMBERS

Below are the highlights, in numbers, from the 2021 Limpopo State of the Province Address



Scan the QR Code to watch the full 2021 Limpopo SOPA.



**MODERN**

The MEC for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Namane Dickson Masemola tabling the Department's 2021/22 budget at the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.



# DOING MORE WITH [EVEN] LESS RAL BUDGET CUT

**A** perennial budget constraint for road infrastructure in Limpopo Province has been dealt another blow after the allocation for the current financial year was slashed by close to half a billion rand.

This was confirmed by the MEC for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Honourable Namane Dickson Masemola, when tabling the Department's 2021/22 budget during the hybrid sitting of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature.

"This means it will be difficult to meet the demands for roads from communities given the budget allocation, and this is the hurdle confronting us this financial year," explained Hon. Masemola.

"And we are more than prepared to engage with our people to explain to them the difficulties that were brought about by the Covid-19 (pandemic), which affected both the fiscus of the national government with low or declined revenue collection which has impacted on the provincial fiscus and therefore making it very difficult for organs of state and our departments to have resources in abundance to respond to the needs of our people."

The Limpopo Provincial Treasury (LPT) has appropriated the LDPWRI R3.212 billion for the 2021/22 financial year, down from R3.9 billion the previous financial year.

The allocation includes R1.345 billion (R1.3 billion the previous financial year) for conditional grants to be used on road maintenance, Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the overall improvement of infrastructure delivery in the province and R1.109 billion (R1.5 billion) to be transferred to the Department's road infrastructure entity, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), for operational costs, road maintenance and upgrades.

As such, RAL's allocation decreases by 18.8% in 2021/22 due to the reduction of the once-off allocation in the previous financial year.

According to LPT, the amount transferred to RAL includes R42.5 million allocated for new roads, also known as capital priority road projects (projects other than maintenance), in the province.

## "IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO MEET THE DEMANDS FOR ROADS FROM COMMUNITIES GIVEN THE BUDGET ALLOCATION."

"The Department, this current financial year, is only allocated R356,5 million from the equitable share for road upgrades, which means from gravel to tar we have a shortfall, compared to the previous financial year, of R492 million," said Hon. Masemola, putting the shortfall facing both LDPWRI and RAL into context.

"It is however important to highlight that more investment is needed in the construction of new roads given the backlog that we have."

And as the adage goes, it never rains but it pours.

Hon. Masemola said the recent heavy rains, particularly the January 2021 tropical cyclone Eloise, have further compounded Limpopo's challenges on road infrastructure.

"This (budget shortfall) is not only a challenge for the need to provide new roads but also a matter that will likely affect the timelines of the existing schedules."

RAL has secured R80.1 million from strategic partners in the mining sector to fund the new Steelpoort Bridge project.



“The assessment done points to the extent of the damage on the road network, hence the serious need for rebuilding of collapsed bridges, patching of potholes and rehabilitation of many roads.”

According to Hon. Masemola, “the cost at this level is estimated at R538 million, which unfortunately the Provincial fiscus does not have, hence an unallocated budget in this regard.”

“However, we are working hard through differentiated approaches to respond to the challenge.”

Hon. Masemola also announced that through the leadership of the Premier (Hon. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha), relations have been built through various platforms of engagements with the private sector.

“And in pursuing Public-Private Partnership we have been able to secure an amount of R80 million towards construction of the new bridge at Ga-Malekana, Steelpoort in Tubatse, Sekhukhune District,” said Hon. Masemola on the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the rehabilitation of the existing bridge and construction of the new Steelpoort Bridge on road D2219, as covered in *Mmileng* Issue 4 of 2020.

He also confirmed the re-construction

of a collapsed embankment of Bridge 6116 on road D3653 in Makuleke, a village within the Collins Chabane Local Municipality of the Vhembe District. The bridge, which was damaged in 2013 by floods, will provide improved access to

pronouncements of the Premier remain policy instructions, and hence these roads are going to be fixed. Contractors have been appointed and construction works will commence in this (2021/22) financial year.”

Hon. Masemola further announced that

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## “WE HUMBLY APPEAL TO COMMUNITIES FOR COOPERATION GIVEN THE REALITY CONFRONTING US REGARDING FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS.”

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Malamulele when repairs are completed.

“A contractor for this work has been appointed and handed over site and work will commence this current financial year (2021/22),” said Hon. Masemola.

“As part of this initiative we continue improving our road network, and therefore six roads have been assessed and will be rehabilitated at a cost of R151 million. These are projects mentioned by the Hon. Premier in his State of the Province Address (See page 9).”

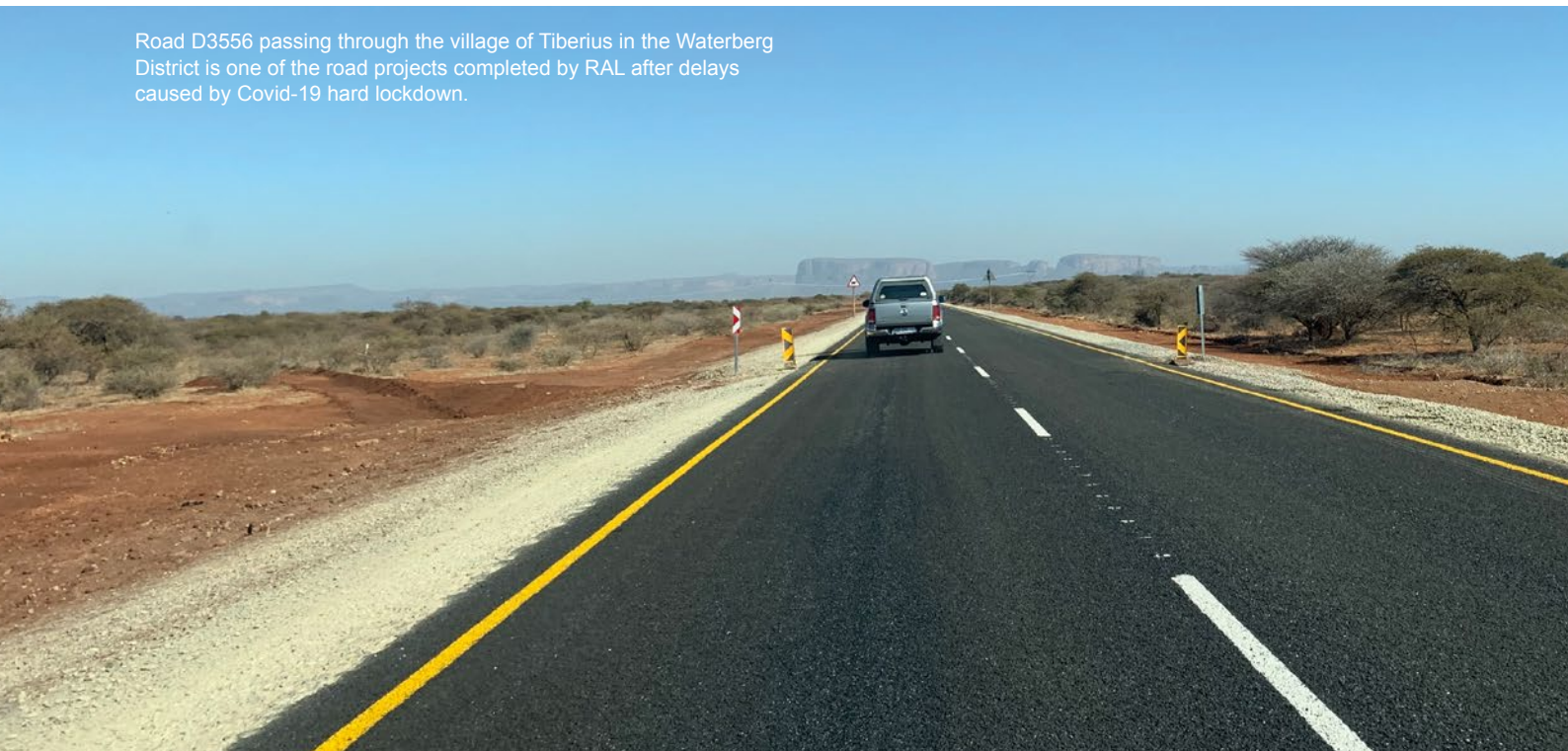
“And we are making sure that we don’t just make policy statement but

contractors have been handed over sites for preventative maintenance at five other identified road infrastructure projects, including:

- Road D4 from Elim to Malamulele in the Vhembe District;
- Road D4240 at Masevens in the Sekhukhune District;
- Road D1483 from Musina to Pontdrift in the Vhembe District; and
- Road P51/3 from Groblersdal to Stofberg in the Sekhukhune District

“It is important that we report to the people of the Province that with all the

Road D3556 passing through the village of Tiberius in the Waterberg District is one of the road projects completed by RAL after delays caused by Covid-19 hard lockdown.



constraints that characterise our work, there is significant progress in the delivery of roads. In 2020/21 financial year we managed to complete a number of roads, which the Premier spoke to in last year's State of the Province Address," continued Hon. Masemola.

These roads include:

- 7km of road D3556 from N11 at Gilead towards the village of Tiberius and road D3564 in the Waterberg District (*Mmileng* Issue 4 of 2020);
- 3.36km of road D3671 from Musekwa to Doli Doli in the Vhembe District (*Mmileng* Issue 3 of 2020);
- 3km of road D3810 from the intersection with road D3641 (that passes near Nsami Dam towards Giyani) ending 1km just before Thomo in the Mopani District (*Mmileng* Issue 4 of 2020); and
- 1.7km extension on 3km of road D3820 from Blinkwater to Rotterdam in the Mopani District.

Honourable Masemola also gave progress update of eleven (11) under construction #RALatWork projects that will be completed this year (2021). As on Thursday, 8 April 2021 – the day of the LDPWRI Budget Speech, the projects, with a combined total of 101.5km, were at



between 65% and 98% to completion.

Included in the eleven is 5km on road D4253 in Ga-Masemola, a village in the Sekhukhune District, which has since been completed and is featured in 'RAL at Work', page 40, of this *Mmileng* Issue 1 of 2021 edition.

Honourable Masemola also commended the partnership with national government when it came to investment in road infrastructure in Limpopo Province.

"Our area of work requires collaboration with various stakeholders and key amongst them is the South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited (SANRAL) with whom we collaborate to deliver quality roads in the province," said Hon. Masemola.

Added to the six SANRAL road infrastructure investments in the province, as mention in Premier Mathabatha's State of the Province Address (Story page 9), Hon. Masemola announced three more projects, also covered in *Mmileng* Issue 4 of 2020:

- 12.4km of road D3878 from Calais to Ga-Sekororo in the Mopani District, which is at procurement stage;
- Road R71 Namakgale to Phalaborwa in the Mopani District: Consultant to be sourced in the 1st quarter of 2021/22; and
- Road R518 Mapela to Mokopane in the Waterberg District: SANRAL has committed to proceed with the necessary processes to have this road improved in the 2021/22 financial year.

"Equally important, the condition of road R521 from Polokwane to Mogwadi (Dendron) to Alldays has been a cause for concern to us and the road users. After visiting this road we have allocated R35 million in this financial year for its designs and rehabilitation," said Hon. Masemola.

"We have also initiated engagements with SANRAL for possible collaboration to restore the state of the road to its good condition given its economic significance."

The Department's four programmes, namely Administration, Infrastructure Operations, EPWP and Road Infrastructure, got a share allocation of R304.6m (R410.5m), R721.9m (R875.4m), R66.2m (R68.6m) and R2.1bn (R2.5bn), respectively, for the implementation of this year's projects.

As mentioned, included in the budget

for the LDPWRI Road Infrastructure Programme is R1.109 billion transferred to RAL.

Hon. Masemola said in addition to the work done through various programmes, the Department is strengthening Districts and Cost Centres to be more responsive in road maintenance.

"An allocation, this financial year, of R1.345 billion, has been made available for use between the Department and RAL."


And this, explained Hon. Masemola, will be spent on seventy-five (75) projects implemented by both the Department and RAL.

"This includes Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant (PRMG), which is only meant for maintenance of roads and not building of new roads," he said.

An amount of R615.5m will be spent on twenty-five (25) road maintenance projects spread across the Province.

"Additional to the work to be done will be through the use of the twenty-two (22) Households Contractors allocated to local municipalities to fix potholes and bad roads identified by the Districts of the Department."

"However," said Hon. Masemola, "with the efforts of our President (His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa) we are quite certain that the economy will recover and we might be able to go back to basics, and have those resources required to live up to the expectations of our people."

"We humbly appeal to communities for cooperation given the reality confronting us regarding financial constraints and remain committed to work with them in finding solutions." 

- For the full 2021/22 LDPWRI Budget Speech (Vote 9), go to [www.dpw.limpopo.gov.za](http://www.dpw.limpopo.gov.za)



Scan the QR Code to watch the full 2021/22 LDPWRI Budget Speech.



Honourable Namane Dickson Masemola, the Limpopo Provincial Government shareholder representative for Roads Agency Limpopo, pictured at the recent RAL Board of Directors' three-day Induction Workshop.

# THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO

**T**he incumbent Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for the Limpopo Department Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), and effectively the Limpopo Provincial Government shareholder representative for Roads Agency Limpopo SOC Ltd (RAL), Honourable Namane Dickson Masemola recently confirmed the appointment of the RAL Board of Directors, and the appointment of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) members, for a new three-year term effective Tuesday, 2 February 2021.

This is the third RAL Board since 2014.

Reappointed to the Board is Matome Ralebipi (Chairperson), Gabaiphiwe Moleko, Motlhanke Phukuntsi and Mercy Ramabulana.

Tebogo Kekana is still the Company

Secretary responsible for advising the current Board while Gabriel Maluleke sits on the Board as an ex officio Board Member in his capacity as the Chief Executive Officer for the Agency.

The four new non-executive appointments are Mathukana Mokoka, who previously served as an independent member on the ARC, Anna Moloisi, Kgagudi Morota and Randy Mushwana.

Hon. Masemola also appointed the Audit and Risk Committee of the RAL Board.

The ARC, which comprises the Chairperson (Ms Mokoka) and three independent members, namely Zukisani Samsam (reappointed), and new appointees Natalie Skeepers and Beauty Mutheiwana, was appointed in conformity with section 94(2) of the Companies Act, 2008.

Section 94(5) of the Companies Act, read with Companies Regulation 42,

makes provision for one-third of the Committee to be constituted by members who possess academic qualifications and experience in specific fields such as accounting, economics, finance, engineering and public affairs, inter alia.

Consequently, RAL has appointed the members of its Audit and Risk Committee in alignment with this statutory requirement.

Audit and Risk is one of the five oversight committees of the RAL Board. Other committees, as appointed by the Board, are the Planning and Contracts, Human Resources and Remuneration (Remco), Nominations, and the Social and Ethics.

An up-to-date Board, and its various committees, is available at anytime during the term of the Board, from the RAL website, [ral.co.za/leadership](http://ral.co.za/leadership) or from the Company Secretary. **m**

# MEET THE BOARD



**Mr Matome Ralebipi**  
Chairperson of the Board of Directors



**Ms Gabaiphiwe Moleko**  
Board Member



**Ms Mercy Ramabulana**  
Board Member



**Adv Kgagudi Morota**  
Board Member



**Ms Mathukana Mokoka**  
Board Member



**Ms Randy Mushwana**  
Board Member



**Ms Anna Moloisi**  
Board Member



**Mr Motlanke Phukuntsi**  
Board Member



**Mr Gabriel Maluleke**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Ms Tebogo Kekana**  
Company Secretary

# ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY IN LIMPOPO

In an effort to continue improving road infrastructure in Limpopo Province, the MEC for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Honourable Namane Dickson Masemola has handed over several roads to the contractors for major rehabilitation as part the provincial infrastructure rollout programme for 2021 first quarter.

The road infrastructure rollout entails major rehabilitation of six roads at an estimated total cost of R151 million, spanning 131 kilometres across the province.

The rollout comes after Hon. Masemola visited various communities in 2020 to inspect conditions of the roads, and where urgent intervention was needed he promised that his team would determine ways and means to respond to these challenges. The MEC's team includes Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), which is a state owned company responsible for road infrastructure delivery in Limpopo and LDPWRI.

The MEC said since people deserve better services, his administration should ensure that fast tracking service delivery to the people becomes mandatory.

"Sceptics never believed us when we said we would go back to the communities with solutions. Our mandate is to serve our people without fail. After allowing government procurement processes and procedures to unfold, we are delivering on our mandate as most of those bad roads



Pictured at the sod-turning ceremony for road D11, Ga-Mamaila Kolobetona, is Kgoši Solomon Mamaila, Gabriel Maluleke, Honourable Namane Dickson Masemola and Dikgole Seroka (HoD for LDPWRI).

will be fixed," the MEC proclaimed.

Moreover, the MEC said people deserved to drive on quality roads as this will make driving safe and efficient.

"Handing over the contractors as promised is clear evidence that when we

commit to serve our people, we fulfil our promises," he affirmed.

MEC Masemola further highlighted that road projects will create job opportunities for local residents while also empowering Small, Medium and Micro

Enterprises (SMMEs).

The roads to be rehabilitated in the Mopani District are D3840 between Phalaborwa and Giyani in the Greater Giyani Municipality, D11 at Ga-Mamaila Kolobetona and D3200 in Mohlabaeng, Lebaka both in the Greater Letaba Municipality.

In the Sekhukhune District, the road repairs will involve D5140 (Praktiseer)

The MEC expressed that when funds are available, government will try its best to fix all the dilapidated road infrastructure, including addressing the demand for new tarred roads.

“Besides infrastructure, our government is also trying its best to address other challenges such as water and electricity outages; as such we have budget constraints.”

we will increase our outreach to include other places that need urgent attention.”

Scores of community members were delighted when receiving the news that their roads will be fixed. Such excited member included Hosi Aaron Mahumani from Nkomo village in Giyani within Mopani District: “We are happy that the road (D3840) will be fixed as it has been problematic for some time and has often caused accidents.”

Meanwhile Morewane Sekhukhune from the Marota Bogwasha Traditional Council at Ga-Motodi in the Sekhukhune District said community members are grateful that MEC Masemola and his team have kept their word in fixing their roads (D5140 and D2537).



**“HANDING OVER THE CONTRACTORS AS PROMISED IS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT WHEN WE COMMIT TO SERVE OUR PEOPLE, WE FULFIL OUR PROMISES.”**


and D2537 (Penge) both in the Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality whereas in the Capricorn District, the dilapidated D1589 road between Kgobokanang and Ga-Makgato in the Blouberg Local Municipality will also be rehabilitated.

Furthermore, the MEC promises other communities, which are still waiting for road improvement interventions that his team will reach them at the appropriate time.

“As we plan for 2021/22 financial year,

Whereas Kgoši Bernard Makgato from Makgato Traditional Authority at Ga-Makgato in the Capricorn District said the bad road (D1589) has caused many accidents and damaged many vehicles.

“We appreciate the commitment shown by MEC Masemola in ensuring that this road is fixed.”

According to RAL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gabriel Maluleke, most of the projects are expected to last for a period of six months and the contractors are expected to begin working as soon as all the consultation processes involving the community forums and other stakeholders are completed. 

# Free State of Mind

## MENTORSHIP - SUSTAINABILITY - EXCELLENCE

In February 2021, the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) gracefully welcomed a number of new Non-Executive Members to their Board of Directors, one of whom is Motlhanke Phukuntsi.

**M**r Phukuntsi joins the RAL Board as a representative for Limpopo Provincial Treasury in terms of Section 12(3)(a) of the Limpopo Province Roads Agency Proprietary Limited Act and Provincial Roads Act 7 of 1998 as amended.

Born on 25 March 1971, in Bultfontein, Free State, Mr Phukuntsi tells a compelling tale of turning tides in South Africa. His journey through life, shares a captivating story of resilience, courage, and determination to instil change and the premise of ‘paying it forward’.

He spent his childhood years growing up on a farm, Sofia, and later Strydvlakte. Mr Phukuntsi recalls fond memories of particularly, his primary school days.

The Strydvlakte Farm School was a two-roomed school with only two teachers split between grades.

This meant that Grades 1 – 3 would share one classroom, while Grades 4 – 6 shared the other.

“The funny part was when the Sub A (now Grade 1) had to keep quiet and listen to the teacher teaching in the Sub B (now Grade 2) section of the same classroom. I used this opportunity to prepare myself for the next grade,” he says.

This introduced a rather accelerated

approach to learning for the young Motlhanke, who later enrolled at Christian Liphoko Middle School, as well as Moroka High School in Thaba Nchu.

He chose the commercial subject stream and matriculated in 1990, a historical and transformative year for South Africa, as the country witnessed the release of the late former president Nelson Mandela from prison.

**“I WAS INFLUENCED BY PEOPLE WHO WERE MOSTLY INTERESTED IN BUILDING AND CONTRIBUTING POSITIVELY TO SOCIETY.”**

This was particularly significant for Mr Phukuntsi as this meant he entered the tertiary education space at a time which afforded a degree of access for black students into previously ‘white-only’ institutions of higher learning.

He remains forever grateful to Reverend Sikhakhane, a Methodist priest and community leader, who pledged R485 towards his registration fees after having enrolled at Vista University in the Free State.

“As a young man I was inspired by a lot of people in my life especially family

men who worked very hard to raise their own children well and loved their families. I was mainly influenced by people who were mostly interested in building and contributing positively to society,” he says.

The young and vibrant Motlhanke had the dream and aspiration of a true visionary. Having desired to venture into Chartered Accountancy, he admits with regret, not having put enough effort

towards that goal.

He then completed his Bachelor of Commerce in Accountancy degree in 1993, after which he landed his first corporate job with the First National Bank, as an Executive Trainee.

Mr Phukuntsi’s first break as a public servant was his appointment as Assistant Director of the then Department of Finance and Economic Affairs in the Free State Government. Between 2003 and 2013, he spent over nine years in various roles within Government, Treasury in particular, where he honed

The Chairperson of the Roads Agency  
Limpopo's Social and Ethics Committee  
of the Board, Motthanke Phukuntsi.



his skills and need for excellent delivery of public services.

Notably, he was part of the senior Treasury team, which drafted the Public Finance Management Act and its Treasury Regulations, led by Trevor Manuel, the then Minister of Finance.

Now a thriving contributor to the growth and policy direction of government, it came as no surprise that Mr Phukuntsi, who also holds a Master's degree in Public Administration (University of the Free State), was appointed Deputy Director-General for

Sustainable Resource Management at Limpopo Provincial Treasury in 2013.

He then relocated his family to Limpopo where he currently resides.

As a family man – a father of two girls and a boy, he enjoys spending time at home and admits to his love for the news and sports TV channels. He also enjoys travelling to some of his favourite destinations including the luscious Garden Routes of the Western Cape where he recently celebrated 21 years of marriage to his wife.

Now also a man of faith, with a Higher Certificate in Theology from the Theological Education by Extension College (TEE College or simply TEEC) in Johannesburg, Mr Phukuntsi blows off steam with walks on the tranquil lawns.

Although he sometimes thinks he has reached the ceiling in his professional career, the once aspiring Radio DJ still believes in working with people and imparting knowledge.

Besides his personal ambition of pursuing further studies in Infrastructure Planning or Development, he believes he still has a lot to offer, particularly in the education, mentoring and development of young people.

Speaking on his role at the Board of the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), Mr Phukuntsi says he would like to see RAL executing its mandate of delivering road infrastructure diligently, and in fact, being the best roads agency in the country.

Appointed for a three-year term, Mr Phukuntsi, who is currently the Chairperson of the Social and Ethics Committee of the Board, brings with him years of expert knowledge in budget planning, combined with a democratic management style, which encourages participation, collaboration, transformation and coaching.

Mr Phukuntsi joins the Board alongside Matome Ralebipi (Chairperson), Gabriel Maluleke (CEO), Gabaiphiwe Moleko, Mercy Ramabulana, Kgagudi Morota, Randy Mushwana, Mathukana Mokoka, Anna Moloisi and Tebogo Kekana (Company Secretary). 



Phukuntsi says he'd like to see RAL executing its mandate of delivering road infrastructure diligently.

# RAL

ROADS AGENCY  
**LIMPOPO**  
TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS

## Quick Logo Explainer

Represent a road network (our core business), and the essence of RAL, connecting the people of Limpopo, and togetherness for better roads.

Different colour emphasise our area of responsibility and energy to serve.



Triangular symbol represents prioritising the hierarchy of needs. Use of a different colour, a solid pantone "red" in main logo variation signifies safety elements of the road in the same triangular shape.

The uppercase tagline emphasises our corporate value of teamwork.



Community members engaging RAL on the upgrading of roads D3717, D3642 and D3736 in the Collins Chabane Local Municipality, during the first of two stakeholder engagement events held recently.

# RAL ENGAGES COMMUNITIES ON HOLLYWOOD TO GUMBANI ROAD

**E**ngagements on the need for the upgrading, from gravel to tarred surface standards, of road D3717, from the intersection with road R524 (Punda Maria Road leading to the Kruger National Park) in Makwarela

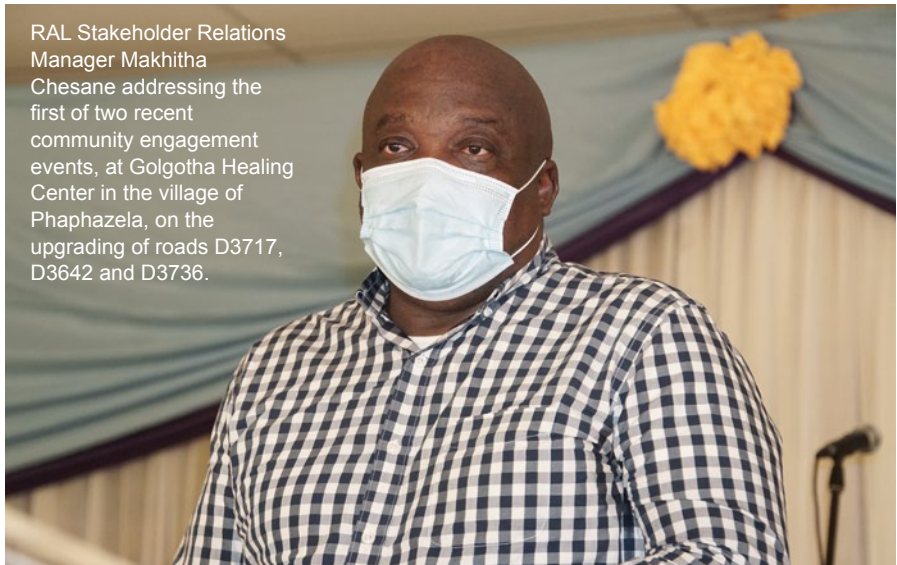
through road D3642 to Gumbani, and road D3736 from Dididi to Dovheni, within Collins Chabane Local Municipality in the Vhembe District of Limpopo Province are ongoing.

The engagements, led by the Limpopo

Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) and Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), date back to 2019 and are aimed at finding a solution for 29.6 kilometre stretch of gravel road spread across three roads, namely roads



RAL Stakeholder Relations Manager Makhitha Chesane addressing the first of two recent community engagement events, at Golgotha Healing Center in the village of Phaphazela, on the upgrading of roads D3717, D3642 and D3736.



who is the Chairperson of the Hollywood - Gumbani Task Team.

He added that the bad road has also contributed in damaging their cars and as such they are seeking an urgent intervention.

The community voiced that they will be very grateful if their road could be tarred so that they can drive safely and efficiently, and reach their destinations on time.

deliver the news,” said Mr Chesane.

According to Joel Seabi, the spokesperson for Honourable Namane Dickson Masemola - the MEC for LDPWRI, “the Department will, in the meantime, ensure that the road gets maintained while we wait for funds to tar it.”

The patching of potholes and grading and regraveling of dirt and gravel roads are some of the road infrastructure maintenance functions residing in the Department and not RAL. (*Mmileng* Issue 2 of 2020, page 16)

Mr Chesane has further highlighted steps and procedures for communities to follow in requesting for tarred roads. He said, firstly they should know who owns the road between RAL, municipality and South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited (SANRAL) then submit their request to their local municipality through the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) process, which is reviewed regularly.

“Then your local municipality will prioritise the road according to its economic and essential value and submit to the district municipality.”

He indicated that after consolidating all the demand lists submitted by the local municipalities, the district municipality will then forward the priority lists to RAL only if the road belongs to the entity.

“RAL will develop the roads as prioritised by municipalities when the funds are available,” he explained.

Additionally, roads are prioritised according to their economic and essential value to the communities. When RAL develops the roads, they begin with all the roads prioritised as category one in all the twenty-two local municipalities in the province and then proceed accordingly. **m**

## “THE DEPARTMENT (LDPWRI) WILL, IN THE MEANTIME, ENSURE THAT THE ROAD GETS MAINTAINED WHILE WE WAIT FOR FUNDS TO TAR IT.”

D3717 (7km) and D3642 (9.6km), colloquially known as Hollywood (Motors and Filling Station) to Gumbani, and 13km of road D3736 towards Dovheni.

Roads D3717 and D3642 benefit seven villages near Malamulela, namely Tshiulungoma, Dididi, Tshitomboni, Tambaulate, Tovhowani, Phaphazela and Gumbani.

In the most recent of engagements, held in March and April 2021 at Golgotha Healing Center in the village of Phaphazela, community members said that the roads have been in a bad condition for many years and this has resulted in them driving for longer hours than expected, thereby delaying their journeys.

“We take almost an hour and 35 minutes to drive on the road as the road is extremely damaged and this inconveniences us big time,” explained Nдавheleseni Mathalise,

Addressing the communities, Makhitha Chesane, RAL Stakeholder Relations Manager, said as part of finding solutions to the challenges involving roads D3717 and D3642, and road D3736 on-going engagements are continuing with the communities to address their concerns.

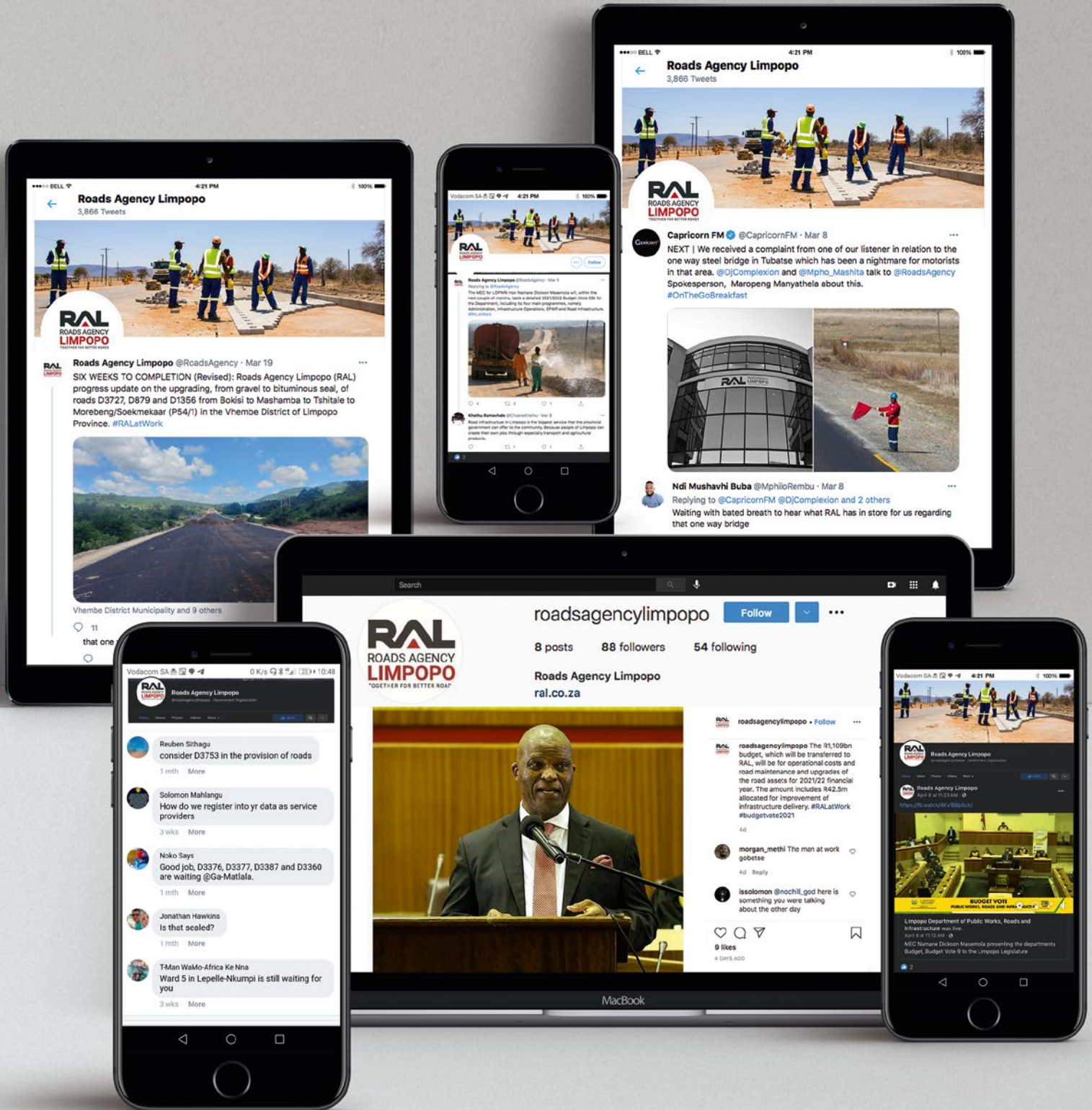
“We have previously inspected the road and updated the communities about our current financial challenges and future plans. Although our first meeting did not go well, the second one was fruitful as we were able to constructively engage with each other.”

Mr Chesane told the gathering that no promises will be made for now, instead, the delegation would go back to the office and brief senior management who will devise some means to fix the road.

“Once such decisions are taken we will come back to the communities and

# #RALatWork

Complaints and Compliments



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**#coronavirus**

# MINTIRHO YA VULAVULA

In May 2021, *Mmileng* visited six villages from Mphanama to Jane Furse across the Makhuduthamaga and Fetakgomo Tubatse local municipalities of the Sekhukhune District to hear first-hand feedback from community members and road users benefiting from the recently completed upgrade, from gravel to bituminous (tarred) surface, of road D4200. Story on page 30.



“

I have seen a lot of positive changes, and increased foot traffic, ever since the Mphanama road was tarred, with more people than before now supporting my business due to improved access provided by the tarred road. The road is also benefiting me on a personal level, as I sometimes use the now easily accessible public transport to come to work.

Malekgala Sekgala,  
Small Business Owner (CS Printers &  
Graphics Internet Café),  
from Mphanama.

”



“

As a maxi taxi owner, the upgrading of this road has brought a much needed (positive) change in my business. Before the upgrade I could hardly reach my daily targets, and my daily income was meagre, as I could not access other villages due to the bad road. But since the road was tarred, my daily income has increased and I'm now able to put bread on the table.

Adam Mokgabudi,  
Small Business Owner (Local Cab),  
from Madibong.

”



Scan the QR Code to watch this vox pop.



“

I previously stayed in an area where the road there is not tarred and it was difficult for me to access public transport when going to work, or doing shopping, visiting nearby villages or running other errands. Because of this newly tarred road, I just had to move to Ditshweung where I can now easily access public transport.

Pušeletšo Sebake,  
Community Member,  
from Ditshweung.

”

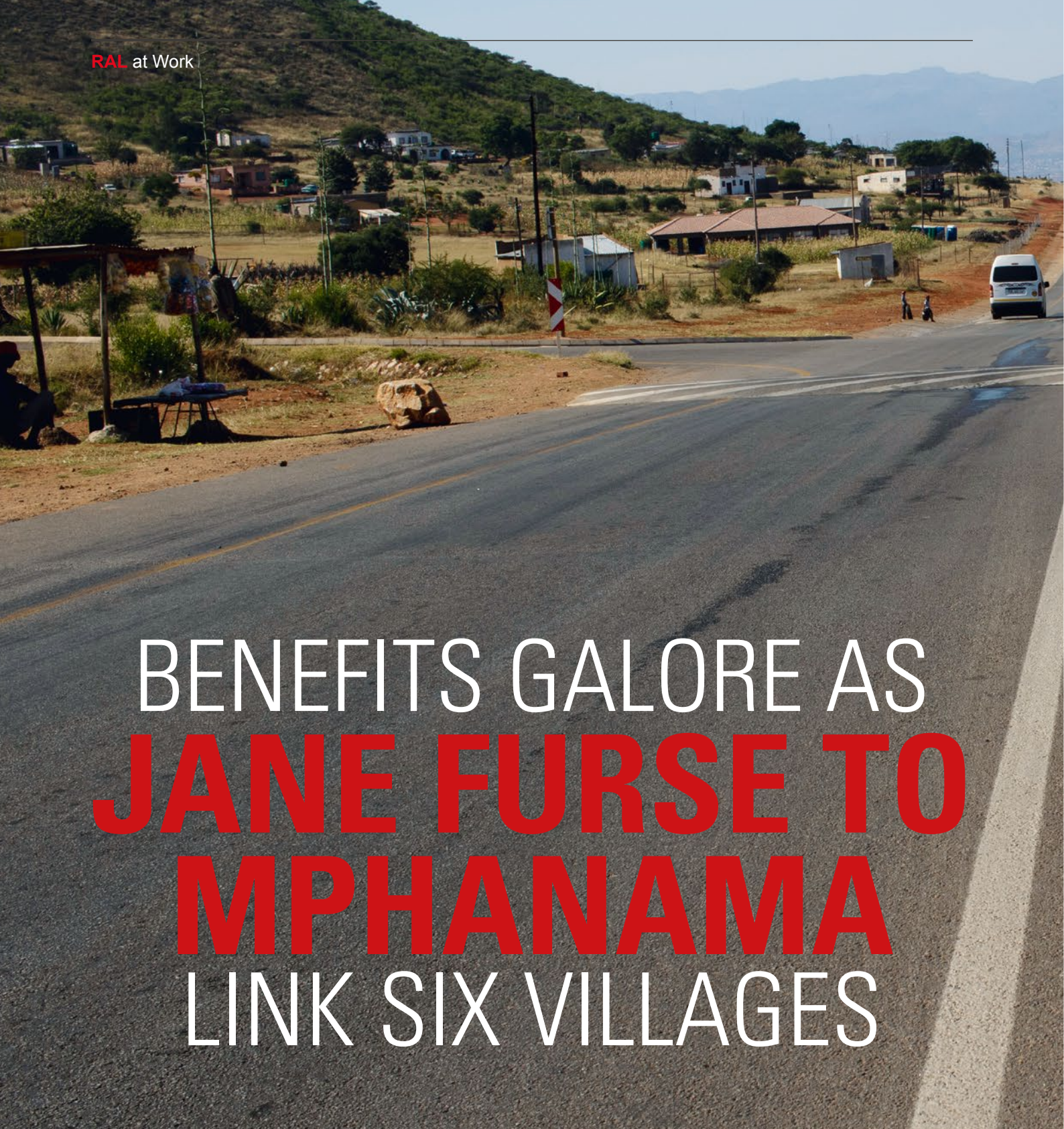


“

Our scholar transport uses this route to transport us between home and school. When it was gravel I would arrive at school tired as the road was very uncomfortable. It was not a good situation. But now that the road has been upgraded to a tarred road, we arrive at school fresh, clean and in a clear state of mind.

Amogelang Mathanyela,  
Learner (Mphele Secondary School,  
Ga-Maila), from Mphanama.

”



# BENEFITS GALORE AS JANE FURSE TO MPHANAMA LINK SIX VILLAGES

**T**he successful completion of a massive road infrastructure project in the Sekhukhune District of Limpopo Province means a more accessible public transport with reduced travel time, and an improved

access to services such as schools and healthcare facilities for road users and communities at large.

The multi-year project, for the rehabilitation and upgrading, from gravel to bituminous (tarred) surface, of road D4200 that transverses two local municipalities, Makhuduthamaga and Fetakgomo Tubatse, was successfully

completed by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) at the end of May 2021. The benefiting six villages, near Jane Furse, are Dichoeung, Madibong, Marulaneng, Maseleseleng, Ga-Maila (Segolo), and Mphanama.

The total extent of the project was 23.66 kilometres, which consisted of the rehabilitation of the existing 4km of



Roads Agency Limpopo recently completed a massive road infrastructure project that will benefit no less than six villages, including the village of Madibong as pictured, in the Sekhukhune District.

surfaced road and an upgrade of 19.33km, with wider shoulders, from road D4252 at Mphanama through Ga-Maila and Madibong to road D2219 at Jane Furse.

According to RAL Project Manager Elvis Kgomeswana, this is the last link to be surfaced between Jane Furse and Mphanama.

Two bridges, the Dithothwaneng

Bridge at Mphanama and Ga-Maila Bridge, and a major culvert, on an equally newly constructed direct access road into Mphanama Clinic, were also constructed along the stretch of the road. The route between Mphanama Clinic and Jane Furse Memorial Hospital, the largest public hospital in the district, is now a smooth tarred road all the way.

Madibong Clinic, another primary healthcare facility situated alongside the newly tarred road, and Marulaneng Clinic that can in part be accessed via road D4200, will also benefit from improved response time by ambulances and other Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Taxis operating from a taxi rank at

Ga-Maila alongside road D4200 will also benefit from the upgraded road.

For a safer road, traffic calming speed humps have also been installed on both sides of the road next to the Mphanama Clinic, and on the road as it passes

“The project also included the replacement of damaged stormwater drains along the road, construction of new stormwater drainage systems and construction of cast in-situ and precast drainage structures,” said Mr Kgomeswana.

water’ on the access road to Mphanama Clinic was addressed before the project was completed. A berm has since been put to divert the flow of water into the culvert.

The project was not without challenges, some of which delayed the initial



Brian Mogosoana, for Mphanama, and Annah Nyampi, for Dichoeung, Madibong, Marulaneng, Maseleseleng and Ga-Maila (Segolo), pictured at Ga-Maila, were appointed joint CLOs for a RAL road infrastructure project in the Fetakgomo Tubatse and Makhuduthamaga local municipalities.

alongside five schools adjacent to the road, namely Modipadi Primary School and Dithothwaneng Senior Secondary School, neighbouring each other in Mphanama, Mphele Secondary School in Ga-Maila (also with a newly constructed access road), and Madibong and Freddy Mokgabudi primary schools, both in Modibong.

These and the construction of side drains means there will be an improved control of stormwater along the road during rainy seasons, a benefit Thamaga Thupa echoes.

Mr Thupa, owner of one of the local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) engaged on the project, said the all-weather aspect of the newly tarred road will benefit his community as they used to struggle to use the road during the wet season.

Ward Councillor Klaas Diphofa, for Ward 39 encompassing the village of Mphanama in the Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, said there are other snags emanating from the project that were not part of the scope of work for the contractor that can be taken over by the community going forward.

“There are culverts dug out from the old road that can be used on several access roads in the village, for example, and a borehole that needs to be equipped with a tank,” said Mr Diphofa, imploring his community to take ownership for the good of their village going forward.

A concern he raised about the ‘flow of

completion date. Of concern were the unavoidable national lockdown alert levels imposed by the national government aimed at containing the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, heavy rainfall in the summer that eroded portions of the road and a road reserve that was too narrow for traffic accommodation.

The project, as in all RAL projects, had a job creation element to it. Just over R100 million was spent on the employment of local labourers and SMMEs in the project area over the 36 months contract period. More on this on page 34, SMME Empowerment.

Two such village SMMEs employed on the project were the Mphanama-based Give Joy Projects and Engineering and Dichoeung-based Kgodumo Construction and Plant Hire.

Give Joy, owned by Mahlatse Kgaphola was subcontracted to supply about 23 000 litres of diesel every seven days on the project, employing nine workers, all from Mphanama, in the process.

“I appreciated the courtesy in communication, and overall support received, from the contractor, particularly

**“I APPRECIATED THE COURTESY IN COMMUNICATION, AND OVERALL SUPPORT RECEIVED, FROM THE CONTRACTOR.”**




A minibus taxi pictured travelling between Madibong and Marulaneng on road D4200. The newly tarred road is a boon for daily commuters travelling between Mphanama and Jane Furse.



Joel (Site Agent), when there were delayed payments. We never for once withheld delivery because of non-payment.”

He said after the project was completed, he was given a completion letter that, based on the experience gained from the project; enabled him to cement relations with Sasol, and also to clinch another such deal with a mine in the North West Province.

For Sente Matlala, who was subcontracted to supply ready mix concrete through a joint venture (JV) his company Kgodumo had with Steelpoort-based Loge Construction, it was a bittersweet experience on the project.

He employed five locals, from the village of Ga-Maila, but sadly lost two during the construction period in a home break-in not related to the project. He also decried the ‘construction mafia’ for terrorising subcontracted SMMEs in infrastructure projects. 

Local labourers pictured at Dithothwaneng Bridge in the village of Maphanama during the implementation of a RAL road infrastructure project. The project, for the upgrading of road D4200, empowered 60 local SMMEs and a total of 154 local labourers.



# SIX VILLAGES SHARE OVER R100M JOB OPPORTUNITIES BONANZA

**T**hamaga Thupa, from the village of Marulaneng in the Sekhukhune District of Limpopo Province, is one of many local small business owners whose companies were empowered during the construction of a recently completed road infrastructure project in their area.

He worked on a Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) project for the upgrading, from gravel to bituminous surface, of a

23.66 kilometre stretch of road D4200 through his company, Magaelane Trading and Projects, renting out tipper trucks for a period of twenty-two months, from March 2019 to March 2021, with only two months interrupted by the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

That stretch on road D4200 benefits six villages around Jane Furse, namely Dichoeung, Madibong, Marulaneng, Maseleseleng, Ga-Maila (Segolo), and

Mphanama, across two local municipalities of the Sekhukhune District in Makhuduthamaga and Fetakgomo Tubatse, story on page 30.

He said he appreciated the support and patience given by the main contractor, Vharanani Properties, especially at the time they were setting up shop.

“They were patient with us in the beginning, giving us enough time to get our equipment and plant in order. We

started with two trucks on the project and they ended up hiring five trucks at one stage,” said Mr Thupa.

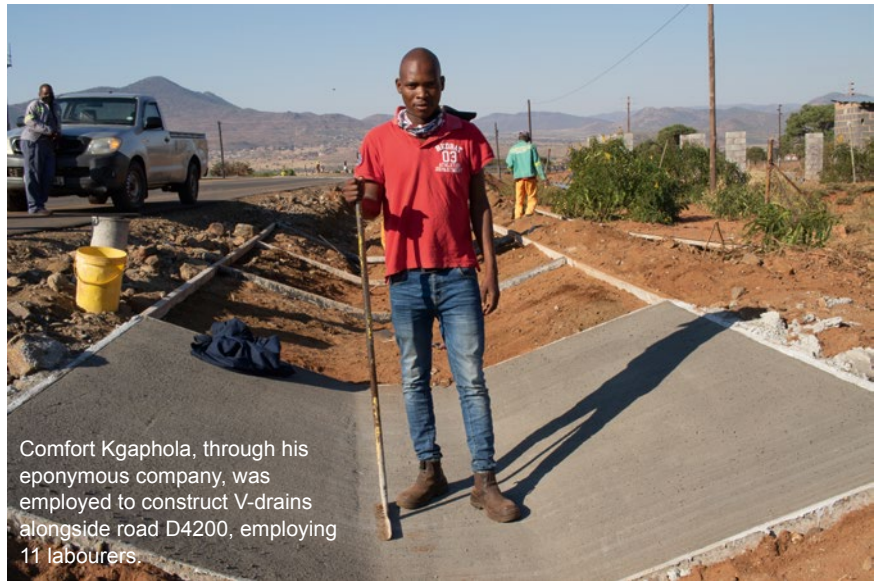
The twenty-six-year-old Comfort Kgaphola from Maseleseng is another local whose company was employed on the project.

His eponymous company, Kgaphola Comfort (Pty) Ltd, was subcontracted for eleven months on the business end of the project, employing as many labourers. And as one of the youth-owned businesses engaged on the project, Mr Kgaphola said he valued the experience gained on his first opportunity working on a RAL project.

“I was there to learn and gain experience. I was not after profits or making money. Hence I didn’t mind if I paid all my labourers and I was left with nothing. Fortunately, it never came to that,” said the hands-on Mr Kgaphola.

The contract made provision for the employment of local labourers, at 10% of the contract amount, and also that 30% of the contract amount is used on the available services of local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) by the contractor during the 36-month contract period.

All in all, the contractor made use of the available services from a total of 60 local



Comfort Kgaphola, through his eponymous company, was employed to construct V-drains alongside road D4200, employing 11 labourers.

**“I WAS THERE TO LEARN AND GAIN EXPERIENCE. I WAS NOT AFTER PROFITS OR MAKING MONEY.”**

Elvis Kgomeswana, the contractual amounts that were earmarked in this regard translated to R25.7m for labour utilisation and R79.6m for the employment

to complement the Project Steering Committees and Community Liaison Officers in its projects.

“I have plans in place for this initiative,” Mr Seabela said, in his last project for Vharanani.

Nonetheless he said his company had a good working relationship with their ninety direct labourers, and “never had issues with them”.

However, he said they encountered a lot of difficulties working with local SMMEs, due to the number of villages involved in the project.

“Also, a good social consultant, and not necessarily a local one, will go a long way in helping the project run smooth,” he continued with his debrief.

On the benefits the SMMEs derived from the project, Mr Seabela, who has since moved on for greener pastures himself, has had a few to highlight from the empowerment and mentorship outlook.

“From now on they (subcontractors) will know how to do their own invoicing (to the main contractor), manage their workforce, do their daily costing sheets and, also, subsequently upgrade their CIDB (Construction Industry Development Board) grading with the experience they got from us,” said Mr Seabela. **m**



Klaas Diphofa, Ward Councillor for Ward 39 in the Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, pointing at what he calls ‘an area of concern’ on the access road to Mphanama Clinic. More on page 30.

SMMEs, as sub-contractors and suppliers during the life of the project. In the process, a total of 154 local labourers were employed by both the contractor (101) and by the subcontracted SMMEs (53).

According to RAL Project Manager

of local SMMEs.

For the size of the project and labourers need, Joel Seabela, the Site Agent for Vharanani suggested that it will be prudent in future for RAL to look at getting the expertise of specialist recruitment agencies

# A Nursing Dream TURNED INTO Spiritual Healing

Growing up in the dusty streets of Ga-Phasha, a village in the Sekhukhune District of Limpopo Province, all what the now award-winning gospel singer-songwriter Selinah Winnie Mashaba wished for was to become a professional nurse.

**L**ittle did the young Selinah Mashaba know that when she's all grown up she would be a soothing healer of some sorts, one who needed no certificate but a gift of her angelic voice to treat and heal the sick through uplifting gospel music.

A third child from a family of eight, Dr Mashaba says being born in a rural area that lacked resources and access to information limited career choices for many. For her, she looked up to the local nurses who fascinated her with their uniform.

"I loved the way the nurses dressed, it inspired me to want to look like them, but God's fate took me somewhere else where I still became a nurse, but a spiritual one," she says appreciatively.

In 1990, at the age of nine, she discovered her natural talent for singing as the young Selinah would sing at school, church and local gatherings. Her interest in music grew even stronger, as time went by, surpassing even her childhood dream of becoming a nurse.

Dr Mashaba says at the nascent stage of her music career, lack of resources and career advice on how to formalise her gift hampered her progress.

Although her late mother, Malebo Mashaba, wanted her to focus on her education in order to be a nurse, she supported her dream to be a musician. As such, Dr Mashaba believes that she couldn't have made it without her mother's guidance and support.

"My mother saw passion in my singing and got worried that I would no longer focus on my studies," says Dr Mashaba.

"However, she secretly looked for a producer to guide me. She tried a lot of them but only Solly Moholo was interested, coming all the way from Gauteng to my village just to listen to me sing, and eventually decided that I was talented enough to be a musician."

After Solomon Molokoane, better known by his stage name Solly Moholo, listened to her, the *Ke Mosione 9-9* singer was so impressed that he arranged for her to visit his home studio in Soshanguve, Gauteng, during school recess to record a demo.

This is how her music career began. Selinah became Winnie.

Her schedule became so busy that at the age of 18, she was forced to take a break from schooling after passing Grade 11 at Mashupje Senior Secondary School in Ga-Phasha to prepare for the release of her debut album the following year.

In June 2000, after extensive mentoring by Mr Molokoane, Dr Mashaba eventually released her debut album titled *Lesedi la Khutšo - Exoda 20*, produced by the former.

Dr Mashaba went on to make her first public performance a year later, in her home village of Ga-Phasha, sharing the stage with many popular musicians. This, she says, was in July 2001 during a promotional event hosted by a beverage company that attracted over a thousand people,

"The entire street was closed [off] with a huge stage, and nearly all people from Burgersfort were present," she recalls.

"What made my first public performance very special to me was that it was the first and last performance my

Winnie Mashaba is an established gospel artiste who also hosts *Amahubo*, a traditional gospel programme, on DStv's channel Dumisa TV.





**“WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING THAT YOU LOVE, YOU DON’T EVEN FEEL LIKE YOU ARE WORKING.”**

The title track and lead single *Moporofeta Jeremiah*, released April 2020, from Mashaba’s latest album has already won her the award for best composer at the 7th annual Independent National Gospel Music Awards (INGOMAs).

mother ever saw me perform before she passed on in August of the same year. The way people received me thrilled my mother to an extent that she told everyone that ‘that’s my child’.”

She says the joy which she saw on her mother’s face still lingers poignantly in her mind even today.

“This is what keeps me going when I face industry challenges as I always think how my late mother proudly expressed her appreciation during my first public performance,” she continues.

With a singing career that spans 23 years, the now 40-year-old has thus far released nineteen (19) albums with her latest offering titled *Moporofeta Jeremiah* released in February 2021.

As one of the most respected traditional gospel singers in Africa, she has received numerous awards including, the Metro FM Awards (Best Gospel Album - 2008), SABC Crown Gospel Music Awards (Best Gospel Artist - 2013), Limpopo Music Awards (Best Traditional Gospel Album – 2017 and 2019, and Best Traditional Gospel Single - 2018), and the Independent National Gospel Music Awards (Humanitarian Award - 2016, Best Female Artist and Artist of the Year - 2018, and Best Songwriter - 2020).

In her illustrious career, the versatile singer has also collaborated with many

gospel artists and groups such as Spirit of Praise, Women in Praise and the late Sfiso Ncwane.

Inspired by the need to empower unknown talent, Dr Mashaba has mentored many potential artists in the country.

“I have given myself the responsibility to give budding artists an opportunity to shine,” she says.

This is attested by the fact that on her current album, she features talented budding singers Mapula Monyepao and Musa Mhlawuli on her second single *Ga a fele Maatla*.

As part of her community outreach programmes, she motivates and donates school shoes and sanitary towels to youth in South Africa and Botswana. And she also holds an annual Moral Regeneration Concert around the country, and the neighbouring Botswana.

However, the fifth instalment of the gig, originally scheduled for 2020, was put on hold indefinitely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

These humanitarian efforts have not gone unnoticed.

In 2019, she was awarded the Honorary Doctorate by the Trinity International

Bible University (TIBU) for her community work and positive impact in other people’s lives.

the Roads Agency Limpopo of improving road infrastructure in the province despite existing budgetary constraints.”

**“I APPLAUD THE WORK DONE BY THE ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO OF IMPROVING ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE PROVINCE DESPITE EXISTING BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS.”**

As a busy musician, when quizzed about how she balances work and family, she assuredly remarked that: “When you do something that you love, you don’t even feel like you are working. It feels like a normal day to day house chore. However, my family is very supportive of my career as they are able to adapt to my busy schedule.”

Dr Mashaba highlights that a quality road network make things easier for her busy schedule as she can travel on time and with ease around the province.

“As such, I applaud the work done by

“As I’m now based in Gauteng, I used to struggle to go to my home village of Ga-Phasha due to gravel roads that were riddled with stones. But now, thanks to RAL that the road to my village was tarred in 2018, I now do not hesitate to go home anymore.”


She further appeals to business people to assist and partner with government on its quest to improve the state of roads in the province.

When *Mmileng* asked her about her latest album, she sighed remarking that: “My latest album *Moporofeta Jeremiah* is the most special album because after 23 years in the music industry, this is my first album released under my own record label.

“I take this album as my own baby. The fact that the album has eight different languages [from] across Africa is what makes it even more special.”

After a drawn out hiatus from schooling, in 2012, Dr Mashaba returned to successfully sit for her National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations.

“It was essential that I go back to school because as a motivational speaker you cannot tell someone to do something you failed to do. It becomes very difficult for a person to take you seriously.

“We need education to enhance talent, so everyone should take education seriously,” she concludes. 



Mashaba, in her trademark doek, has wrapped her head around Roads Agency Limpopo’s thankless task of delivering quality road infrastructure with a limited budget.



# GA-MASEMOLA OLD TOWN ROAD GETS AN UPGRADE

**T**he community of Ga-Masemola in the Sekhukhune District of Limpopo Province recently took back full use of a completed upgrading of the ‘old main’ road that will now give them improved access to government services such as primary healthcare, schools and social security facilities amongst others.

The road, D4253, was one of over ten multi-year road infrastructure projects mentioned in the 2021/22 Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) Budget Speech, by the MEC responsible Honourable Namane Dickson Masemola, as due for completion this calendar year (Story on page 12).

The project, which started in July 2019, was for the rehabilitation and upgrade of road D4253 - a district road off D4045

(R579) – that transverses two wards of the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality.

The total extent of the project was 5.42 kilometres, which consisted of phase A for the rehabilitation and improvement of structural capacity of the pavement layers of the existing 420 metres of surfaced road and an upgrade of 5km, from gravel to bituminous surface, on phase B, including bell-mouths on formal access roads to Road D4235.



Roads Agency Limpopo recently completed upgrading project, from gravel to tarred surface, on road D4253 in Ga-Masemola, a village in the Sekhukhune District of Limpopo Province.

According to Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) Project Manager Elvis Kgomeswana, this 16-month long project faced three main challenges that delayed the initial completion date of 20 November 2020, namely interruptions by local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), various national lockdown alert levels imposed by national government aimed at containing the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and the inclement weather, particularly heavy

**“THE SCOPE OF WORK ON THE PROJECT ALSO INCLUDED THE CLEANING OF SILTED STORMWATER DRAINAGE STRUCTURE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM.”**

rainfall, that eroded portions of the road. Notwithstanding, and to the delight of the community of Ga-Masemola,

contractor Gebenga Construction was able to successfully complete this project by the approved and revised completion

date of 17 March 2021.

Mr Kgomeswana also highlighted several benefits of this RAL road infrastructure project to the community, road users and the public at large, including but not limited to, shorter vehicle travel times, improved access to Arkona Primary School/Tiitšane Higher Primary School in Mathema section and Masemola Senior Secondary School in ward 27, Manare section, and Magalies Clinic and the studios of Mascom FM (Masemola Community FM), a community radio station in ward 28, Maroge section of Ga-Masemola.

Traffic calming speed humps have also been installed next to the schools to offer a safer road for learners and educators.

Other installations, according to Mr Kgomeswana, were aimed at offering a better management of stormwater along the road.

“The scope of work on the project also included the cleaning of silted stormwater drainage structure and the construction of a new stormwater drainage system, minor precast stormwater drainage structures and side drains,” Mr Kgomeswana said.

The project, as with all RAL projects, also had a job creation element to it during its 16-month long construction period, meeting its 10% target for the employment of local labourers and 30% for employment of available services of local SMMEs as subcontractors and suppliers of materials on the project.

Added to that, all the twenty-seven local labourers that were employed by the main contractor have been empowered with a Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA)-accredited on-the-job training and issued with certificates to empower them in future job hunting.

On the cooperation given to the main contractor by the host community, Siboniso Mdladla, the Site Agent for contractor Gebenga Construction, said the Project Steering Committee (PSE) and Community Liaison Officer (CLO) were integral in mediations with labourers and SMMEs, avoiding further delays than anticipated.

“The project had its own challenges,

especially with regard to late payment of SMMEs due to unforeseen circumstances. However, with the support of the PSC and CLO, those challenges were managed,” said Mr Mdladla.

Mochidi Piitjo, whose company PXX Trading from Apel Cross section of Ga-Masemola installed culverts and stormwater drainage system on the project, said the experience gained on the project will help his company upgrade its Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) grading.

“My company was working on a RAL project for the first time, and we employed five labourers, including two as recommended by the PSC. However, I implore RAL, or the contractor, to brief the PSCs on how to recommend labourers with the right work attitude and skill set to various SMMEs,” Mr Piitjo said.

Nkgagolele Projects, situated in

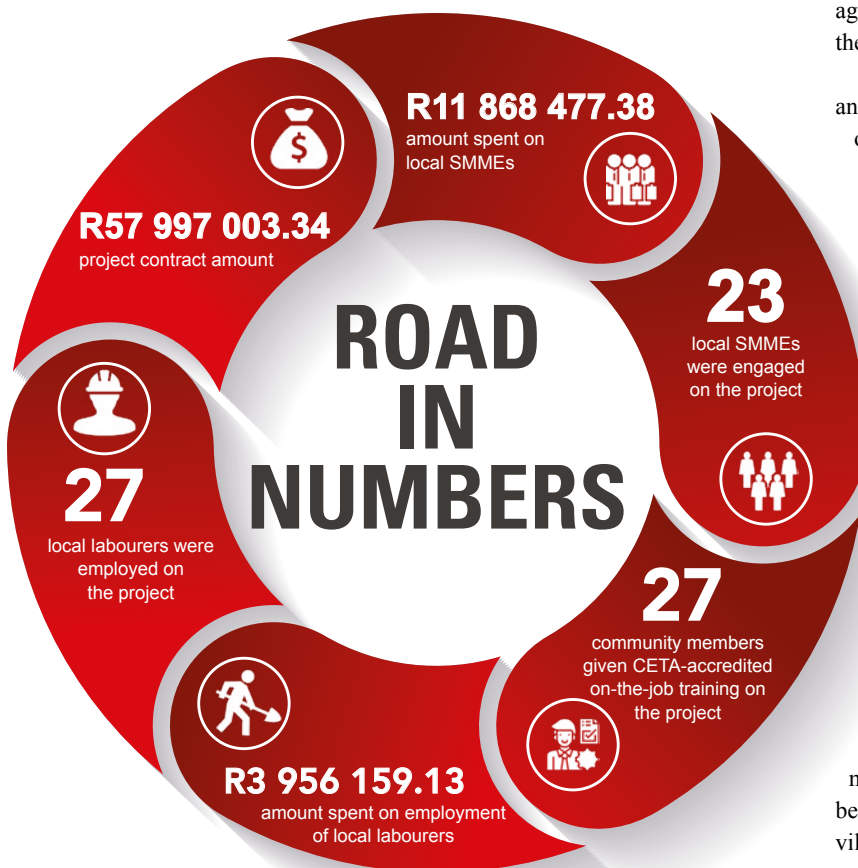
Samuel Mokalapa, the Community Liaison Officer for a RAL road infrastructure project in Ga-Masemola, pictured on the successfully completed road D4253 in front of Magalies Clinic.



Marutleng Moshate section, was another SMME engaged on the project, supplying mobile toilets and water. Business owner Mokwena Masemola said he appreciates the opportunity his company got from a fair and open briefing,



The 16-month long project for the construction of road D4253 in Ga-Masemola gave job and subcontracting opportunities to twenty-seven local labourers and twenty-three local small businesses respectively.



against eight other companies, conducted by the contractor.

“My company came in with two workers, and we were supplying six toilets for the duration of the contracts and later on, for three months, we also supplied water on the project,” said Mr Masemola.

Other small businesses from the village that were subcontracted on the project included Thugoma Projects and Companies owned by Moses Maphutha from Matopi section - that did stone pitching and gabions, Bapela Masemola’s Sedumong Projects (V-drains) from Marutleng section and Theme Peter Maphutha’s Spontiniki Business Enterprise from Maphutha section, which supplied two 18 000-litre water tankers.

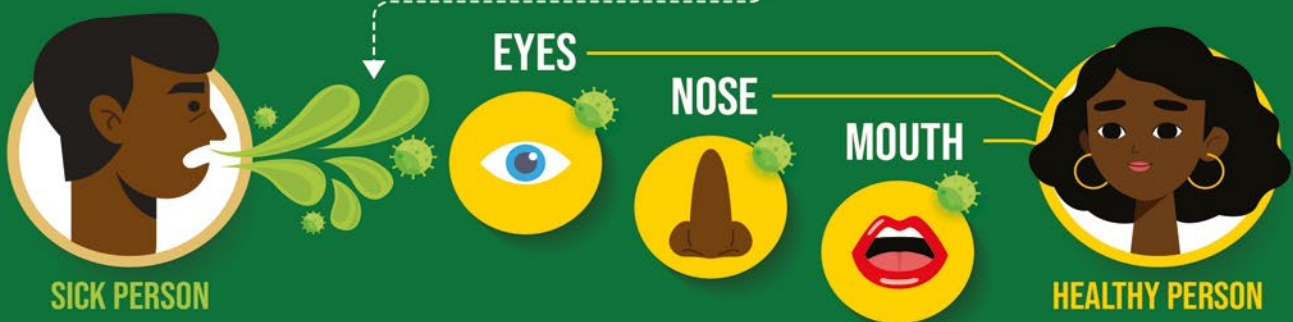
In total twenty-three local SMMEs were engaged on the project during the contact period.

Turn to page 45 (Mintirho Ya Vulavula), to read more on what other communities members of Ga-Masemola think they will benefit from from this newly tarred road in their village, not least that the now dust-free road offers reduced dust pollution for residents on the properties along the road reserve. **m**

# THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT HOW A COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS\* SPREADS

\*Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

The virus spreads when these droplets get into your:



So if you see someone who is visibly coughing / sneezing / sick, you can choose to:

## 1. Keep your distance.



(0.5m to 2m will keep you safe from large droplets.)

## 2. Avoid crowds



(People who are infected can show no symptoms, but are still infectious.)

Sometimes a sick person's saliva can get on other things...



**HANDS DOORS DEVICES MOUSE CUPS PENS HANDRAILS UTENSILS**

And if you touch any of these things by accident, and then touch your face, rub your eyes or your loved ones face, you might all fall sick.

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The situation is evolving, check updates on [www.health.gov.za](http://www.health.gov.za) and [www.nicd.ac.za](http://www.nicd.ac.za)



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# MINTIRHO YA VULAVULA

In May 2021, *Mmileng* visited Ga-Masemola village to hear first-hand feedback from community members and road users benefiting from the recently completed upgrade, from gravel to bituminous (tarred) surface, of road D4253 within the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality of the Sekhukhune District. Story on page 40.



“

As of now I am using the recently tarred road to travel between home and work on a daily basis. The route I used previously was a long distance, which consumed much of my time. I'm now able to save on fuel as the new road has shorted my travel time considerably.

”

Mampe Mashabela,  
Nurse (Magalies Clinic),  
from Ga-Masemola.



“

Before the road was tarred we experienced a lot of dust that damaged our radio equipment. Since it was tarred, and now a dust-free road, we are now able to use our equipment for longer periods without frequent maintenance. Also, community members do not have to walk for a long distance anymore to catch taxis as public transport is now easily accessible.

”

Tshegofatšo Mapheo,  
Radio Presenter (MASCOT FM),  
from Ga-Masemola.



Scan the QR Code to watch this vox pop.



“

When the road was still gravel, I was leaving home for work as early as 05h30 without even having time to eat breakfast. Since the road was tarred I am now able to leave home at around 06h30 having had enough time to have breakfast. Even after work, I am now able to relax because previously I would rush home in fear of driving at night.

”

Pakie Malatji,  
Community Member,  
from Ga-Masemola.



“

Our trips have now become easier as we previously used the main road to travel to the surrounding areas such as Mamone for workshops. Also, most of our school children now arrive on time at school and the percentage of latecomers has also declined as public transport can now be easily accessed on the tarred road near our school.

”

Ngwanaboshego Piti,  
Principal (Masemola Senior Secondary School),  
from Ga-Masemola.





**“THE WORKSHOP HAS PREPARED EVERYONE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT RISK MANAGEMENT IS ABOUT, SO THAT ALL OF US CAN HAVE A COMMON UNDERSTANDING ON HOW TO DEAL WITH PARTICULAR RISKS.”**

Therefore, “risk management helps everybody to make informed and intelligent decisions, understand what might happen and act accordingly and obtain reasonable assurance that people are making quality decisions and taking the right risks for reward,” he emphasised.

Some of the benefits of risk management discussed in the workshop include improved business performance, enhanced ability to recognise and leverage opportunities, flexibility to adapt to change and resilience, as well as focused management attention.

His presentation implored staff members to avoid threats, which might expose their organisation to various kinds of unwanted consequences.

“Treat any specific threat if it may lead your organisation to negative impacts,” Mr Palm advised.

According to Mahlatsi Malebana, a Security Officer at RAL, the session was a wakeup call to him, especially with respect to what he comes across daily in his line of duty.

“We learnt a lot about risk management including that risk can happen at any time, so we need to always be prepared and have strategies in place to overcome any risks, especially the unforeseen ones. We were also taught about types of risk to be taken in order to boost our organisation’s performance.”

Staff also learnt that every risk has consequences, for example one

taking a risk of driving while under the influence of alcohol, which can be avoided by calling an emergency taxi, which will safely take one home.

Gabriel Maluleke, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at RAL highlighted how these kinds of trainings are necessary because they play an important role in the life of any organisation.

He noted that the rest of the staff needed to know all the risks associated with RAL, what kind of risks should be taken and how to overcome unexpected risks so that service delivery was not negatively affected.

“I believe that the workshop has prepared everyone to understand what risk management is about, so that all of us can have a common understanding on how to deal with particular risks when they arise,” he said, further emphasising that, dealing with risks accordingly will enable them to continue delivering quality road infrastructure to the people with ease.

In his vote of thanks speech, Komane Maphutha, RAL’s Senior Manager for Governance, Risk and Compliance, highlighted that the workshop will contribute in improving the level of risk management within the organisation by making the Agency a ‘risk intelligent organisation’.

“It will further reposition risk management at the centre to help the Agency achieve its five-year strategic objectives,” he said in conclusion. **m**

RAL is a corporate member.

It was attended by all managers, administrative officers, security officers, secretaries, cleaners and specialists to equip them with the requisite knowledge and skills in enterprise risk management.

In his presentation, Mr Palm stated that risk was everywhere and was about taking the right risks for reward and should be effectively managed. He noted that risk can happen at any time and the best way to deal with it was to have a risk management plan in place.

Although the effects of risk can be either positive or negative, Mr Palm explained that the purpose of risk management was to focus on enabling success rather than avoiding failure.

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# RAL'S VALUES

*The way we conduct ourselves and our business in pursuit of our vision and mission is underpinned and guided by the following corporate values:*

## ACCOUNTABILITY

We remain accountable to all our stakeholders and the environment

## COMMITMENT

We are committed to delivering quality road infrastructure in the province with pride

## DIVERSITY

We value and embrace diversity within the work context

## EFFICIENCY

We will go the extra mile in serving our communities

## EXCELLENCE

We strive to exceed expectations

## RELIABILITY

We offer reliable, safe and economic road infrastructure

## TRANSPARENCY

We are transparent in both our internal and external business processes

## TEAMWORK

We work together for better roads



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**LIMPOPO**  
TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS

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