

MMILENG

Welcome to Our Road Network

AT LEAST 50 PROVINCIAL ROADS

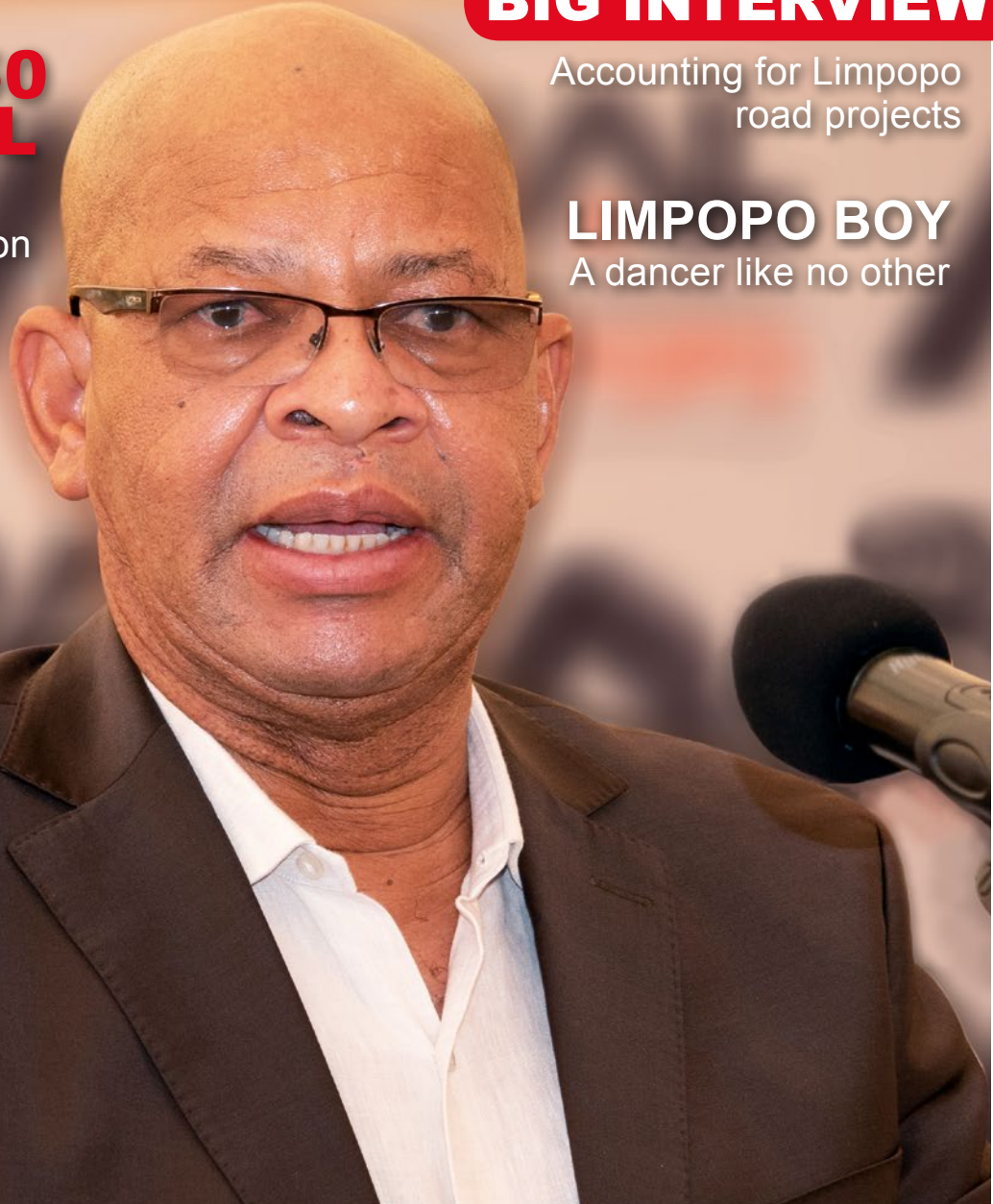
Set for major rehabilitation

BIG INTERVIEW

Accounting for Limpopo road projects

LIMPOPO BOY

A dancer like no other



2022 SOPA

ON ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



Limpopo needs you.
DRIVE RESPONSIBLY.



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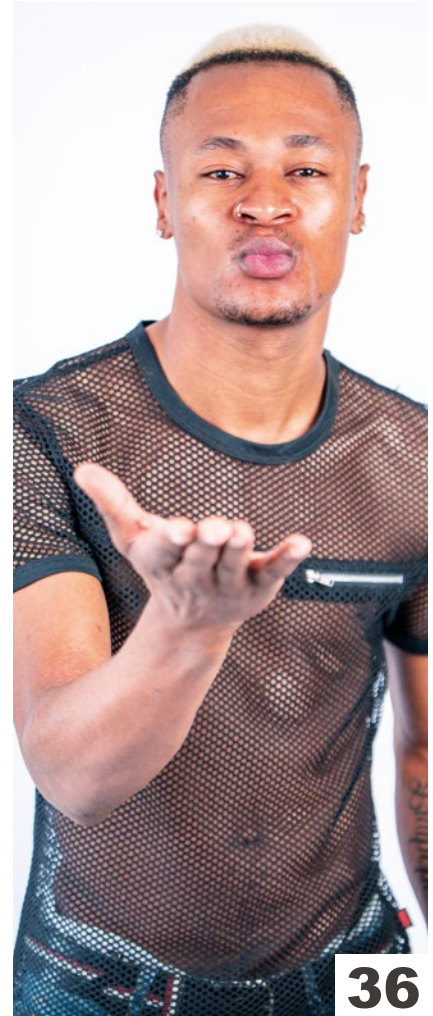
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RAL TAKES THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO HIGHER LEVEL

While effective service delivery to communities continues to be a challenge at both district and local government levels, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) remains determined to work with communities to address these hurdles.

South Africa has seen a disturbing trend where service delivery protests have become part of the country's advocacy culture. The country is evidently losing the battle against service delivery protests as more communities are increasingly resorting to protests to express dissatisfaction about the government's inability to deliver basic services such as water, electricity, houses, and roads, amongst others.

According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), service delivery protests have escalated in prevalence and severity over the last ten years. Between 2009 and 2016 alone, more than 10,000 service delivery protests were recorded across the country. In 2009, 1500 service delivery protests were witnessed, with a significant 30% increase the following year. The cases surged to 2700 in year 2011, and two years later rose to 3100, and a further 4500 recorded between 2015 and 2016 (Stats SA, 2017).

By any standard, SA's service delivery protest figures are stubbornly high and worrisome. Naturally, protests present a

"IN ASSISTING MUNICIPALITIES WITH ROAD CONSTRUCTION SKILLS AS AND WHEN WE ARE CALLED TO DO SO, WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPTIMAL SERVICE PROVISION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR."

real threat to national security and stability. Therefore, there is no doubt that the issue of service delivery protests is emerging as a new and complex developmental challenge for the country.

In this edition of your favourite read, *Mmileng*, the Agency takes you through some of its efforts in addressing the road



Dr Maropeng Manyathela
RAL Head of Communications

infrastructure service delivery challenges.

Amongst others, as you read from page 18 to 23, you will know about our efforts in taking the strategic partnerships to a higher level. It remains RAL's responsibility to step in at local municipalities to share professional expertise and skills. In assisting municipalities with road construction, we contribute to skills development in the public sector. This has proven to be an important approach considering the recent intervention done in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality.

This collaborative approach was the enviable build-up to the recently signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between RAL and local municipalities, with a mandate to redress dilapidated roads in the eight partner municipalities.

As RAL, we commit to working together with all government stakeholders and strategic partners to fast-track road infrastructure development in Limpopo and in turn boost tourism, agriculture and mining sectors while contributing to job creation.

We Connect Limpopo...

Today, Limpopo boasts a good road infrastructure network, making transportation of people and goods reliable thereby opening access to the rest of Africa.

Making it all happen...

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RAL

ROADS AGENCY
LIMPOPO
TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS

STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION KEY TO QUALITY ROADS

Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) continues to look at new ways to add value by encouraging cooperation between various road infrastructure role players to improve the province's road network. The Agency recognises that only the participation of all stakeholders can yield positive results in assisting RAL to reduce the road infrastructure backlog in the province.

We have recently seen great cooperation during the rehabilitation of Bridge 6116 at Makuleke Village under the Collins Chabane Local Municipality and rehabilitation of roads in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality. The completion of the Makuleke bridge serves as a milestone for the affected residents as they now enjoy the fruits of democracy after a long period of deprivation due to the collapse of the fixed bridge. We call upon all stakeholders to continue working with RAL towards improving Limpopo roads (read the Makuleke bridge story on page 30).

During the 2022/23 SOPA (full story on page 6), Limpopo's first citizen, Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, emphasised the pivotal role that an inter-departmental approach and municipal partnerships can play in expediting service delivery.

In line with the commitments made by the Premier, we have seen RAL demonstrating its capacity during the intervention in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality. The Agency provided its skills and expertise to rehabilitate damaged municipal roads in a short space of time, to the benefit of community members who applauded RAL for the good work (read full story on page 20).

In recent months, RAL took the strategic partnerships to a different level by entering into Memorandums of Agreement (MoA) with many more municipalities in the province. The agreements will see service delivery enhanced at district and local level (read more about this on page 18).

As we endeavour to execute our mandate of maintaining Limpopo provincial roads, and ensure that there is a balance between building new roads and maintaining existing ones, the Agency will, in this financial year, prioritise maintaining



MR GABRIEL MALULEKE
RAL Chief Executive Officer

some existing infrastructure. We currently have at least 50 provincial roads that are set for a major rehabilitation, something that will benefit road users and community members in the province (read more on page 14).

**“WE CALL UPON ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO
CONTINUE WORKING WITH RAL TOWARDS
IMPROVING LIMPOPO ROADS.”**

Upon delivery of the departmental budget (LDPWRI budget), as reported on page 10, the MEC for LDPWRI, Dr Namane Dickson Masemola highlighted budget constraints as the major obstacle that inhibits the resolving of all road demands in the province. Therefore, RAL remains resolute that all communities will eventually get roads, in due course.



Do not **DRINK** and **DRIVE**.

Limpopo Premier, Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, delivering the State of the Province Address (SOPA) for the financial year 2022/23 at the Limpopo Legislative Chambers, Lebowakgomo.



BUILDING AND MAINTAINING QUALITY ROADS, A PRIORITY FOR LIMPOPO GOVERNMENT

PREMIER MATHABATHA

Building new roads and maintaining existing ones is a mandate bestowed on Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) by the Limpopo Provincial Government, given the crucial role roads play in economic growth and development.

This was stated by the Limpopo Premier, Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, as he delivered the State of the Province Address (SOPA) for the financial year 2022/23 at the Limpopo Legislative Chambers, Lebowakgomo.

In his speech, the Premier noted how quality roads play an important role in the reliable transportation of people and goods in the province and beyond. He further highlighted that, “through RAL, we continue to build quality roads that

make the lives of our communities better.”

The Head of the Provincial Executive Council also commended RAL for building quality road infrastructure as a means to provide citizens with access to Africa. “It is in this context that building new roads and maintaining our existing road infrastructure remains a priority for this government,” he shared.

These sentiments were also reiterated by the MEC for the Limpopo Provincial Treasury, Honourable Seaparo Sekoati when tabling the 2022/23 Provincial Budget where he emphasised the importance of a quality road network in connecting people in the province. “Indeed, reliable roads and other infrastructure will assist in effectively connecting various supply chains, thereby ensuring an efficient supply

GOOD STORY TO TELL: One of the RAL-led road projects that traverses Mopani and Capricorn Districts, which was recently commended by President Cyril Ramaphosa for creating job opportunities during an oversight visit in early February [2022].

of goods and services within and across our provincial borders,” he said.

Following President Cyril Ramaphosa’s visit to the province on the eve of the State of the Nation Address (SONA) to conduct an oversight on one of the provincial road projects led by RAL, the Premier concurred that based on the positive comments by the President, it was clear that the province was on the right track in constructing state-of-the-art roads.

The Premier shared some achievements of the Agency and lauded the intervention made by RAL in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality, in particular Mahwelereng and Mokopane town where roads were in a dire state owing to multiple challenges, including a lack of capacity within the municipality. He further encouraged an




creation of employment, particularly for young people.

“Limpopo will continue to rise. We have started a great journey of rebirth and renewal. We are emerging from the ashes of yesterday into the glory days of tomorrow. Like a phoenix, Limpopo will rise again, rejuvenated, re-energised and refocused,” he projected.

Equal to this task of creating job opportunities, RAL’s determined team continues to effectively carry out road project plans as outlined by the Premier, where communities take centre stage in all their successful execution. This is done through the employment of local labourers and the involvement of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) that assist in project implementation.

According to the Premier, during the 2022/23 and the 2023/24 financial years, construction of new roads should commence on some of the following roads:

- D4180 Atok Mine to Ga-Selepe to Modimolle in Sekhukhune
- D3278 Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek in Capricorn
- D3561 Segole 1 & Segole 2 (Masebe Nature Reserve to N11 Waterval) in Waterberg
- D4260 Malope to Phokwane in Sekhukhune
- D3669 Mavhunga access road in Vhembe
- D3734 Tshatshama road in Mopani
- D4090, D4093, D4094, D4096 Malimate Roads in Capricorn
- D4199 Apel to Ga-Nkoana to D4190 in Sekhukhune
- D3436, D3428, D5007 Ga-Ramoshwane, Ga-Rammetlwane, Ga-Ramotlwana in Capricorn
- D3248 Thapane access to Namitwa in Mopani
- D4283 Glencowie to Malaka in Sekhukhune
- D3671 Musekwa to Maranikwe in Vhembe
- The upgrading of the 10km road D4109 from Mmamatonya to road D885 in the Capricorn District.

Despite the rural nature of Limpopo province where RAL is responsible for a road network of 20 091km, 68.3% of which is unpaved or untarred, RAL has, over the years, delivered quality roads to target communities. The Agency continues to deliver on its mandate in the face of severe budgetary constraints. 

“THROUGH RAL, WE CONTINUE TO BUILD QUALITY ROADS THAT MAKE THE LIVES OF OUR COMMUNITIES BETTER.”

inter-departmental approach and municipal partnerships among all government entities to expedite community services.

“Through Roads Agency Limpopo, we have managed to fix roads in Mahwelereng township in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality. This demonstrates that as government, we do assist each other where there is no capacity.”

While giving an update on some of the road infrastructure projects completed in the 2021/2022 financial year and announcing some of the roads to be constructed in the 2022/23 and the 2023/24 financial years, the Premier highlighted that the complementary relationship between quality road infrastructure and a reliable public transport system cannot be overemphasised.

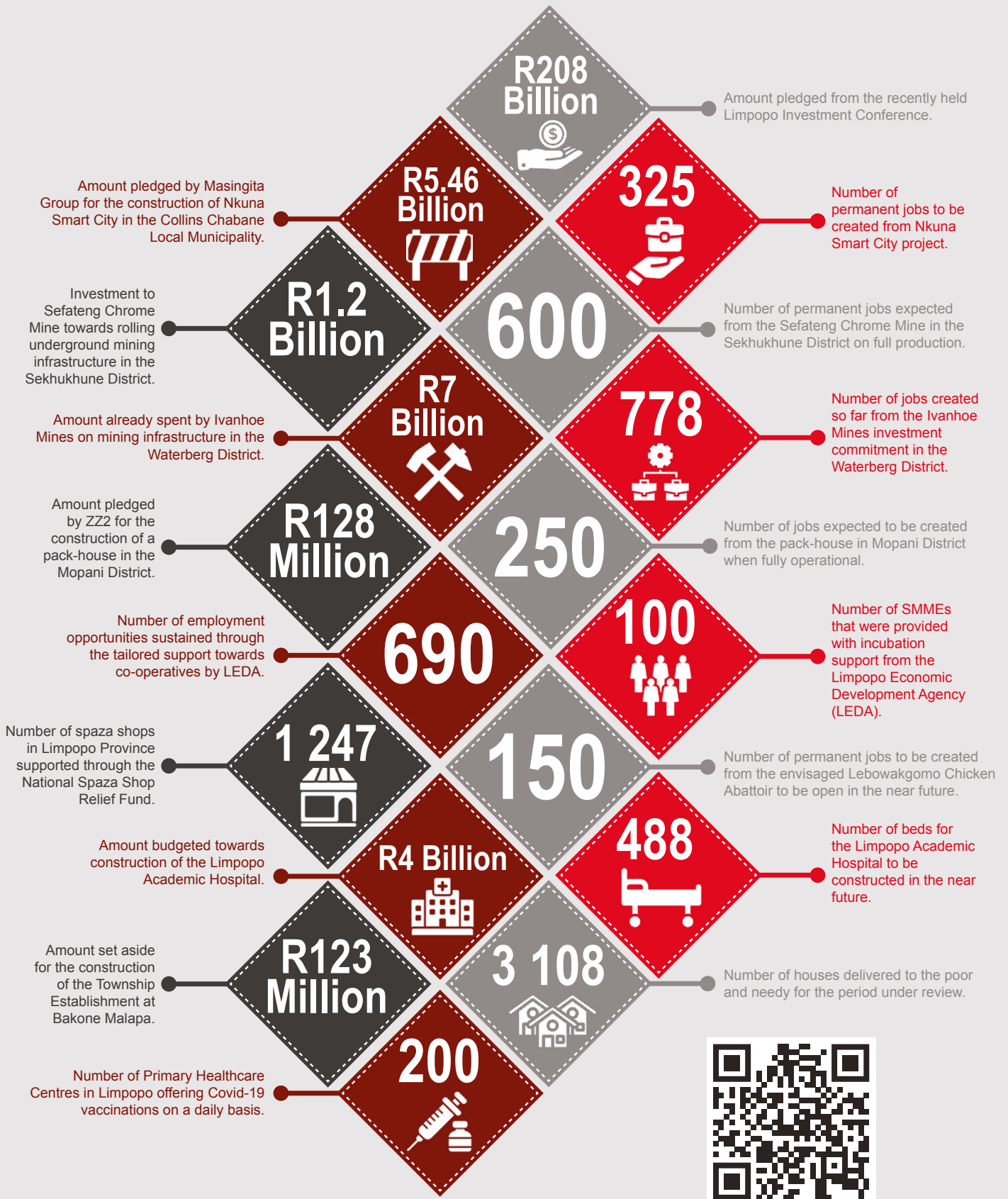
He also stated the need to create job opportunities among all sectors to eradicate unemployment challenges, most of which have been caused by the advent of Covid-19.

“We are steering the Limpopo economy to a green, resilient and inclusive developmental path, in line with the National Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and the Limpopo Socio-economic Recovery Plan,” he said.

Central to these economic recovery efforts, the Premier acknowledged the need to position Limpopo as an investment destination of choice for both domestic and foreign investors in an effort to enhance the much-needed

SOPA IN NUMBERS

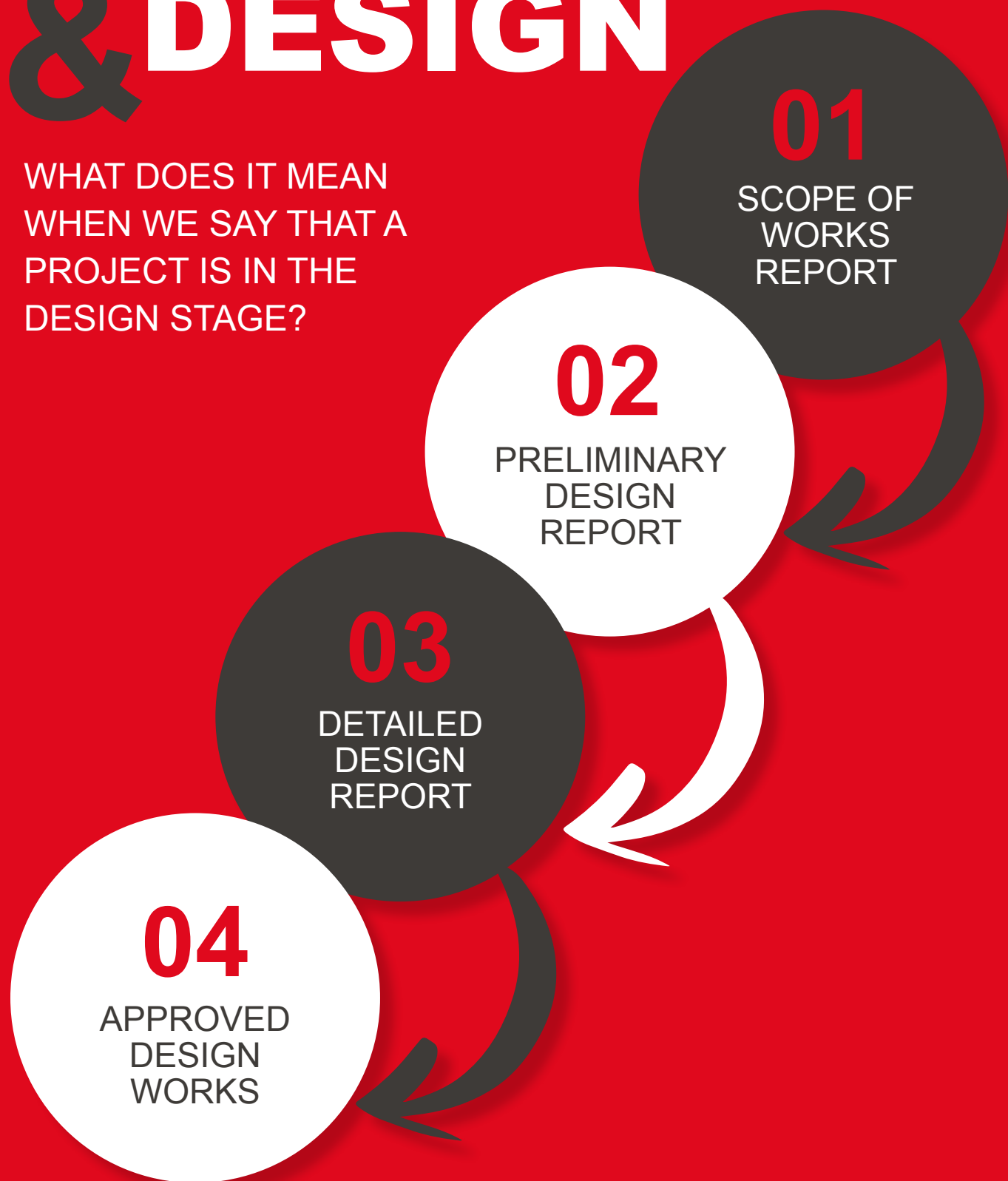
Below are the highlights in numbers from the 2022 Limpopo State of the Province Address



Scan the QR Code to watch the full 2022 Limpopo SOPA.

PLANNING & DESIGN

WHAT DOES IT MEAN
WHEN WE SAY THAT A
PROJECT IS IN THE
DESIGN STAGE?



UNWAVERING COMMITMENT

TO ADDRESS ROAD CHALLENGES DESPITE BUDGET LIMITATIONS



Dr Namane Dickson Masemola, MEC for LDPWRI, in high spirits before delivering the 2022/23 LDPWRI budget during the hybrid sitting of the Limpopo Legislative Chambers, Lebowakgomo.



Road D4370 is the 22.5km project announced by the MEC, that stretches from Tompi Seleka via Mogaladi to Phokwane in the Sekhukhune District.

The MEC for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Dr Namane Dickson Masemola, has recently delivered the departmental budget vote for the 2022/23 fiscus. One important fact in the budget is the increase in both the department and its road infrastructure implementing entity, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL)'s allocations. However, more funding is still needed to change the lives of Limpopo residents.

“The roads upgrade backlog in the province remains enormous and this is a major challenge given that we are forever inundated with demands by communities to give their roads due attention,” said Dr Masemola. The MEC further highlighted that, “Through RAL, we continue to do our best to address these road challenges, despite the budget limitations.” MEC Masemola made these remarks as he delivered the Department’s 2022/23 budget during the hybrid sitting of the Limpopo Legislative Chambers, Lebowaqomo recently.

The MEC announced that LDPWRI received a budget allocation of R3.471 billion for the 2022/23 financial year, which is a 7% increase from the previous financial year. Of the amount, the MEC said, RAL will be allocated R1.540 billion for roads maintenance and upgrading, partnerships and other operational costs, which equates to an increase from R1.109 billion in the previous year.

The MEC announced that the R1.540 billion allocation to RAL this financial year will help to address part of the backlog within the



RAL Executives, from left, Messers Gabriel Maluleke (CEO) and Hobyane Magopa (CFO) ready to join the RAL Shareholder Representative (LDPWRI) during the department's budget vote speech.

province regarding road upgrades, “notwithstanding the extent of the challenges at hand and available resources, which, if permitting, will enable us to initiate faster reduction of the backlog.”

In presenting the serious challenges facing road infrastructure delivery, the MEC added that the allocation for upgrading gravel roads to tar is the equitable share of the province, and it has proven over time that it is insufficient, given the massive backlog the provincial government is faced with. “The other allocation provided to roads is the Provincial Routine Maintenance Grant which is solely meant for maintaining existing road infrastructure.”

“THROUGH RAL, WE CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST TO ADDRESS THESE ROAD CHALLENGES, DESPITE THE BUDGET LIMITATIONS.”

In his speech, Dr Masemola further highlighted some of the successful road infrastructure developments, although they had commenced a few financial years ago and were due for completion. Such projects include the completed first phase of 3km on the D3878 Sekororo towards Balloon road (Mopani); Phase 2 upgrading of 7.5km on D3727, D879 and D1356 Mashamba to Mulima to Tshitale to Morebeng (Vhembe and Capricorn); completed Phase 1 upgrade of road D3688 from Khubvi to Tshidzivhe (Vhembe), which is a 3km stretch; the upgrading of 5km road D4253 at Ga-Masemola in Sekhukhune (see *Mmileng* 1 and 2 of 2021), and the upgrade of 3km on D3187 and D3843 from Mageva to Makhuvha (Mopani), among those that have been completed.

Equally important, the MEC announced that several roads in the

province which are part of the backlog in the roads infrastructure delivery programme will be constructed. He stated that the engineers for these roads were allocated during the financial year under review, and the designs are at an advanced stage. Therefore, this financial year, the construction will commence as planned (see report on the State of the Province Address on page 6).

In terms of the preventative maintenance projects carried out by RAL, Dr Masemola said that they have identified a number of roads that are in a dire state and will receive attention this financial year. Some of these projects are at the on-site establishment phase while actual work has already commenced on others (refer to page 14).

“We will continue to monitor the implementation of the outlined road projects with target communities for quality construction that will serve the people for some decades to come,” the MEC

Through these road projects, many people of working age, inclusive of women and people living with disabilities have been skilled to sustain their livelihoods.



“WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTLINED ROAD PROJECTS WITH TARGET COMMUNITIES FOR QUALITY CONSTRUCTION THAT WILL SERVE THE PEOPLE FOR SOME DECADES TO COME.”

reinforced.

The MEC also highlighted that his team is in the process of establishing RAL Regional Boards in the five districts of the province, which will comprise of five (5) Board members each and *ex officio* members to serve the advisory role to the MEC.

“Their primary focus will be, amongst others, to deal with the illegal demarcation of sites on land adjacent to the provincial network,” the MEC emphasised.

In terms of creating job opportunities, heeding the call by the President of the Republic of South Africa,

His Excellency Hon Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, to contribute to the economic reconstruction and recovery programme through infrastructure implementation, the MEC stated, “These road projects which we continue to announce and implement are not just sand and stones, pavement, and asphalt, they have a significant impact on the lives of the people, as they participate as employees and SMMEs during the implementation process.”

The MEC added that, through these projects, many young people of working age, including women and people with disabilities, have gained skills that will help them to sustain their livelihoods long after the projects would have been completed.

As he concluded, the MEC said, “We continue to strengthen and sharpen our project management and stakeholder engagement processes for both LDPWRI and RAL, to ensure smooth running


in Blouberg (Capricorn) is at 100% completion stage.

- The upgrade of 3km on D3377 from Limburg to Matlala, (Capricorn) is at 99% completion stage.
- The upgrade of 32km on D3232, D15 and D3150 from Morebeng to Sekgosesa (Capricorn & Mopani) is at 95% completion stage – this is the road that the President recently visited (see Mmileng 4 of 2021).
- The rehabilitation of 30km on road P51/3 Stofberg (Sekhukhune) is at 95% completion stage.
- The rehabilitation of 7.5km on road D2537 Penge (Sekhukhune) is at 84% completion stage.
- Phase 1- Rehabilitation of 30km on road D4 from Malamulele to Elim (Vhembe) is at 73% completion stage – this road ultimately connects to N1 and its rehabilitation is done in phases.



and ultimate conclusion of road projects on time.”

The MEC was also delighted to report on some of the progress registered in other road projects in the province as follows:

- The construction of bridge 6116 on road D3653 in Makuleke village (Vhembe) is currently at 100% completion stage. (see page 30)
- The upgrading of 22.5km on D4370 Tompi Seleka to Mogaladi and Phokwane (Sekhukhune) is at 95% completion stage.
- The upgrading of 11km on road D2922 & D2919 from Keerom (Metsanangwana) to Tshikanosi (Sekhukhune) is at 100% completion stage.
- The rehabilitation of 19km on D1589 Kgobokanang to Makgato
- The rehabilitation of 5km on D4150 Bothashook to Praktiseer (Sekhukhune) is at 75% completion stage.
- The rehabilitation of road D3840 Giyani to Phalaborwa (Mopani) Phase 1 is at 75% completion stage.
- Phase 1- Rehabilitation of 9km on D11 at Mamaila Kolobetona (Mopani) is at 74% completion stage.
- The rehabilitation of 5.3km on D3200 Lebaka – Mohlabaneng (Mopani) is at 95% completion stage.
- Phase 1- Rehabilitation of road D1483 Musina to Pondrifi (Vhembe) is at 83% completion stage.
- The rehabilitation of flood damaged road D4240 at Maseven village (Sekhukhune) is progressing well at 69% completion stage. 

AT LEAST 50 PROVINCIAL ROADS SET FOR MAJOR REHABILITATION

Efforts to repair damaged provincial roads have registered substantial progress as Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) prioritises at least 50 roads for preventative maintenance.

The roll-out of these road projects which recently commenced, comes after RAL made a call to rehabilitate the provincial road assets as a top priority on its agenda this financial year (2022/23).



MEC for LDPWRI, Dr Namane Dickson Masemola joined by local labourers and leaders at the launch of one of the preventative maintenance road projects at Roerfontein, Mamaila Kolobetona Village within the Mopani District.

This follows a strategic planning session that took place earlier this year where RAL's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Gabriel Maluleke, emphasised that there was an important call the Agency must heed to regarding the maintenance of provincial roads.

The CEO highlighted that in the previous years, the organisation had prioritised new road upgrades. To ensure that there is a balance, the entity will now prioritise to maintain existing infrastructure. "Our aim is to strike a balance between building new roads and



Local labourers engaged on the ongoing rehabilitation of road P85/2-Settlers to Tuinplaas in the Waterberg District.



Some progress on road P18/2 towards Zebediela in the Capricorn District.



"OUR AIM IS TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN BUILDING NEW ROADS AND MAINTAINING THE EXISTING ONES, HENCE FIXING THE DILAPIDATED ONES IS OUR PRIORITY FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR."

maintaining the existing ones, hence fixing the dilapidated ones is our priority for the current financial year,” stated an enthusiastic Maluleke.

Of the 50 identified road projects, Waterberg and Vhembe Districts command 12 projects each, Capricorn 10, Sekhukhune 9 and Mopani 7.

In some of these projects, work has already commenced while in others, it will commence once all processes involving the various stakeholders have been concluded.

The cost of all combined projects is worth approximately R462 million. The rehabilitation of these roads will continue benefiting small local businesses and labourers immensely through employment and as sub-contractors for the duration of these projects which are expected to be completed within this current financial year.

Speaking at one of these RAL-led projects at Roerfontein, Mamaila Kolobetona Village within the Mopani District, the MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Dr Namane Dickson Masemola, expressed his gratitude for the noteworthy progress evident in most areas in the

“I ENCOURAGE ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS TO WORK TOGETHER SO THAT THESE PROJECTS CAN BE EXPEDITED TO HELP COMMUNITY MEMBERS QUICKLY DRIVE ON SMOOTH AND SAFER ROADS.”

province where LDPWRI and RAL have handed over contractors to build or rehabilitate roads. He further noted how these projects will contribute to the improvement of the livelihoods of the targeted community members.

The MEC added, “I encourage all the stakeholders to work together so that these projects can be expedited to help community members quickly drive on smooth and safer roads.”

Some of the community members and road users welcomed the projects as life-changing initiatives which will improve the conditions of the roads and create job opportunities for the unemployed people in the local communities. **m**

FULL LIST OF ROADS SET TO BENEFIT FROM THE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE ROAD PROJECTS:

Waterberg District (12)

- D626 Pienaars River to Rust de Winter
- P85/2 Settlers to Tuinplaas
- D192 R101 Waterval to R18 Marken
- D3500 Mosesetjane to Mapela
- D3110 Ga-Seleka to Shongwane
- D3502 Magongoa to Mosesetjane
- D6930 Construction of New Bridge & backfilling approaches
- D1675 Lephallale to Steenbokpan
- D180 R516 Bela-Bela to D975 in Hartbeesfontein
- D2702 PPC to Dwaalboom
- P134/1 Mookgopong to Lushof
- D887 Tom Burke towards Allday

Vhembe District (12)

- D959 Makhado to Airforce Base
- P98/2 Vivo to Makhado
- D4 Malamulele to Elim towards N1
- D999 Reconstruction of flood damaged bridge 6115
- P94/2 R521 to Ponderdrift
- P278 N1 to Willyspoort to Thohoyandou
- R525 Phafuri Gate to Tshikuyu
- D3653 Boxahuku to Bevula
- P277/1 P135/1 in Masisi to Thohoyandou
- D1483 Musina to Ponderdrift
- D449 N1 to Dopeni
- D3468 Re-gravelling of Road in Khubvi (Vhembe)

Capricorn District (10)

- D1356 N1 to Matseke to D879 Ramokgopa
- D885 P18/1 to Immerpan
- D3997 D844 Sebayeng to D617 Gamoswedi
- P18/2 P18/2 towards Zebediela
- D4070 Mmamaolo to Mashite
- D3600 Moletlane to Mehlareng
- P54/1 Munnik to Morebeng
- D19 D544 in Polokwane to D5066 in Ga-Mothapo
- D4069 Mashite to R37
- D688 Bylsteel

Sekhukhune District (9)

- P51/3, D3 Groblersdal to Stoffberg
- D2484 - R555 Tukakgomo to Mapodile
- D856 - P95/1 Dennilton to R573 Moleti
- P169/3 Burgersfort to Ohrigstad
- D1392 D1296 to D2219 in Ga-Malekana
- D4356 Arabie to Petwane
- D2923 Dennilton to Siyabuswa
- D4268 Marishane to Jane Furse
- P207/1 Marble Hall to Moloto

Mopani District (7)

- D523 Special maintenance on Agatha Roads D589 and D523
- D3880 Lenyenye to D4139 Mosoroni
- D3840 Maintenance of road D3840
- D3873 Bokgaga to Lephephane
- D11 Maintenance of road D11
- D3641 D3812 Giyani to D3745 Altein
- D1292 D1350 to R529 Nkambako

Significant progress on road D11 in the Mopani District.



MR MADIMETJA BOALE

from Mathibela Village is the owner of one of the local SMMEs sub-contracted to work on road P18/2 (towards Zebediela). He said, “My duty is to clean and shape the culverts. I’m learning a lot as a small business owner, especially how to engage with my workers, motivate and guide them. The little income I will get from this project will make a difference to my family.”



MS JOYCE PHOSA

from Mamaila Kolobetona Village, a mother of four employed on road D11 in the Mopani District said, “I would like to thank the initiative for giving me the opportunity to be employed in this project, I’m very happy. I will now be able to fully provide for my family.”



MR CHEV MAMETJA

from Mafefe Village, a regular user of road P85/2 (Settlers to Tuinplaas) said, “I use this road regularly to and from work (Pretoria). The road is shorter and convenient since I save on petrol and tollgates. However, with the current condition of potholes, this makes our journey unpleasant, especially at night. I’m happy that finally the road is getting fixed and we will enjoy our trips.”



Signing of the partnership to address dire municipal roads led by the Limpopo Provincial and National government leaders.

ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO COLLABORATES WITH MUNICIPALITIES FOR ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), in partnership with the Limpopo Provincial Government and local municipalities, dilapidated roads in the eight concerned municipalities in Limpopo will never be the same again.

The initiative is intended to see RAL draw on its expertise to assist the municipalities in addressing road maintenance issues within their jurisdiction where they lack capacity. As part of the MoA, the Agency has committed to working together with eight local municipalities, namely; Ba-Phalaborwa, Fetakgomo-Tubatse, Collins Chabane, Elias Motsoaledi, Bela-Bela, Polokwane, Musina, and Makhado municipalities as part of the District Development Model (DDM).

While giving a keynote address, the Premier of Limpopo Province, Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, highlighted that

the ceremony was a monumental occasion due to its transformative approach.

“Witnessing RAL and the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) assist municipalities to rehabilitate their roads is a step in the right direction. I am happy that the response to assist municipalities was swift, as roads are in a dire state,” he commended.

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) Deputy Minister, Hon Thembu Nkandimeng, unpacked the DDM approach and its role in ensuring development at the local government level.

“As COGTA, we will be working together with the Limpopo government, RAL, Provincial Treasury and local municipalities to fix municipal roads in these eight municipalities. The MoA will foster the sharing of resources and collaboration between different levels of government in Limpopo,” Nkandimeng elaborated.

Limpopo Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha during his keynote address at the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement spear-headed by RAL to benefit eight municipalities in the province.



The DDM model was piloted in Mogalakwena Municipality around January 2022 as RAL assisted the municipality with the rehabilitation of various dilapidated streets such as Dudu Madisha Drive, DJ Rampola Street, Simmentaler Street and Geyser Street. Soon after this successful intervention, other municipalities made requests to the Limpopo government for similar support.

Chairperson of RAL Board of Directors, Mr Matome Ralebipi, highlighted the importance of RAL adopting the strategic partnership approach, citing that, “The goal is to target the construction and rehabilitation of roads that are catalytic to the economic development of the province.” He also added that, as a public entity with the common goal of serving the people of Limpopo, “RAL regards this partnership with municipalities as valuable initiatives, which need to be sustained.”

The Mogalakwena Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Ngoako

Taueatsoala whose town served as a pilot model, expressed his gratitude for the intervention in his municipality and gave a vote of confidence for the collaborative partnership.

The Mayors whose municipalities stand to benefit from this partnership expressed support for the DDM model as being key to unlocking development and economic opportunities in Limpopo communities.

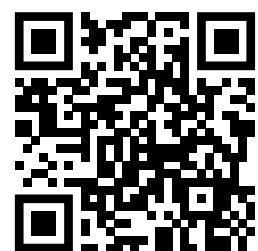
“This is going to benefit Malamulele township and the municipality at large as all our internal streets in Malamulele will be refurbished from their dilapidated state to a new look,” said Cllr Moses Maluleke, Mayor of Collins Chabane Local Municipality.

Meanwhile, Cllr Merriam Malatji, Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality, took the opportunity to thank the province and RAL for this initiative that they have undertaken. “Indeed, Phalaborwa will never be the same again, precisely because this will ensure that our tourists as and when they come to Phalaborwa get to drive on high-quality roads built with good standards, and our communities will also get job opportunities.” ¹¹

“WITNESSING RAL AND THE LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE ASSIST MUNICIPALITIES TO REHABILITATE THEIR ROADS IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.”



Visibly enthusiastic faces of the Limpopo Provincial Government leadership, comprising the Premier; Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and the eight participating municipalities looking forward to reaping the fruits on the recently signed MoA.



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.

Cars and school children can now move smoothly at Geyser Street (Mokopane) following rehabilitation of the street by RAL.



SIGH OF RELIEF FOR MAHWELERENG RESIDENTS AS RAL REPAIRS THEIR ROADS

Road users within Mahwelereng and Mokopane Town in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality have expressed a sigh of relief following the intervention by the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) early this year to repair their roads which were in a dire state, owing to multiple challenges.

Expressing their excitement about driving safely on improved roads, the

visibly delighted Mokhonwana brothers (Chukudu and Jonas) from Mahwelereng Moshate, showered RAL with bountiful praises for a job well-done in the area. “We now feel relieved because previously this



Dudu Madisha Drive before RAL intervention



Simmentaler Street during rehabilitation by RAL

road was bumpy and contributed to a number of road accidents. However, since it was rehabilitated, we can now travel smoothly,” said Chukudu.

Meanwhile, his brother Jonas echoed that before the road was fixed, “we experienced about three accidents due to bumpy conditions and potholes.” Jonas remembers a road accident where a driver

tried to avoid a pothole and hit a boy walking on the pavement. “Therefore, we are very happy that RAL has listened to our concerns by fixing the road.”

The decision to rehabilitate the roads emanates from the much-needed cross-governmental partnership between RAL, Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) and Mogalakwena Local Municipality. This initiative saw the Agency being invited to assist with road construction skills as part of encouraging synergy between government departments and local municipalities.

The project commenced in early January 2022 and was almost at 90% physical progress, early March. Mr Martin Ramaboea, RAL’s General Manager for Operations, explained



Dudu Madisha Drive after rehabilitation by RAL



Simmentaler Street after RAL intervention

existing damaged base, asphalt surfacing, pothole patching, slurry surfacing, fog spraying, road marking, and building speed humps to enhance safety.

The repairs on the Dudu Madisha Drive that connects N11 to the Mogalakwena Dam is 3.3km long, whereas the distance on the section of the Dudu Madisha Drive connecting N11 to Mokopane Town (Nelson Mandela Drive) is 5.4km long, and DJ Rampola Street located in Mahwelereng Zone 2 is a 3.3km stretch.

The busy section of the Dudu Madisha Drive from N11 to the Mogalakwena Dam plays a pivotal role in the economy of the community as it connects them with essential services. These include schools, Mokopane Tribal Authority, as well as small businesses such as lodges, car washes, and panel beaters. Moreover, the Mogalakwena Dam is a centre of attraction where people engage in leisure and small business fishing activities.

that, “Where there are no challenges, our turnaround time is quicker. In this case, we had to work overtime and harder to complete the rehabilitation of these roads in a short space of three months.”

Ramaboea said that the project entailed rehabilitation of the Dudu Madisha Drive that connects Mahwelereng people with Mokopane Town, DJ Rampola Street in Mahwelereng Zone 2, and various streets in Mokopane Town, which involved pothole patching, road markings and fog spraying.

He further explained that the scope of work on Dudu Madisha Drive and DJ Rampola Street included recycling of the

“WE NOW FEEL RELIEVED BECAUSE PREVIOUSLY THIS ROAD WAS BUMPY AND CONTRIBUTED TO A NUMBER OF ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS. HOWEVER, SINCE IT WAS REHABILITATED, WE NOW CAN TRAVEL SMOOTHLY.”

The rehabilitation done on the Dudu Madisha Drive that connects N11 to Mokopane has facilitated smooth travelling on the road and eased traffic congestion, especially since the road connects the community to Mahwelereng Shopping Centre and Mokopane town.

According to Mr Prince Riba from Mahwelereng Zone 1 who works at a car wash nearby, it was difficult to get customers before the road was fixed. “Car owners didn’t see any reason to wash their cars because they would quickly get dirty due to dust gathered on the badly damaged road. However, these days there is a significant improvement since we now receive more clients.”

Another resident, Ms Mariam Mokali from the same area, said the road was

The Tsebe family [Godely and Johanna] from Mahwelereng Zone 2 appreciate the rehabilitation work done by RAL on their street [DJ Rampola Street].



The Mokhonwana brothers [Jonas (left) and Chukudu (right)] from Mahwelereng Moshate, feel relieved now that their road has been rehabilitated following years of struggle to reach their destinations on time.


Mariam Mokali, from Mahwelereng Zone 1 says following the rehabilitation of their road by RAL, children are now able to cross safely to school due to the enhanced safety measures on the road.

dangerous to the entire community and kids in particular. “As I was walking on this street a few months back, I witnessed an unpleasant incident where a car got a puncture due to the dangerous potholes on this road. But ever since the road has been fixed, our children walk safely on the pavements to school.”

Moreover, the work done on DJ Rampola Street includes the construction of an access culvert to connect Mahwelereng Zone 2 with Bargain [an

informal settlement] which had struggled with road access initially.

The DJ Rampola Street is essential to the livelihood of the community as it houses essential services such as a medical surgery, car washes, government department, restaurants, salons as well as the Ebenezer High School.

The Tsebe family in Mahwelereng Zone 2 is also grateful for the benefits from the rehabilitated road. “The road is now smooth, and we travel to town quicker than before,” said Mr Godely Tsebe. His wife, Mrs Johanna Tsebe appreciates the convenience of the culvert because water from the streets no longer troubles them. 



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.

Mr Sitembiso Gamakulu believes that it is important for RAL to have a portfolio of evidence that gives account and indicates what the Agency was able to achieve to improve Limpopo's Road Network.

ACCOUNTING FOR LIMPOPO ROAD PROJECTS

How does Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) account for the work with respect to the Limpopo Road Network?

This important and relevant question hovers over many stakeholders' minds, particularly in this era where the roll out of service delivery has taken centre stage in accountable governance among South African communities.

Essentially, RAL accounts to its stakeholders with regard to its mandate of planning, designing, construction, managing, controlling, maintaining, and financing of provincial roads in Limpopo. The Agency does this through its Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, headed by its Executive Manager, Mr Sitembiso Gamakulu.

Having joined the organisation in 2017 and afforded the opportunity to revamp the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit by aligning the Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan, Gamakulu passionately reflects on the journey of entrenching Monitoring and Evaluation in the Agency's DNA.

"Monitoring and Evaluation allows you to quickly understand the modus operandi of an organisation. You get to know the overall view of the organisation and learn about the different functions within an organisation. Through this approach, you speedily get acquainted with the different units within the organisation as you interact with other professionals from the different units regularly," he explains.

In his view, Monitoring and Evaluation is not a properly understood function in many organisations, as it is often perceived to be an ancillary responsibility, especially in the public service sector.

"Monitoring and Evaluation is not an added responsibility but it enhances work that is being done so that we report accurately to oversight bodies like the RAL Board of Directors, the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (PC), as well as the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA)," he adds.

Accountability at an organisational level starts with creating a culture of institutional integrity. This is based on the production of a Strategic Plan document that is subject to review after five years and broken down into the yearly Annual Performance Plan document. Improving the Agency's performance environment starts with providing vital performance data, in order to make the right strategic assessment and the subsequent application of adequate monitoring tools.

RAL has successfully entrenched the culture of institutional integrity by allowing every unit to own and apply the 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan to their core function and align it to their deliverables.

On a quarterly basis the Agency monitors what they have planned for, as a way of preparing the Annual Report. In each quarter, a quarterly performance report is prepared to assist with this process.

Strategic planning precedes monitoring and evaluation, and this process has been religiously observed by the Agency in an attempt to align the cycle of strategic documents and reporting documents.

"Before the monitoring process, you have to plan so that you

monitor something that you understand. This begins at a point where we work on the five-year Strategic Plan document for the organisation. It is also important to note that planning at a strategic level requires all the key stakeholders to be involved; from communities to contractors who have to understand their role and processes," he emphasises.

The RAL 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan is very clear that the ability of the Agency to deliver on the identified outcomes and priorities depends on the resources available in their arsenal and the ability to manage these resources. Observing the Agency's performance over the previous five-year period also gives us an indication of its ability to deliver on the identified outcomes.

RAL has identified the following outcome indicators during the current five-year performance period; to have economically empowered host communities by 2024, to have adequately supported core business by 2024, to have skilled and enterprising local labourers by 2024, and to have improved roads infrastructure network by 2024.


"MONITORING AND EVALUATION IS EVIDENCE-BASED, SO WE PROVIDE PROOF FOR WORK DONE AND COMPLETED PROJECTS."

One of the Agency's outcomes directly linked with delivering quality roads is to improve the roads infrastructure network by 2024 and this has been broken down into these indicators:

- Number of square metres (m²) of surfaced roads rehabilitated
- Number of square metres (m²) of surfaced roads resurfaced
- Number of kilometres of gravel roads upgraded
- Number of bridges completed

During the implementation of roads infrastructure projects, RAL's service providers create employment opportunities by training and employing local labour. To ensure that women, youths, and people with disabilities are prioritised when employing local labour, RAL has developed output indicators that will be monitored and reported on a regular basis (monthly, quarterly, and annually). Through the figures assigned to these indicators, the measurement of RAL's performance against the planned outcome targets on a quarterly and annual basis is made possible.

Gamakulu stresses that Monitoring and Evaluation ensures that public funds are used for the originally intended purposes and that; unsavoury actions where funds are misused with no evident service delivery can be prevented.

"RAL is all about service delivery and we deliver roads. Monitoring and Evaluation is evidence-based, so we provide proof for work done and completed projects. Public funds have been wasted before but now we can trace the money trail as well as the service trail so that we can deliver services to the people." 



Honourable MEC for LDPWRI, Dr Namane Dickson Masemola, inviting all delegates to share knowledge critical to the success of the EPWP during his opening remarks at the programme's 4th Summit.

A QUEST TO INTENSIFY JOB CREATION EFFORTS POST COVID 19

As one of the entities that play a crucial role in creating job opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) recently participated in the programme's 4th summit. Organised by the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), the summit discussed and developed new strategies and avenues to increase temporary job opportunities created through government infrastructure development programmes. This year's summit convened under the theme "Contextualising the Role of EPWP in Economic Recovery Post COVID-19 Pandemic" which informed participants

that the discussions should focus on the economic recovery role the programme could play.

Attending the session were government representatives from national, provincial, as well as local spheres. The

"AS PART OF OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROGRAMME, RAL HAS ALSO TAKEN SOME OF ITS PROJECT MANAGERS TO LESOTHO UNDER GUNDO-LASHU INITIATIVE TO BE TRAINED TO BUILD ROADS USING LABOUR INTENSIVE METHODS."

summit was also graced by the International Organisation for Labour (ILO) representation from head office, Geneva (Switzerland), led by Ms Mito Tsukamoto. As an international organisation overseeing member states' employment practices, among others, the ILO is accordingly a strategic partner of the public works programme that seeks to create job opportunities for the people of the province.

While giving opening remarks, the MEC for LDPWRI, Dr Namane Dickson Masemola stated that the session provides a distinct platform where important decisions will be made with due consideration of past successes and shortfalls from the previous summit. He said it is through this exercise that the conference will be able to achieve the objectives of the programme; to come up with labour intensive methods of service delivery that will counter the unemployment rate and poverty for the 5.5 million people of the Limpopo Province.

"I am confident and well prepared to have conversations of purpose, intended to positively influence planning processes, guided by appropriate perspectives to confront frontiers of poverty and contribute to the socio-economic development of our people," proclaimed Dr Masemola. He went further to stress the importance of EPWP in helping the people of the province overcome the plight of unemployment and poverty which was made worse by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Ms Mito Tsukamoto commended the work being done in the Limpopo Province that entails prioritising women and youth in government programmes. She highlighted the importance of technology and a human-centred economic recovery approach which prioritises the well-being of

"I AM CONFIDENT AND WELL PREPARED TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS OF PURPOSE, INTENDED TO POSITIVELY INFLUENCE PLANNING PROCESSES, GUIDED BY APPROPRIATE PERSPECTIVES... TO CONFRONT FRONTIERS OF POVERTY AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PEOPLE."

employees in their respective jobs. She implored that "if these programmes can be designed, implemented and monitored well, they can certainly contribute not only on maximising employment but most importantly, the quality of employment which affects the people and the communities through their implementation."

The head of ILO's Development and Investments Department stated that programmes such as EPWP are integral to the scope of expanding reach in developing countries as they have the potential to indeed guide such countries to economic recovery. This, she says, is because the middle income countries have been the hardest hit by the pandemic.

Commenting on RAL's contribution to the success of EPWP, Acting Senior Manager: Contractor Development responsible for SMMEs & EPWP, Mr Musa Ndlovu, emphasised that RAL does not only employ local labourers but trains and offers them CETA-accredited certificates. He added that the Agency has been a part of EPWP from its inception. "As part of our contribution to the programme, RAL has also taken some of its project managers to Lesotho under Gundo-Lashu initiative to be trained to build roads using labour intensive methods," said Mr Ndlovu. **m**



Delegates attending the 4th Expanded Public Works Programme Summit convened under the theme: Contextualising the Role of EPWP in Economic Recovery Post COVID-19 Pandemic.

#RALatWork

Complaints and Compliments



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MINTIRHO YA VULAVULA

In our routine effort to keep in touch with our readers, following the refurbishment of Bridge 6116 at Makuleke Village, within the Collins Chabane Local Municipality, *Mmileng*, the official quarterly magazine of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), recently visited the area to hear first-hand feedback from community members and road users who benefit from the repairs. Full story on page 30.



“

“I use this road daily to access various villages where I deliver sand. This bridge has been damaged for quite some time. I previously had an accident on this bridge because two cars could not drive through at the same time, causing my vehicle substantial damage. Now we are happy that the road has been fixed.”

”

Derick Mkhombo (*Business owner*)
from Matiyani Village.

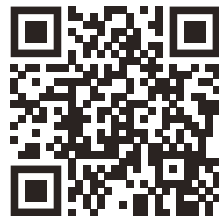


“

“I remember last year how difficult it was when we couldn't get to school for two to three days due to heavy rains. It is now extremely simple, we can safely travel with our cars, even the learners who travel by school bus can easily get to school.”

”

Mavis Hatlani, *Principal*
(*Nwanati High School-Makuleke*)
from Mhinga Village.



Scan the QR Code to watch this vox pop.



“

“Before this road [bridge] was repaired, it was nearly impossible for us pedestrians to walk freely due to fear of being involved in accidents. Now we are glad because the road is much safer as pedestrians have their own space to walk on. The bridge will facilitate community developments at Makuleke Village.”

”

Gesto Chauke (*Pedestrians*)
from Makuleke Village.



“

“We were always late for our engagements before the bridge was fixed since only one car was allowed to pass at a time, resulting in several accidents and subsequent delays. Our bridge is now much safer and road traffic accidents are no longer a thing to worry about.”

”

Godfrey Baloyi (*road user*)
from Makuleke Village.



People can now walk freely along the bridge's sidewalk installed to ensure safety of pedestrians.

BRIDGE REPAIR AT MAKULEKE VILLAGE: REDUCES TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND REVITALISES ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) has recently repaired Bridge 6116 on road D3653 in the Makuleke Village. The refurbished bridge will make the lives of community members in and around the village better as it stands to facilitate easy travelling for motorists

that use the bridge often.

The bridge was damaged by the 2013 floods, which swept away houses and bridges, mostly affecting Vhembe and Mopani Districts. The damage to the bridge had drastically disturbed the mobility of motorists in the area as they had to share one lane. This caused

Some of the community members who ensured the successful completion of the bridge project, Mr Humphrey Mugakula (Makuleke Traditional Council), Mr Elmon Chauke (Chairperson of the Project Steering Committee) with Mr Fhatuwani Mulovhedzi (V2V TshiraTshashu JV).



“THE ROAD WHERE THE BRIDGE WAS REHABILITATED IS THE ONLY PATH TO ACCESS OUR MAIN HOSPITAL IN MALAMULELE (MALAMULELE HOSPITAL) AND OTHER FACILITIES SUCH AS THE BANANA PLANTATION FARM, WHERE MANY OF OUR VILLAGERS WORK.”

unwarranted traffic congestion and many accidents [head-on collisions], especially at night, since some road users, particularly those not from the area, were unaware that only one lane was functioning.

Prior to the rehabilitation of the bridge, an accident occurred on the bridge which involved an ambulance and a truck. The truck driver failed to apply the brakes resulting in a head-on collision, with both the ambulance and truck rolling down the bridge, leaving eight people injured.

The work on the project commenced on 26 March 2021, and the bridge was practically completed in a space of nine months, as it was handed over for public use on 01 December 2021.

The project scope included the reconstruction of pavement layers consisting of roadbed treatment; removal of existing collapsed guardrails; asphalt surfacing; pothole patching and edge break repairs; construction of discharge chutes; installation of kerbs along the bridge, and installation of ancillary roadworks including steel balustrades, signage and road marking.

According to Mr Tebogo Mokwele, Project Manager at RAL, although there was a three months delay on the construction site

caused by limited building material in the area, “the project achieved its intended goal of providing the community with a safe bridge.” He added that “as a safety measure, the sidewalk is installed with a handrail to ensure that people walk freely alongside the bridge without disturbing the traffic.”

The Chairperson of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), Mr Elmon Chauke, highlighted that the previously flood-damaged bridge made their lives very difficult as taxi operators could not transport commuters to other areas with ease due to limitations caused by the bridge. “It was difficult to access essential facilities before or even reach our destinations on time. The road where the bridge was rehabilitated is the only path to access our main hospital in Malamulele (Malamulele Hospital) and other facilities such as the Banana Plantation Farm, where many of our villagers work.”

He further said that the rehabilitated bridge will now serve as an economic booster and will allow local business people to transport their goods from one place to the next without encountering previously experienced challenges.

The repaired bridge on road D3653 provides the Makuleke and nearby villagers access to the main shopping centres, that is,



Makuleke Bridge before and after RAL intervention

Saselamani Complex at Shikundu Village and Malamulele Complex in Malamulele. More significantly, the road allows the residents in the area to access economic centres such as Polokwane City, Giyani and Thohoyandou.

Mr Calvin Magwabeni, the 33 Ward Councillor at Makuleke Village, representing the Collins Chabane Local Municipality, expressed his delight towards RAL for rehabilitating the damaged bridge that had bothered them over the past few years.

“From now on we would like to keep the bridge in a good condition. To achieve this, we have organised a committee to

ensure regular maintenance by reporting to RAL any damage that might occur on the bridge,” said Magwabeni. “The bridge belongs to us and not the government. It is therefore our responsibility to preserve it and ensure that it is always in good condition.”

Meanwhile, Mr Humphrey Mugakula speaking on behalf of the Makuleke Traditional Council, said that they have tried many ways to get the bridge fixed. “We thank RAL because when we contacted them recently, they responded positively to our call. We would also like to engage RAL again to ask them to consider fixing the rest of the road because it has some potholes,” said Mugakula.

“FROM NOW ON WE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE BRIDGE IN A GOOD CONDITION. TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE HAVE ORGANISED A COMMITTEE TO ENSURE REGULAR MAINTENANCE BY REPORTING TO RAL ANY DAMAGE THAT MIGHT OCCUR ON THE BRIDGE.”




Two cars drive past Makuleke Bridge at the same time, something that was impossible before RAL's intervention.

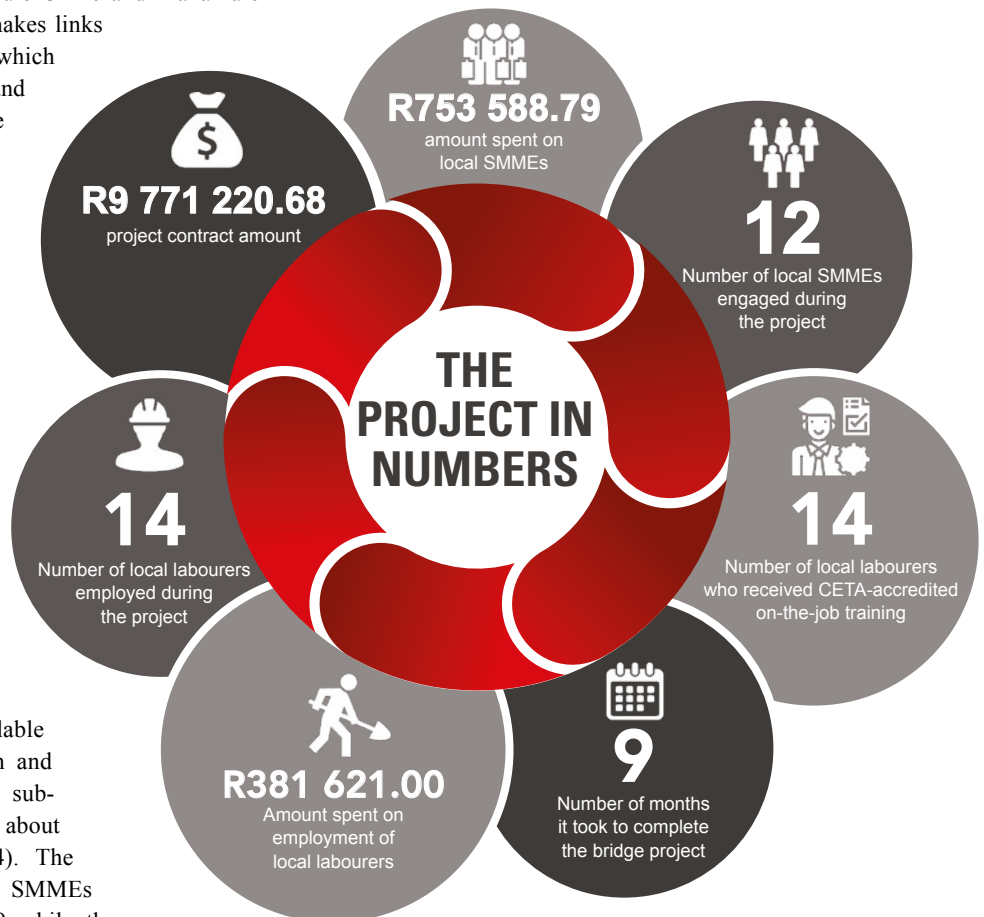


The four villages that are set to benefit from this project include Ntlhavani Block D Ka Hlungwani, which accommodates Maledza Primary School and Hlungwani Clinic. Also included is Makahlule Village which has Makahlule Clinic and Makahlule Primary School. The bridge further makes links to Mabiligwe (Boxahuku) Village, which connects Boxahuku Primary School and a mobile clinic. Lastly, the bridge makes connections for Makuleke Village, which houses Joas Phahlela Primary School, Nwanati High School and Makuleke Clinic.

In addition to these benefits, the Agency has earned a good reputation based on its mandate on creating employment opportunities for the locals in areas in which it implements its projects. In line with government policy, RAL has spent about R381 621.00 on employment of 14 local labourers. Of the total, ten were males and four were females who further underwent CETA-accredited on-the-job training.

Furthermore, RAL has, through this project, ensured the use of available resources from local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) as sub-contractors and suppliers (read about SMMEs empowerment on page 34). The money spent on contracting the 12 SMMEs during the project was R753 588.79 while the

budget for the entire project cost R9 771 220.68 inclusive of Engineering, Social, Environmental and Safety Consultants. 



SMMES

CLINCH OPPORTUNITIES AT THE MAKULEKE BRIDGE PROJECT



From left; Mr Wiseman Makhubela of Global Note (Pty) Ltd and Ms Basani Misaveni of Babasis Trading Enterprise among the 12 SMMEs that benefitted from the bridge project. The duo are joined by Mr Fhatuwani Mulovhedzi, Contracts Manager at V2V TshiraTshashu JV [main contractor].

Various small business owners in the Makuleke Village and nearby areas have praised Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) for the business opportunities made available to them during the rehabilitation of Bridge 6116 in their area recently.

“Being sub-contracted on the bridge project has given my business publicity to the rest of the Vhembe District. Ever since I got involved in the project, I now get orders beyond my community, so I will forever cherish this opportunity.”

This is according to Ms Basani Misaveni (37), a single mother

of two who is amongst the 12 local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) which were empowered during the rehabilitation of the bridge at Makuleke Village, in the Collins Chabane Local Municipality (see page 30).

Misaveni who is a Director at Babasis Trading Enterprise at Makuleke Village was sub-contracted to supply food to the personnel working on the project during meetings and workshops.

The empowering of SMMEs is part of RAL’s contribution to the growth of the country’s economy, so that more South Africans have work and income. In all the road projects undertaken in the

province, RAL strives to comply with the procurement regulations, which require organs of the state, where it is feasible, to sub-contract local businesses amounting to a minimum of 30% of the contract value.

Another grateful beneficiary is Mr Maurice Mhlaba (54), a husband and father of three from Makuleke Village, whose company Desnie Projects, established in 2012, was contracted to install gabions on the bridge and to supply kerbs during the project.

Mhlaba explained that being part of the service providers in the bridge project was a learning curve. “I had no idea what gabions were all about, but the main contractor [V2V TshiraTshashu JV] trained us and thereafter, we delivered the services as expected. We need more of this kind of exposure so that as small business owners we can improve and expand our enterprises in order to contribute to the growth of the economy.”

Desnie Projects empowered seven community members who managed to benefit from the project by assisting them to successfully deliver on the expected mandate set by the main contractor.

In addition, another SMME owned by Mr Calvin Xivambu (29) of CALSH Trading said that this was the first time his company got the opportunity to sub-contract for a government initiative (bridge project). He further noted that besides the project creating job opportunities for the local people, he also acquired new skills in sub-contracting. “As such, I now understand that a better way of encouraging employees to produce good results is to give them enough space to work without micromanaging them.”

Over the years, many SMMEs have and continue to benefit from the RAL-led road infrastructure projects undertaken in various communities in the province.


The same bridge project was awarded to V2V TshiraTshashu JV business to the contract value of R9 771 220.68 and the 12 SMMEs were empowered to the tune of R753 588.79 during the nine months of the project.

Moreover, Mr Fhatuwani Mulovhedzi, Contracts Manager at V2V TshiraTshashu JV, said it was always a pleasure to contribute to the growth of SMMEs. “After sub-contracting the SMMEs, we also conducted a workshop to teach them entrepreneurial skills such as pricing of tender documents, payroll and preparing monthly and weekly construction reports.”



Some of the local SMMEs and labourers engaged during the construction of the Makuleke bridge.

“BEING SUB-CONTRACTED ON THE BRIDGE PROJECT HAS GIVEN MY BUSINESS PUBLICITY TO THE REST OF THE VHEMBE DISTRICT. EVER SINCE I GOT INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT, I NOW GET ORDERS BEYOND MY COMMUNITY, SO I WILL FOREVER CHERISH THIS OPPORTUNITY.”

Mulovhedzi added that local labourers also took part in a construction related skills workshop. “We imparted them with construction generic skills such as the implementation of road safety procedures, installation of road marks, as well as the erection and maintenance of guardrails and handrails.” 

Limpopo Boy

A DANCER LIKE NO OTHER

Two elements separate the popular dancer and one of SA's best choreographers, Limpopo Boy from other dancers, his super-charged gyrating movements and the highly outstanding energetic footwork have catapulted him to become the darling of SA's entertainment scene.

M

atome Robert Mahlatse Thoka, known by his stage name Limpopo Boy, has re-written his name in the entertainment circles, from just blending in as a back-up dancer to becoming a world-famous choreographer.

Born in Botlokwa [Mathoks] Capricorn District of Limpopo, he rose to fame when he got the opportunity to appear in the State Theatre's Show Your Talent in 2016. This opportunity was a massive launching pad for him that led him to work closely with famous musicians such as DJ Cleo and the multi-platinum selling musician Makhadzi [Ndivhudzannyi Ralivhona].

As if dancing at the State Theatre was not enough, he also recorded a populous trend dance video that caught the attention of DJ Cleo and secured him an opportunity to feature on Cleo's hit song titled 'Yile Gqom' released in 2017, featuring Winnie Khumalo and Phantom Steeze. The rest, as they say, is history, a history that has its roots in Botlokwa, his Limpopo home area.

Limpopo Boy left Botlokwa after completing matric in 2012 and made his way to Gauteng [Pretoria] where he registered for a Management Assistant course which he completed in 2016 at EDUSA College. The lanky Limpopo Boy who is also good in soccer as a striker

Besides dancing, Limpopo Boy is also a businessman and an actor.





The multi-talented Limpopo Boy also boasts soccer acumen as a striker and defender.

and defender had the option to pursue a soccer career, but chose not to.

Born in March 1994, a month before South Africa held its first democratic elections, the born-free youngster has been intentional about building his name and developing his brand.

Raised by his grandmother from the age of seven after his mother passed away, Limpopo Boy lost touch with his father who left to work outside the country. With only one older brother and being the last born, he had the leeway to tap into his creativity from a young age. “As a young boy in Botlokwa, I had already discovered my talent as I danced in the shopping malls to entertain shoppers.” This is where he first met Makhadzi, who at the time was also dancing across different shopping malls in Limpopo townships to promote her now prosperous career. Apart from his desire to study beyond matric, one thing pushed him to leave the village in search of fame and growth and that for him, was dancing.

Explaining how working with Makhadzi came about, Limpopo Boy says they both left Limpopo individually for Gauteng in search of greener pastures. “We met again in the streets of Gauteng in 2017 and hustled together until her song ‘Matorokisi’ hit the airwaves catapulting her to fame.”

He says it has always been a pleasure to work with Makhadzi because of the new opportunities that put him in the spotlight as he travels the world as one of the background dancers.

Makhadzi describes the prolific dancer as an ambitious and dedicated person. “Working with Limpopo Boy is amazing and a true honour because he is a go-getter who is very energetic and passionate about what he does,” Makhadzi noted.

“WORKING WITH LIMPOPO BOY IS AMAZING AND A TRUE HONOUR BECAUSE HE IS A GO-GETTER WHO IS VERY ENERGETIC AND PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT HE DOES.” - MAKHADZI.

The ambitious Limpopo Boy says he looks forward to a life beyond being a background dancer. “I don’t want to be a background dancer forever, I have always been clear about carving my own career as a performer, a choreographer and a businessman. Being a background dancer only can be limiting. It’s important to establish oneself as a brand too,” he remarks.

Limpopo Boy’s growth has been exponential, from winning a national dance competition in Namibia in 2018 to performing with Sho Madjozi at the 2021 Global Citizen Festival headlined by the world-renowned music couple, Beyoncé and Jay-Z. The popular dancer and choreographer’s journey has been a journey of both

discipline and persistence.

“After working with DJ Cleo, I started getting gigs on my own and this led me to choreograph for Sho Madjozi’s performance on SABC 1’s Live Amp. She also used my services to choreograph for her 2021 Global Citizen Festival performance where I also performed with her,” he says proudly.

Before this tremendous growth, he had also worked with artists such as Dr Malinga, Lady Zamar and Soweto’s Finest.

His love for dancing prompted him towards establishing his own dance academy, Limpopo Boy Dance Academy, established in 2019 (located in Pretoria). He has been commended for being one of the few dancers who have put township dance in the mainstream.

His talents are boundless, as it is evident in his upcoming dance movie titled Dark Beauty – a movie about his school years as a dancer. The movie was produced by Njabulo Media and has also

“AS ARTISTS, WE APPRECIATE THE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE WORK DONE BY RAL IN THE PROVINCE. THROUGH THE ROADS CONSTRUCTED BY RAL, WE ARE ABLE TO TRAVEL FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER AS WE CONTINUE DOING WHAT WE LOVE, WHICH IS TO ENTERTAIN PEOPLE.”

been submitted to Netflix.

“My movie, Dark Beauty, was submitted to Netflix in February [2022] and we are awaiting the outcome of that submission,” he announced excitedly.


Limpopo Boy’s vision is clear, he wants to take over the dance industry and assert himself as a credible and professional dancer who specialises in township dance styles, as well as his own uniquely created dance moves.

“My dream is to open a Limpopo Boy Dance Academy in every province in South Africa. I am getting older, and dance becomes limited when you grow older, so I want to build a legacy. I also want to get credit for all the unique dance styles that I have created. South Africa owes me that much at least,” he laughs.

The young Limpopo artist is a cut above the rest - he has managed to build a brand that sees him being booked as a performer, together with other artists. He is also a musician, and he will be dropping his latest single soon, simply described as a cross between ‘Makompo, Amapiano and Bolo house’ music genres.

“I have danced for so many people and created dance challenges for other people’s music, but now I just want to create something for myself,” he affirms.

Limpopo Boy has also commended the work done by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL). He applauded the Agency’s unwavering commitment towards maintaining and building roads in the province. “As artists, we appreciate the road infrastructure work done by RAL in the province. Through the roads constructed by RAL, we are able to travel from one place to another as we continue doing what we love, which is to entertain people.”

Even though Limpopo Boy has the privilege to travel to different parts of the world because of his talent, he remains that very same ambitious boy from Botlokwa who is always hungry to conquer himself and the world. 

Some of the trainees highlighted the aspects they have learned thus far since joining RAL in 2021.



RAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME YIELDS RESULTS

As part of its continuous support to empower the current cohort of interns and experiential trainees, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) held a follow-up session to assess the trainees' progress with respect to the on-the-job training they are currently undertaking.

The session entailed all 22 interns and six experiential trainees giving presentations on what they have learned to date. Pertinent to the presentations was highlighting the areas of improvement to ensure that upon completion of their training, the entity would have imparted the necessary and relevant skills to boost their career prospects. The group

was recruited in June 2021 on a 24 month contract.

According to the Executive Manager of Corporate Services, Ms Modile Boshielo, the purpose of the session was to determine the current understanding of the trainees' respective trades, after which the Agency can recommend additional support intervention programmes, where necessary, to assist in advancing their careers. "As RAL, we intend to produce the best talent for the labour market in South Africa and beyond," she further stated.

Ms Mantepa Mothapo, an intern in the Company Secretariat division, highlighted that the internship programme has provided her with an opportunity to acquaint herself with the



Ms Modile Boshielo, Executive Manager of Corporate Services, says these kind of presentations gauge whether the Agency is fulfilling its role of imparting the necessary skills to the trainees.



Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Gabriel Maluleke, expresses his delight that the trainees have learnt a lot of valuable information in a short space of time to boost their career paths.

salient duties within the office of the Secretariat. “When we were studying towards our qualifications (LLB) at varsity, we only knew of possible career prospects as becoming either an attorney or an advocate, being a company secretary is something I had very little knowledge of,” she explained.

Mr Mahlatse Matswalela who serves as an intern in the Engineering Division within Land Use Management thanked RAL for the opportunity to learn beyond land use management by gaining exposure to ancillary duties in the other units within the engineering division, such as planning and design, as well as operations. “It is such an honour to work for Roads Agency Limpopo and be exposed to so much knowledge about engineering which is in line with my goal to become one of the world’s best engineers,” he said remarkably.


“IT IS SUCH AN HONOUR TO WORK FOR THE ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO AND BE EXPOSED TO SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ENGINEERING WHICH IS IN LINE WITH MY GOAL TO BECOME ONE OF THE WORLD’S BEST ENGINEERS.”

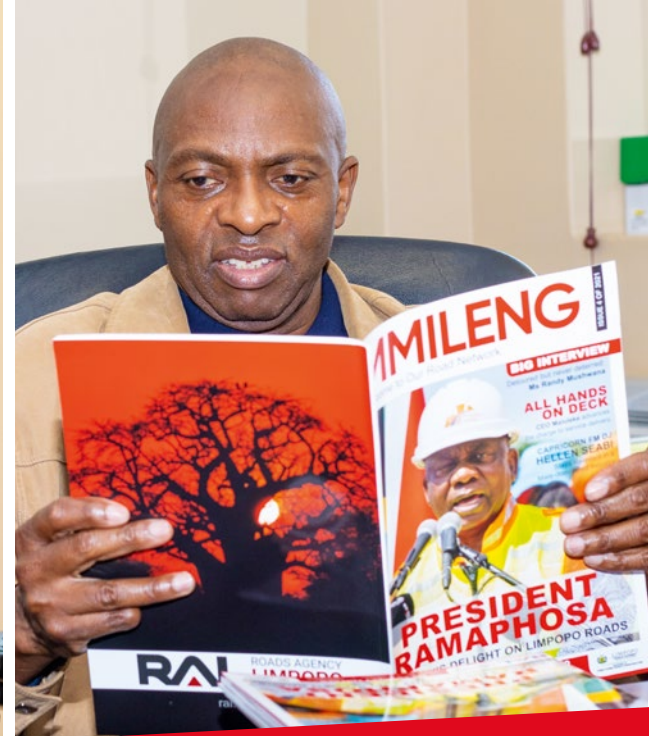
Moreover, Ms Kholofelo Molokoane, an Internal Audit intern, expressed what she learned from her mentors. “The most important thing that I will never forget is that as an Internal Auditor you have to be humble, remain calm but stand your ground.”

Commenting on the work environment within RAL, Ms Rebecca Seemela who serves in the Governance, Risk and Compliance Management Unit said, “The environment is welcoming and I get to engage with people at different levels and appreciate the fact that senior managers also do not look down on us as interns but work with us in a professional manner.”

In winding up the proceedings, RAL’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Gabriel Maluleke, lauded the quality of presentations by the young trainees, adding that the knowledge they have acquired in such a short space of time was impressive.

He highlighted that some of the suggestions brought forward to his office by the trainees will be taken into consideration for possible implementation in the near future.

He further implored, “We have a responsibility to create an environment that is conducive to learning and your duty is to be willing to learn. Therefore, it is your choice to fail or to succeed, hence take this opportunity and use it wisely.” 



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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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