

# MMILENG

Welcome to Our Road Network

## LIMPOPO PREMIER HON. STANLEY MATHABATHA

lauds the transformed provincial road infrastructure in his last SOPA

## MASHABELA GALANE,

a seasoned comedian, shares his Limpopo road infrastructure experiences

## MEC RAKGOALE

expresses gratitude, calls for more inter-governmental and private sector collaborations

## FROM 45 MINUTES TO 25 MINUTES,

N'wamitwa communities experience reduced travel time

## BIG INTERVIEW

Sharp mind and numerical prowess make him the perfect fit



# OUR MISSION

To provide quality and sustainable provincial road infrastructure network for the economic development of Limpopo Province.

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# MMILENG EDITOR SHARES HIS FINAL THOUGHTS AS HE BOWS OUT

**A**s I present the latest edition of *Mmileng*, Roads Agency Limpopo's (RAL) quarterly publication, I am thrilled to showcase significant progress in improving road infrastructure across various areas. From road upgrades, maintenance to budget allocations and a special feature on a prominent personality, this issue is filled with inspiring stories and updates.

The lead story focuses on the State of the Province Address (SOPA) delivered by the Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha on **page 6**. The Premier reflected on progress made since the dawn of democracy, particularly highlighting advancements in building access roads in areas that were previously excluded.

We highlight considerable progress of the phase one upgrade from gravel to tar of road D3248 from Deepark/Thapane to Mandlakazi in N'wamitwa within the Mopani District. This project exemplifies RAL's commitment to enhancing infrastructure in Limpopo, contributing to the overall provincial development. Read more on this story on **page 30**.

In another important article on **page 10**, we delve into the details of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (DPWRI) Budget Vote delivered by Hon. MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale. This budget allocation underscores the government's dedication to improving the road network in the province for safe and efficient travel.

A significant highlight of this issue is the section that showcases RAL's intensified road maintenance efforts. Through a before-and-after section, we provide visual evidence of the Agency's commitment to maintaining and improving existing roads. These stories testify to RAL's



**Dr Maropeng Manyathela**  
Executive Manager: Corporate Services

continuous efforts to provide safe and reliable road infrastructure for the people of Limpopo. See **pages 16 to 19** for more details.

Furthermore, in this edition, we feature a personality profile on Mashabela Galane, a renowned comedian and entrepreneur. Through this interview, we gain insight into his career in comedy and various business ventures. He also shares how his experience as a well-travelled comedian has been with road infrastructure in the province.

On a bittersweet note, this issue marks my farewell as the editor of *Mmileng*. It has been a long journey since I started as an editor seven years ago, and witnessing this publication grow from strength to strength as a vehicle to communicate RAL's successes. I have been fortunate to observe and share the remarkable achievements of RAL during my tenure. With great confidence, I hand over the reins to Mr Danny Legodi, the new Head of Communications at RAL. His expertise and dedication to excellence will undoubtedly ensure that *Mmileng* continues to be a reliable source of information for our readers.

I would like to express my gratitude to our readers for their continued support and interest in *Mmileng*. Your feedback and engagement over the years has been invaluable, and we look forward to keeping you informed and inspired in future editions.

**“ON A BITTERSWEET NOTE, THIS ISSUE MARKS MY FAREWELL AS THE EDITOR OF MMILENG. IT HAS BEEN A LONG JOURNEY SINCE I STARTED AS AN EDITOR SEVEN YEARS AGO, AND WITNESSING THIS PUBLICATION GROW FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH AS A VEHICLE TO COMMUNICATE RAL’S SUCCESSSES.”**

# We **Connect** Limpopo...

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

**RAL making it all happen...**



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ROADS AGENCY  
**LIMPOPO**  
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# ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

## POTENTIAL LIFELINE FOR ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE BENEFICIARIES

It is my pleasure to highlight to you in this edition of our quarterly publication, *Mmileng*, the remarkable success recorded by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) in the 2023/24 financial year. The past financial year has witnessed the Agency's significant strides towards ensuring that Limpopo's road infrastructure is one to be admired nationwide, despite its budget constraints.

As we seek ways to supplement the annual government budget for road improvements, we are actively exploring additional funding sources to enhance Limpopo's vast road network. I'm proud to share the accomplishments of our dedicated team in improving road infrastructure in the province.

In 2023/24, RAL completed 33.4km of road upgrades from gravel to tar. Additionally, we completed 53 preventative road maintenance projects that covered 1 250 619m<sup>2</sup> of reseal (approximately 166km), regravelled 10 roads province-wide, and constructed three bridges. These efforts have greatly improved connectivity and travel experiences for Limpopo residents, underscoring our unwavering commitment to quality road infrastructure.

We understand the importance of utilising the allocated budget optimally. Therefore, the Agency has implemented strategic financial management practices to make informed decisions, prioritise projects and maximise the impact of every funding allocation. This disciplined approach has ensured that we make the most of the resources available to

**“THIS DISCIPLINED APPROACH HAS ENSURED THAT WE MAKE THE MOST OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US AND DELIVER THE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE THAT LIMPOPO DESERVES.”**



**MR GABRIEL MALULEKE**  
RAL Chief Executive Officer

us and deliver the road infrastructure that Limpopo deserves.

Furthermore, we have prioritised hiring competent staff to deliver all our projects efficiently. In the last financial year, we have attracted and employed skilled professionals who share our commitment to excellence, enabling us to exceed stakeholder expectations.

Transparency and stakeholder engagement have always been important in RAL's operations. Through collaboration and open communication, we aim to achieve maximum benefits for the people of Limpopo. We continue to engage with our stakeholders, including municipalities, traditional authorities, communities and industry professionals to ensure that their perspectives are considered in our decision-making process. This approach ensures that our projects align with the needs and aspirations of the people we serve.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Shareholder Representative, Honourable MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale, the RAL team, our stakeholders, and the people of Limpopo for their support and trust in our work. Together we have achieved significant milestones and have made a positive impact on the road infrastructure in the province. As we move forward, we remain committed to excellence, *Batho Pele* principles and collaboration, ensuring that Limpopo has a road network that supports economic growth, connectivity, and the overall betterment of the lives of its citizens.

# RAL's

main functions and responsibilities are to plan, design, construct, manage, control and maintain all provincial roads for the Limpopo Province.

Limpopo Premier, Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, in his last SOPA, thanked the people of Limpopo for their cooperation and support throughout his tenure.



# LIMPOPO PREMIER HON. STANLEY MATHABATHA LAUDS THE TRANSFORMED PROVINCIAL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN HIS LAST SOPA

**L**impopo Premier, Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, delivered his final State of the Province Address (SOPA) for the sixth administration, reflecting on the province's journey of transformation.

Hon. Mathabatha took stock of the successes over the past financial year, and shed the spotlight on road infrastructure achievements implemented by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL). He highlighted substantial progress, noting that since 1994, after the dawn of democracy in the country, over 6 000km of Limpopo roads have been paved.

According to the Premier, despite the challenges faced by

government, such as Covid-19 and an unstable economy, the journey of stabilising and growing Limpopo over the years is evident to the Provincial Executive's commitment to good governance and sustainable development. He said that this includes the provision of public goods and services, covering critical areas such as the economy, water, electricity, roads, education, health and housing.

The Premier reminisced on the state of Limpopo roads prior to 1994, with many gravel roads and few tarred roads in rural villages. He emphasised that "Our tarred roads now cover rural areas that were neglected before. Through this progress, we have enhanced



Limpopo Premier, Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha delivers his farewell SOPA, highlighting the achievements and challenges of the 5th and 6th government administrations.

Furthermore, the Premier highlighted the commencement of work on road D3669, known as Mavhunga Access road, in the Vhembe District. He also mentioned that road D3734 in the Mopani District, which is known as Tshatshama road, was currently under construction. The Premier added that upgrading work on road D4283 from Glencowie to Malaka in the Sekhukhune District has commenced.

Premier Mathabatha acknowledged the role played by the private sector, especially the mining sector, in improving Limpopo's road infrastructure. He cited the example of the Steel Bridge project on road D2219, Ga-Malekana, which is a joint effort between RAL and eight mining companies. To date, the project has achieved 45% progress and is on track for completion in November 2024.

The Premier also outlined plans for the 2024/25 financial year, including allocated resources for road maintenance and rehabilitation. "This will improve the overall quality of our infrastructure and contribute to the longevity of our road network."

**“OUR TARRED ROADS NOW COVER RURAL AREAS THAT WERE NEGLECTED BEFORE. THROUGH THIS PROGRESS, WE HAVE ENHANCED CONNECTIVITY AND IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY, FACILITATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LIMPOPO.”**

connectivity and improved transportation efficiency, facilitating economic development in Limpopo. Presently, our target is to surface the remaining from gravel to tar.”

In his speech, the Premier challenged those seated in the gallery, stating, “Many of us seated here today are beneficiaries of the expansion of our road infrastructure network by over 6 000 tarred kilometres since 1994.”

He further remarked, “We sometimes just have to step out of this hall to see how the 15km N1 Bypass ring road transformed the outlook of Polokwane and the eased traffic flow in Fetakgomo-Tubatse after the expansion of the R37 road. Go to Musina and many other villages in our province. We have made roads attractive and accessible. People are no longer afraid of buying luxury vehicles in those villages.”

The Premier outlined several roads in the province which are earmarked for upgrade from gravel to tar, with their designs in the final stages. He added that the construction of these roads would commence shortly after the designs are completed and contractors are appointed by RAL.

The Premier also emphasised that significant progress has been made on some of the priority roads in the province, noting that the construction of these roads is progressing well. Examples included road D3278 from Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek Clinic in the Capricorn District. He also noted the progress of road D3561 in Segole 1 and Segole 2, from N11 to Masebe Nature Reserve in the Waterberg District.



Limpopo Premier, Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, says since 1994 significant progress has been made in improving road infrastructure across the province, with most villages now having tarred roads.

Premier Mathabatha concluded his address on roads by announcing that the province has handed over maintenance responsibility for 19 roads to the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) to leverage its capacity. According to him, this collaborative move aims to assist the province, which faces limitations in resources for maintaining all roads simultaneously.

In his parting words, he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to have served as the Premier of Limpopo since 2013, leading the fifth and sixth administrations through the journey of transformation and renewal. **m**

# SOPA IN NUMBERS

Below are the highlights, in numbers, from the 2024 Limpopo State of the Province Address



**Funds contributed**

by eight mining companies operating in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality for the construction of the Steel Bridge at Ga-Malekana village.



**Number of**

bursaries awarded by the Premier's Bursary Fund from 2018 to 2023, enabling students to pursue higher education and training.



**Road safety ambassadors**

deployed across all five districts of Limpopo to bolster the province's dedication to road safety, ensuring the safety of pedestrians and enhancing traffic flow during peak hours.



**Kilometers of**

Limpopo's road infrastructure network paved and tarred since 1994, contributing to improved transportation and connectivity in the province.



**Bicycles distributed by**

Shova Kalula to learners in rural areas over five years to promote non-motorised transport.



**Vulnerable**

individuals and communities that gained access to food through food security programmes.



**Jobs created**

by Limpopo in 2023, making the province the second-largest province in job creation.



**Number of**

Limpopo provincial roads handed over to SANRAL for maintenance responsibility.



**Money invested**

in skills development in the province from 2021 to February 2024, benefiting over 26,000 learners and students, primarily the youth.



**Funds spent**

by the province on Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) since 2013/2014, with the majority allocated to water projects.



**Percentage of**

rural households electrified in Limpopo to date, a significant increase from less than 30% in April 1994.



**Number of**

clinics in the province, with some operating 24 hours a day to ensure continuous access to healthcare services.



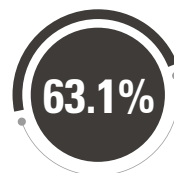
**Vehicles allocated to**

deserving senior traditional leaders in 2023.



**Ambulances acquired**

in the 2023/24 financial year to enhance Limpopo's Emergency Medical Services.



**Improved**

access to sanitation, up from 26.9% in 2002 and from a lower baseline in 1994.



**Older persons**

benefiting from community-based care and support services.



# DID YOU KNOW?

IN 2023 ALONE, **1 918 YOUNG PEOPLE** AND **1 522 WOMEN** WERE EMPLOYED IN VARIOUS ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO.



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MEC for LDPWRI, MME Nkakareng Rakgoale, calls for ongoing inter-governmental collaboration and sustained partnerships with the private sector to improve roads in Limpopo.

# MEC RAKGOALE EXPRESSES GRATITUDE, CALLS FOR MORE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATIONS

**T**he Honourable MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), MME Nkakareng Rakgoale, who presides over Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) as shareholder representative delivered her 2024/25 Budget Vote in March 2024, where

she emphasised the importance of private sector collaborations and commended the progress made towards road infrastructure development in the province.

MEC Rakgoale provided a comprehensive progress report of the 2023/24 financial year, underlining the prudent

Road D3278 in Blouberg Local Municipality, upgraded from gravel to tar, is one of the road projects announced in the 2023/24 Budget Vote for construction by RAL.



utilisation of allocated funds to improve road infrastructure. She said, through collaborative efforts with other government entities, significant strides have been embarked upon to improve the state of Limpopo road network, spearheaded by RAL.

The MEC acknowledged the support received through inter-governmental and private sector collaborations, which she indicated are important to maximise the impact made on developing the province's road infrastructure.

Highlighting the successful track record of completing 149 road projects over the past five years, MEC Rakgoale reported that the projects included upgrades from gravel to tar, repairs to flood-damaged infrastructure and preventative maintenance. MEC Rakgoale said, "Today, every district in the province is enjoying improved road infrastructure."

Despite operating under a constrained budget, MEC Rakgoale stressed that achieving these milestones, which have significantly enhanced safety and efficiency for road users, would not have been possible without inter-governmental and private sector collaborations.

Amongst these, she reported that RAL has a standing Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the National Government through South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), for the construction of R71 interchange and road D4040 near the St. Engenas Zion Christian Church. "Following the agreement between SANRAL and RAL to build the St. Engenas Interchange on the R71 and road

D4040, I'm pleased to announce that the designs are nearly completed, and construction is set to commence during the 2024/2025 financial year," she stated.

The MEC reported on other active inter-governmental road infrastructure projects involving the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and LDPWRI. These projects include the construction of 17 planned "Welisizwe" bridges. She noted that the implementation of four bridges is underway, and thirteen scheduled for construction in the 2024/25 financial year.

Furthermore, MEC Rakgoale outlined cooperative initiatives with municipalities to address infrastructure

**"TODAY, EVERY DISTRICT IN THE PROVINCE IS ENJOYING IMPROVED ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE."**

deficiencies at grassroots level. "Through RAL, we have signed MoAs with 22 municipalities in the province to address the essential construction, engineering skills and expertise gaps. These partnerships aim to further rehabilitate damaged streets and roads in towns to enhance the driving experience for residents," explained the MEC.

MEC Rakgoale extended words of gratitude to the private sector on the pivotal role it continues to play to bolster road



**RAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP APPROACH YIELD TANGABLE RESULTS:** The Steel Bridge project on road D2219 in Ga-Malekana, a joint effort between RAL and eight mining companies operating in Sekhukhune. The project is progressing smoothly, currently at a 45% implementation stage.

infrastructure through strategic partnerships adopted by RAL in recent years. Citing initiatives with progressive mines as examples of effective collective efforts between government and the private sector, she emphasised their significant contribution to the development and maintenance of Limpopo’s road network.

Amongst the significant advancements made through strategic partnerships in the 2023/24 financial year, the MEC highlighted notable collaboration in the Waterberg District. This is where RAL entered into a MoA with Northam

Platinum Limited (NPL), securing substantial funding of R41 million from NPL. This strategic initiative aims to restore a low-water bridge and upgrade a 3km stretch of road D2357, which links to road R511.

Another noteworthy strategic partnership formed in the 2023/24 financial year was in the Mopani District between RAL and the Palabora Mining Company (PMC). Together, the entities jointly funded the construction of the D4424 road from Lulekani Post Office to Matikoxikaya and the rehabilitation of road D3786 from Maseke to Mashishimale, linking R40 to R71. The MEC said that the project, totalling about 40km, will commence in the 2024/25 fiscal year.

MEC Rakgoale assured communities of ongoing efforts to prioritise road infrastructure development, despite resource limitations. “RAL will commence with the process of appointing contractors to implement 3km upgrades on selected roads across the province. The department understands that these interventions might be a drop in the ocean, but they will make a huge impact in those localities and, as and when the budget is available, these roads and many others across the province will be prioritised,” MEC Rakgoale stated. **m**

**“RAL WILL COMMENCE WITH THE PROCESS OF APPOINTING CONTRACTORS TO IMPLEMENT 3KM UPGRADES ON SELECTED ROADS ACROSS THE PROVINCE. THE DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT THESE INTERVENTIONS MIGHT BE A DROP IN THE OCEAN, BUT THEY WILL MAKE A HUGE IMPACT IN THOSE LOCALITIES, AND AS AND WHEN THE BUDGET IS AVAILABLE, THESE ROADS, AND MANY OTHERS ACROSS THE PROVINCE, WILL BE PRIORITISED.”**

# DID YOU KNOW?

ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER

**20 000KM**  
OF LIMPOPO ROAD NETWORK

AND OUT OF THE 20 000KM,

**34%**

IS TARRED AND

**66%**

IS GRAVEL.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER to better the roads in your communities!

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The addition of members to the RAL board of directors provides a boost, bringing the much-needed skills to continue guiding the entity in the right direction.

# POISED TO REINFORCE GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

**T**he Honourable MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, has appointed additional members to the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) Board of Directors. Two new members are filling vacancies that arose from resignations while the other three members serve on the Audit and Risk Committee replacing those whose terms have lapsed.

The appointment of the members to the board seeks to bolster governance and enhance accountability as part of the Agency's mission to effectively build roads in Limpopo, supported by the capable oversight body. The appointed board members will serve a three-year term, effective from 1 April 2024.

"I extend a warm welcome to our new colleagues joining the RAL Board of Directors. The Agency stands to benefit significantly from their wealth of

skills, knowledge and experience as we continue to uphold governance within the institution. The balance of skills and diversity they bring are essential strengths that stand to benefit RAL, and I thank MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale for considering these factors to promote the Agency's growth and fulfil its vital mandate," remarked Mr Matome Ralebipi, Chairperson of the RAL Board of Directors. 

**"THE AGENCY STANDS TO BENEFIT SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THEIR WEALTH OF SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE AS WE CONTINUE TO UPHOLD GOVERNANCE WITHIN THE INSTITUTION."**

# MEET THE NEW MEMBERS TO THE RAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, A BLEND OF SEASONED PROFESSIONALS



**MR KHATHUTSHELO RAMUKUMBA**  
Independent Non-Executive Director and Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee



**MR PRAISE RAGIMANA**  
Independent Non-Executive Director



**ADV. TLOU RAMASHIA**  
Audit and Risk Committee member



**MS NOZIPHO MAKUKULE**  
Audit and Risk Committee member



**MS BEAUTY MUTHEIWANA**  
Audit and Risk Committee member

# RAL AT WORK

## MAINTENANCE

**M**aintaining existing road infrastructure remains one of the priorities for Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), which is responsible for managing Limpopo's road network. In previous financial years, RAL embarked on an intensive drive to maintain Limpopo's road infrastructure. This initiative is aimed at restoring the roads to their former good conditions as they play a vital role in the day-to-day activities of citizens.

These roads also function as crucial thoroughfares connecting Limpopo's economic pillars, including mining, agriculture and tourism, as well as connecting Limpopo to Africa, especially Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries. In this section of *RAL at Work Maintenance*, we showcase recent preventative maintenance work, highlighting the condition before maintenance and the improvements made to enable smooth travelling.

### CAPRICORN DISTRICT



**Road D19** underwent preventative maintenance, stretching from Polokwane towards Tibane to Mathapo, covering a 14km stretch under phase three. This road provides access to Polokwane and Tibane shopping centres for residents around Moletjie, Mashashane and Matlala.



**Road D1468** received preventative maintenance from Vivo towards Indermark, with phase one covering a 5km stretch. This road provides access to Vivo and Indermark areas, also facilitating easy access to Polokwane for villages in the area.



# MOPANI DISTRICT



BEFORE

**Road D1909** underwent preventative maintenance from R40 towards Timbavati (Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport), with the recent phase three work covering a 6km stretch. This road links tourism to the airport, tourism attraction sites, lodges, and road users to Hoedspruit town and local municipality.



BEFORE

**Road D21** received preventative maintenance from Ofcolaco towards Gafani, with phase one work covering a 13km stretch. This road provides access to Sekororo communities, farming areas and a shopping mall.



AFTER



AFTER

# SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT



BEFORE

**Road P207/1** underwent preventative maintenance from Marblehall towards Moloto, with phase three work covering a 4.5km stretch. This road links villages to Marblehall town and connects Limpopo to Mpumalanga.



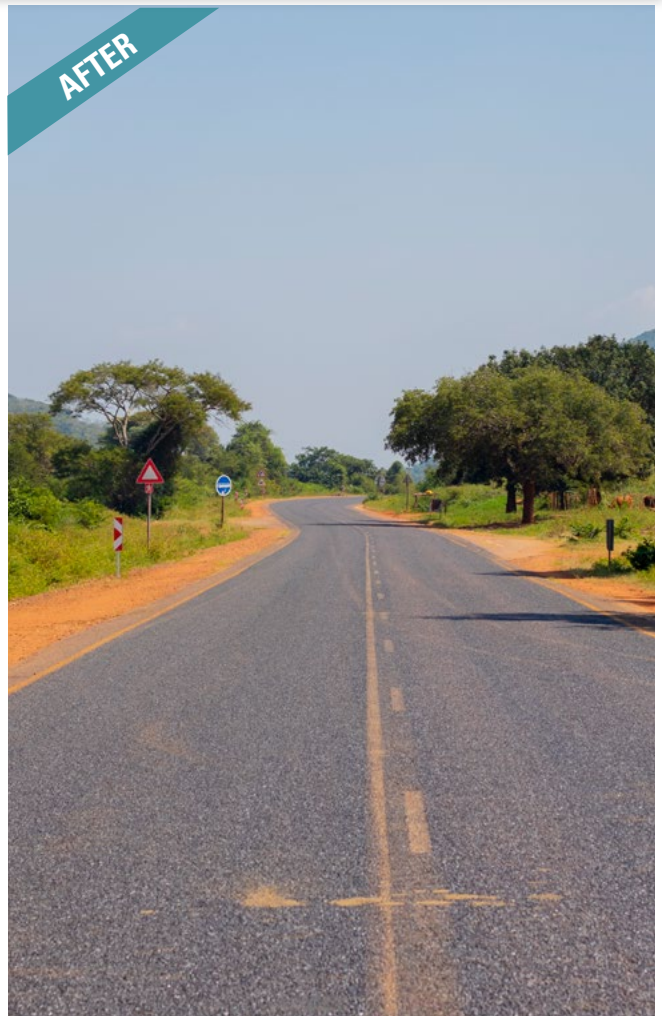
AFTER

## SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT



Road P51/3 received preventative maintenance from Groblersdal towards Stoffberg, with phase three work covering a 4km stretch. This road is vital for villages under Magagamatala to access Groblersdal and Stoffberg, as well as lodges adjacent to the road. The road also facilitates efficient transportation for businesses operating between Stoffberg and Groblersdal.

## VHEMBE DISTRICT



Road P277/1 underwent preventative maintenance from Vhurivhuri towards Masisi, with phase two work covering an 8km stretch. This road connects adjacent villages to Thohoyandou for shopping and government amenities.

## VHEMBE DISTRICT



Road D3653 received preventative maintenance from Boxahuku towards Bevula (Mabaligwe to Makuleke), with phase three work covering a 3.8km stretch.

## WATERBERG DISTRICT



Road D1675 underwent preventative maintenance from Lephalale towards Steenbokpan, with phase three work covering a 6km stretch. This road connects people working at Medupi Power Station. The road also connects people to nearby farms and ensures that various communities have easy access to Lephalale town.

Road D3110 underwent preventative maintenance from Ga-Seleka towards Shongwane, covering a 10km stretch as part of phase three. This road serves as a crucial link, facilitating access to amenities including schools and a shopping complex in Shongwane.





RAL delegation, Mr Gabriel Maluleke (CEO) and Mr Moshweu Mokgala (Executive Manager: Engineering) engaging potential investors during the 2024 African Mining Indaba in the noble cause of improving Limpopo road infrastructure.

# **RAL DELEGATION CALLS FOR MORE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

## **AT THE 2024 AFRICAN MINING INDABA**



RAL Board Chairperson, Mr Matome Ralebipi (middle), led the Agency's delegation at the African Mining Indaba in Cape Town, joined by the entity's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Gabriel Maluleke (left), and Dr Maropeng Manyathela, Executive Manager: Corporate Services at RAL (right).



RAL CEO, Mr Gabriel Maluleke engaging Mr Lehlogonolo Masoga, CEO of Musina Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ), at the African Mining Indaba.

**G**iven the limited resources made available to accelerate Limpopo's road infrastructure development, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) continues to explore different avenues to raise more funds to build quality road infrastructure for the people of the Limpopo Province.

This year, RAL's delegation, led by its Board Chairperson, Mr Matome Ralebipi, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Gabriel Maluleke, along with representatives from Limpopo government departments, featured at the 2024 African Mining Indaba, held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC). Their presence conveyed a strong message that Limpopo is open for investment and more strategic partnerships.

RAL has been engaging companies in the province that operate in tourism, agriculture and mining, to position road infrastructure development as one of the worthwhile investment terrains for consideration.

The RAL exhibition display attracted interest from mining companies and mining suppliers, with operations that depend largely on road material.

According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) figures for 2022, mining in Limpopo contributed 25% to the provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In highlighting its significance, Ralebipi emphasised that events such as the African Mining Indaba provide RAL with opportunities to establish new relationships and maintain existing ones with sector role players, fostering ongoing collaboration in road infrastructure development.

"The African Mining Indaba serves as a pivotal platform for RAL

to engage with key stakeholders, recognising the vital role they play in the province's economic growth," stated Ralebipi.

The African Mining Indaba was officially opened by President Cyril Ramaphosa, who addressed the global mining community, emphasising the sector's historical significance to South Africa's economy.

**"THE AFRICAN MINING INDABA SERVES AS A PIVOTAL PLATFORM FOR RAL TO ENGAGE WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS, RECOGNISING THE VITAL ROLE THEY PLAY IN THE PROVINCE'S ECONOMIC GROWTH."**

RAL CEO, Maluleke highlighted the Agency's success in forging partnerships within the mining sector for improved roads. "RAL has, in the past year alone, forged relationships with the mining sector, resulting in the implementation of crucial infrastructure road projects and the signing of Memorandums of Agreement (MoA) with various stakeholders."

He added: "We strive to supplement our limited resources to significantly impact the expansion of the province's road network."

Since adopting strategic partnerships, RAL has partnered with several mining companies, collectively securing over R700 million for the development of Limpopo roads across the different districts. **■**

# DR MUDAU'S *sharp mind and numerical prowess*

## MAKE HIM THE PERFECT FIT

**A** renowned financial expert, Dr Norman Mudau, serving as Senior Financial Manager at Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), plays a pivotal role in overseeing critical financial functions essential for the organisation's successful implementation of road projects.

His responsibilities include financial reporting, budget management, and strategic financial analysis. Through his leadership, Dr Mudau ensures adherence to prevailing regulations, fosters transparency in financial reporting practices, and optimises resource allocation to support RAL's objectives.

"I employ management accounting strategies such as cost analysis and variance assessment to optimise resource utilisation and track budget performance of RAL throughout the fiscal year," he explains.

Born in Dzwerani Hamadala village, outside Thohoyandou, in the Thulamela Local Municipality, Vhembe District of the Limpopo Province, Dr Mudau's journey to becoming a respected figure in the financial sector began with a solid educational foundation. He attended Mahematshena Primary School and furthered his studies at Ndaedzo Secondary School, both in the Vhembe District.

***"Growing up, my career aspiration was to become a professional accountant. I was drawn to this profession because of my passion for numbers. I found that numbers had a unique way of telling a story, and I was fascinated by the analytical aspect of accounting."***

Dr Mudau was drawn to accounting after being captivated by the intricacies of the subject during high school. His favourite subjects in high school were Accounting and Mathematics, and his passion for numbers and the allure of accounting as a challenging yet rewarding field steered him towards a career in finance.

"Growing up, my career aspiration was to become a professional accountant. I was drawn to this profession because of my passion for numbers. I found that numbers had a unique way of telling a story, and I was fascinated by the analytical aspect of accounting."

Driven by his ambition to excel academically and to empower others, Dr Mudau pursued tertiary education at various institutions, including Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Nelson Mandela University (NMU) and the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). His academic journey culminated in the attainment of a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a Ph.D. in Accounting Science, which he completed in 2021, specialising in accounting and information systems. Throughout his educational pursuits, Dr Mudau embraced the ethos that education is the passport to the future, continually striving to expand his knowledge and skills.

He says the MBA gave him insight into leadership balance, which is the capacity to translate vision into reality. "The qualification also prepared me for leadership challenges, which is to be strong but not rude; be kind but not weak; be bold but not a bully; be thoughtful but not lazy; be humble but not timid; be proud but not arrogant; have humour but without folly."

Dr Mudau's professional journey spans nearly two decades, encompassing diverse roles in both the public and private sectors. Before assuming his current position at RAL in 2022, he served as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for Overberg Water, where he

Dr Norman Mudau finds solace in nature and enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, and exploring the wilderness as escapes for rejuvenation and self-reflection.



*“By pre-qualifying contractors and fostering flexibility in project execution, RAL expedites project implementation and enhances the impact of budget spending on community development.”*

honed his expertise in financial management and strategic planning.

He has a strong track record of implementing advanced financial strategies, including activity-based budgeting, financial modeling, and the successful implementation of Enterprise Resource Planning systems (ERP). Dr Mudau has also played a pivotal role in developing revenue enhancement strategies and achieving clean audit outcomes through meticulous financial management practices in various organisations that he served prior to joining RAL.


Despite enjoying and having a passion for his profession, he says it doesn't come without challenges. According to him, some of those challenges he faces in discharging his responsibilities at RAL, especially with external stakeholders like contractors, include managing their relationship with the Agency. “Managing relationships with contractors requires meticulous oversight to ensure compliance and transparency. I, therefore, advocate for the integration of financial systems, leveraging technology solutions, and enhancing staff training to address these challenges effectively.”

He says another challenge he encountered as a Senior Manager: Finance at RAL, is that he deals regularly with the issue of budget limitations caused by fiscal constraints, which restrict the availability of financial resources for operational needs and projects. He says to address this, implementing robust project planning and project cash flow management practices is crucial. “This solution involves conducting thorough project planning with detailed cost estimation and budgeting to align project objectives with available financial resources. By proactively identifying potential budget constraints early in the project lifecycle, adjustments can be made to the project scope or timelines to optimise resource utilisation and ensure financial feasibility,” he asserts.

Over the past two financial years, RAL has successfully maximised budget spending, he says this is attributed to strategic decisions by the Agency, such as appointing a panel of contractors and streamlining procurement processes. “By pre-qualifying contractors and fostering flexibility in project execution, RAL expedites project implementation and enhances the impact of budget spending on community development,” he explains.

His leadership style, as a fan of teamwork, Dr Mudau also prioritises empowerment. “Empowering individuals with autonomy and responsibility fosters

motivation, creativity, and personal growth,” he says.

His professional affiliations include being a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), which has played a significant role in shaping his career trajectory through comprehensive training and networking opportunities. 



Dr Norman Mudau's illustrious career in finance is characterised by a commitment to excellence and a relentless pursuit of knowledge.

# DID YOU KNOW?

In the past five years, Roads Agency Limpopo projects have created approximately **7 712 work opportunities for local labourers**, ensuring numerous communities benefit. This initiative aligns with the entity's **mission to enhance the socio-economic status** of the province's residents.



# MOREBENG ROADS CONSTRUCTION RESUMES AFTER INTERVENTION BY MEC NKAKARENG RAKGOALE



Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, MEC for LDPWRI, pleads with stakeholders to allow uninterrupted construction on vital economic routes; D15, D3232, and D3150, spanning from R36 in Morebeng to D11 in Tshabelane.

**T**he Honourable MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mmefrancisca Nkakareng Rakgoale continues to be in the forefront of stakeholder engagement efforts aimed at resolving issues that stall Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) road projects.

The MEC's efforts involve working closely with RAL's stakeholder management team to engage municipalities, traditional authorities and communities benefiting from the projects.

The recent resumption of the construction of the 32km stretch encompassing roads D15, D3232 and D3150, from R36 at



Mr Gabriel Maluleke, RAL CEO, states that the road project is expected to take a period of seven months to complete.

is duly registered by government and we will endeavour to rally all stakeholders to assist in ensuring that indeed, these roads of economic importance to our communities are successfully delivered.”

Following months of inactivity on the road project, RAL Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Gabriel Maluleke was pleased at having successfully resolved the issues for the project to resume.

He expressed that, “Today we are very excited to be here to handover the contractor to resume with the project. We are planning to start in April and finish within a period of seven months, in November.”

Morebeng to D11 at Tshabelane in the Capricorn and Mopani Districts of the Limpopo Province, is a clear demonstration of the efforts yielding positive results for the communities.

Speaking at the introduction of the contractor who will implement the project, the MEC clarified that the road is not an entirely new project but a continuation of the work that had already started.

“We are resuming the project that was halted and we aim to complete the outstanding works. We appreciate your cooperation that led us to be able to resuscitate the construction of the road project as it was long overdue,” the MEC said.

At the pledge of their support, Cllr Pule Shai, Executive Mayor of the Mopani District; Cllr Dagma Mamanyoha, Mayor of Greater Letaba Municipality; and Kgoshi Malekutu Pheeha from Pheeha Traditional Authority, speaking on behalf of all affected traditional authorities, articulated in unison their willingness to collaborate closely with all officials to ensure there are no interruptions in the project.


Cllr Shai added by commending all traditional authorities’ cooperation and said that “your resilience as our traditional leaders



Various stakeholders who travel on the roads regularly express delight at the news of the resumption of the road project.

The outstanding work mainly involves road D3150, where a bridge will be constructed, along with the seal work of 3.5km. The additional bridge will contain ancillary tasks to complete the project, including road signs and markings.

Meanwhile, the Conlef Foundation highlighted how the news of the resumption of the project has pleased them after numerous engagements with the MEC for LDPWRI. “Our request is now yielding results. We hope that they will appoint a skilled and knowledgeable contractor to complete the road project,” said Mr Conty Lebepe, the Foundation National Coordinator.

The project will provide the much-needed relief for motorists and road users in general, ensuring safer and more timely travel. 

**“WE ARE RESUMING THE PROJECT THAT WAS HALTED AND WE AIM TO COMPLETE THE OUTSTANDING WORKS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION THAT LED US TO BE ABLE TO RESUSCITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROAD PROJECT AS IT WAS LONG OVERDUE.”**

# #RALatWork

Complaints and Compliments

The collage features several social media posts:

- Facebook Post 1 (Top Left):** Shows a road construction site with workers. Comments include: "Great work. That's service delivery.", "Please also go to my village in Giyani the gravel road that links Gandlanani, Maxavele to Hlanki villages from R81 to the road from or to Elim it has been like that since my childhood.", "Great stuff, now let's get visible policing on that route as well as it's too lonely and drivers get reckless sometimes.", "Thank You Road agency Limpopo".
- X Post (Top Right):** Shows a road construction site. Comments include: "We are proud of your work. When are you going to fix Tom Burke to Aildays Road?", "When are sorting out this road #D3727?", "The benefits of roads upgrades in the province will usher in great benefits for Limpopo and the country as whole with Improved mobility, economic growth, Job creation and more - pls deliver on your mandate. We hope 2024/2025 FY will bring more speed on your mandate for Limpopo."
- Facebook Post 2 (Bottom Left):** Shows a road construction site. Comments include: "This road is very nice", "What about the road ya Tibane to Rosenkrantz clinic, and to Bochim...", "Very nice this roads", "Freeman Mubhala/Freeman Mhahla just a short message my brother or sister", "RAL is not responsible for every roads that are a mess, it's either Municipality or other company's", "YES, RAL sometimes is the company that fix our roads but give it time course it has a lot of complains dealing with", "Warra matome your doing a good job".
- Instagram Post (Bottom Center):** Shows a road construction site. Comments include: "Thank for your honour and the promise you kept for us Road D3426 from ramoshwane to rammobola which is still under construction is going well and it will be completed soon", "We thank you RAL and MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale and the Contractor for the good work", "This is a wish for every rural communities", "This institution is bringing transformation to the province, where it is needed the most", "Keep up the good work Road Agency Limpopo", "We appreciate the big infrastructure development programs you are bringing to our beloved people", "Forward Service delivery Forward".
- Facebook Post 3 (Bottom Right):** Shows a road construction site. Comments include: "Job well executed... Keep up the good work, and remember that there will always be critiques and disgruntled others, but we pray for you guys that you don't loose focus... Serving the nation is your calling... turn those lemons into lemonades, those verbal bricks thrown at you, don't discard them, take them and build a Paradise... Big Ups", "We need upgrades on this roads D3727 and D2767", "what's going to happen to it", "We still expecting more from u guys!!!".

A central badge indicates **10 600 Followers**.



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RoadsAgency



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Roads Agency Limpopo

# MINTIRHO YA VULAVULA

For the 2023/24 financial year, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) has successfully completed 53 preventative maintenance projects that covered 1 250 619m<sup>2</sup> (approximately 166km). These initiatives aim to enhance travel efficiency and connectivity throughout Limpopo. As such, *Mmileng*, the official quarterly publication of RAL, caught up with road users from the five districts of the province benefiting from these maintenance projects to hear how the improved roads have impacted their day-to-day activities.



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.

“

Before its rehabilitation, road D1468 was riddled with potholes, causing inconvenience and delays as we navigated around them. However, since its rehabilitation, driving on it has become smooth and efficient. We can now reach our destinations on time without any disruptions, thanks to RAL for improving this road.

**Mr Marcus Raphasha, road D1468 user, rehabilitated from Vivo towards Indermark, Capricorn District.**



”

“

After the commencement of phase one and two of road rehabilitation on this road (D1909), the previously poor road conditions underwent significant improvement. Fixing of the road also means we don't have to service our vehicles as often as we used to. The improved road has played a pivotal role in boosting my construction business, effectively reducing travel time, enhancing productivity and cutting costs.

**Mr Johann De Cock, road D1909 user, rehabilitated from R40 towards Timbavati (Eastgate Airport), Mopani District.**



”

“

RAL has done a very good job on this road (P207/1) because it was not easy to drive on due to a lot of potholes spread across the road. I'm a victim of a car accident on this road, as my car once rolled here. I would like to thank RAL for the excellent construction work on this road, because now we are able to arrive in town safely.

**Mr Valentine Makubyana, road P207/1 user, rehabilitated from Marblehall towards Moloto, Sekhukhune District.**



”

“

I travel regularly on this road from Mukula Crossing to Masisi. It's a fantastic road. This road was once in poor condition, making travelling nearly impossible. However, since undergoing repairs, it has greatly improved. Many thanks to RAL for the excellent work done on this road.

**Mr Rofhiwa Muleba, road P277/1 user, rehabilitated from Vhurivhuri towards Masisi, Vhembe District.**



”

“

The quality of the road (D3110) is commendable. The refurbishment of the road has improved access to our school. The scholar transport now travels with ease, which was previously impossible due to potholes causing slow-moving traffic. I appreciate the addition of the small lights between the lanes, because we did not have them before. They are helpful at night in guiding cars to stay in correct lanes.

**Ms Mosibudi Sekuru, road D3110 user, rehabilitated from Ga-Seleka towards Shongwane, Waterberg District.**



”



The 6km stretch of road D3248 from Deepark/Thapane to Mandlakazi, recently upgraded by RAL, now facilitates easier travel for locals.



**FROM 45 MINUTES  
TO 25 MINUTES,  
N'WAMITWA  
COMMUNITIES**  
EXPERIENCE REDUCED TRAVEL TIME

**R**unning daily errands and travelling to places in and around the Mopani District will be much easier now for residents of N’wamitwa and neighbouring villages, under the Valoyi Traditional Council, following the upgrade of road D3248 from gravel to tar by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL).

This vital route, from Deepark/Thapane to Mandlakazi in Greater Tzaneen Municipality, covers 10km in total. The construction of the road commenced in May 2023, with phase one of the upgrade and rehabilitation, covering a stretch of 6km. The completed phase one has already made a remarkable difference in the safety and travel convenience of the residents, something that was a challenge before.

Residents have lauded the project for increasing interaction by connecting the villages. With the improved connectivity, the community can access essential services and run daily errands with ease.

The road has significantly reduced travel time for residents of four villages: Mandlakazi, Fobene-Thapane, Lwandlamuni and N’wamitwa, along with their surrounding areas which are the direct beneficiaries of the road.

According to the residents, they now have better access to local economic centres in Tzaneen, which in turn boosts economic growth. Additionally, the community also struggled with access to essential services such as reliable public transport, access to ambulances and various other services in Tzaneen, which the community can now access easily following the completion of the project.

Previously, some villagers recall taking 45 minutes to an hour to travel to their local town of Tzaneen using Tarantaal road, which was not convenient; “now it takes us only 25 minutes on this newly developed road, saving on fuel and time,” said Mr Calvin Ngobeni, a taxi operator at N’wamitwa Taxi Association.

Ngobeni vividly recalls on the challenges posed by the previously bumpy gravel road, where cars could only manage the speed of 10 to 15 km/h. “The situation was dire; during emergencies, ambulances couldn’t reach our villages, and even pregnant women



Phase one of RAL-led road D3248 project in N’wamitwa provided job opportunities to 51 local labourers, uplifted the socio-economic status.

challenges that their communities faced in living their normal lives due to various inconveniences before the road was tarred.

“Access to transport was difficult because nobody wanted to risk their cars and lives on the bumpy road. Accidents were common, especially for those attempting to speed on the previous gravel road, but now it’s a different story since the construction of this new road by RAL,” explained Cllr Ngobeni. The Councillor

**“Access to transport was difficult because nobody wanted to risk their cars and lives on the bumpy road. Accidents were common, especially for those attempting to speed on the previous gravel road, but now it’s a different story since the construction of this new road by RAL.”**

had to endure risky journeys to the local clinic. The recent tarring of the road by RAL is a relief because the travel experience is now smoother, and there’s assurance of reaching the destinations on time,” Ngobeni remarked.

Residents also appreciate the fact that access to vital amenities such as schools, N’wamitwa Police Station, N’wamitwa Clinic, N’wamitwa Post Office and local filling stations has become more convenient.

The three local Ward Councillors representing the affected wards in the villages, Cllr Edward Ngobeni (ward 13), Cllr Lawrence Mohale (Ward 11), Cllr Ishmael Risiva (Ward 12) also echoed

expressed appreciation to RAL for allocating budget and prioritising the development of the road in his ward. He added: “Government must assist RAL to start the second phase. The community members are very happy because of this newly constructed road, and they look forward to the second phase.”

Valoyi Traditional Council shared the benefits of the road, saying the rehabilitation and construction of the tar road not only facilitates smoother and more efficient travel for villagers but further opens up opportunities for economic advancement. “Since the construction of this road by RAL, business opportunities are emerging; this will create job opportunities for our communities



Mr Robert Mhlongo and Ndhunankulu Olga Mamtwa from the Valoyi Traditional Council give RAL a thumbs up for constructing the vital road in their area.




Previously, when it rained, crossing the Nwanedzi River was impossible. Now, a bridge is under construction to facilitate easier passage.


to provide for their families,” said Mr Robert Mhlongo, Chairperson of Valoyi Traditional Council Land Use.

Meanwhile, Ndhunankulu Olga Mamtwa from the same Council appreciated that “the project empowered 20 Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMMEs) and offered job opportunities to 51 local labourers, thus supporting families and fostering economic inclusion within the community.”

As N’wamtwa and its neighbouring villages embrace this new era of progress and prosperity, they say the tar road stands as a symbol of hope, unity and transformation, promising a brighter

future for generations to come.

RAL’s Acting General Manager: Operations, Ms Mamosadi Mankga appreciated the cooperation of the community to ensure the success of the road project. “We are delighted to witness the positive impact of this project on the lives of community members. The collaboration between RAL, local authorities and community stakeholders has been instrumental in ensuring a successful end result.” 

 Scan the QR Code to watch this story.





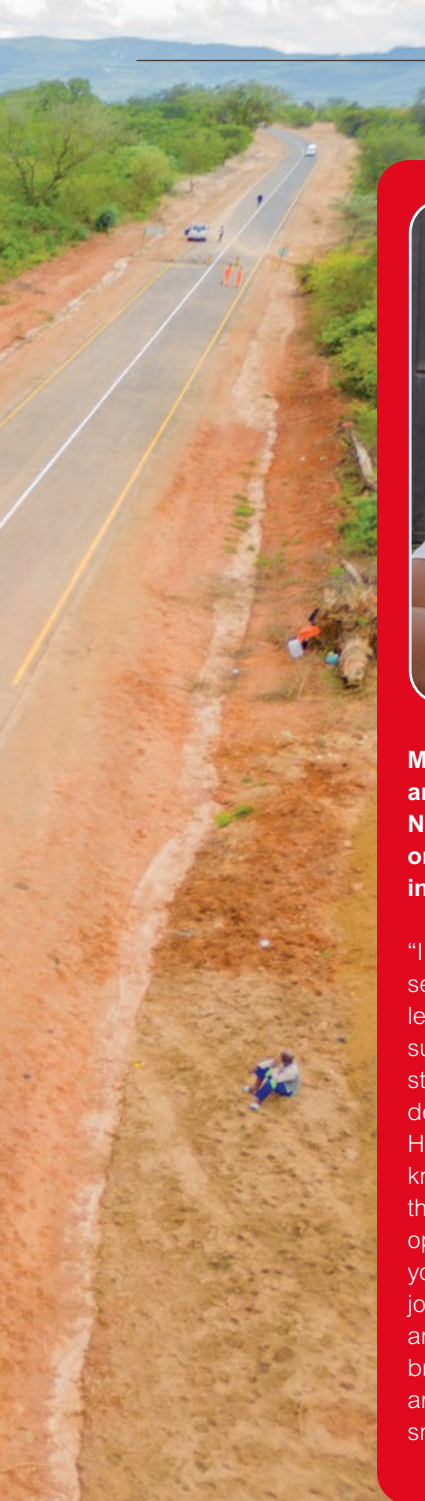
# SMALL BUSINESSES SECURE FIRST NOTABLE EXPOSURE DURING CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD D3248 IN N'WAMITWA

**T**he construction of road D3248 by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) from Deepark/Thapane to Mandlakazi in Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Mopani District, not only enhances travel safety and efficiency but serves as a stepping stone for local small entrepreneurs.

For many, this project represents their first substantial

work, providing a platform for their businesses to flourish by offering various services crucial to the success of the project.

Various Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in the area now possess valuable skills that can be applied elsewhere, along with strategies to expand their enterprises, all thanks to RAL's commitment to empowering communities.



**Mr Justice Ndlovu, providing security and transport services through Ndlovukazi Imperial Services, reflects on his experience as an SMME brought in by RAL road project:**

“I was contracted for transport and security services. Through this project, I learned about the challenges of running a successful business, especially when starting a new venture or project and dealing with payments for workers. However, I am now equipped with the knowledge to address such challenges in the future. Additionally, I had the opportunity to empower the youth from my village with job opportunities, which I am proud of. I thank RAL for bringing this project to our area and contracting my small business.”



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.



**Ms Lucy Khosa, Director of Reakgona Trading and Enterprise engaged in plant hire services (Water Cut & TLB), reflects on her experience as an SMME participating in the RAL road project:**

“We express our gratitude to RAL for appointing us, we are here today as SMMEs because of their support. I'm contracted for Water Cut and TLB services. Some challenges were encountered during the initial stages of this project, such as breakdown of the plant, but these challenges gave us the determination to persevere. We hope that RAL will continue to support us with business so that we can acquire our own plant. With continued support from RAL, I believe we can maintain a long-lasting partnership.”



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.



**How RAL road project benefited Mr Japhta Mathebula, Director of J&H Mayimbhele Holdings, contracted for supplying toilets to workers during the project:**

“At first, it was challenging because we did not understand how RAL projects work. However, once that was clarified, the engagement of SMMEs began, and I was contracted to supply toilets. It was a challenging assignment, as it marked my company's first venture into government projects, and we held a relatively new Grade 1 status. Despite encountering various obstacles and differences, our determination to succeed and learn remained unwavering. We've gained valuable experience and we are committed to persevering through any challenges that may come our way as we continue to be engaged in this road project.”



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# Mashabela Galane

THE SELF-MADE COMEDIAN AND ENTREPRENEUR

Known for popularising vernacular comedy in the country, Mashabela Galane, affectionately known by his fans as 'Papago' continues to make a meaningful living out of this profession

**M**ashabela hails from the rural village of Mmotong wa Perekisi, Kgohloane, within the Capricorn District of the Limpopo Province, where he grew up herding cattle and was barely exposed to life outside his local surroundings. Despite his lack of exposure to career opportunities, it is astounding how he managed to successfully build a formidable brand at the top of South Africa's entertainment industry, where he is now adored and has earned his stripes as a well-respected household name.

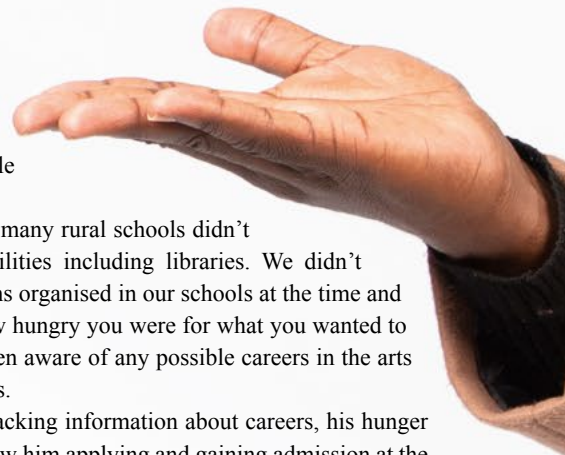
The hilarious comedian who matriculated in 2000 at Seshigo High School in Moletjie, recalls his high school days where he would always be surrounded by his peers owing to the jokes that he cracked among them, but little did he know that entertaining people

was his destiny and that he would come to make a formidable career out of it.

"During our time, many rural schools didn't have educational facilities including libraries. We didn't have career exhibitions organised in our schools at the time and it was a matter of how hungry you were for what you wanted to achieve. I was not even aware of any possible careers in the arts at the time." he recalls.

Notwithstanding lacking information about careers, his hunger for better prospects saw him applying and gaining admission at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), in Gauteng for the Foundation in Media Studies and Dramatic Arts degree in 2001. The *King of Pedi* comedy as he is also known reminisces that is where his talent in comedy was realised. He says his talent was sparked during his third-year in 2005, after noticing Afrikaans-speaking comedians carving careers for themselves by telling jokes in their home language. "Seeing people attending those Afrikaans comedy sessions and paying big bucks, I realised that I could also do the same in my mother tongue (Sepedi)."

Mashabela left Wits in 2007 armed with an Honours qualification in Media Studies and



**"SEEING PEOPLE ATTENDING THOSE AFRIKAANS COMEDY SESSIONS AND PAYING BIG BUCKS, I REALISED THAT I COULD ALSO DO THE SAME IN MY MOTHER TONGUE (SEPEDI)."**

Mashabela Galane boasts a comedy portfolio that reflects the diverse dynamics of South Africa as a multicultural and multilingual society, appealing to a wide spectrum of clientele.



Dramatic Arts to focus on comedy on a full-time basis.

In 2008, Mashabela launched his career officially, by creating a comedy group called *Strictly Vernac* where he, together with his crew, created sustainable careers through performing comedy in their home languages all over the country.

However, as is the case with most people who seek to create something that has never been seen before, his journey was marred with several challenges. “Our first challenge was that at that time, many black people did not prefer theatres which served as common venues for comedy shows. We tried to get bookings in comedy clubs, but they were mostly owned and managed by white people who preferred us to perform in English.”

Although they faced myriad challenges through *Strictly Vernac*, they kept trying until their breakthrough came when they began hosting shows centred on DVD sales and comedy tours across the country.

“I’m very flexible about my approach towards DVD sales

**“I DON’T HESITATE WHEN I RECEIVE BOOKINGS IN LIMPOPO BECAUSE RAL HAS UPGRADED MOST OF THE ROADS TO ENSURE SMOOTH ACCESS IN THE PROVINCE. OUR TRAVELLING EXPERIENCE HAS BECOME PLEASANT AS WE MOVE FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.”**

because the reality is that our work gets pirated and becomes unprofitable. The truth is that word of mouth generated via pirated products has increased our popularity. I always advise comedians to make peace with people who record our live performances, because if you are funny, those videos will go viral and work as a great marketing tool for you,” he laughs.

From using Sepedi in the northern parts of South Africa to isiXhosa in the southern tip of the country, as well as incorporating all the other vernacular languages in-between as part of their performance repertoire, the *Strictly Vernac* crew performed for large crowds, catapulting Mashabela’s rise to fame. It was at this point that he decided to work independently from the group.

To make his jokes relevant, the naturally funny Mashabela says he gets inspiration to craft new jokes from everyday life experiences. “As a comedian, you need to stay abreast with what is happening in the country and globally so that your jokes can be relevant and resonate with your audience.”

Having risen to fame and being recognised by many people in the country, it was easy for Mashabela to be enlisted as an entertainment contributor on SABC Limpopo’s Thobela FM, a presenter on Limpopo’s only commercial radio station, Capricorn FM, and an actor on SABC 1 soapie, Skeem Saam.

The self-made entrepreneur believes that people should not rely on one income but venture into various businesses to broaden their

means of living. Talking about his business acumen, it is no surprise that Mashabela has recognised the power of his brand and has since himself sought to venture into business by launching Moringa alcohol and health products. The prolific salesperson fuses his product presentation with humour to leverage off his loyal fanbase. These products include Moringa Premium Gin (alcohol) and other health products such as *Moringa Woke Slimming Tea*, *Bophelo Ke Cyprodin* and *Dicknified Sexual Health*.

He also acknowledges access to the market as one of the biggest challenges in business. This has forced him to think creatively about how to use his brand to make his products accessible to many potential consumers.

“I believe in my products, and I promote them every chance I get, for example, I serve and sell Moringa gin at my live comedy shows. I have also partnered with one of the leading liquor stores in South Africa that afforded me shelf space for Moringa gin, and we have a mutually beneficial trade exchange agreement in place,”

he explains.

Mashabela has his sight set on pursuing other business opportunities apart from his current business collaborations. He is also conceptualising and developing new products for the elderly market. He says his products are approved by relevant professional bodies.

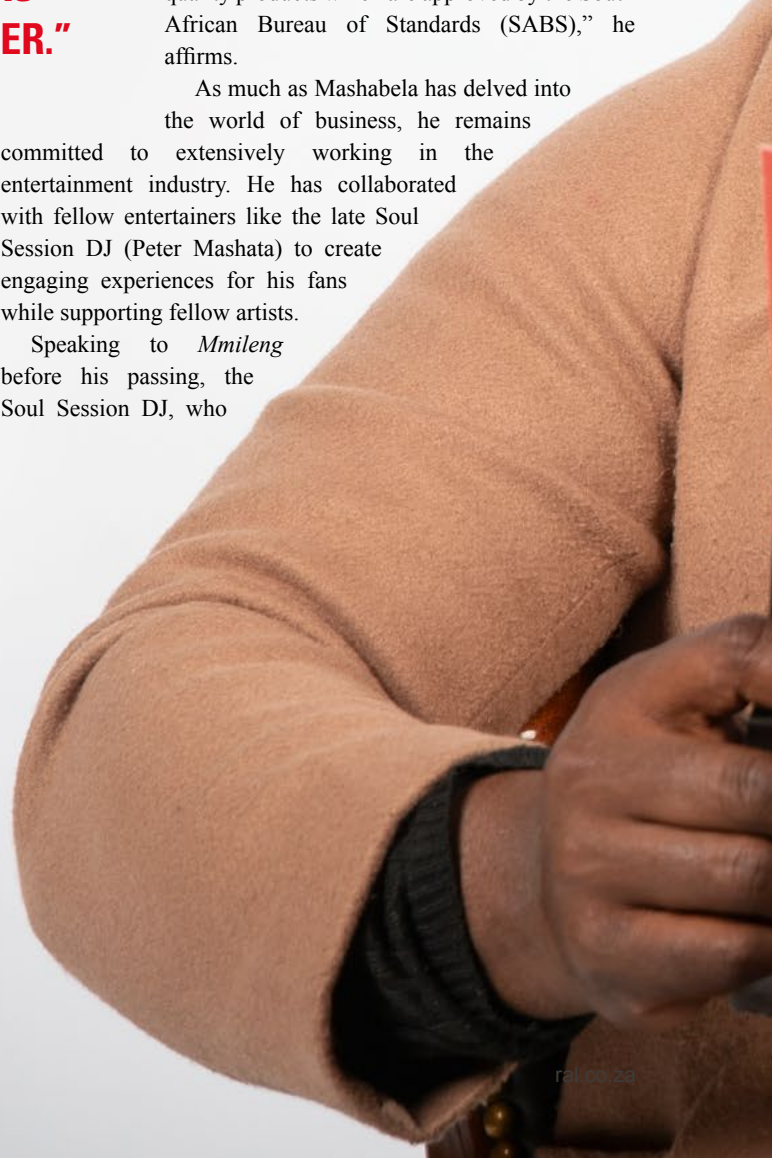
“I outsource my products to industry experts who follow the right channels to create high-quality products which are approved by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS),” he affirms.

As much as Mashabela has delved into the world of business, he remains

committed to extensively working in the entertainment industry. He has collaborated with fellow entertainers like the late Soul Session DJ (Peter Mashata) to create engaging experiences for his fans while supporting fellow artists.

Speaking to *Mmileng* before his passing, the Soul Session DJ, who

Mashabela Galane believes that social media is one of the most important platforms that anyone can use to expose their talent.





had been close to Mashabela since 2007, described the popular comedian as more reserved offstage. “Offstage, Mashabela Galane is relatively quiet; he isn’t all over the place. He’s an accommodating person who often agrees to many requests just to make other people happy without putting himself first.”

One thing is certain, the sky is the limit for the passionate husband and father of three who is driven by the appetite to achieve and build more fame.

Mashabela has many followers in his home province of Limpopo and usually travels to different areas using various roads constructed by the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) and appreciates the sterling road infrastructure network in the province. “I don’t hesitate when I receive bookings in Limpopo because RAL has upgraded most of the roads to ensure smooth access in the province. Our travelling experience has become pleasant as we move from one place to another,” Mashabela says in appreciation. **m**



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.



# A TRIBUTE TO LONG SERVING EMPLOYEES

Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) takes pride in the value that its staff brings to the Agency. The organisation's policy acknowledges employees for their dedicated service at milestones of five, ten, fifteen, and twenty years. These individuals have each played a vital role in their respective professions and have contributed significantly to achieving RAL's mission of developing Limpopo's road infrastructure.

## 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ms Baleseng Khwinana

Mr Gabriel Maluleke

## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ms Carmen du Sart

Mr Hobyane Magopa

Ms Refilwe Shikwambana

## 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ms Gauta Malotane

Ms Euphemia Mavusha

Ms Dorothy Modiba

Mr Musa Ndlovu

Mr Sammy Ramokolo

Ms Doris Moloto

# 20 YEARS OF SERVICE



**MR WITFORD MABUZA**

Mr Mabuza ensures timely payments for contractors conducting business with RAL. He has spent many years of service contributing to the finance department of the organisation.



**MR JOHN SEOLOANA**

Ensuring the upkeep of RAL assets, Mr Seoloana manages the operational assets of RAL to ensure they contribute to empowering his colleagues to perform at their optimum level.



**MS SHONI TSHIVHASE**

Dedicated to handling environmental affairs at RAL, Ms Tshivhase ensures that safety and environmental responsibility within communities during projects are adhered to.



**MS DORCAS MANALE**

As part of equipping small business with construction industry knowledge, Ms Manale continues to be instrumental in facilitating the smooth integration of local labourers and SMMEs during RAL road projects.



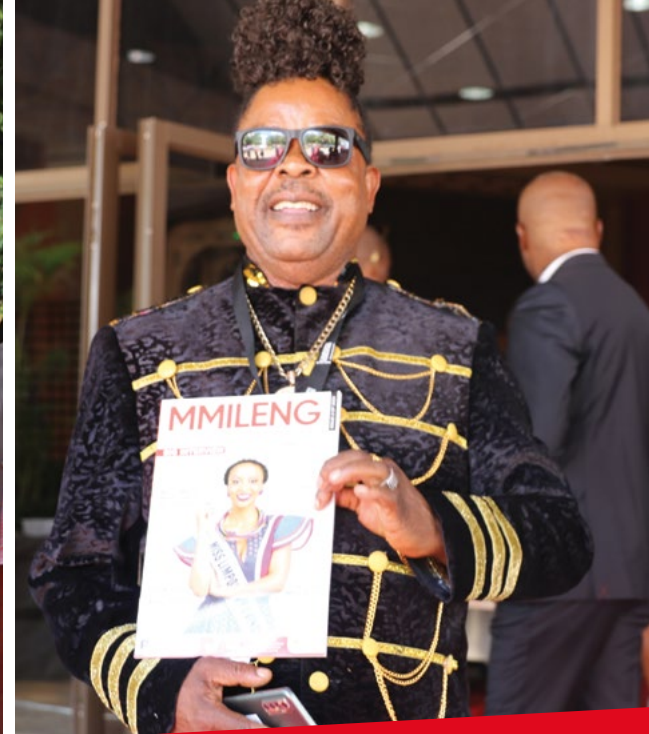
**MS MAVIS MASHASHANE**

Ms Mavis Mashashane provides liaison and communication between community stakeholders. Hers is a pivotal golden thread that connects all project participants to realise successful execution.



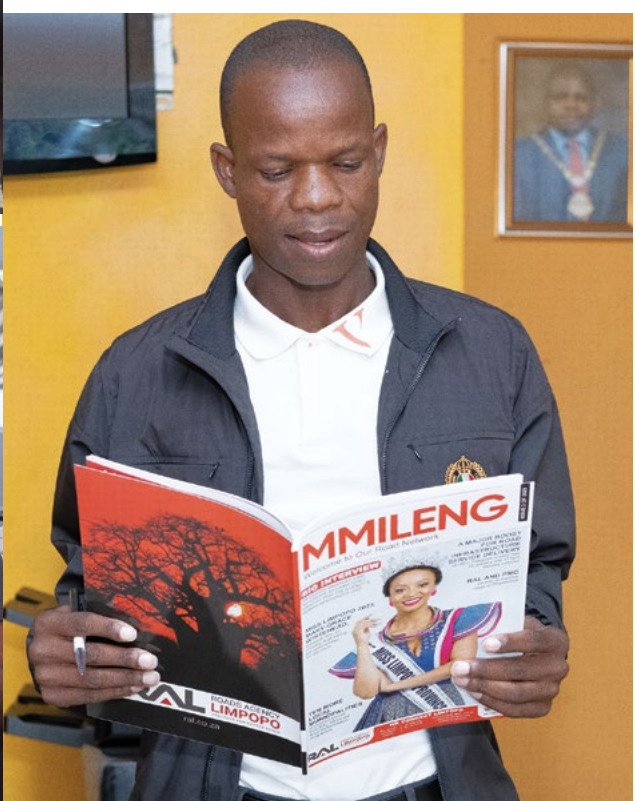
**MS MABJALWA MODJADJI  
(RETIRED)**

Providing liaison and communication between community stakeholders, Ms Modjadji has played a pivotal role that serves as a golden thread connecting all project participants to realise the successful execution of road projects.



# #MmilengReaders





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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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