

# MMILENG

Welcome to Our Road Network

RAL stakeholder engagement ensures successful implementation of the

## TSHIKANOSHI ROAD PROJECT

### BIG INTERVIEW

Shining the light on Limpopo roads



# MEC RAKGOALE

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ROADS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



# OUR MISSION

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

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Issue 2 of 2022



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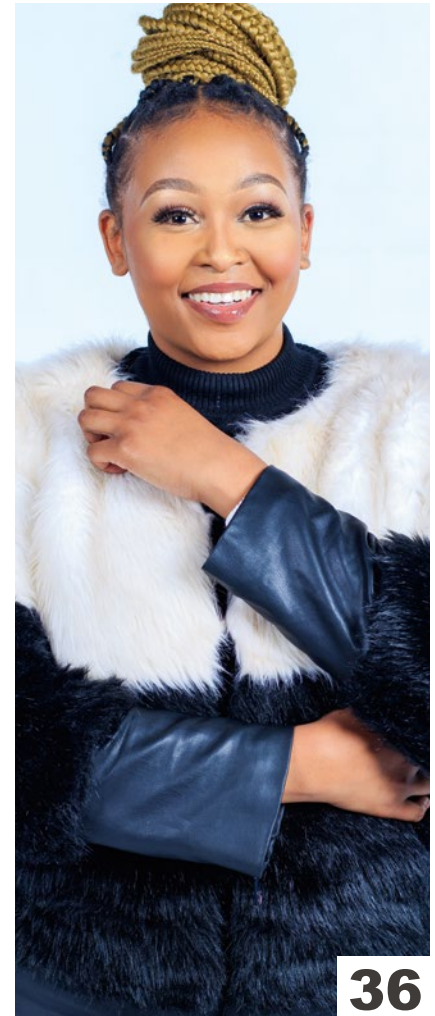
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## COVER STAR

This edition's cover star is Hon MEC for LDPWRI, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale



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# **MMILENG CREW TAKES PLEASURE IN WELCOMING THE HONOURABLE MEC FOR LDPWRI**

**W**elcome to the second edition of yet another exciting read of your favourite quarterly publication, *Mmileng*. The publication's crew also takes pleasure in welcoming the Honourable MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale to the first edition published since her appointment as the political head of Roads Agency Limpopo's (RAL) shareholder department. The MEC also happens to be the star cover for this edition.

As we all know, through the stewardship of its Shareholder Representative, Hon MEC for LDPWRI, the RAL Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer, RAL continues to provide one of the much-needed road infrastructure services to the residents of Limpopo. The MEC has, for the past few months been going around the province on operation #ThibaMekotiDitseleng (#ValaZonke) campaign ensuring that most of the potholes on provincial roads are eradicated. She also utilised the activations to listen to the road infrastructure concerns across the Limpopo's five districts. Among others, this edition brings you an update about activities undertaken by Mme Nkakareng since her appointment.

*Mmileng* continues to be one of RAL's platforms through which the entity shares important news to its targeted stakeholders. Given the nature of the business of RAL, the publication explores several ways of sharing useful information to its stakeholders about the Agency's achievements and challenges. RAL is also available on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, PressReader, Issuu, and other

**“MMILENG CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF RAL'S PLATFORMS THROUGH WHICH THE ENTITY IMPARTS IMPORTANT NEWS TO ITS TARGETED STAKEHOLDERS.”**

digital platforms.

This edition leads with a milestone Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was recently presided over by the



**Dr Maropeng Manyathela**  
RAL Head of Communications

Premier of Limpopo and signed by RAL and SANRAL for the construction of the St Engenas Zion Christian Church interchange in Moria.

The edition is also reporting about the excitement and gratitude of villagers under the Ga-Riba Traditional Council in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality following the completion of their state-of-the-art D4166 road, from gravel to tar. This road will facilitate easy movement of goods from business community and the public at large. Seeing those happy faces, it encourages us to do even more. Full story is on page 30.

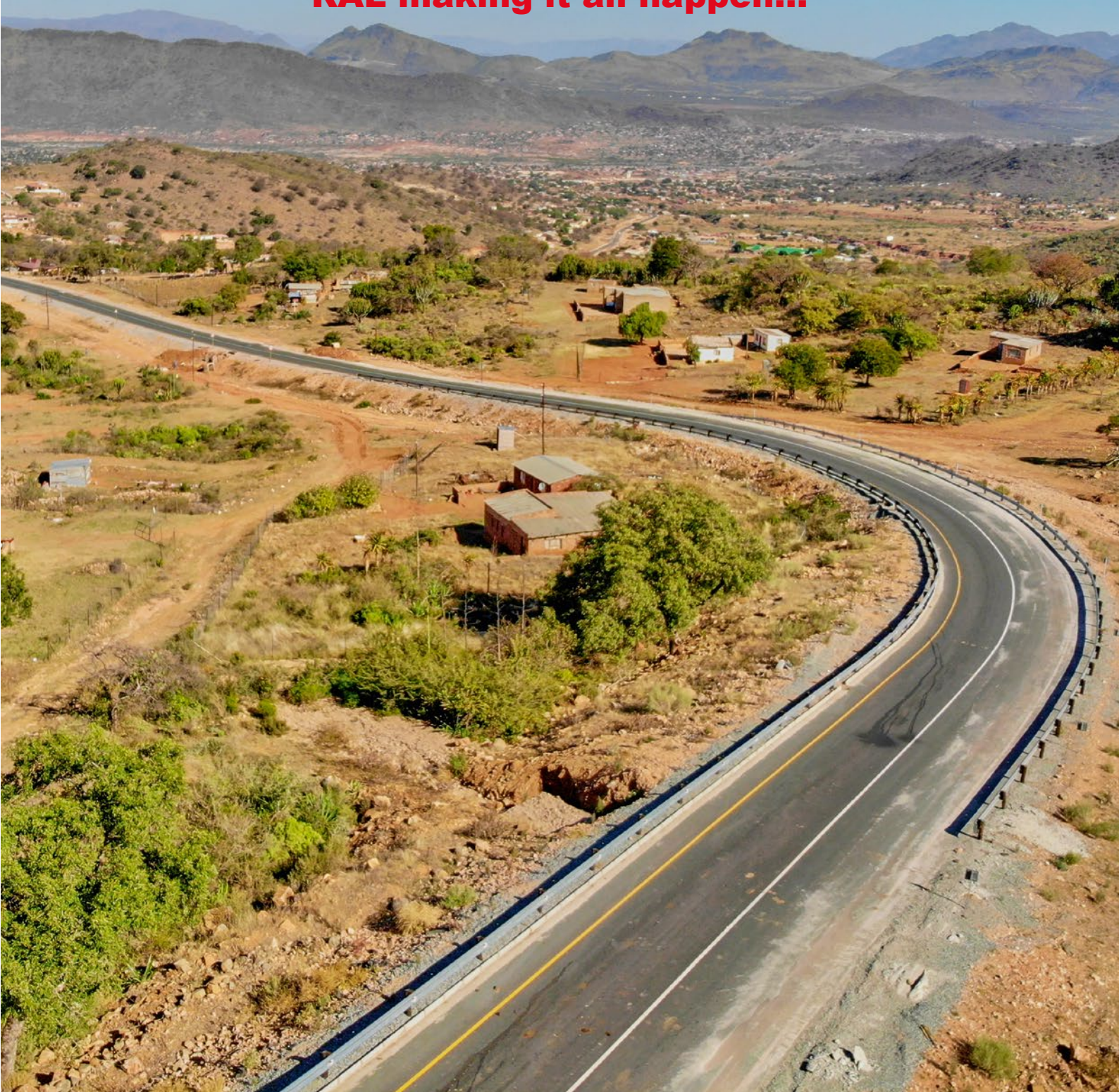
*Mmileng* also covers the SOD turning, officiated by MEC Rakgoale, marking the commencement of the rehabilitation of road D192 between Jakkalskuil and R518 in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality within the Waterberg District. Read full details on page 18 about this 20.3km stretch of road which is critical to the transportation and catering of the socio-economic needs of at least 20 villages.

It will not be a waste of your precious time to read the entire publication as you will be informed about the work of the entity. This includes updates on roads construction currently taking place in various communities, as well as the new plans on the roads to be fixed.

# 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.

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



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

**RAL**

ROADS AGENCY  
**LIMPOPO**  
TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS

# IMPROVING THE AUDIT OPINION REMAINS A PRIORITY

**R**oads Agency Limpopo (RAL) has just gone through the 2021/2022 financial year audit process. We are delighted to report to all RAL's stakeholders that the Agency has secured yet another Unqualified Audit Opinion. For a few years now, RAL has been on an unqualified audit opinion.

Our wish is to improve the audit opinion to a clean one. As management, we continue to do our best to improve the opinion. We fully recognise all matters raised by the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) and commit to resolving all of them in the year 2022/2023.

In recent weeks, we have been accompanying the Hounarable MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale to various districts of Limpopo where the operation #ThibaMekotiDitseleng (#ValaZonke) campaign aimed at addressing the potholes, was launched. This has given us a view of what the residents of the province are going through as they drive on Limpopo provincial roads. As the Agency, working with LDPWRI, we are doing our best to put all necessary systems in place to address the prevailing challenges.

Several roads require a complete rehabilitation while others only need the patching of the potholes. I have already instructed my team to monitor the conditions of all roads so that suitable solutions can be provided to the existing challenges. As we may know by now, RAL is responsible for over 20 000km of Limpopo's provincial road network and only about 6 000km is tarred while the rest remain dirt or gravel.

As our political principal Hon MEC Rakgoale has been saying, we continue to look at other innovative ways to generate and secure more funds in order to resolve all the bad conditions on Limpopo's provincial roads. We do



**MR GABRIEL MALULEKE**  
RAL Chief Executive Officer

recognise and acknowledge the funding difficulties experienced by our government and are doing our best to introduce creative solutions such as strategic partnership to augment RAL's annual allocation.

**"I HAVE ALREADY INSTRUCTED MY TEAM TO MONITOR THE CONDITIONS OF ALL ROADS SO THAT SUITABLE SOLUTIONS CAN BE PROVIDED TO THE EXISTING CHALLENGES."**

Let me, in the same vein express my gratitude to the Shareholder Representative for all the continued support and leadership provided. It would not be possible to succeed without her support and that of the Board of Directors, led by the Chairperson, Mr Matome Ralebipi.

# RAL's

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



Mr Matome Ralebipi, RAL's Board Chairperson, Mr Gabriel Maluleke, RAL's CEO and Ms Lehlogonolo Memeza, SANRAL's Acting CEO sign a MoA to signal the construction of the state-of-the-art interchange (road) in Moria.

# A SIGH OF RELIEF FOR MOTORISTS PASSING MORIA FOLLOWING RAL AND SANRAL MOA SIGNING

**M**otorists and pedestrians near Moria, Boyne, within the Polokwane Local Municipality will soon breathe a sigh of relief following the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) and South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL), for the construction of a new road interchange that leads to the St Engenas Zion Christian Church (ZCC).

The signing of the milestone agreement by the two agencies

was led by the Premier of Limpopo, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, who expressed his delight on the benefits associated with the project. Premier Mathabatha also highlighted that the project demonstrates government's commitment to changing people's lives through infrastructure delivery.

"R71 is one of the busiest roads in the province as it links communities to many economic centres in the province. The completion of the project will significantly reduce road accidents and create job opportunities for the target communities," said the Premier.

Premier of Limpopo Province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha is confident that the St Engenas ZCC interchange (road) will foster an inclusive economic growth and create jobs in the province.



**“RAL IS ONE OF THE BEST ROAD AGENCIES IN THE COUNTRY THAT WE HAVE WORKED WITH. TOGETHER WITH RAL, WE HAVE OVERSEEN MANY PROJECTS THAT HAVE HAD MAJOR IMPACT IN THE PROVINCE. WE ARE IN SUPPORT OF THIS ST ENGENAS ZCC PROJECT, WHICH WILL BRING A MAJOR CHANGE TO THE CHURCH AND NEARBY VILLAGES.”**

The road interchange will connect traffic to R71 and D4020 leading to St Engenas ZCC and surrounding villages. R71 is owned by SANRAL whereas the D4020 is under RAL. The implementation of the project is planned to commence in 2023/24 financial year for a period of 15 months.

In his words of support, Mr Themba Mhambi, Chairperson of the SANRAL Board, conceded: “RAL is one of the best provincial road agencies in the country that we have worked with. Together with RAL, we have overseen many projects that have had major impact in the province. We are in support of this St Engenas ZCC project, which will bring a major change to the church and nearby villages.”


Speaking on behalf of the St Engenas ZCC, Mr Piet Lekganyane,

assured both RAL and SANRAL of the church’s unwavering support to ensure successful completion of the project. “The construction of the interchange will go a long way in facilitating the safe movement of traffic to the Holy City, which we have been grappling with for a long time,” Lekganyane added.

The MoA forms part of RAL’s strategic partnership approach in which the Agency partners with various private and public sector organisations to improve Limpopo’s road infrastructure.

Since adopting the approach to reduce the 14 000km provincial gravel road backlog, RAL has signed a number of beneficial agreements with companies such as Exxaro Resources, Anglo American, Samancor Chrome, Glencore in the mining industry, and ZZZ in the agricultural sector.

This has seen the Limpopo road network improving considerably.

Amongst those who witnessed this august occasion were the Hon MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, MEC for Limpopo Provincial Treasury, Mr Seaparo Sekoati, Chairperson of the RAL Board of Directors, Mr Matome Ralebipi, and CEO of RAL, Mr Gabriel Maluleke. 



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.

Hon MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale says her mandate in the public office is to always strive for the betterment of people's lives as communities occupy a very special space in her leadership approach.



# **EQUAL TO THE TASK:** **MEC RAKGOALE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF** **ROADS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**T**he newly appointed Honourable MEC for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale says she is equally committed to enabling the economy of the province through ensuring quality road infrastructure. MEC cites road infrastructure delivery being amongst services that are high on her agenda.

She was announced as the new MEC for LDPWRI during the recent reconfiguration of the Limpopo Executive Council, subsequently becoming the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) shareholder representative for the Limpopo Provincial Government.

MEC Rakgoale acknowledges that despite the significant strides made by the provincial government in the provision of services to the people, including road construction and maintenance, as the sixth administration, they are aware of the level of impatience among communities, especially on the provision of quality roads and creation of jobs. She further notes that through RAL, the implementing Agency, they take comfort in the fact that there are comprehensive plans to deal with road infrastructure delivery backlogs.

“It is important to note that there are already tangible plans and ongoing work happening across the province, as outlined in the budget policy speech, in spite of the financial challenges, we find ourselves in as a province and the country at large.”

Her plans to deal with the budget constraints include consolidating strategic partnerships by making investments in road infrastructure development viable for the private sector. MEC Rakgoale states funding as the biggest hurdle limiting the entity from its commitment towards building new roads and maintaining the existing ones. By making the private sector see value in partnering with RAL to augment resources, the MEC believes considerable progress will be notable, in future.

**“IT IS MY STRONG CONVICTION THAT PROPER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK CREATES A VERY ENABLING AND CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR COMPANIES TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN THE TOURISM, FARMING AND MINING TOWNS OF OUR PROVINCE. THIS ALSO HAS DIRECT BENEFITS TO THE GENERAL ROAD USERS.”**

The MEC appreciates the role roads play in economic growth, hence she asserts that a quality road network should be a priority to grow the economy of the province.

“It is my strong conviction that proper road infrastructure network creates a very enabling and conducive environment for companies to conduct business in the tourism, agriculture and mining towns of our province. This also has direct benefits to the general road users. Therefore, roads are the key to unlocking our economy. As a government, we need to



The newly appointed Hon MEC for LDPWRI, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale expects full commitment from the RAL Board, Senior Management, and general staff members in order to ensure improved road infrastructure service delivery in the province.

work in synergy to tackle this issue and deliver quality road infrastructure to boost the economy.”

As the Political Principal of LDPWRI, MEC Rakgoale has the responsibility to ensure that people receive services promptly. She believes that guided by the statutory principles, coupled with close collaboration with other team members, they will fix most of the current problems. “All the tasks on my agenda will be achievable through self-awareness, persuasion, conceptualisation, foresight, stewardship and commitment by all stakeholders in the sector.”

The MEC whose leadership qualities are service delivery driven, says she would like to see all stakeholders involved in road infrastructure delivery come to the party for the provision of better services.

“To ensure that there is improved service delivery, we need full commitment of the RAL Board, Senior Management, and general staff members. These are key service delivery drivers and without their full commitment, we won’t be able to deliver services effectively. The task at hand is to make them to fully realise that they have a vital role to play.”



MEC Rakgoale being hands on during the Operation #ThibaMekotiDitseleng on road D8 in Letsitele via Mafarani Village, in the Mopani District Municipality.

**“ALL THE TASKS ON MY AGENDA WILL BE ACHIEVABLE THROUGH SELF-AWARENESS, PERSUASION, CONCEPTUALISATION, FORESIGHT, STEWARDSHIP AND COMMITMENT BY ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE SECTOR.”**


Mme Rakgoale who was born at Balloon village under Maruleng Local Municipality in the Mopani District commenced her political career at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) where she acquired her first Bachelor’s degree. She became an active member of the South African Student Congress (SASCO), serving the student movement until she rose through the ranks to provincial government. After leaving UNIVEN, empowered with a Bachelor’s degree, she remained active in politics within the ruling party structures.

She began her employment career as a Community Development Worker (CDW) attached to the Maruleng Local Municipality. Through hard work and dedication, she was then appointed the Manager and Supervisor of all CDWs in Limpopo, under the Community Development Programme in the Limpopo Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA).

Her journey in the public service commenced as a councillor in 2014, thereafter becoming the Executive Mayor of the Mopani District Municipality, a position within which she diligently served until she was promoted to the Limpopo Legislature after the 2019 National Elections. She became the MEC for the Department of Social Development until her recent appointment as MEC for LDPWRI.

MEC Rakgoale strongly believes in team work and collectivity. “Each department had its own responsibilities and challenges and it is at that level where one decides on the approach to take on the responsibility to overcome the challenge. My belief is that through teamwork we can all be able to work for our people.”

When asked about what inspires her to be in the Public Service space, the MEC, expounded that, “unfortunately, we do not choose to remain in public service as leaders. We are deployed by our political party. So, what we always strive to do is to try and excel in carrying out our duties to better the lives of our people. Communities occupy a very special place in our hearts as leaders.”

As busy as she is, MEC Rakgoale never rests on her laurels, as she is currently empowering herself by pursuing additional qualifications with the University of South Africa (Unisa) and the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits University). 

# DID YOU KNOW?

ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER

**20 000KM**  
OF LIMPOPO ROAD NETWORK

AND OUT OF THE  
20 000KM,

**32%**

IS TARRED AND

**68%**

IS GRAVEL.

Join us, **LET'S WORK TOGETHER** to better the roads in your communities!





# SHINING THE LIGHT ON LIMPOPO ROADS

**R**oads Agency Limpopo (RAL)'s Engineering Division provides expert project implementation and leadership for delivery of Limpopo's road infrastructure. They possess the correct mixture of junior, senior, as well as highly experienced engineering professionals.

Led by 40-year-old Mr Ngoako Ramaboea and 40-year-old Mr Kishan Tulsi, respectively, the Engineering Division plays a pivotal role in contributing to the success of RAL and boasts a knowledgeable team of youthful leaders. Armed with two sub-

programmes, namely; Planning and Design, as well as Operations and Construction, the 31 member Engineering team comprising 12 women and 19 men, is responsible for over 20 000km of Limpopo provincial roads.

Tulsi, General Manager for Planning and Design, is a Senior Civil Engineer who holds a Bachelor of Technology and a Master's degree from Durban University of Technology and Stellenbosch University, respectively. He leads a team that decides on the roads to be upgraded from gravel to tar, the implementation of road signs



The biggest constraint with the upgrading of gravel roads in Limpopo is inadequate funds to carry out the work.

and markings, as well as ensuring that road plans are in place. His team oversees the engineering process from identification to detail design, after which the project is handed over to the Operations and Contractor Development Unit.

At the helm of the Operations and Contractor Development Unit is General Manager Ramaboea, who holds a BSc Engineering degree from Wits University and is a Project and Construction Management Professional (PrCPM) recognised by the South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP).

**“MANY FACTORS COME TO PLAY WHEN DECIDING ON WHICH PROJECTS TO ROLL OUT AND WHERE TO IMPLEMENT. AMONGST THESE FACTORS, WE OFTEN LOOK AT THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT OR THE COMMUNITY NEEDS BEFORE DECIDING.”**

Prior to the launch of any project, RAL’s Planning and Design Unit ensures that a proper plan is in place. The Operations and Contractor Development Unit steps in after the arduous road planning and design process to manage all construction activities including project supervision, management, as well as safety, health, and environmental management. Since planning and delivering Limpopo’s road infrastructure network is no easy feat, the Agency has had to make a conscientious decision on how to prioritise roads in the province. Ramaboea attests to this strenuous task.

“Our planning includes the identification of projects that come from the Limpopo Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan (LIIMP). Many factors come to play when deciding on which projects to roll out and where to implement. Amongst these factors, we often look at the economic importance of the project or the community needs before deciding,” explains Ramaboea.

LIIMP emphasises the need to prioritise road projects that have the potential to spark a positive impact on Limpopo’s socio-economic development. Building roads that play a crucial role in the growth and development of strategic Limpopo industries such as mining, tourism, and agriculture, as well as the Special Economic Zones, will remain one of the key factors that guide RAL’s priorities for the next



Mr Kishan Tulsi (left) and Mr Ngoako Ramaboea (right) are at the helm of the engineering process and management of Limpopo roads construction projects.

four years. In addition to that, ensuring that roads are built in communities which struggle with access to health, education, and other social facilities is another key factor in the decision process.

In the 2019/2020 financial year, and in consultation with the district municipalities, the Agency took a strategic decision to embark on a road prioritisation process. Firstly, this process involved identifying unpaved priority roads which are currently unfunded and not in the implementation plans of RAL. Secondly, it considered previous political commitments, incomplete (Bermuda) roads, political hotspots and roads that facilitate access to key social services such as clinics, schools, hospitals, and areas of economic activity.

Currently, RAL is sitting with a huge backlog that could take some time to clear at the current funding level, proving that budgetary constraints pose a challenge.

“Our road network is over 20000km and out of that, 32% is tarred and the other 68% is gravel. The biggest constraint with the gravel roads is the unavailability of funds to carry out the work. We currently get an annual allocation of roughly R1bn,” highlights Ramaboea.

In order to address prioritised roads, RAL needs an estimated total of about R37bn and a total of R2,8bn to complete the 289km of prioritised Bermuda roads. The Agency further needs R3,9bn to fund the paving of roads categorised as “prioritised political commitments.” In addition, R10bn is needed to finance prioritised


road paving projects in hotspot areas.

Since any project can only be as successful as its team, RAL boasts of a highly competent and experienced engineering team that goes beyond the call of duty and constantly delivers, amid the juggling and balancing of project costs, quality and timelines.

“Studying civil engineering has put us in a position where we have the privilege and the honour to provide road infrastructure services to communities. When we build a road in a village, we connect that village to the rest of the world and that keeps us motivated,” Tulsi explains.

In articulating what working for RAL as an engineer means to him, Ramaboea cites fulfilment as the main driving force.

“Working in the Engineering Division of RAL is more about the fulfilment that comes with making a difference in people’s lives. Through the projects we design, we know that money is going directly to the community. The greatest thing about Civil Engineering is that we build monuments from where we derive fulfilment when we see our sustainable projects benefiting the people,” says Ramaboea with enthusiasm.

Concerted efforts from the RAL Engineering Division will ensure that Limpopo Province’s road infrastructure network is accessible, efficient, and integrated because the delivery of services and betterment of the communities remain at the heart of the Agency’s endeavours. 

A photograph of Mr. Themba Mhambi, a Black man with short hair, wearing a blue patterned button-down shirt. He is speaking at a podium with microphones, gesturing with his hands. The background is green with a logo of a lion on the left. The text 'RAL & SANRAL' is overlaid in the top right corner.

# **RAL & SANRAL**

MOA FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION  
OF MORIA  
INTERCHANGE

## **MR THEMBA MHAMBI**

**Chairperson of SANRAL Board**

“RAL is one of the best provincial road agencies in South Africa. I'm not saying this because I am in Limpopo, and no one has bribed me or intimidated me.”

MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale hard at work at the launch of Operation #ThibaMekotiDitseleng, on road D1468 in the Blouberg Local Municipality.



# OPERATION

# #ThibaMekotiDitseleng TO ERADICATE POTHOLES

**M**otorists and general road users in the Limpopo Province will soon be relieved from pothole-riddled roads. The drive to eradicate potholes comes after the launch of Operation #ThibaMekotiDitseleng, which was launched by the Hon MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, supported by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Gabriel Maluleke.

The launch took place on road D1468, between Vivo and Indermark in the Blouberg Local Municipality, part of which was riddled with potholes for some time, within the Capricorn District. This was the Limpopo provincial leg of the National Department of Transport's labour-intensive pothole patching programme dubbed #ValaZonke - fixing potholes together. The operation has since been extended to all the five districts of the province.

According to MEC Rakgoale, most roads in the province are in a bad state, exacerbated by the heavy rains experienced in the recent past. "With Operation

#ThibaMekotiDitseleng, we want to do our best to close all the potholes so that road users can travel without any hassles."

The MEC added that her team will be working on most of the problematic roads in all the districts, particularly those with potholes, further urging communities to exercise patience while the matter receives due attention.

She also acknowledged that some of the roads in the province have reached the end of their life span, hence their bad condition. "We are working on those roads together with our implementing entity, RAL. For example, this road (D1468) at the beginning is very bad but as you drive on it gets better because it was addressed

**"WITH OPERATION #ThibaMekotiDitseleng, WE WANT TO DO OUR BEST TO CLOSE ALL THE POTHOLES SO THAT ROAD USERS CAN TRAVEL WITHOUT ANY HASSLES."**

Mr Gabriel Maluleke, Roads Agency Limpopo's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in action during #ThibaMekotiDitseleng.

by RAL. The bad part that has deteriorated will be addressed in due course. RAL has already done the designs and the contractor will be appointed to rehabilitate the road soon," the MEC highlighted.

On the issue of building new roads, the MEC explained that RAL previously encountered some budgetary challenges, but the situation has since improved and the process to build new roads will commence soon.

Moreover, RAL will also accelerate its rehabilitation and preventative maintenance programmes targeting roads that have mostly depleted their life span.

RAL CEO, Mr Gabriel Maluleke stated, "Our entity is planning to spend about R730 million just to rehabilitate some of the roads in the province. This is to ensure that as we build new roads, we maintain our old roads to a condition that is not going to cost us a lot of money in the future in terms of maintenance."

Maluleke further revealed that there was no time frame in terms of when the project will end. "There is no time frame for operation #ThibaMekotiDitseleng, it is ongoing and it's up to RAL and LDPWRI to ensure that we sustain it, to make sure that our people have proper road infrastructure going forward."



users beamed with joy as they anticipate travelling smoothly and efficiently on pothole-free roads thereafter.

"I am very delighted that the potholes are being fixed because the road has been in a bad condition for some time now, causing unwarranted disturbances including tyre punctures, which becomes a high risk for us women when we do not receive assistance immediately. Therefore, getting the road fixed has come in handy, as it enhances our safety on the roads," said Ms Johanna Makhura,



Road users in Blouberg, Mr Robert Maila from Kroemhoek, Ga-Makgatho and Ms Johanna Makhura, from Mohodi, Ga-Manthata, visibly excited over the maintenance being carried out on one of their main roads (D1468).

Cllr Maria Thamaga, the Blouberg Local Municipality Mayor, whose municipality the initiative was launched at, welcomed Operation #ThibaMekotiDitseleng, labelling it as an initiative that will benefit the community and enhance economic development.

"Fixing the potholes on road D1468 will help to minimise the damage incurred by our local drivers on their cars due to the potholes. Moreover, with good roads, investors will also be incentivised to do business in our area, which will create job opportunities to help our people who live in abject poverty," said Cllr Thamaga in appreciation.

Having witnessed the launch and progress made thus far on road D1468, scores of road

a road user from Mohodi, Ga-Manthata.

Meanwhile Mr Robert Maila from Kroemhoek, Ga-Makgatho, also a regular user of road D1468, added that, "Indeed the potholes have been troubling us for quite some time, but I am glad that they are being fixed, because in their current state, they often cause road accidents. Since the patching process has begun, we will now drive safely on this main road and benefit greatly from unfettered access to the essential facilities and shopping centres."

Operation #ThibaMekotiDitseleng is aimed at fast-tracking the department's efforts of patching potholes on the province's roads and is targeting to patch 180 000 square metres of potholes, which is 12% of the province's 6 263 paved road network. [m](#)



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.

Hon MEC for LDPWRI, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale and RAL CEO, Mr Gabriel Maluleke during the SOD turning ceremony to signal the commencement of the road D192 maintenance project.



# MEC RAKGOALE HITS THE GROUND RUNNING AS ROAD D192 RECEIVES MAJOR REHABILITATION

**T**he long wait for the rehabilitation of road D192 between Jakkalskuil and R518 in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality within the Waterberg District is finally over. This follows the handing over of the contractor by the Hon MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure

(LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale.

The 20.3km stretch road is critical for the socio-economic developmental needs of at least 20 villages within the Mogalakwena Local Municipality.

Speaking during the handover, MEC Rakgoale said the ceremony was part of the efforts by LDPWRI and its



Community members, municipal representatives and local traditional authorities witness the ground breaking road D192 rehabilitation initiative.

implementing entity, RAL to manage the province’s road network, which encompasses striking a balance between building new roads and maintaining existing ones.

“The SOD turning ceremony signals the commencement of the maintenance project on road D192. We intend building quality roads that are also easy to travel on,” stated MEC Rakgoale.

The MEC further urged the community members not to use peripheral issues to stop the project. “With the current unstable inflation, when a project is stopped inflation continues to rise and when we have to resume, we are already beyond the original budget. We understand that issues will always be there but they should not hamper the progress of the project. Do not hesitate to reach out to us for whatever issues you have, so that we can assist you when the need arises,” MEC Rakgoale pleaded.

RAL CEO, Mr Gabriel Maluleke expressed his confidence in the team that will be responsible for the rehabilitation of the road. “I have full confidence in the team that will be in charge of this road. The contractor will be supported by the engineer and a project manager from RAL,” Maluleke highlighted.

Meanwhile, the Mogalakwena Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Ngoako Taueatsoala expressed that, through cooperation with community leaders and the headmen from the affected villages, the project will succeed.

As part of observing protocol, the MEC, together with the CEO of RAL, paid a courtesy visit to the Bakenburg and Mapela Traditional Councils. During these visits, both councils assured the MEC of their unwavering support to


The completion of the project will also improve traffic flow in the area and enhance easy access to essential services such as education, health care and shopping centres. Road users have expressed a sigh of relief amid the new developments.

ensure successful completion of the project.

The road D192 is currently in a dire state, riddled with potholes, and damaged road signs, amongst others. The construction is expected to be completed within a 12-month period, during which community members will benefit from job opportunities and empowerment of local businesses.

**“THE SOD TURNING CEREMONY SIGNALS THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE PROJECT ON ROAD D192. WE INTEND BUILDING QUALITY ROADS THAT ARE ALSO EASY TO TRAVEL ON.”**

Mr Jacob Moatshe from Rantlakana, a regular D192 road user said the fact that their road would be fixed is something that should be embraced. “I’m very happy with the news that this road is going to be fixed, we look forward to travelling on a pothole-free road which will in turn prolong the lifespan of our cars.”

Another regular user of the road, Mr Peter Madubanya from Bakenburg, is excited that the completion of the rehabilitation project “will save our time because potholes delay us as we are forced to move slowly in fear of tyre punctures and also damaging our cars.” 



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.



# MINING INDABA 2022: RAL STEADFAST ON CONSOLIDATING THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP APPROACH



**S**trengthening its strategic partnership approach, the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) participated in the 2022 Mining Indaba at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC). The Mining Indaba is an annual conference that connects players in the mining industry for networking and formulation of collaborative partnerships become the order of the day. It is also a platform that provides an opportunity that avails an unrivalled offering for the entire African mining ecosystem which aims to drive the sustainable development of African mining economies.

RAL undertaking this initiative was a quest to strengthen the strategic partnerships approach adopted in the past few years. The demand for quality roads has increased and this approach is seen as an avenue through which the entity can supplement funding for road infrastructure development.

The Agency exhibited jointly with the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ) and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone (FTSEZ), Mr Matome Ralebipi, Chairperson of the RAL Board of Directors and Mr Gabriel Maluleke, the CEO of RAL, represented RAL. The Limpopo delegation was led by Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, Premier of Limpopo, and included Hon MEC Thabo Mokone for Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Limpopo (LEDET) and Mr Lehlogonolo Masoga, CEO of MMSEZ, amongst others. The delegation leveraged the platform to encourage investment into the Limpopo Province.



Attendees and fellow exhibitors at the Mining Indaba engaging the Limpopo delegation at its stall in exhibition area at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC).



His Excellency, Hon Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha flanked by the Limpopo delegation including RAL Board of Directors Chairperson, Mr Matome Ralebipi and CEO, Mr Gabriel Maluleke in high spirits at the Mining Indaba set to encourage investing into the Limpopo Province.


Premier of Limpopo Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha interacting with RAL's Board Chairperson Mr Matome Ralebipi and CEO, Mr Gabriel Maluleke at the sidelines of the 2022 Mining Indaba.

In his engagement, Mr Maluleke highlighted that it was important for RAL to attend the Indaba to strengthen existing partnerships while looking to formulate new relations within the mining sector. This is in consideration of mining being one of the key economic pillars in the Limpopo Province. In addressing the delegates, His Excellency, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, stressed the importance of the mining industry for the growth of the country's economy. He further emphasised that government and private sector have the responsibility to ensure the industry benefits the ecosystem within which they operate.

Hon Gwede Mantashe, the Minister of Minerals and Energy also highlighted the importance of changing the colonial architecture in terms of roads and railway infrastructure, particularly given the intention of the move to advocate for the beneficiation of



the country's minerals from within. In his vote of thanks, Mr Tristan Pascal, CEO of First Quantum Minerals, underscored that mining in the 21st century entails more than just the extraction of minerals and urged all the stakeholders to contribute to the infrastructure and economic development of host communities.

RAL has, previously managed to raise over, R700 million through strategic partnerships formed at previous years conferences. Among other partners that RAL has collaborated with in the past are some of the conference's biggest sponsors which include Anglo American, Samancor Chrome, Glencore in mining, and ZZZ in the agricultural sector. 

**GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE INDUSTRY BENEFITS THE ECOSYSTEM WITHIN WHICH THEY OPERATE.**

# #RALatWork

Complaints and Compliments




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# RAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

## ENSURES SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TSHIKANOSHI ROAD PROJECT

**R**oads Agency Limpopo (RAL) recently stepped in to resolve issues relating to late payments of local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and labourers during the upgrading of roads D2922 and D2919 (from gravel to bituminous surface) from Keerom to Doornlaagte via Tshikanoshi (Leeuwkuil) in the Sekhukhune District.

The intervention by RAL's Stakeholder Relations and

Community Development Unit ensured the successful completion of the state-of-the-art road in Sekhukhune which links the community of Tshikanoshi and nearby villages with the Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces.

The 13.55km road project commenced in June 2018 and was completed in February 2022.

According to Ms Gauta Malotane, Assistant Project Manager for SRCD, in all these challenges constant communication was a



key determinant between RAL, the contractor, Project Steering Committees (PSC) and the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) who promptly relayed updates to the workers. “After everything that had happened, the contractor was cooperative and we are glad that nearly all challenges were resolved, except for a few glitches which will be resolved in due course,” reported Malotane.

**“ALTHOUGH WE HAD AN ISSUE OF LATE PAYMENTS, WE ARE HAPPY THAT THROUGH RAL'S GUIDANCE AND PROCESSES, FINALLY EVERYTHING HAS BEEN ADDRESSED TO THE SATISFACTION OF ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED.”**

Tshikanoshi road project linking Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces.



The intervention efforts by RAL, according to Malotane, demonstrates a hands-on approach the Agency has on every project implementation. “As RAL, we do not hand over contractors to communities and fold our arms. We remain involved through different departments such as the SRCD to monitor the progress and ensure that all the necessary processes are followed to address any disputes that might arise.”

In addition, Malotane said, “It is the responsibility of RAL to ensure that community members get acquainted with all the processes pertaining to road projects so that their rights are protected, and that they are not exploited in

**“AS RAL, WE DO NOT HAND OVER CONTRACTORS TO COMMUNITIES AND FOLD OUR ARMS. WE REMAIN INVOLVED THROUGH DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE SRCD TO MONITOR THE PROGRESS AND ENSURE THAT ALL THE NECESSARY PROCESSES ARE FOLLOWED TO ADDRESS ANY DISPUTES THAT MIGHT ARISE.”**

the process.”

In addition, Musa Ndlovu, RAL’s Project Manager said that although the project was plagued with challenges which resulted in the considerable extension of the original time given, “I’m delighted that finally, we have delivered a quality road to the targeted communities. It is important to note that road infrastructure service delivery is our core business as RAL and all the issues that threaten delivering on our mandate need to be dealt with swiftly to keep our focus on the main objective,” Ndlovu highlighted.

According to Mr Mpho Mogaladi, from Doornlaagte (Klopper) who served in the project as the CLO responsible for facilitating the relationship between the contractor, workers, SMMEs, and RAL, “although we had an issue of late payments, we are happy that through RAL’s guidance and processes, finally everything has


Mr Musa Ndlovu: RAL Project Manager (left) and Mr Mpho Mogaladi: CLO for Tshikanoshi Road Project



Mr Puleng Mampane: Safety Officer for Tshikanoshi Road Project (left) and Ms Gauta Malotane: RAL’s Assistant Project Manager for Stakeholder Relations and Community Development

been addressed to the satisfaction of all parties involved.”

Mr Puleng Mampane, from Keerom village who served in the project as Safety Officer, appreciated the way RAL handled their matter. “We would like to thank all RAL employees who were involved in the project because they didn’t hesitate to help when we had challenges. They ensured that we got our money within a week after their intervention.”

Despite the challenges encountered during the construction of the road, community members alluded to how the road project has empowered and helped them in different ways. 



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.

# MINTIRHO YA VULAVULA

Following the rehabilitation and upgrading of road D4166 from gravel to tar, *Mmileng*, the official quarterly magazine of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), recently visited Ga-Riba and the nearby villages in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality to gather first-hand feedback from the road users on the benefits of the new upgrades.

Read full story about the road upgrades on page 30.



“

As a small business owner dealing with regular deliveries, the road upgrade has positively impacted my business. Due to the upgrade, my firewood business is thriving; I can now deliver at least six loads daily to nearby communities. This is something that was impossible to achieve before the upgrade since we could only deliver one or two loads per day.

”

Vincent Marebane (Small business owner) from Ga-Riba

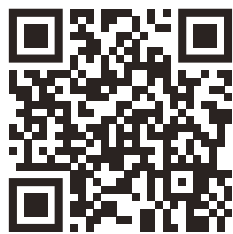


“

This road was unworthy, it was riddled with big holes and bumps which reduced the lifespan of our cars, but since the upgrade, there is significant developmental progress and as residents, it shows that there is something that we are benefiting from.

”

Manabeng Riba (road user) from Ga-Riba



Scan the QR Code to watch this vox pop.



“

Before the road was tarred, the surface was in a bad condition, making it difficult to access the Ga-Riba village. The new road has made travelling time from Riba Cross to Ga-Riba shorter. Holes and bumps made the road unsafe and uncomfortable to an extent that upon arrival at work, one would rest first before they could commence working.

”

California Molapo, Nurse (Ga-Riba Clinic) from Maandagshoek



“

Before the new tar road was constructed, it was difficult to travel on the old road, thereby making transport inaccessible. We were compelled to travel by ordinary vans to get to Ga-Riba because people with small cars were not willing to transport us, citing possible tyre punctures. Due to the new tar road upgrade, the road is both accessible and comfortable to travel in Avanzas.

”

Ivy Fuze, Teacher (Ntepane Primary School, Ga-Riba) lodging at Praktiseer



Act of kindness from RAL on Mandela Day prompts big smiles of appreciation from the Ravhura Primary School pupils and principal.

# RAL'S MANDELA DAY

## EFFORTS LIGHT UP THE FACES OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN VHEMBE

**T**he annual International Nelson Mandela Day in July saw participation from Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), ensuring beautiful smiles on the faces of school children at Funanani Community Creche in Tswera Village and Ravhura Primary School in Shadani Village in Vhembe. This year RAL participated jointly with Raubex Construction where the upkeep of the schools was facilitated in accordance with the theme, “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”

The upkeep activities initiated on the day included the clearing and cleaning of the school yards, painting of the schools and donation of creche essentials such as chairs,

tables, and toys at Funanani Creche, while at Ravhura Primary school, even a computer was donated.

In his interview, Mr Gabriel Maluleke, CEO of RAL, extended words of appreciation to Raubex Construction led by Mr Jeffery Molala, Raubex Contracts Manager, by commending Raubex for adding value on this significant day in a manner befitting of the late statesman, Nelson Mandela’s legacy.

“The contractor put this together to celebrate Nelson Mandela in a manner befitting of the struggle icon. It is important that contractors leave lasting legacies in communities where they carry out our projects.”



RAL staff members led by the CEO Mr Gabriel Maluleke (top left) purposefully spent their Nelson Mandela Day in Vhembe District making a difference in the lives of children. In their company is Mr Jeffery Molala, Contracts Manager at Raubex Constructions (top right), the company has ensured that their road project benefits adjacent communities.

**“OUR SCHOOL HAS BEEN AFFORDED A SPOTLIGHT. RAL AND RAUBEX CONSTRUCTION HAVE GIVEN US DIGNITY AS A SCHOOL THAT HAS, FOR A LONG TIME, BEEN LOOKED DOWN UPON. YOUR GOOD GESTURE ON THIS MANDELA DAY WILL MAKE US THE ENVY OF THE COMMUNITY.”**

Mr Molala in turn expressed his gratitude for RAL’s support and emphasised the Agency’s participation to be evident more than just building roads. He continued that he was humbled to witness the entity taking the act of meaningful contribution to communities seriously.


“It shows that the Agency is not only focusing on building the roads but also on making a positive impact in the livelihoods of its stakeholders,” he said. He went further to say that Raubex remains available to assist wherever they can to make the lives of community members better than they had found them.

When giving the vote of thanks, both school Principals, Ms Catherine Netshivhambe from Ravhura Primary School,

and Ms Selinah Phaswana from Funanani Community Creche, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to RAL and Raubex for the overwhelming act of kindness. They urged both RAL and Raubex to continue the good work in other areas.

“Our school has been afforded a spotlight. RAL and Raubex Construction have given us dignity as a school that has, for a long time, been looked down upon. Your good gesture on this Mandela Day will make us the envy of the community,” said Netshivhambe.

The initiative was further hailed by ward councillors, Ms Nemasiwana Fhumulani and Mr Castro Rolivhuwa from Shadani and Tswera villages, respectively, who spoke in one voice saying the appointed RAL contractor has been a blessing to their communities. They echoed how Raubex has often gone the extra mile to assist wherever possible.

Raubex is responsible for the preventative maintenance of road P277/1 in the Thulamela Local Municipality. 



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.



# NEW ROAD BRINGS RELIEF TO GA-RIBA COMMUNITIES

**A**bout twenty villages under the Ga-Riba Traditional Council in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality have been struggling to access basic facilities such as schools, health and shopping centres due to a lack of proper road infrastructure. However, the recently constructed state-of-the-art road, D4166, courtesy of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), has facilitated easy

movement of goods for community members.

The rehabilitation of 1km and upgrading of 10.7km of road D4166 (gravel to bituminous) which passes through mountainous areas commenced in 2018. It links the R37 intersection at the Riba Cross village via Ga-Riba village and ends at Ga-Modupi, a stretch of 11.7km in the Sekhukhune District Municipality. This has simplified the lives of the communities by providing them with a

Road D4166 that traverses several mountains from Riba Cross (R37 intersection) to Ga-Riba village, links the villages to the outside world.



safe, reliable, dust-free road which also shortens their travel time.

RAL's Project Manager, Mr Brutus Matsha, explained that the scope of the project comprised asphalt surfacing; construction of stormwater drainage systems; upgrading of the R37 intersection to SANRAL standards; construction of a bridge; taxi and bus bays, as well as intersections, junctions and ancillary works.

According to the residents of the 20 villages benefiting from the newly constructed road, this is the only path to their economic

centres such as nearby mines and Burgersfort town, where most community members work and shop.

Speaking exclusively to *Mmileng* Magazine, Kgoshigadi Setlogago Riba from the Ga-Riba Traditional Council said the construction of the road brought much-needed relief

to her community. "We felt neglected because Emergency Medical Services (EMS) couldn't attend to our calls because of the bad road. In such cases, we had to hire vans to meet the EMS vehicle at the Riba Cross (R37), but that took time, which inadvertently led to putting the lives of patients at risk."

She added that some community members used to take close to an hour to reach a nearby clinic, "such that even four women were once

**"THE NEW ROAD WILL BOOST THE LOCAL ECONOMY BY CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND ENABLING RELATIVES AND FRIENDS WITHIN GA-RIBA VILLAGE TO VISIT EACH OTHER WITHOUT ANY HESITATION."**

compelled to give birth on their way to the clinic due to the big bumps on the road.”

Kgoshigadi Riba further stated that the poor state of the road contributed to her village living in abject poverty due to a lack of investment interest from business people. “The road was in a dire state that we even struggled to secure investments from agricultural sector and reliable retail franchises, as investors became doubtful about whether they could put their money in an area they could not easily access. However, I hope that the new road will unlock economic activity.”

In expressing her gratitude to RAL for the newly constructed road, the Ga-Riba traditional leader lauded the new road stating that “even people from far-flung areas who previously visited are amazed by the good quality of the road when revisiting us.”

The ripple effects of the successful construction of D4166 road do not just extend to Ga-Riba community – the main beneficiary – but also to 19 other communities who derive socio-economic benefits. Other communities who enjoy the benefits are; Riba Cross, Ga-Malwane, Thabaneng, Polaseng, Madithongwane, Madiseng, London, Mandela, Legabeng, Matsianeng, Khulwane, Ga-Modupi, Mmiditsi, Komane, New stands, Mehlaeng, Theding, Sehlabaneng, and Ga-Sekome. Most of these

**“THE ROAD WAS IN A DIRE STATE THAT WE EVEN STRUGGLED TO SECURE INVESTMENTS IN SECTORS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE AND RELIABLE RETAIL FRANCHISES, AS INVESTORS BECAME DOUBTFUL ABOUT WHETHER THEY COULD PUT THEIR MONEY IN AN AREA THEY COULD NOT EASILY ACCESS.”**

Taxi and bus bays erected on the newly constructed road (D4166) to enhance safety of road users and pedestrians.



The Ga-Riba road project has made a significant contribution to many community members from the nearby villages who were employed as labourers.



A stretch of 11.7km, road D4166 linking from R37 intersection via Ga-Riba village and ends at Ga-Modupi, facilitates easy movement of goods and access to essential services for targeted community members.



Some of the stakeholders overseeing road D4166 at Ga-Riba. From left: Messrs Evans Mphake (CLO), Joseph Molopo (Ward Committee member), Johannes Riba (Ga-Riba Traditional Council), Brutus Matsha (RAL Project Manager) and Sixtus Mukwacha (Engineer).



villages use Dilokong Hospital and Ga-Riba Clinic as their nearby health care facilities via road D4166 and Riba Community Hall where they collect social grants.

In welcoming the new road development, Ms Mumsy Tjie, Ward 19 Councillor at Ga-Riba village, echoed Kgoshigadi Riba’s sentiments that with the new road, local small business owners will now be able to trade optimally due to the safe and time-efficient road. “The new road will boost the local economy by creating job opportunities and enabling relatives and friends within Ga-Riba village to visit each other without any hesitation,” said Tjie.

Tjie further pleaded with the community members to take good care of the road. “This new road is your legacy and that of your children, as such, always take care of it and never tamper with it regardless of how angry you may become due to the dissatisfaction resulting from certain community issues.”

In addition, the road construction has thus far left lasting social responsibility initiatives among the community members. To shine a spotlight on some of these, a new toilet was even built for one household while a new house was built for another family living in a dilapidated house in a nearby area. The old house had previously been located along the road construction site, thereby obstructing construction activities. Households and agricultural area whose yards encroached RAL’s road reserve to make space for the commencement of the project had new fences installed for them.

The Project’s Community Liaison Officer (CLO), Mr Evans Maphake, said although they encountered several challenges during the roll-out of the road project, what satisfies him is that in the end, the building of the quality road has overtaken all

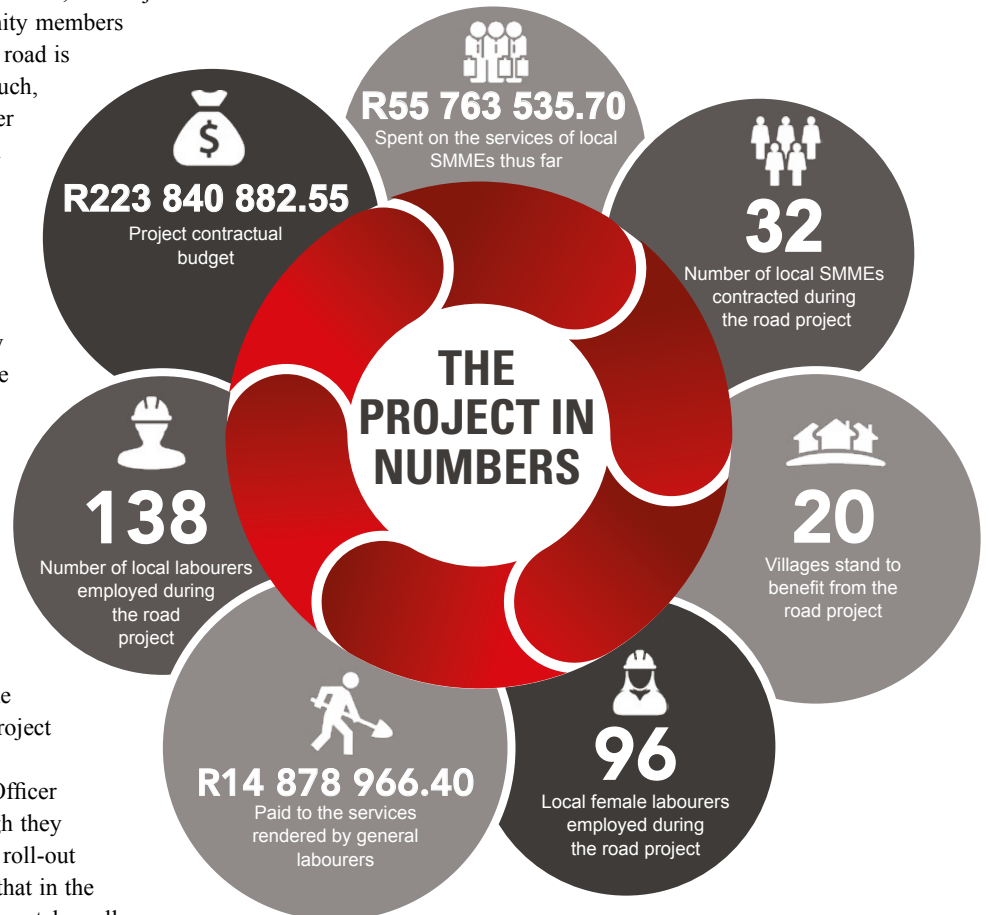
the challenges they encountered. “I’m happy that finally the journey we started a few years ago, has borne the desirable fruits in the form of a quality road.”

The road project with a contractual budget worth R223, 840, 882.55 was initially scheduled to be completed in May 2020, but due to circumstances such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the project was extended to a later date.

With the high rate of unemployment in the country, such road infrastructure projects are also earmarked to provide employment opportunities for the community members and to develop and empower local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). At 95% completion stage, an amount of R14 878 966.40 has already been

spent on 206 labourers of whom 138 were locals comprising 96 females and 42 males. Of the total number of local labourers, 98 were youth and 4 were people living with disabilities.

To empower small local businesses, an amount of R55 763 535.70 has already been spent on 32 local SMMEs as sub-contractors who provided various services to ensure successful completion of the project (read more about SMMEs empowerment on page 34). **m**



Many local SMMEs from Ga-Riba and nearby villages sub-contracted on road D4166 project hailed it for offering them with memorable business insights.



# ROAD CONSTRUCTION AVAILS NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES TO LOCAL SMMEs

**R**oads Agency Limpopo's (RAL) efforts to strengthen regulations to empower local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) during the upgrade of roads in communities, continue to receive appreciation for availing a plethora of opportunities to small businesses in the Limpopo Province.

The recent construction of road D4166 at Ga-Riba village in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality saw a significant rise in community participation. Most of the directors of 32 SMMEs sub-contracted to render various support services welcomed the SMME empowerment initiative, describing it as a great

networking opportunity.

The road project which commenced in 2018 and involved the rehabilitation and upgrading of road D4166 from Riba Cross (R37) to Ga-Riba from gravel to bituminous surface (refer to the full story on page 30).

One of the SMMEs beneficiaries, Ms Mahlatse Riba (34), Director of Mahlatse Creation, expressed her gratitude for being part of the ground-breaking project in her village. "The road project was a great networking opportunity because we got to meet new people with different skills and expertise, which enabled us (small business owners) to learn a lot about business



Some of the SMMEs beneficiaries laud the impact of the road project on their businesses: Ms Mahlatse Riba (left), Director of Mahlatse Creation, sub-contracted to rehabilitate borrow pits and fence installation, and Ms Fikile Mokoo (right), Director of Hlabishi Holdings sub-contracted to supply and install guardrails

Mr David Setladi, Director of Naleng Mokone Investors says the road project inspired his business to blossom

etiquette,” she highlighted.

Riba was sub-contracted to rehabilitate borrow pits and fence installation for houses and agricultural areas whose yards were affected in order to make space for RAL’s road reserve.

Riba’s company was established in 2015 and this was the first time for her to work on a project of this magnitude. Her duties included, among others, managing a number of workers, facilitating payments and dealing with labour issues in the context of existing regulations.

**“THE ROAD PROJECT WAS A GREAT NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES BECAUSE WE GOT TO MEET NEW PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT SKILLS AND EXPERTISE, WHICH ENABLED US (SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS) TO LEARN A LOT ABOUT BUSINESS ETIQUETTE.”**


“As small business owners, we bid for different tenders, some of which are not community-based, therefore meeting such knowledgeable people and knowing that we can always contact them for guidance beyond this project is motivating,” Riba added.

The SMMEs were appointed as part of government policy. The policy requires that 30% of the total contract value must be used for SMME empowerment.

Another beneficiary, Ms Fikile Mokoo (26), Director of Hlabishi Holdings in the Mmiditsi section, was equally excited about the benefits associated with the road project. “When this road project started, I didn’t know anything about how companies operate. When I heard about the opportunities to empower SMMEs, I started my own company in 2019 and was privileged to be sub-contracted.”

Mokoo was sub-contracted to supply and install guardrails on the road, a job she was not familiar with prior to her involvement in the project. “I didn’t know anything about guardrails but the main contractor and his team were patient enough to teach us. I now leave this road project a better person than I was before, and thanks to RAL.”

Meanwhile, Mr David Setladi (45), also from Ga-Riba and Director of Naleng Mokone Investors founded in 2016, was contracted for security services at the project’s site office. He said through this project, his business has flourished. His company deals with the training of security officers. From the proceeds of the road project, he was able to upgrade his office equipment. “My business

has expanded, thanks to the proceeds made on the road project which helped me to buy computers which will enable me to render security training services to the community more efficiently,” Setladi appreciated. 

# Eunice Skeem Saam

## ACTRESS IS MORE THAN JUST TV TALENT

The name Eunice Nkadimeng as portrayed on SABC's educational drama programme Skeem Saam is a household name in South Africa, yet little is known about the young lady's real life.

**T**o many people, the name Oratile Maitisa would ring a bell, while to some, Oratile Mthimkhulu remains a puzzle. The multifaceted sensational actress is an accomplished singer and a practicing Sangoma (traditional healer).

Her journey in the entertainment industry began in 2012 after catching a glimpse of an advert on SABC's Thobela FM, to which she responded with 147 other prospective actors. The huge response to the radio advert sent competition shivers to the then teenage Eunice Nkadimeng's prospects to land the new career path. Little did she reckon that this would see her

being shortlisted with six other candidates to assume the role that portrays an innocent young girl who would later become an extravagant villain.

With no professional background in acting, Oratile says she had to tap into her natural talent and draw from the few informal lessons she learned in primary school to play out the role of Eunice.

"It wasn't easy at first as I had no TV experience, and this was my first role on national TV. I had stage fright, as would be expected of a novice in any field. However, through the guidance of the producers and fellow seasoned actors and actresses, I was able to acclimatise and showcase my natural talent."

Born and bred in the Seshego township, just outside Polokwane in the Capricorn District of Limpopo, the 23-year-old stayed humble and grounded whilst learning from experienced colleagues.

"One thing I have learned in this industry is to always stay grounded. You do not have to enjoy the comfort zone, but you have to constantly work hard towards perfecting your craft. There is a lot that goes into acting, so one shouldn't sit on their laurels and enjoy the fame but should strive to stay abreast with industry trends."

Despite joining Skeem Saam at a tender age of 14 years whilst still in Grade 8 at Capricorn High

**"ORATILE IS A BEAUTIFUL PERSON IN AND OUT, AND HER GIFT OF HELPING PEOPLE SUITS HER. I'M ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD TO CHILLING OUT WITH HER BECAUSE I KNOW THAT EVERY TIME I'M WITH HER, I WILL PICK UP SOMETHING POSITIVE FROM HER." - KEAMOGETSWE LEBURU**

Oratile is a TV personality who doesn't shy away from exhibiting her calling as a practicing Sangoma.



Oratile plans to resume studies in psychology in the near future because being a Sangoma and a psychologist, both entails helping people.



School in Polokwane, her studies were not affected. “There was constant communication between my family, Skeem Saam and my school where arrangements were made on my behalf to go for a shoot while being allowed room to catch up on my schoolwork.”

Juggling between school and acting, the bubbly actress ultimately completed her high school despite the pressure. Meanwhile, a new phenomenon that required her undivided attention unexpectedly manifested, causing study challenges and sleeplessness. These were the initial signs of her calling to become a sangoma.

“My spiritual journey began manifesting towards my final years at high school. At first it was very confusing as no one knew what was going on with me. I would study but fail to grasp the content. This persisted for a while, and with time it worsened. I don’t even know how I managed to pass my matric. I reckon that it was after high school that these symptoms associated with my spiritual calling intensified,” she elaborates.

After completing her Matric in 2016, her situation worsened - she lost her enthusiasm for life and became extremely emotional without good cause. Later in 2018, she registered to study further at the South African College of Applied Psychology, but the symptoms of her calling persisted. Subsequently, Oratile partially lost her sight while her misfortunes continued, until she decided to pause her studies and search for a remedy to her bad omen.

“When I ended up in hospital after hurting myself, my family and I realised that unless I did something about these signs, I would end up dead. I then met a prophet who clarified that I had to answer to my spiritual calling. That was when I decided to fully pursue my spiritual calling and the situation began to get much better,” she explains.

Her eight-month long initiation between Vosloorus (Gauteng) and Nelspruit (Mpumalanga) was not a walk in the park but turned out to be beneficial for her and the family. Through the process she underwent, she was able to make contact with a deceased great-grand parent who revealed a family secret that led to her changing her surname to Mthimkhulu from Maitisa, which she learnt was her late paternal grandfather.

Being a TV personality, Oratile has had to learn to balance the demands of her spiritual calling with that of her career.

“My ancestors don’t mind the work that I do as an actress. One thing that I have noticed about ancestors is that they make sure that they use people with influence as a vessel for ancestral work,” she highlights.

Accepting her calling was not a hassle for her as she is family oriented. The value she derives from maintaining family ties is a principle entrenched from her background. Family is very important to Oratile, as is evident in how she focuses her life within family parameters. Even though she is the last child with two older siblings, she refuses to be the “baby of the family”.

“There is no room for me to play the baby of the family. I come from a family of hard workers and exceptional over-achievers. My dad is a book- and street-smart man. My brother and I are more

artistic and creative. We all shine in our own unique way,” she emphasises.

Being on TV with the glitz and glamour has not changed who Oratile is. “My family treats me normally, but I have relatives who expect me to act differently because I am on TV. This has its ups and downs, but I have noticed that most people in my community treat me well and that’s all that matters,” she highlights.

Her friend, Keamogetswe Leburu, who plays the role of Bontle

**“BY FOLLOWING RAL’S MEDIA PLATFORMS, YOU’LL STAY UPDATED ABOUT ROAD CONSTRUCTION CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IN THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AND ALSO KNOW THE PLANS IN PLACE OF THE ROADS STILL TO BE FIXED. ROADS PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.”**


on Skeem Saam attests that indeed, “With Oratile, what you see is what you get. Oratile is a beautiful person in and out, and her gift of helping people suits her. I’m always looking forward to chilling out with her because I know that every time I’m with her, I will pick up something positive from her.”

Oratile also commented on the road infrastructure work done by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), encouraging Limpopo communities to follow the Agency on its various media platforms. “By following RAL’s media platforms, you’ll stay updated about road construction currently taking place in the various communities and also know the plans in place of the roads still to be fixed. Roads play a very important role in community development.” Oratile also emphasised the importance of reading the informative *Mmileng* magazine, a RAL quarterly publication.

At the end of the day, the Limpopo born actress stands out as a young adult who desires to live out her youth, understanding that she is not an ordinary girl, but one who requires a supportive community with whom she can walk this unique journey of life with.

Casting no aspersions, she states that, “It’s not easy to befriend or even date anybody as a Sangoma.

You have to associate with people who understand you and your gift. I’m glad that my boyfriend understands who I am.”

Not many 23-year-olds can handle half of what life has thrown Oratile’s way, but she still stands with her head high, eager to bring healing to the world through her gifts of acting and spiritual calling. 



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.



RAL employees commit to the saying “a healthy mind makes a healthy body.”

# WELLNESS DAY

## STIRS EMPLOYEES TO LEAD HEALTHY-INFORMED LIVES

**“A** healthy mind is the first step leading to a healthy body” was a resounding theme for the Roads Agency Limpopo’s (RAL) Wellness Day. The event sought to encourage employees to lead a healthy and financially sound life to enhance productivity in the organisation.

Many speakers at the event, from financial and health experts, as well as a motivational speaker, gave the employees pointers on how to improve various aspects of their lives by being proactive and planning ahead for any unforeseen circumstances.

A financial expert from Standard Bank, Mr Musa Mabunda, implored the employees to be diligent with their

approach to their finances because money plays a central and influential role in people’s livelihoods, which in turn can affect their confidence and self-esteem. He further noted, “People should manage their finances properly to achieve a positive outcome and to avoid starting projects they will fail to maintain financially, where they end up hiding behind the saying ... “I will cross the bridge when I get there.”

In encouraging staff members to live a healthy lifestyle, the personal trainer, Mr Radu Valjie, shared the consequences that affect people who do not exercise regularly. He said, “If you do not exercise regularly when it gets cold, your bones becomes painful and your blood will not circulate



Entrepreneur and comedian, Mr Mashabela Galane motivates RAL employees on several behavioural social elements, advising them against measuring their success against that of their colleagues.

to take such events seriously as they aim to improve both their finances and health.

According to RAL's Executive Manager for Corporate Services, Ms Modile Boshielo, these kind of events are driven by the Agency's concern about the financial and social well-being of its employees. "We have brought professionals to help you here at work because sometimes you may not have time to consult them."

She added that sometimes employees submit sub-standard work because they are subdued by their financial and health pressure. "These sessions are very important in



Various speakers who encouraged RAL employees to live a healthy and informed life. From left; Mr Musa Mabunda (financial expert), Mr Radu Valjie (personal trainer), Mr Gabriel Maluleke (RAL CEO) and Ms Modile Boshielo (RAL Executive Manager for Corporate Services).

properly. Working out helps people in many ways that improve their well-being."

Meanwhile, comedian and entrepreneur, Mr Mashabela Galane, fused both humour and motivation to highlight the importance of wellness. Galane advised the employees to make their circle of friends smaller. "Having many friends might not be ideal because some of them might not be genuine friends, therefore, one needs to guard against having many unnecessary friends," he said.

RAL employees appreciated the event, stating that it demonstrates that their employer is not only concerned about their professional duties of building an accessible, and efficient Limpopo provincial roads network, but also cares about their social well-being.


Ms Refilwe Shikwambana from RAL's Land Use Management Unit said, the event was an eye-opener because there were aspects of life that she didn't know about, "especially pertaining to financial stability and planning. However, through the presentations during the event, I learnt a lot about such aspects."

Moreover, Mr Mohau Mamabolo from the Planning and Design Unit commented, "As employees, we learnt the importance of being cautious about how we should spend our hard-earned money, as well as taking care of our health in order to be productive in anything that we do."

During the event, RAL executives implored the employees

**"AS EMPLOYEES, WE LEARNT THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING CAUTIOUS ABOUT HOW WE SHOULD SPEND OUR HARD-EARNED MONEY, AS WELL AS TAKING CARE OF OUR HEALTH IN ORDER TO BE PRODUCTIVE IN ANYTHING THAT WE DO."**

ensuring that employees strike a balance between work, health and finances," she said.

Mr Gabriel Maluleke, RAL's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), emphasised the importance of both wellness and financial matters, as these happen in the work environment where employees spend most of their time. "As RAL we have a responsibility to create a conducive workplace environment to enable optimal productivity among all our employees," he commented. 



# #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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Roads Agency Limpopo SOC Ltd | 26 Rabe Street, Polokwane, 0700  
Private Bag X9554, Polokwane, 0700 | Tel: 015 284 4600 | [ral.co.za](http://ral.co.za)



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