

# MMILENG

ISSUE 4 OF 2022

Welcome to Our Road Network

## DELIGHT FOR EIGHT VILLAGES

AS THEIR ROAD GETS RENEWED

What the **SA IDOLS WINNER** says about the work of RAL

## 2023 SOPA

All the updates on road infrastructure you would like to know



## BIG INTERVIEW

Taking the ministry of internal audit to new heights

### WE CONNECT LIMPOPO

Maintenance and flood damage repairs projects completed

More roads to be upgraded as RAL appoints 41 consulting engineers

RAL and eight mines partner for a new Steel Bridge





# OUR MISSION

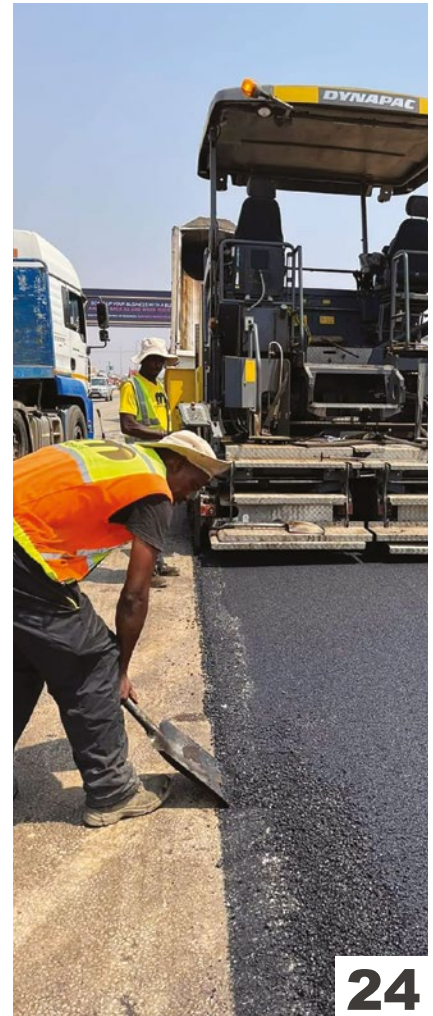
To provide quality and sustainable provincial road infrastructure network for the economic development of Limpopo Province.

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**COVER STAR**  
This edition's cover star is South Africa's 2022 Idols winner, Thapelo Molomo



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# RAL IS EVIDENTLY AT WORK!

## YES, I HAVE TO TELL YOU SO MYSELF

**A**mid the growing need to constantly keep stakeholders updated about the work of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), *Mmileng*, RAL's quarterly publication continues to be the instrument to keep you abreast with the Agency's provincial road infrastructure development updates. This is done in conjunction with other public relations and communications tools, such as social media, mainstream media and community / stakeholder engagements, through which the Agency remains accountable to the public.

As we close off the financial year 2022/23, we reflect in this edition, on the developments in the fourth quarter that also rounds off the whole year. You can expect to read more about the concerted efforts that continue to be invested by the RAL team in a quest to deliver superior road infrastructure in the province.

In our leading story you will read about how Strategic Partnerships continue to be the key approach in augmenting the resources of the Agency. The people of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality in Ga-Malekane will soon breathe a sigh of relief as the construction of the Steel Bridge project has already commenced. Read more about this on [page 6](#).

Notable 4th quarter milestones of the Agency are documented in this issue which include about 35 projects that have been completed in the 2022/23 financial year. We have documented and showcased the sterling work carried out by the competent RAL engineering team in the five (5) districts of Limpopo, the story is on [page 24](#).

**“WE HAVE DOCUMENTED AND  
SHOWCASED THE STERLING WORK  
CARRIED OUT BY THE COMPETENT  
RAL ENGINEERING TEAM IN THE FIVE (5)  
DISTRICTS OF LIMPOPO.”**



**Dr Maropeng Manyathela**  
RAL Head of Communications

Read further, about how our Stakeholder Management Unit has been hard at work engaging communities and municipalities on planned new projects following the appointment of 41 Consulting Engineers. Find out more about these initiatives on [page 20](#).

The Agency continues to improve and is becoming a symbol of National Best Practice given the way the organisation conducts its business and its efforts in strengthening its internal Governance, Risk and Compliance unit. Read more about this on [page 40](#).

The publication also finds out from Thapelo Molomo, Idols Season 18 Winner, about his experience on Limpopo roads in our personality feature. It is clear there is more about the psychologist than meets the eye. More details about Warrant Officer Molomo on [page 36](#).

The Agency has doubled its efforts in ensuring that the allocated budget is used optimally to deliver the required road infrastructure. Of importance to note, is the stern emphasis from the Honourable MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale on the need for maximum spending at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the story is on [page 12](#).

*Mmileng* 2022/23, Issue 4 is good and informative for anyone caring to know about the work done by the Agency across the length and breadth of the Limpopo province. Enjoy reading further!

# 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)



ROADS AGENCY  
**LIMPOPO**  
TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS

# DOING MORE WITH PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS AND ROADS BENEFICIARIES IN THE PROVINCE

**W**e have come to the end of the financial year 2022/23, undoubtedly, one of the daunting chapters in the life of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL). As RAL, we have noted some considerable successes and encountered many challenges, as we continue to serve the people of Limpopo. Our undertaking to improve Limpopo's road infrastructure cannot be overemphasised. Even with limited resources, our determination cannot be deterred as our people are looking up to us as their hope and survival.

As you all know, the mandate of the Agency centres on planning, construction, maintenance, management and controlling of about 20 000km of provincial road network, with our annual budget allocation ranging from R1.5 billion and R2 billion. In this important quarter of the financial year, we take pride in reporting the following achievements:

- 33 Maintenance and flood damage repairs projects completed
- 2 (Two) upgrading projects completed
- 74 projects in design stage
- 141 Ongoing projects in various stages of construction

These reported achievements include the Steel Bridge project which is anticipated to change the face of the economic development landscape in the Sekhukhune District. The birth of this milestone is a result of a collaboration between RAL and eight (8) mines (strategic partners) doing business in Limpopo, operating in the Steelpoort area.

We have, in the financial year 2022/23, also embarked on an intensive road maintenance drive which saw over 50 road maintenance projects being launched in all the five districts. We are happy to report that about 25 of these projects are already completed and the remainder are at an advanced stage. See the list on **page 24**.

RAL has availed its expertise and technical know-how in assisting other spheres of government to make Limpopo roads better. In the 2022/23 financial year, RAL signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to address dilapidated road infrastructure in ten municipalities. The work to address these dilapidated road infrastructure in those municipalities has recently commenced.

All these continued efforts, supported by our achievements, are taken with the view to make Limpopo roads better and drivable, thereby changing the lives of the province's residents.



**MR GABRIEL MALULEKE**  
RAL Chief Executive Officer

The success of the work we do in the province, would not be a reality without the support of the private sector and our most valued stakeholders, the beneficiaries themselves.

Owing to the growing demand for roads, we continue with investing efforts to solicit more strategic partnerships with the private sector, whilst reinforcing the existing ones. The Chairperson of the RAL Board, Mr Matome Ralebipi, has led a team of RAL officials to the Cape Town International African Mining Indaba conference that took place in

**“THE SUCCESS OF THE WORK WE DO IN THE PROVINCE, WOULD NOT BE A REALITY WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND OUR MOST VALUED STAKEHOLDERS, THE BENEFICIARIES THEMSELVES.”**

February 2023. This continues to become a great platform for RAL to lobby for more private sector relationships.

We look forward to the 2023/24 financial year as we carry on with executing our mandate and connecting Limpopo residents.

# RAL's

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

Traffic congestion will be a thing of the past for motorists using the single lane Steel Bridge on road D2219 at Ga-Malekane, in Sekhukhune, following the announcement of the rehabilitation of the single lane Steel Bridge and construction of a new bridge by Roads Agency Limpopo in partnership with a group of eight mining companies operating in the area.



# RAL AND EIGHT MINES PARTNER FOR A NEW STEEL BRIDGE

**T**he Sekhukhune community will soon breath a sigh of relief as Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) in partnership with eight mines are set to build a new Steel Bridge and refurbish the 90 year old single lane one.

In February 2023, RAL, through the Honourable MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale conducted the SOD turning ceremony to mark the commencement of the construction of the new Steel Bridge on road D2219 at Ga-Malekane, in the Fetakgomo - Tubatse Local Municipality, Sekhukhune District.

As part of RAL's strategic partnership approach and the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed in 2020, RAL and the

eight mining partners contributed over 100 million collectively to make the construction of the new Steel Bridge a reality.

Regular motorists and road users of the existing single-lane Steel Bridge have welcomed with great appreciation, efforts made by the Limpopo Provincial Government to construct the new bridge and rehabilitation of the old one, commonly known as the Ga-Malekane Bridge. Road D2219 along the Steelpoort is used by a considerable number of motorists who travel between Burgersfort, Stoffberg, Steelpoort, Jane Furse and Ga- Malekane. For several years, frustrated motorist have been relying on the 90 year single lane bridge that required immediate attention to relieve traffic during peak hours.

Honourable MEC for LDPWRI, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale leads the SOD Turning ceremony to signal the commencement of the construction of the Steel Bridge. From left, the MEC is joined by Cllr Eddie Maila, Mayor of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality, Cllr Merriam Malatji: MMC for Infrastructure and Water Services, Sekhukhune District Municipality, Mr Conroy van der Westhuizen: Representative of the eight mining partners and Hon. Rodgers Monama: MEC for Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET).



According to a local taxi operator, Mr Ernest Ratau, the news of the developments of the project is progressive and what they have been waiting for in earnest, especially considering how the bridge has been inconveniencing their passengers. “We are looking forward to the commencement of this bridge project because currently, the single lane is not working for us. Sometimes we wait for about 25 minutes before we can pass, and this often causes our passengers to report late to work and other appointments,” he said.

Another regular road user, Ms Conny Tshela from Ga-Malekane village said the envisaged new bridge and rehabilitation of the existing single lane bridge will make their travelling much safer, easier, and more convenient. “We avoided our children passing through the bridge for safety reasons. It also inconvenienced us, especially during peak hours as traffic volumes would become a nightmare during that time. Therefore, we are delighted that finally our concerns are being addressed, and we look forward to the benefits that will come with this project,” Tshela appreciated.

The eight mining partners collaborating on the Steel Bridge construction project include, Rakhoma Mining Resources, Dwarsrivier Chrome Mine, Glencore, Rustenburg Platinum, Samancor Chrome, Booyendal Platinum, Tjate Platinum and Two Rivers Platinum.

Speaking during the bridge launch at Ga-Malekane Sports Ground in Sekhukhune, MEC Rakgoale commended the strategic partnership and called on other sectors to join hands with government and collaborate towards achieving swift service delivery.



Determined team ready to put pick and shovel into the ground following the Steel Bridge Project launch, led by Mr Gabriel Maluleke - RAL CEO (right), and from left Mr Kishan Tulsi - General Manager: Planning and Design at RAL, Mr Martin Ramaboea - General Manager: Operations at RAL and Mr Solly Chuene – Acting Director: Road Transport Research, Standards and Guidelines at National Department of Transport (NDot).


“As government, we are excited about the collaboration that has now come to fruition. We call upon all our stakeholders to cooperate with us because should this project be delayed, there will be a need for additional funding which might end up stalling implementation of the project,” MEC Rakgoale implored.

**“WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THIS BRIDGE PROJECT BECAUSE CURRENTLY, THE SINGLE LANE IS NOT WORKING FOR US. SOMETIMES WE WAIT FOR ABOUT 25 MINUTES BEFORE WE CAN PASS, AND THIS OFTEN CAUSES OUR PASSENGERS TO REPORT LATE TO WORK AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS.”**


Commenting on the Agency’s milestone achievement, RAL Board Chairperson, Mr Matome Ralebipi reiterated the importance of collaborative efforts in developing the province’s infrastructure to foster economic development.

“With our budgetary constraints and the important role quality road infrastructure plays, we understood that it is vital that we collaborate with the private sector to improve the roads in the province. For this reason, it is important that we join hands and thoughts in this collaboration,” said Ralebipi.

The representative of the eight mining partners, Mr Conroy van der Westhuizen, highlighted that the collaborative effort is part of heeding the call by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) for major infrastructure development in Limpopo, especially in the Sekhukhune District. He said the bridge plays a pivotal role in facilitating access for the community to travel to and from work, attend funerals, and weddings, and perform different business operations.

“We will construct this bridge to improve local economic development and enable children to go to school with ease,” said Westhuizen. 



 Scan the QR Code to watch this story.



Hon. Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha during the State of the Province Address at Jack Botes Hall, Polokwane

# RAL'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

## KEY TO ADDRESSING THE AILING ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

**T**he Honourable Premier of Limpopo, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, during his 2023 SOPA applauded the efforts taken by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) to augment the limited funding from government in addressing the province's road infrastructure.

Limpopo Province, through RAL, is in control of over 20 000km of provincial roads. Out of the total kilometres, only about 6 000km is tarred while the rest is gravel or dirt. RAL, annually, receives a grant ranging from R1.5 billion to R2 billion for road infrastructure development in the province.

“The significance of quality road infrastructure in the Limpopo Province cannot be overemphasised,” said the Honourable Premier, during his SOPA. In his address, the Limpopo Premier expressed that in recent times, the demand for quality roads continue to rise, further putting pressure on the already insufficient funding for road infrastructure development in the province.

In commending the Strategic Partnership Approach adopted by the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) through RAL to partner with private sector, the Premier referred to the recent partnership that gave birth to the new Ga -



Road P134/1 in Mookgophong is one of the recently completed projects as mentioned by the Premier in his SOPA , 2023.

from Ga-Kgobokanang to Ga-Makgato and De-Vrede in Capricorn; the 7,3km stretch on road D2537 in Penge in Sekhukhune and a 9km distance on road D11 from Ga-Mamaila Kolobetona that connects to the R81 in the Mopani District.

“To ensure that the entire D11 road in Mopani is refurbished, we appointed another contractor for Phase 3 in November 2022. When Phase 3 is completed, the entire D11 road will be rehabilitated into a good service pathway to ensure that the districts of Mopani and Vhembe are connected,” the Premier remarked.

He reported that the rehabilitation of 27km on road D3840 from Giyani to Phalaborwa in Mopani is at 67% progress, further emphasising that “I can confirm that Phase 1 of the project has been completed and we have recently appointed a contractor for Phase 2.”

In the same vein, the Premier reported that through RAL, many roads in the province have been prioritised for upgrades from gravel to tar in a bid to improve people’s access to essential amenities. To this end, contractors have been appointed for such roads which include road D3278 from Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek in Capricorn, D3561 Segole 1 and Segole 2 (Masebe

Malekane Steel Bridge in the Sekhukhune District.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between RAL and eight mines, a total of R127 million towards the construction of the Steel Bridge was contributed. The mining partners include Rakhoma Mining Resources, Dwarsrivier Chrome Mine, Glencore, Rustenburg Platinum, Samancor Chrome, Booyensdal Platinum, Tjate Platinum and Two Rivers Platinum . Not only is RAL’s strategic partnership focusing on mining, agriculture and tourism companies but other sectors are also encouraged to come on board (*read more on page 6 of this issue*).

In addition to the eminent new bridge that will make the travelling experience better for the locals, Hon. Premier Mathabatha noted that “whilst creating numerous jobs for our people and opportunities for local businesses during the construction phase of the bridge, there is no doubt that upon completion, this project would have radically redefined the economic landscape in the respective part of the province.”

“We urge other private sector partners to follow suit to help us in the mission to deliver roads to our people. Our partnership with the mining sector in the provision and construction of more road infrastructure is evidently bearing fruits. The total value of partnerships we have with the mining houses is no less than R1.1 billion.”


In his speech, the Premier further outlined some of the road infrastructure development projects under the provincial implementing entity, RAL, which include completed road projects, ongoing projects and those yet to take effect in the 2023/24 financial year. Amongst these projects, are more than 41 ongoing designs for more road upgrades across the province (*refer to page 20 of this issue*).

Referring to his 2022 SOPA wherein he pronounced the appointment of contractors for certain roads including D4180, D4260, D4090, D4093, D4094 and D4096, the Premier highlighted that these roads will be upgraded from gravel to tar in the next financial year.

The Premier also announced that significant progress has been made on some of the road projects which include maintenance projects, some of which are completed, open for traffic, and that others are over 60% complete. The rehabilitation projects that have been completed include a stretch of 11km on road D1589

**“WE URGE OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS TO FOLLOW SUIT TO HELP US IN THE MISSION TO DELIVER ROADS TO OUR PEOPLE. OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MINING SECTOR IN THE PROVISION AND CONSTRUCTION OF MORE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IS EVIDENTLY BEARING FRUITS. THE TOTAL VALUE OF PARTNERSHIPS WE HAVE WITH THE MINING HOUSES IS NO LESS THAN R1.1 BILLION.”**

Nature Reserve to N11 Waterval) in Waterberg, D3669 Mavhunga access road in Vhembe, D3734 Tshatshama road in Mopani, D3436, D3428, D5007 Ga-Ramoshwane, Ga-Rammetlwane, Ga-Ramotlwana in Capricorn, D3248 Thapane access to N’wamitwa in Mopani, D4283 Glencowie to Malaka in Sekhukhune, D3671 Musekwa to Maranikwe in Vhembe, and upgrading of road D4109 from Mmamatonya to road D885 in the Capricorn District.

At concluding his speech on road infrastructure, the Premier was also proud to announce that 83 maintenance and rehabilitation projects will be attended to in the 2023/24 financial year, to fix the ailing road network in the province. 

# SOPA IN NUMBERS

Below are the highlights, in numbers, from the 2023 Limpopo State of the Province Address



# SOPA IN PICTURES





Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, MEC for LDPWRI and RAL Shareholder Representative (left) during the AGM reminded the Agency, represented by its Chairperson of the Board, Mr Matome Ralebipi (right), to refocus towards achieving its mandate and improve the lives of the people of Limpopo.

# “OUR PEOPLE NEED ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE BADLY, ENSURE THAT NO MONEY IS RETURNED TO PROVINCIAL TREASURY”

In an unequivocal declaration of war against non-spending and bad road infrastructure, the Shareholder responsible for Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), Hon. MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mm. Nkakareng Rakgoale, during the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM), issued a clear instruction to the Board and management of RAL to ensure that the Agency spends

all the money allocated to it for the financial year 2022/23.

In putting RAL’s spending capacity on the spotlight, MEC Rakgoale reiterated the provision of quality road infrastructure as key to improving the lives of the Limpopo residents.

She reiterated her stance on spending the entire allocated budget to RAL on service delivery which will in turn address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. The

MEC said it is important that the entity is uncompromising in its efforts to improve the lives of the people of Limpopo.

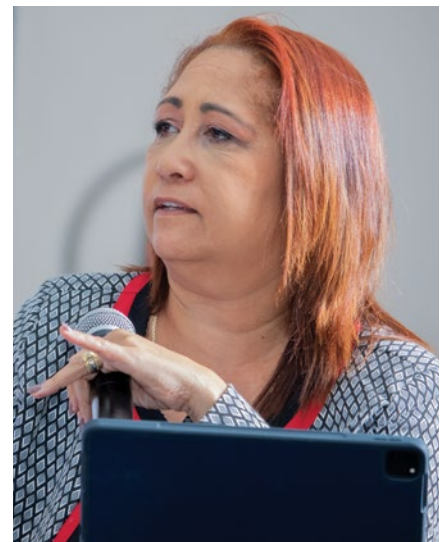
“We urge the Agency to seek to improve in this area as people need roads. We want to spend every cent that is allocated to RAL. We have made the commitment that every cent allocated to RAL’s projects must be utilised for the intended road infrastructure service delivery to benefit the people of Limpopo. No funds should be returned to Treasury,” MEC implored.

The MEC further commended the Agency on its recent positive achievements such as attaining an unqualified audit opinion and completing various maintenance and upgrading road projects at the end of the third term. She said the entity should also double its efforts in telling the good stories so that people can see the sterling work done across the province.

The Board of Directors are hopeful that by the end of this financial year, all the funds allocated to RAL would have been utilised appropriately for connecting the people of Limpopo through constructing quality road network.

“We are confident that by end of the 2022/23 financial year, RAL would have spent the total of its budget and that it will be geared for service delivery,” said Ms Anna Moloisi, RAL Board member.

MEC Rakgoale also expressed her concerns regarding the pace at which the implementation of road projects is being carried out, dubbing it as snail’s pace. She urged the Board and Executive Management to improve in this area to



RAL’s Company Secretary, Ms Tebogo Kekana (left) and member of the Board of Directors, Dr Natalie Skeepers (right) during the AGM engagements.




RAL’s Chief Financial Officer, Mr Hobyane Magopa (left) and member of the Board of Directors, Mr Motthanke Phukuntsi (right) giving inputs during the AGM.

**“WE WANT TO SPEND EVERY CENT THAT IS ALLOCATED TO RAL, WE HAVE MADE THE COMMITMENT THAT EVERY CENT ALLOCATED TO RAL’S PROJECTS IS TO BE UTILISED FOR THE INTENDED ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICE DELIVERY TO BENEFIT THE PEOPLE OF LIMPOPO. NO FUNDS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO TREASURY.”**

optimally use the allocated budget.

Ms Gabaiphiwe Moleko, a Board member, said that, in terms of budget spending, the Agency has improved when compared to previous years and shared that she is also hopeful that no money will be returned to Treasury, especially when many communities in the province need paved roads to commute with ease.

In ensuring that all the funds allocated to the Agency are used appropriately, the Agency has recently awarded several road projects for maintenance and upgrading to improve the Limpopo road infrastructure. Accordingly, as at the end of January 2023, the Agency had spent about 73% of the allocated budget mainly on preventative maintenance and upgrading of the Limpopo roads. 



 Scan the QR Code to watch this story.

# 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!

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TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS





# RAL

ROADS AGENCY  
**LIMPOPO**  
TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS

## CONNECTING LIMPOPO SINCE 1999



ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO  
*Together for better roads*

**RAL** ROADS AGENCY  
**LIMPOPO**  
TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS

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

**1999**  
Company  
Established

**2000**  
Company  
Starts  
Operations

**2001**  
Company  
First Logo  
Adopted

**2020**  
Company  
Refined Logo  
Adopted

# TAKING THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AUDIT TO NEW HEIGHTS

**R**oads Agency Limpopo (RAL) is well on track towards achieving a clean audit outcome in the not so distant future. This is what Ms Pitsi Maribana, RAL's Manager: Internal Audit had to say about the state of internal controls within RAL.

Born and bred in the rural Senwabarwana village, within the Capricorn District, Maribana has been a determined individual who understood at an early age that through education, she would set herself up for a successful career. She recollects how she wanted to be a Chartered Accountant (CA) but instead became an internal auditor.

Upon completing her studies in Bachelor of Accounting Science (BCompt), at the University of Pretoria in 2004, she became exposed to the internal audit profession in practice, and got convinced that it was the right career path to take.

"Growing up, I aspired to be a CA, that's why I studied a BCompt degree and served my articles with Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA). I enjoyed calculations and working with numbers thinking one day I will be a CA. When serving my articles, that's where I enjoyed auditing and then I started to apply for internal audit positions. That's how I ended up with my career as an internal auditor."

After joining RAL in 2015 as Assistant Manager: Internal Audit, Maribana made a commitment to equip herself with the right skills to execute her work with diligence and agility. She completed her Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management in 2017, after which, she acquired a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in 2019. She proceeded to study towards a Postgraduate Diploma in Internal Auditing which she completed in 2022. Currently, Maribana is studying towards a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) qualification. Prior to her current position of Manager for Internal Audit at RAL, since April 2022, she also worked as Acting Manager for Internal Audit between 2017 and 2022.

Seeing that she is a proponent of education, it is no surprise that the first thing she said when asked about her advice to the youth, she replied, "education is your weapon to fight for your future."

Prior to joining RAL, Maribana held various positions in the

field of internal Audit which include amongst others, being a Senior Internal Auditor at the Department of Home Affairs, and Deputy Manager and Assistant Manager at Limpopo Provincial Treasury.

Commenting on her role at RAL, the dedicated Maribana says she provides assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal controls. She believes that through hard-work, she will equally contribute to the objectives of her unit and ultimately those of the entire organisation. "Adding value to the organisation by providing assurance regarding the internal control, risk management and governance processes are some of the responsibilities bestowed on me and my team," she highlights.

According to Maribana, RAL's goal in achieving a clean audit

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**"INTERNAL AUDIT ENSURES THAT THE AGENCY'S PLANS TO DELIVER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE TO THE PEOPLE OF LIMPOPO ARE DONE WITHIN SET TIMES, WITH AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND THAT A QUALITY END PRODUCT IS DELIVERED."**

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will be realised considering the efforts put in by the management and her internal audit team. She says the main issues that deter RAL from realising a clean audit outcome include, irregular expenditure and non-compliance with supply chain processes.

Additionally, she highlights weaknesses of effective performance monitoring, evaluation, and corrective action through quarterly reports that are required per regulations as another obstacle delaying the Agency's clean audit goal. To address the audit issues, Maribana states that her team has doubled its efforts to urge management to practice proper planning and enforce compliance with relevant prescripts.

In her spare time from official duties, she enjoys travelling and hiking.



Ms Pitsi Maribana, a devoted Pastor, also spends most of her time at church teaching and studying the Word.

She says her line of duty in internal audit, involves ensuring that the Agency's plans are implemented within set timeframes. "Internal Audit ensures that the Agency's plans to deliver road infrastructure to the people of Limpopo are done within set times, with available resources and that a quality end product is delivered."


Her work is not without challenges as she remarks on some of the encounters with colleagues and management in line with her duties. "Through the processes of auditing, sometimes I find myself not in agreement with management and that is the nature of my work. In order to resolve that problem, we engage further until we reach a consensus. If we don't find each other, the Audit and Risk Committee will intervene to close that gap," Maribana explains.

Maribana says that her job requires high level of discipline and integrity. "Internal Audit requires one to interact with people of different personalities at various levels within the organisation. In order to work well with them, one must develop a strong sense of discipline. You also need to have integrity because, you work mostly with highly confidential information."

**"MY JOB IS VERY FULFILLING, ESPECIALLY WHEN SEEING SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ORGANISATION'S OPERATIONS, AND WHEN MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTS INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS."**

Despite the challenges encountered in her daily work, Maribana says "my job is very fulfilling, especially when seeing some improvements in the organisation's operations, and when management implements internal audit recommendations."

It would seem that Maribana does not only encourage colleagues to walk the talk but does the same in her personal space as a Christian. She believes in doing good to others as she expects the same from them. She says her ethos about life are basic and derived from studying the word of God that keeps her on the path of righteousness.

As an auditor with integrity and guided by distinct principles, Maribana is well-positioned to advise the entity to keep its promises on delivering quality road infrastructure to the people of the Limpopo Province. 



**ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO'S (RAL) COMMUNICATIONS  
UNIT BECAME FINALISTS AT THE INSTITUTE OF  
RISK MANAGEMENT SOUTH AFRICA AWARDS (IRMSA)  
HELD ON 02 DECEMBER 2022**



**TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS**

The IRMSA awards honour excellence in the industry and acknowledges individuals and organisations that have made significant and positive contribution. The RAL nomination was in the Government and Public Services category.

The Agency was recognised as a runner-up for adopting an effective communications approach with its stakeholders as a measure to mitigate reputational risk.



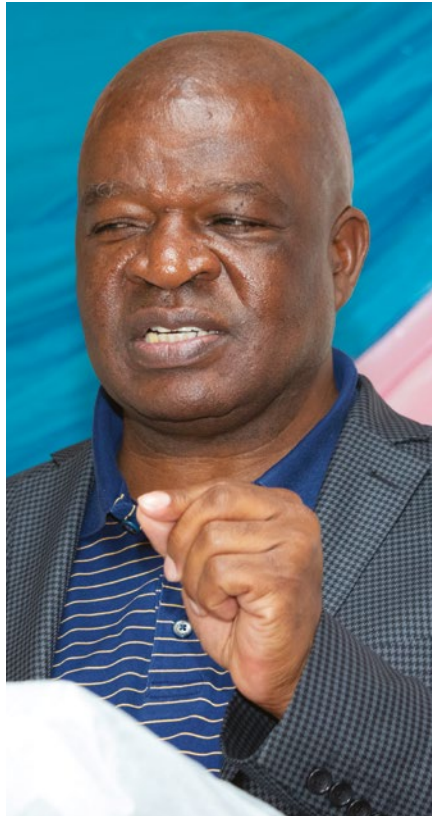
[ral.co.za](http://ral.co.za)



As one of the roads earmarked to be tarred by Roads Agency Limpopo in the near future, driving on a gravel road will soon be a thing of the past for commuters using D3617 at Ga-Ledwaba in the Capricorn District.



# MORE ROADS TO BE **UPGRADED** AS RAL APPOINTS **41 CONSULTING ENGINEERS**



Cllr Gezane Maluleke, Mayor of Collins Chabane Local Municipality urges for cooperation as consulting engineers embark on road designs.



Mr Brutus Matsha, RAL Project Manager assures communities of RAL's commitment to building quality road upon completion of the road designs.

**R**oads Agency Limpopo (RAL) has for the financial year 2022/2023, appointed 41 consulting engineers for the upgrade of several roads from gravel to tar across the five districts of the Limpopo Province.

In a clear acknowledgement of the important role played by road infrastructure in the development of the Province's economy, RAL appointed expert consulting engineers to proactively work on the designs for the upgrade of some of the

critical roads in the predominantly rural province of Limpopo. The Agency is currently responsible for the planning, control, construction, management and maintenance of over 20 000km of roads. Out of this number, only about 6 000km is tarred and the rest is gravel or dirt.


Consulting engineers carry out one of the most important tasks in road construction through the compilation of industry-standard designs that guide the actual project implementation. RAL has identified several roads in the province earmarked for upgrading with their designs expected to be completed within a period of 12 months from the day of commencement. This is according to Mr Brutus Matsha, RAL Project Manager who spoke during the introduction of the consulting engineer for road D3164 in the Collins Chabane Local Municipality, Vhembe District.

Interacting with communities during the announcements of the consulting engineers, Ms Mavis Mashashane, Acting Senior Manager: Stakeholder Liaison and Community Development at RAL, emphasised RAL's commitment to improving the lives of Limpopo residents

through the provision of road infrastructure, in accordance with the Agency's mandate.

Most of the stakeholders present during the announcements appreciated the efforts taken by RAL despite the Agency's financial limitations. Communities whose roads are due for upgrades in the near future, equally highlighted their anticipation of driving and commuting on smooth surfaces.

One of the stakeholders was Cllr Gezane Maluleke, Mayor of Collins Chabane Local Municipality, who commended the news of the introduction to be heart-warming and pleasing. He lauded RAL for the step taken and for being true to its word, highlighting, "the appointment of consulting engineers shows that RAL is not all talk but is action-oriented. Following the introduction of the consulting engineer, we look forward to the completion of the road designs so that the real work of constructing the road can begin." Cllr Maluleke further assured RAL of his unwavering support in ensuring the experience of the implementation process to be smooth.

Connecting the people of the Limpopo Province through quality road infrastructure development remains RAL's mission. 

## ROADS HANDED TO CONSULTING ENGINEERS IN CAPRICORN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Capricorn District hosts the capital city of Limpopo, Polokwane where most of the economic activity takes place. The District is connected to all the five districts of the province and links them to one another. In support of the district's economic activity, the following roads are earmarked for upgrade:

### Polokwane Local Municipality



**D4032** - Ga-Mothapo, Phomolong to Rampheri

**D1809** - Nobody to Laastehoop to Mothapo

**D3332** - Ga-Rankhuwe to Ga-Moleele via Maribana

**D3370** - D19 to Newlands, Setotolwane to Mapangula

### Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality

**D3613, D2614 and D3595** - Madisha Roads

**D3617** - Ga-Ledwaba

**D3397** - From R567 to Schoongelegen to Lekhureng



### Blouberg Local Municipality

**D3287, D3292 and D1589** - From Corner D1589 to Eldarado to Ga-Dankie on D3292

### Molemole Local Municipality

**D3135** - Botlokwa old clinic to Sekakene village

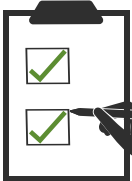
### Polokwane Local Municipality/ Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality

**D23** - Wolkberg Nature Reserve

## ROADS HANDED TO CONSULTING ENGINEERS IN WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Waterberg District is a gateway to the country's economic hub, Gauteng Province. In addition, the district is famous for tourism and agricultural activity that contributes to the province's GDP. Roads Agency Limpopo has prioritised the following roads to be upgraded in support of the economic significance of the district:

### Mogalakwena Local Municipality



**D5006 and D3389** - Makobe to Ham and Hlogoyanku to N11

**D3505** - Haakdong to Segole 1 Flood Damage

**D3505** - Haakdong to Segole 1

**D3575** - N11 via Monte Christo



### Bela-Bela Local Municipality

**D180 & D535** - Alma

**D4426** - Bela-Bela to Leeupoort

### Polokwane Local Municipality/Mogalakwena Local Municipality

**D19** - Mamehlaba to Ga-Mothapo

**D1231** - Mashashane to Mokopane



## ROADS HANDED TO CONSULTING ENGINEERS IN SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Sekhukhune District is an important district in the province famous for most of the mineral deposits. Mining is one of the key economic pillars of the province. The following roads have been prioritised for upgrading in the near future to support the district's economic activity:

### Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality

**D2913** - Magakadimeng to Mpheleng



### Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality

**D4328** - Mohlalaotwane, Seriting to Tafelkop

**D4285** - Maserumulepark, Leeuwkraal to Patantswane

### Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality

**D4055** - Mafefe to Moroke

### Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality

**D4227** - Upgrading of Leolo Access road D4227



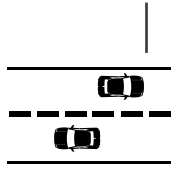
**ROADS HANDED TO CONSULTING ENGINEERS IN MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

Mopani District is famous for its scenery and tourist attraction landscapes of the Magoebaskloof, Hoedspruit and other areas. Roads Agency Limpopo plays its part in supporting the tourism potential of the district through quality road infrastructure delivery by making efforts to upgrade the following roads of the district when funds become available :

**Greater Letaba Municipality**

**D15** - Thakgalane to Morebeng

**D3164** - Mamila through Rotterdam to Senwamagokgope



**Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality**

**D3786** - Mashishimale Road from R3 to R1

**Greater Giyani Municipality**

**D3164** - Olifantshoek to Rotterdam

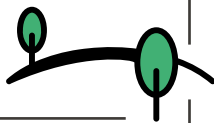
**D3804 and D3805** - Xikukwane to Mbatlo



**Greater Tzaneen Municipality**

**D3775** - Mangweni to Mafarana

**P43/3** - Letaba Ranch to Eiland



**Greater Letaba Municipality/ Greater Tzaneen Municipality**

**D3200** - Ga-Moroka to Mawa

**Collins Chabane Local Municipality/Greater Giyani Municipality**

**D3641** - Altein to Shangoni

**ROADS HANDED TO CONSULTING ENGINEERS IN VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

Vhembe District is famous for the agricultural products that are key to the province's economy. RAL will upgrade the following roads in an effort to provide quality road infrastructure support to the economy of the district:

**Collins Chabane Local Municipality**

**D3746** - Between Schuynshoogte, Vyeboom and Dhavana Cross

**D3754 and D3719** - Bungeni to Tshipuseni & De Hoop to Nkuzana

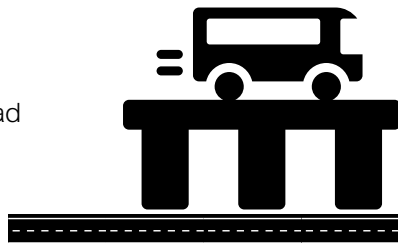
**D3717, D3736 and D3642** - Hollywood to Gumbani

**D3640** - Ga-Mphabo to Mdabula

**D3817** - Repairs to Bridge on road D3817 Wayeni

**D3661** - Tshikonelo to Xikundu

**D3753** - Maintenance of Bridge NB180 on Road D3753 Dzondo



**Thulamela Local Municipality**

**D3710** - Dzingahe to Tshivhazwaulu

**Makhado Local Municipality**

**D2677** - Vleifontein, Nthabalala, Mpofu to Pfananani



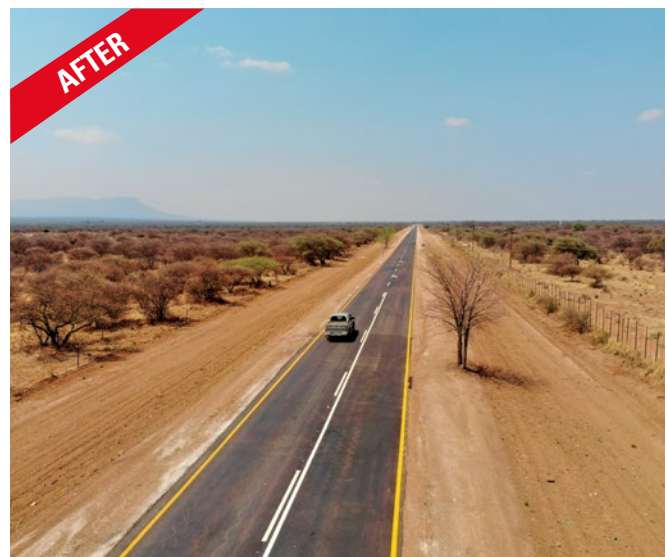
# MAINTENANCE AND FLOOD DAMAGE

## VHEMBE DISTRICT

ACTIVITY	ROAD NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DISTRICT
Preventative Maintenance	D1483	Musina to Pondrift	Vhembe
Preventative Maintenance	D4	Malamulele to Elim	Vhembe
Preventative Maintenance	D959	Makhado to Airforce Base	Vhembe
Preventative Maintenance	P278/1	N1 to Willyspoot to Thohoyandou	Vhembe
Preventative Maintenance	P94/2	From R521 to Pondrift	Vhembe



The maintenance of road D1483 from Musina towards Pondrift included cleaning of hydraulic structures, repairing potholes, reinstating collapsed gabions, repairing of guard rails and installation of road signs. Besides making travelling seamless for several villages in Vhembe, the road links several nature reserves and game lodges in Vhembe such as Mapungubwe National Park, Moremani Nature Reserve and Mpesu Private Game Reserve.



Rehabilitation of road P94/2 from R521 to Pondrift, within the Vhembe District has made easy access for travellers from South Africa into the Southern African Development Countries (SADC), such as Zimbabwe and Botswana.

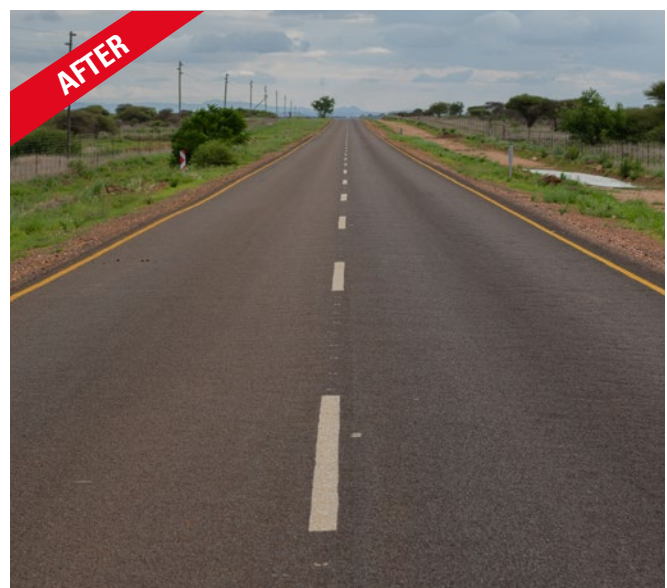
# REPAIRS PROJECTS COMPLETED

## CAPRICORN DISTRICT

ACTIVITY	ROAD NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DISTRICT
Preventative Maintenance	P18/2	P18/2 towards Zebediela	Capricorn
Preventative Maintenance	D1356	N1 to Matseke to D879 Ramokgopa	Capricorn
Preventative Maintenance	D3997	From D844 Sebayeng to D617 Gamoswedi	Capricorn
Preventative Maintenance	D3600	From Magatle to Moletlane	Capricorn



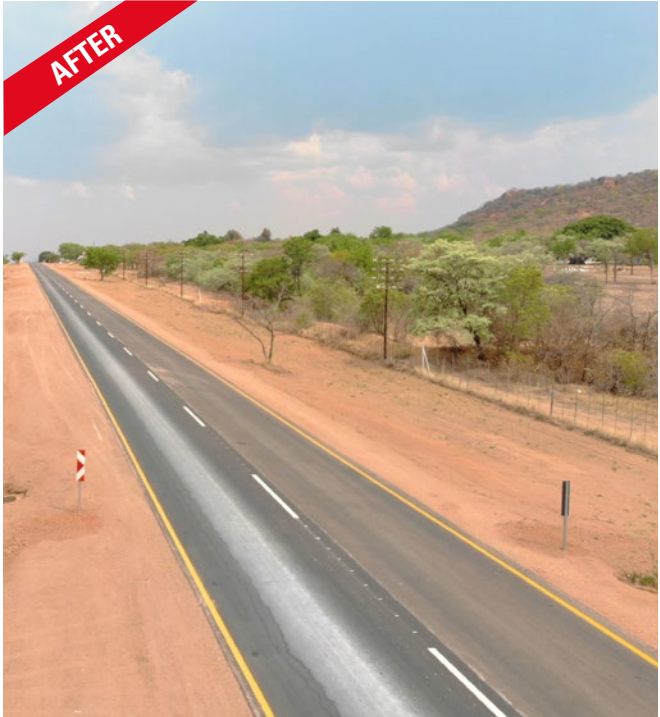
The 4.5km rehabilitation of road P18/2 (R519) from Zebediela towards Bergenek included the cleaning of inlet and outlet structures as well as existing culverts, clearing and shaping existing drains, pothole repairs and the reconstruction of its shoulders. The Mathibela community and commuters using the road in the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, can now enjoy a pothole-free and safer road.



Recently completed rehabilitation of road D688 within the Capricorn District provides access to game lodges in the area and is also used by the Agricultural Sector adjacent to the road for making transportation of their produce to various markets.

**WATERBERG DISTRICT**

ACTIVITY	ROAD NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DISTRICT
Preventative Maintenance	P134/1	Mookgopong to P165/1	Waterberg
Preventative Maintenance	P85/2	Settlers to Tuinplaas-Waterberg	Waterberg
Preventative Maintenance	D626	Piensaarsrivier to Rust de Venter-Waterberg	Waterberg



The rehabilitated road P134/1 from Mookgophong to road P165/1 on the outskirts of Mookgophong, within the Waterberg District connects businesses such as lodges, commercial poultry farming, educational facilities and a mine.



The rehabilitation of road P85/2 between Settlers and Tuinplaas in the Waterberg District has generated great benefits for the farming activity in the area. Whilst making transportation of farm produce to markets on time more probable, it also makes some road users' trips to Bela-Bela town more convenient.

## MOPANI DISTRICT

ACTIVITY	ROAD NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DISTRICT
Preventative Maintenance	D3200	R81 to Mokwakwaila	Mopani
Preventative Maintenance	D1292	From D1350 to R529 Nkambake	Mopani
Preventative Maintenance	D3840	Krimetart to Phalaborwa	Mopani



Road D1292 traverses through farms within the Mopani District, connecting communities to main fruit markets, N'wamitwa village via D3247 and Nkambake village via R529. Adjacent to the road are resorts that depend on the road for improved number of guests into their premises.

## SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT

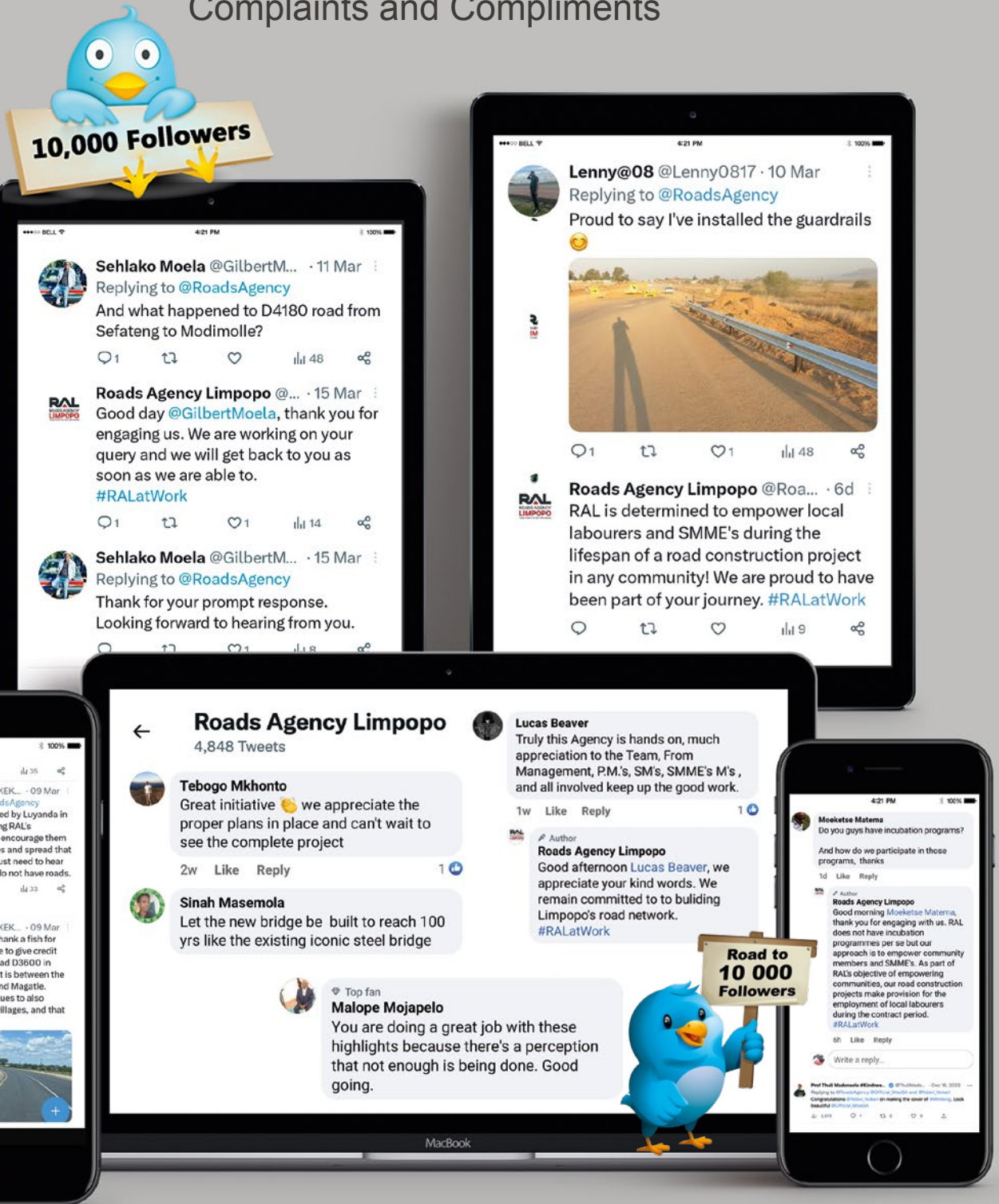
ACTIVITY	ROAD NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DISTRICT
Preventative Maintenance	D2537	Burgersfort to Penge	Sekhukhune
Preventative Maintenance	D856	From P95/1 Dennilton to R573 Moleti	Sekhukhune
Preventative Maintenance	D4356	From Arabie to Phetwane	Sekhukhune



The improved road D4268 provides access to communities in Sekhukhune to Jane Furse and public facilities, including the Jane Furse Memorial Hospital, an important facility for communities in Jane Furse Crossing Mall, Mamone and other surrounding villages.

# #RALatWork

Complaints and Compliments



roadsagencylimpopo



RoadsAgency



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Roads Agency Limpopo

# MINTIRHO YA VULAVULA

Following the successful rehabilitation of road P51/3 from Groblersdal to Stoffberg in the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality within the Sekhukhune District, *Mmileng*, the official quarterly publication of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) caught up with road users, and locals from eight villages adjacent to the road; to hear how the rehabilitation of the road has impacted their day-to-day activities. **Read the full story on page 30.**



“

I'm a regular user of this road from Stoffberg to Groblersdal, and I'm involved in farming activities at Magagamatala. I use the road at least two to four times in a week. Before the road was fixed, it was not usable, we often complained and even stopped using it and resorted to using the Sehlakwane road from Stoffberg. However, now that the road is rehabilitated, it is more pleasant to drive on than before, our travelling experience is much more enjoyable.

**Mr Simon Malata,**  
*Small business owner, at  
Magagamatala, from  
Groblersdal*

”



“

We used to struggle to get transport because we would wait for about two hours on the main road for trucks, but since the road has been fixed, all forms of transport move inside the village with ease, something most taxi drivers refused to do when the road was in a bad condition. We are also happy and relieved that transport is easily accessible.

**Mr Thabo Malapane,**  
*from Magagamatala*

”



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.



“

We are grateful for the improved road, and we appreciate RAL for this gesture because now we travel more comfortably. Since the potholes have been fixed, children are able to arrive at school on time.

**Mr Bongani Mahlangu,**  
*Scholar Transport Operator, from  
Magagamatala to  
Waterval Farm*

”



“

Before the rehabilitation of the road, learners would arrive at school late every day. But now since the road is fixed, everything is perfect. In addition, most of the people who used this road and were not aware of the potholes ended up being involved in road accidents. Thanks to RAL for fixing the road, we remain indebted to the entity for ensuring road infrastructure service delivery is achieved for the benefit of the community.

**Ms Sarah Ndala,**  
*Principal at Sizani Combined  
School, Waterval Farm*

”

The newly rehabilitated road P51/3 makes it easy for community members around Magagamatala and nearby villages adjacent to the road to run their day-to-day activities with ease.





# DELIGHT FOR EIGHT VILLAGES AS THEIR ROAD GETS RENEWED

**E**ight villages benefitting from road P51/3, Groblersdal to Stoffberg in the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality within the Sekhukhune District expressed their delight for the work done by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) following the completion of maintenance work on the road.

The stretch of road rehabilitated starts from D241 intersection, Magagamatala, for 8km traversing through farms towards Stoffberg. Following the completed work, the eight villages under the traditional control of Mampuru

Traditional Authority in Ward 12 of the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, will enjoy shorter travelling distances to work and schools. The areas include Magagamatala, Mitz, Kwa-Pundulwane, Kwa-Stiya, Nesdruk, Noxongo, Rooikraal and Ga-Makua.

Prior to fixing the road, villagers spent more time on the road, with scarce transport trying to access essential services. Most of the public facilities such as the post office, schools and police station are at Stoffberg and were not easy to reach. The rehabilitated road is the only direct route to get efficient public services from these facilities.

A jubilant, Kgoshi Rhyne Mampuru, of the Mampuru Traditional Authority lamented about the previous conditions of the road and how the damaged road had posed danger to road users.

“The road was riddled with potholes, and when it rained it was even worse due to muddy surfaces and potholes. It took us about an hour to drive a short distance of about five minutes. Now, we are happy that the road is fixed because our travel time has been shortened considerably.”

**“THE ROAD WAS RIDDLED WITH POTHOLES, AND WHEN IT RAINED IT WAS EVEN WORSE DUE TO MUDDY SURFACES AND POTHOLES. IT TOOK US ABOUT AN HOUR TO DRIVE A SHORT DISTANCE OF ABOUT FIVE MINUTES. NOW, WE ARE HAPPY THAT THE ROAD IS FIXED BECAUSE OUR TRAVEL TIME HAS BEEN SHORTENED CONSIDERABLY.”**



Some of the stakeholders from the community who contributed with their services and coordination skills to ensure successful completion of the project. From left: Mr Kutlwano Matlala (SMME), Ms Queen Mathunyane (SMME), Mr Khololofelo Napyane, Community Liaison Officer (CLO) and Mr Calvin Mathunyane (SMME).

Rehabilitation of road P51/3 has created a lot of job opportunities for local labourers during its lifecycle.



The repairing of road P51/3 was also welcomed by businesses operating between Stoffberg and Groblersdal because it makes transportation of their produce more efficient.



According to Kgoshi Mampuru, before the road was fixed, they experienced car accidents because it was difficult to drive at night, especially for those who were not familiar with the road. "I remember the recent accident which occurred before the rehabilitation, it involved a truck carrying coal. The truck rolled, leaving all the mineral exploits scattered all over the road, but since the rehabilitation of the road, our people now drive swiftly, courtesy of RAL's intervention."

The leader of the the Mampuru Traditional Council also appreciated the road project, especially how it has brought about developmental changes such as employment opportunities and empowerment of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs).

According to Ms Sarah Ndala, Principal at Sizani Combined School, situated at Waterval Farm, adjacent to road P51/3, the road is important because it is the only route for all the affected eight villages to their only town of Groblersdal.


"Besides the rehabilitation making our school children to be punctual at school, it enables us to run other school activities with ease. The road is also adjacent to farms where most community members work to make ends meet. We are grateful to RAL because the rehabilitation of the road has made all road users to travel more conveniently."

The road is also essential for businesses operating between Stoffberg and Groblersdal as it makes transporting of their produce efficient.

Mr Khololofelo Napyane, Project Community Liaison Officer (CLO) stated that he was delighted that he worked in a project that contributed towards restoring their only access channel to government facilities. "We worked as a team to

**"WE WORKED AS A TEAM TO ENSURE ITS SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION SO THAT ONCE MORE, WE CAN DRIVE ON A QUALITY ROAD WHICH WILL MAKE TRAVELLING SAFER, SIMULTANEOUSLY REDUCING OUR VEHICLE OPERATING COSTS."**

ensure its successful completion so that once more, we can drive on a quality road which will make travelling safer, simultaneously reducing our vehicle operating costs."

The project is practically at 95% completion stage and is now open to road users for use. Many have lauded it as an efficiently executed quality road that enables them to reach their destinations on time, safer (*refer to Mintirho Ya Vulavula on page 29*). 



Some of the SMMEs that gained sustainable construction business skills to improve their small businesses. Clockwise: Mr Kutlwano Matlala: Director of Bakone Trading, Ms Queen Mathunyane: Director of Mathunyane Holdings and Mr Calvin Mathunyane: Director of Macallys Trading and Projects.

# LOCAL SMMEs

## ACQUIRE BUSINESS SKILLS DURING THE REHABILITATION PROJECT OF ROAD P51/3 IN SEKHUKHUNE

**A**s part of its contribution to the province's economic growth through quality and sustainable road infrastructure, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) ensures that all its road projects undertaken within local communities empower numerous Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in the process.

The notion of SMME empowerment through road infrastructure development has been welcomed by many community members in

the province. One in particular, is Mr Calvin Mathunyane, Director of Macallys Trading and Projects, from Magagamatala village, Ga-Mampuru whose encounter with RAL initiatives gave him an opportunity to cut his teeth in the world of business.

Mathunyane was sub-contracted for Traffic Accommodation as part of the local SMMEs enlisted during the rehabilitation project of road P51/3 from Groblersdal to Stoffberg in the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality within the Sekhukhune District. His



SMMEs learn road construction skills whilst on the job.

sub-contracted work included ensuring seamless traffic flow during the road project. According to him, the project was exciting because it gave him an opportunity to delve deeper into project management within a business setting.


**“WHAT EXCITES ME IS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, THIS PROJECT GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO MANAGE 30 LABOURERS UNDER MY COMPANY, SOMETHING THAT I WILL FOREVER CHERISH. BEING INVOLVED IN THIS RAL LED PROJECT GAVE ME HOPE THAT MY COMPANY CAN PROGRESS AND BECOME BIGGER IN THE FUTURE.”**

“What excites me is that for the first time in my life, this project gave me an opportunity to manage 30 labourers under my company, something that I will forever cherish. Being involved in this RAL led project gave me hope that my company can progress and become bigger in the future. When my workers got paid at the end of the month through the project, I was extremely proud because their family livelihoods were sustained.”

He further shared that when the project started, he was amongst the people who wanted to disrupt it, but after engaging with the RAL Stakeholder Liaison and Community Development unit, he was convinced to think progressively. “What is important is that when these kind of projects are introduced, there is a need to engage the contractor, sell your unique story to the stakeholders regarding what you are capable of and convince them. Traffic Accommodation was not meant to be part of the SMMEs, but I had to convince the contractor of its importance and he eventually agreed, and that is how I landed my share and became part of the SMMEs.”

Mr Kutlwano Matlala, Director of Bakone Trading, also from Magagamatala, who was sub-contracted for cutting of trees and cleaning of the culverts, said looking from a distance he thought his task was going to be easy. “The challenge I had during the project was that I didn’t know how to calculate quantities and rates, I only relied on estimated amounts, until month end when I got surprised to find that my calculations were wrong.” From his experience in the project, his advice to other upcoming SMMEs is that in every project they get involved in, they should first do research and know how to work out quantities and rates. “Failure to get this right, one might end up without a cent left at the end of the month and unable to pay workers,” he maintained.

Meanwhile Ms Queen Mathunyane of Mathunyane Holdings, from the same village, shared that the project has empowered her financially and left her more knowledgeable about the business of road construction. Mathunyane who was sub-contracted to supply mobile toilets said that the money that she got from the project managed to improve her family’s livelihood. “The income made a huge financial difference to my family and that of my two labourers, therefore, I will forever remain grateful to RAL for exposing us to this business opportunity.”

The empowerment of SMMEs is in alignment with government policy that dictates that in cases of maintenance projects, 10% of the contract value should go towards the empowerment of local SMMEs that should be sub-contracted to render various services, while 5% should be directed towards the hiring of local labourers. 

# The King is here!

IDOLS WINNER TO HEAL PEOPLE WITH WORDS AND MUSIC

**T**hapelo Molomo, South Africa's season 18, Idols winner, a counsellor by profession, will continue to provide healing to his audience, through words and music. Thapelo became the first 'Limpopian' to win one of SA's biggest talent search title.

The spotlight continues to shine on Limpopo the Province as the province's celebrities keep outshining competitors on grand stages. Just when the Limpopo Province was still celebrating Miss Ndavi Nokeri's Miss SA 2022 crown, luck struck again with yet another great crown for the young musician from Africa's Eden, Limpopo.

Not only does he heal people with his voice but he is Warrant Officer and registered as Trauma Counsellor practising at a Police Station in the North West Province. He holds an Honours Degree in Psychology from the University of Venda (UNIVEN) in Limpopo.

**"I GREW UP SINGING OCCASIONALLY AT HOME, BUT DECIDED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN A MERE TALENT AND A CALLING IN 2012 WHEN I STARTED TAKING MUSIC SERIOUSLY UPON JOINING SPIRIT OF PRAISE."**

Thapelo's domination at SA's biggest talent search show follows the unsuccessful attempts by a number of determined Limpopo born singers, such as Mmatema who went on to pursue her singing dream and is now recognised as a big brand in the entertainment fraternity.

Through a colourful roadshow, following his triumph, the 30 year old, velvet voice musician, Thapelo was given a hero's welcome by the Limpopo Provincial Government throughout Polokwane, Mokopane and Bakernberg.

Sharing his great story with Mmileng, the Mokopane born muso relates that, it all began at a relatively young age, only to become professional in 2012. His first break came from a rare opportunity he got from working with Pastor Benjamin Dube as a backing vocalist. His music career took a positive turn after that. Since then, the young muso who now recognises his music career as a calling, never looked back, but pursued singing with passion by further working with more established artists.

"I grew up singing occasionally at home, but decided to distinguish between a mere talent and a calling in 2012 when I started taking music seriously upon joining Spirit of Praise Volume 4 and Volume 5 in 2012 and 2014 respectively."

From working with prominent musicians, Thapelo says his journey afforded him an opportunity to understand the role of good and responsible moral conduct as part of the ingredients for a successful musical career.

Thapelo Molomo does his bit as a responsible citizen through hosting informal soup kitchens during the festive season.



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**PERSONALITY**

Thapelo Molomo, says being a psychologist has been his dream since childhood.



Thapelo Molomo has extended his goodwill gesture by donating clothes.

“Working with Pastor Benjamin Dube helped me to understand the moral aspects of life because he taught me the significance of managing the spotlight and appreciating the responsibility that comes with fame. You need to know how to interact with people and not allow pride to destruct your ministry.”

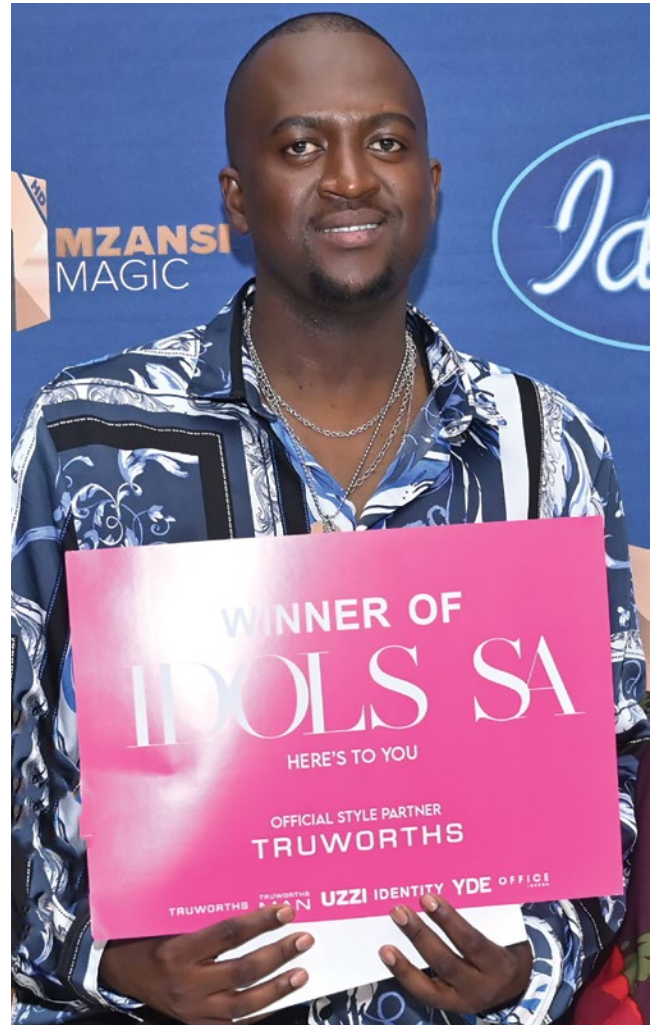
He says these are some of the qualities he took to the Idols, which helped him to forge a plan that saw him conquering SA’s biggest talent search competition.

In addition, the father of a nine-month-old daughter says he had solid support throughout the Idols competition from his family who not only attended the show, but sent him messages of support and prayed for him.

The muso is not only the pride of the province but of his local municipality and the South African Police Services (SAPS). On his final performance during Idols, the talented Limpopian was supported by the Mogalakwena Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Ngoako Taueatsoala and the Minister of Police, Honourable Bheki Cele.

When asked about the road ahead and how he will maintain the balance between family life, work and music, Thapelo said he will continue with his current duties but also create time for music. The responsible father noted that permanent employment comes with sustainable income whilst music is unpredictable.

“The good thing is that I have been doing this before, where during the week I go to work and if there is anything ‘musical’ that



**“THE STREETS IN MOKOPANE TOWN WERE IN A DIRE STATE BEFORE THE INTERVENTION BY RAL, HOWEVER, DURING MY WELCOME BACK TOUR, IT WAS COMFORTABLE TO TRAVEL ON SMOOTH ROADS. FROM NOW ONWARDS, I WILL NOT HESITATE TO VISIT MOKOPANE TOWN, ESPECIALLY DRIVING THROUGH THE REFURBISHED DUDU MADISHA DRIVE BECAUSE IT NOW DRIVES SMOOTHLY THAN BEFORE.”**

requires my urgent attention, I would ask for a day off or get approved leave so that I attend to it. Music is seasonal, it has its highs and lows, so I do not want to find myself in a compromised position financially.”


Sharing with the Mmileng crew what he does in his spare time besides composing or writing songs, the jovial Thapelo says he is a series fan and is currently watching Blood and Water. He says his current favourite actress in the country is Zodwa from Gomora.

Noting the value of good roads during the roadshow, Thapelo

acknowledged the comfortable conditions of most of Limpopo’s provincial roads, managed by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL). He further highlights the significant progress in most communities and remarked how he would appreciate it further if this would be extended to his village of Diretsaneng, a few kilometres outside Mokopane town.

He believes that if the local road leading to his village could be tarred, he would be among the travellers who would travel safely irrespective of the weather conditions, reaching home timeously.

Earlier in the year, RAL collaborated with the Mogalakwena Local Municipality to rehabilitate various streets (roads) in and around Mokopane where Thapelo shops when he is at home. “The streets in

Mokopane town were in a dire state before the intervention by RAL, however, during my welcome back tour, it was comfortable to travel on smooth roads. From now onwards, I will not hesitate to visit Mokopane town, especially driving through the refurbished Dudu Madisha Drive because it now drives smoothly than before,” he sighs. 



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Provincial risk management officials from various Limpopo Provincial Government departments during the risk management workshop held at the Roads Agency Limpopo

# LEADING FROM THE FRONT!

## RAL HOSTS THE PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP TO ENHANCE BEST PRACTICES

**R**oads Agency Limpopo's (RAL) visible efforts in ensuring that the strategic risk management remains a priority towards achieving the Agency's mission and vision. The Agency recently hosted the Limpopo Province's Strategic Risk Management Workshop for Governance, Administration, and Infrastructure development clusters at its offices in Polokwane.

The workshop followed the one held in February 2023 at Bela-Bela, with all the Risk Practitioners in the province, where the first review of the province's risk exposure was discussed. The workshop was aimed at identifying, analysing and evaluating risks that pose threats to the

objectives of the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) and the design of mitigating measures to ensure that the province achieves its developmental goals.

The session was also aimed at developing a risk register that will be presented to the Provincial Treasury for tabling at legislature. The register would further empower the provincial risk owners to refer and gauge the LDP initiatives to ensure that they stay on track.

Commenting on the importance of the session, Mr Wisani Rivombo, Deputy Director: Transversal Risk Management at Limpopo Treasury said, "Risk Management shapes planning, and is the cornerstone of robust organisational strategies. It



Chief Risk Officer, Mr Percy Masakona from the Office of the Premier emphasising the need to bear in mind the objectives of the Limpopo Development Plan in risk planning



Mr Wisani Rivombo, Deputy Director: Transversal Risk Management at Limpopo Treasury emphasising the importance of Risk Management as part of organisations' strategic management process



RAL Senior Manager: Governance, Risk and Compliance, Mr Komane Maphutha facilitating the discussions at the Provincial Risk Management Workshop

helps organisations to deal with uncertainties in a better way. For the LDP to realise its full potential, an effective risk management should remain an integral part of a strategic management process, thereby, dealing with level of uncertainties during the planning, monitoring as well as execution phases,” Rivombo clarified.

According to Mr Komane Maphutha, RAL’s Senior Manager: Governance, Risk and Compliance, “it is important to develop a risk register for the province to better mitigate all threats and leverage all opportunities put at our disposal. Risk management is part and parcel of every business

**“FOR THE LDP TO REALISE ITS FULL POTENTIAL, AN EFFECTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT SHOULD REMAIN INTEGRAL PART OF STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PROCESS, THEREBY, DEALING WITH LEVEL OF UNCERTAINTIES DURING THE PLANNING, EXECUTION, MONITORING AS WELL AS EXECUTION PHASES.”**

success. Embedding an agile risk management culture is one way in which organisations can fully deal with possible threats whilst taking advantage of floating opportunities.”

RAL’s main task in the development of Limpopo remains one enshrined in its founding Act (Limpopo Province Roads Agency Proprietary Limited And Provincial Roads Act 7 Of 1998) which mandates the Agency to plan, build, maintain, control, and manage the province’s road infrastructure. The importance of infrastructure development remains catalytic to the achievement of the LDP objectives, and it is for this reason that the Agency executes its mandate in a manner that speaks to the aspirations of the provincial plans.

Mr Rivombo’s view on the role RAL plays in the implementation of the LDP, is that the Agency remains an important player in the province’s developmental goals. “In terms of infrastructure, RAL has an enormous task as the implementer of infrastructural programmes in the province, in particular, road infrastructure. In this regard RAL’s role cannot be overemphasised,” he said.

Speaking on governance, Rivombo maintained that “as a public institution, the Agency operates within a regulated environment, thus it has to comply with legislative requirements to assist in enhancing good governance.” **m**



# #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

## **EXCELLENCE**

We strive to exceed expectations

## **COMMITMENT**

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

## **RELIABILITY**

We offer reliable, safe and economic road infrastructure

## **DIVERSITY**

We value and embrace diversity within the work context

## **TRANSPARENCY**

We are transparent in both our internal and external business processes

## **EFFICIENCY**

We will go the extra mile in serving our communities

## **TEAMWORK**

We work together for better roads



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