



ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO
Together for better roads

MMILENG

WELCOME TO OUR ROAD NETWORK

ISSUE 1 OF 2020

THOBELA FM SEBASA MOGALE

MOLETJIE MAKGOFE,
TEACHING &
SKEEM SAAM

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

- MINING INDABA
- DE BEERS VENETIA MINE
- MUSINA - MAKHADO SEZ

LIMPOPO TO BENEFIT

FROM MASEMOLA'S
EXPERIENCE

STATE OF THE PROVINCE

- ROADS, WATER & JOBS •
- COVID-19 & ECONOMY •

SENWABARWANA

PEACE + PATIENCE = ROAD

WHEN PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

BIG INTERVIEW

WITH ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO
PROJECT MANAGER

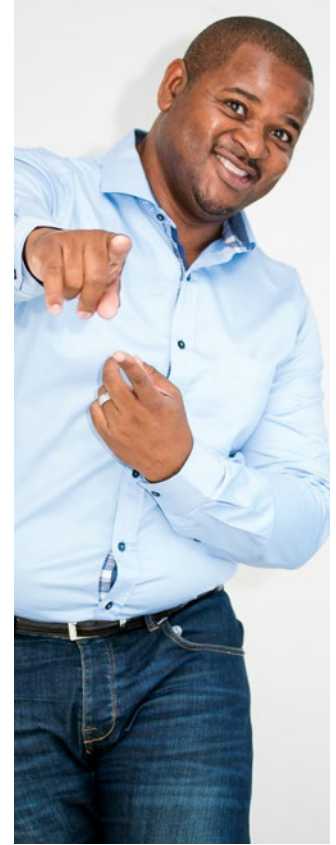


*Contributing to socio economic development by
connecting the people of LIMPOPO PROVINCE.*



ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO
Together for better roads

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



Issue 1 of 2020

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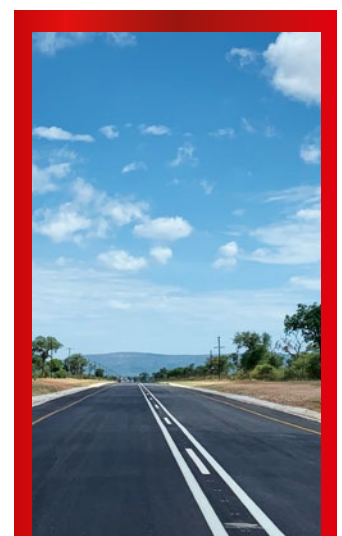
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COVER STORY

Mmileng Issue 1 of 2020 Cover Star is upgraded road D1468 in the Blouberg Local Municipality of Limpopo Province. The road was completed on time and within budget. Story on Page 24.

DITAU TŠA HLOKA SEBOKA DI ŠITWA LE KE NARE E HLOTŠA



MR MAROPENG
MANYATHELA,
RAL's Head of Communications

If you are a regular reader of *Mmileng*, the official quarterly corporate publication for Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), you'll notice that a few regular features of your favourite read, such as RAL at Work 'Completed Projects' and 'Insights' op-ed column, are missing in this edition.

The country, and indeed the world, is currently faced with a national health emergency that needs our united assault after an outbreak of a new respiratory disease called Covid-19.

The Covid-19 pandemic, caused by the Coronavirus, has already struck a blow to economies, including struggling economies such as ours, which has just recently tanked into a technical recession. This will make recovery longer and difficult, but not impossible, once the dust has settled.

These crises make bold plans made by Honourable Premier of Limpopo Province, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha in the 2020 State of the Province Address to give mouth-to-mouth to priority challenges of water delivery, road infrastructure and unemployment difficult but, again, not impossible.

We are encouraged by the proverb that is succinctly put in Sesotho sa Leboa (Northern Sotho), *Ditau tša hloka seboka di šitwa le ke nare e hlotša*, that loosely translated means even the ferocious kings of the jungle, lions, will find it impossible to bring down a wounded buffalo if not united as a pride in tackling this beast. This socio-economic health crisis requires all hands on deck.

We have indeed temporarily suspended some regular pages, to assist in amplifying and giving reach to government's efforts to spread the messages on how to protect ourselves from the Coronavirus infections and what symptoms to look out for if you suspect you may have been exposed. Also, what you can do to curb the spread, including seeking medical assistance if you are compromised. Approved and recommended measures to prevent the

spread of this virus include social distancing, good hygiene, self isolation and quarantine.

We have spread this message across the magazine in five of South Africa's 11 official languages that are most commonly used in Limpopo Province.

You can also add the South African government's Coronavirus WhatsApp number 060 012 3456 and the World Health Organization (WHO) Coronavirus WhatsApp line +41 79 893 1892 as contacts on your smartphone. To activate the conversation (chatbot), all you simply have to do is send the message "Hi" to any or both of these numbers.

You can get the WhatsApp messaging application for free on Google Play and free download on Apple iStore app stores for mobile devices operating the Android and iOS operating systems respectively.

There is a 24-hour national Coronavirus hotline 0800 029 999, free from a Telkom landline. There are also other hotlines, for example for healthcare professionals.

We hope by the time *Mmileng* returns in a form of the next edition, the spread of this monstrous virus would have been arrested, so that we grow South Africa and Limpopo together.

If you are a new reader, welcome to the only publication that will give you authoritative, informative and insightful up-to-date news on the work of the Agency to plan, design, construct, maintain, control and manage road infrastructure in Limpopo Province. We trust you'll stick with us for an unforeseeable future.

We have expanded both our physical and digital distribution channels so, more than ever, *Mmileng* should be easy to find.

We are also reviewing our content mix and design, which should unleash freshness in the next edition.

In the meantime, please feel free to tuck in. Our menu is stimulating as always.

Together for better roads!

We Connect LIMPOPO...



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



ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO
Together for better roads

DIFFICULT TRADEOFFS AS ECONOMIES SEEK TO BALANCE RECOVERY AND SERVICE DELIVERY



MR GABRIEL MALULEKE,
RAL Chief Executive Officer

The 2019/20 Financial Year was a daunting year in the life of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL). The organisation went through a lot in terms of service delivery challenges.

RAL has, for the last several months, been under severe pressure and one could say under siege from the road infrastructure service delivery protests. Our communities have been displaying their displeasure through service delivery protests. We had a number of interruptions from communities visiting RAL offices demanding their road infrastructure plights to be addressed.

It is indeed a sad chapter in South Africa as the country is battling a lot of eventualities, including dipping into a technical recession and the novel Covid-19 pandemic, a disease caused by the Coronavirus. The fact that the country was recently downgraded by rating agencies in the middle of this health crisis has rubbed salt into the wound.

South Africa, like many other African countries, is also battling the high levels of youth unemployment, poverty and widening income disparities. At the rate at which the economy is growing, there is no doubt that the five years ahead will be the toughest in history.

The recently concluded and approved strategic plan should serve as a guiding tool for RAL to not only address its mandate efficiently but also assist in dealing with the above challenges in the country for the next five years, 2020-2025.

We are confident that based on RAL's delivery record for the past five years, its mandate will be carried for the next five years, albeit with limited resources at its disposal.

In our blueprint, the role played by industries such as mining, agriculture, tourism and lately the establishment of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) are considered important to the economic development of the province.

The growth and development of these key industries in the province is dependent on the well-developed road network, which is the responsibility of RAL. RAL will therefore

require the support of strategic partners from the private sector to ensure that it delivers on the road infrastructure demands required for economic development and growth.

Currently, the Agency is responsible for a road network of 19 000 km, 61% of which is unpaved.

We, together with all the Limpopo municipalities, have recently concluded the road reprioritisation process.

The purpose of the road prioritisation process was to identify unpaved priority roads which are currently unfunded and not in the implementation plans of RAL.

The prioritisation considered factors such as previous political commitments, incomplete (Bermuda) roads, political hotspots, the need for roads that facilitate access to key social services such as clinics, schools and hospitals etc., and areas of economic activity.

Out of a total of 13 818 km backlog of unpaved roads, a total of 3 793 was prioritised by district municipalities. These will require approximately R37bn to address.

Community protests around the issues of road infrastructure continue to pose a major challenge to the execution of RAL's mandate.

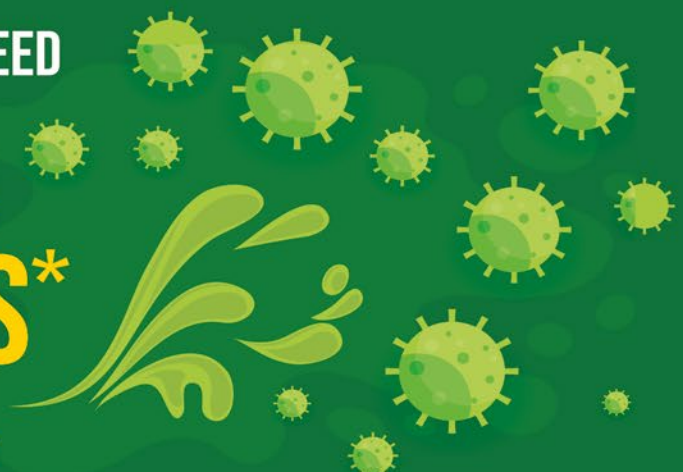
RAL is inundated with calls for better roads daily. Almost every protest that erupts is about or has an impact on road infrastructure. RAL and the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will continue to engage communities to facilitate community-based planning and implementation thus reducing politicising of road infrastructure project development.

Whilst in the past great effort was invested in stabilising RAL's financial management environment, our next task will remain to gear RAL towards obtaining and sustaining a clean audit.

Our overarching goal, however, is to build safe, accessible, reliable and affordable roads.

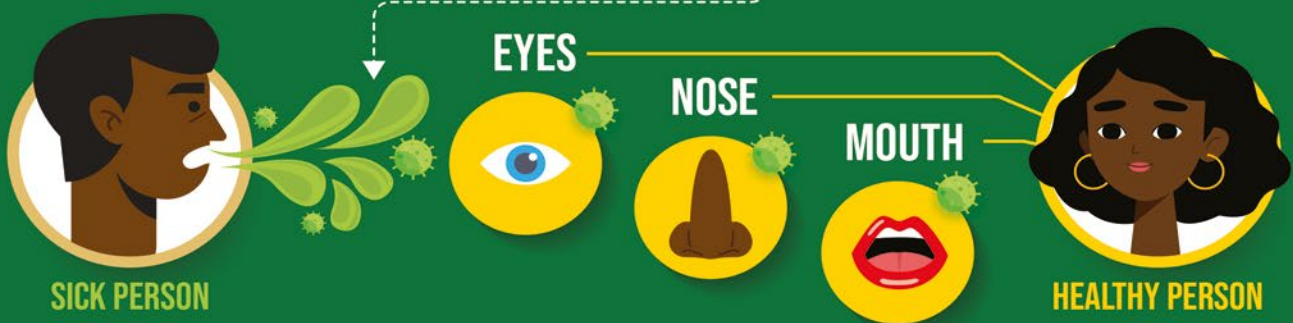
I am optimistic that with the right mix of commitment, teamwork and an adequate support system from our stakeholders, this goal is realisable.

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



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

The virus spreads when these droplets get into your:



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

1. Keep your distance.



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

2. Avoid crowds



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

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



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

24HR NICD HOTLINE 0800 029 999

REMAIN VIGILANT AND ADOPT GOOD PERSONAL HYGIENE PRACTICES
The situation is evolving, check updates on www.health.gov.za and www.nicd.ac.za



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The Premier of Limpopo Province Chupu Stanley Mathabatha delivering the 2020 Limpopo State of the Province Address (Sopa). Just before his Sopa reply at the Limpopo Legislative chambers, the economy suffered a double whammy of a negative growth followed by global health emergency. In the background is the former Speaker of Limpopo Legislature Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya.

THE BEST VIEW COMES AFTER THE HARDEST CLIMB

LIMPOPO PREMIER ON ROADS, WATER & UNEMPLOYMENT

The Premier of Limpopo Province Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha used the 2020 Limpopo State of the Province Address (Sopa), where he addressed the people of Limpopo, to assure them that they will power through the current tough times together.

“As a nation we are faced with a reality of an unfavourable economic outlook, which impact negatively on our developmental objectives,” he said.

“That we are living in difficult times is a reality that we cannot avoid.

This reality is manifested by low (economic) growth rate, energy supply challenges (load-shedding) and corruption.”

Within days of the Sopa, Statistics South Africa announced that the country had entered into a technical recession after the second consecutive quarter of negative growth (contraction) in the 4th quarter of 2019. And the respiratory disease, novel Covid-19, caused by the Coronavirus, which was declared a

Members of the Provincial Legislature (MPLs) for Limpopo Province arriving ahead of the State of the Province Address and the opening of the Limpopo Legislature for the 2020/21 financial year at the Jack Botes Hall in Polokwane.



pandemic by the World Health Organization in March 2020 (within five months of its November 2019 emergence) and led to the declaration of a national state of disaster by the President, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, makes economic recovery and related challenges grim.

The Honourable Mathabatha's 90 minutes address, full of motivational quotes, for the opening of the 2020/21 Limpopo Provincial Legislature also marked a quick return to the provincial capital's Jack Botes Hall for the second Sopa of the sixth administration.

But, said the Hon Mathabatha in his sincere and frank address, "We are encouraged by a saying that says 'the best view comes after the hardest climb'."

"Phalana ya pholwana gare ga mahlalerwa e a gola (From Northern Sotho, proverb: *Phalanapholo e gola gare ga mahlalerwa*)."

On the 'twin challenges' of water and roads, Premier Mathabatha reported back on 'significant milestones' from the previous Sopa after promising to pay a special attention to these service delivery concerns.

Intermittent water supply has beset this mostly rural northern province of South Africa in recent years, and the Premier was able to report back to the people of Limpopo on milestones registered in the area of potable water service delivery and infrastructure.

"The Polokwane bulk water scheme, which is 100% complete; the Polokwane regional waste water treatment works, which is at 74% physical progress.

"The physical construction of Mametja – Sekororo bulk water supply is at 97% overall progress; the Nebo bulk water supply is at 90% physical progress.

"The Moutse water treatment works is at 90% physical progress; the Malekana water treatment works is at 90% physical progress.

"Nandoni to Nsami (dams) pipeline project, which is at 54% physical progress; Sinthumule - Kutama bulk water supply, which is at 47% physical progress; Giyani water supply project, which is at 17% physical progress," said Premier Mathabatha.

"Planning has been completed for Olifantspoort water scheme and an upgrade of Nandoni water treatment works is at the planning stage."

The Premier also welcomed the recent intervention from national government in a form of a commitment of R143 million made by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Hon Lindiwe Sisulu, to address water challenges in Moutse, Motetema and surrounding areas.

Premier Mathabatha further announced that Limpopo will soon get water from the neighbouring Zimbabwe to ensure availability of water for the Musina-Makhado SEZ (Special Economic Zone).

"We are finalising discussions with our Zimbabwean counterparts. And very soon we will be importing water from Zimbabwe," announced Premier Mathabatha.

Road infrastructure is another legitimate service delivery concern, which has always been high on the agenda of the Limpopo Provincial Government in recent times as it seeks to expand its low paved/tarred provincial road network.

"WE ARE HAPPY ... THERE IS AN IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ACROSS THE PROVINCE."

Premier Mathabatha says quality road infrastructure is the backbone for social-economic development.

"In line with this perspective, we are happy to report that there is an impressive progress with regard to the implementation of the road infrastructure projects across the province," said Premier Mathabatha.

The province has seen improved road infrastructure delivery since 2014 with improved partnership between Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) – a road infrastructure implementing agency for the Limpopo Provincial Government and the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) – a national road infrastructure partner.

The Premier commended SANRAL for resuming work on the N1 Polokwane Ring Road (R101/N1 and R37/N1 and Silicon/N1 and R71/R101) and N1 Musina Freeway/Ring Road (Musina and



The MEC for the Limpopo Department of Provincial Treasury Seaparo Sekoati and MPL for Limpopo Mapula Mokaba arriving at the Jack Botes Hall in Polokwane ahead of the 2020 Limpopo SOPA.

Nancefield interchanges) road projects, 10 kilometre road project for the expansion of R81 road between Munnik and Ga-Sekgopo, and the under construction R573 between Moloto Road to Marbel Hall.

The N1, R81 (from Polokwane to Giyani) and R573 (from Siyabuswa to Moloto Road/Marble Hall) are some sections of national roads in Limpopo maintained by SANRAL.

Premier Mathabatha also announced that amongst the roads to be completed in the current 2020/21 financial year are 13 kilometres of road D2922 and D2919 from Keerom to Tshikanoši near the Limpopo/Mpumalanga border in the Sekhukhune District Municipality, and 29.5km from Thomo to Hlomela (D3810) and 12.5 km D3810 from Calais to Ga-Sekororo both in the Mopani District Municipality of Limpopo Province.

Ahead of the Sopa, lack of job opportunities in the province was another concern that topped the wish list of issues seeking intervention from provincial government by residents amidst the economic downturn that is felt not only in the country but also globally.

The mining sector shed a lot of jobs in Limpopo in recent years.

“Despite being a dominant sector in our provincial economy, employment in this (mining) sector has decreased from 106 000 to 86 000 jobs between the fourth quarter of 2018 and fourth quarter of 2019,” said Premier Mathabatha.

This included 11 000 retrenchments in the Sekhukhune and Vhembe districts after some mines were placed under the care and maintenance process.


On the outlook for curbing unemployment, Premier Mathabatha announced that they have revised employment figures to be created by

the Musina-Makhado SEZ from 21 000 to 26 000 jobs.

The Musina-Makhado SEZ recently completed its external master plans for both the southern and northern parts and internal master plan for the southern part, and completed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for the northern side with the EIA for the southern side at 90% ahead of project launch.

“PHALANAPHOLO E GOLA GARE GA MAHLALERWA.”

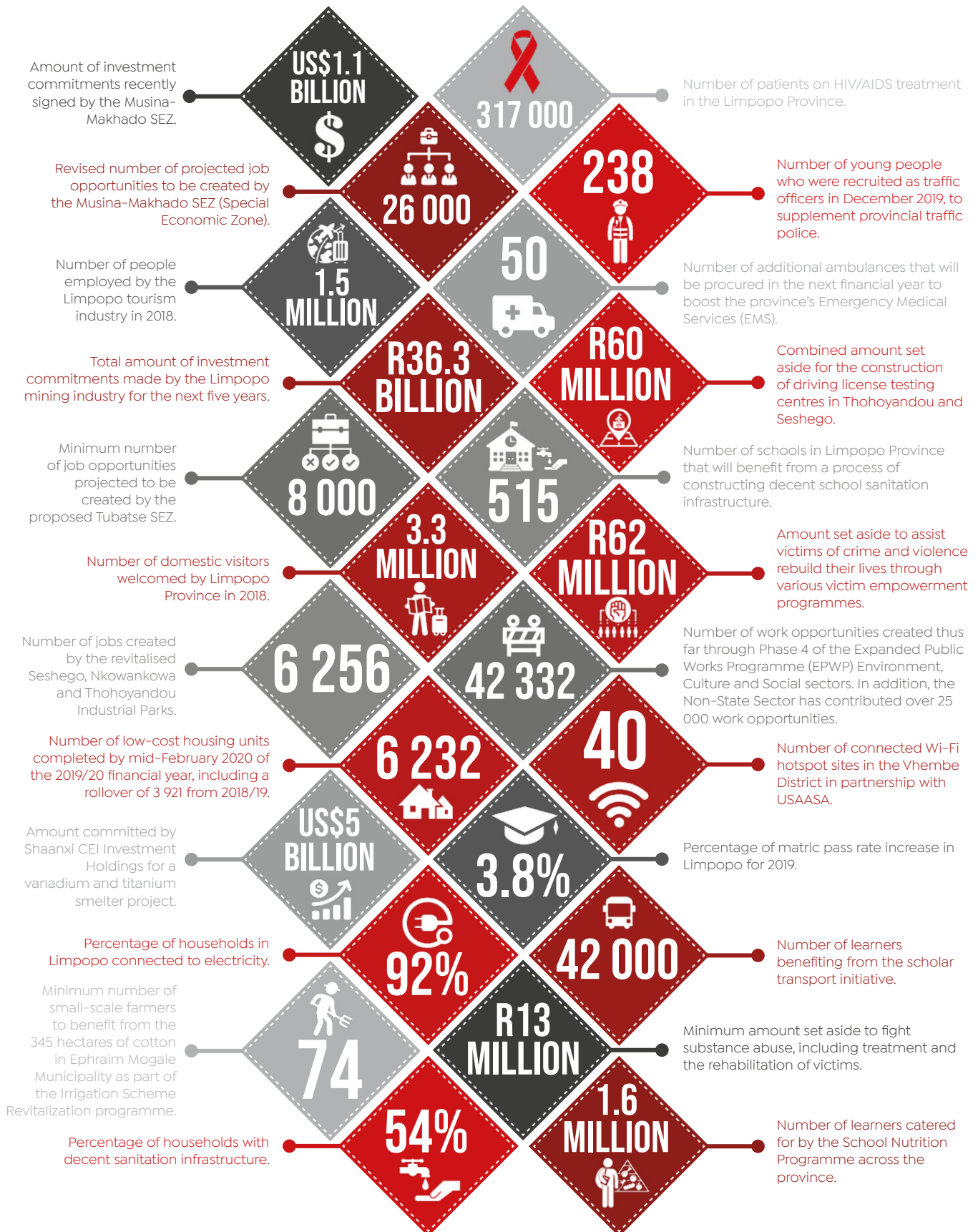
And the proposed Tubatse SEZ master plan projects creation of about 8 000 job opportunities, with a total of 6 256 jobs already created by a programme to revitalise industrial parks in the townships of Seshego in the Polokwane Local Municipality and Nkawkawa (Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality), and the town of Thohoyandou in the Thulamela Local Municipality.

The Premier concluded his address rallying the people of Limpopo on the mantra for remaining calm in tough times, by saying “tough times never last, but tough people do”. 

For the full Sopa speech, go to ‘newsroom’ at www.limpopo.gov.za

SOPA IN NUMBERS

Below are the highlights of the 2020 Limpopo State of the Province Address in Numbers



GO NA LE SELO SE TEE FELA SE O SWANELANG
GO SE KWEŠIŠA MABAPI LE KA FAO TWATŠI YA

KHORONA* YA (COVID-19) E PHATLALALAGO

*Ditwatsi tsa khorona ke sehlopha se segolo sa ditwatši seo se kago hlola diphetetšo tša khemo go tloga go mokhohlane wa tlwaelo go ya go malwetši a bogale a go swana le Bolwetši bja Khemo ya Dinageng tsa Bohlabela-Bogare (MERS) le Bolwetši bja Khemo ye Bogalegale (SARS).

Twatši e phatlalala ge marothinyana a a tseno ka:



Bjalo ge o bona motho yo a bonalang a gohlola / ethimola / lwala, o ka kgetha go:

1. Emela kgojana



(0.5m go fihla go 2m e tla dira gore o bolokege ka go ba kgole le marothinyana a magolo.)

2. Katoga dihlopha



(Batho ba ba fetetšwego ba ka no se bontšhe dika, eupša ba sa ntše ba ka e fetetša.)

Dinako tše dingwe mare a motho wa go lwala a ka tseno ka gare ga dilo tše dingwe...



Gomme ge o ka kgoma se sengwe le se sengwe sa dilo tše ka phošo, gomme morago wa kgoma sefahlego sa gago, wa forohla mahlo a gago goba difahlego tša baratwa ba gago, ka moka le ka no lwala.

MOGALA WA BOHLE WA NICD WA DIIRI TŠE 24 0800 029 999

DULA O PHAFOGILE GOMME O LATELE MEKGWA YE MEBOTSE YA BOTLHWEKI BJA MMELE WA GAGO
Seemo se a fetoga, lebelela ditsebišo mo go www.health.gov.za le www.nicd.ac.za



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Namane Dickson Masemola, the new MEC for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, has already met with the Board of Directors of Roads Agency Limpopo.

LIMPOPO TO BENEFIT FROM MASEMOLA'S EXPERIENCE

Premier Mathabatha understands that quality road infrastructure is the backbone for social-economic development, and that it can improve the lives of the people of Limpopo.

The Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) Soc Ltd has a new shareholder representative. This after the Premier of Limpopo Province Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha recently tweaked the 10-member provincial government Executive Council (Exco).

The erstwhile Member of the Executive Committee (MEC) for the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety Honourable Namane Dickson Masemola has been appointed as the new MEC for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI).

The Hon Masemola is no stranger to the department as he previously served as the MEC from July 2013 to May 2014. His first stint in the department, albeit short-lived, was in 2009 when he was appointed Acting MEC for the Limpopo Department of Roads and Transport - a forerunner of today's LDPWRI - way before the reconfiguration of the provincial departments to the current state in 2014.

During his first meeting with the Board of Directors for RAL, MEC Masemola said all RAL stakeholders need to work together to achieve the Agency's goals.

"It is important to engage with the Mayors regularly to strategise on ways of delivering quality roads to the people," said MEC Masemola.


The MEC also promised to engage communities where road projects have stalled to resolve the challenges

so that the projects can resume.

According to Kenny Mathivha, the Spokesperson for the Office of the Premier of Limpopo Province, the first reconfiguration of the sixth provincial administration was made following the assessment of performance of the provincial government in carrying out its constitutional mandate over the past ten months of the sixth administration. In the only other change, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, until recently the Speaker of Limpopo Legislature, replaced MEC Masemola at the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety.

**"TOGETHER WITH THE RAL BOARD,
WE SHOULD BUILD A STRONG
TEAM TO REINFORCE THE AGENCY'S
IMAGE IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE."**

"The Premier trusts that these changes will add the required value in (the) acceleration of the delivery of services and, more importantly, the improvement of (the) lives of the people of Limpopo Province," said Mr Mathivha in a statement.

MEC Masemola says, "together with the RAL Board, we should build a strong team to reinforce the Agency's image in Limpopo Province in order to accomplish its mandate given by Premier Mathabatha". 



Mamosadi Mankga is a Project Manager in the Operations Unit of Roads Agency Limpopo's flagship Engineering Division.

Mbokodo

WOMAN IN ENGINEERING

Mamosadi

Despite many describing her as operationally efficient and just a right fit for the Roads Agency Limpopo as its Project Manager, Mamosadi Mankga attributes this to hard and persistent work that successfully prompts her to execute daily duties.

As the Project Manager for Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), Mamosadi Mankga's responsibilities entail managing road infrastructure projects to ensure that projects are completed on time, within budget and according to specification. Chief amongst her responsibilities is, 'to supervise the work done by the engineering consultants and contractors to ensure that the quality of road infrastructure is not compromised'.

She says being passionate about her job does not spare any challenges, especially being involved in various projects which involve communities.

"Each project is different, and working on different projects with different characters and organisations is very interesting and challenging at times, but makes one grow," says Ms Mankga.

Since her work interlinks with other sections within RAL, Ms Mankga says being a team player has assisted her a great deal as she easily collaborates with colleagues to get the work done.

"Before any project can start, stakeholder engagement is done by

my colleagues within RAL through Social and Institutional Development where a project steering committee is formed, which represents all the communities within the vicinity of the project, to ensure that the project runs smoothly," adds Ms Mankga.

She says one of the big projects which she was involved in at RAL was the upgrading of 26 kilometres of roads, namely D3820 (19.5km) and D3502 (6.5km) from Babangu to Maphalle, which traverse through two municipalities, Greater Giyani and Greater Letaba Local Municipalities.

"The project was tested with a lot of community protests, but we managed to do our best to get the job done because relationship amongst the project members was good."

"Fortunately, we didn't spend all the money allocated for the project, a certain amount was saved but

"Each project is different, and working with different organisations is very interesting."



Mankga is a gold award recipient at the 2018 RAL Excellence Awards for Engineering. Turn to page 24 to read about a recently completed project she supervised.

the quality of the job was not compromised,” says Ms Mankga.

Although her job is daunting and challenging, Ms Mankga says, “it keeps me on my toes, but it also makes me think out of the box most of the time and helps me to be more organised and understand different personalities”.

The 2018 winner for Organised and Detailed Project Manager Award at RAL says the support she gets from various stakeholders that she interacts with as part of executing her responsibilities is amazing.

“The support I get from the project team; Social and Institutional Development, and Environmental, Health and Safety divisions is helpful, and going forward, I continue to appreciate their continuous support,” she says.

Ms Mankga is not new to the road infrastructure environment. She cut her corporate teeth at the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport (GAUTRANS) as a trainee technician from October

2003 to September 2004.

She says the position of trainee technician was a golden opportunity for her to work hard and make her own mark in the corporate world. This was proved as she was later appointed as Industrial Technician in the same organisation from October 2004 to September 2005.

As part of her career path, Ms Mankga had to relocate from Gauteng to Limpopo in October 2005 to take up the position of Statutory Control Officer at RAL, which is now called the Land Use Management Officer.

She continued to work hard and proved that she is equal to any task as attested in 2008 when she landed the position of Assistant Manager Land Use Management within RAL. In 2011, she was appointed the Project Manager, a position she has held to date.

Born 38 years ago at a village called Kalkspruit, about 34km west of Polokwane, Ms Mankga started schooling at local schools in her village, Solomon Maraba Lower Primary School and then moved to John Nrimba Higher Primary School where she completed Grade 7.

She then proceeded to Harry Oppenheimer Agricultural High School based at Ga-Matlala where she completed her Grade 12.

She acquired both her Diploma and B-Tech in Civil Engineering at the Vaal University of Technology.

Growing up, Ms Mankga aspired to be a Social Worker because of her passion for helping people.

However, all this changed when she visited her aunt in a village called Mamadila, about 29 km west of Polokwane, where there was a construction of the Mogwadi Bridge on road D19 at that time.

“My aunt was selling food to the labourers who were appointed on the project. I would wake up every morning to go and help her.”


She says the manner in which they were constructing the bridge caught her attention, and then she told herself that this is a career for her.

“I was still not certain about the Civil Engineering career as I had little knowledge about it,” she says.

However, one of my relatives, the late Lesiba Ledwaba who was the first person to qualify as a Civil Engineer in my village, motivated me to pursue this career.

I then started to do more research about Civil Engineering when I was in Grade 11.

A wife and mother of two, Ms Mankga says she enjoys spending time with her family and cooking.

“I spend most of my time in the kitchen exploring recipes. I also enjoy meditating, exercising and going out with friends,” concludes Ms Mankga. 

“A project steering committee ... ensures that the project runs smoothly.”

HU NA TSHITHU TSHITHIHI FHEDZI TSHINE VHA
FANELA U TSHI PFESESA NGA NDILA INE

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS*

YA PHADALALA NGAYO

*Coronaviruses ndi muṭa muhulwane wa dzivairasi dzine dza nga vhanga malwadze a u fema u bva kha mukhushwane wo doweleaho u ya kha malwadze o kalulaho ane a nga sa Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) na Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Vairasi i phadalala musi mashotha haya a tshi dzhena:



Arali vha vhona muṭwe muthu ane a khou hoṭola/ u atsamula/ u lwala, vha nga nangu u:

1. Sendela kule nae



(0.5m u ya kha 2m zwi ḡo vha dzudza vho tsireledzea kha mashotha mahulwane.)

2. U sa vha vhukati ha magogo



(Vhatu vha re na vhwadze zwi nga itea vha sa sumbedze tsumbadwadze, fhedzi vha kha ḡi kona u pfukisela.)

Tshinwe tshifhinga mare a muthu ane a khou lwala a nga vha kha zwinwe zwithu...



ZWANDA



MAVOTHI



DIVAISI



MAUSU



BIGIRI



PENI



REIḲI DZA
U FARELELA



ZWISHUMISWA

Arali vha nga fara tshinwe tsha zwithu izwi nga phoswo, vha fhedza vha fara tshifhaṭuwo tshavho, u sikiḡedza maṭo avho kana tshifhaṭuwo tsha mufunwa wavho, vhoṭhe vha nga lwala.

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VHA DZULE VHO LAVHELESA NAHONE VHA SHUMISE MAITELE A TSIRAVHULWADZE YAVHUḲI YA MUTHU ENE MUṆE

Nzulele i khou dzulela u shanduka, vha ṭole maswamaswa kha www.health.gov.za and www.nicd.ac.za



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De Beers Venetia Mine, the largest producer of diamond in South Africa, has invested US\$2 billion in their underground mine which will begin production in 2021. They have moved to develop economic road infrastructure, in partnership with Roads Agency Limpopo, around the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape in Limpopo Province, where their operations are based.

RAL AND VENETIA BACK FOR ALL DAY SECONDS

PRIVATE SECTOR CONFIDENCE IN THE AGENCY'S BUSINESS PRACTICES RISE

Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) and De Beers Consolidated Mines, acting through its Venetia mine, recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the upgrade and maintenance of two roads stretching just over 110 kilometres between them in the Vhembe District Municipality of Limpopo Province.

This is the second MoA, with an even bigger focus, between the two companies.

In July 2017, RAL and De Beers Venetia Mine signed a Routine Road Maintenance (RRM) MoA for

the repair or patching of potholes on a 16km stretch of road D2692. Venetia Mine carried 100% of the implementation and project costs, while RAL oversaw the project.

De Beers Venetia Mine is a diamond mine located opposite Mapungubwe National Park, 60km north of Alldays and 100km west of Musina in the Vhembe District.

Since adopting its successful Strategic Partnership Approach in 2015, RAL has raised more than R482 million and continues to secure more partnerships, including non-financial deals, to help construct and rehabilitate Limpopo provincial roads.

This Strategic Partnership Approach, which has been a key tenet of

the RAL Board of Directors' successful turnaround strategy, targets prospective partners and economic roads in the agricultural, mining and tourism sectors in the province to raise funds to help augment the Agency's constraint financial resources in its mandate to deliver on the much-needed upgrading and maintenance of road infrastructure in the province.

RAL has been able to strengthen its relations with its existing strategic partners. And the confidence that the private sector has in the way the Agency handles these projects and conducts its business has resulted in increased contributions in subsequent partnerships. Similarly, with Venetia, the first deal was only 16km and they quickly moved to renew the partnership to 114 km within three years.

According to its online prospectus, Venetia Mine, opened in 1992, is one of several diamond route locations in Southern Africa and the most lucrative. It is the largest producer of diamonds in South Africa, contributing 40% to the country's annual diamond production. It is literally a diamond in the rough, and the arid. In 2018 it produced 4.2 million carat of diamond.

"THE CONFIDENCE THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS IN THE WAY THE AGENCY HANDLES THESE PROJECTS AND CONDUCTS ITS BUSINESS HAS RESULTED IN INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS."

It is fully-owned by the De Beers Consolidated Mines, the world's leading diamond producer. De Beers, in turn, is majority-owned by the Anglo American Group and minority-owned by the Republic of Botswana.

The latest agreement, inked by RAL Chief Executive Officer Gabriel Maluleke and De Beers Venetia Mine General Manager Gerhardus Nortjé is for 94km of road D2692 between Musina and Bridgewater intersection and 20km of road R521 from Bridgewater intersection to Breslau Road intersection on the road to the town of Alldays.

Venetia Mine will, again, carry 100% of the implementation and project costs, while RAL will oversee the project. RAL is the only entity that has a function to plan, design, construct, maintain, control and manage all Limpopo provincial roads.

The scope of maintenance for this newly signed deal, ongoing until end of December 2022, will include the improvement of road safety and traffic calming measures on both roads, such as signage, road markings and reflecting road studs, where required. Other ongoing day-to-day activities for the upkeep of the roads will include bush clearance, grass cutting and clearing of intersections.

Preventative maintenance will include rehabilitation activities such as resurfacing, base patching, seal reinstatement, edge break repairs and shoulder maintenance.

As with all RAL road infrastructure projects, this strategic partnership agreement will also have a job creation and economic development aspect to it that will benefit local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and local labourers.

RRM sub-contracts are the best way for local communities to get involved in road maintenance, and are a gateway to economic participation through RAL. Several companies with lower Construction Industry Development Board grading have benefited from maintenance jobs awarded by RAL, and their strategic partners.

RRM is an ongoing day-to-day upkeep of the road network, and it includes patching of potholes, household maintenance (grass cutting and clearing storm-water culverts), repairing damaged guardrails, fixing road signs, removing stray animals, and clearing the road after accidents.

Complementing RAL's organic mandate of delivering road infrastructure services to the citizen of Limpopo; private sector has an obligation as responsible corporate citizens to give back to communities.

And mining companies, particularly, have this obligation set as part of their licensing conditions to have a Social and Labour Plan (SLP).

SLP is a mandatory requirement and ultimately a binding document required by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy from mines on how their employees and communities in which they operate will benefit from their massive profits.

Some recent De Beers SLP investment projects in the surrounding area include an accommodation village; wildlife conservation at Venetia Limpopo Nature Reserve that houses three vulnerable members of the big five namely elephant, leopard and lion and Baobab tree - the 2020 Rare Tree of the Year also known in the province's vernaculars as *Seboi* (Sesotho sa Leboa), *Ximuwu* (Xitsonga) or *Muvhuyu* (Tshivenda) and *Mopani* tree; water infrastructure and; of course, road infrastructure.

According to the De Beers Group of Companies, open-pit mining at Venetia is likely to run until 2021 and preparations have been underway since 2013 already to convert to underground mining, which is expected to extend the life of the mine by 25 years up to 2046. [m](#)

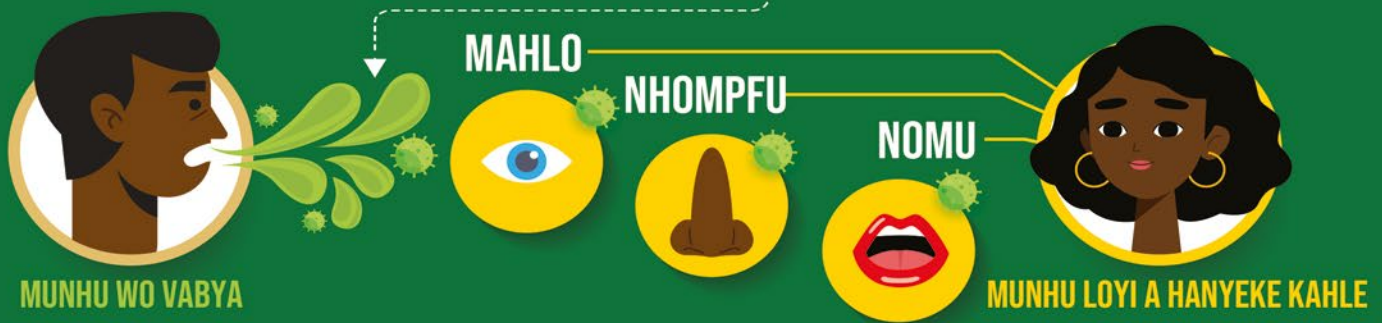
KO VA NA XILO XIN'WE NTSENA LEXI U DINGAKA KU
XI TWISISA HI MAYELANA NA HILAHA

COVID-19 KHORONAVHAYIRASI*

YI HANGALAKAKA HAKONA

*Khoronavhayirasi yi wela eka ndyangu lowukulu wa switsongwatsongwana leswi swi nga ha vangaka mitluletavuvabyi yo hefemula leyi hambanaka kusuka eka mukhuhlwana wa ntolovelo kufika eka mavabyi yo tika yo tanihi Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) na Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Xitsongwatsongwana lexi xi hangalaka loko swithonsaha leswi swi ku nghena laha ku landzelaka:



Hikokwalaho loko munhu un'wana loyi tikombaka a khohlola / a entshemula / a vabya, u nga hlawula ku:

1. Fambela ekulenyana



(0.5m kufika eka 2m ti ta ku vhikela eka swithonsana leswikulu.)

2. Papalata mitsungu



(Vanhu lava va tluleriweke va nge kombi swikombeto, kamba va ha tluleta.)

Mikarhi yin'wana marhi ya munhu wo vabya ma nga tlulela eka swilo swin'wana...



SWANDLA



TIMBATI



SWITIRHISIWA



MAWUSI



TIKHAPI



TINDHAWU TO



KHOMELELA



SWO DYA HI SWONA

Kutani loko u khumba xihhi kumbe xihhi xa swilo leswi u nga tiyimiselangi, endzhaku ka swona u khumba xikandza xa wena, u swoswa mahlo ya wena kumbe xikandza xa varhandziwa va wena, mi nga ha vabya hinkwenu.

NOMBORO YA RIQINGHO RA XILAMULELAMHANGU YA NICD YA 24 WA TIAWARA 0800 029 999

TSHAMA U VAMBE NGOMA NA KU TEKELELA MAENDLELO YA NSIVELAMAVABYI WA MUNHU LOWUNENE

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#RALatWork

Complaints and Compliments



RoadsAgency



roadsagencylimpopo

Roads Agency Limpopo @RoadsAgency · Mar 24
 Roads Agency Limpopo welcomes the appointment of the Honourable Namane Dickson Masemola as MEC for Limpopo Dept of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), in the Limpopo Provincial Executive Council (EXCO) as reconfigured by Hon Premier Chupu Mathabatha. #RALatWork

Roads Agency Limpopo @RoadsAgency · Mar 24
 As the new MEC for LDPWRI, Mr Masemola effectively becomes the shareholder representative for the Limpopo Provincial Government at Roads Agency Limpopo, a state-owned company of the Limpopo Provincial Government responsible for road infrastructure. #RALatWork



PolokwaneReview and 9 others
 1 Like · 1 Retweet · 5 Hearts

BUS-X82 @Kabelodmk · Mar 24
 Go check the road between Marulaneng and Segole in Bakenberg

Nong Tshekishi Milton Are these roads constructed under the Premier's instruction or what is the right procedure to be followed because, we have been writing letters to RAL without response?
 Like · Reply · 5w

Thulani Mathibela @Thulani_Sanza · Mar 10
 #LimpopoBudget The allocation of department of road and transport, infrastructure, includes R1.3 billion for conditional grants and R1.5 billion to be transferred to Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) for operational costs and roads maintenance and upgrades.

Most Relevant

Sethokga Tsemoleng
 Congratulations Mr Maluleke. And please impoverished village in Ga Sekhukhune called Mashite ga KGOSHI Marutle Madiga since waiting for our road to be tarred from the year 2000 till, and we don't taxis and buses because of that. So please put us as your priorities please our Leader.
 10w Like Reply

Solomon Mahlangu Congratulations to Mr Maluleke. hope the provincial roads will be safe to drive on them. maintenance of pot holes
 Like · Reply · 15w

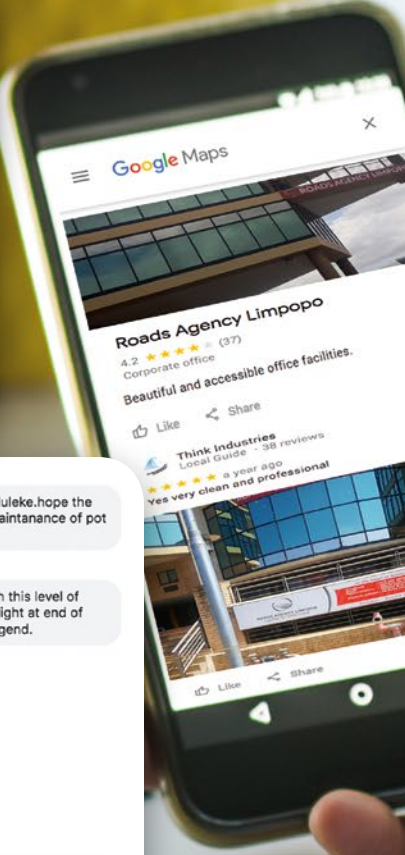
Marumo A Hotlwane I see the green future with this level of experience and qualifications, there's light at end of tunnel. Congratulations are in order for this Legend.
 Like · Reply · 15w

Sebengwane Nkuna Congratulations Guyu
 Like · Reply · 15w

Rose Letsoalo Congratulations munwa'nati
 Like · Reply · 15w

Hlayisani Baloyi Well deserved
 Like · Reply · 15w

Mphahlele Nkopodi Hedley Congratulations Please start with tarring road from Segogong@Maralaleng to Malemati, Leadership. We are sick and tired of empty promises of RAL During rainy time is a problem as we encountering muddy condition on our road. Remember when there's funeral du...
 See More
 Like · Reply · 15w



Roads Agency Limpopo @RoadsAgency · Apr 30
 Replying to @RoadsAgency
 Both Road D4280 and D4283 are prioritised under Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality. The roads will be addressed as soon as funding is available. There is currently no funding allocated for the roads.
 #RALatWork #StayHome #StayHomeStaySafe

Sekwena Moela @SekwenaMoela · Apr 30
 Thanks RAL I really appreciate your efforts amaandlaa



Sebasa Mogale currently hosts Thobela FM's midday show *Mosegare wa Sekgalela* while playing the part of Dr Hlongwane in SABC 1 popular drama, *Skeem Saam*. True to his versatility, in 2009 he released an eclectic afro album '*Hopes and Dreams*'.

Mogale, Jack of all Trades

Radio · Television · Music

It is always a curious cliché to ask a consummate dabbler in the entertainment industry, what their first love is. But for Thobela FM's popular host Sebasa Mogale, "my life is God first, family and then performing arts."

The multitalented Mr Mogale, who is affectionately known as the 'SupaDupa' or '*Mogale wa Seyalemoya*' says successfully juggling between the many roles in the entertainment industry, from acting to radio presenting to music is all thanks to God.

He says God's blessing coupled with passion and good discipline are the reasons he is where he is today.

"Talent alone isn't enough, but with God by your side anything is possible," say the versatile entertainer.

"With talent alone I couldn't have achieved anything."

Mr Mogale was born in a township of Mookgophong, on the outskirts of Naboomspruit, a town in the Waterberg District Municipality that has been sharing the same name with the township since 2006. He started his schooling there, at Dikubu Primary School, before relocating to Moletjie Makgofe, near Seshego and Polokwane, for his high schooling as a thirteen-year-old.

And it was during those formative years that he got inspired by

Thobela FM's legendary announcer Thamagana Max Mojapelo.

Radio-wise Mr Mogale is a true cusper, as he drew inspiration from an era when radio was the theatre of the mind only to practice in the current era when radio finds itself in an incestuous relationship with television.

"Talent alone isn't enough, but with God by your side anything is possible."

According to Mr Mogale, his training as an educator was par to the course of being on the airwaves, as his idol and most of his contemporaries were recruited from the teaching profession, yet his first flirtations with the microphone was to be at a community radio station, a feeder for today's radio stations.

"I always wanted to be a performing artist such as a musician, actor or presenter," Mr Mogale explains.

“In order to achieve my career dreams, though, I went through a teaching career because in those years one stood a good chance of being a radio presenter when you had at least five years of experience in teaching.”

After getting his teachers’ diploma at the now defunct Kwena Moloto College of Education in Seshego, he landed his first teaching stint, albeit as a substitute teacher, at his alma mater Seshigo High School in Moletjie Mabokelele.

He went on to have a thirteen-year teaching career between Moremi Primary School (Ga-Ramakgaphola) and Boetse Secondary School (Ga-Komape), all in the Moletjie area of the now Capricorn District Municipality of Limpopo Province.

It was while teaching at the local primary school in Moletjie Ga-Ramakgaphola twenty years ago next year, 2021, that he first delved into radio, volunteering at Moletji Community Radio.

In 2004 he started freelancing at Thobela FM while dabbling in voice-over work.

And after paying his dues, he eventually resigned from teaching in 2007 to join the widely recognised SABC Public Broadcast Station (PBS) full-time.

He was part of the Thobela FM ‘Ditlaleso’ team that won the 2015 Best Breakfast Show (with co-host

Mr Mogale is also a supportive father and husband, and partner to his businesswoman wife, Refilwe, in their various entertainment industry initiatives.



Mr Mogale tells *Mmileng*, the official quarterly corporate publication for Roads Agency Limpopo, that quality provincial road infrastructure has been good for his side hustle.

Mankoko Baby and producer DJ Boeli) in the PBS category at the then MTN-sponsored Radio Awards and the 2017 Best Community Project (with co-host Nkgadimeng Kekana and producer DJ Boeli) for 'Ex-Convicts Empowerment' segment, also in the PBS category, at the Liberty Radio Awards.

But his big break in the entertainment industry came earlier, in 1998, through his acting gig, when he landed his first small screen role in the SABC 2 drama *Xe Bona Boloi*. By that time he had been a radio drama actor for seven years already.

“RAL has made things easy for us artists. We are able to honour our gigs on time, as we drive on improved roads.”

The 49-year-old has featured in a variety of productions across all SABC TV stations, including, the recently canned SABC 3 long-running soap opera 'Isidingo: The Need', between 2006 and 2007 and SABC 2 comedy 'Home Sweet Home' (2011).

He is the current cast member of SABC 1 top-rated youth drama 'Skeem Saam' (Season 1 to 8), since the acting bug bit him in 1990, whilst still in high school. Skeem Saam is currently on its eighth season.

He says his entry into the world of acting was a complete fluke, after adventitiously joining a cast for a stage adaptation of a Northern Sotho short story in high school. And that's how he fell in love with his passion, and following the lead of actors such as Patric Shai, he has never looked back.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Mr Mogale credits his versatility to his work ethic.

He is the eponymous co-owner of a Polokwane-based arts and entertainment company, Sebasa Mogale

Creations, with his business graduate wife, Refilwe Mogale, who also manages his bookings.

The God-fearing father of two and husband, who recently celebrated a tin wedding anniversary, says his parlays are the inevitable corollary of his dogged determination to succeed.

“I also grew up understanding the importance of creating additional streams of income, as a person, to avoid financial breakdown,” says Mr Mogale.

Sebasa Mogale Creations also owns the Miss Bachelorette South Africa property, on the back of his wife's passion for modelling and pageantry.

Miss Bachelorette SA 2020 was one of the events affected by physical and social distancing recommendations by government to help curb the novel Covid-19 pandemic, a disease caused by the Coronavirus.

The second instalment of the annual event was to be held at The Ranch Hotel on the outskirts of Polokwane, but it was postponed indefinitely after the hotel was converted into a quarantine facility for a group of over a hundred South Africans evacuated from Wuhan – a city in China, the first epicentre of the Covid-19 amid the spiralling outbreak.

South Africa subsequently declared a national state of disaster and later the country was put on lockdown to try to halt the spread, or flatten the curve, of the pandemic.

It is imperative, says Mr Mogale, to take heed of what our leaders ask of us in order to help curb the spread of the virus.

“Now, as the province of Limpopo, if we all abide by the rules and work as a unit, we can eventually beat Covid-19 with few fatalities or none at all,” he implores.

On the bright side, one thing that improved Mrs Mogale's efficiency in the management of her husband's busy work schedule is the quality of road infrastructure in Limpopo Province.

Mr Mogale highlighted one particular standout benefit to Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) improved road infrastructure, reduced travel time, which has freed up hours off his otherwise congested diary.

“RAL has made things easy for us artists. We are able to honour our gigs on time, as we drive on improved roads. Most strategic roads in the province are tarred.”

“This makes us to take more gigs in a day and still reach our destinations for our assignments on time,” concluded Mr Mogale. **m**



Road D1468 in Senwabarwana is no longer a Bermuda road after the recent completion of an upgrade to end-to-end tar. The project was delivered within budget and on time thanks largely to the patient and peaceful communities around the project area.

VIRTUES OF PATIENCE REWARDED IN SENWABARWANA

Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) has an unenviable task of trying to do the most with less. But more than its meagre budget allocation, patience from some communities is proving to be a valuable currency in this task.

Road infrastructure is a serious service delivery concern in Limpopo Province, currently up there together with water and jobs. Some of the key demands that the Agency is trying to balance is the building of new roads while trying to maintain existing road infrastructure.

RAL is a state-owned company of the Limpopo Provincial Government, under the auspices of the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. Its functions are to plan, design, construct, maintain, control and manage all Limpopo provincial roads.

“THIS PROJECT IS ONE OF THE FEW PROJECTS WHICH WERE COMPLETED ON TIME AND WITHIN THE ALLOCATED BUDGET.”

However, the communities on the outskirts of the town of Senwabarwana in the Bochum area of the Blouberg Local Municipality are amongst the increasing number of communities that are testament to the saying that, ‘patience is a virtue’.

RAL recently completed a 9.55 kilometre of upgrade, from gravel to bituminous surface (tar), of road D1468 that connects Senwabarwana (Bochum) to the villages of Ga-Machaba, Indermark and Vivo in the Capricorn District of Limpopo Province.



The photographs of a successfully reconstructed culvert on road P98/2 in the Vhembe District Municipality of Limpopo Province, which was part of the Senwabarwana project budget

The ceremonial sod-turning for the project, in Marobjane (Avon), was featured in the *Mmileng* First Quarter Edition of 2018.

This project also incorporated the replacement of the damaged culvert on road P98/2 in the Vhembe District Municipality.

At the sod-turning ceremony, which took place next to the sport ground used by the local amateur Golden Arrows Football Club, the community of Senwabarwana was lauded for the grace and patience in the manner in which they went about in the request for the road from government.

Special mention was made of the role and leadership of the

traditional leader in the area, Kgoši Selaelo Seakamela of the Seakamela Traditional Authority in Marobjane, and the Blouberg Local Municipality for their role as a ‘go-between’ between the community and provincial government as “no public property was damaged as the community waited patiently for their turn”.

Even during the construction phase the project did not experience any disgruntlement that could not be managed; hence the project was completed like clockwork. The project started on 23 March 2018 and

was completed right on time, on 31 October 2019.

According to Mamosadi Mankga, the RAL Project Manager responsible for managing the project, RAL Social Manager Kgathole Mogadime, and the appointed Social Consultant Charles Tladi (Mabusha Investment Group) and the Project Steering Committee (PSC) supported good working relationship amongst the project team.

“GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP AMONGST THE PROJECT TEAM CULTIVATED COHESION, UNISON AND POSITIVE TEAM SPIRIT.”

“Good working relationship amongst the project team cultivated cohesion, unison and positive team spirit. They did a great job when it came to bringing peace to the local communities.”

“This project is one of the few projects which were completed on time and within the allocated budget,” says Ms Mankga.

Kgoši Seakamela says there were never protests from community members because, “we ensured that our ward councillors had regular meetings with the community to discuss their concerns”.

“I’d like to advise other communities that need roads to follow proper protocols without resorting to protests. There will be meetings after meetings to discuss their request for a road construction, but they should be patient and know that the road will eventually come,” says Kgoši Seakamela.

Construction for the project was ably led by main contractor Nyoni-Future Joint Venture with Matla Consulting (Pty) Ltd as consulting civil engineers.

Road D1468 was a Bermuda road just outside Senwabarwana, and it passed through the villages of Ga-Marcis, Ga-Machaba, Marobjane (Avon) to the village of Indermark in the mountainous Blouberg.

Bermuda road is a colloquial term for incomplete tarred road, one part tarred and most of it, particularly towards a relatively poor economic area, being gravel road.

The D1468 road, at just over R96 million, is one of the fourteen partially completed roads identified by the provincial government as the province embarks on a mission to tackle these Bermuda roads. A total of R2.1 billion has been set aside, for the period 2014-2021, by the provincial government for this task of redoing these


poorly executed projects of varying sizes that resulted in numerous Bermuda roads, which is a terrible legacy of the pre-2011-2014 administration regime.

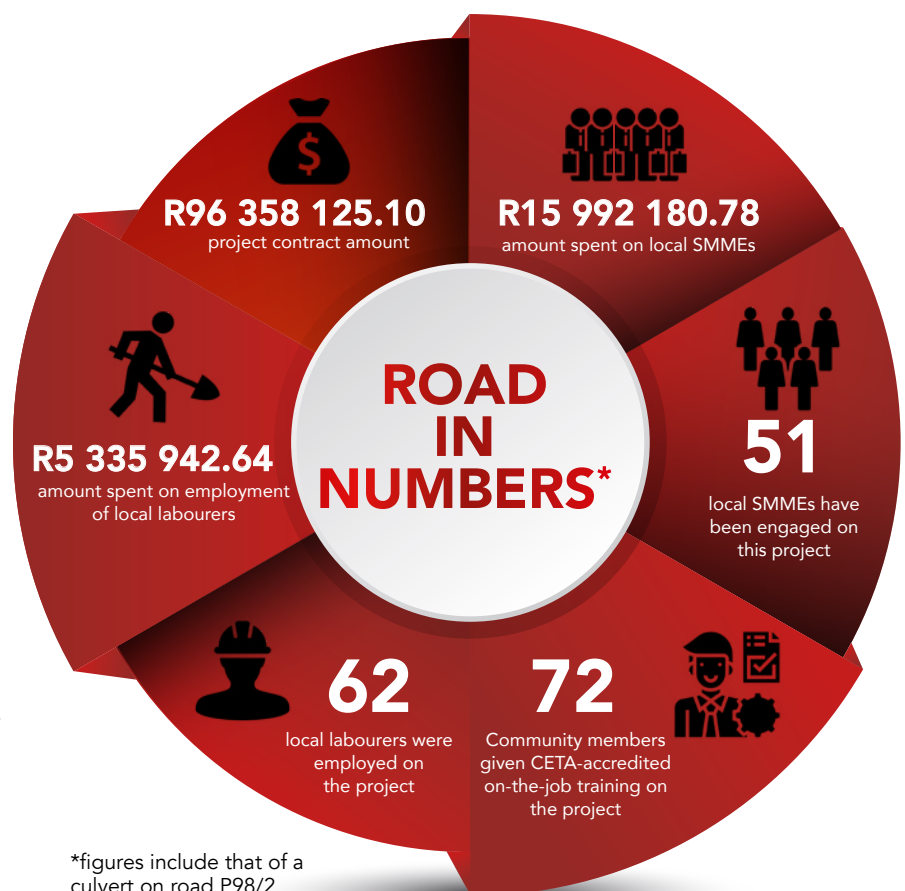
That period of heightened maladministration and corruption was seen as a setback that added to the legacy of apartheid the democratic dispensation has been trying to address, particularly in this vastly rural and sparse province.

Currently more than half of the road network in Limpopo province, at 65%, is gravel or dirt road, as the Agency tries to put a dent on the road infrastructure backlog. Six of the identified Bermuda road projects have already been completed, and the rest are multi-year projects currently under construction due for completion by the end of the current 2020/21 financial year.

Ms Mankga says the project scope of work included pavement structure, pipes, portal culverts and road furniture.

“Some of the benefits of the road to road users and the community at large are lower vehicle operating cost, all weather road, dust free road, safer road and improved access for communities,” said Ms Mankga.

The project also left behind a lasting legacy, giving 72 community members - 62 local labourers and 10 PSC members - a Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) accredited on-the-job training. 



RAL has set aside 30 percent for the empowerment of local SMMEs in all the upgrading projects. The Agency has realized that one of the challenges experienced by SMMEs has been financial management, hence the importance of expert advises such as that given by Ms Zanele Jafta.



Zanele Jafta is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). She currently works as a Provincial Manager for Nedbank's Financial Planning and Wealth division in Gauteng. Beyond building roads, Roads Agency Limpopo creates jobs and empowers small businesses in Limpopo.

SMART FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

THE KEY TO LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF ANY SMALL BUSINESS



It's not how much money you make that matters, but how much money you keep and how long that money works for you,' Robert Kiyosaki.

Globally, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have a low success rate. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 20% of SMEs fail in their first year, and about 50% of SMEs fail by their fifth year. The Small Business Institute (SBI) report indicates

that the percentage of SMEs that struggle to sustain themselves beyond five years of operation is as high as 75%.

In South Africa, the current tough economic climate poses a challenge for local small businesses. It has been a tough year for the South African economy. It started off with the shock announcement that the economy

contracted by 3,2% in the first quarter of 2019 – the largest decline since the global financial crisis 10 years ago. According to StatsSA, we are starting to see positive shifts as the total number of liquidations decreased by 10,1% in January 2020 compared with January 2019. It's definitely not business as usual, and SMEs in particular have to adjust to this reality, and ensure they manage their finances properly to survive.

A prudent, long-term financial management plan is critical to the success of any business. A lack of or poor financial management is a major contributing factor to small business failure.

The good news is that this is within your control – how much you spend, save and invest in your business is ultimately your decision. Even in tough economic times, making calculated, informed decisions can protect the long-term sustainability of your business.

“A LACK OF OR POOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO SMALL BUSINESS FAILURE. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THIS IS WITHIN YOUR CONTROL”

Below are nine tips to help you plan and manage your business finances for a successful 2020:

1. Separate your business finances from your personal finances

Make sure that you have separate business and personal accounts. This will make it easier to keep track of and manage your business finances.

2. Pay yourself a salary

The golden rule of entrepreneurship is to pay yourself first. The reality is that you, like any other employee, need money to live off. Following this practice will also help you with the discipline of separating your personal finances from your business finances.

3. Set clear financial goals

Be clear on what you want to achieve in the short, medium and long-term and put plans in place based on what you need to do to achieve these goals.

4. Set up a budget or financial management plan

Your financial management plan should clearly stipulate all income you receive and your expected monthly

expenses. It is advisable to separate your expenses into fixed and variable expenses. Fixed expenses are those that are standard every month and will remain unchanged for a long period of time. In most cases, these are expenses you cannot default on. You can, however, look for ways to minimise them. Also, consider how you can save on some of your variable expenses.

5. Invest in innovative software solutions

If you cannot afford the services of an accountant, purchase a software package that you can integrate with your business bank account. The latest point-of-sale machines targeted at SMEs now come with packages that fulfil a wide range of basic financial management and accounting functions like invoicing, tracking income and expenses, and even managing tax requirements.

6. Manage your cash flow

It is essential that you keep track of what goes in and out of your business bank account. If you do not manage your cash flow, you may not be able to pay your employees or yourself. Prudent cash flow management can help you avoid bankruptcy.

7. Have an emergency fund

It is recommended to have reserves that can cover at least six months' worth of expenses. This emergency fund will help you deal with unforeseen expenses and it will also provide a buffer in quieter months.


8. Save and invest

Most banks automatically open a savings business account when you open your transactional business account. If you have a limited company, it is advisable to save in an interest-bearing account like a business money market account.

If you are a sole proprietor, explore the option of a tax-free savings account (TFSA) so that you can earn your interest tax free. However, it's critical that you don't invest more than the maximum annual threshold – this was increased from R33 000 to R36 000 per tax year as announced by the Minister of Finance in his 2020 Budget speech – otherwise you will be penalised.

For medium to long-term objectives, it's important that you earn a return that exceeds inflation. Speak to a financial advisor about which investment vehicles meet this mandate and are appropriate for your needs.

9. Always remain rational

When you get a big contract, it is very tempting to consider indulging in a luxury item, such as buying the latest model of your dream car. But such a decision is driven by emotion and only offers a short-term benefit. If you want to build a sustainable business, the rational thing to do when you get a boost in your income is to invest back into your business. 

MINTIRHO YA VULAVULA

Mmileng got in touch with community members from Senwabarwana in the Blouberg Local Municipality of Limpopo Province, to hear what they have to say about Roads Agency Limpopo's recent upgrade of road D1468, from gravel to tar. Road D1468 connects Senwabarwana (Bochum) to the villages of Ga-Mareis, Ga-Machaba, Marobjane (Avon) and Indermark. Story on page 24.

We applaud RAL for the beautiful road. Since we started using this road we are saving a lot, unlike when it was gravel. Our trips to town are now simple and quick. These days we are no longer buying tyres for our taxis more often and even when it rains we are able to travel without being stuck in the mud because we are now using a tarred road.

Percy Meso, Taxi Driver (Bochum Taxi Association), from Ga-Machaba.



This tar road has changed our lives for the better because now going to town is quicker and easy under any weather conditions. Previously when we went to Bochum and it rained while there, we had to wait for hours to allow the floods to go away before we could use the road again to come back home. Even our cars are always clean, and roadworthy, because we no longer use gravel road.

Tryphina Majuta, Community Member, from Marobjane.



I really enjoyed working on this project as I benefited a lot as a general worker. I acquired skills and experience from different type of jobs I did on site. I was also trained on safety, and calculating construction quantity, and I was awarded certificates that will help me find other employment. I thank RAL for that opportunity, and for the proper road infrastructure they brought to our community, which has changed our lives.

Mokgadi Manaka, Community Member (Labourer), from Indermark.



We praise our government and the construction companies that worked on this project. It is well constructed, no complaints about it. Having a tar road now help us save a lot of time and money on fuel, because we used to travel 35 to 40 minutes from Indermark to Bochum, but now it's only 15 minutes. I sometimes take longer trips to Venda and Louis Trichardt, and this road is the shortest road to use.

Willy Lebang, Taxi Driver (Bochum Taxi Association), from Bosehla, Ga-Malebogo.



As the small business owner who worked on the project, I am really thankful for the opportunity awarded to us, Maletlhare Trading and Projects, to do stone pitching. The experience that we gained on this project will help us grow our company. Though we had some challenges working there, we believe that we will learn from them and grab other opportunities going forward. The tar road will also benefit us business people.

Eaglet Montja, Sub-Contractor (Maletlhare Trading and Projects), from Indermark.



DIE BELANGRIKSTE ASPEK VAN DIE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS* IS OM TE WEET HOE DIT VERSPREI

*Die Coronaviruses is een van 'n "familie" virusse, wat respiratorise- en lugweginfeksies veroorsaak. Dit kan voorkom as 'n gewone verkoue of griep, tot meer ernstige siektes soos: "Middle East Respiratory Syndrome" (MERS) en "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome" (SARS). Hierdie twee siektes veroorsaak ernstige asemhalingsprobleme.

Die virus versprei deur fyn spreedruppels wat in die



Wanneer jy iemand teëkom wat hoës of nies en duidelik siek is, kan jy besluit om:

1. 'n Veilig afstand te hou



(0,5m tot 2m is 'n veilige afstand om drupbesmetting te voorkom.)

2. Groot groepe mense te vermy



(Mense wat besmet is, kan voordat hulle enige simptome het, reeds aansteeklik wees.)

Die siek persoon se speeksel beland baie maklik op verskeie voorwerpe



HANDE



DEURHAND VATSELS



ELEKTRONIESE TOESTELLE



REKENAAR MUIS



KOPPIES



PENNE



HANDRELINGS



EETGEREI

Jy raak aan hierdie goed en vat aan jou gesig of vryf jou oë, of raak aan 'n geliefde se gesig. So kan julle almal aansteek en siek word.

24HR NICD HOTLINE 0800 029 999

WEES ALTYD VERSIGTIG EN VOLHOU MET GOEIE HIGIËNE

Die situasie ontwikkel steeds en jy kan op hoogte bly by www.health.gov.za en www.nicd.ac.za



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Musina-Makhado SEZ hosted a successful investment conference recently, in which Shaanxi CEI Investment Holdings made a commitment of US\$5 billion for vanadium and titanium smelter project. A further US\$1.1 billion worth of investment commitments were signed, with Roads Agency Limpopo committing to develop road infrastructure in the special economic zone.

RAL AND MUSINA-MAKHADO SEZ SYNERGY BOOST TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LIMPOPO

Two of Limpopo Provincial Government's key state-owned companies for socio-economic development, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) and Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (SEZ) recently signed a strategic partnership agreement to develop road infrastructure around Limpopo Province's first special economic zone.

RAL is one of six organisations that signed the latest round of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the recently launched Musina-Makhado SEZ at their most recent investment conference.

This on top of the seven MoUs and five Memorandums of Agreement (MoAs) worth R150 million already signed with investors for the SEZ's

energy and metallurgical cluster in 2018.

This SEZ targets four main sectors, namely; energy and metallurgy, agro-processing, logistics, (general) manufacturing sectors.

According to the details of the MoU, RAL and Musina-Makhado SEZ are "jointly collaborating in undertaking road infrastructure development for the successful implementation of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone".

"The parties recognize the synergy amongst them and the potential value to be derived from their



Roads Agency Limpopo Head of Communications Maropeng Manyathela, Musina-Makhado SEZ Stakeholder Relations Manager Tshamaano Makuya and RAL CEO Gabriel Maluleke seeking to attract investment opportunities for Limpopo Province at the 2020 Mining Indaba held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in the Western Cape.

collaboration in meeting their respective obligations and objectives,” read the agreement.

“The formation of this strategic partnership will enable RAL to construct several road networks with links from the national roads and provincial roads to connect SEZ (mining companies) with communities to drive efficient economic activities through sustainable roads links,” explained Gabriel Maluleke, RAL Chief Executive Officer.

“THE PARTIES RECOGNIZE THE SYNERGY AMONGST THEM AND THE POTENTIAL VALUE TO BE DERIVED FROM THEIR COLLABORATION...”

RAL is the road infrastructure implementing agency of the Limpopo Provincial Government under the auspices of the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

Musina-Makhado SEZ is a project of the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), itself an agency of the Limpopo Provincial Government under the auspices of the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET).

It is zoned on a 7262 ha area, considered South

Africa’s energy and metallurgical zone, rich in mineral resources such as diamond, between Musina and Makhado local municipalities in the Vhembe District Municipality of Limpopo Province.

De Beers Venetia Mine, the largest producer of diamond in South Africa, which recently signed a strategic partnership agreement with RAL is mining in the area. See story on page 16.

According to the Premier of Limpopo Province Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, Musina-Makhado SEZ is a major catalytic project aimed at stimulating economic growth and job creation.

During the 2020 Limpopo State of the Province Address (Sopa), Premier Mathabatha also announced that they have revised employment figures to be created by the Musina-Makhado SEZ from 21 000 to 26 000 jobs.

Premier Mathabatha also said that, “quality road infrastructure is the backbone for social-economic development”.

“We are happy to report that there is an impressive progress with regard to the implementation of the road infrastructure projects across the province,” said Premier Mathabatha

RAL and Musina-Makhado SEZ were to share the platform at the 2020 Investing in African Mining Indaba, on RAL’s fourth involvement at the annual event, as they sought investment opportunities and economic prospects for the Limpopo Province.

Held in Cape Town every February, the Mining Indaba is “the world’s largest mining investment conference and the largest mining event in Africa”.

Both the RAL CEO and his counterpart at Musina-Makhado SEZ, Lehlogonolo Masoga, recognize how the two entities impact positively on the province’s economic growth strategy, which is anchored on the agriculture, mining and tourism sectors.

RAL’s Strategic Partnership Approach, a key tenet of the Agency’s successful turnaround strategy, also targets prospective partners in the agricultural, mining and tourism sectors in the province to raise funds to help augment the Agency’s constraint financial resources in its mandate to deliver on the much-needed upgrading and maintenance of road infrastructure in the province. [m](#)

Consolidated Roads Prioritisation List Per District

| District | Total km (km) | Estimated Budget (R'm) | Bermuda Roads (R'm) | Political Commitments (R'm) | Hotspots (R'm) | Other (R'm) |
|------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Capricorn | 1 221 | 12 209 | 980 | 1 616 | 5 352 | 4 261 |
| Mopani | 596 | 5 957 | 1 332 | 1 032 | 872 | 2 721 |
| Vhembe | 405 | 4 049 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 049 |
| Sekhukhune | 513 | 5 128 | 0 | 0 | 400 | 4 728 |
| Waterberg | 1 059 | 10 592 | 585 | 1 327 | 3 423 | 5 258 |
| Total | 3 798 | 37 935 | 2 897 | 3 975 | 10 047 | 21 017 |



Roads Agency Limpopo CEO Gabriel Maluleke making a presentation to the strategic planning session to review the Agency's Communications and Public Relations (PR) Strategy recently.

ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO PERKS UP ITS COMMUNICATIONS AND PR STRATEGY

Many of the result-driven 21st century organisations such as the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) have come to realise that success begins with proper planning and involvement of all stakeholders within the organisational value chain.

It is in this context that RAL held a strategic planning session recently, to review its Communications and Public Relations (PR) Strategy to improve its engagement with key stakeholders.

The strategic planning session came at the right time as the Agency was on the eve of the new financial year of 2020/21, which was due to start on 1 April 2020. The implementation of the outcomes from the session will undoubtedly consolidate the operations of the Agency.

The management of RAL, which constitutes heads of division, also attended the session.



Experienced practitioners within the communications environment were also invited to share their expertise and perspectives from their respective areas of specialty as RAL reviewed its Communications and Public Relations Strategy in line with the global shift to digital technologies.

RAL CEO Gabriel Maluleke gave the direction of the session and its implications towards improving the Agency.

According to Mr Maluleke, “having employees involved in the strategic planning process not only ensures that everyone is on the same page when the execution phase of the planning process begins, but also that employees will be able to make better decisions and execute them in the best interest of the plan and goals.”

“MANY PEOPLE VIEW THE WORK OF RAL ONLY FROM AN OUTPUT PERSPECTIVE OF ‘BUILDING ROADS’ AND OVERLOOK THE OUTCOME OR IMPACT PERSPECTIVE OF ‘CONNECTING PEOPLE’.”

Mr Maluleke said the session came at the right time when the Agency has a lot of developments and improvements to work on in terms of its reputation.

He noted that, “many people view the work of RAL only from an output perspective of ‘building roads’ and overlook the outcome or impact perspective of

‘connecting people’”.

He added that the organisation has inherited a negative legacy due to the fact that its relationship with stakeholders has been relatively poor.

“It cannot be business as usual for RAL, and these challenges must be addressed urgently as we believe that sessions of this calibre can help us improve our PR and marketing strategies,” said Mr Maluleke.

He further emphasised that, “the Agency needs to be proactive and be visible in communities to educate them about road infrastructure processes to avoid road protests.”


The strategic session was also graced by the presence of external communication practitioners from various backgrounds such as communications strategist Kgalema Mohuba, Thabiso Kotane (veteran broadcaster), Danny Legodi (seasoned communicator) and Sam Cheese (business expert) to draw experiences from their various fields.

They all highlighted the importance of a communication strategy as an essential instrument in any organisation.

To this end, they remarked that in the absence of such a roadmap, the reputation of an organisation becomes susceptible to endless negative factors.

The session also discussed how a communication strategy can be utilised to address challenges faced by RAL. They further critiqued the status quo of the Agency, possible future scenarios, challenges and industry best practice.

Amongst others, it was further agreed that the Agency should explore means of cooperation with all its stakeholders, develop stakeholder management policy and a communication strategy dedicated to specific stakeholder groups.

Overall, the session was considered as an important platform to widen consultations and enrich organisational improvements with regard to the function of the Communications, PR and Stakeholder Engagement at RAL. 

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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:

COMMITMENT

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

RELIABILITY

We offer reliable, safe and economic road infrastructure

EFFICIENCY

We will go the extra mile in serving our communities

ACCOUNTABILITY

We remain accountable to all our stakeholders and the environment

TRANSPARENCY

We are transparent in both our internal and external business processes

EXCELLENCE

We strive to exceed expectations

DIVERSITY

We value and embrace diversity within the work context

TEAMWORK

We work together for better roads



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Together for better roads

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