

# MMILENG

Welcome to Our Road Network

## BIG INTERVIEW

HR SENIOR MANAGER AIMS TO CREATE AN UNMATCHED IDENTITY FOR THE AGENCY'S HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

**MISS LIMPOPO 2023, MARY-GRACE WHITEHEAD,** applauds RAL for creating engineering job opportunities for the youth

## TEN MORE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

in Limpopo benefit from RAL- Municipal Road Rehabilitation Programme

## A MAJOR BOOST FOR ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICE DELIVERY

as MEC Rakgoale unveils new 25 graders and 17 light delivery vehicles

**RAL AND PMC** partner to improve roads in Phalaborwa

**KGOSHI MALEBOGO** commends RAL for road upgrade project boosting investor confidence in Bahananoa





# OUR MISSION

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

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Issue 2 of 2023



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## COVER STAR

This edition's cover star is 2023 Miss Limpopo, Mary-Grace Whitehead



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# COLLABORATING IS KEY FOR LIMPOPO'S ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

**T**he year 2023 has been one of the daunting periods for Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL). The Agency has been involved in several life changing collaborations with a few mining and business partners. Since adopting an approach dubbed the strategic partnership, RAL worked tirelessly to raise more funds to augment the inadequate fiscus.

This edition of your favourite read, covers a few highlights for the quarter. In a significant nod to growing investor confidence, on **page 24**, we are thrilled to report on the signing of MoA between Palabora Mining Company and RAL. This strategic partnership focuses on the building and maintenance of various roads in the Phalaborwa area, a testament about the trust and belief of RAL's ability to drive positive change with the private sector.

The highlight of this issue revolves around the collaboration dubbed RAL-Municipal Road Rehabilitation Programme through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) Signing Ceremony on **page 6**. This strategic alliance, inspired by the District Development Model, underscores our commitment to fostering partnerships that prioritise service delivery for the people of Limpopo. The publication contains the narrative of shared goals and collective aspirations as we forge ahead in the area of infrastructure development.

Delving into the tangible impact of the work of RAL, we bring you a glimpse of the first phase of the construction of road D3278 which is near completion in the Blouberg Local Municipality, Capricorn District, stretching from Blouberg Hospital to Buffleshoek Clinic. This milestone reflects our dedication to improving connectivity and accessibility, positively influencing the lives of those in the communities we serve, read more about this on **page 28**.

**“THIS MILESTONE REFLECTS OUR DEDICATION TO IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY, POSITIVELY INFLUENCING THE LIVES OF THOSE IN THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.”**



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

This publication showcases the completion of various maintenance projects, reinforcing our commitment to the longevity and sustainability of the roads we develop. This story is on **page 16**.

Turning the spotlight on governance and public engagement, we delve into the Limpopo Provincial Government's endeavours to address service delivery concerns through the Capricorn District Development Imbizo. On **page 14**, we document, the undertakings made by government representatives during the Public Service Commission's Citizens Forum, shedding light on the collaborative efforts to enhance service delivery and efficiency.

RAL's quarterly publication for the year 2023, proudly presents Ms Limpopo, Mary-Grace Whitehead, gracing our cover. A symbol of youthful energy and dedication, Ms Limpopo embodies the spirit driving the transformative initiatives within our province.

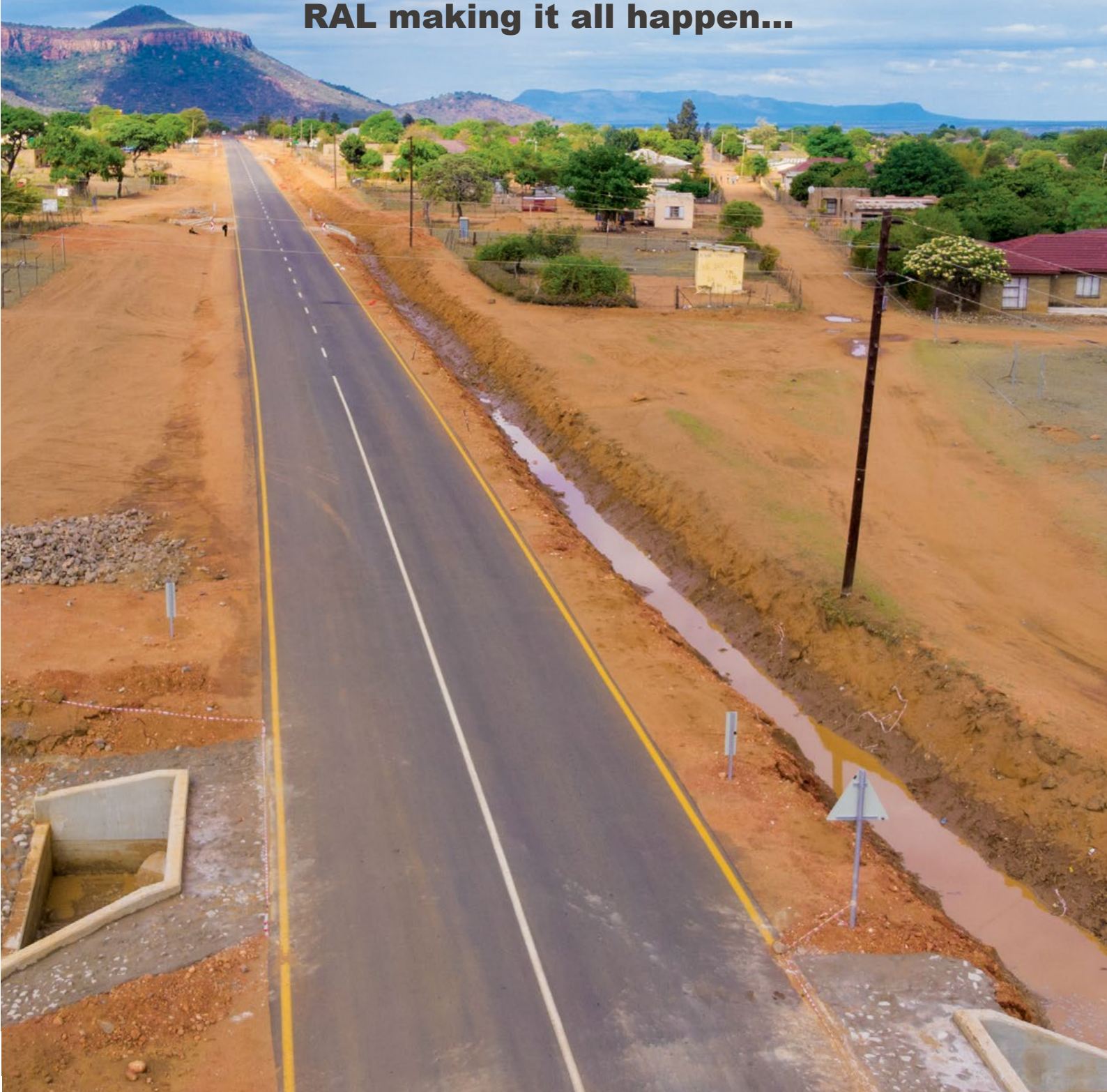
As we navigate through the pages of *Mmileng*, we invite you to have pleasure in reading stories of progress, collaboration, and transformation that define Roads Agency Limpopo's journey.

Enjoy reading this publication, and we look forward to meeting again in 2024, hoping it brings the best for you and the Agency.

# We **Connect** Limpopo...

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

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



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

**RAL**

ROADS AGENCY  
**LIMPOPO**  
TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS

# IMPROVING ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE WILL HELP IMPROVE COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

**A**s we reflect on the past quarter in the context of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), I am thrilled to share the significant strides we have made in advancing our vision to enhance Limpopo road infrastructure and, consequently, improve the lives of the people of Limpopo. The community engagements initiatives we have undertaken underscore our commitment to excellence, collaboration, and sustainable development.

One of the highlights for the past quarter is our active participation in key events that brought together government officials, stakeholders, and the public. Firstly, we welcomed the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in the province on their visit to examine the state of service delivery by taking them to some of our road projects where they witnessed first-hand the work of RAL. Provincial Government Capricorn District Development Model Imbizo, facilitated by the Honourable MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, served as a platform where we engaged with communities and listened to their inputs in our work and the needs of their constituencies. We embrace open communication and collaboration with all our stakeholders. We also gave an account of the work we do at the Public Service Commission Citizens Forum and expressed our challenges in our quest for the province's road infrastructure development mandate.

A significant milestone was achieved through the signing of another Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with municipalities for road rehabilitation programme in their jurisdiction. This initiative, featuring the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Hon. Parks Tau, demonstrates our commitment to a unified government approach aimed at improving the lives of the people of Limpopo.



**MR GABRIEL MALULEKE**  
RAL Chief Executive Officer

The trust and confidence bestowed upon RAL by investors continue to soar, as evidenced by our recent MoA with Palabora Mining Company. This partnership is a testament to our commitment to sustainable development, as we join forces to upgrade and rehabilitate roads in the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality. It is through such collaborations that we can make a lasting impact, not only on the economic landscape but also to the overall well-being of the communities we serve.

Our commitment to stakeholder engagement remains a top priority. The efforts of our Stakeholder Engagement Unit, visiting local municipalities to provide updates on road infrastructure projects, are essential in fostering strong and enduring relationships. We believe that transparent communication and collaboration with our stakeholders are fundamental to the success of our projects and the sustainable development of our region.

As we look ahead, we are strengthened by the momentum we have built. The challenges may be formidable, but with dedication, collaboration, and innovation, we are confident that success is guaranteed. I extend my gratitude to the entire RAL team, our partners, and the communities we serve. Together, we will continue to build a brighter future for Limpopo.

**“THE EFFORTS OF OUR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UNIT, VISITING LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES TO PROVIDE UPDATES ON ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, ARE ESSENTIAL IN FOSTERING STRONG AND ENDURING RELATIONSHIPS.”**

# RAL's

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

MEC for LDPWRI, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale overseeing the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with municipalities for the rehabilitation of streets and roads under municipal jurisdictions (third from left). In attendance are RAL CEO, Mr Gabriel Maluleke (right), Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Nenguda Dowelani (left), and Mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality, Cllr Sarah Rambuda.



# TEN MORE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN LIMPOPO BENEFIT FROM RAL - MUNICIPAL ROAD REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

**R**oads Agency Limpopo (RAL) has successfully signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with a total of 22 municipalities in the Limpopo Province. In 2022, the Agency signed with 12 municipalities and followed with another 10 in 2023.

The conceptualisation of this successful municipal intervention programme, inspired by the District Development Model (DDM), began with the pilot project in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality in 2022 which culminated in the collaboration with 11 local municipalities in Limpopo and the second signing with another 10 in 2023.

The MoA is designed to bridge the gap in construction, engineering skills, and expertise required for rehabilitating

damaged streets and roads in both towns and residential areas of the municipalities. What is now dubbed a RAL-Municipal Road Rehabilitation Programme further ensures that the identified roads are restored to former glory within a short period of time.

Hon. Deputy Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Parks Tau, who attended the recent event on behalf of national government emphasised that government initiatives such as the DDM are key to realising meaningful results on the ground.

He added that, “As government we will be developing an enabling legislation to further make the DDM a results driven programme that benefits everyone thereby leaving no one behind. This initiative is a ground-breaking one that will ensure services

are delivered to the people of the province of Limpopo, especially in road infrastructure.”

When delivering her speech, RAL Shareholder Representative and MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, who represented the Limpopo Premier, emphasised the Limpopo Provincial Government’s dedication to delivering tangible results to its citizens.

“This event is a continuation of the building blocks that affirm the Limpopo Provincial Government as one that acts on its promises

intervention programme have expressed their anticipation for positive changes.

Cllr Thamaha Mamanyoha, Mayor of Greater Letaba Local Municipality said, “My municipality is looking forward to utilising this kind of intervention programme to fix our internal roads so that we can benefit economically from good roads.”

Cllr Sarah Rambuda, Mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality added, “Our internal roads and streets will be repaired, ensuring smooth travel for everyone. We are truly grateful for this intervention programme initiated by RAL.”



**“WE HOPE THAT THE SIGNING OF THESE MoAs WITH LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES WILL ADVANCE OUR ULTIMATE GOAL OF DEVELOPING AND IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF OUR ROADS EVEN FURTHER.”**

Mr Matome Ralebipi, Chairperson of RAL Board of Directors (above), and Hon. Deputy Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Parks Tau (right) highlight the importance of state organs working together to enhance service delivery.




to its citizens. We hope that the signing of these MoAs with local municipalities will advance our ultimate goal of developing and improving the conditions of our roads even further.”

The Chairperson of RAL Board of Directors, Mr Matome Ralebipi highlighted the positive impact of the programme, emphasising the tangible benefits communicated by beneficiaries whose municipalities were party to the first memorandum of agreement.

The 12 local municipalities that benefited from the initial MoA included Polokwane, Thabazimbi, Collins Chabane, Fetakgomo-Tubatse, Elias Motsoaledi, Bela-Bela, Musina, Ba-Phalaborwa, Modimolle–Mookgophong, Ephraim Mogale, Mogalakwena, and Makhado.

Mayors whose municipalities are set to benefit from this

The ten municipalities identified as beneficiaries for the recent MoAs include Lepelle-Nkumpi, Thulamela, Molemole, Blouberg, Greater Tzaneen, Greater Letaba, Greater Giyani, Maruleng, Lephalale, and Makhuduthamaga Local Municipalities.

By the end of the 2023/2024 financial year, RAL will have supported all 22 local municipalities across Limpopo’s five districts, marking a transformative milestone in the province’s road infrastructure service delivery efforts. 



 Scan the QR Code to watch this story.



# A MAJOR BOOST FOR ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICE DELIVERY AS MEC RAKGOALE UNVEILS NEW 25 GRADERS AND 17 LIGHT DELIVERY VEHICLES

**R**oad infrastructure service delivery in Limpopo received a major boost with the introduction of new plant equipment and light delivery vehicles. The Hon. MEC for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale handed over the new fleet to district representatives in her department, responsible for the various cost centres in the province at a ceremony held recently.

During her 2023/24 budget vote, the MEC had committed to the purchase of new fleet which she indicated was aimed at fast-tracking service delivery in the province, ensuring the regular maintenance of gravel roads.

According to the MEC, the old and dilapidated plant had been breaking down more often, affecting the envisioned turnaround time to maintenance of the province's unpaved road assets.

The event, also attended by the Acting Head of Department for LDPWRI, Mr Motlanke Daddy Phukuntsi, representatives of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) - responsible for managing and controlling Limpopo's road network - marked the unveiling of 25 graders, one excavator, and 17 light delivery vehicles. These vehicles will replace aged equipment in 36 cost centres across Limpopo's five districts, significantly contributing to the improvement and maintenance of the province's road network.

In her speech during the handover ceremony, MEC Rakgoale emphasised the significant role of the fleet in Limpopo's road infrastructure development, stating, "These vehicles are critical instruments in the hands of government, to contribute to uplifting the lives of our citizens. From now onwards, excuses related to plant breakdowns will be a thing of the past."

MEC Rakgoale expressed the department's unwavering commitment to enhancing service delivery, particularly in road infrastructure maintenance. "The fleet showcases our




MEC for LDPWRI, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale states that the acquisition of 25 graders and 17 light delivery vehicles will eliminate excuses for neglecting gravel roads and improve general road maintenance.

Newly acquired fleet to aid in road maintenance across all 36 cost centres in Limpopo's five districts.



dedication to service delivery - serving our people and fostering economic prosperity in our province."

In addition to the new fleet, MEC Rakgoale revealed that the department has recently hired 26 driver operators and nine extra heavy-duty operators. "These personnel have joined our team at the 36 cost centres across the province. Their addition is expected to have a positive impact on the maintenance of roads that are in poor condition."

She further informed those in attendance about the recent road infrastructure work done by the department and RAL. "It's important to recognise that both the department and RAL have made noticeable improvements in the maintenance, rehabilitation, and upgrading of both completed and ongoing road projects," MEC Rakgoale highlighted. 

**"THESE VEHICLES ARE CRITICAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE HANDS OF GOVERNMENT, TO CONTRIBUTE TO UPLIFTING THE LIVES OF OUR CITIZENS. FROM NOW ONWARDS, EXCUSES RELATED TO PLANT BREAKDOWNS WILL BE A THING OF THE PAST."**

# LIMPOPO GOVERNMENT AT WORK

## AS MEC RAKGOALE LEADS VARIOUS ROAD PROJECT HANDOVERS ACROSS THE PROVINCE

Limpopo Province continue to strive for a balance between upgrading new roads from gravel to tar and maintaining the existing ones. Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, the MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), has been handing over several projects to communities and contractors for implementation.

The handover of projects in the Mopani District included Phase 2 of the rehabilitation of road D1909 in the Maruleng Local Municipality, covering a 6km stretch. This follows the completion of Phase 1, a 6km segment on the same road in Timbavati, Hoedspruit, a vital road for supporting Hoedspruit's Eastgate Airport. The 17km stretch of the road requiring maintenance will be rehabilitated in phases to



MEC for LDPWRI, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale (on the right), along with various stakeholders including Cllr Thamaha Mamanyoha, Mayor of Greater Letaba Municipality and RAL representatives, says that the time for speeches is over, now is the time to get hands dirty and build quality, sustainable roads for the people of Limpopo.



Communities across Limpopo express gratitude for RAL's proactive communication and engagement regarding road projects.

ensure smooth traffic flow for frequent road users and businesses in the area.

In the Capricorn District, MEC Rakgoale, in partnership with RAL, initiated the upgrading of roads D4090, D4093, D4094, and D4096 (Malemati roads) within Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality from gravel to tar. The total length of the entire road stretch is 28.29km, with the contractor focusing on Phase 1, covering a total of 3km.

Additionally, in Mopani, the construction of the road upgrade for D3734 in the Greater Letaba Local Municipality, connecting Roerfontein (Wholesale), Ga-Raphahlelo, and


Moreover, roads D3674 and 3675 from Mutele to Folvohodwe to Nwanedi Nature Reserve to road P135/1 within Musina Local Municipality are also earmarked for upgrading from gravel to tar. Phase 1 of the project will cover a 5km stretch, including upgrades of all related structures.

MEC Rakgoale, recognising the constraints of the budget, has assured Limpopo communities that the Limpopo Provincial Government is dedicated to tackling the road infrastructure backlog to the extent possible within the available resources.

She also stressed that the contractors should perform thorough and careful work on the roads that have been handed over to ensure they remain in good condition for many decades to come. "As a government, we face an issue with contractors delivering substandard work, which harms our reputation in communities. We will work closely with all stakeholders to oversee the road projects to ensure the quality agreed upon is maintained," MEC Rakgoale issued a stern warning, urging contractors to aspire to the highest standards.

In all these launched projects, provisions have been made for employing local labourers and sub-contracting of local SMMEs to empower communities.

MEC Rakgoale and her team are planning visits to Sekhukhune and Waterberg Districts in the near future to hand over road projects, initiating maintenance, upgrading, and road design work.

Under the leadership of MEC Rakgoale, RAL has launched several projects across the length and breadth of the Limpopo Province. The projects implementation is aimed at ultimately driving efficiency, safety and economic development for communities across the province. 

**"AS A GOVERNMENT, WE FACE AN ISSUE WITH CONTRACTORS DELIVERING SUBSTANDARD WORK, WHICH HARMS OUR REPUTATION IN COMMUNITIES. WE WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO OVERSEE THE ROAD PROJECTS TO ENSURE THE QUALITY AGREED UPON IS MAINTAINED."**

Ga-Phooko areas, will cover a 9.1km stretch in phases from gravel to tar, with Phase 1 being 3km.

In the Vhembe District, a Consulting Engineer has been appointed to conduct detailed designs for the upgrading of roads D3753, D3718, and D3778 from Malonga to Hanani to Tshimbupfe to Tswinga within Collins Chabane and Thulamela Local Municipalities. The designs for the 30km stretch in the Vuwani area are expected to be completed within 12 months under RAL's management.

# STRATEGISING FOR THE FUTURE



RAL Board of Directors and RAL Management convene regularly in an effort to consistently improve road infrastructure service delivery mechanisms.

**R**oads Agency Limpopo's (RAL) Board of Directors led by Mr Matome Ralebipi held a two-day Strategic Planning Session, where they reflected on the achievements and challenges of the previous financial years and developed plans for improvement.

Joined by the MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, the session covered various topics, including RAL's performance, and its five-year strategy.

In her address at the session, MEC Rakgoale highlighted the pivotal role roads play in the Limpopo communities' daily lives and the economic growth of the province. She commended RAL for its accelerated implementation of road

projects compared to the previous financial years, which she has previously identified as an area of concern, whilst simultaneously stressing the need for continuous improvement. "There is no room for complacency. We must keep enhancing our efforts as more people still need better roads," emphasised MEC Rakgoale.

Recognising RAL's successful collaborations with municipalities, which have positively impacted various communities and road users, enhancing their overall driving experiences, the MEC further urged the Board and RAL Management to focus on improving the audit opinion in the upcoming financial year to achieve a clean audit.

RAL Board Chairperson, Mr Matome Ralebipi,



RAL CEO Mr Gabriel Maluleke expresses satisfaction as the Agency successfully attains the majority of its annual targets in the 2022/23 financial year, effectively utilising the allocated budget to improve lives of the people of Limpopo.

presented a comprehensive report on the previous financial year's performance.

He also applauded his management team for efficiently utilising the budget, despite challenges such as human capacity. He emphasised that no funds were returned to the Provincial Treasury, aligning with Hon. MEC Rakgoale's call for maximum spending of allocated resources.

Mr Maluleke underscored that the demand for roads far exceeds the available budget and in the same vein expressed gratitude to the private sector for their invaluable partnerships. "The substantial contributions from the mining industry to Limpopo's road infrastructure development have significantly reduced the road infrastructure backlog in the province. As an Agency of government which relies heavily on grants from Provincial Treasury, we advocate for intensified collaboration and a stronger commitment to increased private sector involvement," the CEO stated.

The session was also tasked with identifying what worked and what did not work in the previous financial year and identified possible interventions to improve efficiency.

**“There is no room for complacency. We must keep enhancing our efforts as more people still need better roads.”**

RAL Board Chairperson, Mr Matome Ralebipi (left), and MEC for LDPWRI, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale (right), applaud RAL's progress in enhancing the Limpopo road network in the previous financial year, but emphasise that there is still room for improvement.

acknowledged the challenges faced in the previous financial year. However, he emphasised that despite the existing hurdles, the Agency successfully achieved several of its targets.

Ralebipi added: "It is important that people get to see the road construction work being carried out across the province by RAL as this will continue to inspire hope of Limpopo residents."

Speaking about the vital role of Research and Development (R&D) in optimising available resources to construct high-quality roads cost-effectively, Ralebipi highlighted the significance of partnerships with tertiary institutions in realising this objective.

RAL's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Gabriel Maluleke,



The plenary unanimously agreed that more focus should be placed on improving the audit opinion in the next financial year, with the aim of obtaining a clean audit. They also emphasised the need to work diligently on targets that were not met in the previous financial year. **m**

# **RAL STRENGTHENS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS FOR IMPROVED COLLABORATION ON ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**



Limpopo Premier, Hon. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha urges government officials to prioritise service delivery, to enhance the lives of the people of Limpopo.

**A**s part of ongoing stakeholder engagement efforts, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) actively engaged with various stakeholders through community-driven initiatives in the province. These programmes, Provincial Government Capricorn District Development Model Imbizo and the Public Service Commission's Citizens Forum, and apprising of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) about the Agency's projects, exemplify RAL's commitment to fostering collaboration and transparency in its operations.

The Capricorn DDM Imbizo brought together the Provincial Executive and communities in the Capricorn District, at Ga-Mankgodi within Blouberg Local Municipality. During the Imbizo, the Executive shared insights into the ongoing service delivery initiatives, creating a platform for dialogue between the public and political principals responsible for various departments. Limpopo Premier, Hon. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, addressing the gathering, assured the community that their concerns would be diligently evaluated, emphasising government's dedication to effective service delivery.

"I can assure you that all these concerns have been captured and I will be referring to them when I evaluate the performance of the Provincial Executive. I urge you to also acknowledge the good that your government has achieved to this end," implored Hon. Premier Mathabatha.

Meanwhile, PSC's Citizens Forum focused on public servants taking the communities in Tshitale within the

Vhembe District into their confidence about the work being done within the district. Acting as a Premier during the Citizens Forum, Hon. MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Basikopo Makamu reiterated the government's commitment to being people-centred and its endeavour to adhering to the Batho Pele Principles, highlighting the importance of addressing community concerns promptly.

"The stakeholder engagement initiatives such as these play a crucial role in promoting citizen participation in service delivery matters. They serve as proactive measures to keep the public informed about ongoing plans in public service," added Hon. MEC Makamu.

Hon. MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale emphasised the pivotal role of roads in enhancing socio-economic conditions for communities during her departmental update.

In addition to these forums, RAL also had a chance to apprise the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) about the road infrastructure work being done during a visit to various of its projects. The NCOP delegation inspected RAL projects along road D4, witnessing first-hand the ongoing efforts to restore a 100km stretch to its former drivable condition. Another project visited during the NCOP week-long visit to Limpopo was roads D3187 and D3843 where RAL upgraded 3km and have since sought collaboration with SANRAL to proceed with the entire 32km stretch of roads from Mageva to Makhuva in the Mopani District.

RAL's active participation in these stakeholder engagement programmes exemplifies its commitment to open communication, transparency and community-driven development. As RAL continues its efforts to enhance road infrastructure, these initiatives serve as beacons of collaboration and shared responsibility in building a better future for Limpopo communities. 

**"I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT ALL THESE CONCERNS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED AND I WILL BE REFERRING TO THEM WHEN I EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVES. I URGE YOU TO ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GOOD THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS ACHIEVED TO THIS END."**



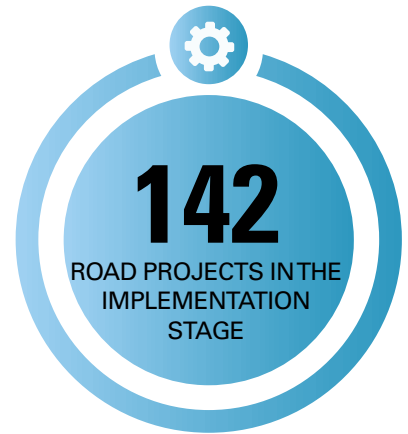
RAL was an integral part of the Limpopo Provincial Government delegation, attentively addressing service delivery concerns from local communities.

# RAL AT WORK COMPLETED PROJECTS

**R**oads Agency Limpopo (RAL) remains in the forefront of transformative road infrastructure development in the province, showcasing an unwavering commitment to Limpopo's road network restoration. With numerous completed maintenance projects and new projects in planning and design, RAL is coordinating a comprehensive repair of Limpopo's road infrastructure. Currently overseeing more than 236 projects of which 94 are under design and 142 in

the implementation stages, the Agency's impact is evident in every district of the province.

Each district bears witness to the tangible results of this dedication, with smoother, more reliable roads fostering improved connectivity. As RAL continues to steer the province towards enhanced road infrastructure, the ongoing projects are poised to make a lasting impact, bolstering economic prospects and elevating the overall quality of life for the people of Limpopo.



*Note: Mmileng readers should be aware that some of the (before) and (after) photographs were taken from different locations of the roads depicted. In simple terms, a photograph used to illustrate the before scenario may not be the exact one used for the after scenario in terms of location.*

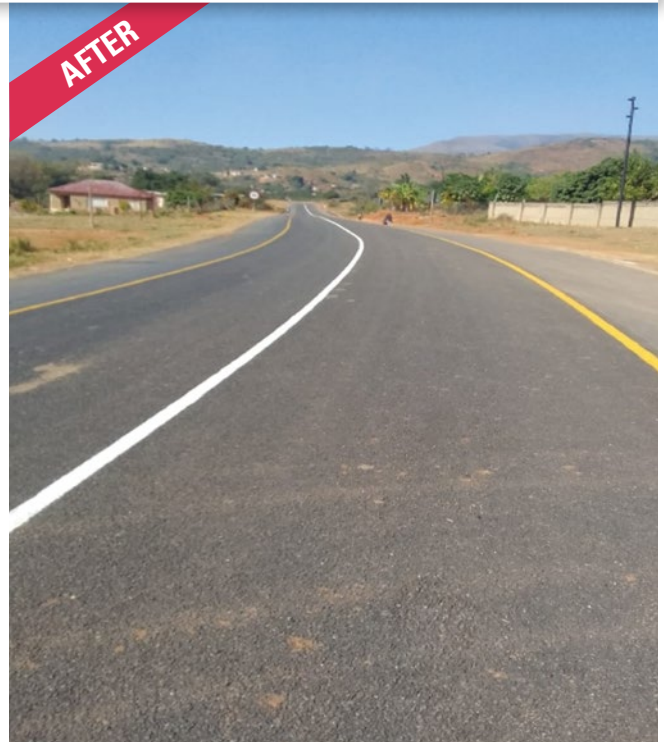
## CAPRICORN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

The second phase of the rehabilitation of road D688 Bylsteel within Polokwane Local Municipality makes travelling to tourism desitnations and game farms easier. The farming community also effortlessly transports its agricultural produce to the nearby City of Polokwane.



## MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

The second phase of rehabilitation of road D3873 from Bokgaga to Lephephane that connects numerous communities in Mogoboya and Maake Villages has been completed to the delight of residents within Greater Tzaneen Municipality.



## SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

The phase 2 rehabilitation of road P51/3 facilitates seamless day-to-day activities for community members around Magagamatala and nearby villages in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, providing improved connectivity between Stoffberg and Groblersdal.



Continue on page 18

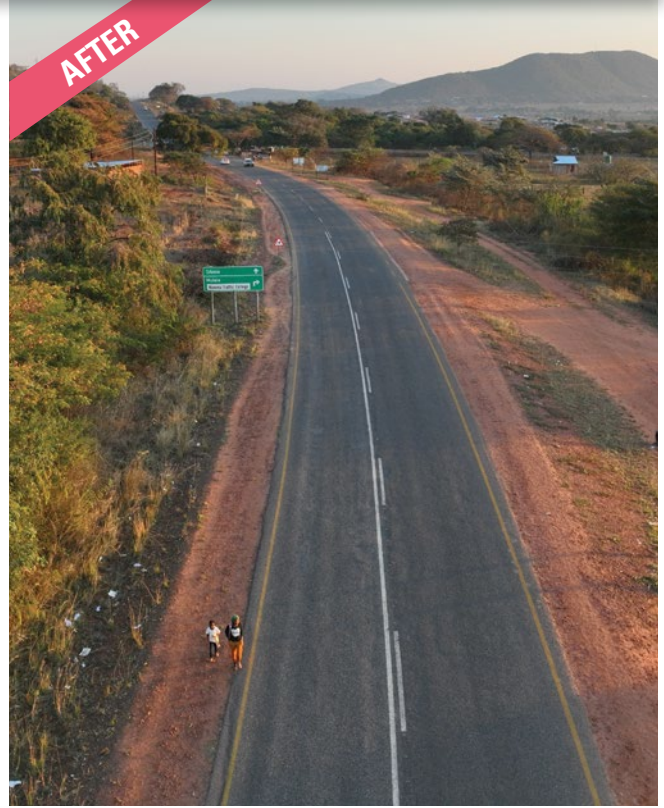
# COLLINS CHABANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Collins Chabane Local Municipality formed part of the Agency's MoA with municipalities. Through this initiative, several streets within the municipality have been refurbished to the joy of the residents.



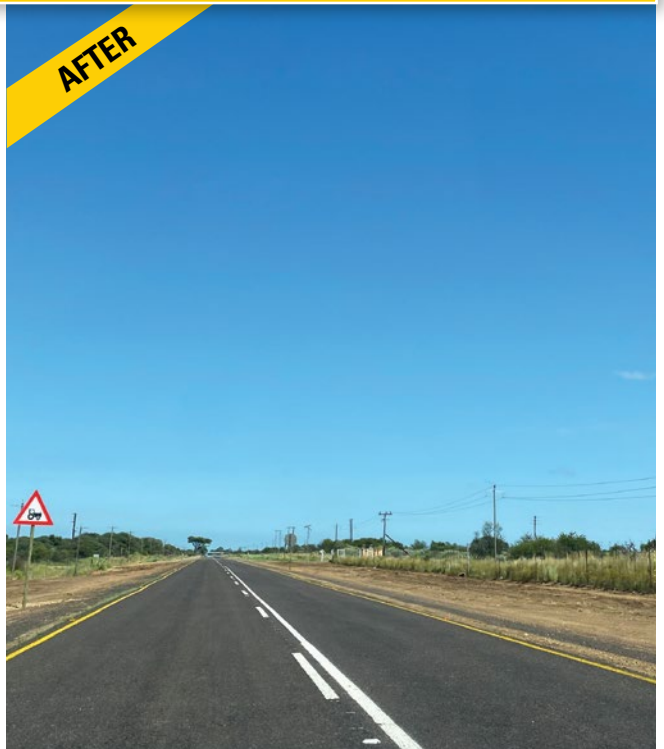
## VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Road P277/1, extending from road P135/1 in Masisi to Thohoyandou, facilitates easier access to the Vhembe economic centre for both commuters and motorists. RAL has recently concluded the second phase of the project in the Musina Local Municipality.



## WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

RAL completed the second phase of the preventative maintenance of road D626 from Pienaars Rivier towards Rust de Venter making travelling within Bela-Bela Local Municipality more easier for the motorists and farms adjacent to the road.



# SHORT BUT TALL

## *at heart and mind*

RAL'S SENIOR MANAGER: HUMAN RESOURCES  
AIMS TO CREATE AN UNMATCHED IDENTITY FOR  
THE AGENCY'S HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

**A**t the forefront of identifying suitable human capital to deliver one of the most sought-after services in Limpopo Province on behalf of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), is the short but tall at heart and mind, Ms Mbalenhle Daisy Kenny.

From a distance, many mistake her as weak. The closer they get the more shock they experience, of her strong personality, character and knowledge. As the Senior Manager: Human Resources (HR) at RAL, having joined the Agency earlier this year (2023), she brings not only a wealth of knowledge and experience but has a deep passion for creating systems and ensuring the well-being of the workforce.

Born in 1989 at Witbank, Mpumalanga, Kenny's journey serves as the epitome of constant personal growth and development. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, earning a BA in Industrial Psychology and Industrial Sociology. She further pursued a BCom honours in Industrial Psychology and is currently studying towards obtaining a Master of Engineering Management (Industrial Engineering Professional), demonstrating her dedication to continuous learning and professional growth.

Growing up, Kenny had a range of career aspirations. She

recalls that she initially considered a career in modelling, but her height proved to be a challenge. She then turned her attention to long-distance running, which saw her on her way to breaking into the professional level. However, her studies and her desire to become a psychologist eventually took precedence, leading her on the path to human resources.

Her journey into HR was driven by her love for people and systems, as well as her desire to play an active role in achieving the mission and vision of organisations. In her role at RAL, Kenny plays a pivotal role in connecting activities and resources to

***“At RAL, HR initiatives align with the organisation’s core values and long-term goals. Our policies and practices promote diversity, teamwork, and innovation.”***

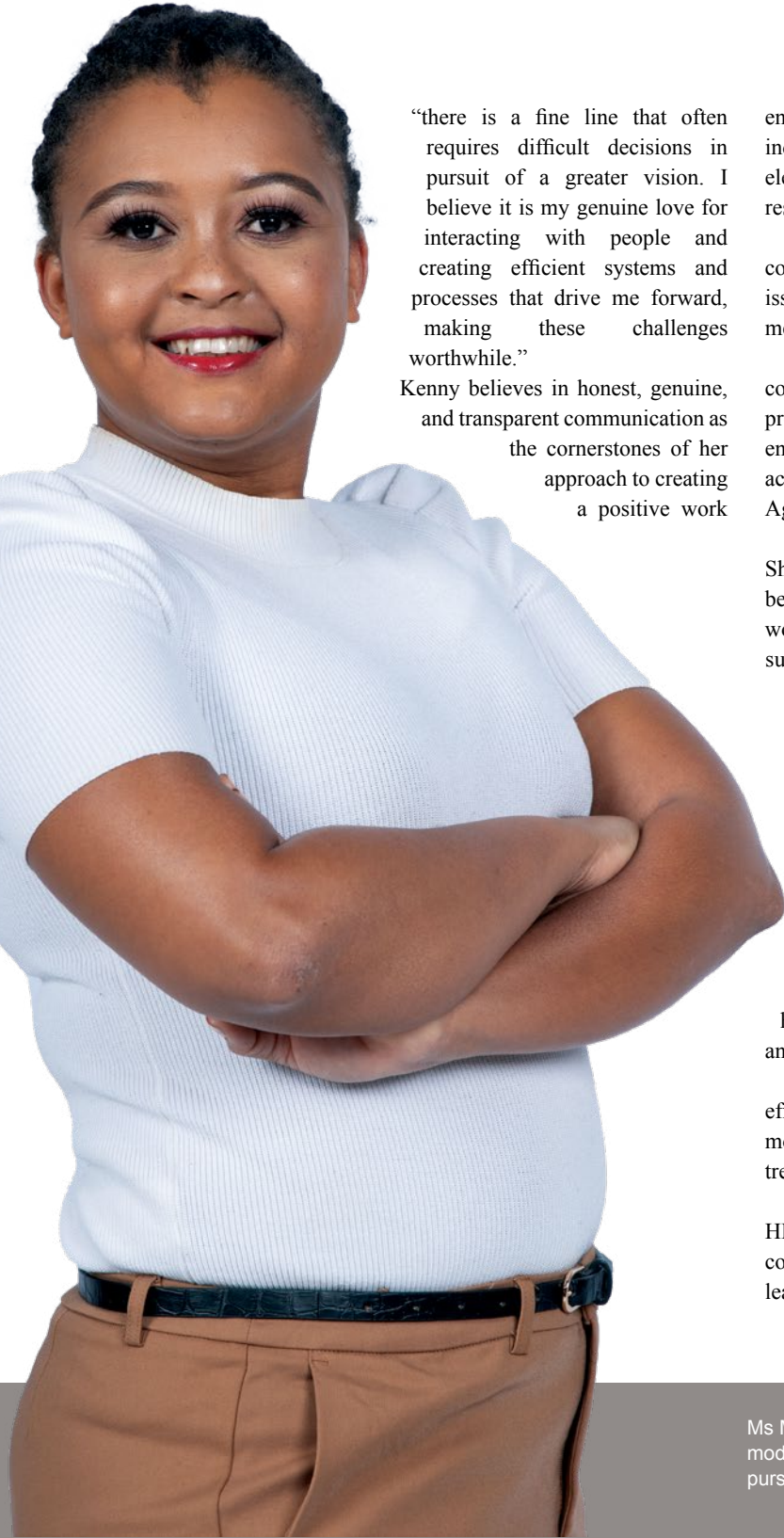
support the Agency's mission. From talent acquisition and skills development to organisational development, her role contributes significantly to RAL's overall success.

Challenges are an integral part of any HR manager's role, and Kenny faces the ongoing challenge of balancing what is best for the organisation with what is best for the people. As she puts it,

Ms Mbalenhle Daisy Kenny,  
Senior Manager: Human Resources  
at RAL is geared to make the Agency the  
employer of choice.



*“There is a fine line that often requires difficult decisions in pursuit of a larger vision. I believe it is my genuine love for interacting with people and creating efficient systems and processes that drive me forward, making these challenges worthwhile.”*



“there is a fine line that often requires difficult decisions in pursuit of a greater vision. I believe it is my genuine love for interacting with people and creating efficient systems and processes that drive me forward, making these challenges worthwhile.”

Kenny believes in honest, genuine, and transparent communication as the cornerstones of her approach to creating a positive work

environment. She emphasises the importance of mutual respect and individuals finding their purpose in life. According to her, these elements are crucial for fostering a positive work environment and resolving employee related challenges.

She states that employee well-being is a growing concern, and confirms that RAL’s HR department is actively addressing this issue. “The entity holds quarterly wellness initiatives focused on mental and physical well-being as part of addressing this concern.”

She adds: “At RAL, HR initiatives align with the organisation’s core values and long-term goals. Our policies and practices promote diversity, teamwork, and innovation. By creating an enabling environment that prioritises transparency, efficiency, accountability, and commitment, HR effectively supports the Agency’s vision.”

Her professional journey has been both diverse and dynamic. She began her career as a recruiter for a recruitment agency before joining the property management industry, where she worked in generalist HR roles. Her career has covered areas such as Talent Management, Transformation, Performance Management, Employee Wellness, Change Management, and Employee Relations. Before joining RAL, she served as the Acting HR Manager for the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC).

In her spare time, Kenny enjoys outdoor activities like running, hiking, and even skydiving.

Her motto in life, “Shoot for the moon; if you miss, you will land among the stars,” reflects her ambitious and positive outlook on life.

Kenny’s ethos revolve around her faith and a deep belief that everything happens because it is allowed by a higher power. She underscores the importance of respecting one another, ourselves, and the environment in all endeavours.

In her message to the youth, Kenny advises that “consistent effort and small wins lead to the realisation of dreams. In life money is not the ultimate goal, knowledge and skills are the true treasures.”

Being in the driver’s seat for the HR unit at RAL, her impact on HR and the organisation is anticipated in not only inspiring commitment but also one that stands to be reflective of the kind of leadership that drives positive change and success. **m**

Ms Mbalenhle Daisy Kenny initially contemplated a career in modelling, but her passion for connecting with people led her to pursue a career in human resources.

# 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.

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

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

**RAL**

ROADS AGENCY  
**LIMPOPO**  
TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS





From left: MEC for LDPWRI, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale, RAL CEO Mr Gabriel Maluleke, Mr Dennis Modise, Palabora Mining Company Executive, and Ba-Phalaborwa Mayor, Cllr Merriam Malatji, strengthen the strategic partnership aimed at improving several key roads in Phalaborwa.

# RAL AND PMC PARTNER TO IMPROVE ROADS IN PHALABORWA

**T**hrough its strategic partnership, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) has signed yet another Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), with Palabora Mining Company (PMC), for the rehabilitation and upgrade of several

roads within Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality, Mopani District. This initiative aims to enhance efficient transportation and driving for the community and local businesses.

This road infrastructure development partnership will ensure



MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale



RAL Chief Executive Officer, Mr Gabriel Maluleke



Mr Dennis Modise, Palabora Mining Company, Executive

the upgrading of road D3786 Mashishimale and the rehabilitation of road D4424 Matikoxikaya-Lulekani including road D3786 Maseke-Mashishimale. Jointly funded at R205 million, the project will also create job opportunities and support local businesses.

The MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale who led RAL during the SOD Turning Ceremony for the project, commended the collaboration between RAL and PMC for being a groundbreaking initiative. She emphasised that there are always positive outcomes when government and private sector work together.

MEC Rakgoale also highlighted the need for action, stating, “We appreciate this commitment between RAL and PMC in improving road infrastructure in Phalaborwa, but what matters most is to see the work commence. The time for speeches is gone; people want to see action and tangible results. It’s time for action!” MEC urged.

**“WE APPRECIATE THIS COMMITMENT BETWEEN RAL AND PMC IN IMPROVING ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN PHALABORWA, BUT WHAT MATTERS MOST IS TO SEE THE WORK COMMENCE. THE TIME FOR SPEECHES IS GONE; PEOPLE WANT TO SEE ACTION AND TANGIBLE RESULTS. IT’S TIME FOR ACTION!”**

Phalaborwa will generate economic benefits for the town and communities both during and after the construction.”

In urging government and private sector to work together Modise added that, “We have seen the need to partner with Roads Agency Limpopo, realising that together we can do more in improving service delivery, particularly in road infrastructure.”

Ba-Phalaborwa Mayor, Cllr Merriam Malatji, welcomed the development, stating how improved roads would enhance the flow of goods and services in the area.

“The envisaged improved roads would benefit not only businesses to transport their produce and access markets but also the entire community, ensuring safer and faster travel for everyone,” she explained.

RAL Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Gabriel Maluleke, expressed excitement about the partnership, highlighting its potential to help in addressing road infrastructure challenges in the province. He added, “Once the project is completed, the affected residents

Involvement in road infrastructure projects is not foreign to PMC, they have previously financed the phase-two construction of a three-kilometre road on D3260 in Selwane and also extended a three-kilometre stretch on the Selwane-Eiland road in Ba-Phalaborwa as part of the mine’s social responsibility initiatives.

Mr Dennis Modise from PMC highlighted their commitment to the community of Ba-Phalaborwa and the local economy. He expressed their dedication to supporting communities beyond their legal obligations and explained the economic benefits that the road rehabilitation and upgrading project would bring to Phalaborwa.

He remarked, “Through this collaboration with RAL, rehabilitating and upgrading approximately 40 kilometres of roads in

will drive safely and efficiently.”

RAL has sought strategic partnerships as an approach to augment the province’s road infrastructure delivery by soliciting more funds to further develop the provincial road network. Through collaborations with mining and agricultural companies, RAL has raised over R1 billion for the province’s road infrastructure delivery.

The PMC partnership comes after RAL’s recent agreements, including one with Northam Platinum Limited for the surfacing of road D2357 and the restoration of a low-water bridge in Thabazimbi Local Municipality. Additionally, RAL entered into another agreement with a group of eight mining companies operating in the Sekhukhune District for the construction of the Steel Bridge at Ga-Malekane. **m**

# #RALatWork

Complaints and Compliments

The image displays a collection of social media content related to the Roads Agency Limpopo. At the top, there are three social media icons: Instagram (purple), Twitter (blue), and Facebook (blue). Below these are three devices showing social media posts:

- Instagram:** A post from 'roadsagencylimpopo' featuring the #RALatWork hashtag. Comments include: 'simonkgapa Job Welldone MEC' (2w), 'tshepophillemon Very proud of RAL 🙌🙌' (3w), and 'zakeshuma Le tla neng ko Moletjie? We have more gravel roads there than tarred roads.'
- Facebook:** A post from 'Roads Agency Limpopo' with 10,600 followers. It features a video of road construction. Comments include: 'Muphulusi Phanuel Mareda We have been waiting for this', 'Mrex MG Mudau Good news', 'Gipqa Mathebula Good news', 'Masilo Ngwashemogolo Lephala... 9w Like Reply', 'Farrax Shoks We appreciated the good work but the road has too many unnecessary speed humps', and 'Matome Justice Great work by RAL'.
- Twitter:** A tweet from 'Roads Agency Limpopo' with 5,744 posts. Replies include: 'Lucky Kganyago Manam... · 02 Aug : Replying to @RoadsAgency Great work indeed...' and 'Tumelo Mashasha @KUL... · 09 Oct : Replying to @RoadsAgency Please visit the road between Marulaneng and Kromkloof (Thutwane), and see the problem we facing when travelling on that road'.

A blue penguin mascot is holding a sign that says '10 600 Followers'.



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RoadsAgency



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Roads Agency Limpopo

# MINTIRHO YA VULAVULA

As the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) completes the construction of phase one of the 5km stretch of road D3278 between Blouberg Hospital and Buffelshoek Clinic from gravel to tar, *Mmileng*, RAL's official quarterly publication, visited the area to listen to the feedback from road users. With certain sections of the road now open to traffic, the publication explores the positive impact of the road on the daily lives of the communities.

For more information about this road upgrade in the Capricorn District of Limpopo Province, ***please refer to page 28 of this publication.***

Mr George Lebang,  
*Bochum Taxi  
Association, from  
Bosehla village*



“

This road was difficult to drive on, especially when carrying passengers. It had many bumps and affected our cars, damaging them in a short space of time. The journey from Bochum (Senwabarwana) to the villages used to take an hour. With the new road, it now takes only 30 minutes or even less.

We are extremely happy with the improved travel experience because of this new tarred road. ”

Mr Alfred Motebele,  
*Deputy Principal,  
Radikgobethe Secondary  
School, Inveraan village*



“

Thanks to RAL for constructing this road, our journey to school is more convenient now. This benefits learners who are using scholar transport. The improved road has also made attending to school circuit matters including visits from circuit officials easier and the collection of exam papers much smoother. The situation was more challenging with the old road, but now things have

improved drastically. ”



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.

Mr Moloko Sekgaphola,  
*Employed at Blouberg  
Hospital, from Inveraan*



“

This road is now easy to navigate through, it often made me late for work, but now I'm always on time. There's a significant difference compared to when it was gravel. It used to have lots of stones and dongas caused by rain, making it impossible to drive at a speed higher than 20km/h or 40km/h. But now, it's smooth and allows us to travel at 60km/h.

We are grateful to RAL for their work on this road. ”

Ms Rosina Moroko,  
*Pedestrian, from Inveraan*



“

We are grateful for this tar road because the old road was difficult to travel on with its deep holes and stones, cars can now easily access the internal streets of Inveraan. Previously, when we needed to buy mielie meal from the local shops with our wheelbarrows, it was difficult to pass certain sections, but we can now effortlessly carry mielie meal home on our wheelbarrows

on this new road. ”



The construction of phase one of the 5km stretch on road D3278 between Blouberg Hospital and Buffelshoek Clinic, undertaken by Roads Agency Limpopo, is ensuring safer and more reliable transportation for six villages under the Bahananoa Traditional Authority.



# **KGOSHI MALEBOGO COMMENDS RAL**

**for road upgrade project  
boosting investor confidence in  
Bahananoa**

**K**goshi Isaac Malebogo, the leader of the Bahananoa Traditional Authority, has commended the ongoing construction of road D3278 by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) in Blouberg Local Municipality. Kgoshi Malebogo was delighted at the transformation of the road from gravel to tar considering how the road will significantly change the lives of his community once completed.

The construction of the 5km stretch of road is part of the first phase of the project between Blouberg Hospital and Buffelshoek Clinic, marking a significant step towards improving rural infrastructure. Having commenced in December 2022, this road project is not only re-writing the experiences of the Bahananoa community that previously had to endure a challenging route but has also improved access to essential services, effectively enhancing their quality of life.

The impact of the tarred road extends beyond connecting communities to a shopping complex in Senwabarwana and Polokwane. Kgoshi Malebogo recognises the road's potential to uplifting the community, saying, "The commuting experience for our people going to work and running errands has significantly improved. Businesses can now confidently invest in our area, with assurance that our government and RAL are committed to enhancing our road infrastructure."

He added that one of the benefits of this road construction project has been to witness local community members being employed during implementation. Furthermore, nearby shops now operate smoothly due to the newly tarred road. "We are pleased that RAL prioritised hiring local community members from the six villages concerned, which empowered their families. The improved accessibility of local businesses alongside the road holds promising prospects for our local economy," emphasised Kgoshi Malebogo.

Prior to the upgrade, the road was not conducive to drive on with defects such as deep holes and uneven and rough terrain, and impassable bridge which severely affected efficient transportation and access to vital facilities, particularly during the rainy seasons.



The construction of the Bosehla Bridge on road D3278, ensuring that road users can now cross to the other side throughout any season, a true illustration of connecting the people of Limpopo.

as dust obstructing visibility, flying stones causing vehicle damage, and soft soil-related issues have been alleviated since the road was tarred. Frequent road users have also praised the change, noting that crossing the Bosehla river and navigating muddy patches

**“Residents endured a prolonged journey instead of a quick driving experience due to the poor road conditions. The gravel road not only caused delays but also posed safety concerns and limited access to essential services and economic opportunities.”**

Stretching across six villages, the progress achieved so far on the D3278 road project is remarkable, with an impressive 90% completion status. The villages benefiting are Inveraan, Bosehla, Thalaane, Mafateng, Kwarung and Sesalong in Wards 7, 9 and 14 of the Blouberg Local Municipality, Capricorn District.

The scope of the project includes the upgrading from gravel to tar, installation of pipe and portal culverts, road furniture upgrades, and the construction of a pivotal bridge over the Bosehla river. A bridge that was once a burden during heavy rainfall is now being transformed into a seamless channel for connectivity.

Challenges faced by residents before the road being tarred such

during the rainy season used to be a nightmare. "Thanks to RAL's intervention, we can now travel with ease," said one of the road users.

Ward 14 Councillor, Ms Martha Molokomme emphasised the road's essential role in addressing long-standing travelling issues. She said: "Residents endured a prolonged journey instead of a quick driving experience due to the poor road conditions. The gravel road not only caused delays but also posed safety concerns and limited access to essential services and economic opportunities."

The project's Community Liaison Officer (CLO), Ms Sharlotte Monepya, echoed Kgoshi Malebogo's sentiments, highlighting that



Kgoshi Isaac Malebogo, the leader of the Bahananoa Traditional Authority, expresses appreciation to RAL for enhancing roads in his area.




Community Liaison Officer (CLO), Ms Shariotte Monepya, interacting with local labourers who have gained employment opportunities through the project.

the road project fostered growth and skills development through employment opportunities and the engagement of local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs).

The project's impact is widespread, with employment of 33 community members as labourers and involving 15 SMMEs that provided diverse sub-contracting services.

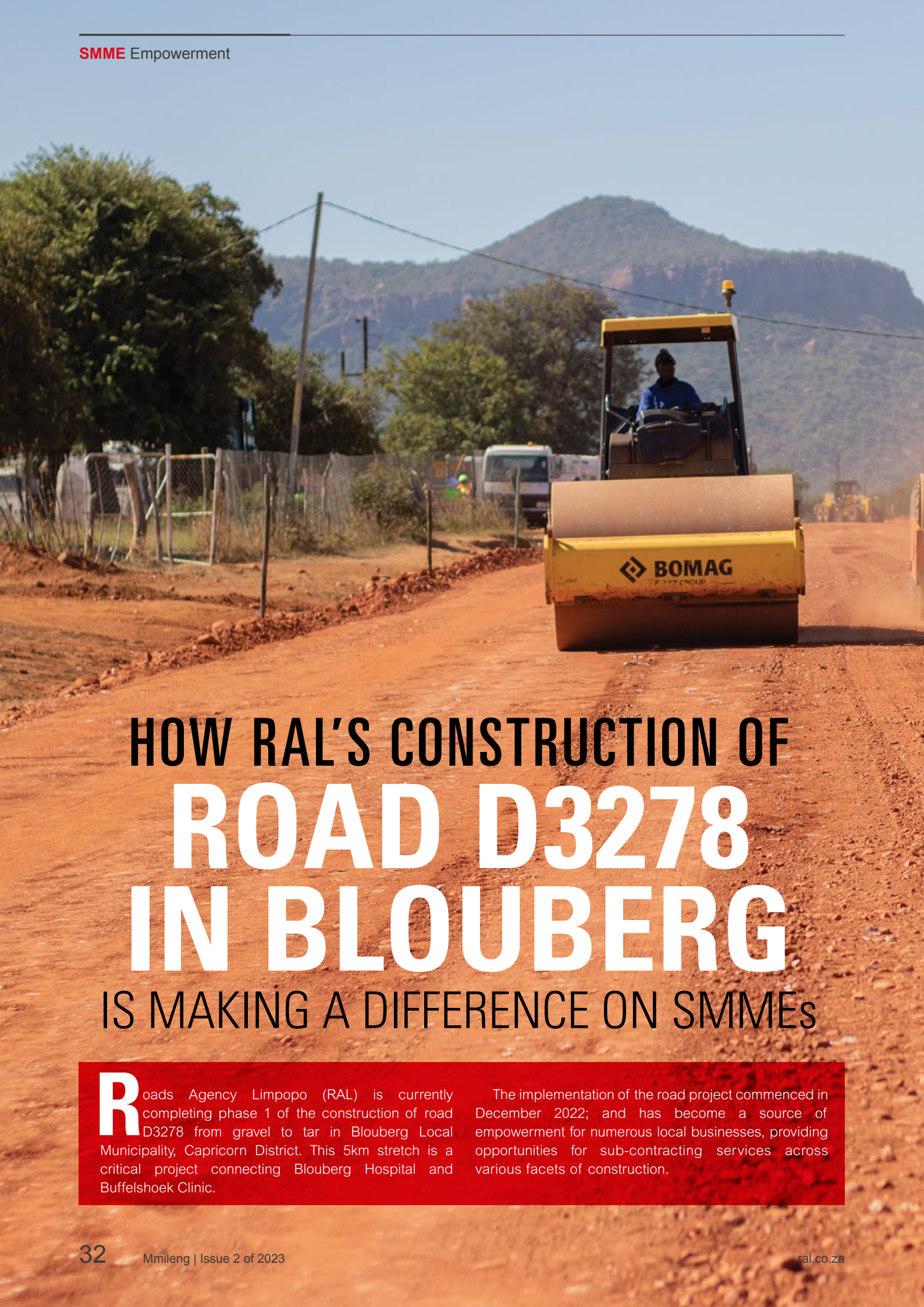
RAL's Project Manager, Ms Mamosadi Mankga, praised the

smooth progress of the project, attributing success to community and stakeholder support.

This transformation of road D3278 stands as a testament to how infrastructure upgrades can reshape lives and elevate communities. 



 Scan the QR Code to watch this story.



# HOW RAL'S CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD D3278 IN BLOUBERG IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON SMMEs

**R**oads Agency Limpopo (RAL) is currently completing phase 1 of the construction of road D3278 from gravel to tar in Blouberg Local Municipality, Capricorn District. This 5km stretch is a critical project connecting Blouberg Hospital and Buffelshoek Clinic.

The implementation of the road project commenced in December 2022; and has become a source of empowerment for numerous local businesses, providing opportunities for sub-contracting services across various facets of construction.



“My company is one of the sub-contracted firms for the edge beam work. One valuable skill we have acquired through this sub-contracting work is concrete casting. This road project has been a significant learning experience for us. As a result, our company has promising prospects for growth. We are immensely thankful to RAL for this opportunity. As a locally-based small business, we are empowered to create job opportunities and contribute to poverty alleviation in our village.”

**SMME from Bosehla Village,  
MR DONALD MONYEBOI,  
Director of DM Construction  
and Engineering Projects**



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“Bathalane Agri Produce and Projects was established in 2020, and before the RAL road project, we hadn’t secured any jobs. I am incredibly grateful for this first ever opportunity provided by RAL. Our company was sub-contracted for catering services and installation of guardrails. Since RAL contracted us for this project, more people have become aware of our catering services, leading to increased utilisation of our services. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to RAL for this chance, because it did not only afford us our first project but also brought us valuable exposure.”

**SMME from Thalaane Village,  
MS KOKETSO MNISI,  
Director of Bathalane Agri  
Produce and Projects**



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“This RAL project provided me with the opportunity to supply various plant equipment such as a TLB, dipper truck, and water cut. What I have learned as a young entrepreneur is that there are numerous opportunities available waiting for us to take-up. Supplying equipment for a large project like this has significantly boosted my company, leading to the improvement of my CIDB status from level one to level 4.”

**SMME from Kwarung Village,  
MR KATLEGO MAIFO,  
Director of Onalekat Holdings**



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Mary-Grace Whitehead, Miss Limpopo 2023, expresses her desire to see the youth empowered to take the baton in the future and move the country forward.

# Miss Limpopo 2023

## A CHAMPION FOR EDUCATION AND MENTAL HEALTH

**A** 21-year-old, Limpopo's 2023 beauty queen, Mary-Grace Whitehead, is not just a young graduate but also a passionate advocate for education and mental well-being.

Armed with a degree in psychology from the University of South Africa (Unisa) and a heart full of passion, Mary-Grace is on a mission to spread the message around the importance of holistic wellness for individuals, even beyond the borders of Limpopo. She hopes to create an army of followers to rally behind what she deems a significant cause.

Mary-Grace Whitehead's journey began in her hometown, Westenburg, in Polokwane, where she embarked on a path dedicated to promoting education and mental well-being. As a psychology graduate and CEO of Subtle Sentience, a start-up business she envisions to transform into a comprehensive wellness centre, she is making strides towards realising her vision.

She is the driving force behind the Mary-Grace Whitehead

Foundation, an organisation focusing on the educational and psychological journey of the youth. The foundation firmly believes in the transformative power for personal and societal development. One of its primary missions is to raise funds for first-year students' registration fees.

"Many bright young minds face the harsh reality of financial barriers to access higher education. The foundation's aim is to remove this obstacle by providing essential financial assistance for their initial steps into college or university," she shares.

*Many bright young minds face the harsh reality of financial barriers to access higher education. The foundation's aim is to remove this obstacle by providing essential financial assistance for their initial steps into college or university.*

Being Miss Limpopo is both an honour and a big responsibility for Mary-Grace. She sees it as a platform to represent her province and make a positive impact in her community and country at large. Mary-Grace's reign as Miss Limpopo Province has extended beyond the borders of Limpopo, leaving a lasting footprint at national events, including the Metro FM Awards, Durban July, and the annual South African Traditional Music Awards (SATMA).

The graduate in Psychology and Sociology views her

Mary-Grace Whitehead says her foundation's commitment is to empower youth through educational initiatives, enabling them to stand on their own.



qualification as an integral part of her work as Miss Limpopo Province 2023 and the aspirations of the Mary-Grace Whitehead Foundation.

“My plan is to implement evidence-based strategies for promoting mental well-being among the youth and in educational settings. The knowledge I accumulated as part of my studies becomes an asset in developing programmes and initiatives grounded in psychological and sociological principles to support the objectives of my foundation,” she accentuates.

Mary-Grace’s vision extends to her personal and professional aspirations. She plans to pursue an honours degree in Counselling Psychology, which will enhance her ability to make a greater impact in the field of mental health.

Additionally, Mary-Grace aspires to participate in Miss South Africa and Miss World competitions, aiming to expand her advocacy for youth empowerment, mental well-being, and education on a broader scale.

She commended RAL for its efforts to incorporate and create job opportunities for the youth in the engineering sector. “Providing employment and training opportunities for young people, particularly in fields like engineering, not only addresses unemployment but also contributes to the development and growth of the region,” she says.

Her vision for the future of Limpopo is characterised by progress, empowerment, and well-being. Some of her initiatives focus on key areas such as community development where she



Mary-Grace Whitehead and her mother, Ms Mosebudi Matlopela, the unwavering pillar of strength in her life.

and well-being of the people living in and travelling throughout the province.”

Mary-Grace’s journey is marked by memorable moments and successes that exemplify the core values and mission of the Mary Grace Whitehead Foundation. A few highlights include the School Shoe Donation, Roadshow Outreach and Fundraising Graduation Event. She continues to lobby support through donations, volunteerism, and sponsorships for some of the work she does across the province to make a meaningful impact.

Balancing diverse responsibilities, such as being Miss Limpopo Province 2023, leading Subtle Sentience, and managing the Mary-Grace Whitehead Foundation, is undoubtedly challenging.

“I relied more on my ability to prioritise, schedule and delegate amongst many other coping mechanisms to weather any storm that was presented by my various responsibilities,” she states.

She says effective time management allows her to fulfil various roles and commitments while maintaining a healthy work-life balance. “It’s a skill that is essential for making the most of each day and achieving my goals,” she adds.


Mary-Grace’s message to aspiring youth is clear: “Believe in yourself, pursue your passions with unwavering dedication, and never underestimate the power of your potential. Embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, keep learning, and stay true to your values. Your dreams are within reach; go after them with determination and resilience.”

*“I appreciate RAL for its continuous efforts to improve Limpopo roads and safety within the province. The Agency’s commitment to maintaining and upgrading road infrastructure is vital for the safety and well-being of the people living in and travelling throughout the province.”*

seeks to inspire community involvement, unity, and support amongst the people of Limpopo. Her roadshows and outreach initiatives aim to make a positive impact in disadvantaged communities. She envisions Limpopo as a province known not only for its natural beauty, but resilience, creativity, and potential which she aims to showcase through her participation in national competitions. Mary-Grace hopes to leave a legacy that contributes to the betterment of Limpopo and its residents, now and in the future.

Having travelled throughout the province as part of her Miss Limpopo programmes, the Polokwane based beauty queen praised RAL for improving the province’s road infrastructure. She says, “I appreciate RAL for its continuous efforts to improve Limpopo roads and safety within the province. The Agency’s commitment to maintaining and upgrading road infrastructure is vital for the safety

In addition to the title of Miss Limpopo, Mary-Grace has received several awards and honours throughout her journey. These include Miss Mitchell House Jnr 2016, Junior Slam Poetry Winner 2016, Miss Teen Fashionista 2019, Miss Mapungubwe 2018 Top 5, Miss Teen Sapa Yopa 2nd Princess 2016, and many others. These accolades have recognised her achievements and contributions in various areas, and she is grateful for the opportunities they have provided her.

In her spare time, Mary-Grace enjoys unwinding by watching television, specifically movies and series. Lately, she’s been actively trying to get back into reading for pleasure, recognising its ability to entertain and enrich the mind, which she finds incredibly rewarding. 



 Scan the QR Code to watch this story.

RAL's effective communication efforts have been commended by IRMSA, for ensuring safe, efficient, and transparent road infrastructure development in the Limpopo Province.



# ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO GIVEN THUMPS UP FOR RECOGNISING THE VALUE OF RISK MANAGEMENT



**T**he Institute of Risk Management South Africa (IRMSA) recently recognised RAL as one of the top-performing entities in the public sector in relation to mitigating risk in its operations.

The Agency was nominated as a finalist for the Best Risk Management Organisation in Government and Public Services category, along with the South African Reserve Bank (SARB), City of Cape Town and City of Johannesburg Municipalities. The recognition was highlighted during the week-long IRMSA Conference and Awards Ceremony held at Gallagher Convention Centre in celebration of the Institute’s 20 years of promoting excellence in risk management.

RAL’s nomination is a clear demonstration of its commendable efforts to ensure safe, efficient, and transparent road infrastructure development in the Limpopo Province through efficient communication. This approach helps the public sector to mitigate potential risks associated with road infrastructure projects, such as minimising possible protests due to lack of project updates, utilising internal communications to unite employees towards achieving common goals and in participating in transparent stakeholder engagements.

**“THIS RECOGNITION FROM IRMSA IS NOT ONLY A REFLECTION OF RAL’S ACCOMPLISHMENTS BUT ALSO A CALL TO ACTION FOR PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANISATIONS TO PRIORITISE RISK MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY AS THEY WORK TOWARDS THE BETTERMENT OF SOCIETY.”**

IRMSA is a respected professional body dedicated to promoting best practices in risk management across various sectors, including government, private industry, and academia. Established to enhance the understanding and implementation of risk management in South Africa, IRMSA has become the go-to authority for recognising organisations and individuals excelling in this field. Every year, it acknowledges the efforts of those who have gone above and beyond in integrating risk management into their operations.

According to Mr Komane Maphutha, RAL Senior Manager: Governance, Risk and Compliance, the Agency’s nomination by IRMSA is a testament to dedication to efficient risk management and transparent communication in the public sector. He added that RAL’s holistic approach to risk identification, assessment, and mitigation, coupled with its open communication with stakeholders, sets a commendable precedent for other government entities. “This recognition from IRMSA is not only a reflection of RAL’s accomplishments but also a call to action for public sector organisations to prioritise risk management and transparency as they work towards the betterment of society,” concluded Maphutha.

Meanwhile, Ms Maite Sefala, RAL’s Manager: Governance and Risk enjoyed the limelight in her individual capacity as she received recognition for her outstanding work in the field of risk management. She was officially conferred the designation of a Certified Risk Management Practitioner (CRM Prac) at the auspicious award ceremony. **m**



Ms Maite Sefala, RAL’s Manager of Governance and Risk, is now officially a Certified Risk Management Practitioner (CRM Prac).

# RAL PRIORITISES THE MENTAL, BODY, AND SOUL WELL-BEING of its female employees



RAL CEO, Mr Gabriel Maluleke (right), and Ms Khomotso Komape, founder of the non-profit organisation, Breaking Boundaries Women's Health Hub, inspire RAL's women with words of wisdom on prioritising their health during RAL Women's Wellness event.

In promoting the well-being of its employees, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) continues its commitment to fostering a healthy work environment. Recognising the essential connection between a healthy mind, body, soul and job performance, RAL recently held a Women’s Wellness event, aimed at creating awareness on women’s health to its female staff and ensuring their overall well-being. The event featured insightful discussions and activities related to women’s wellness.

Renowned speaker, Ms Khomotso Komape, founder of the non-profit organisation, Breaking Boundaries Women’s Health Hub, emphasised the importance of regular check-ups, including the yearly well-women exam, which provides an opportunity for women to discuss their health concerns with healthcare professionals. She also stressed the significance of staying physically active, maintaining a balanced diet, and focusing on mental health to cope with stress.

Komape further stated the vital role women play in the day-to-day activities of the family, citing that they should always be strong and healthy for everything to run smoothly.

“Women’s health is paramount, considering that women serve as the cornerstone of their households. It is crucial for them to prioritise their mental and physical well-being, not just for their own sake, but for the benefit of everyone in the family,” Komape advised.

Speaking during the event, RAL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr Gabriel Maluleke, highlighted that the Agency is dedicated to promoting employee wellness. He emphasised

the importance of individuals taking responsibility for their well-being, stating that RAL believes in the holistic health of its employees.

“RAL has always been committed to promoting employee wellness, and this event was part of this commitment. Employee wellness is an essential aspect of forming a healthy workplace, it is a crucial element to the success of any organisation. Recognising and prioritising employee wellness helps to create a positive work environment, and reduce absenteeism, whilst maximising productivity,” expressed CEO Maluleke.

RAL women appreciate their employer for not only valuing their job performance but also prioritising a healthy work-life balance.




“Recognising and prioritising employee wellness helps to create a positive work environment, and reduce absenteeism, whilst maximising productivity.”



RAL women sharing health tips and fostering a supportive community during their dedicated wellness day.

The event also received support from RAL’s male employees, demonstrating the Agency’s inclusive approach to employee well-being. Numerous female employees expressed gratitude for the event, noting that it served as a reminder about the importance of regular check-ups, including screenings for diseases such as breast cancer and cervical cancer amongst others.

This year’s Women’s Wellness event followed a similar initiative earlier in the year that focused on men’s health, specifically addressing mental well-being and prostate cancer that often affect men.

The health awareness events underscore the Agency’s genuine concern for the well-being of all its employees, affirming the belief that optimal physical and mental health for everyone at the Agency translates into improved productivity in the construction of the Limpopo provincial road network. 



# #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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