

MMILENG

ISSUE 3 OF 2024/25

WELCOME TO OUR ROAD NETWORK

PREMIER'S INAUGURAL SOPA

prioritises road infrastructure for economic growth and connectivity

THE EVOLUTION OF PLEASURE TŠA MANYALO

The voice powering South Africa's Wedding Anthems

Strengthening road infrastructure investment through **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

DELIGHT AS THREE VILLAGES

receive a tarred 10km road

Road infrastructure projects drive **SMME GROWTH IN LIMPOPO**

BIG INTERVIEW

At the Helm:
Piloting the infrastructure flight



OUR MISSION

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

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INFORMING ON LIMPOPO'S ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Mmileng continues to be an essential source of information on road infrastructure development in Limpopo, providing valuable insights into the progress and impact of our work across the province.

This edition covers the fourth quarter of the 2024/25 financial year, a period marked by severe floods that caused significant damage to Limpopo's road network. We highlight the crucial restoration efforts led by the Dikgerekgere team, under the leadership of the MEC for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Honourable Ernest Rachoene, working tirelessly to reconnect communities in affected areas.

We also reflect on key stakeholder engagements, including updates shared during discussions with the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, where major organisational aspects were discussed. Additionally, we shine a spotlight on the ongoing community outreach efforts by the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) leadership—Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Mr Moses Tseli, and Acting CEO, Mr Makhitha Chesane—who have been actively engaging with the public to address concerns about road development across the province.

A must-read in this issue is our feature of the State of the Province Address (SOPA), where the Honourable Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, outlines the priorities of the



Mr Danny Legodi
Senior Manager: Communications

7th Administration, with road infrastructure at the forefront of service delivery acceleration.

We also take you to Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, where the RAL at Work upgrade on road D4109 is improving connectivity between Mamatonya, Malatane, and Byldrift. A highlight of this 10km project is the construction of a major bridge over the Nkumpi River at Byldrift—another milestone in our mission to build a quality and sustainable road network.

Join us in congratulating Mr Motlhanke Phukuntsi on his appointment as Head of the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, RAL's shareholder department.

This edition also introduces the Readers' Corner, a platform for you to share your thoughts and experiences. Read how *Mmileng* readers engage with our stories and learn about the impact of RAL's projects in their communities. We also welcome your contributions—submit your views to mmileng@ral.co.za for a chance to be featured in our next edition.

I won't tell you how great this issue is—I'll let you decide as you explore the stories of service delivery, and commitment to connecting Limpopo's communities to economic opportunities and essential services.

"MMILENG CONTINUES TO BE AN ESSENTIAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN LIMPOPO, PROVIDING VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE PROGRESS AND IMPACT OF OUR WORK ACROSS THE PROVINCE."

WE **CONNECT** LIMPOPO...



Today, Limpopo boasts a developed road infrastructure network, ensuring reliable transportation of people and goods, thereby facilitating access into the rest of Africa.

RAL making it all happen...

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RAL

ROADS AGENCY
LIMPOPO
TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS

REFLECTIONS ON 2024/25 AND THE ROAD AHEAD

Road infrastructure is a cornerstone of economic growth. At Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) we remain steadfast in our commitment to enhancing connectivity and driving progress. Aligned with the province's revised Limpopo Development Plan (LDP 2025–2030), which provides a strategic framework for infrastructure development to accelerate economic expansion and social upliftment, RAL's role in shaping the province's future is significant.

As we conclude the 2024/2025 financial year, we reflect on the substantial strides made in improving Limpopo's road network. This journey has been marked by dedication, collaboration, and resilience—qualities that underpin our collective vision for a prosperous province.

Throughout the year, our focus has been on upgrading gravel roads to tar, constructing bridges and implementing preventative maintenance to extend the lifespan of existing roads. We have completed a substantial number of projects which we will be outlining in our annual report.

Beyond infrastructure development, our projects have served as a catalyst for job creation. Over the past three quarters of the 2024/2025 financial year, our road projects have generated 2,604 job opportunities, prioritising youth, women, and people with disabilities. In addition, 397 full-time equivalent positions have been established. These milestones reflect our commitment to poverty alleviation and economic empowerment, especially amidst rising living costs.

While challenges remain, our achievements would not have been possible without visionary leadership. We extend our



Mr Makhitha Chesane
Acting CEO: Roads Agency Limpopo

gratitude to our shareholder, Mr Ernest Rachoene, MEC for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure (LDPWRI). Despite fiscal constraints, MEC Rachoene has introduced strategic initiatives to ensure continued road accessibility, including #Dikgerekgere-Wednesday, which enhances the usability of gravel roads while sustainable funding solutions for tarring are explored.

Furthermore, his commitment to stakeholder engagements through Stakeholder Tuesdays—a platform which fosters dialogue with municipalities, community forums, businesses, the taxi industry, and road users—has strengthened partnerships and enhanced service delivery by keeping key stakeholders informed about rehabilitation and upgrade timelines.

We also recognise Mr Moses Tseli, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, whose extensive public service expertise has provided crucial guidance during uncertain times, ensuring that our objectives remain aligned with our mandate.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication of the RAL team. Their unwavering commitment to excellence continues to drive our mission forward. As we embark on the 2025/26 financial year, we remain confident that, together, we will build a lasting legacy of connectivity, economic growth, and prosperity for Limpopo.

"OVER THE PAST THREE QUARTERS OF THE 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR, OUR ROAD PROJECTS HAVE GENERATED 2,604 JOB OPPORTUNITIES, PRIORITISING YOUTH, WOMEN, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. IN ADDITION, 397 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED."



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RAL's

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



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PREMIER'S INAUGURAL SOPA

Prioritises road infrastructure for
economic growth and connectivity

In her inaugural State of the Province Address (SOPA), Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba outlined the key priorities for the 7th Administration, marking a pivotal moment since the advent of democracy. The central focus of her address was road infrastructure, which she identified as crucial to driving economic growth, improving service delivery, and enhancing community well-being.

Placing road service delivery at the forefront of her administration's agenda, Premier Ramathuba emphasised the crucial role a well-maintained road network plays in fostering economic development and creating an environment conducive to investment and job creation. She reaffirmed her commitment to addressing Limpopo's road infrastructure challenges aiming to improve connectivity and facilitate socio-economic progress.

The Premier also acknowledged the widespread calls from communities, amplified through social media and other platforms for better roads. Assuring residents that their concerns are being heard, she directed the Limpopo Department of Public

Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) and Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) to collaborate with the infrastructure cluster to address the province's road maintenance backlog.

"We understand that roads are vital for accessing essential services, workplaces, markets and schools. We have listened to the concerns of our people, and we are taking decisive action to address them," stated Dr Ramathuba, making history as the first woman to serve as Premier of Limpopo. To ensure a targeted and strategic approach, the Premier tasked the MEC for LDPWRI, Mr Ernest Rachoene with classifying and prioritising roads across the province, ensuring that resources are allocated to the most critical projects. This includes the maintenance of local, provincial, and national roads, with a focus on efficiency and urgent intervention.

The Premier also highlighted the significant setbacks caused by recent floods and heavy rains, which disrupted ongoing road maintenance and development efforts. "While we were making progress through initiatives like #DikgerekgereWednesdays, which focuses on maintaining 13,500 km of

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We understand that roads are vital for accessing essential services, workplaces, markets and schools. We have listened to the concerns of our people, and we are taking decisive action to address them.

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unpaved roads, and the pothole patching programme, which targets potholes on 6,500 km of tarred roads, the floods have presented a major challenge," she noted.

Despite these challenges, Dr Ramathuba assured communities that efforts to repair



Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, emphasised that roads are crucial in fostering economic development and creating an environment conducive to investment and job creation.



LEFT: RAL Chairperson of the Board of Directors Mr Moses Tseli (right), accompanied by Acting CEO Mr Makhitha Chesane, during the 2025 SOPA, to ensure the implementation of the Premier's road infrastructure initiatives.

BELOW: Limpopo MEC for Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, Mr Ernest Rachoene, speaking to the media on the sidelines of SOPA 2025 about the progress made in road infrastructure development since taking office.



roads and bridges will continue in collaboration with key stakeholders, including the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), South African National Defence Force (SANDF), and private sector. “Through these partnerships, we will rebuild our road network, ensuring it can withstand the impacts of climate-related challenges,” she added.

Recognising that government funding alone is insufficient to meet the province's growing infrastructure needs, Premier Ramathuba underscored the importance of public-private partnerships. She praised RAL's successful collaborations with the mining and agricultural sectors, as well as private investors, to expand and maintain Limpopo's road network. “Our partnership with the private sector has already yielded tangible results, such as the Ga-Malekane (Steel-Bridge) project, which will significantly improve connectivity in Sekhukhune and stimulate economic activity upon completion,” she said.

Looking to the future, Dr Ramathuba announced that the MEC for LDPWRI would provide further details on road development plans for the 2025/26 financial year during his budget vote. She also commended the department's efforts to strengthen internal capacity, citing the procurement of 300 yellow fleet units and the recruitment of additional plant operators and general workers to support road maintenance efforts.

In conclusion, the Premier reaffirmed that the province's revised Limpopo Development Plan (LDP 2025-2030) will serve as a strategic roadmap for economic growth, social development, and infrastructure resilience. “The LDP 2025-2030 aligns with the National Development Plan, guiding both government and private sector efforts to address key challenges such as unemployment, poverty, and inequality,” she concluded. **m**

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Our partnership with the private sector has already yielded tangible results, such as the Ga-Malekane (Steel-Bridge) project, which will significantly improve connectivity in Sekhukhune and stimulate economic activity upon completion.

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13,500km
Total length
of unpaved
roads in
Limpopo.

300

Yellow fleet machinery units purchased to fast-track road infrastructure maintenance.

14,939

Farmers across various commodities supported through government's Integrated Emerging Farmers Support Programme.



6.5 million

Limpopo's population as per the 2022 Census, reflecting a growth of 1.2 million since 2011.

R617 million

Amount recovered by VBS bank liquidators, accounting for 25.6% of the lost money.

160

Medical specialists recruited to Limpopo hospitals.

SOPA IN NUMBERS

The highlights, in numbers, from the 2025 Limpopo State of the Province Address

R120 billion

Investment pledges raised through the 4th Limpopo Investment Conference, far surpassing the R50 billion target.

R42 million

Funding allocated for the procurement of a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) CT Scan for the Nuclear Medicine Department at Pietersburg Hospital.

97.1%

Percentage of households with access to electricity, according to the 2023 General Household Survey, compared to 36% in 1996.

6,500km

Total length of tarred roads in Limpopo.

10

Smallholder farmers identified for the commercialisation programme during the 7th Administration.

R9.8 billion

Investment pledge by Neuromorphogenics Africa (Pty) Ltd, in partnership with Mukhufi Agro-Processing and Essential Oil, for the Mopani Solar Project.



SCOPA Chairperson, Honourable Esther Mokwele, highlights RAL's key role in economic growth and urges responsible use of funds to improve the lives of the people of Limpopo.

SCOPA CALLS FOR GREATER FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AT RAL

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) in Limpopo has urged Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) to strengthen its financial accountability and governance as a state-funded entity responsible for road infrastructure development.

Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) appeared before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) in the Limpopo Legislature to account for its financial performance in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years. The meeting provided RAL with a platform to showcase its efforts to enhance financial management, governance practices, and progress in improving the province's road network.

SCOPA Chairperson, Honourable Esther Mokwele, emphasised the pivotal role RAL

plays in driving economic development and improving mobility. "When you leave your house, the first thing you use is a road, which is why RAL is so crucial," she stated.

Mokwele also reiterated SCOPA's constitutional responsibility to monitor public funds and ensure compliance with financial regulations. "We are mandated under Section 114(2) of the Constitution to oversee organs of state, including RAL, to ensure compliance with governing legislation. This oversight guarantees that public funds are used for their intended

purpose," she explained.

As a State-Owned Company, RAL is funded through two main sources, the equitable share and the provincial road maintenance grant (PRMG). Consequently, RAL remains accountable to the provincial government through SCOPA.

The chairperson further emphasised the significance of accountability in preventing corruption and financial mismanagement. "It is our responsibility to ensure that corruption and fraud, which plague the public service, are eradicated. This meeting also



MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, Hon. Ernest Rachoene, assured SCOPA of RAL's commitment to financial accountability and governance excellence.

provides an opportunity to review the progress on previous resolutions,” she stated.

The MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Ernest Rachoene, along with RAL's senior management, reassured SCOPA of their commitment to financial discipline and governance excellence. “The 7th administration is fully dedicated to financial prudence and accountability. We are taking decisive actions to implement SCOPA's resolutions and adhere to best practices of governance,” the MEC affirmed.

He further highlighted RAL's commitment to transparency and efficiency in infrastructure development. “We recognise the importance of ensuring that every rand spent is directed towards improving the



During the SCOPA hearing, RAL management agreed to align their operations with good governance, transparency, and efficiency for sustainable road development.

provincial road network and enhancing service delivery,” he added.

As the shareholder representative at RAL,

the MEC committed to enforcing consequence management to ensure strict compliance with legal and financial regulations. “From what you've heard today, many of our team members are in acting roles because we have already begun implementing consequence management,” he noted.

The SCOPA engagement underscored the critical role of financial oversight in enabling RAL to fulfil its mandate effectively. The Agency remains dedicated to addressing SCOPA's recommendations and upholding strong financial management practices. ^m



We recognise the importance of ensuring that every rand spent is directed towards improving the provincial road network and enhancing service delivery.



During oversight visits to road projects undertaken by RAL, the Limpopo Portfolio Committee for Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure urged the Agency to take swift action to complete projects on time.



RAL STRENGTHENS COLLABORATION

with the Limpopo Portfolio Committee on key road projects

Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) hosted the Limpopo Portfolio Committee for Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure to provide an in-depth assessment of progress and challenges in two critical road projects within the Vhembe District. The committee was following up on service delivery requests from communities to ensure they are addressed. This engagement highlights RAL's commitment to transparency, accountability, and collaborative infrastructure development across the province.

During the visit, RAL’s Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Mr Moses Tseli, along with Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr Makhitha Chesane and senior management, provided a comprehensive update on the status of road R522 (P98/2), a vital transport link between Vivo and Makhado. Although the project encountered delays due to the underperformance of the initial contractor—which led to their termination—RAL assured the committee that the appointment of a new, highly competent contractor is underway. The Agency reaffirmed that the road remains a top priority, given its economic importance and impact on local mobility.

The oversight visits also included road D4, a 100km stretch connecting multiple villages from the N1 to Malamulele. Tseli outlined RAL’s structured, phased approach to rehabilitating this crucial route, confirming that the project designs have been finalised. He explained that subsequent phases will commence in alignment

with available funding to ensure sustainable progress.

Honourable Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, commended RAL’s commitment to project completion and accountability. He emphasised the need for enhanced project management to meet deadlines efficiently and welcomed RAL’s pledge to strengthen this area. “We urge RAL to prioritise the timely delivery of all infrastructure projects. We look forward to continued engagements to monitor progress on our recommendations.” He added that they were pleased to note that the newly appointed contractor for road P98/2 would allocate funds to settle outstanding payments to SMMEs and labourers impacted by the previous contractor’s termination.

These oversight visits are part of RAL’s broader stakeholder engagement initiative, championed by the Limpopo MEC for Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, Hon. Ernest Rachoene. Through



LDPWRI and RAL management welcome the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure ahead of their oversight visit to road P98/2, which connects Makhado to Vivo in the Vhembe District.

“We urge RAL to prioritise the timely delivery of all infrastructure projects. We look forward to continued engagements to monitor progress on our recommendations.”

initiatives like #StakeholderTuesdays, the MEC has been actively engaged with community representatives to address infrastructure concerns in a systematic manner. On 13 February 2025, the MEC met with five Community Development Forums representing municipalities, including Mogalakwena, Tzaneen, Letaba, Fetakgomo-Tubatse, and Thulamela.

MEC Rachoene reaffirmed the department’s commitment to fostering open communication with communities, reinforcing trust and transparency in service delivery efforts. These proactive engagements highlight the department and RAL’s shared vision of delivering high-impact infrastructure solutions that drive economic growth and improve connectivity across Limpopo. [m](#)

The procurement of yellow fleet, along with the welcoming of new recruits – plant operators and general workers – in the 2024/25 financial year across the 36 cost centres in the province, is playing a key role in the ongoing maintenance of gravel roads.



#DIKGEREKGEREWEDNESDAY CONTINUES TO DELIVER CRITICAL ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) reaffirms its commitment to road maintenance through the ongoing #DikgerekgereWednesday initiative.

Under the leadership of MEC Ernest Rachoene, this initiative addresses urgent gravel road infrastructure challenges, while the department and its entity, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), work to secure funding for long-term upgrades.

During the fourth quarter of the 2024/25 financial year, heavy rains severely impacted road conditions across the province, particularly gravel roads. In response, #DikgerekgereWednesday has played a pivotal role in ensuring continued connectivity by providing immediate, effective solutions for communities.

Notable interventions in the 4th quarter of the 2024/25 financial year:

CAPRICORN DISTRICT

Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, Matome Village – Road D3615 sustained extensive damage due to severe flooding, with deep erosion creating hazardous dongas and critical drainage structures buried under sand. Swift action has been taken to restore road safety and accessibility.

Blouberg Local Municipality, Madibeng Village – Road D3274, a vital connector for schools and essential services

Gravel roads and bridges undergoing maintenance as part of the #DikgerekgereWednesday campaign, led by MEC for LDPWRI, Hon. Ernest Rachoene, to restore connectivity to villages following the heavy rains Limpopo experienced in the 4th quarter of 2024/25 financial year.



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We understand that well-maintained roads are essential for economic growth and the well-being of our communities. While these immediate interventions provide vital relief, our ultimate goal is to secure sustainable funding for long-term road infrastructure improvements. No gravel road should be left undrivable.

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was rehabilitated after significant flood damage, ensuring continued access for multiple communities.

Polokwane Local Municipality – The MEC led the regravelling of road D977 from Silicon in Polokwane to over five villages in the Molepo Maja Cheune Cluster. The 12km stretch serves as a crucial alternative to R37, significantly reducing the distance to and from Polokwane.

WATERBERG DISTRICT

Mokgalakwena Local Municipality, Malapile Bridge – The washout of Malapile Bridge on road D3556 left residents isolated. Through rapid intervention, the department successfully restored connectivity, enabling access to essential services.

Lephalale Local Municipality, Grasvlei – Road D3505 is now drivable after the #DikgerekgereWednesday initiative restored connectivity for communities impacted by heavy floods.

SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT

Following concerns raised by communities during MEC Rachoene’s #StakeholdersTuesdays engagement,

maintenance work commenced on road D4335 in Mabintwane Village, Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality. The department has prioritised five additional roads in the area, further reinforcing its commitment to responsive governance.

MEC Rachoene also plans to visit the Mopani and Vhembe districts to monitor progress under #DikgerekgereWednesday. He commended the dedication of road maintenance teams and encouraged all 36 cost centres across the province to remain proactive in addressing road challenges.

“We understand that well-maintained roads are essential for economic growth and the well-being of our communities. While these immediate interventions provide vital relief, our ultimate goal is to secure sustainable funding for long-term road infrastructure improvements. No gravel road should be left undrivable,” said MEC Rachoene.

#DikgerekgereWednesday was launched by the MEC immediately after he assumed office following the 2024 national elections. The LDPWRI and RAL continue to prioritise vital road maintenance across Limpopo, ensuring that safe, reliable, and accessible roads remain a cornerstone of service to all communities in the province. [m](#)

PROGRESS OF RAL ROAD PROJECTS ACROSS LIMPOPO

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE CORE OF RAL'S STRATEGY

Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) has embarked on 121 preventative maintenance projects in the 2024/25 financial year. These initiatives are not only preserving the existing road infrastructure, but also enhancing connectivity, and transforming mobility across the province.

The provincial government's investment in road infrastructure fosters economic growth, enabling businesses to expand and communities to thrive.

This edition of *Mmileng* tracks the progress of key road maintenance projects across Limpopo's five districts.

CAPRICORN DISTRICT



Road D887: Tom Burke to Alldays (Blouberg Local Municipality)

An 8km stretch has successfully undergone preventative maintenance under Phase 3. This route connects communities to Alldays town, surrounding farms, and serves as a crucial link for traffic towards Musina and Polokwane.

MOPANI DISTRICT



Road D21: Ofcolaco to Gafani (Maruleng Local Municipality)

Phase 2 of road D21, covering a 4km section, is undergoing preventive maintenance. Once completed, it will provide essential access for villages under Sekororo to key locations such as Mahlakung Mall, Maruleng Showground, and Tzaneen, linking to the R36 road.



Road D1350: Tarentalrand to Deerpark to Matswi (Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality)

Phase 1 focuses on repairing a 2.3km section to improve mobility for road users and communities near N'wamitwa, ensuring smoother travel to Tzaneen. The road also enhances access to markets for agricultural enterprises along the route, boosting local economic activity.

SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT



Road D4150 Bridge, Motodi Village (Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality)

The **D4150 bridge** is undergoing maintenance to improve access for Ga-Motodi and surrounding villages to Burgersfort and economic hubs along the R37. This road also connects to Polokwane and the Steelpoort mining area via R555, facilitating critical trade and transport.

VHEMBE DISTRICT



Road D3708: Mukula to Mhinga (Thulamela Local Municipality)

Now in Phase 2, this project includes a 1.5km of rehabilitation and 3.2km of preventative maintenance. It aims to improve connectivity between Mukula, Mhinga, Shaulu, Tshifudi, and Tshikambe, linking these communities to towns, workplaces, and schools.



Road D3688: Khubvi to Makwarani (Thulamela Local Municipality)

Phase 2 and 3 of road D3688 involve both preventative maintenance and upgrades over approximately 4km. Phase two focuses on previously undrivable sections, while phase 3 aims to complete preventative maintenance on the identified areas. This project strengthens connectivity between Khubvi, Damani, Tshirongana, Tshipako, Makwarani, Muhunyu, and Matangari, enhancing mobility within these communities and linking them to their local towns.

WATERBERG DISTRICT



Road P85/2: Settlers to Tuinplaas (Bela Bela Local Municipality)

As part of Phase 4, a 3.2km stretch of the road has undergone preventative maintenance. This road is vital for local agriculture, enabling farmers to transport their produce efficiently. It connects Roedtan, Settlers, Crecy, Tuinplaas, and Modimolle, to Bela Bela town and the N1, providing access to Gauteng and Polokwane, while also linking to Marble Hall.



Road P134/2: Mookgophong to Roedtan (Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality)

A 3km section is undergoing maintenance under Phase 1. This road connects Crecy, Roedtan, and Zebediela to Mookgophong town and the N1 towards Gauteng and Polokwane, facilitating easier access for farm workers to their workplaces.



Newly appointed RAL board, seated (from left): Ms Ennie Tema (Limpopo Provincial Treasury), Ms Simphiwe Mamvura (Non-Executive Director), Hon. Ernest Rachoene (MEC for LDPWRI and RAL's primary shareholder), and Mrs Adelaide Nhlane-Mthimkhulu (Department of Transport and Community Safety).

Standing (from left): Ms Mercy Ramabulana (Non-Executive Director), Mr Moses Tseli (Chairperson of the Board), Mr Makhitha Chesane Acting CEO of RAL, Ms Annique Moloisi (LDPWRI), and Mr Casper Mnisi (Non-Executive Director).

NEW RAL BOARD

SET TO ENHANCE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The newly appointed Board of Directors has officially taken the helm at Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), bringing a wealth of expertise in engineering, finance, governance, law, and public administration.



This diverse and highly qualified team is expected to provide robust leadership and strategic oversight aimed at enhancing road infrastructure development and maintenance across Limpopo.

Appointed by the MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Hon. Ernest Rachoene—who serves as RAL’s primary shareholder—the new Board will play a critical role in ensuring the Agency strengthens its governance structures, leading to the delivery of a safer, more efficient, and sustainable road network throughout the province.

“The newly appointed Board has been entrusted with a renewed mandate: to drive

efficiency, enhance accountability, and maximise the impact of every road project undertaken,” said MEC Rachoene. “Their leadership will be essential in improving project implementation, addressing road maintenance challenges, and fostering partnerships to unlock additional infrastructure funding all of which are critical for the growth and development of Limpopo.”

THE NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD COMPRISES:

Mr Moses Tseli

Chairperson of the Board, having previously served as RAL’s Interim Accounting Authority.

Ms Simphiwe Mamvura, Mr Casper Mnisi, and Ms Mercy Ramabulana

Non-Executive Directors, appointed for their specialised qualifications, expertise, and experience in provincial roads, business operations, and governance.

EX OFFICIO NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:

Ms Ennie Tema

(Limpopo Provincial Treasury)

Ms Annique Moloisi

(Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure)

Mrs Adelaide Nhlane-Mthimkhulu

(Department of Transport and Community Safety)

Mr Makhitha Chesane

Appointed as an ex officio director by virtue of his role as Acting CEO of RAL.

MEC Rachoene acknowledged the challenges RAL has faced in recent years, including budget constraints, road maintenance backlogs, over-commitment of budgets, and the adverse impact of extreme weather conditions on infrastructure.

Despite these challenges, the MEC expressed confidence that the newly appointed Board will address these issues with a sense of urgency and focus.

“I am confident that this Board will rise to the occasion, tackling the existing challenges head-on,” MEC Rachoene stated. “Their collective expertise and commitment to effective governance will be key in ensuring that RAL remains on track to meet the province’s road infrastructure needs.”

Newly appointed Chairperson Tseli reaffirmed the Board’s commitment to improving oversight and ensuring better service delivery.



The newly appointed Board has been entrusted with a renewed mandate: to drive efficiency, enhance accountability, and maximise the impact of every road project undertaken.



“It is our responsibility to enhance accountability and ensure that every individual in the Agency executes their duties effectively,” said Tseli. “By appointing the right people in the right positions, we will work together as a team to improve Limpopo’s road infrastructure and make it a catalyst for economic growth and community development.”

The appointment of the new Board signals a renewed focus on efficiency, governance, and strategic development within RAL. It reflects a shared commitment to enhancing the province’s road network, making it more resilient, sustainable and capable of supporting the growing needs of both local communities and regional economic activities.

RAL is poised to embark on a new chapter with a stronger governance framework, better financial management, and a clear vision to address the challenges that have long affected Limpopo’s road infrastructure. With this leadership in place, the Agency is well-positioned to navigate the road ahead and continue its vital role in fostering development and connectivity across the province. **m**

MEC for LDPWRI, Ernest Rachoene, at the 2025 African Mining Indaba in Cape Town, engaging with potential investors to explore opportunities for investing in Limpopo's road infrastructure to drive economic development.



STRENGTHENING ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT THROUGH COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) continues to strengthen its relationships with key strategic partners while actively seeking new collaborations to improve the province's road infrastructure. These partnerships are critical, as government funding alone cannot meet the growing demands of infrastructure.

In February 2025, RAL, under the leadership of the MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), Hon. Ernest Rachoene, participated in two significant events: the African Mining Indaba in Cape

Town and the launch of the Ba-Phalaborwa Chamber of Business in the Mopani District. These engagements aimed to foster partnerships that support the development of strategic roads, recognising the need for multi-sector collaborations.

ENGAGING MINING STAKEHOLDERS AT THE 2025 AFRICAN MINING INDABA

At the Mining Indaba, MEC Rachoene, accompanied by the then RAL Accounting Authority (AA), Mr Moses Tseli (now RAL

Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba, flanked by MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure Hon. Ernest Rachoene (left) and MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Hon. Tshitereke Matibe (right), at the Investing in African Mining Indaba 2025 held in Cape Town. The delegation engaged potential partners to attract strategic private investment in Limpopo's infrastructure and other key sectors.



Chairperson of the Board), and Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Makhita Chesane, engaged with key stakeholders from the mining sector, including the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Palabora Mining Company (PMC), Bora and Steenkampskraal Mining Holdings Limited, Anglo American, and Exxaro.

The discussions focused on strengthening collaborations to enhance the Limpopo road network that support the mining sector and stimulate broader economic activity. As part of these engagements, RAL also hosted a Strategic Partnership Dinner, an event which was attended by the Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba.

In her keynote address, the Premier emphasised “As the 7th Administration, our

role is to create an environment conducive to business success. I assure you today that Limpopo is open for business, and we are committed to providing the necessary support for your businesses to thrive. Your success is directly linked to ours as a government, as we address the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.”

This event reinforced RAL's commitment to fostering partnerships that drive increased investment in Limpopo's road infrastructure. “Collaborations between government and private sector are crucial in creating an environment that supports business expansion, innovation, and long-term success in Limpopo,” stated MEC Rachoene at the Indaba.

“The business sector is the heartbeat of any thriving economy. Investment, innovation and employment depend on a well-developed infrastructure, supported by effective policies and systems. This is where government plays a crucial role.”

Mr Moses Tseli (RAL Chairperson of the Board of Directors) and Mr Makhita Chesane (Acting RAL CEO) show their support at the launch of the Ba-Phalaborwa Chamber of Business.



SUPPORTING BUSINESS GROWTH IN BA-PHALABORWA

At the launch of the Ba-Phalaborwa Chamber of Business, RAL representatives, led by Mr Tseli and Acting CEO Mr Chesane, engaged with local business leaders to explore opportunities for economic growth and infrastructure development in the region. Tseli welcomed the Chamber's establishment, noting its role in fostering unity within the business community and driving economic development.

He highlighted the importance of the private sector in job creation and social progress, highlighting that public-private partnerships are essential for sustainable growth. “The business sector is the heartbeat of any thriving economy. Investment, innovation and employment depend on a well-developed infrastructure, supported by effective policies and systems. This is where government plays a crucial role,” said Tseli, speaking on behalf of MEC Rachoene.

He reaffirmed the department's commitment to aligning infrastructure development with business needs, ensuring that entrepreneurs have the resources they need to operate efficiently and expand their enterprises. By strengthening government-private sector collaboration, Limpopo is positioning itself as an attractive destination for investment, economic growth and job creation.

Through these strategic engagements, RAL continues to position infrastructure development as a catalyst for economic progress, reinforcing the importance of collaborative efforts in building a more connected and prosperous Limpopo. **m**

UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Road infrastructure is a key driver for job creation, playing a pivotal role in tackling unemployment. Through the remarkable progress in road development, Limpopo has witnessed a substantial impact in the three quarters of the 2024/2025 financial year.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

TOTAL WORK OPPORTUNITIES CREATED:
2,604

YOUTH:
1,466
WOMEN:
1,246

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT JOBS CREATED:
397

PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES:
57
OPPORTUNITIES



ROADS AGENCY
LIMPOPO
TOGETHER FOR BETTER ROADS

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RAL and Exxaro conduct a site visit to the deteriorating Kuiperbult road D2649 in Lephhalale, with the aim of facilitating its repair.



RAL AND EXXARO TO COLLABORATE IN REHABILITATING ROAD D2649 IN LEPHALALE

As part of the commitments made in February at the 2025 African Mining Indaba in Cape Town, where Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) engaged potential strategic partners to address road infrastructure challenges, RAL and Exxaro, one of the leading mining companies, conducted a site visit on 27 March to road D2649 in Kuipersbult, Lephhalale Local Municipality, within the Waterberg District.

This site inspection, conducted collaboratively by RAL and Exxaro, was aimed at assessing the extent of the damage and to determine what may be involved in reconstructing the road. This proactive approach ensures that the rehabilitation process can begin as quickly as possible, minimising disruptions and enabling smoother transportation routes for the future.


The deteriorating condition of this key route poses significant risks to traffic flow and safety. Crucial for easing congestion in Lephhalale town, the road supports local businesses and carries approximately 200 Exxaro trucks daily, facilitating efficient transportation of goods.

The visit not only focused on the immediate repair and reconstruction of road D2649 but also aimed to strengthen the long-term partnership between RAL and Exxaro. Both organisations expressed their commitment to working together on multiple future projects to improve road infrastructure in Lephhalale and surrounding areas. Through this strategic partnership, RAL and Exxaro hope to

continue addressing other road infrastructure needs, fostering long-lasting relationships that benefit the local communities and the broader economic development of the region.

Exxaro is not a foreign partner to RAL; in fact, the two entities have a history of successful collaboration. In 2017, RAL and Exxaro partnered on the construction and upgrade of roads in the Limpopo Province, benefiting local communities and enhancing economic development. One notable project from this partnership was the upgrade of the Ga-Seleka road, which improved connectivity between Rietfontein and Letlora (33.5 km northern link) and Kiti to Abbotspoort (14.1 km southern link), enhancing access for 14 villages in the area.

Lephhalale itself is a vital logistics hub that connects several provinces: Limpopo, North West, Western Cape, Mpumalanga, and Gauteng. Once road D2649 is rehabilitated, it will provide a shorter, more efficient alternative for truck transport, improving logistical operations and fostering increased economic activity in the area.

RAL remains committed to improving critical road infrastructure, ensuring safer and more efficient mobility for businesses, the local community, and the broader economy. Through this ongoing partnership with Exxaro, RAL aims to continue making meaningful contributions to the development of roads that are not only functional but also safe, sustainable, and beneficial for all stakeholders involved. 

Mr Motlhanke Phukuntsi, the new HoD of LDPWRI, has hit the ground running in efforts to improve Limpopo's road network.



At the Helm:

PILOTING THE INFRASTRUCTURE FLIGHT

Mr Motlhanke Phukuntsi has assumed the role of Head of Department (HoD) for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI). Officially appointed on 01 February 2025, he takes on the position with a sense of personal honour and deep pride.

Describing his appointment as a significant milestone with great responsibility, Phukuntsi brings a wealth of public service experience and an unwavering commitment to advancing infrastructure development in the province.

“This appointment is a milestone in my career. It reflects years of dedication to public service and offers a unique opportunity to apply my expertise in resource management and strategic planning to drive infrastructure development in Limpopo,” shares Phukuntsi. Prior to stepping into this key role, Phukuntsi served as the Deputy Director-General: Sustainable Resource Management at the Limpopo Provincial Treasury. He also acted as HoD for the LDPWRI from July 2023, where his extensive knowledge in public finance and infrastructure governance helped

steer the department towards improved performance. His public service career began in 1996 as an Assistant Director in the Free State Department of Finance and Economic Affairs, with a focus in Treasury, where he refined his skills in financial management and service delivery.

Phukuntsi is determined to build a resilient and efficient infrastructure network that fosters economic growth and enhances the quality of life for Limpopo residents. His vision extends to the department’s key entity, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), which manages the implementation of the province’s road network. Phukuntsi is no stranger to RAL as he served as a board member seconded by Provincial Treasury to provide guidance and safeguard interest of the province. He chaired the social and ethics sub-committee of the RAL board. When discussing his alignment with broader government objectives, Phukuntsi

underscores the importance of collaboration: “By working closely with government entities and stakeholders, we can ensure that infrastructure projects align with provincial development plans, maximising their impact on economic and social progress.”

A seasoned financial expert, Phukuntsi was a key member of the senior Treasury team that played a pivotal role in drafting the Public

“This appointment is a milestone in my career. It reflects years of dedication to public service and offers a unique opportunity to apply my expertise in resource management and strategic planning to drive infrastructure development in Limpopo.”



As the new Head of LDPWRI, Mr Motlhanke Phukuntsi is responsible, for among other duties, strengthening financial controls to address road upgrades, tackle maintenance backlogs, and drive infrastructure development in Limpopo.

Finance Management Act (PFMA) and its Treasury Regulations under the leadership of former Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel. Drawing from this experience, Phukuntsi is committed to strengthening his department’s financial controls to ensure that efforts to address critical maintenance backlogs, an ongoing challenge to Limpopo’s economic growth through infrastructure

knowledge of the Infrastructure Development Management System (IDMS) has shaped his approach to infrastructure governance. He places a strong emphasis on efficiency, cost-effectiveness and stringent project oversight. Recognising budgetary constraints, he highlights the importance of leveraging public-private partnerships and community involvement to optimise resources.

“We will prioritise upgrading major arterial routes and improving access roads to underserved communities to enhance connectivity and economic opportunities.”

He is also keen on adopting innovative maintenance techniques and securing sustainable funding sources to ensure the long-term sustainability of the province’s infrastructure.

development, are fully maximised. Given the public demand for improved roads, Phukuntsi outlines the department’s immediate focus: “We will prioritise upgrading major arterial routes and improving access roads to underserved communities to enhance connectivity and economic opportunities.”

Although he once aspired to become a Chartered Accountant, Phukuntsi’s career led him to become a key figure in public service, where he has played a crucial role in financial governance and infrastructure development. Now,

Phukuntsi began his career at First National Bank (FNB) as an Executive Trainee. His career path eventually led him into public service, his expertise in financial management and in-depth

at the helm of Limpopo’s infrastructure portfolio, he is determined to drive sustainable progress, ensuring that roads continue to serve as catalysts for economic growth in the province.

His message to stakeholders, particularly those anticipating road upgrades and maintenance, is clear: “We remain steadfast in our commitment to developing and maintaining infrastructure that fosters economic growth and enhances accessibility. Your input and partnership are crucial to the success of this journey.” **m**

✉
New Message

To: **LegodiDO@ral.co.za** cc: bcc:

Subject: **Mmileng should be more accessible to everyone**

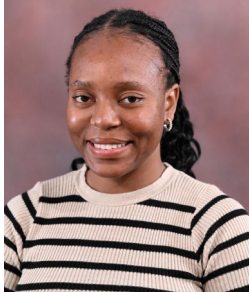
I, unfortunately, have no groundbreaking comment on any roads constructed in my area or how they have made a difference in my community. However, I must say that after getting a copy of Mmileng 2 of 2024/25, I squealed with excitement!

This is the first time I have got my hands on a copy, and I find the content delightful. As someone who seldom travels, I have still seen numerous roads across our five districts where RAL has left its mark. My only wish is for Mmileng to be more accessible to the ordinary people of this province.

Either I have been living under a rock, or Mmileng truly needs the recognition it deserves. More people need to know that RALatWork is responsible for making their travelling experience smoother and safer.

Lastly, I highly appreciate the initiative of introducing Readers' Corner—it is definitely going to be my favourite spot! Growing up ko kasi, my mother always warned me to stay away from corners, but I don't think she will mind me settling at this particular one!

Until I write again!
Regards,
Ms Patricia Moshibudi Motimele
Intern: Corporate Communication, Limpopo Office of the Premier



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Send Draft 🗑️


✉
New Message

To: **LegodiDO@ral.co.za** cc: bcc:

Subject: **Mmileng: A trusted guide for limpopo's road users**

I am a regular reader of Mmileng, and I enjoy it because it keeps me updated on Limpopo's roads and infrastructure. Most importantly, it helps me plan my trips in advance, as I can determine the most convenient routes to take.

Sydney Maida Mokumo
Tzaneen, Pulaneng Village

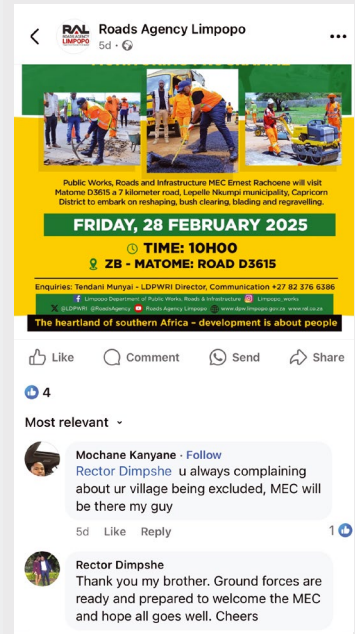
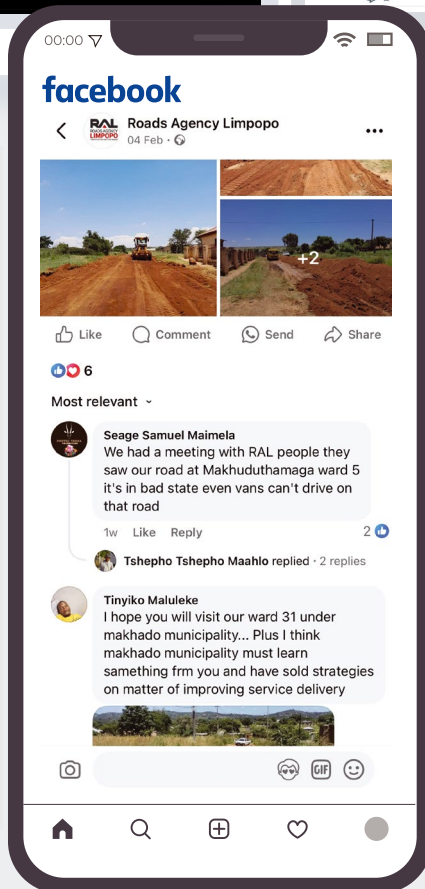
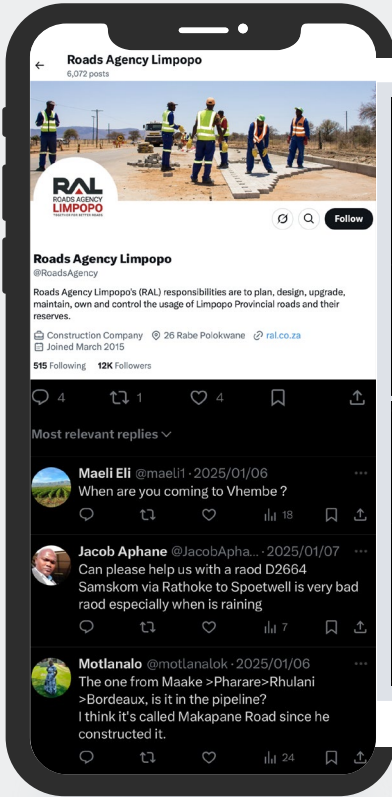


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You too can write to us about your experiences with
Limpopo's road network and share your comments with us at: LegodiDO@ral.co.za

#RALatWork

Complaints and Compliments



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Roads Agency Limpopo

MINTIRHO YA VULAVULA

As part of its commitment to improving connectivity through efficient road infrastructure across Limpopo, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) is undertaking preventative maintenance on tarred roads in all the five districts to preserve existing road infrastructure. Reliable road networks not only enhance safety but also reduce vehicle maintenance costs, improve fuel efficiency, and stimulate local economic activity. *Mmileng*, RAL's official quarterly publication, visited several ongoing projects to hear firsthand from road users about the impact of these improvements.



The repair of some sections of this road has made a huge difference for us. Before the maintenance work, it was nearly undrivable. Now, it is much smoother, allowing us to run our businesses without constant tyre bursts nor damage to our car suspensions. We are saving money on vehicle repairs and truly appreciate RAL's efforts.

Ms Litishia Van Rooyen, local game lodge owner along road D887 (Tom Burke to Alldays), Capricorn District



We would like to thank RAL for repairing our road. Previously, this road was not user-friendly, and travelling to Thohoyandou was a serious struggle. Since it has been fixed, we can now travel with ease and without dreading the possibility of breakdowns or worse, loss of life due to accidents.

Mr Dumisani Mashila, regular user of road D3708 (Mukula to Mhinga), Vhembe District



"I use this road daily to run my business errands. We are happy that our bridge has been repaired. Previously, the bridge had numerous potholes, which posed danger of swerving and falling on either side.

Now, we can travel with ease."
Mr Loyd Hlongoane, regular user of road D4150 (Motodi), Sekhukhune District



This road was riddled with potholes, and we hope it will be fully repaired up to its endpoint at The Oaks. The recent maintenance has already made a noticeable difference—before, we had to constantly change gears to navigate the potholes, which increased fuel consumption. There were also many accidents caused by drivers swerving to avoid them.

Mr Ishmael Ratheko, taxi driver at Letaba Taxi Association, regular user of road D21 (Ofcolaco to Gafani), Mopani District



Previously, I had issues with this road from Mookgophong to Crecy due to the numerous potholes. I once had a puncture, and my car's mirror fell off. I'm delighted to see this road being repaired, as it means we will no longer suffer damage to our vehicles or lose car parts.

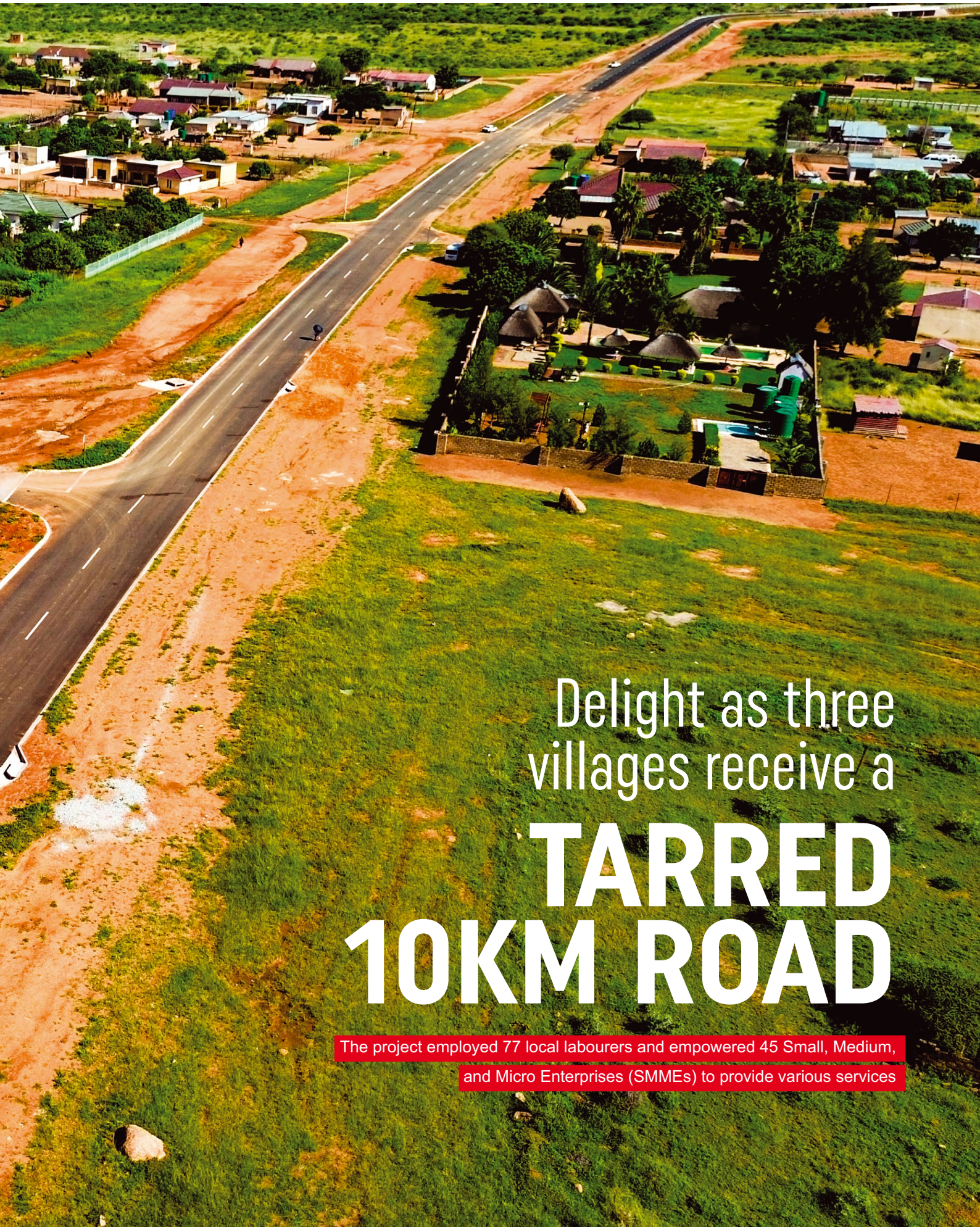
Ms Neo Mashala, regular user of road P134/2 (Mookgophong to Roedtan)



Scan the QR Code to watch this story.



Villagers from Mamatonya, Malatane, and Byldrift in Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality will now travel more safely and efficiently for daily errands and economic activities in Polokwane and Lebowakgomo, thanks to the newly tarred road by Roads Agency Limpopo.



Delight as three
villages receive a
**TARRED
10KM ROAD**

The project employed 77 local labourers and empowered 45 Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) to provide various services

Residents of Mamatonya, Malatane, and Byldrift in the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, Capricorn District, are celebrating a major milestone as a long-awaited 10km tarred section of the D4109 road has finally been completed.

For years, locals endured dusty, bumpy, and often undrivable roads, particularly during the rainy season. Now, the newly completed road promises safer travel, better access to essential services, and a boost to local economic activities. This development has been met with immense joy and gratitude, marking a significant step forward in community upliftment and in infrastructure.

In the past, the road would transform into a muddy, impassable path during the rainy season, and in the dry season, choking clouds of dust made travel difficult. However, an extensive upgrade by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) has transformed this once troublesome route into a smooth, tarred road. This upgrade has improved mobility and quality of life, providing seamless connectivity to key destinations such as Lebowakgomo, Jane Furse and Polokwane. Travel time to Lebowakgomo, which previously took over an hour, has now been reduced to just 30 minutes.

The upgraded 10km stretch of D4109, running from Mamatonya to the road D885 intersection between D4109 and D4114, is expected to improve daily life for villagers by making transportation easier for school children, workers, and local businesses. Previously, poor road conditions caused long, uncomfortable journeys, delaying vital

services such as ambulances and public transport. Now, residents travel with ease, enjoying better access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities. This development not only enhances convenience but also fuels hope for further infrastructure projects to uplift the community.

For elderly residents like 73-year-old Ntate Selatole Seloane, a member of the Batau ba Seloane Traditional Council, this development represents a dream come true. Reflecting on the struggles of the 1970s and 1980s, he recalled how the villages had expanded but remained isolated due to poor road infrastructure.

“In the past, heavy rains would turn this road into a swamp, cutting us off from the outside world for days. If this year’s heavy rains had come before the upgrade, we would have been stranded again,” he said. “Now, we move freely without fear of getting stuck. We are deeply grateful to RAL for this blessing.”

The impact of the new road extends beyond daily commuters. Taxi drivers, who previously navigated rough and unreliable road conditions, now enjoy smoother, safer journeys.

David Namanyane, a taxi driver who transports passengers from these villages to Pretoria, shared his relief.

“Before, it was a nightmare—dust, stones, and deep potholes made every trip exhausting. In the rainy season, some sections were completely undrivable, with water pooling like small dams. Now, thanks to RAL, the road is smooth, safe and efficient.”

Local schools have also reaped the



benefits. Learners and teachers from Byldrift Primary, Mamagogo High School, Baseloane Primary, and Phasoane Secondary no longer struggle to reach school.

Mr Mpyane Selwane, Principal of Mamagogo Secondary School in Byldrift, recalled how poor road conditions often disrupted the school day. “When it rained, teachers had to park their cars far away and walk to the school because the road was too muddy. Learners relying on transport were dropped far from school and had to walk the rest of the way. Now, we have easy access, and our school runs smoothly. We are truly grateful to the Limpopo Provincial Government for this transformation.”

Beyond easing transportation, the upgraded road has had a positive impact on local businesses and services. The Malatane Post Office is now easily accessible, and small businesses along the route are seeing increased customer traffic.

A key addition to the project was the

“

Before, it was a nightmare—dust, stones, and deep potholes made every trip exhausting. In the rainy season, some sections were completely undrivable, with water pooling like small dams. Now, thanks to RAL, the road is smooth, safe and efficient.

”

The road project created jobs for 77 locals, fostering pride as they contributed to their village's development.



From left: Ntate Selatole Seloane (Batau ba Seloane Traditional Council member), Mr Mpyane Selwane (Mamagogo Secondary School Principal), and Mr David Namanyane (long-distance taxi driver).


construction of a 45-metre-long bridge over the Lepelle River at Byldrift Village, which replaced a small culvert bridge, further enhancing connectivity.

The project also prioritised local employment, with 77 community members

hired during construction. Their involvement fostered a strong sense of pride, as they actively contributed to the development of their own villages.

Additionally, 45 Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) were sub-

contracted, ensuring the economic benefits of the project extended beyond the road itself.

This upgrade has not only improved travel but has also bolstered local economies and enhanced the overall quality of life, leaving a lasting impact on the community. 



RAL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS STIMULATE SMME GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LIMPOPO

Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) is making a significant impact by enhancing connectivity while driving economic development through the empowerment of Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs).

The Agency is currently implementing a range of road infrastructure projects across Limpopo from preventative maintenance and upgrades from gravel to tar, to bridge enhancements. These projects are strategically designed to improve the province’s transport network, fostering economic growth and improving livelihoods.

A core element of RAL’s mandate is to involve local SMMEs in the execution of these projects, ensuring that they play a key role and benefit from associated opportunities. A dedicated 30% of each project’s budget is allocated to engage

SMMEs for essential services, creating direct and lasting economic opportunities.

This initiative not only promotes financial inclusion but also provides SMMEs with valuable industry experience, technical skills, and long-term business exposure. Upon project completion, these enterprises emerge stronger, more competitive, and well-positioned for sustainable growth, further contributing to the economic vitality of the province. Several SMMEs involved in these road projects have shared their success stories, emphasising the transformative impact of RAL’s commitment to local business development. **m**

GAINING FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE IN ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Mr Mike Matjui of Batseni Construction, from Mookgophong, was subcontracted for water-cutting services on the ongoing road P34/2 project which runs from Mookgophong to Roedtan in the Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality, Waterberg District.

“The road project has created new opportunities for my family. When I saw the advert, I applied and was fortunate to be selected. —This is my first experience working on a government project, especially in road construction and it has been a life-changing opportunity.

“I was contracted to supply water-cutting equipment, which gave me a better understanding of the overall process of road construction. Beyond my main role, I also learned about culverts, which has inspired me to explore this field in the future and invest in it.

I am truly grateful to RAL for this opportunity, as it has enhanced my skills and opened doors for growth in the road construction industry.”



LEARNED NEW SKILLS IN ROAD REHABILITATION

Ms Martha Semata of Tiro Consultant, from Alldays was subcontracted for pothole patching, on the D887 road, from Tom Burke to Alldays in Blouberg Local Municipality, Capricorn District.

“Initially, I was only familiar with cold mix for general paving, but this road project introduced me to the use of hot mix for pothole patching, significantly broadening my understanding of its potential. This new skill will give me a competitive edge in future projects. I also learned how to create more accurate quotations—not just estimating off the top of my head, but with a reasonable percentage accuracy. Additionally, I was taught the importance of keeping business documents up to date, such as tax matters, BEE compliance, and company registration. This will help me to stay prepared for any future infrastructure opportunities.”





Pleasure Tša Manyalo says she often incorporates Bible verses into her songs, believing that in everything one does, God must come first.

The voice powering South Africa's Wedding Anthems

Lyrics, Life and Legacy: The Evolution of Pleasure

TŠA MANYALO

In the vibrant landscape of South African music, few voices resonate as powerfully as that of Pleasure Ramadimetša Peta, affectionately known as Pleasure Tša Manyalo.

A true icon of the Tša Manyalo (wedding) music genre, she has become a household name, gracing weddings, traditional ceremonies, and airwaves with her distinct and soul-stirring vocals.

Born and raised in Tjiane, Ga-Mphahlele, in Limpopo's Capricorn District, Pleasure's journey is one of resilience and determination. Despite facing personal hardships, including the tragic loss of her father—a prominent taxi boss—at a young age, she drew strength from her family. Her mother, Ms Rangoato Agrineth Maja, and her grandfather, Bishop Nkotsane Charles Maja, instilled in her the values of discipline and perseverance that would shape her path to success.

Her musical journey began in Sunday School at an early age, but it wasn't until she began singing at taxi ranks that she realised the profound impact of her voice. "People would stop and listen to my renditions, and soon, I was invited to perform at weddings. That's when I knew I had something special," she recalls.

Since launching her professional music career with her debut album *Setagwa* in 2005, Pleasure has consistently dominated the traditional music scene. With an impressive discography of 14 albums (Pleasure Vol 1-14), she has not only

celebrated but commercialised Tša Manyalo as a genre. Her hit songs—including *Lefotwana*, *Laela*, *Ke Lorile*, *Modimo Ke Sethakga*, *Makoti Take 5*, and *Ntshike ka Diatla*—have become wedding anthems, reinforcing her status as a cultural ambassador. Her latest EP, *Bakokota*, and the single *Raurau* continue to enjoy widespread success.

"My goal is to use my music to strengthen marriages and preserve cultural traditions. When I compose a song, I pray that if the lyrics can save even one marriage, then I've done my job," she says passionately. Her 2022 hit, *Ke Lorile*, became a national wedding favourite, topping the charts on SABC's Thobela FM and further solidifying her presence in the industry. The popular step dance that accompanies the song also played a key role in elevating its success, as it became a widely embraced dance rhythm, contributing to the

"My goal is to use my music to strengthen marriages and preserve cultural traditions. When I compose a song, I pray that if the lyrics can save even one marriage, then I've done my job."

track’s widespread popularity. Pleasure is not only a musician but also a visionary entrepreneur. Recognising the potential of her talent, she and her husband have transformed her passion into a sustainable business venture. She is the proud owner of *Pleasure-tainment* – a recording studio that nurtures up-and-coming artists, and *Pleasure Enterprise* – which includes a carwash and butchery serving the local community.

Driven by a desire to uplift others, she actively mentors young musicians, offering free recording, production, and marketing services. “I believe in paving the way. If I can help the next generation thrive, our cultural music will live on,” she states.

Despite her remarkable career, Pleasure remains grounded in the family. She met her husband, Mr Peta, at Tompi Seleka College of Agriculture, where she earned a Diploma in Animal Production. Their love story, spanning over two decades, has been a pillar of strength, and they are blessed with four sons.

“We met in 1997 when I was just 17 years old. We fell in love, and in 2010 we officially tied the knot,” she shares warmly.

Her husband has been her greatest supporter, encouraging her to take her music seriously when it was initially regarded as just a side hustle.

She fondly recalls how he stood by her in the early days when she performed at taxi ranks and shopping centres.

“I would travel with him to various places such as Witbank and Middelburg, and even non-Sepedi-speaking taxi drivers would specifically request me to perform *Lefotwana*. That showed me how far my music had reached,” she recalls.

Like any successful entrepreneur, Pleasure has faced significant challenges in the music industry. Piracy, limited recording facilities, and a lack of investment in the genre initially made growth difficult. However, her determination helped her to overcome these hurdles.

“Around 2008, there were very few studios in Limpopo, and those that existed were expensive. We would travel from Ga-Mphahlele to Tembisa, Gauteng, just to record a song, but I never gave up because I knew what I wanted,” she says.

In addition to her music career, Pleasure holds a BTech in Agricultural Management from the University of South Africa (Unisa) and previously worked as an Agricultural Project Officer at the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. She eventually resigned to focus on music and business.

“I loved my job—helping farmers secure funding and develop business plans—but I was exhausted trying to balance it all,” she admits. Pleasure has also witnessed firsthand the state of infrastructure in her region, particularly the province’s road network. While she acknowledges the efforts of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), she

“Damaging roads during protests only sets us back.”



Pleasure Tša Manyalo, who holds a BTech in Agricultural Management, urges upcoming artists to prioritise education, as evolving music trends and online promotion demand skills, including contract management, for independent career growth.

urges further improvements.

“I frequently use road D4180 from Bokoni Mine to Ga-Selepe, where I live. It would make a huge difference for the community and businesses if it were tarred,” she emphasises.

She also encourages community members to safeguard public infrastructure, stating, “Damaging roads during protests only sets us back.”

Pleasure credits her mother, and former school principal the late Mr Stephen Nkoana, for instilling discipline and guiding her path. “These are the two people who shaped me into who I am today,” she says. **m**

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#MMILENGREADERS



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RAL staff members and stakeholders commit to operating with integrity and adhering to ethical principles.

RAL PROMOTES AN ETHICAL CULTURE AT WORKPLACE AWARENESS EVENT

In its ongoing commitment to uphold ethical standards, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) hosted an Ethics Conversations: Chapter 5 session under the theme Cultivating an Ethical Mindset. The event is part of the Agency's interventions to foster a culture of integrity, accountability, and responsibility among employees and stakeholders.

Attended by both internal staff and external stakeholders, the session provided valuable insights into the importance of workplace ethics. The keynote address was delivered by Advocate Melanchton Makobe, Deputy Director-General: State-Owned Companies Governance Assurance and Performance at the Department of Public Enterprises. He emphasised that ethical conduct in the workplace is governed

by key regulatory frameworks, including the Companies Act of 2008, the Public Finance Management Act, and the King IV Report on Corporate Governance. "It is essential to anchor ethics discussions within existing legislation to ensure compliance and credibility," he remarked.

Adv. Makobe also underscored the importance of whistleblowing as a critical safeguard against unethical behaviour. "Government has enacted legal protections for whistleblowers, enabling individuals to report misconduct without fear of retaliation," he added.

Mr Komane Maphutha, RAL's Senior Manager for Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC), reinforced the business case for ethical behaviour. "Ethics form the foundation



From left: Maite Sefala (Manager: GRC), Mollatsi Mokoena (Senior Manager: IT), Adv. Makobe (Keynote Speaker), Komane Maphutha (Senior Manager: GRC), and Luyanda Sithole (Manager: Communications) were at the forefront of the event.

of any reputable institution,” he asserted. “By embedding an ethical mindset into our operations, we cultivate trust among employees, clients, and stakeholders, ultimately driving long-term sustainability.”

A key moment during the event featured firsthand accounts from individuals who had faced legal consequences due to unethical decisions in both their professional and personal lives. One former bank employee shared her experience of embezzling company funds, which ultimately led to her imprisonment. “What began as a seemingly small act quickly

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escalated beyond my control,” she explained. “I lost my job, my freedom, and the trust of those around me.”

Another speaker, a former college student, recounted her involvement in money laundering and the severe consequences that followed. “I justified my actions as ‘just business’—until reality caught up with me,” she said. “No financial gain is worth losing your reputation and freedom.”

Representatives from correctional services also contributed, highlighting the importance of rehabilitation and second chances. “Many individuals who find themselves incarcerated never anticipated being in such a position,” one official noted. “Their stories serve as a stark reminder of the far-reaching consequences of unethical decisions.”

Ms Andisiwe Mthatyana, Deputy Director: Monitoring and Evaluation at the National Department of Public Administration, spoke about the government’s progress in rolling out “lifestyle audits” in the public sector. Additionally, Mr Fhatuwani Ndou, Head of Governance, Ethics and Compliance at the University of Venda, shared lessons learned in embedding an ethical culture within their organisation.

The event concluded with a call to action, encouraging employees to champion ethical behaviour in their respective roles. “Ethics is not merely about compliance; it is about constantly making right choices even in the absence of oversight,” Maphutha stated. 

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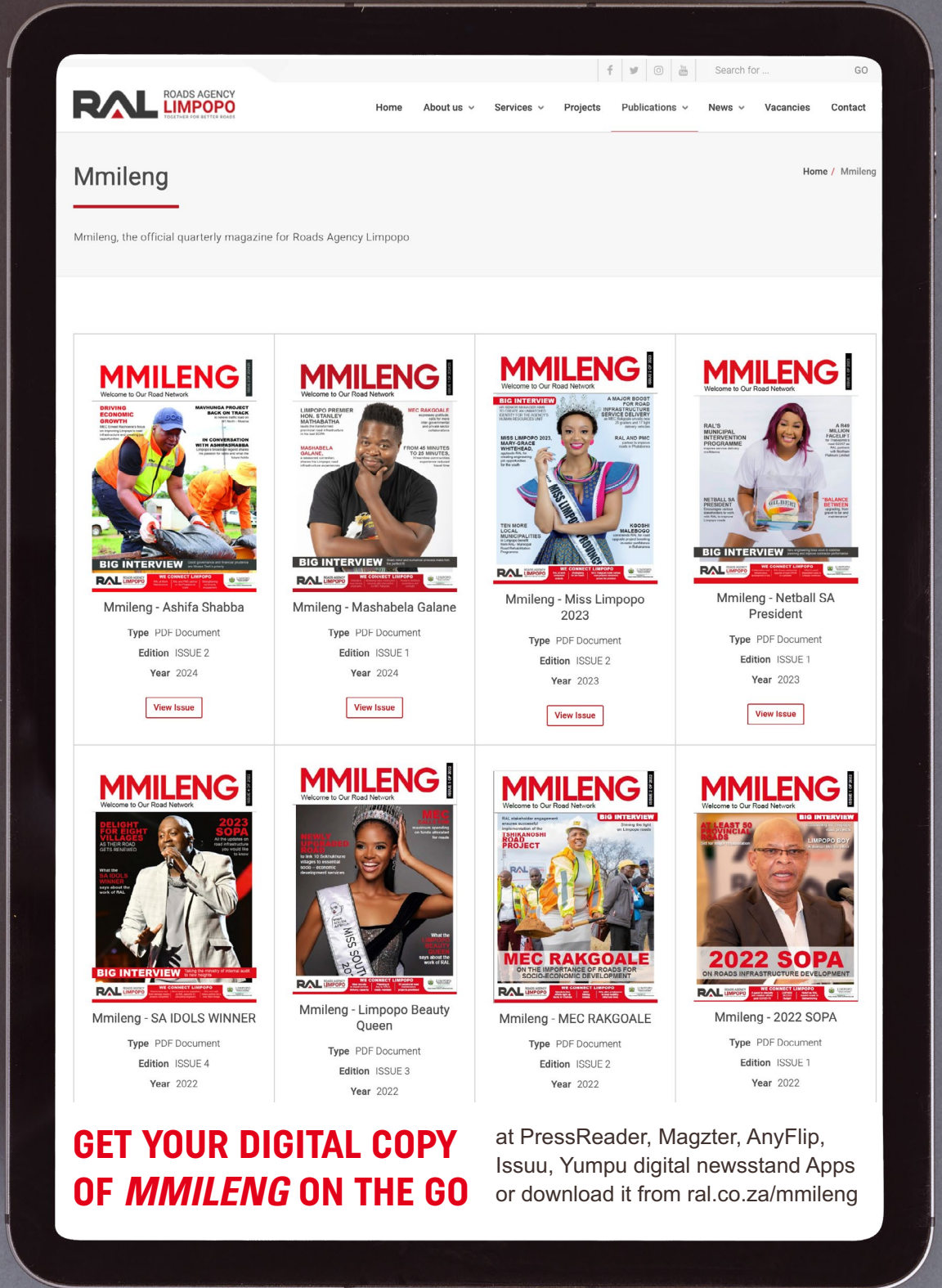
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RAL'S VALUES

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

TEAMWORK

We work together for better roads

EXCELLENCE

We strive to exceed expectations

DIVERSITY

We value and embrace diversity within the work context



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