



cogta

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- INDABA PROVIDES SOLUTIONS FOR MUNICIPAL CHALLENGES
- MEC MASUKU TABLES THE 2011/12 BUDGET SPEECH IN THE LEGISLATURE
- GOVERNMENT'S SERVICE DELIVERY MACHINERY HITS DIPALESENG MUNICIPALITY
- COGTA RESCUES STORM VICTIMS IN NKOMAZI
- THE FACE OF MPUMALANGA MUNICIPALITIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial Comment.....1

MEC's Foreword.....2

Message from the Office of the HOD.....3

Indaba Provides Solutions for Municipal Challenges.....4

Accolades for Municipalities with good Performance.....5

MEC Masuku tables the 2011/12 Budget Speech in the Legislature.....6

COGTA rescues storm victims in Nkomazi.....7

Chief Mnisi delivers the Mantjolo state of the tribe address.....8

Department in Action9/10

COGTA accomplishes mission to support Emakhosi.....11

Government's service delivery machinery hits Dipaleseng.....12

The face of Mpumalanga Municipalities.....13/14

MEC Masuku and Nkomazi Mayor Cllr. Thabisile Khoza take lead in signing a Delivery Agreement Pledge during the Local Government Inaugural Indaba at the Mbombela Stadium.



EDITORIAL COMMENT

Municipalities are getting down to business in the aftermath of the local government elections. Mayors have been inaugurated and the parties are now over. We wish to congratulate all Executive Mayors, the Mayoral Committees, the Speakers and all elected councilors in their new positions. The next five years will surely be a worthy ride as you endeavor to meet the expectations of the people.

Judging by the sentiments of the people during the run up to the elections, municipalities will have a lot to deal with. Damaged roads, access to water, access to houses and electricity, are amongst the many things that require attention of the third sphere of government which is at the coal face of service delivery. Over the years, our department has committed itself to make 'Local Government Everybody's Business'.

We will continue to do that. MEC Madala Masuku has committed us in the 2011/12 Policy and Budget speech to continue to support municipalities in every step of the way to ensure that they fulfill their Constitutional mandate in the quest to improve the lives of our people.

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Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of Mpumalanga Provincial Government, the MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, neither does it reflect views of the management. Although care has been taken to verify the accuracy of information, the editorial team of this publication takes no responsibility for any inaccuracy.

We would like to hear from you

Send your comments and suggestions to the editor on the following e-mail: gpmthethwa@mpg.gov.za. Visit our website: <http://cgta.mpg.gov.za>. Call us at: 013 766 6572.

MEC'S FOREWORD



HON MEC, MR MB MASUKU (MPL)

We have once again set in motion the wheels of service delivery. By putting a mark in the ballot papers in the recent Local Government elections, held on 18 May 2011, we have sent a strong message in unison that municipalities must function, and that they must be led by people whom we trust. Our fate to get the services that we want, and to live an improved life, lies in the hands of the councilors that we have elected. We hope that our esteemed representatives who will lead us as Ward Councilors, Propositional Representative and District Councillors will not fail us. We thank all the voters who took heed of the call to vote for their councilors in the elections. We hope you will do the same even in the by-elections that will be held any time.

We also commend the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) for a job well done. The commission has outdone itself by producing credible elections. The fact that all parties that contested elections did not dispute them is testimony to the fact that the elections have been free and fair. We also commend the South African Police Services (SAPS) and other institutions that contributed to the success of the elections.

During the run up to the elections, issues of service delivery were topical. Our people used community meetings and the media space to complain about lack of water, electricity, the need for houses and the need to improve the state of the roads. The third sphere of government is best placed to address these challenges. I wish the newly appointed Mayors and members of the Mayoral Committees could be given enough time to settle down before getting down to business. However, the daunting tasks demand them to hit the ground running. The previous councils have made things easier by finalizing budgets and IDP plans for the next five years.

The recent watershed Local Government Inaugural Indaba organised by the department, became a bridge to create synergy between the achievements of our esteemed former councillors and the plans by newly elected councillors. We have already created a dialogue for cross-pollination of best practices between struggling municipalities and those that have demonstrated good governance. I would like to thank all Executive Mayors, councillors and delegates from all sectors for making the indaba such a resounding success.

Delivery of clean audits by municipalities is still elusive to most of our municipalities. Three of our municipalities out of the seven country wide obtained clean audits from the Auditor-General. We congratulate the Ehlanzeni District, Victor Khanye and Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities for the feat. Others have produced unqualified reports. Municipalities, provincial departments and State-Owned Enterprises are signatories to the commitment to produce clean audits by 2014. By that time, the new councils will be three years old. This means that work towards the achievement starts now.

The Auditor-General, Mr. Terrence Nombembe and his office have now developed a simplified tool that will help all municipalities to produce the clean audits. Producing clean audits is a matter of compliance in terms of the PFMA and MFMA. A good performance in this area of financial management also boosts confidence to investors and the public at large. There has been a great deal of improvements in some municipalities since the introduction of Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC).

Our municipalities are still faced with the challenge of MIG expenditure. Some municipalities are underspending whilst others are failing to submit plans on time. Lack of capacity has been cited as one of the reasons for this. A number of critical positions remain vacant. This area is supposed to be on the dash board of all councils if our municipalities are to break this cycle.

We need to appoint Municipal Managers and other Section 57 Managers and put in place the management systems, if our municipalities are to perform on par with other best performing municipalities. We have already committed ourselves as a department to support municipalities to function efficiently.

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HOD



HOD, MR MD MAHLOBO

Congratulations are in order for the elected Executive Mayors and members of the Mayoral Committees. The amount of work to improve the lives of the people is enormous and we dare not fail in the tasks at hand. It is safe to say that councillors are expected to hit the ground running. The first sittings of the municipalities have taken place and we have recently conducted training for all 973 councillors. Now is the time to get down to work.

Although the task will be daunting, however, we can bank on the amount of work that has been completed by our esteemed former councillors, who before departure finalized IDPs and Budget processes. This is a requirement in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA). The focus should be on the implementation of the plans and delivery of services.

MEC Masuku indicated in the Policy and Budget speech the need for capacity building in the municipalities and we hope that this will be amongst the priorities of the new councils. A number of our municipalities need to fill in key positions and the time to do that is now if we are to turn the situation around.

We would like to appreciate the amount of work that has been

done by the Municipal Managers in ensuring a smooth transition. They have prepared credible reports that give new councils a picture of the status quo. The challenges in the municipalities are not the same and therefore the one –size-fit-all approach cannot work. Some municipalities are struggling to utilize the MIG when in fact the money is needed the most to address the service delivery backlogs. Already the department through the Rapid Response Unit (RRU) is providing municipalities with the necessary support to improve in this area of performance.

Once again the department has taken a giant step by placing local government issues on the agenda, through the recently held Local Government Inaugural Indaba. The indaba amplifies the commitment of President Zuma, Premier Mabuza, MEC Masuku and our officials in the department that we are prepared to toil until our last breath to make sure that municipalities function efficiently. They remain a vital cog in the improvement of our people's lives. I urge all Executive Mayors and Councillors to implement the resolutions taken during the Indaba for the sake of our people. The success of the municipalities hinges on the support of everybody in the municipalities and sector departments, hence the theme: "Making Local Government, Everybody's Business".

We have spared no effort in our plans to support Emakhosi with the necessary resources to do their work. The recent hand over of the two brand new vehicles to King Makhosoke II and to King Mabhoko III is testimony to this. This is well in order, as we pride ourselves to be the first province to implement the outcome of the Nhlapo Commission.

We are now in the process of completing the renovation of their traditional councils. We have committed ourselves to leave no stone unturned in restoring the dignity of our leaders. And this is proving the point. We are in the final stages of appointing a committee on dispute and claims resolution for traditional leadership. The committee will assist us to put to rest the disputes and claims on land ownership that prevent development in such areas.

MEC Madala Masuku has already drawn the road map for us all to follow when he tabled the Policy and Budget speech in the legislature recently. We dare not fail. With limited resources, we will try every means possible to play our role as a co-ordinating arm of government, to improve the lives of our people.

We are still reeling in shock following the death of one of our struggle heroes, Mama Albertina Sisulu and Professor Kader Asmal. They were both buried in June. The recent local government elections marked their last journey in an effort to deepen democracy in our country. We will remember their endurance in the hardship that gave birth to the democracy that they fought for until their last days. May their souls rest in peace!

INDABA PROVIDES SOLUTIONS FOR MUNICIPAL CHALLENGES



POWER HOUSE: Premier David Mabuza and MEC Madala Masuku meet Executive Mayors for the first time in the inaugural indaba at the Mbombela Stadium.

The magnificent achievements of Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Steve Tshwete and Victor Khanye Local Municipalities for delivering clean audit reports is bound to spill over to all municipalities in Mpumalanga. The three municipalities have demonstrated good governance in Mpumalanga by forming part of the seven municipalities country-wide that have delivered clean audit reports. Mpumalanga Premier, Mr. David Mabuza told the 973 councillors who attended the recent Local Government Inaugural Indaba at the Mbombela Stadium that their main challenge in the next five years will be to match the standard set by the three municipalities. Poor spending of grants allocated to municipalities and the huge ESKOM debt owed by municipalities was highlighted by Premier Mabuza as some of the challenges that councillors have to grapple with. "Our rate of spending on Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) is currently standing at 47% of the total amount of R1,1 billion allocated to municipalities, a picture which is extremely disappointing. Another area of concern is money owed to ESKOM. Some of our municipalities, are unable to service their ESKOM debts. Seven of our municipalities collectively owe ESKOM approximately R77 million," Mr Mabuza told delegates.

Resolving the challenges may not take place overnight, however, the indaba provided an array of hope that the situation will be turned around.

Bouyed by the determination to bring solutions to the challenges facing municipalities, COGTA also broke the indaba into commissions where robust discussions on how to turn the situation around, took place. At the end of the indaba, the Head of Department, Mr David Mahlobo presented resolutions of the indaba, which were supported by all councillors and political parties. The resolutions are as follows:

- Fill all critical positions by August 2011.
- Performance Management should be in place.

- All government departments, State Owned Enterprises (SOE) and government officials must pay all outstanding debts owed to municipalities.
- Municipalities must replicate the good practice of the three successful municipalities.
- Attend to matters of assets management.
- Speed up Local Economic Development (LED) strategies in line with the Provincial Growth and Development Strategies.
- IDPs to be credible
- Relaunch all Ward Committees.

COGTA has committed itself to monitor and support municipalities for the implementation of the resolutions.



DETERMINATION: Dr JS Moroka's Mayor, Cllr Tiny Mthimunye pays attention to resolutions tabled during the indaba.

ACCOLADES FOR MUNICIPALITIES WITH GOOD PERFORMANCE



CLEAN BILL: Steve Tshwete's Mayor, Cllr Michael Masina smiles all the way as he receives a certificate and a trophy from MEC Masuku.

MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Madala Masuku has honoured several municipalities for good performance on financial management. Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Steve Tshwete and Victor Khanye Local Municipalities are enjoying the crest wave of success after an approval by the Auditor-General for producing clean audit reports. MEC Masuku presented the three municipalities each with certificates and trophies during the Local Government Inaugural Indaba at the Mbombela Stadium.

The three municipalities are ranked amongst the seven municipalities country-wide that obtained clean audits during the 2010/11 financial year. Earlier, Premier David Mabuza said: "These municipalities must be commended, not because they bring us closer to meeting our 2014 clean audit target, but because they are among us to provide lessons of experience". Mr Masuku also presented certificates to seven other local municipalities which obtained unqualified reports. The municipalities are:

- Govan Mbeki Municipality based in Secunda.
- Bushbuckridge Municipality based in Bushbuckridge.
- Lekwa Municipality based in Standerton.
- Mbombela Municipality based in Nelspruit.
- Msukaligwa Municipality in Ermelo.
- Gert Sibande District based in Ermelo.
- Nkangala District based in Middleburg.

Several departments like Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Human

Settlement, Office of the Premier, Provincial Legislature, Public Works, Roads and Transport, Social Development, and Finance were presented with certificates for producing unqualified reports. State Owned Enterprises (SOE) such as the Mpumalanga Finance and Housing Corporation and the Mpumalanga Gambling Board were presented with certificates for the unqualified reports.

The new Executive Mayors have recommitted themselves to outcome 9: A responsive accountable, effective and efficient local government system. All Executive Mayors signed the service delivery agreement, with MEC Madala Masuku at the close of the Inaugural Local Government Indaba. This reflects the commitment by the new Executive Mayors to working together with government to undertake activities effectively and on time, to produce the mutually agreed upon outputs which will in turn contribute to achieving the outcome. With such commitment and enthusiasm many more municipalities will perform better.



COMMITMENT: Thembisile Hani's Mayor, Cllr Ndaweni Mahlangu signs the pledge as commitment for Outcome 9 of the delivery agreement.

MEC MASUKU TABLES THE 2011/12 BUDGET SPEECH IN THE LEGISLATURE

MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Madala Masuku has tabled the department's budget of R325, 643 million in the legislature which focuses more on service delivery. Mr Masuku says part of the budget will be used to strengthen municipalities on Financial Management, Community Participation, stimulation of local economic growth for job creation and Institution of Traditional Leadership.

The R325, 643 million is spread across the following programmes of the Department:

- **Programme 1: Administration – R77, 836 million.**
- **Programme 2: Local Governance – R128, 732 million.**
- **Programme 3: Development and Planning – R36, 607 million.**
- **Programme 4: Traditional Institutional Management – R70, 31 million.**
- **Programme 5: House of Traditional Leaders – R12, 150 million.**

Mr. Masuku says although municipalities have made a remarkable improvement, however, more work still needs to be done. "Financial Management remains an area of great concern in our municipalities. There has been an improvement in the performance of our municipalities," he told the legislature. He cited Victor Khanye, Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities and Ehlanzeni District as three out of the seven municipalities that performed well on financial management in the country, by receiving clean audits. He added: "We also convey our congratulations to those municipalities that achieved unqualified audit outcomes in the 2010/11 financial year."

The tabling of the budget came a week after the local government elections. The outcome of the elections has increased the number of councillors to 973 and increased the wards to 402. Mr Masuku congratulated the councillors and encouraged them to execute their tasks to the best of their ability, guided by what he termed 'the will to serve the people'. He also congratulated councillors whose term came to an end. He further attributed the improvement of service delivery to them, such as the increased 91.8% of households with access to water and the



TURBO-CHARGED: Head of Department, Mr David Mahlobo exchanges pleasantries with Lekwa Municipality's Administrator, Mr Jabu Sindane and Chairperson of the Provincial Committee on Claims and Disputes Mr BJ Tolo at the legislature during the Budget Speech day.

increased number of households with access to electricity.

Mr Masuku said the department will work with the new councillors to address challenges facing municipalities. These include:

- Planning capacity for projects,
- Project Management capacity,
- Strengthening of procurement processes and systems,
- Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems,
- Strengthen cooperation and collaboration with stakeholders.

Mr Masuku also told the legislature about the department's continued support for traditional leaders in the wake of the recent hand over of two brand new vehicles to King Makhosoke II of the Manala tribe and King Mabhoko III of the Ndzundza tribe respectively. The hand over was in addition to the purchase of vehicles for the 57 traditional leaders. Said Mr Masuku: "The department has also procured 57 vehicles for our Traditional Leaders and 49 have been handed over to them. The remaining ones have not been handed over due to the disputes in the royal families in some of the Traditional Authorities. He further told them that 10 Traditional Councils' offices have been completed.



ARTISTIC: A group of traditional dancers entertain guests outside the legislature ahead of the tabling of the Budget Speech by MEC Masuku.

COGTA RESCUES STORM VICTIMS IN NKOMAZI



ORDEAL: A local resident, Mr Joao Makhubele of Hhoyi Trust rebuilds his house in the aftermath of the storm.

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) has rescued families ravaged by a hail storm in Nkomazi. Several families at Hhoyi, Mbangwane and Mbuzini in the Nkomazi Municipality were left homeless after the storm which took place a day before the election. The storm blew away the roof tops with thatch roofing, while in some houses, the storm blew away the corrugated iron, leaving the property of the victims vulnerable for damage.

A delegation of councilors from the Nkomazi and Ehlanzeni Municipalities accompanied by officials of COGTA led by Head of Department, Mr David Mahlobo visited the families to hand over relief aid in the form of tents and blankets. The families were also provided with food parcels. The relief aid helped the families whilst in the process of rebuilding themselves. The Makhubele family at Hhoyi started rebuilding their house with immediate effect. Head of the family, Mr Joao Makhubele said he and his wife and their two daughters spent the night in a freezing cold weather sleeping inside two tents donated by the department. He expressed gratitude to the department for the support.

The ordeal did not deter the families from casting their votes on election day. Mr Makhubele became part of the 55,8% that voted for councilors in the local government elections. Elsewhere in the same neighbourhood, the Mkhwanazi

family lost valuable assets when the roof top was blown away. The intervention of the department cushioned the family against the cold weather. In an interview on the local radio recently, the HOD, Mr Mahlobo appealed to communities to support each other in the event of storms and other calamities. He further urged municipalities to create awareness for disaster management toll free lines. Mr Mahlobo said these will enable communities to report disasters and for a speedy intervention.

Meanwhile, the department has organized training on Disaster Management Soft Wares. COGTA's Mr Jacque Benade says the training targeted officials in the Disaster Management Centres from local and district municipalities and officials from Traffic Management Emergency Services. Mpumalanga is prone to disasters such as storms and diseases and the training is one of the interventions to prepare the province to deal with them.



STATE OF READINESS: COGTA's Mr Jacque Benade displays the new Disaster Management Soft Ware during a training session at Ehlanzeni Disaster Management Center.

CHIEF MNISI DELIVERS THE STATE OF THE MANTJOLO TRIBE ADDRESS



CULTURAL HERITAGE: Chief Mnisi shares a lighter moment with Kgosigadi Mohlala and his wife Tfolakele left during the cultural ummemo at Enkonjaneni.

Chief Bheki Mnisi of the Mantjolo Traditional Authority has modelled the cultural pilgrimage (ummemo) around government's State of the Nation address. Previously, the pilgrimage, which last for three days, was used to observe cultural practices, entertain guests and feast. Now the function has been modernized to showcase cultural heritage and report back to the Chief's subjects and stakeholders about development in that area. Last year, the pilgrimage coincided with the signing of a pact between Chief Mnisi and Komatiland Forest in which the former committed itself to contribute to share its profits with the Chief's subjects by building a crèche and by giving preference to the local communities in the event of employment opportunities.

This year, the pilgrimage coincided with the unveiling of the crèche. In his speech, which he termed the State of the Mantjolo Tribal Authority Address, Chief Mnisi applauded Komatiland Forests for responding to the challenges of Enkonjaneni. "The building of the crèche will help us to teach our children our cultural heritage at a succulent stage.



UNFAVOURABLE WEATHER: Local residents defied the cold weather to attend the Mantjolo cultural pilgrimage.

They will also be taught the English language. Our children do not have to migrate to other areas to learn these things," Chief Mnisi said.

The pilgrimage came at the time when the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) is in the process of providing Emakhosi with resources to support their tribal communities. Cogta recently purchased top of the range vehicles for Emakhosi and further renovated some of their traditional councils. Chief Mnisi says although he supports the initiative, however, Emakhosi should also use creative means that will help improve the lives of their people. "As Emakhosi, our status should not be determined by the cars government has purchased for us. It should be determined by the number of families we have helped to feed in our areas," he said. He proudly announced that with the provision of electricity, houses and water in areas under his jurisdiction, the Mantjolo Tribal Authority, the lives of his people is improving.

Chief Mnisi applauded government's efforts to prioritize rural development. He described the introduction of the Comprehensive Rural Development Plan as a major milestone and appealed to Emakhosi to take lead in its success. "The message from government is that now it is our turn as rural people to reap the benefits of development. Government introduced the letsema programme and later Vukuzenzele and Sibuyele Emasimini and now it's the CRDP. And what is more interesting is that Emakhosi have been placed at the centre stage to lead the programme," he said.

The pilgrimage normally takes place in May, at the time when the temperature has dropped below 20 degrees celsius. Rain forms part of the Mantjolo praise name, and therefore the showers of rain that take place during the pilgrimage is an omen that the Mantjolos are in control of rain. During the function, a website for the tribal authority was launched.

COGTA In Action



AGENDA POINTS: Umjindi Municipal Manager, Ms Sibongile Mnisi and Mbombela's Acting Municipal Manager, Ms Norah Mthembu make inputs during COGTA's workshop to prepare municipalities for a transitional period in Middleburg.



ACTION PLAN: Human Settlement's Mr Thokozane Zwane, and Ms Millicent Ramonetha take notes about issues related to housing during COGTA's workshop on reporting and monitoring for municipalities.



EXEMPLARY: Victor Khanye's Municipal Manager, Mr Mbongiseni Riba has been applauded by the Auditor-General for his municipality's clean audit report.



WINNING FORMULA: The Steve Tshwete Municipality has been pocketed R30 000 as the municipality with the Best Workplace in Mpumalanga. Cllr Mavundla Mabena receives the cheque during a skills colloquium in White River.



GUIDANCE: COGTA's Ms Sibongile Mabuza (extreme right) welcomes guests during the Policy and Budget speech in the legislature. The guests are: Mr Winston Mngomezulu of Pixley Isaiah Ka Seme Municipality, Mr Pitso Tolo of the Commission for Disputes and Resolution for Traditional Leadership, and Mr Jabu Sindane of Lekwa Municipality.



CONFIRMATION: COGTA's officials prepare logistics ahead of the Local Government Inaugural Indaba at the Mbombela Stadium



BACK UP: Speaker of the Legislature, Mr William Lubisi, Chief Mahlobo and Kgosisgadi Mohlala of the HTL pay attention to speeches at the Mantjolo cultural pilgrimage at Enkonjaneni Kraal.



MAPPING FORWARD: Cogta's officials, Mr Pat Nkosi, Mr Mangisi Mnisi and Mr Whitey Maduma keep track of projects to be visited in Grootvlei.



SOUND BYTE: Premier David Mabuza addresses the media during the local government inaugural indaba at the Mbombela Stadium. He is flanked by MEC Masuku and Ehlanzeni Mayor, Cllr Letta Shongwe (right) and Nkangala District Mayor, Cllr Speedy Mashilo.



SHELTERED ZONE: A storm victim, Mr Friday Mamba of Hhoyi in Nkomazi stands outside a tent donated by COGTA with one of the blankets.



PREVIEW: Cogta's Mr Dira Motsilanyane and Mr Alfred Mohlabane unveil a brand new Mercedes Benz prior to its hand over to King Mabhoko III in Siyabuswa.



PHYSICALLY FIT: COGTA's officials playing netball during the health and wellness day at Lowveld Agricultural College

COGTA ACCOMPLISHES MISSION TO SUPPORT EMAKHOSI

The enduring challenge of servicing tribal subjects by Amakhosi in Mpumalanga will in be a thing of the past. The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) has contributed to the efforts by purchasing brand new vehicles for them. MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), Mr Madala Masuku handed over two vehicles to the two Ndebele Kings, King Mabhoko III of AmaNdebele akwaNdzuzu at Mthambothini village in Siyabuswa and King Makhosoke II of AmaNdebele akwaManala at Engwenyameni village near Kwamhlanga. Mr Masuku was accompanied by Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Deputy Minister of Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency, Ms Dinah Pule, Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders, Ikosi Sipho Mahlangu and Head of Department, Mr David Mahlobo.

Rural communities have been trapped in poverty for decades due to apartheid policies, which favoured white communities. The purchase of the vehicles for Emakhosi is one of the many interventions of government to oil the poverty fighting machinery. Kings and Chiefs are regarded as catalysts of development for the communities. Ikosi Mahlangu complemented the department for its efforts to support Emakhosi. "Government has fulfilled its obligations of purchasing the vehicles for Emakhosi. This will help our esteemed Emakhosi to initiate programmes of development", he said. He added: "We wish you can utilize the vehicle to bring together the nation."

The provision of the vehicle also ended a period of endurance for King Mabhoko III who lived without a reliable vehicle for six years. "We appreciate the vehicle. I have spent six years without a vehicle. I will not cry anymore, like I did before," said the King, in his response. King Mabhoko emphasized his commitment to work with government. He took advantage of the opportunity to make his needs known. "My people want jobs. We need proper roads. We need to appoint contractors locally to build the roads." His request was applauded by his subjects who came in numbers to attend the function.

King Makhosoke II expressed gratitude to the delegation for bringing the vehicle at the right time. "I will use the vehicle to serve my people. This really demonstrates government's recognition of my contribution to the Ndebele nation. I will use the vehicle to serve the needs of my people," the King said.

The hand over of the two vehicles comes in the wake of the recent hand over of 49 vehicles to traditional leaders in Mpumalanga. This was a fulfillment of a commitment by COGTA. Apart from the vehicles, the department has also renovated offices of traditional councils and has provided training for them on IDPs and playing a role in municipal councils.



MOBILITY: MEC Masuku accompanied by Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Ms Pule and Nkangala Executive Mayor, Cllr Speedy Mashilo hands over the new Mercedes Benz to King Makhosoke II at his residence.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi hands over keys of the new Mercedes Benz to King Mabhoko III while MEC Masuku looks on.

GOVERNMENT'S SERVICE DELIVERY MACHINERY HITS DIPALESENG MUNICIPALITY



CHECK POINT: *Grootvlei resident, Ms Jane Ndubayi welcomes a delegation of Minister Mthethwa, MEC Masuku and Councillors into her house.*

Residents in Grootvlei outside Balfour are the latest to celebrate the installation of electricity and clean water in their households. Their excitement was evident during a visit by Acting Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Nathi Mthethwa. The acting Minister was accompanied by Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr. Malusi Gigaba, MEC Madala Masuku, former Dipaleseng Executive Mayor, Cllr Mabalane Tsotetsi and local councillors.

Mr Eric Motsamayi and Ms. Jane Ndubayi are two of the many residents in Grootvlei who have benefitted from the government's service delivery. The two were visited by the Mthethwa-led delegation to witness an electrification project and the flow of water in the area notorious for protests. Both Ms. Ndubayi and Mr. Motsamayi expressed gratitude to the delegation. The electrification and water projects in Grootvlei are part of the many interventions by government to the Dipaleseng communities aimed at improving their lives.

The delegation also visited several families with new houses in Siyathemba, the newly built clinic and a hall in Ntoroane before addressing a crowd at a nearby sports field next to the Siyathemba Thusong Service Centre. In his speech, Minister Mthethwa high-

lighted the many projects that have been completed as milestones for service delivery. "In the area of provision of electricity yet again notable strides have been made. For instance, 387 housing units in Grootvlei Extension 1 have been electrified while a further 213 households are expected to be provided with electricity during the 2011/12 financial year and this will be to the tune of R1,5 million which has already been budgeted for and approved," Mr Mthethwa said.

His message did not resonate well with the masses, as they demanded more than what government has provided so far. Other projects include the following:

- Construction of the Dyer road in Ward 3 and 4 in Siyathemba.
- Construction of the storm water drainage system in Balfour.
- Construction of a water supply pipeline from Fortuna to Siyathemba reservoir.
- Connection of 74 houses in Mandela Section to sewer system.
- Construction of 156 VIP toilets.
- Construction of 23 houses.
- Construction of the State-of-the art 24 hour clinic.
- Disaster Management centre
- Social development offices.

The partnership between government and the private sector is also yielding positive results in that area. A local mine, Burnstone has partnered with the Dipaleseng Municipality to build a storm water drainage in Balfour. Government is also putting in place systems in response to the challenges facing public institutions such as the local clinic. MEC Masuku told the delegation that the clinic is losing nurses, and as a result, the provincial cabinet has approved a plan to pay health professionals a rural allowance as a ploy to mitigate the migration of nurses away from the area.



SAFETY ROAD: *Local residents walk on a tarred road in Grootvlei recently tarred by government as one of the many interventions.*

THE FACE OF MPUMALANGA MUNICIPALITIES



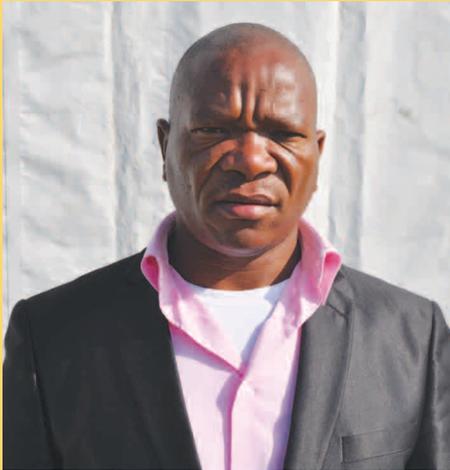
Cllr. Speedy Mashilo
Mayor: Nkangala District Municipality



Cllr. Lettah Shongwe
Mayor: Ehlanzeni District Municipality



Cllr. Kgotso Motloung
Mayor: Gert Sibande District Municipality



Cllr. Bhekabani Mtshali
Mayor: Mkhondo Local Municipality



Cllr. Thulisile Khoza
Mayor: Nkomazi Local Municipality



Cllr. Moses Marobela
Mayor: Thabachweu Local Municipality



Cllr. Lettie Masina
Mayor: Govan Mbeki Local Municipality



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Local News



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Mayor: Thembisile Hani Local Municipality



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DISASTER TOLL FREE

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VISION

Intergrated sustainable people
centred development

MISSION

Facilitate and co-ordinate
Intergovernmental Structures and
Developmental Agencies for
Sustainable Intergrated Service Delivery
through Public Participation and
Traditional system of governance

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