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Department:
Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



- Bloemendal water pipeline to provide water to Victor Khanye community.
- Mbombela Municipality tackles water challenges head on.
- CWP creates 17 000 jobs in Mpumalanga.
- COGTA spends 67 minutes in Mbuzini on Mandela Day.
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MEC's FOREWORD



MEC SPD SKHOSANA

In a quest to support municipalities, we recently dispatched a team of officials to provide support to Msukaligwa and Govan Mbeki Local Municipalities. This is in line with a decision taken by the Provincial Executive Council after a two day Provincial Co-ordinating Forum (PCF) meeting that resolved to intervene in the two municipalities. During engagements and deliberations at the PCF meeting it was evident that there are serious challenges in these municipalities with regards to the areas of finance, administration and service delivery.

The Provincial Government will provide support to these municipalities in terms of Section 154 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 read with Section 105 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000) which states among others that "the national government and provincial governments, by legislative and other measures, must support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage

their own affairs, to exercise their powers and to perform their functions".

I have already met the Executive Mayors and Members of Mayoral Committees of the two municipalities to outline the objectives of the intervention. The teams are tasked to assess the situation and develop turn around strategies with clear plans of actions to assist these municipalities. We have realized that there was a need for all spheres of government to demonstrate their commitment towards delivering services to the people. Both the political and administrative leadership of the municipality have to work with diligence and display a sense of urgency in delivering services to our people. The teams comprise of financial, technical and governance experts to strengthen the capacity and enhance performance of these municipalities and will report on a regular basis. We are confident as a department that the support will help municipalities turn their situation around and continue to deliver quality services.

With just few months away from the January 2014 deadline for the provision of water to all citizens in Mpumalanga, it is worth mentioning that we are well on track to meet the deadline. Municipalities have heeded the call by the Premier to make water a priority in their budgets. Several villages and households with no water previously, are now connected and enjoy access to water. We have pulled resources together as the three spheres of government in order to overcome obstacles which made it impossible to provide our people with water, such as the old infrastructure, inadequate funding and licencing. We call upon all citizens to protect the taps against vandalization and illegal connections so that the house at the end of the pipeline enjoys equal access to water just like the household at the beginning of the pipeline. Access to water is a universal right as declared by the United Nations in its Millennium Goals. As a country, we are expected to ensure that all people in the country have access to water by the year 2014.

Our department has teamed up with the provincial chapter of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) to host the 2013 Municipal Performance Awards. This is an initiative to recognize and promote municipal excellence in service delivery in terms of bettering the lives of our communities. In view of the awards, we want to applaud and acknowledge good performance, to encourage knowledge sharing, to motivate municipalities to enhance their performance and productivity thus improving the culture of accountability. We encourage all Executive Mayors, Municipal Managers to support this initiative by participating. A team of experts has been established to manage the process from entries to adjudication. We hope to do this by October 2013.

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HOD

July marked the beginning of the new 2013/14 financial year for Local Government. With the 2014 clean audit deadline looming, all local government practitioners are spending sleepless nights to make this a reality. The recent audit outcome in Mpumalanga shows that a lot of work still needs to be done. Contrary to the efforts of increasing the number of municipalities with clean audits, the number reduced from three to two. Despite these we remain hopeful that the support we are providing municipalities will not be in vain. The support includes the following:

- Assist municipalities in dealing with audit issues raised by the Auditor-General (A-G),
- Assist municipalities on the alignment of the Performance Management System (PMS) with Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP), Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget,
- Support struggling municipalities to submit Annual Financial Statements on time,
- Support municipalities to develop Revenue Enhancement Strategies; Encouraged them to establish and strengthen both the Internal Audit and Risk Management units

The Provincial Government has taken a decision to support the Msukaligwa and Govan Mbeki local municipalities on issues of finance, service delivery and administration. The teams have already been dispatched in these municipalities. They have already developed Turn Around strategies. We are confident that those interventions will yield positive results.

Working together with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Provincial Treasury and District Municipalities, we believe that municipalities can still make the cut, come 2014. SALGA's position, following the A-G's report on the 2012-13 audit outcomes, is crucial. In a statement, the organization said: "SALGA has analysed the key findings of the report and accedes in principle to the fact that the local government sector still faces challenges as outlined by the Auditor General in his report". Despite these challenges, local government continues to improve the livelihoods of the South African citizens. The latest StatsSA census of 2011 report concluded that there were significant improvements with access to a range of basic services such as water and sanitation, electricity, refuse removal which local government has delivered over time. These improvements provided direct benefits to South African households in terms of better living conditions, environmental and health standards.

The department is concerned that municipalities are struggling to honour their debts with ESKOM. Collectively, our municipalities owe ESKOM more than R800 million. We have met with ESKOM and the concerned municipalities to come up with plans to pay these debts. We call upon all stakeholders, especially big businesses to play their part and also pay their municipal accounts so that municipalities can also honour their debts.



HOD DAVID MHLOBO

Local government has been at the centre of these achievements. As we celebrate 20 years of democracy, we believe that municipalities will continue to occupy their rightful space in a quest to improve the lives of our people.

Community Development Workers (CDWs) continue to live up to their expectations. As the eyes and ears of the government, they continue to raise our people out of the poverty quagmire. They have over the past few months raised the bar by walking an extra mile in their daily duties. This has seen them saving lives which could have been lost. Mr Andrew Thulare of Mganduzweni outside White River, is a classical example. He saved a life of a child who was born and left in a plastic bag to die, in circumstances only known to the mother. He reported the matter to the police and arranged for the child to be taken to hospital where she was attended to medically, before she was handed over to her grand parents, who are taking care of her now. We salute Mr Thulare

The recommendations by Amakhosi to stop illegal land invasion by individuals purporting to be traditional leaders, is a major step towards bringing this scourge to an end. The recommendations were adopted in White River recently during a summit on illegal land invasion. Our department supports the recommendations and we will do every possible means to support Emakhosi in their quest to stop land invasions. We will work with security agencies to make sure that the perpetrators are brought to book.

In July, our department joined the international community to celebrate Mandela's birthday. We did so by painting the Ndindindi Primary School in Mbuzini. And as we all know, Madiba, the struggle hero, has been in and out of hospital. We remain steadfast in our prayers, for God to help improve his health condition.

Bloemendal water pipeline to provide clean water to Delmas residents



BREAKTHROUGH: Minister Molewa delivers a key note address during the launch of the Bloemendal pipeline.

Water shortages will soon be a thing of the past following the launch of bulk water infrastructure project by Water and Environmental Affairs Minister, Ms Edna Molewa. Mpumalanga Premier, Mr David Mabuza, MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Simon Skhosana, Victor Khanye Executive Mayor, Cllr Ntombizodwa Makhabane, local councillors and the local community attended the launch.

During her address, Minister Molewa said the pipeline will help provide clean water and eliminate water-borne diseases and water shortages in Delmas and the surrounding areas. “The bulk water project is part of the government’s drive to bring services to the people of the country. Delmas is particularly critical as it has in the past experienced serious challenges of water and water-borne diseases. The launch of this bulk water project goes a long way in addressing these and ensuring there is no repeat of such challenges,” she said.

In October 2008, the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs, in conjunction with Rand Water, which had been appointed as the implementing agent, the Victor Khanye Local Municipality and COGTA signed an agreement for bulk water infrastructure to supply water to Delmas. In the dry seasons the available volume of water has been inadequate to supply enough water. The adequate supply of water is expected

to contribute to the growth and economic development of the area.

The project was designed to supply 25MI/d (potable water) and is sufficient to meet water demand in the service area up to 2026. The project incorporates a 10MI reservoir located at mid-point of the new pipeline. With the introduction of the Bloemendal/Delmas pipeline, the water distribution network was being reconfigured such that the Rand Water connection at Modder-Oos Reservoir supplies water to the reservoirs at Sundra and Ellof. Areas to be supplied with water through the pipeline are Delmas (town), Delmas West, Delmas Extension 1-7, Scheme 88, Delpark, Delpark Extension 2 and 4, Botleng Proper and Mandela informal settlement. The total number of households in this service area is 6880.

The communities in the outlying Municipal areas like Hawerklip situated approximately 21 km South East from Delmas and Groenfontein situated 34km North East from Delmas, were previously receiving water by means of water tankers. Boreholes are planned to be drilled for these communities in order to have a non-interrupted water supply.

“The introduction of the Bloemendal-Delmas pipeline implies that the available water supply will exceed the demand in the service areas. It will be critical to exercise oversight or control in order to ensure that the available supply does not compensate for water losses in the system,” added the Minister.

More than R171 million will be spent for the construction of the pipeline.

HOD Mahlobo informs Parliamentary committee about Bushbuckridge's water plans

The Department for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in Mpumalanga says plans are well afoot to eradicate water challenges in the Bushbuckridge Municipality. Head of Department, Mr David Mahlobo was addressing Parliament's Standing Committee on Appropriation in Bushbuckridge recently. Mr Mahlobo says although efforts to provide water are hampered by the ageing water infrastructure, inadequate funding and lack of skilled personnel, however, tremendous success has been recorded in the process of delivering water to affected communities.

"The water problem demands that we all work together for a solution. Working together with the Department of Water Affairs, the Bushbuckridge Municipality, the Bushbuckridge Water Board and Rand Water, we are in a quest to provide communities with clean water. We now treat 50 mega-litres of water per day in the Thulamahashe area. We are working towards adding another 50 mega-litres of water from the Mahlebo Dam and the Klein Sand River to provide adequately for the 99 000 households in the same area," Mr Mahlobo told the committee.

Illegal connections remain one of the biggest challenges in the provision of water as the provincial government is racing against time to meet the January 2014 target, in which all citizens in Mpumalanga should be having access to water. This commitment was made by Premier David Mabuza in line with government's National Development Goals and the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. With 145 villages in the Bushbuckridge Municipality, government's job is cut out to meet the high water consumption. As Mr Mahlobo explained, efforts are underway to improve the capacity of the Shatale, Thulamahashe and Hoxane water treatment works to supply water sufficiently to the reservoirs connected to them, before transporting clean water to the communities.

Mr Leornard Ramatlakane, one of the members of the committee expressed concern about the amount of water lost due to illegal connections. He wanted to know if the municipality has enough capacity to manage water related issues. Ramatlakane's counterpart, Ms Lumka Yengeni wanted to know why it took so long for the provincial government to set a deadline of January 2014 to provide every citizen with water.

Mr Mahlobo further told the committee about the provincial government's sense of comfort in its plans to provide water, not only in Bushbuckridge but in Mpumalanga as a whole. "The provincial government has allocated R310 million for water projects in the 2013/14 financial year. In this municipality, Phases 1 and 2 of the Inyaka Dam has been completed to provide the amount of water required. We are in the process of completing Phases 2 and 3 of the Inyaka Dam to improve the supply of water. We have appointed Rand Water as an intervention to implement the commissioned work of the Inyaka Water Treatment Works and the Bloemendal pipeline. All these projects have created more than 400 job opportunities," he added.



MILESTONE: HOD, Mr David Mahlobo tabled a water delivery plan to members of Parliament's Standing Committee on Appropriation at the Inyaka Dam.



SEARCHING FOR WATER: Lack of water in the Bushbuckridge Municipality will soon be a thing of the past.

Lekwa Municipality rises to the occasion by upgrading water infrastructure



SOLUTIONS: Lekwa Executive Mayor, Cllr Matshidiso Morajane has tabled plans to increase the provision of water.

Lekwa Local Municipality has announced plans to alleviate water shortages in areas hit hard by the problem. The plans were tabled by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Matshidiso Morajane when tabling a budget speech in Standerton. Ward 5, 7, 8 and 15 are some of the areas where the level of water provision will be improved.

The municipality has committed to use funds from the R53,846 million capital budget to upgrade the water supply networks in the affected areas. "In order to improve local public service delivery and broaden access to same and as part of infra-

structure development programme, we will be investing R4 million for water pumps at the water purification work. This will alleviate the problem of water shortages that we have experienced recently, more specifically in Wards 5, 7, 8 and 18," Morajane said.

Other measures are as follows:

- In Morgenzon, a water purification work is underway at a cost of R1 million,
- R2,5 million will be spent for water zoning and installation of bulk water meters.
- In Sakhile, R1,4 million will be spent to upgrade substations, while R1,5 million will be utilized to upgrade the local purification plant.
- R1 million has been set aside for the upgrading of the sewer plants.

Rural areas with no water have also benefitted from the municipality's infrastructure development plan. "We will continue to address the backlog of sanitation and water in rural areas to the value of R3 million. This will be in addition to what our District Municipality will be funding," Morajane added.

The provision of water is in line with the Mpumalanga Provincial Government to provide water to all households by the end of January 2014. The plan was announced by Premier David Mabuza during the State of the province address. It is also in line with the National Development Goals (NDG) in which government is committed to ensure that all South Africans have access to clean running water in their homes by 2030.



MORE WATER: A purification plant in Sakhile is to be upgraded as a measure to improve the provision of water for the local community.

Mbombela Municipality tackles water problems head on



The Mbombela Municipality is a step closer towards alleviating water shortages. The Municipality is experiencing a high consumption of water due to the rising population. Of the more than 50 million population of South Africa, Mbombela accounts for more than 3 million, according to the 2011 Stats SA enumeration. According to the Executive Mayor, Cllr Cathy Dlamini this can be attributed to the strategic positioning of Mbombela in terms of its economic potential to attract people from other countries, such as Mozambique and Swaziland, other provinces and municipalities.

During the tabling of the budget for the 2013-14 financial year, Cllr Dlamini announced measures to address water challenges in areas hit hard by the water shortage. She committed the municipality to reduce water service backlogs by connecting 15 201 new households, in which R86-million will be spent. She told a council sitting that the water shortage will be addressed by the following measures:

- R3,1-million has been budgeted for the upgrading of the Karino/Plaston Water Scheme with a further 2MI/D to support the vast developments and new settle-

ments within the precinct.

- R4,3-million for the construction of the bulk connector pipeline aimed at conveying 18MI/D of purified water from the new Hoxane Water Treatment Works.

- The new Karino/Plaston Bulk Water Scheme has been allocated R86-million for planning, designing and implementation of the first phase during the 2013/14 financial year.

- By committing R281-million over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the construction of two new water treatment works and supporting bulk connector lines.

The interventions, according to Cllr Dlamini are expected to complement the current supply of water.

According to Cllr Dlamini, areas within the jurisdiction of the Mbombela Municipality are as affected as other areas in Mpumalanga. "As I said earlier, we are coming across a myriad of challenges as we move along to tackle water shortages in our municipal area. Bulk water infrastructure challenges include inadequate funding, old and dilapidated infrastructure as well as limited domestic water use licences," she said. These challenges, added Cllr Dlamini, are compounded by illegal connections.

Cllr Dlamini says these water interventions will ensure the fast-tracking of water-related Millennium Development Goals through short-term water supply interventions to ensure that every citizen has access to portable water by the year 2014.



COUNCIL DECISION: Mbombela Executive Mayor, Cllr Cathy Dlamini tabled water delivery plan in the municipality's council chambers.

Service delivery comes under the spotlight in KwaZamokuhle



GOOD NEWS: Steve Tshwete Executive Mayor, Cllr Mike Masina, MEC Skhosana and MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr Vusi Shongwe, visited KwaZamokuhle settlement in Hendrina to deliver service delivery plans.



EXPECTATIONS: The local community of KwaZamokuhle lookset to benefit from government's service delivery improvement.

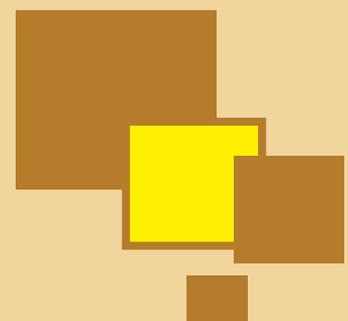
Building of a new clinic, the upgrading of the local stadium, improvement of electricity capacity and provision of water became a focus point during a meeting between the community of KwaZamokuhle settlement in Hendrina and the leadership of the Mpumalanga provincial Government. A delegation of MECs, Executive Mayors and government officials led by Mr Simon Skhosana of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) visited that area to inform the community about service delivery plans. The number of the population has increased and this has also caused government to improve the capacity of service delivery points.

Nkangala District Executive Mayor, Cllr Speedy Mashilo told the gathering that an amount of R6 million has been set aside for the improvement of the capacity of the water reservoir. "We have started a new financial year in July. Work is already underway in Ward 3 to improve the water reservoir. We will start soon with the construction of storm water system. R4 million will be spent," Cllr Mashilo said. He added that new electricity lines will be installed with a new transformer at a cost of R3,1 million.

Recreational facilities, according to Cllr Mashilo, will be given a facelift to encourage the local youth to participate in sports activities. He says R5 million will be spent in this financial year to improve parks in Ward 1, 2 and 3 at a cost of R5 million, while R5 million will be used to build the pavilion of the local stadium.

A local clinic was burnt down earlier this year. With the intervention of the provincial government, a new clinic will be built. According to MEC Skhosana, the new clinic will operate 24 hours. 400 housing units will also be built. The Steve Tshwete Municipality has also identified a site for the construction of the houses.

The delegation told the community about plans to build a Mall, in the near future.



COGTA IN ACTION



MADIBA JIVE: MEC Skhosana and Victor Khanye Executive Mayor, Cllr Zodwa Makhabane join pupils at Sizile Primary School in Delmas to sing and dance for Madiba as part of the Mandela Day celebration.



WORKING TOGETHER: HOD for COGTA, Mr David Mahlobo co-ordinates a joint meeting of all departments during the crafting of a Disaster Management Strategy at Ehlanzeni Council Chambers.



STRENGTH: Msukaligwa Executive Mayor, Cllr Siphongwe (left) welcomes the Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Mbuso Zungu (2nd from left), seconded by COGTA, at the municipal councils. MEC Simon Skhosana visited the municipality to introduce Mr Zungu.



LEGACY: Inkhosi Mlambo II of Mbuzini plants a tree in honour of Madiba at Ndindindi Primary School during the Mandela Day celebration. Ehlanzeni District Executive Mayor, Cllr Lettie Shongwe and MEC Skhosana look on.



VICTORY: Mpumalanga Premier, Mr David Mabuza expresses excitement during the launch of the Bloemdal water pipeline in Delmas.



HELP CAMPAIGN: Inkhosi Sandile Nkosi of Mpakeni donates uniform to pupils at Mpakeni Primary School as part of the Mandela Day celebration.

Public-Private partnership creates development opportunities for Jabulani community



RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Deputy Minister Andries Nel (right) joins MEC Skhosana and Msukaligwa Executive Mayor, Cllr Siphongwe in the singing of the national anthem in Jabulani village during proceedings to mark the Agri-village project.



JOB CREATION: The Agri-village project in Jabulani village has created 100 opportunities for local residents through the CWP.



The Jabulani community in Piet Retief is already reaping the fruits of a public-private partnership. This follows the donation of a 600 hectares of land by Mondi company for the establishment of an Agri village.

The partnership between Mondi and the government was established in 2002. Since then the company has donated pieces of land to various communities in the Mkhondo Local Municipality for development, one of which is in Raasplaas. Deputy Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Andries Nel commended all parties for development initiatives. "This initiative addresses government's national priorities as announced by President Jacob Zuma. For example, solar-powered street lights have been installed. These lights form part of a crime-fighting strategy. The local primary school with two classes, is now expanded. This forms part of the education strategy. A piece of land will be used for agricultural purpose, and this translates into job creation for those who will use this land to produce vegetables to be sold to workers at Mondi. This integrates rural development and job creation at the same time," Nel said.

When delivering a message of support, Mondi's Thobi Mkhize indicated that they were committed to working with government and the Mkhondo Municipality to ensure that the Jabulani Community Works' Programme Agri-Village becomes a success. "Going forward we will build a community kitchen that will provide catering services to Mondi, the municipality and the local hospital," said Mkhize.

The function to hand over the land was attended by MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Simon Skhosana, Gert Sibande Executive Mayor, Cllr Mishack Nhlabathi, Executive Mayors from Mkhondo, Chief Albert Luthuli and Msukaligwa Municipalities, local Kings and Mondi's Ms Thobi Mkhize. Nel appealed to all participants to make the project a success. His sentiments were echoed by Mkhondo Executive Mayor, Cllr Bhekabantu Mtshali and Inkosi Themba Yende of Oganyaneni, who appealed to CWP participants to commit themselves to the jobs created by the programme.

Mr Nel, accompanied by MEC Skhosana and the entourage of Executive Mayors planted trees during their visit to Jabulani village as part of a greening project.

COGTA spends 67 minutes in Mbuzini helping local community in honour of Mandela



CLEAN AIR: MEC Skhosana and King Mlambo II of Mbuzini plant a tree at Ndindindi Primary School in honour of Madiba.



SHARING: A cake was cut and shared to mark Mandela's birthday at the local hall in Mbuzini.

The historical Mbuzini village located at the tip of Lebombo mountain came alive when the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) celebrated the Mandela Day, by helping the local community. The village is the seat for the Samora Machel Monument, built in honour of the late Mozambican President, whose plane crashed in Mbuzini in 1984.

COGTA's officials, led by MEC Simon Skhosana teamed up with Ehlanzeni District's Executive Mayor, Cllr Letta Shongwe, Nkomazi Municipality's councillors, King Mlambo II, Deputy Chairperson of HTL, Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane and the local community

to renovate the Ndindindi Primary School. Armed with several buckets full of paint, brushes and over rolls, the team scratched the walls first, before repainting them. The paint was donated by the private sector. Another group replaced broken doors of the school by installing new ones. Trees were also planted to promote environmental awareness both at the school and at the local hall.

For the pupils, Christmas came earlier for them, as Mr Skhosana and Cllr Shongwe donated new school uniforms and sweets. By improving the learning conditions at the school, the department contributed to Mandela's dream of improving education in the

country. The delegation also donated blankets and planted seedlings at the local care centre. The donation of school uniforms and blankets is in line with the spirit of giving, as the statesman did.

Later, the delegation joined the local community at the local hall where a cake was cut to mark Madiba's birthday who turned 95 years on 19 July. In his address, Mr Skhosana appealed to the community to embrace Mandela's principles, such as providing a helping hand to people in need. At the time of the birthday celebration, Mandela was still in hospital, in Pretoria. Mr Skhosana appealed to the community to continue to pray for Mandela. "Madiba

COGTA HANDS OVER VEHICLES TO AMAKHOSI



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Gert Sibande District Mayor Mr Nhlabathi hands over the keys of the new vehicle to Inkhosi Mahlobo at Kwandalaza Royal House in Piet Retief.



HELPING HAND: Inkhosi Yende of Ogenyaneni appreciates MEC Skhosana for the support as he receives keys of the new car.

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in Mpumalanga has handed over vehicles to two traditional leaders to utilize them as tools of trade. The vehicles were handed over to Inkosi Andries Mahlobo of Mahlobo Traditional Council and Inkosi Yende of Ogenyaneni Traditional Council by MEC Simon Skhosana. Each received one vehicle to help them serve their communities in their traditional authorities. The department has previously handed over vehicles to other 59 Traditional Councils.

The function was also attended by the Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoshi Mathibela Mokoena, Traditional Leaders in the Gert Sibande District, the Executive Mayor, Cllr Meshack Nhlabathi, government officials and local residents.

During his address Mr Skhosana reminded all those who were present about the importance of traditional leadership in restoring cultural values and respect among communities. "We are handing

over these vehicles to you today as a commitment towards ensuring our support to the Traditional Leadership in our province. Traditional Leaders played a crucial role even during our struggle for liberation in South Africa," said Skhosana.

The handing over of the vehicles is in line with the provincial government's commitment to support Amakhosi in an effort to restore their dignity and to help them travel easier to the furthest corners of their rural areas which are vast. The refurbishment of offices for Emakhosi, also forms part of the support. The offices are often utilized as outlets to provide services such as application of social grants.

Both Inkhosi Mahlobo and Inkhosi Yende expressed gratitude to the provincial government.

CWP creates more than 17000 job opportunities in Mpumalanga



WAR ON POVERTY: COGTA's Ms Nono Mariba, Mr Jabu Makomati and Ms Sibongile Mculu of National COGTA worked together for the success of CWP in Mpumalanga.

The Community Works' Programme (CWP) has exceeded the target of 17 000 job opportunities in Mpumalanga. The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) says 19 316 job opportunities have been created by March this year. Addressing an induction of Local Reference Committee (LRC) workshop in Nelspruit, COGTA's Ms Nono Maribe says these opportunities have been created in 13 identified local municipalities. "The national target for all provinces is 17 000. As a province we have exceeded the target. We have 121 Wards which have operational CWP projects. We have also exceeded the target of 55% for designated groups such as women, youth and people with disabilities. We have recruited 58% of them participating in the programme," Maribe said.



FIX IT: CWP participants help teachers at Manzolwandle Secondary School in Nkomazi to mark books for pupils.

The CWP is one of government's intervention strategies to fight poverty. It was piloted in 2007 and was handed over to the COGTA in 2010. The programme is output 3 of the outcome 9 and also contributes to outcome 7. National COGTA's Ms Florah Nkoana says the programme is labour intensive, and community driven. "The programme provides work opportunities and experience. It also provides an employment safety net. It also strengthens public and community partnership in decision making around development," Nkoana added.

Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality has the highest number of job opportunities created compared to other participating municipalities. Mariba says the department is dealing with a number of challenges which are a threat to the success of CWP. Despite challenges facing the CWP, Maribe remains confident that the programme will continue to be government's bed rock in an effort to cushion communities against the effects of poverty. "We are improving payment processes to pay participants on time. We are strengthening administrative systems. We are supporting participants with no accounts to open them in the banks," she assured attendants during the workshop.

The municipalities currently implementing the CWP are:

1. Nkomazi
2. Mbombela,
3. Bushbuckridge
4. Thaba Chweu
5. Chief Albert Luthuli
6. Msukaligwa
7. Govan Mbeki
8. Mkhondo
9. Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme
10. Steve Tshwete
11. Emalahleni
12. Dr JS Moroka
13. ThembisiLe Hani

STEVE TSHWETE MAYOR TABLES A R1,48 BILLION BUDGET FOR THE 2013/14 FINANCIAL YEAR

Steve Tshwete Executive Mayor, Cllr Mike Masina has tabled a R1,4 billion budget for the 2013/ 2014 financial year. R269,5 million will be spent on capital budget and R1,2 billion on operational costs. The budget, according to Cllr Masina will be utilized to meet rising costs of providing bulk municipal services and support households with no income. "An amount of R4,7 million will be spent per month from the budget to provide for indigent households," he said during a council sitting in Middleburg.

Part of the allocation in the budget is expected to support the provision of services such as water, refuse removal, electricity and road construction.

- **R73,5 million will be spent on roads and storm water infrastructural development.**
- **R46,2 million will be used for the construction of new roads,**
- **R8,2 million will be spent on storm water systems**
- **R12,9 million will be used to upgrade and renew existing infrastructure**
- **R13million has been earmarked for sewerage purification and reticulation.**

Improvement of affluent quality and monitoring as well as the upgrade of the existing network has been allocated in the budget. Cllr Masina said the municipality has planned to provide new sewer networks for 652 stands in Rock-

dale and Kwazamokuhle Ext 1. "R14,4 million will be used for electricity infrastructural development, improve street lighting, implementation of energy efficient equipments and water purification works in the municipal buildings," he said. R24,4 million, Cllr Masina added, has been earmarked for electrification of new developments in Rockdale, Aerorand West and Mhluzi Mall.

Increasing access of services by local communities has also been catered for in the budget. Cllr Masina explained that the municipality has put aside R5 million to complete the Thusong Service Centre in Mhluzi Ext 7. Furthermore, R1,3 million has been earmarked to upgrade and extend the offices at the Thusong Centre in Hendrina, while R27,9 million is an allocation for development of Community facilities and public safety.

The municipality has a projection of R257,3 million in revenue to be collected from property taxes, while revenue to the tune of R634, 6 million from services is to be collected in the 2013/14 financial year.

The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality has over the past three financial years been awarded a clean audit by the Auditor-General. Cllr Masina committed the municipality to clean governance and a sound financial and administration practices, which he said will propel the municipality to repeat the feat at the end of the financial year.



INTERVENTION: Steve Tshwete Executive Mayor, Cllr Mike Masina has announced plans for water service delivery in his municipality.

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VISION

Integrated sustainable people
centred development

MISSION

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

Disaster Management Centres

Disaster Management Centre	Contact Details
Provincial Disaster Management Centre	0800 202 507
Ehlanzeni District	
Ehlanzeni Disaster Management Centre	013 762 4000
Mbombela Disaster Management Centre	013 759 9141/ 013 753 3331
Umjindi Disaster Management Centre	013 712 2222
Thaba Chweu Disaster Management Centre	013 235 7304
Bushbuckridge Disaster Management Centre	013 797 1367
Nkomazi Disaster Management Centre	082 806 1611
Gert Sibande District	
Gert sibande Disaster Management Centre	017 801 7000
Govan Mbeki Disaster Management Centre	017 620 6143
Lekwa Disaster Management Centre	017 712 9661
Musukaligwa Disaster Management Centre	017 801 3412
Pixley ka Isaka Seme Disaster Management Centre	017 734 6100
Chief Albert Luthuli Disaster Management Centre	017 843 4011
Dipaliseng Disaster Management Centre	017 773 0055
Mkhondo Disaster Management Centre	017 826 2211
Nkangala District	
Nkangala Disaster Management Centre	013 249 2024/ 013 249 2004
Dr JS Moroka Disaster Management Centre	013 973 1101
Victor Khanye Disaster Management Centre	013 665 6005/ 013 665 2913
Steve Tshwete Disaster Management Centre	013 249 7000/ 013 249 7263
Emakhazeni Disaster Management Centre	013 253 1121/ 013 253 7628
Thembisile Hani Disaster Management Centre	013 986 9100/ 013 986 9115
Emalaheni Disaster Management Centre	013 690 6911/ 013 690 6208

