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MEC MANZINI WELCOMES CUBAN TECHNICAL TEAM



ENGINEERED COLLABORATION : MEC Sasekani Manzini (Red dress) and HOD Sindisiwe Xulu (Middle) interacting with the Cuban Technical Advisors during the Policy and Budget Speech.

The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ms Sasekani Manzini hosted the Cuban Embassy with a delegation from the Republic of Cuba on Tuesday, 29 May 2018 at the Riverside Government Complex in Mbombela, to check progress made in the implementation of Technical Advisor (CTA) programme.

In her address to delegates, MEC Manzini expressed her appreciation to the Cuban Government for the role they played in developing the lives of people in the country, ***"We are aware that you continue to take the plight of our people, our hopes, our dreams and our struggle to heart as you selflessly continue to contribute to the human development of our countries,"*** she said.

The programme was introduced in 2007 by the National Department of Public Works, aimed to help alleviate the shortage of skills in the built environment sector. The exchange programme is part of a bilateral between the South African and Cuban government which is intended to contribute to skills development and economic growth. A total of 45 engineers were deployed across the country as part of the programme, with Mpumalanga province receiving three (3) technical advisors, to provide mentorship, coaching and guidance to technical officials in the Department. Part of their responsibilities included amongst others; maintenance of government buildings and life support equipment's as well as implementing capital projects. The advisors were deployed in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport for a period of three years which commenced in December 2016.

The CTA programme is part of the skills procurement which falls within the ambit of the Joint initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition, JIPSA which compliments AsGisa. AsGISA which aims to achieve a six percent annual economic growth rate and half unemployment rate.

MEC MANZINI'S BUDGET VOTE DELIVERS HOPE TO THE POOR

MEC Sasekani Manzini had her eyes fixed on uplifting poor communities as she delivered a Budget Vote of more than R4.9 billion towards the advancement of the *Handyman of the State's* mandate. During the tabling of the Policy and Budget Speech on the 31st of May 2018 at the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, MEC Manzini highlighted that in the past financial year, the Department managed to create over 8000 work opportunities while over R90 million worth of material was sourced locally towards the realization of the Social Enterprise Development Programme.

As the champion of youth and women, the MEC pulled her sleeves to ensure that the youth and women get a slice of the pie as the Department provided artisan skills in plumbing, electrical, boiler making and welding to more than 350 young people through the National Youth Services in the past financial year. The same number of youth will be recruited again in the current financial year.



ABOVE AND BEYOND: The provision of building infrastructure such as clinics and schools remains the key ingredient of service delivery.

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“Through our flagship Sakh’abakhi programme, we provided training and project support to 55 learner contractors in our Province. This in turn created an additional 257 work opportunities through projects that were allocated these contractors,” indicated the MEC.

She also stated that 120 young people were provided with the much needed internship and learnership opportunities. A further 100 and 70 internship and learnership opportunities respectively will be provided by the Department in the current financial year.



THE ECONOMIC HEARTBEAT: Transport infrastructure received the biggest chunk of the budget allocated to the Department.



IN FULL GEAR: Transport Inspectorate will ensure that over 60 000 learners on scholar transport together with over 400 000 beneficiaries of commuter subsidy are enjoying a safe journey on the road.

To add cherry on top, 20 young professionals are receiving much needed mentorship from three Cuban Technical Advisors deployed in the Province to assist young professionals within the built environment. This is as per the Cuban-South Africa bilateral relations. The intervention has accumulated a net saving of more than R9 million on consultation fees which will be re-invested on service delivery.

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE TO LAY FOUNDATION FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

A total of R875 million will ensure that the provision of social amenities such as schools, clinics and libraries amongst other, is accelerated. The MEC announced that for the 2018/19 financial year, the Department will implement 245 projects for clients departments. These include 18 projects for the Department of Health, 208 for Education, 15 Culture Sport and Recreation, three (3) for Social Development and one Mpumalanga Legislature. **“This huge investment will ultimately translate into work opportunities for people in the areas where these projects will be implemented,”** explained the MEC.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, THE BACKBONE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Almost half of the total budget of the Department which is more than R2.4 billion will be invested on the Province’s 13 837 km road network which includes 8 343 km of gravel roads. This amount will be spent on construction, maintenance, rehabilitation and regravelling of roads throughout the Province while creating work opportunities in the process.

The MEC pointed out that in the 2017/18 financial year, eleven (11) roads designs were completed, 13 kilometres of gravel were upgraded to surfaced, 279 500 square meters of surfaced roads were rehabilitated and over 1,1 million square meter of surfaced roads were resealed. **“A further 673 kilometres of gravel road were re-gravelled, with over 36 000 kilometers of gravel roads bladed and 275 00 square meters patched,”** said MEC Manzini.

The upgrading of roads in various villages such as Merry Pebble, Hoxani, Marite, Umjindi trust, Marapyane, Moroe and Dikgwale, Ga-Motibidi and Rainbow, Hluvukani, Welverdiend and Daggakraal is underway. People in these villages will soon have tarred roads. The construction of road D4383 between Justicia and Lilydale as well as road D3969 between Kildare and Justicia & Lilydale is also in progress. The Department will further rebuild a road between Dwaarsloop and Thulamahashe in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. A road in Matsulu B in Mbombela, Acornhoek to Hluvukani, Delmas to Gauteng Border (Devon) and many coal haulage roads in the Highveld. Seven (7) tourism roads project are planned for 2018/19 financial year, with four (4) at design stage with three (3) on construction stage.

The Minister of Transport, Dr Blade Nzimande indicated that R3 billion has be set aside for the upgrading of Moloto road which promises to generate about 12 500 work opportunities over the five



BREAD AND BUTTER: EPWP continues to generate much needed work opportunities particularly for youth and women. *Continues on Page 4*

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year period. The Minister also highlighted that within the next twelve months, government will take the final decision regarding the planned rail component of the corridor.

A total amount of R63 million has been set aside for Municipal Support in comparison to the R53 million which was allocated in the previous financial year. *“This intervention has lessened the burden on distressed municipalities, but more importantly assisted many communities to have better mobility,”* the MEC elaborated.

TRANSPORT OPERATIONS CONTINUE TO SPIN THE WHEELS SERVICE DELIVERY

Over 60 000 learners continue to enjoy the privileges of democracy through the provision of Scholar Transport services to learners who travel more than five kilometers to the nearest school. On the same breath, over 400 000 commuters are beneficiaries of government subsidy which plays a significant role in ensuring that the Province’s work force is not overburdened with transport cost covering 154 routes. As a result, a total of R1,2 billion has been allocated towards Transport Operations which include the essential function of Transport Inspectorate.

The Honourable MEC also reassured the public that the Department will continue with consultative engagements with the taxi industry to seek amicable solutions to prevailing challenges.

“This is a very important mode of transport for many of our people. As the only distinctively black industry, it is in our interest that the industry succeeds,” stated the MEC.

EPWP, THE CATALYST OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) remains the catalyst of work opportunities with over 39 000 generated the previous financial year.

“What is more pleasing to us is that we are seeing an increase uptake of women, youth and people with disabilities. It is these vulnerable groups that we seek to provide some form of social security,” elaborated Manzini. The programme has been allocated R74 million, which will assist in combating the triple challenges facing society.

BUDGET IN SUMMARY

ADMINISTRATION:	R251, 805, 000
PUBLIC WORKS INFRASTRUCTURE:	R875, 429, 000
TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE:	R2, 494, 627, 000
TRANSPORT OPERATIONS:	R1, 290, 712, 000
COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMMES:	R74, 429, 000
TOTAL	R4, 987, 002, 000

BETHAL HOSPITAL TO BRING RELIEF TO POOR COMMUNITIES



HEALTH FIRST: The new state-of-the-art Bethal Hospital Interchange.

The old dilapidated structure of the Bethal Hospital has been a bone of contention for residents at Emzinoni Township in Bethal. Broken windows, busting sewer pipes and limited beds for patients were the most evident sites when visiting Bethal hospital. According to the 28 year old Ms Ncobile Skhosana, a resident from Bethal in Mzinoni township said the situation was unbearable.

“It has been difficult for the public to get proper health care service from the facility as patience were turned back due to shortage of beds and referred to Wellas clinic. However, the newly built hospital will relieve the situation since we expect more space with more beds and added services,” she stressed.

The Department which foresees the management of construction on behalf of client departments is working around the clock to complete the state-of-the-art hospital which costs more than R653 million. The work constitutes demolition, upgrading and construction of the entire hospital. The project which is due for completion in September 2019, will take 35 months to complete since it started in October 2016.

According to Dennis Ndlovu who is the project co-ordinator, *“Work is progressing well with more local people expected to benefit from the construction process. To date at least 326 people were employed with the youth making up the majority”* he said. The facility will bring relief to the impoverished community of Emzinoni which depends entirely on the nearby clinic which operates 24 hours a day.

New road markings for Vandyksdrift Road

One are those days of driving on unmarked road surfaces are a thing of the past for the community of Phola outside Middleburg, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. Since the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport embarked on an initiative of road remarking of a 28 kilometre stretch of P127/2 Road from Vandyksdrif to Middelburg Weighbridge.

It took only two months to remark the road which started in July 2017 and completed in September 2017. It costed the Department about R809 000 to finish the road.

The road marking of the road forms part of the Department’s mission to improve road conditions whilst

providing employment and skills development opportunities. During road marking, the project was able to provide job opportunities for the villagers.

The Nkangala District Head, Mr Aaron Mbatha said *“The maintenance of road surfaces was of great importance to ensure the smooth of traffic flow to Phola village. This is just one part of the Department’s focus areas of improving the lives of our people.”*



PAINTING THE PROVINCE YELLOW AND WHITE : New road markings for P127.2 Vandyksdrift Road.

THE DAWN OF NEW ERA IN LEARNING IS UNDERWAY AT MDZIMBA



NEW ROAD TO THE FUTURE: Mdzimba Primary School under construction.

The Department is in a drive to build and upgrade schools in the Province with the aim of providing the best education. Mdzimba Primary School situated at Phola village outside Hazyview in Ehlanzeni District, is one of the schools that have been recently demolished and reconstructed in the Province. The construction of the new structure started in July 2017 to be completed in January 2019.

The structure consists of 24 classrooms, three grade R classes, administration block, library, computer centre, school hall, 30 toilets, kitchen, guard house, fence and 3 sports fields. Over R60 million was allocated for the project which has since created over 100 work opportunities for local residents.

The Acting Principal, Ms NE Mokoena indicated that without adequate facilities and

resources it is extremely difficult to deal with the large number of learners who each has complex needs thus the construction of the new structure will have a major impact on the performance of both teachers and learners.

She further mentioned that the old structure was more than 49 years old. She also did her primary education in the very same school.

“The new structure is equipped with modern educational facilities that are needed to advance the culture of teaching and learning which we did not have during our time. It is therefore evident that our government takes education seriously” said Ms Mokoena.

Cuban Technical Advisors Turn the Tide on Skills Transfer

A delegation from the National Department of Public Works together with DPWRT made a brief visit to Evander Magistrate Court on the 17th of May 2018 to inspect the construction project currently taking place with the assistance of the Cuban Technical Advisors deployed in the Province.

During the visit, the delegates were taken around the construction site. The scope of work includes amongst others the refurbishment of accommodation for the Director of Public Prosecution and Sexual Offences Court. A total amount of R47 million will be invested towards the implementation of the project which started in November 2016 to be completed in February 2019. Mr Pieter Van Der Walt who is the Principal Agent explained that they have completed the lower ground floor as well as first and second floor structures of the building. “Despite the unfavourable condition of the soil, the project is progressing well,” he said.



THE CUBAN WAY: Some of the Cuban professionals together with departmental officials during the inspection of Evander Magistrate Court.



The Cuban professionals are part of the technical team which has been deployed to various Provinces to help alleviate the shortage of skills within the built environment.

The South African and Cuban government entered into a bilateral agreement which is intended to contribute to skills development and economic growth. This skills procurement falls within the ambit of the Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA) which compliments the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (AsgiSA).

ALL HANDS ON DECK: SNAPSHOTS OF

The Honourable MEC Sasekani Manzini carries upon her shoulders the hopes and dreams of imp
delivered the Policy and Budget Speech



OF THE POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH

overished communities in the Province, a call she responded to with great enthusiasm when she



ACCESS TO INFORMATION RESTORES HOPE THE CUBAN WAY



ACCESS TO INFORMATION: Newly renovated Thembisile Hani Public Library.

Hundreds of citizens across Thembisile Hani Local Municipality are going to benefit from the newly renovated Public Library commissioned by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport on behalf of the Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation.

The main library facility was in the bad condition and required complete renovation. The site handover took place on the 12th of September 2017, and completed on the 29th of March 2018.

The library was renovated at a cost of approximately R4.9 million and developed as a dual purpose library which will be rendering services to the general community as well as to schools in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality.

The scope of work included the construction of new reading area, cyber office, computer office, store room, chief librarian office, computer room, kitchen, and staff toilets.

During the construction, the project was able to provide employment, skills development training, and economic empowerment opportunities to local contractors and community members. A total number of seven (7) work opportunities were created. Training and empowerment also formed part to the success delivering of the project.

One resident of Kwaggafontein, Ms Mahlangu said ***"This library is very relevant to our learners because it will have books for lower grades as well, so they will get used to reading from an early age. She also said, for a matric learner, the library will mean more than just a building. It will be a safe and quit environment where they could study,"*** as she concluded

Nkangala's In-Patient Rehabilitation Centre Takes Shape Towards completion



PEOPLE'S HEALTH FIRST: Nkangala In-Patient Treatment Centre in its construction stage.

With government's commitment to the provision of world class health care infrastructure through cutting edge technologies, the Nkangala In-Patient Treatment Centre, will be a reflection of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government's investment in efficient, competitive and responsive economic infrastructure. The centre has been chosen as one of the flagship projects in fast-tracking infrastructure development in public health care system.

The R134 million In-Patient Centre is situated at Delmas in the outskirts of Victor Khanye Local

Municipality. The Department started the multimillion construction on the 1st of November 2016 and is expected to be completed in June 2018, on behalf of the Department of Health.

To incorporate aspects of Expanded Public Works Programme, economic enterprise contractors were empowered with work on the project, whilst local community benefited from skills development and 50 work opportunities with women, youth and persons with disabilities given priority. Furthermore, a total number of 22 local sub-contractors also benefited.

Explaining the work done, Project Coordinator, Mr P Mahlangu said

"the construction work involved erection of an administration block, a dining hall, staff residence, workshop, ablution facilities and a guard house."

Delmas Coal Road Gets a Boost

As part of the Department's commitment to invest in infrastructure that facilitates economic activity and leads to job creation. Just over a year ago, the coal road intersection of P29/D2543 and P29/P36 in Delmas had many challenges that included constant congestion as resulting from clogged-up single lane road running from Delmas to Gauteng boundry, and consequently, another single lane for traffic coming from the opposite direction.

The coal road interchange is located in Victor Khanye Local Municipality, which falls within the Nkangala District. The upgrade cost was approximately R74.5 million. The project started in February 2017 and the aim was to have the road fully operational before October 2017 which was achieved. Improvements that were made included widening, overlaying and doubling of carriageways.



STATE OF THE ART: Improvements to the Coal Road Interchange.

"The need to rehabilitate and upgrade this section of the road was of paramount importance to sustain the traffic along these routes. Our aim is to upgrade the major networks that need urgent attention to ensure continued mobility for our people," elaborated Mr Aaron Mbatha, Nkangala District Head .

He further added that the department was pleased that the intervention has improved safety and provided access to a developing business node in the area.

During construction, the project had a strong economic empowerment component with local sub-contractors appointed to do various jobs on the project. It also provided temporary employment to 49 labourers appointed from the communities affected by the project. These included women, young people and a person living with a disability.

Klarinet community to score a state-of-the-art school

The Department rolled out and implemented the planning and construction of new schools across the province on behalf of the Department of Education.

Klarinet Primary School in Emalahleni Local Municipality adds to the other newly built schools that are already operational within the Province. The project began on the 24th January 2018 and projected to be completed during February 2019.

The construction of the school will cost the department over R52 million, and the design takes into account the overwhelming demand for schooling space and, as a result, the school will accommodate more than one thousand learners, each with twenty-four (24) ordinary classrooms. It will boasts with new library, computer centre, admin block, kitchen, school hall, administration block, guard house and forty ablution facilities. The design of the buildings incorporates several green features.

Out of this project 71 work opportunities were created for the community and small businesses have gained out of this development. The majority of the builders are from the local community of Nkangala District.

"Until it is handed over, we will try and make the school as secured as possible. The school governing body has to work with local communities to make sure that facilities are not vandalised," said Mr Aaron Mbatha, the Nkangala District Head.

The school will be ready to be fully functional in the next coming year, and officially handed over to the school governing body later that year.

THE HANDYMAN EXTENDS A HELPING HAND TO THE NEEDY



GOOD GESTURE: Departmental officials donating to Khulakahle Stimulation Centre.

The Department is making great strides in addressing issues of disability within the department, as it reached the national target for employment of the disabled by 2.06%. It is further extending a helping hand to the less privileged communities throughout the Province as witnessed on the 14th of March 2018 at the Entombe in Gert Sibande district. The Employee Health and Wellness section donated hygienic packs, clothes and blankets in preparation for winter to Khulakahle Stimulation Centre.

Ms Sbongile Msimango is the Head of the Centre which has been registered in 2013 as a non-profit organisation. It caters for at least 18 children with disability between the ages of 8 to 18 years. The centre operates during office hours at 08h00 until 14h00 with four caregivers

The institution receives monthly grants from the Department of Social Development. Ms Msimango expressed her gratitude for the gifts they received from the Department.

"We are grateful that officials took time to donate gifts to the centre and the children will benefit from them immensely," she

adds. Ms Thandi Maziko from the Department is championing this worthy cause. She said that the Department cares and strives to improve the lives of people living with disabilities.



BRICK AND MORTAR: New Klarinet Primary School under construction.

PROVIDING DIGNIFIED DAYCARE EXPERIENCE

The Department is rolling out work opportunities for the people of Manzini village at Ehlanzeni District while constructing the much needed Early Childhood Development Centre situated at Tsemabanani Primary School. The community previously did not have such a centre and it was a struggle to prepare children for school.

Over R5 million has been injected on the project which managed to create 42 work opportunities out of which 17 were females. MEC Sasekani Manzini has vowed to create work opportunities

and reduce poverty during the tabling of her Policy and Budget Speech through the sourcing of labour and material from local communities where the Department will be implementing projects. The construction of the Early Childhood Development Centre which commenced in April 2017 has already contributed significantly towards the local economy.

The facility includes amongst others an office, sickbay, storage, kitchen and scullery, pantry, ablution facility for both adults and children, classroom for

children living with disability, parking, fencing, and garden store. The state-of-the-art facility is expected to deliver maximum learning experience to the little ones while preparing them for primary education.

The centre is one of many several similar projects that have already been constructed by the Department while some are still underway. This is part of a broader strategy adopted by the Mpumalanga Provincial Government aimed at improving the culture of learning and teaching.



COLOURFUL BEGINNINGS: Recently completed Manzini Early Childhood Development Centre in Tsemabanani Primary School at Manzini village.

HEARTFELT FAREWELL BRINGS TEARS TO RETIRING CROUS

Mr Johan Crous of Ehlanzeni District who retired recently was given an affectionate send off after completing 39 years services to the Department in various capacities. The warm farewell event was organized by the staff members of the district on 26 April 2018 at Unit A Hall, White River.

Mr Crous joined the Department in 1978 when he was 18 years old in the old TPA in Mbombela. In 1979 he was then appointed as an Electrical Apprentice where he was responsible for high voltage electronics, fixing refrigerators, air conditioners and doing normal housing electronics. He qualified as an Electrician in 1983 and followed by his promotion as an Electrical Artisan specializing in repairing high voltage and low voltage equipment.

In 1997 he was transferred to Electrical Inspectorate Unit in Vintonia where he worked as a Control Works Inspector assisting the District in monitoring the work done by contractors and inspecting sites for safety.

Prior to his retirement, Mr Crous served in the Department as a Deputy Director in Building Maintenance stationed at Mbombela Cost Centre. He was responsible for maintenance of various facilities including equipment as well as the implementation of capital projects of catalytic in nature for the Department and its various clients.



WARM FAREWELL: Ehlanzeni officials posing during Mr Johan Crous's farewell event.

When he was asked about the requirements that should be possessed by the Control Works Inspector, he said that the Control Works Inspector should obtain a National Diploma in Built Environment and project management skills.

He also mentioned that safety plays a major role in building maintenance hence officials should adhere to the Occupational Health and Safety Act. His commitment and passion for work was alluded by speaker after speaker. The District Head, Mr David Nkambule appreciated Mr Crous on his positive contribution to the Departments especially on the

building maintenance issues and he commended his excellent service with the Department. Mr Crous concluded by expressing his gratitude to the Department for appreciating his efforts and contributing to his career.

"I would like to thank all my colleagues for the co-operation and respect they have shown towards me over the years," he said. All the staff members wished him a happy and healthy post retirement life.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW OAKLEY CLINIC GAINS MOMENTUM

One of the Government's responsibilities is to provide good quality health care facilities to the community. National Development Plan (NDP) acknowledges and values the association between economic growth and infrastructure in developing the economy through tangible assets such as clinics, schools, roads, hospitals and so forth.

The Department of Public Works Roads and Transport is currently busy with the construction of a new clinic structure for Oakley community at Bushbuckridge Local Municipality at Bohlabela District. The project started in October 2017 and expected to be completed in November 2018 with a total cost of more than R62 million.

More than 50 work opportunities have been created with the youth

benefiting the most. The specification of the project includes the construction of two staff accommodation blocks that will accommodate four families, guard house, fence, water, electricity, parking and carports. The specification also includes the installation of medical equipment amongst others.

Ms Maria Mohlala said "I am very happy about the construction of Oakley Community clinic. I want to believe that the Government will hire more nurses to assist the current staff. Currently, we wait in long cues during immunization days due to the shortage of staff. We sincerely hope the new construction will resolve the problem we are facing in our area".



PEOPLE'S HEALTH FIRST: Workers hard at work constructing Oakley Clinic.

Hoxani and Marite road gets a R176 million upgrading injection



DUST, A THING OF THE PAST: Marite to Hoxani road ready for major construction.

The community for Marite to Hoxani has benefited from the departmental projects for the upgrading of roads in 2018/19 financial year at Bushbuckridge Local Municipality at Bohlabela District. This new project will be valid for a period of 18 months and is expected to commence in May 2018 until the end of November 2019, costing more than R176 million for the entire project.

More than 65 work opportunities will be created for the Hoxani, Marite and neighbouring villages. The scope of work entails the upgrading of roads D3973 (10.7km) and D3972 (2.8km) both from gravel to tar surfaces as well as the rehabilitation of storm water on road D4444.

Ms Thabiso Mashele from Marite said "I am so excited about the new construction of the road, our government has heard our prayers. We used to walk a long distance to get a public transport especial taxis because drivers were not willing drop us at convenient areas with their taxis due to the bad state of the road."

A NEW LEASE ON LIFE FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

The last stage of the National Youth Service recruitment for the financial year 2018/19 is underway, shortlisted candidates were invited for a selection assessment that was held at Vintonia offices, Ehlanzeni District. The aim of the evaluation was to select qualifying individuals to be part of the programme. The assessments were conducted between the 21st and the 28th of May 2018.

Selected participants with the highest score will be placed within the various municipalities. The NYS is expected to recruit 350 young people. They will be deployed within the four districts. Ehlanzeni and Bohlabela will get 90 participants each whilst Gert Sibande and Nkangala will receive at least 85 candidates each.

The new group will begin with their skills training programme as from the 1st of August 2018 to the 31st July 2019.

One of the participants who took part in the assessment test is Ms Bridget Manzini (24) from Bhuga. She has been unemployed since January 2018. She explained that the standard of assessment was simple and straight forward.

"I wrote Maths Literacy and English test and I am confident that I will be selected," she explained.

According to Ms Shantel Bunting, Deputy Director for the National Youth Service (NYS), the programme is addressing the high unemployment rate amongst the youth in the country. "Therefore the intervention is trying to bridge that gap by creating work opportunities for the unemployed youth. Participants will be awarded with artisanship certificates which will help them compete favourably in the employment market," said Ms Bunting.



EVALUATION IN PROGRESS: NYS participants writing their selection test.

MUNICIPAL SUPPORT RESTORES PRIDE TO POOR COMMUNITIES

In May 2018 the Department held its first MUNIMEC quarterly meeting for the new financial year where the Honourable MEC Sasekani Manzini met with various municipalities across the Province. The main aim of the meeting was to discuss service delivery issues with the purpose of addressing challenges, sharing best practices and mapping out a coordinated approach on the implementation of various projects identified for the 2018/19 financial year.

One of the items on the agenda that was at the centre of discussions was the Municipal Support Programme (MSP). The programme was introduced to assist distressed municipalities towards the fulfilment of their mandate. The MSP which is coordinated by the Department focuses mostly on roads maintenance as well as the provision of water to communities.



MOBILIZATION: DPWRT's intervention to assist municipalities is paying off dividends.

In 2018/19 financial year, an amount of R63 million has been allocated towards the implementation of the programme as indicated by the MEC during the tabling of the Policy and Budget Speech 2018/19.

“This intervention has lessened the great burden on distressed municipalities, but more importantly assisted many communities to have better mobility,”

emphasized MEC Manzini.

During the meeting it was indicated that the intervention does not suspend the general operations of municipalities but rather complement their efforts. Municipalities will still be expected to continue with their maintenance programmes so as to ensure that service delivery does not affected unduly.



**WHEN THE SUN RISES
WE WORK HARD TO DELIVER**

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