

WORX-NEWS

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BUMPER ISSUE, June 2011

The official newsletter of the National Department of Public Works

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BUDGET VOTE 2011

MARION ISLAND BASE
Done, Dusted & Delivered...



public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Petrus Sibiya

structural Development and Asset Management as a Legacy for the Children of South Africa"

This is the theme that marked the Maiden Budget Vote Speech of Minister Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde, MP, delivered before Parliament on 01 June 2011.

During her Budget Vote event, the Minister celebrated the International Children's Day with the children from the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. This is a clear sign that the 2011 Budget Vote was dedicated to the children.

On another note, as part of Government Programme of Action, the Department built several bridges in rural areas in an effort to 'bridge the rural divide'. These and many other insightful stories are loaded and specially packaged for you in this special edition of *WorxNews*.

In closure, the *WorxNews* team once again appeal to all employees in the organization to assist in identifying information and articles (stories) worth sharing about themselves, their units, their projects and events in an effort to enhance information flow. We further encourage you to write letters to the Editor to comment about issues around you.

Thank you and enjoy the reading!

Welcome to the **BUMPER ISSUE** of *WorxNews*, HUGE and tough like a super heavyweight where in we feature Marion Island as one of the flagship projects of the Department.

In this issue, you will read about the official handover of the R200 million Marion Island Base to the Department of Environmental Affairs. You will also read about the Minister's Budget Vote Speech wherein she highlights the successes of the Department in the past year, and charts a strategic direction for the Department, going forward.

In her speech before Parliament, the Minister focused on the children of South Africa as future leaders of the country. She went a step further and coined the slogan: "Infra-

Youth Development Is Everyone's Business



Reggie Ngcobo

I gave it a good thought and I came to a conclusion that YOUTH DEVELOPMENT is everyone's business.

That brings me to a very important question that we need to ask ourselves, **WHAT IS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT?**

I have failed to get an appropriate answer to this question. I read different books on the subject but none of them gave me an appropriate answer.

President Jacob Zuma, in his opening address to the delegates at the ANC Youth League 24th National Conference, said Youth issues will no longer be in the periphery. That also made me think that as a young person, I need to contribute in ensuring that this becomes a reality.

My question now to all of us is: what are you doing in your small corner to ensure that young people get jobs? That their issues are out of the periphery? And that they become responsible citizens? I still remember the words of Mr Oliver Reginald Tambo when he said: "A country that forgets its youth faces a bleak future."

Fellow South Africans, are we not exactly doing what OR Tambo warned us against?

My plea before the 36th anniversary of June 16 next year is: let us make a meaningful change.

Together we can make meaningful change to the youth of South Africa, to the youth, let us stop loitering. Let us fight for what is rightfully ours. Forward with the struggle of Economic Freedom in our life time.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Minister for delivering her maiden Budget Vote Speech in Parliament on the 1st of June 2011.

To the Mother of the Nation, Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu: Rest in peace, we miss you already. To Prof Kadar Asmal, we also say rest in peace Qhawe. Aluta Continua!

Hey, here we are people, after 35 odd years since the June 16 Soweto uprising. What a journey it has been! When I look back and think about what happened on that day, I feel sad but I am consoled by the fact that their death was not in vain.

Look where we are today! We are free at last as a country because what they fought for has been partly achieved although we still have a long way to go, especially in ensuring that young people get economic freedom.

For me commemorating June 16 is not about going to the stadium and listen to speeches, but a moment where I reflect on what happened then, what the cause was and above all, I ask myself what am I doing to ensure that future generations get better opportunities than me.

Is what I'm doing everyday when I wake up contributing in making sure that those who will come after me get a better life, better jobs and will they enjoy economic freedom in their life time?

The torch of freedom has gone off

By Mmuso Pelesa

When tributes started pouring in about the life and times of Professor Kader Asmal, I remembered that strangely he did not have a computer in his office in Parliament. In fact he did not even have space for a computer in his office and my question about this brought us closer together in a professional relationship that was funny, educational and entertaining.

"Prof, where is your computer?" I asked him and he looked at me with that eye of disapproval for my question; he cleared his throat and responded, "I don't need a computer to think, if I need something typed, my secretary will do it, she is very good." This was a baptism of fire for me as I started wondering how am I going to work with someone who doesn't have a computer in the most arduous task I have ever undertaken which was to lead communication in the committee tasked with the huge responsibility of reviewing state institutions supporting democracy.

In the many interactions that followed, I realised how fortunate I was to be working with this fearless campaigner for human rights. He spoke passionately about the subject of human rights and had very strong views against pockets of resistance to change.

I was in his office daily and each time I came out, I would be a changed person. I would go into his office requesting a mere signature for a letter of invitation to various stakeholders we dealt with but I would come out armed with more information about a variety of subjects. This was vintage Prof Asmal, forever the pedagogue and he would never miss an opportunity to educate.

Amidst these humorous interactions I would also get a tongue lash here and there. In my pursuit to impress him with my writing skills he would bring me down to earth with a wry comment, "I think you write well but please avoid using Marxist and Leninist language, communication doesn't need to be complicated, be clear, I need pure messages, virginal purity ...ha ha ha," the Irish humour would overflow like the Vaal River during unforgiving torrential downpours.

Ring, ring, ring...on his cellphone. He looked at it for a few seconds, "We don't have time for ourselves anymore, this technology is so intrusive," he commented before answering the call. A telesales consultant was on the other side of the line selling him an insurance policy, "No thanks, I'm ok, I'm insured and that's enough, I have only one life and it is insured, thank you, bye-bye," at that time my funny bones were tickled so much that beads of tears were rolling down my cheeks.

I would often leave his office with a cocktail of emotions after being exposed to not anything less than two hours of his sarcasm, compassion, energy and intellectual dexterity. He would then veer off this complicated nature to more serious issues with ease.



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.....is the official house Journal of the Department of Public Works

It is a forum for discussion, debate and information for and about the Department, aimed at reflecting the Department's goals and objectives.

All employees are invited to send in articles, which may be of interest to the Department and its stakeholders.

Views expressed in *WorxNews* do not necessarily represent the views of management.

WorxNews would like to express its profound gratitude to all the Directors and individuals who have given their sincere support towards the production of *WorxNews*.

Special Thanks to the following Editorial Committee Members: Motlhabane Skada, Lucky Mochalibane, Tshuluzi Nkoana, Lunga Mahlangu, Reggie Ngcobo, Thamsanqa Mchunu and Mmuso Pelesa.

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Public Works Minister Delivers her Maiden Budget Vote Speech

By Reggie Ngcobo

BUDGET VOTE: "CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHILDREN :INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT AS A LEGACY FOR THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH AFRICA"

This is the theme that marked the maiden budget speech of the Minister of Public Works, Ms Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde (MP) in the chambers of the Old Assembly, in Parliament on the 1st of June 2011.

With this theme, the Minister dedicated her maiden budget vote speech to all the children of South Africa for whom the work her department is committed to do on infrastructural development.

"The mandate of the government of the day is to build a solid foundation of development whose dividends must be handed back to its rightful owners: the children of South Africa", said the Minister.

She went on to say that the strategic plan of the National Department of Public Works over the next three years paths a renewed sense of enthusiasm and direction for the work of the Department. This work entails the fol-

lowing: the provision of official accommodation for all national departments, all members of Parliament, providing construction and property management services to client departments at the national level and leading the successful implementation and management of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

"An amount of R 7, 8 billion has been allocated to the Department of Public Works in the fiscal year 2011/12. Of this allocation, almost R1, 4 billion has been allocated for the improvement of state buildings and infrastructure, with up to 60% of it allocated to current commitments, while the remaining 40% being allocated to prioritized new projects which are at the core of service delivery," said Minister Mahlangu-Nkabinde.

The Minister emphasized that the strategic planning and implementation of the Department of Public Works' plans are framed within the vital context of the statutory framework provided for in the Government Immovable Asset Management Act (GIAMA) of 2007, whose objective is to ensure efficient and effective planning of immovable asset management within government, as well as to improve service delivery. "It is no coincidence, therefore that one of our strategic priorities is to provide strategic leadership in effective



Minister during the Budget Vote 2011.

and efficient immovable asset management, while continuing to invest in infrastructure development through the delivery of essential public facilities and other amenities calculated to improve the quality of life of all South Africans, today and in the future" She said as custodian of state immovable assets, the Department has committed to use the state immovable asset footprint towards realizing government's key national priorities and to intensify support to rural development.

"We will utilize immovable asset footprint of the state to regenerate small rural towns, aligned to the rural development strategy. A conceptual framework is being developed to ensure the programme is implemented in an effective way. The Department's own Property Incubator Programme (PIP) guidelines will also be used to revitalize the small rural towns."

The Minister alluded to the fact that, in support of human settlements, the Department has, under its custodianship, land parcels and buildings that it has released to the Department of Human Settlements for the building of low-income housing.

"Effective state management requires improved lease management. The lease portfolio is costing the state a lot of money. The Department has in the

past year spent R1, 6 billion in leases and functional accommodation for client departments. Investment in repair and maintenance, continuous maintenance and construction of new government buildings could generate major savings for the state, a process we will be embarking on. This will also include ensuring the relocation of national departments to state-owned buildings where it is feasible to do so".

The Minister also acknowledged that the Department's lease portfolio will take a while to reduce, but the Department will continue to find ways to structure its current lease deals such that the socio-economic goals of government are realized including black, women and youth economic empowerment.

"Linked to lease management is the rehabilitation of underutilized and unutilized public buildings programme which will be extended to the regeneration of small towns and refurbishment of public buildings that can be utilized for the State's domestic purposes as well remodeling some of them for student accommodation as most of them continue to suffer in the hands of unscrupulous landlords."

The Minister emphasized that the aim of the recently launched Amnesty Campaign aptly named **Operation Bring Back** is to encourage South Africans to reclaim lost and/ or missing immovable assets.

Continued on Page 4...



Budget Vote Speech...Continued

"These properties we believe were sincerely wrested from the State in the turbulent transitional period following the demise of apartheid and were being unlawfully occupied. Irrespective of their current value, we are convinced that these properties are the rightful heritage of our children and we want them back in whatever state. We shall not relent in our pursuit to locate them. The significance of the state-owned real estate as a major revenue generator for government cannot be over-emphasized," she said.

According to the Minister, the national priorities of government are underpinned by the urgency to fast-track economic activities supported by infrastructural development which has been identified as key driver for economic growth and development, to fight poverty and create work.

She said the Department of Public Works serves as a key driver in achieving job creation through meaningful economic transformation.

"We are mindful of the fact that we will always be judged by the standards with which we treat our valued clients. In-depth consideration for the accommodation needs of our clients remains a top priority for the Department to arrest the slow erosion of our mandate. This issue encourages the Department

to pro-actively engage with our clients as successfully demonstrated by our recent visits and continuing work at the military bases of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans. In Lephalale (Limpopo Province) we are in the process of refurbishing houses for the South African Military Health Services (SAMHS) and a health facility at De Brug. The Department is also working with the Department of Defence, to rehabilitate selected military bases. The Department is paying attention to the deteriorating state of the infrastructure in the harbours, beginning in Cape Town."

The Minister also highlighted all the projects that the Department has embarked on in an effort to change the lives of ordinary South Africans, projects such as the eradication of mud schools, building of low cost bridges and the Pothole Rehabilitation Programme.

The Minister also reminded members of Parliament that the State is the biggest player in the property and construction industries both as a consumer and a regulator. She also mentioned that the Department has commissioned a Ten Year Review of the State of the Property Industry to assess government's monetary contribution to the growth of the property sector in the country.

In conclusion, the Minister conveyed her thanks to the house for indulging her, in her maiden budget speech, the President of the Republic His Excellency Jacob Zuma for his continued good leadership, support and advice, her colleagues in the executive for their support, invaluable advice and team work, her gratitude to the Deputy Minister Mme Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, for her comradeship in ushering her into, and assisting her to steer the Department into the right direction.

She also thanked the Chairperson of the Public Works Portfolio Committee, Mme Manana Catherine Mabuza for providing her with much needed guidance, the Acting Director-General, Mr Sam Vukela and his entire management team for the unstinting support and co-operation.



Minister hands over toys to one of the kids at the Redcross Hospital in Cape Town



Minister dancing with the children during her visit to Red Cross Hospital



Minister's guests from Willowvale Secondary School were also in attendance

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

He impressed upon me that much as the committee reviewing state institutions supporting democracy is labelled *ad hoc*, the experience I'm going to gain from the process is not *ad hoc*. "How can experience be *ad hoc* because *ad hoc* means it is temporary, not permanent heh, you must take it seriously because I only work with people with an enthusiastic adoption of a positive work ethic and you don't have experience in this...but that may be your advantage, no psychological baggage...new territory for you, ha ha ha" he advised while weaving English terms together like a rich tapestry.

His view on the review of Chapter 9 institutions was that the process had to be deepened further into an investigation. "When they appear before us, we need to exercise deepened scrutiny, you cannot review unless you investigate, remember these bodies have a huge responsibility of protecting our democracy," he would often say in a rich display of his thoroughness and attention to detail.

As we spent more time with each other, I became comfortable around him and asked more and more questions. However, I found his responses funny, informative and the general level of his erudition quite unusual for me at the time. I remember one of his wishes was for his house to have been bigger to be able to accommodate his books, "I don't like these new houses, quite small heh, no space for my books. I need a big house for my books, nothing else heh," at this point he would come alive and another lecture on a variety of subjects be it human rights or Irish tradition would be in full swing...

When the news of his death reached me, I was paging through my diary and came across a quote by Andre Gide, "It is better to be hated for what you are, than to be loved for what you are not," and this was the life of Prof Asmal. He was never afraid of being right alone than being wrong in a crowd. The man was simply in a class of his own. He was an intellectual giant notches above many, and his influence in our public intellectual space will forever be etched in the reliable archives of our memories.

The torch of freedom has gone off. Death be not proud for you have imposed grief to be our burden.

Rest in peace, "the minister of all things."

Mmuso Pelesa is a civil servant and he writes in his personal capacity.

Minister Inaugurates the 4th CIDB Board

By Reggie Ngcobo

The Minister of Public Works, Ms Gwen Mahlangu Nkabinde, MP, inaugurated the 4th Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) at Lombardy Boutique Hotel, Pretoria, on 13 June 2011.

Minister Mahlangu-Nkabinde in her address thanked the board that completed its term of office last year in December under the chairmanship of Prof Raymond Nkado, for collectively and individually steering CIDB as an institution during a very interesting time in the country when construction was booming.

"Irrespective of current state of construction in the country (construction boom or recession), we all need to understand that Government is still committed to a massive infrastructure programme to address economic growth," said Minister Mahlangu-Nkabinde.

She emphasized that this is demonstrated by massive investment in construction which increase year on year. During 2007/2008 the construction investment as a percentage of GDP increased from 7.7% to 8.6 %.

The Minister said that the statistics were still showing a positive growth. While these and other statistics are exciting, there are challenges that the country must still grapple with. The one challenge that she mentioned was the fact that the country has been talking for quite sometime now, about the issue of professional skills shortage in the built environment.

"The Department has tested this aspect by making a national call for young and retired artisans and professionals to come forward to assist us in the delivery of infrastructure. The response was phenomenal, we account for more than 9000 responses to our call," said the Minister

The Minister made it clear to the new board members that though much has been done considering the quarterly review meeting held on the 23rd of March 2011, but much more is still underway in amending the regulations.

"You will be expected to quickly bring my office on board in this exercise in order to reach finality quickly. Although the register of constructors has grown exponentially since 2008, the huge task in the area of contractor development is still ahead of us," said Minister Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde.

The Minister promised to make necessary interventions as the executive authority on the area of contractor development to ensure meaningful participation and transformation in the construction industry. "The opening of Provincial Construction Contact Centres country-wide has provided improved access to registration services, business to business linkages and other value-added services to contractors and other stakeholders."

The Minister concluded by applauding the appointment of the new board and urging it to ensure that the work done by the CIDB is aligned to the Department's strategy on Green Buildings.



The new CIDB Board posing for picture after being inaugurated by the Minister of Public Works



From L to R: Zwiitani Rambau, Tebogo Mashifane and Bassie Kgasoane during the CIDB Board inauguration



Minister addresses the new board



Head of Security in the National Dept of Public Works and Head of Legal Services posing for a picture after the inauguration

HAMMANSKRAAL REAPS EPWP BENEFITS AND EPWP TESTIMONIES

Hammankraal Community Reaps EPWP Benefits

By Lesego Moretlwe

The community of Hammankraal, North of Pretoria, came together in celebration of the community development projects initiated by the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) through the Expanded public Works Programme (EPWP). The event took place on 23 May 2011 at Section 9 Apies river in Temba, Hammankraal.

The EPWP is currently implementing community development projects in Hammankraal to improve the lives of the people as per the programme's mandate of alleviating poverty through the provision of work opportunities for the unemployed.

The projects that are being implemented in the Hammankraal area includes the construction of the Apies River Bridge at a total cost of R1,8 million. The objective of the construction of this bridge is mainly to connect Temba community to other parts of the area, to allow access to essential services and to assist 3 000 community members who cross the Apies River on a daily basis.

This project is a joint venture between the Department of Public Works and the Department of Defence and Military Veterans. The technology used in the construction of this bridge was developed by the Military Unit. Engineers from the South African National Defence Force are on site to facilitate the construction process and share their expertise with identified members of the community. The project employs more than 20 local people and provides

technical skills such as welding, water purification and general construction skills.

Speaking at the event, Minister Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde was very content with the developments in the area. She emphasized that the need for the EPWP projects in Hammankraal could not be overlooked in ensuring poverty alleviation through work opportunities and skills development. "What is of significance with this project is the fact that despite the income that the youth draws from the project, they also gain important technical skills."

One of the beneficiaries of the project, Mr Zondi Skosana shared his acquired experience with the audience since the water purification project started. He said that the skills that he gained since the commencement of the project has changed his life completely and commended government for its efforts to empower people of this country. "We never had opportunities like these before. I had no idea about water purification process before until I joined this project," he said. Mr Skosana urged community members to use the available opportunities to their advantage in uplifting the socio-economic well-being of the Hammankraal community.

Another project which is also underway is the R 3,2 million Hammankraal Pothole Rehabilitation Project in Nyathela Street, Temba which has employed 34 labourers. The project is in line with the NDPW Ministerial call of repairing potholes with the objective of saving lives on our roads and improving infrastructure services.



These two boys could not believe they were walking on a new bridge

Testimonies of EPWP Beneficiaries

By Gwynne-Lee Borcherds

Project: Construction of the Apies River Bridge

Samuel Skosana is a husband and father of two children aged eleven and sixteen. He is currently unemployed due to the harsh effects of the global economic recession. Samuel was a store man for 15 years at the Tiger Wheels factory which manufactured and distributed mag wheels locally and internationally.

The company closed in 2007, resulting in approximately 2000 people losing their jobs. Retrenched employees received severance packages which could only sustain them for a maximum period of six months. Many of the other workers are still not employed. Samuel had worked on a small project delivering dustbins for a private company after his retrenchment. This job did not offer any beneficial experience. Samuel's wife is unemployed and the family had no other source of income after Samuel lost his job. Samuel's children were attending one of the best schools in the area during the heydays. However, after Samuel lost his job, his children had to change schools.

Before he got an opportunity to work at the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Samuel was unemployed for two years since his last job. The EPWP has given Samuel the opportunity to financially provide and maintain his family. The project has provided him with valuable work experience in bridge and roads construction. He believes that he now possesses the capability and skills to manage a site as he has obtained a better understanding of what is needed to ensure that the site is fully operational. He is now familiar with the requirements of a site storeroom and the ability to manage workers on site. Samuel has acquired training in water purification and understands the processes and chemical compositions needed to safely purify water for drinking and use.

Samuel feels that working with both the EPWP and the Department of Defence has enhanced his skills. He indicated that his com-

munity was not exposed to construction opportunities before. He went on and said that the project has provided the beneficiaries with skills and the exposure of the working environment which adds value in their lives. They now stand a better chance to be absorbed by the formal sector unlike before. Samuel says that although the project is for a short period of time, but beneficiaries receive a decent wage which enables them to maintain their families, and through the skills they acquired, they can be able to make a living for themselves going forward.

Samuel is happy that EPWP is reaching out to them.

Project: Construction of the Apies River Bridge



Constance Golele - one of the EPWP beneficiaries

Constance Golele is a young and single mother of a two-year old boy. She lives with her parents and brother. Her mother is unemployed and her father and brother work on a part-time basis whenever work is available. Before the Apies River Bridge Project started, the household's income was irregular and unstable. Constance has not matriculated and her highest qualification is Grade 10 which she completed in 2008. She says lack of finance for her school transport is the reason behind her not being able to continue with her studies. A relative had started training her in domestic chores such as ironing, washing clothes and cooking to assist her in finding a job.

The Apies River Bridge project has added substantial value to her life. She has attained additional new skills that would make her more employable. She has gained skills in water purification, construction of bridges, knowing different materials and tools, and the ability to use tools effectively. The project has

Public Works Constructs a R2,7 million Bridge in Cofimvaba, Eastern Cape

By Mmuso Pelesa

"Bridges are not only an exhibition of the engineering world, they influence our lives in more ways than we can count. When the English pride themselves with the London Tower Bridge and the Americans thump their chests with arrogance when they look at the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and the Brooklyn Bridge in Manhattan, we will tell them that we also have our own Nququ crossing and list its roll call of achievements."

These words of hope and encouragement were echoed by Minister Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde when she was handing-over the R2,7 million Bailey bridge to the community of Mqanqeni Village in the Cofimvaba area in the Eastern Cape.

The Nququ Crossing is positioned between Mqanqeni and Maqwatini villages. The bridge cost a total of R2,7 million and will serve a minimum of 300 pupils who cross the river to school on a daily basis and the community members who cross the river to access socio-economic amenities. It will also connect several villages in the Cofimvaba area.

Addressing community members during the handover ceremony of the bridge, Minister Mahlangu-Nkabinde said, "Our government prides itself with bringing developments such as these to the people. Bringing such important interventions to our people remains a top priority for our government."

Minister Mahlangu-Nkabinde was equally humbled by the sheer joy and appreciation of children and locals alike for the futuristic development she has brought to their area. More so, the abrupt end to their suffering as many lives were lost in the river during the heavy rainy season.

According to Minister Mahlangu-Nkabinde, "Cheerleaders of doubt and negative news would wonder why we decided to construct bridges in this area. Let me first put this in context. In English we often hear talk of something bridging the divide. These bridges do exactly that, as they bridge the divide between the children of this village and their constitutionally enshrined right to education. We are well aware of the serious long term consequences caused by the lack of a bridge in this area. It is my considered belief that some of you sitting with us here today could not gain access to the school across the river just because of the absence of the bridge. Think about the number of schooldays lost due to children not being able to go over the river to school. These might seem like little obstacles but in our view they are so serious that they threaten the entire future of this country because we need to have an educated population for our development as a country."

The bridges project is implemented jointly by Public Works and the Department of Defence (DoD) and Military Veterans as an intervention for rural development. Public Works and DoD signed the Memorandum of Understanding and related Protocols in 2010 to implement the Programme. Three Pilot projects were implemented in the Eastern Cape during the 2009/10 financial year. The bridge construction project will be rolled out country-wide.

The handover ceremony in Mqanqeni Village is the culmination of the first phase of this endeavour and is a direct response to the education and rural development priorities that have been announced by Government. The Department of Public Works, in partnership with the Department of Defence, is determined to construct more rural bridges using the Bailey bridge technology.



Practically crossing over the bridge



Minister addresses the crowds at the official handover



Cutting the ribbon to mark the official opening of the bridge



Dancing in celebration of the new bridge

Testimonies of EPWP Beneficiaries (continued)

allowed her to provide food, clothes and other essentials for her family. She feels strongly that intergovernmental projects such as these should be implemented more often and such best practices be duplicated.

According to Constance, projects of this nature ensures that beneficiaries gain experience in the construction industry and are enabled to pursue better jobs once the projects are completed. **It is Constance's wish that Government works directly with the people in the projects and not through a middle man.**

Project: Construction of the Apies River Bridge



Samuel Sepalane - one of the EPWP beneficiaries

Samuel Sepalane is a young male who stays with his family. His highest qualification is Grade 11. He did not

complete his matric as he chose to work instead. Samuel was successful in finding a job in a factory but the contract expired in November 2009 and was not renewed.

Since December 2009, he has been unemployed but is committed to working and does his best to earn an income through part-time jobs when available. The types of part-time jobs he does includes photography, and performing as a dee-jay at weddings and parties. These types of odd jobs are seasonal and inconsistent and do not guarantee a stable income. Before joining the Apies River Bridge project, he used to spend most of his time not working.

This project has given him an opportunity to acquire new skills in the construction industry as well as earning an income. The income he earns is better than those of other jobs and is constant and guaranteed.

He acquired skills such as welding, setting up and full usage of a grinder, identification and usage of various tools and materials..

Samuel intends to use the skills acquired from the project to make items that he can sell to the community, thus creating work for himself.

Limpopo Regional Office Support Co-operatives Development in the Cleaning and Gardening Services

By Ndivhuwo Mulaudzi

The National Department of Public Works (NDPW) through its departmental expenditure aims to contribute to the overall government objective of co-operative development through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The Limpopo Regional Office has responded to this call through the establishment of two pilot co-operative enterprises. The services of these co-operatives involve providing gardening and cleaning services to the two sites of the Department of Justice. The cooperatives have created 14 work opportunities over a period of six and twelve months respectively, with a total budget of R336 028.28. The majority of beneficiaries of the projects are the local youth. The Mabiloane Turbanacle Workers Cooperative operating in Tshitala Magistrate Offices commenced on 22 November 2010, with six members and is valid for twelve months. These members were working for a close corporation before, but later formed their own co-operative because of opportunities presented by the Department of Public Works to the youth and women.



Members of the co-operative at work

Speaking on behalf of the members, Ms Makwena Winnie Mashau highlighted that the EPWP has assisted them through training and Small Business Support linkages, hence they have secured the gardening contract for twelve months. She also remarked that the project has contributed tremendously towards the improvement of their lives. They are now running their own business and drawing salaries from their business account every month. Members of the cooperative are paid R2000 per month and are now able to afford the ba-



Ready to start work

sic necessities such as sending their children to school and providing for their families. The cooperative has also managed to put aside R5000 in the bank every month as its savings.

As part of its expansion, the cooperative is looking at the possibility of starting a vegetable project at the magistrate office and sell the products thereof to the local community in order to supplement their income.

Meanwhile, Lamukovha Cleaning Co-operative is operating at Modjadjiskloof Periodical Court for the contract duration of six months valued at R86 072.88. There are five cooperative members and three additional workers. Of the three additional workers, one has been appointed as supervisor earning in the range of R1200 with the general workers earning R800 per month. Mr Kganyago from Dept of Home Affairs who is in charge of the facility indicated that the cooperative is doing a wonderful work and they are happy with the maintenance.

The Chairperson of the Cooperative Mr. Masala Lukoto commended the DPW for the speedy payment of invoices. He also hailed EPWP for linking them with Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) who drafted their bankable Business Plan. They have now applied for the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) CIS grant to buy more tools and equipment for the co-operative.

EPWP celebrates success at the graduation of Social Service workers

By Mmuso Pelesa

The nomenclature - Return on Investment - is often reserved for description of rewards in Capital Markets, however, the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) realised its return on investment when 225 Social Service Workers graduated from their 12-month training conducted under the programme's Social Sector in the North West Province.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the 225 Social Service Workers, North West MEC for Social Development, Women, Children and People with Disabilities, Ms Mosetsanagape Mokomele-Mothibi said, "education goes with determination and courage and the graduation ceremony we are witnessing here today is a result of determination and commitment. As government, we depend on your success for our democratic wishes to be realised hence we have invested so much in your education...and we are happy that we are also creating jobs while educating our people".

MEC Mokomele-Mothibi further emphasised the need for graduates to "go out there and challenge the social developmental needs of our people with your skills. With this programme, we are creating job opportunities while building capacity through accredited training and also introducing the EPWP beneficiaries to formal employment."

According to the Director of HIV/Aids Programmes in the Department of Social Development, Women, Children and People with Disabilities, Mr Onkemetse Kabasia, "EPWP is a very important part of our communities as it

bridges the skills gap through its various sub-programmes and it also brings a sense of hope in our communities."

The graduates were further reminded of their ethical responsibility by Mr Vuyani Nkalitshana of the Health and Welfare Seta who said, "Professional ethics is a very important part of a social auxiliary worker. When you go out there to intervene in people's problems, do not do so in a manner that would finally end up identifying you as part of the problem. Do not forget your professional responsibility. I also urge you to respect the social workers you work with because that is the only way that this programme can achieve its coaching and mentoring objectives."

The graduates included members of non-governmental organisations who received professional training in Victim Empowerment, Integrated Trauma Counselling Mentoring and Coaching and 26 Memory Work Facilitators trained in memory work and psycho-social programmes. The graduates were recruited from all Social Sector service points of the four districts in the North West Province. Many of them served as caregivers in various rural villages of the province before they were absorbed into the learning programme.

MEC Mokomele-Mothibi announced that the graduates will be deployed at various social service points in the province while receiving a monthly stipend, while others will be enrolled for a Social Work degree at the University of the North West.

The overall cost of the 12-month long learning programme is R3 million.



It's all smiles on the face of the Social Service Worker who has just graduated



MEC Mosetsanagape Mokomele-Mothibi handing over the certificate to one of the recipients

Beware of Fraudulent Orders Scam !!!



By Matomo Mabotja

The Department is experiencing an increase in the fraudulent orders scam where the fraudsters order goods from unsuspecting service providers, mainly the BEEs across the country and disappear with the goods after they have been delivered. This leaves the suppliers in serious financial debt.

The goods that are being delivered include, amongst others; laptops, computer accessories, cellular phones, televisions, etc.

Their modus operandi is as follows:

- "DPW Order Forms" with incorrect details (such as telephone numbers and contact persons) are being delivered/sent through facsimile to 'unsuspecting' suppliers to deliver the goods;
- The fraudsters who purport to be the DPW employees communicate with the supplier through a cellular phone and the land-line number which is functional, but does not belong to the Department;
- The Fraudsters uses names of previous and/or current DPW employees as references;

- The supplier is directed to deliver the ordered goods at a specific place, such as an empty Public Transport and Roads Works building at Bloed Street; Church Square; or even at the DPW House building. Some even deliver at places such as McDonald's;
- The Department will only discover when the supplier follows up on the payment.

The Fraud Awareness and Investigation Unit and Security Services conducted an extensive investigation on the scam. Working together with the South African Police Service, they made numerous arrests. However, it is worth noting that even though arrests were made, this did not deter the fraudsters from continuing with their fraudulent scheme.

NB: The Internal Audit & Investigation Services Unit would like to appeal to all DPW officials to play a role in broadening the awareness to Departmental stakeholders to always exercise caution when dealing with people who purport to be conducting business transactions on behalf of the Department.



DPW employees in a meeting with representatives from SAPS discussing means and ways of catching fraudsters



Representatives from Communications and Marketing add their voice to the strategy

Fraud Awareness Campaign

By Siyabulela Ralane

Internal Audit and Investigation Services

Fraud and Corruption Awareness Campaign

Overstatement of invoices

The Department of Public Works' mandate is to ensure that we provide the best service in the quality of accommodation for our client departments. There is a lot of budget that is required in order to accomplish our mandate as a Department.

Overstatement of invoices occur when a fraudster delude the department to issue a fraudulent payment by submitting invoices for fictitious goods or services, inflated invoices or invoices for personal purchases.

Here are few examples which indicate the overstatement of invoices:

- **Shell Company** - A fictitious entity created for the sole purpose of committing fraud by submitting false invoices;
- **Rubber Stamp Supervisors** - An official who has authority to authorize payments, is inattentive or over trusting and is being taken advantage of by corrupt employee or corrupt service provider;

Reliance on False Documentation - occurs when an employee who does not have approval authority for purchases and does not have the benefit of a rubber stamp supervisor, illegally runs his payment vouchers through Finance and Supply Chain Management processes;

Collusion - Occurs when employees conspire between themselves/ and with service provider to defeat procurement processes for their personal gain;

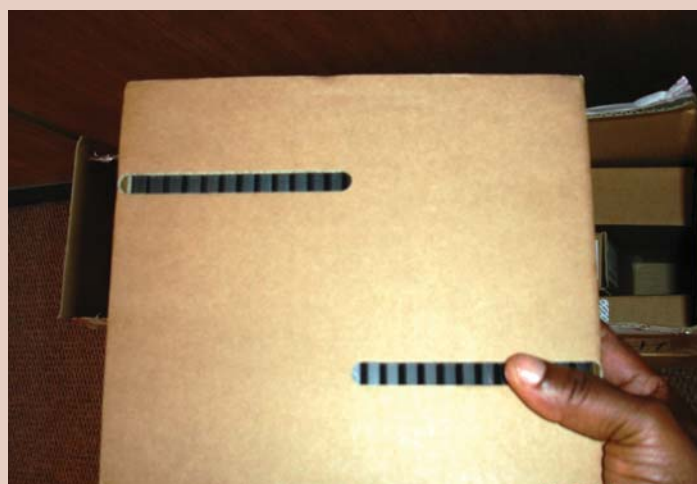
Self-Approval of Fraudulent Invoices - Occurs when a corrupt official makes sure that authorization of fictitious purchases or orders does happen before payment can be made.

In order to prevent the abuse from happening, officials dealing with supplier payment documentation must report all suspicious activities of fraud and corruption and must at all times adhere to policies and procedures of the Department.

National Hotline: 0800 701 701.

It's a free call - make it - Blow the whistle on Fraud and Corruption.

For internal reporting officials can call: CAE Ms Tebby Tukisi @ (012) 337 3280 or Director: Fraud Awareness and Investigation Mr Jan Hoon @ 012 337 3111



A display of some of the fraudulently ordered goods



Dr Miranda Mafafu, Mr Butcher Matutle, Minister Mahlangu-Nkabinde, Col. Eugene Motati and Ms Debby Berry before the Budget Vote



Mss. Noloyiso Ntwana, Manini Dumane and Thembi Hlatshwayo during the Budget Vote Gala Dinner



Col. Eugene Motati (Special Adviser to the Minister), Acting Director-General, Mr Sam Vukela seen with the Public Works MEC for the Western Cape



Minister's special guests cheering the Budget Vote speech



Minister dancing with the children before the Budget Vote



Minister's guests



Messrs. Lehloholo Sempe, Lucky Mochalibane and Adam Mthombeni



Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital staff in attendance during the Minister's visit



Mr Ricky Samuel and Ms Thembi Hlatshwayo posing for a picture during the Budget Vote Gala Dinner



Rev. Stemela was the Programme Director for the Red Cross Hospital visit



Acting COO was all smiles with a friend during the Gala Dinner



Acting DG introduces the Minister during her visit to Red Cross Hospital



The grandpa could not wait for a picture with the Minister



Minister's guests during her visit to the Red Cross Hospital



Minister's guests from Willowvale Secondary in the Eastern Cape poses for a picture



Departmental Exhibition Stand

MARION ISLAND BASE- Done, Dusted and Delivered...



DPW COMPLETES THE R200 MILLION SCIENCE BASE AT THE MARION ISLANDS

By Lucky Mochalibane

The Deputy Minister of Public Works, Honourable Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu officially inaugurated the completed R200 million base on the 18 March 2011 at the Marion Island, situated about 2300 km to the South East of Cape Town in the South Ocean, halfway to the Antarctica in the South Pole.

Started in August 2003, this magnificent project was built as a science base for the use by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) who utilizes the base among others, to undertake research in disciplines as diverse as environmental management, marine biology, meteorology, geomorphology and oceanography.

At the invitation of the client department, Public Works represented by the Regional Manager in Cape Town, Mr. Fred Johnson, officially handed over the completed base to the DEA before the Deputy Minister in her capacity as the senior official representing the government inaugurated the base and officially declared it open. All the glitterati happened on the night of Thursday 18 March 2011 in the lobby (the central hub) of the base at Marion Island following a formal event organized and hosted by the DEA.

In her speech, the Deputy Minister urged the country to collaborate to produce a national science and technology strategy that will not only enable resources to be mobilized but the same strategy will contribute to "a broader South African developmental agenda ..." and assist in the establishment of a developmental state.

According to the Deputy Minister, the country had distinguished itself as a leading and a developing power as demonstrated inter alia by the recent acceptance and participation in multinational forums such as BRICS (i.e. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) as well as the hosting of the upcoming CORP 17 Conference on climate management due to be held in Durban in December of this year.

Yet despite these milestones, South Africa still lacked a comprehensive science and technology strategy broad enough to encapsulate efforts to create jobs, grow the economy, uplift the society, promote transformation including "engendering our science programmes" and build a skills pipeline of the future.

The Marion Island project was built entirely by the Department of Public Works utilizing own human resources and proving to all and sundry that the organization indeed possessed the capacity to "deliver the state of the art products and services." At that moment Ms Bogopane-Zulu acknowledged the role of, and saluted the DPW construction team based at the Marion Island, which over years had selflessly

sacrificed their comforts and families to bring to fruition such a sterling product.

"Your personal commitment did not go in vain...we are looking at honouring those who made us proud as the department...each and every man who have participated in the construction of the Marion Base and other bases in other islands in the future," eulogized the Deputy Minister as she launched the Joseph Daniels merit award for the service in the Islands projects.

Still awed by the form and content of the Marion Island science base, the Deputy Minister likened Marion Island to Robben Island. "If Robben Island was the final birth place in the history of freedom and democracy, then let Marion Island and other islands be the birth place of our new scientific frontiers."

Although built using the sturdy materials and design reminiscent of the alternative construction methodologies, the base was vulnerable to the mice which abound in the island and the sudden changes in extreme temperatures characteristic of the weather patterns in those parts of the world. Therefore maintenance and related costs will be a pre-occupation going forward, with the Deputy Minister calling on the Department to start factoring in the maintenance costs of the project into the future allocations.



Deputy Minister with Dr Monde Mayekiso of Environmental Affairs and other officials after officially inaugurating the Marion Island Research Base



The Marion Island Project is a Marvel to Behold – Thanks to the DPW Construction Team

By Lucky Mochalibane

On the morning of Tuesday 15 March 2011, in a cloudy and foggy weather, the Research Base emerged slowly like a shy bride behind the veil, as it welcomed the crew and passengers of the S.A Agulhas Voyager number 155 to the Marion Island. This was day five (5) since the ship left Cape Town on a very slow cruise to the Prince Edward archipelago of which the Marion Island is a part of, together with the Prince Edward Island.

Overnight, the colleagues (i.e. DPW construction workers) who until now had kept everybody company on the long and monotonous journey, had undergone transformation and were barely recognizable behind the thick winter clothing they were spotting complete with balaclavas to shield them from the strong chilly winds as they prepared to disembark the ship and jumped onto the helicopter which was going to ferry them to the Base, about 2km away from the anchored S.A Agulhas.

Notorious for its inhospitable weather, the Marion Island had become a home to the brave DPW team which the Deputy Minister was told, was not unusual for them to regularly work for up to 20 hours a day, including weekends, to make up for the time lost due to bouts of inclement weather. By their own admission, the team often worked in extreme cold weather between -8 and -15 degree Celsius with wind speeds of up to 150 km per hour and the weather pattern that can vary from snow, ice and rain in a matter of hours in a single day.

Built on top of a cliff at the edge of the Island overlooking the South Ocean, the R200 million project took exactly eight years (2003 -2011) to complete and this mammoth task would not have been possible without the sacrifices, hard work and dedication of the colleagues, the DPW construction team based at the Island, some of whom had been part of every voyage since the start of the project in August 2003.

Because of the excessive amount of rainfall, the surface of the Island is waterlogged and covered with mires – large puddles of water which give character to the topography of the Island. As a result, the substructure of the Base was built on stilts, a laborious network of poles stuck on the ground to first protect the surface and then hoist the foundation upon which the rest of the building will be constructed. All this work was done manually at first before the arrival of the mobile cranes which assisted with lifting heavy building components into high places.

The Department of Public Works has been involved in the building and maintaining of buildings and structures on Marion Island since the annexation of the Islands in 1947. As the old base built in the 1960s was becoming uneconomical and unsafe to maintain, the client, Department of Environmental Affairs, approached the DPW to plan for and build a new research base with nine scientific huts with pantries at strategic locations on and around the Island.

The result was a 4928 square metre new research base, a modern accommodation facility complete with a central hub (lobby), two floors of accommodation, two floors of scientific facilities including laboratories, a technical block with a workshop, a living centre with kitchen, lounge, bar, giant pantry, video room and a braai area. There is also a gymnasium, a VIP lounge and a doctor's room (surgery). Adjacent to the base are massive storage tanks for fuel and a helicopter hangar with a landing pad.

In paying tribute to the gallant team, the Regional Manager in Cape Town, Mr. Fred Johnson, said: "Allow me to take this opportunity to sincerely thank ALL the team members that worked on the project. I am aware of their selfless service and unwavering dedication in seeing the work through to completion despite all the odds and challenges." Most importantly, the biggest accomplishment was that there were not fatal accidents, no serious injuries except

one cracked arm, one cracked foot, naturally some cuts and bruises and multiple muscle aches.

Some of the challenges involved:

- The access to the site due to the remoteness of the construction site.
- Logistics and transport arrangements for such a project
- Packaging, storage and logistics for the building material
- Unique and unconventional building methods and the regulations to comply with.
- Sometimes incorrect material that had to be modified or corrected on site
- Working mainly in the winter months +/- 8 to -15 degrees Celsius with an average wind speed of 30km/h to 150km per hour.
- Having to work at the mercy of very harsh weather conditions which made the assignment even more trying.
- Extraordinarily long working hours with few or no rest days in between, all this driven by the call of duty
- And team members got home sick as they reflected on the sacrifices they made, spending months away from their friends and families

The new Marion Research Base is a self-contained little municipality which generates and manages its own buildings, electricity, water, sewage and waste. Apart from the Marion Island, the Department of Public Works provides accommodation and related services at the SANAE IV in the Antarctica, Gough Islands as well as Robben Island.



Deputy Minister and DPW officials posing for a group photo at the base



DPW officials hard at work

...and the Award for the Best Handyman of the Rough Seas Goes to...

By Lucky Mochalibane

Every show has a star and the star for the Antarctica and Islands expedition is the S.A Agulhas. This 32 year old multi functional vessel was first commissioned in 1978 and has since been slavishly and steadfastly undertaking the voyages to all the projects in the Antarctica and the islands including the Gough, Prince Edward and the Marion.

Owned by the DEA, and ably managed by the marine company Smit Amandla, the ship was built in 1977 by the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries at Shimonoseki in Japan and at the time it replaced the earlier vessel which had been in service since the 1960s. Weighing more than 7000 tons when fully loaded, the ship stands at almost 112 metres long and about 18 metres broad and accommodates 98 passengers (mainly scientists and support staff) plus 40 members of the crew.

In March 2011 the S.A Agulhas sailed on its 155th voyage to the Marion Island, this time ferrying the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Honourable Hendrieta Bogopane-Zulu and a legion of public servants on a mission to officially inaugurate the newly built Research Base at the Island, courtesy of the Department of Public Works (DPW) on behalf of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), who are both the client and the user of the Marion Island facility.

According to the DEA, "the Agulhas has been in service for almost 30 years and while her home port is Cape Town, she spends most of her time out at sea. Her busy schedule includes regular visits to both island bases and an annual summer voyage to Antarctica and back, when the ice shelf permits access."

Talking about the ice shelf, it should be borne in mind that "the ship is not a full bred ice breaker in the mould of the Russian icebreakers which venture into the north pole waters, instead the

Agulhas is a summer research vessel which is also a tanker and a passenger ship," explained Captain Freddie Lighthelm who on this occasion was in command of the vessel.

An employee of Smit Amandla, Captain Freddie has an unmatched passion for the sea and was quick to add that he has been a junior officer from 2002 before taking his first full command in 2007. His age belies his choice of career because at 35 one would expect him to be racing fast and furiously on urban roads instead this seasoned sea man was at home steering the S.A Agulhas at a top speed of under 28 km per hour (14.0 knots) or a cruising speed of 22 km per hour (12.5 knots), nothing more.

With a fuel tank capacity of 3 million litres, the S.A Agulhas consumes 12 000 litres of gasoline a day and had the engine running for the entire return trip of 14 days, including the odd days when the ship was anchored at the Marion Island. The new replacement ship that

was on the cards was due for delivery in April 2012 and unlike the Agulhas, it will be bigger, slightly faster, more fuel efficient and a complete ice breaker capable of overwintering.

The company Smit Amandla operates other research vessels such as the Africana which was anchored at the same time during the Marion Island trip as well as other fleet for training, search and rescue and these include illustrious names such as Algoa, Victoria Mxenge, Ruth First, Sarah Baartman and Ellen Khuzwayo, among others.

Without doubt, the role of the S.A Agulhas will be missed and Captain Lighthelm was quick to comfort everybody by reminding them that once decommissioned, S.A Agulhas who still have another ten years left in her system, will continue to be used for training and occasionally search and rescue before she is finally scrapped. That will be a sad day indeed.



32 year old S.A Agulhas

The Marion Island – a Treasure Still Shrouded in Mystery and Mysticism



By Lucky Mochalibane

For more than a million years the islands of Marion and Prince Edward collectively known as the Prince Edward Islands archipelago lay unexplored and their biodiversity undisturbed until the age of voyagers and great discoveries shattered their peaceful existence. Today these islands, which came about as a result of volcanic activity a million years ago, were fighting for their survival thanks largely to the modern human activity. So severe was the man-made environmental pressures on these remote locations that they had been declared the Special Nature Reserve in 1995 in order to protect their special and highly sensitive ecosystems.

Although there seemed to be ongoing historical arguments about who first “discovered” the islands, modern historical view accepts that first the French and later the English explorers in the eighteenth century were the ones to locate and name the islands. This was despite the existence of another flimsy historical theory which suggests that Chinese explorers could have beaten them to the post nearly four hundred years before. These debates however, could overshadow neither the political significance nor the environmen-

tal sensitivity of the islands which saw the South African government in 1947 led a secret military operation code-named Snoek Town to annex the islands following the end of the Second World War in 1945. It was only in the 1960s however, that the scientific interest in the islands took hold, giving rise to multiple scientific voyages. All along the Department of Public Works had been associated with the islands, erecting the first wooden structures at the islands after their annexation. Even the old base currently been decommissioned at the island, was put up by Public Works but given the passage of time, it (old base) had become uneconomical to maintain and unsafe for the teams to live and work there, leading to the client, the Department of Environmental Affairs, to request Public Works to build a new base. The work commenced in August 2003. On 10 March 2011, at about 14h30, the S.A Agulhas sailed out of the East Pier at the Cape Town Harbour on its 155th voyage en route to the Marion Island. The one way journey which lasted five (5) days, was unusual because inside the vessel was the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Honourable Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and her delegation of seven officials leading

the DPW construction team made up of about 30 workers to carry out the final quality inspection of the Marion Island project and officially hand it over to the client department, Environmental Affairs.

About three hours into the voyage, the skyline of Cape Town including the silhouette of the mountain and its twelve apostles, began to recede from view and at this time the mobile networks faded, giving one the eerie feeling that indeed they were cut off from civilization. The feeling of isolation was compounded by the fire and safety drill, reminding passengers of the ever present hazards of the seas.

By this time, everyone had become familiar with their narrow cabins, characterized by double bunks which completed the sleeping arrangements. Over the next few days, passengers sank into a military type routine, starting with the breakfast meal in the morning followed by a series of scientific lectures, talks, interactive sessions, videos etc punctuated at precisely the same time by lunch at eleven thirty (11.30) and then dinner at six thirty (18.30). After dinner the cash bar opened and this moment allowed strangers to bond and become friends. The camaraderie of the Marion Island had engulfed all and sundry.



Life is harsh on the island even for animals

The Marion Island – a Treasure Still Shrouded in Mystery and Mysticism (continued)

Just two days before arriving at the Island, a boot washing ceremony was convened. Perhaps the most exciting experience on the ship, the boot washing allows the authorities to exercise environmental management control of proportional sizes. During this routine, the luggage of the passengers is inspected to remove alien seeds, and confiscate any food stuffs thought to have detrimental effect on the biodiversity of the island. Shoes, boots, jerseys, walking sticks, suitcases, bags and camera tripods among others are thoroughly cleaned, turned inside out and emptied of every debris that might harbour alien seeds which if undetected, might invade the fragile ecosystem of the island with disastrous effects.

On the island, visitors were goaded to walk only on established paths; again this was calculated to enforce safety and help save the flora, most of which is indigenous to the island and would never survive trampling nor invasive species, a point which explains why there is no tourism at the Marion Island. Although generally docile, animals on the islands including birds and elephant seals can be very aggressive especially when breeding, therefore it was always prudent to give them right of way. The highlight of one of the afternoon walks was to come across the mating dance of the Wandering Albatrosses. A memorable experience it was indeed. Because of the high amount of rain and

snow, the surface at Marion Island was marshy and these waterlogged surfaces called mires, were very treacherous. Unsuspecting and careless walkers might easily slip and drown. There were two near incidents during this voyage, a constant reminder that all visitors at the island were there at the invitation and approval of the Department of Environmental Affairs, and would be mainly scientists, journalists or support staff accompanying the scientists. Commercial tourism was completely banned from the Islands, therefore no organized tours were feasible to these Islands which did not possess even basic infrastructure. Except the Base at the Marion, there was no any other infrastructure, not even a road for a bicycle.

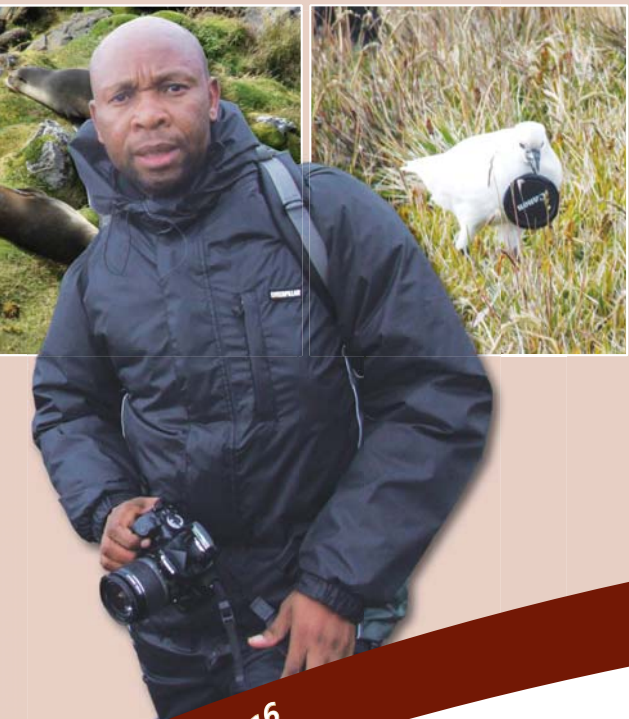
Sadly despite its remoteness, the Marion and its sister, Prince Edward, could not escape the ravages of modern day excesses including the climate change. Firstly the island is riddled with a problem of mice accidentally introduced during early days of voyagers. This much was known because to date no mammal fossils had been found at Marion. These rodents were decimating the local and rare bird species including the Wandering Albatross and Giant Petrels which lay their eggs on the ground because (interestingly) there are no trees at the Marion Island. Left unchecked, the mice were going to destroy the new base too, wreaking

havoc with the maintenance budgets of the Department.

Earlier efforts to introduce cats at the island to control the mice population backfired when firstly genders were accidentally mixed, leading to breeding and population explosion of cats at the island. Secondly the growing population of cats began to inflict exactly the same damage they were brought in to alleviate in the first place, competing with mice to attack the birds. Eventually a massive cat extermination project was launched and it took almost twenty years to complete, at a high cost. But also because of the problem of over fishing in our waters and the steady rising temperatures of the oceans due to increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere and the oceans, the fish populations were being asphyxiated and the numbers dwindling, depriving the Marion Island bird species of their nutrition.

Most birds for example were forced to forage deeper and deeper into the oceans, running the risk of being away from the chicks for long periods of time much to the detriment of the chicks which either die of starvation or risk falling prey to scavengers such as mice in the absence of parents. Regularly during field trips, parties came across carcasses of dead and rotting babies/chicks.

The effects of climate change and global warming were lamentably discernible at the islands, including disappearance of ice, growth of alien species because of rising temperatures, drop in the amount of rainfall and shrinking population of marine animals. About 1600 years ago, Marion Island was three quarters covered with ice. Earlier expeditions in the 1950s and 60s could still record sights of glaciers, yet since 1983, the temperature was estimated to have risen by one and half degree, and sadly the glaciers have disappeared, pointing to the adverse effect of the climate change, globally. Even the work of scientists such as Professors Stephen Chown, Marthan Bester, Geoff Brundrit and Dr. Azwi Makhado, as promising and encouraging as it was on the island, would be in vain and seriously undermined by our efforts on the main land unless we change our habits and insist on saving the environment. Therefore, every act to reduce the impact on the environment would be welcomed and the Departments like Public Works need to be steered to promote green buildings, alternative building technologies, and environmental impact assessments and espouse the ethos of reduce, re-use and recycle, otherwise ignorance and nonchalance would unleash untold damage to the environment.



WorxNews Caught Up with Young Ambitious Cadets to get a Glimpse into their Industry

By Lucky Mochalibane

From doing an interview with experienced mariners one gets the sense of how addictive the industry and its related professions are. Talking to the youth, however feels one with hope that the addiction is not that bad after all.

As the S.A Agulhas sailed south to the Marion Island, on board are the number of cadets – young, black, ambitious and determined. These aspirant navigators and engineers are the product of the Marine Company, Smit Amandla's internship programme aimed at recruiting, training and developing young men and women who have an interest to join the maritime industry either as ship's engineers or its stewards – the navigators.

Sitting at the exclusive Crew's Lounge, WorxNews was joined on this particular occasion by Mr Luyanda Mtshini, Mr Oupa Phake, Mr Viwe Mosia, Ms Nolubabalo Sonkosi, Mr Manchille Stramis and Ms Phelo Pita.

First off the blocks was **Phelo**, who is training to be the ship's master (Captain)

WorxNews: Why join the Cadet Programme?

Phelo: I wanted to follow Accounting but was introduced to the industry by my cousin who was already in the sector.

WorxNews: How do you see your future in this industry?

Phelo: To join government and to work for the South African Maritime Safety Authority

WorxNews: Your role model?

Phelo: My mother and sisters. My mom single-handedly brought me up with bit of help from her business.

Another aspirant navigator is **Manchille Stramis** who hails from Namibia and he cut his teeth at De Beers where he was first introduced to the industry but had to leave because the company had limited vessels therefore the training was not elaborately structured.

WorxNews: Why join the Programme?

Manchille: Although I wanted to be a lawyer, once introduced to the maritime industry I fell in love with it and did not want to look back.

WorxNews: And your ambition?

Manchille: To further my studies and hope to move up the ladder and be a Master one day.

WorxNews: Role Model?

Manchille: Definitely my uncle. He was influential and big on advisory capacity but today Captain Freddie Lighthelm is the person I look up to.

WorxNews: Why is it so?

Manchille: He is a role model. He has respect for, and is respected by every body.

Not to be left behind, **Ms Nolubabalo Sonkosi** also dreams of being behind the steering of a large vessel.

Nolubabalo: Since I was young and growing up at Queenstown, I have always wanted to do something different and challenging, born out of my curiosity. My goal is to be a Master one day or even better, a Director of a Maritime Company.

WorxNews: Is there any one you admire?

Nolubabalo: I am easily inspired by any one who is successful.

Whereas Queenstown might be further inland and slightly away from the coast, it is not the same situation with Simonstown, the naval capital of South Africa and a training ground for another aspirant navigator, **Mr Viwe Mosia**, from Peddie.

WorxNews: Have you always wanted to be in this industry?

Viwe: Since young age I have not had much of a choice. I went to Simonstown where I matriculated in Mathematics, Science and Maritime subjects including maritime economics, science and navigation.

WorxNews: What are your goals?

Viwe: In the short term, my immediate goal is to qualify and become a Deck Officer. But later I would like to move and become involved with training.

WorxNews: Who is your role model?

Viwe: Definitely Cedric Mbatha who is the Chief Officer and recently qualified as a Master/Captain.

As any driver would attest, behind every successful performing motor there is a mechanic, the same pertains to the ship. Navigators steer a highly tuned and engineered engine, thanks to the engineers who make sure that mechanically everything keeps going better.

Both **Mr Oupa Phake**, from Botha Ville in Free State and **Mr Luyanda Mtshini** from Khayelitsha in Cape Town are deep in training under the Cadet programme, toiling to be engineers.

WorxNews: Mr Phake, yours is an odd situation. You come from the landlocked Free State therefore how did you end up in the ships?

Oupa: I have always had a passion for tinkering with machines, it was therefore inevitable that I would end up in mechanical engineering.

WorxNews: Where would you like to end up in your career?

Oupa: Ideally to work for government but in the maritime side of business.

WorxNews: And who inspires you?

Oupa: My role model is Mark Miya, a Third Engineer, and I admire him for

his knowledge and how he handles the work.

In contrast to Oupa, **Luyanda Mtshini** is a Capetonian who grew up not only surrounded by sea, but "always wanted to work at sea because see this as challenging".

WorxNews: What's your ambition?

Luyanda: To be a Managing Director of an organization.

WorxNews: Any role models?

Luyanda: The two people I admire are Siyabonga Mthethwa, a Chief Engineer at Smit Amandla and B.P. Ganjee.

In conclusion, Captain Freddie Lighthelm confirmed that to his experience, almost 100- cadets have been trained in the last ten (10) years, giving credence to the stated business objective of Smit Amandla, that of "Offering challenging work and developing skills opportunities".

Next time one travels to the Islands on a vessel managed and steered by Smit Amandla, it will be comforting to know that they are in capable hands, of an organization that cites "commitment to the ongoing development of our people" as one of their many competitive advantages.



A group picture of cadets taking a breather after a long day's work



The Moving (No! Sailing) Story of the Ancient Mariner

By Lucky Mochalibane

One of the remarkable and impressive experiences aboard the S.A. Agulhas was the sense of order and discipline, thanks to the well trained, seasoned crew, not least the Purser, the old sailor or himself, Mr. Bennet Taillard. From the moment one boarded the ship, all anxieties subsided thanks to the professional reception and care meted out by Mr. Taillard and the rest of the crew.

As the Purser, Mr. Taillard, or simply Bennie as everybody called him, is tasked with the responsibility to make everybody comfortable and well looked after, from attending to the culinary needs (catering) of the passengers to making sure that passengers have all the necessary items to make the trip a memorable one. And Bennie made it all look so simple and routine but one always suspected there was more to this kind of discipline than meets the eye.

All was revealed during a short stint when WorxNews got a rare few minutes from the hectic schedule of Mr. Taillard to engage him on his life and times. As expected, his background reads like a novel on the life of the ancient mariner. Sea and sea faring, it turned out, is all that appeals to Bennie. A sailor of note, Bennie had been in the maritime industry from as far back as he could remember, going from ship to ship and working for local and foreign marine companies including a shipping company in Scotland.

In 2003 he joined Smit Amandla and since then he has been to the Marion Island on six (6) occasions and had visited other Islands in the South Ocean including Gough, the Antarctica itself and Tristinah Da Chunha Island – a voyage he still holds in awe as “a memorable experience.”

Reflecting on his job, Bennie was quick to point out that every voyager was unique, so was each passenger, each demanding different things at different points. “The military precision you see is as a result of discipline, flexibility and punctuality because everything works with time,” lectured Bennie. Admittedly the job has its own stresses but to keep sane, Bennie would embroil himself in his work and he also thanked the team for the support.

Despite all this history, retirement was still far from this father of five (5). Drawing a deep breath, Bennie cast his eye to the future and adds: “Perhaps in the next five years I can begin to think of retirement and get to spend time with my grandchildren, the youngest of which was born in January this year.” He was quick to mention that he has got ten (10) grandchildren. With the energy and wit still exuding from this sharp mind, the next ten years would be no hassle. You sail Bennie. You sail!



The old sailor himself, Mr. Bennet Taillard



Marion Island Base Officially Opened - Deputy Minister Honours Mr Daniels

By **Lucky Mochalibane**

On a rain drenched Thursday afternoon of 17 March 2011, a small crowd gathered around the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Honourable Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu as she eulogized about the life of a certain Joseph Daniels who became "the first construction worker" to succumb to the perils of the South Oceans and died during a boating accident near the shore of Marion Island on 29 January 1948.

The details of the life and times of Mr. Joseph Daniels are very sketchy, the point that was brought home as the team sat an hour or so before to prepare the Deputy Minister who had been formally approached and requested by the Department of Environmental Affairs to lead a service at the graveside as the new cross was unveiled.

Briefing the Deputy Minister, Mr. Henry Valentine of DEA perhaps captured the sullen moment well when he announced:

Nothing is known for certain about the life of Joseph Daniels before he travelled to the Prince Edward Islands in January 1948. In fact all that is really known about him is that he lost his life here at Marion Island and is buried on this spot.

All that is known is that he was from Klaasenbosch (originally a wine farm) in Constantia on the Cape Peninsula. This lack of information may at least in part have come about because he was regarded as coloured. His tragic death is therefore his only posterity. If he had not drowned ... we would not even have known his name and he would have remained completely anonymous. We owe it to him and to his memory, and to help in some small way to redress the country's Apartheid past, to try to learn more about him by searching government archives for even the smallest detail of his life.

Today his lonely grave stands forlorn and sombre, with nothing except a new wooden cross bearing his name to remind the world of not

only the treachery and deception of the Marion Island waters but also of the indignity and disregard with which the apartheid treated other people.

The year 1948 became significant in the history annals of South Africa as the year during which the official system of racial classification and discrimination became first an electioneering slogan and shortly thereafter a government policy characteristic of the National Party rule for the next half a century – a bleak moment in the history of South Africa.

Reflecting on the significance of the death of Mr. Joseph Daniels, the Deputy Minister was reminded of the role Joseph was brought to the Island to play in the first place. As part of the team there during the early days of the Island, Joseph would have come to assist with the construction of the Base and this in the opinion of the Deputy Minister led her to conclude that his death signaled the dangers that construction workers still face today, having to often operate in risky situations.

His death according to the Deputy Minister epitomized the spirit of ultimate selflessness and dedication, persuading the Department as the regulator of the construction industry to try and find creative ways to cast his memory in concrete as a constant reminder for the current and future construction workers undertaking work under the less-than-conducive environments in the Islands projects. Asked by a journalist in one of the interviews during the trip, Ms Bogopane-Zulu summed it up when she mentioned that "if Joseph Daniels was a professional, he would not have remained faceless, therefore his death must awaken us to the realization that everybody in this industry matters, let us give him a face."

The search has begun to find the records about the identity and life of Joseph Daniels and the Deputy Minister felt the EPWP through their Non-State Sector could join in the hunt to locate the living next of kin and or descendants.



Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu pays her respect to Mr Daniels



The grave site of Joseph Daniels, the first construction worker to die at the Island in 1948



Marion Island, beautiful but treacherous





Fuel storage tanks at the island



The completed base as seen from the ship anchored in the rough seas



Part of residences at the island



Recreation galore aboard the vessel



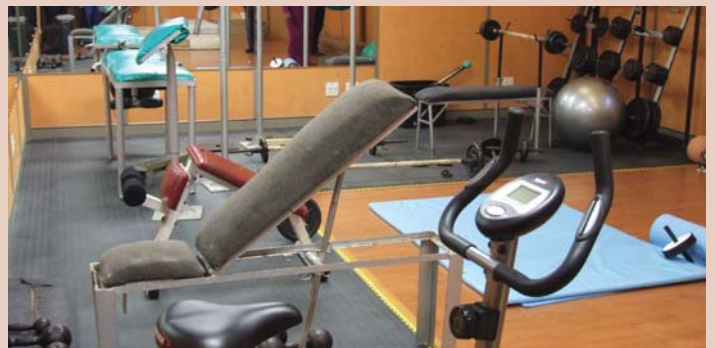
Recycle, reduce, reuse - this is the mantra at Marion Island



Food stocks enough to last the entire season



Deceptive, unpredictable, inhospitable weather awaits all and sundry at Marion Island



Section of the gymnasium at the base in Marion Island



The South African Weather Monitoring Team with the Deputy Minister of Public Works



DPW officials in a jovial mood



DPW Project Manager Hein Smith undergoes transformation in anticipation of inclement weather on the island



Sharing a light moment with the Deputy Minister



Final touches before the event



It's all smiles on the faces of delegates



Members of the crew are happy to be back home



It's time for breakfast - the most important meal of the day

EPWP Emerges as a Shinning Star Abroad

By: Lesego Moretlwe

The Minister of Public Works, Hon Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde hosted a Mauritian delegation at AVN Building in Pretoria on Friday 10 June 2011. The Mauritian delegation was led by Vice Prime Minister Mr Xavier-Luc Duval, who is also the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment in Mauritius.

Following the 2010 National Assembly Elections in Mauritius, the Government of the Republic of Mauritius established the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment led by Minister Xavier-Luc Duval. The aim of the Ministry is to enhance the quality of life of vulnerable people in Mauritius through greater social justice and human development.

The Ministry therefore undertook the decision to embark on a study tour with the aim of gathering information, experiences and best practices from relevant departments in South Africa.

The National Department of Public Works (NDPW) was therefore nominated as one of the good examples of best practice in terms of poverty alleviation strategies through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

Representing EPWP during the Mauritian delegation visit, Deputy Director General (DDG) EPWP, Mr Stanley Henderson gave a brief overview of the EPWP and was accompanied by Chief Director-EPWP Infrastructure Sector, Mr Ignatius Ariyo who gave the technical perspective of the programme.

In his address during the visit, Mr Xavier-Luc Duval emphasized that their visit in the country and Public Works in particular, is of great interest as they were very keen to learn about the EPWP as the government initiative and strategy in alleviating poverty. He said they will look at ways of how best they can replicate this programme to help the Mauritian public through the newly-established Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment. The study tour involved a site visit to the upgrading of internal roads and Stormwater Project in Mabopane - Block M, Ward 20 in the north of Pretoria. The project started in November 2009 with the al-

located budget of R15 million aimed at alleviating flooding in the area during the rainy season and preventing roads from being muddy and inaccessible by building tarred roads.

The project, through the EPWP has employed 32 beneficiaries of which eight are female. Beneficiaries get a stipend of R140 per person per day and the training opportunities provided on site are bricklaying, pipe laying, concrete works, health and safety, as well as the first aid course.

Judging from the presentations during the visit, it emerged that through the study tour, the Mauritian Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment aims to learn from South Africa's experiences in the field of poverty alleviation, social inclusion with special focus on the following areas:

- The different Governmental and non-Governmental institutions which are responsible for poverty alleviation programmes
- Measures that have been taken in South Africa to alleviate poverty and promote social development and integration
- Projects that have been successfully implemented to alleviate poverty
- Employment of the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable sectors of the South African Society
- Inclusive programmes for other categories of vulnerable people

The Department and the Government of Mauritius will in future, engage further on areas of public works and infrastructure development.



Public Works Minister welcomes Mauritian Delegation

A Visit to the School for the Blind – an Eye-Opener for Deputy Ministers

By Dirosa Lebona and Lunga Mahlangu

The Deputy Minister of Public Works, Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and her counterpart Higher Education Deputy Minister, Prof Hlengiwe Mkhize embarked on joint visit to Optima College - a Further Education Training (FET) college for blind and partially sighted students in Pretoria to get first hand experience on the challenges facing the school.

Among some of the challenges experienced is the difficulty with the registration of Optima College as an accredited training provider or as an FET College, the lack of funds to purchase assistive devices such as the Braille machines and bursaries being not available for blind and partially sighted students.

After the Deputy Minister learnt about these hardships, she brought on board the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities and the Department of Higher Education to inspect and get a deeper understanding of the challenges experienced by the learners and chart a way forward on how best they can assist.

During the visit, Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu who is herself visually

impaired and a product of the college, summed up the challenges and called for help. She challenged all stakeholders involved to come on board to assist with the provision of the equipment and software needed for people with disabilities to be able to learn.

The Deputy Minister also said that government should meet blind and partially sighted people halfway and ensure that resources were available to them. She was referring to the expenses that blind and partially sighted people come across when it came to the equipment they needed to be able to actively participate in schools and in commerce and industry.

Higher Education Deputy Minister, Prof. Mkhize, was touched by the presentations which were highlighting the plight of blind and visually impaired people. "I am overwhelmed. Sometimes we make decisions on budgets for education without looking at the implications they have on other categories of the society." She was amazed to learn of the amount of obstacles people with disabilities are faced with. She said that the National Student Financial Aid Scheme needs to be re-evaluated to ensure that it also caters for the needs of blind and partially sighted.



The Deputy Minister of Public Works, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, representatives from the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities pose for a picture with representatives from the Council

Natural birth offers many advantages over caesarean section



More and more women in South Africa are opting to have caesarean sections (c-section) rather than vaginal births. Many doctors encourage their patients to have a c-section arguing that it is a less painful and more controlled way to deliver a child. Is this true and should the c-section be the routine procedure it has become today? Mr Marthinus Brand, a Trustee of the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS), the largest closed medical scheme in South Africa, says that the Scheme has certainly experienced a strong demand for c-sections from members over the years. Whereas giving birth used to be undertaken mostly at home with the assistance of a midwife, for many mothers it has now become a surgical procedure performed in a hospital. He believes there is a time and place for a c-section, but he is not in favour of it being used routinely as a means of delivery.

"Many doctors and patients like the idea that they can time the birth of a baby precisely," observes Brand. "A c-section is convenient and allows both doctors and patients to plan their busy schedules. It also allows moms to avoid what they believe will be a painful birthing experience. What is not commonly known, however, is that natural birth holds many advantages over c-section for both mother and child. To give birth is a beautiful experience that brings

mother and child closer together. In my view, unless there are complications, women should be electing to go the route of vaginal birth."

While c-section births are commonly thought to be the easier option, there is in fact much about them that is more difficult than natural births, according to Brand. For example, the recovery period of the mother is usually much longer after a c-section. Mothers usually recover quickly after vaginal birth and can often get back to family life within a matter of days. So while a c-section affords a mom a quicker and less painful birthing experience, they can expect to be in worse shape after the birth. This may make it more difficult to breast-feed and to spend quality time with their newborn.

"Many mothers are not aware that a c-section is a major surgical procedure. It involves an invasive horizontal cut of between 12cm and 15cm across the abdomen and the uterus. There is the risk of cuts to organs around the uterus, including the bowel, during the procedure. There is also always the risk of infection after the procedure, which can slow the recovery rate considerably."

He points out that a woman who has had a c-section will more likely need a hysterectomy. Scar tissue caused by the procedure may also go on to cause

bowel obstructions, and a number of other complications including infertility as well as miscarriage in future pregnancies. A c-section has some risks for the baby too. For example, c-section babies have been shown to have a higher incidence of respiratory problems at birth and later in life. Interestingly adults with asthma are more likely to have been delivered by c-section. Vaginal birth, on the other hand, stimulates and strengthens the baby's lungs. Natural birth has not received good press in recent years because it is considered more risky than c-section. In fact if undertaken in a hygienic environment and with proper birthing practitioners present, the risks to both mother and child are minimal. Vaginal birth remains the safest and most advantageous way for a baby to be born.

When mothers have enjoyed a good vaginal birth they tend to feel stronger and more fulfilled, and they suffer less from post partum depression. Brand says mother and baby are also inclined to enjoy a stronger bond than children born through c-section. Some experts believe that babies should be left to choose the timing of their coming into the world. The c-section leaves them no choice and consequently causes the child unnecessary stress. The female body produces hormones that make it quite capable of dealing with the pain during childbirth. For most women the

pain is more like that experienced when running a marathon rather than that experienced when you injure yourself. Brand believes that women should not fear childbirth and try to avoid it, but rather embrace it as a beautiful once-in-a-lifetime experience. Those who want to have a vaginal birth but who do not relish the thought of the pain, can opt for an epidural, which is a highly effective painkiller.

This is not to say that a c-section does not have its place, he observes. Indeed, they can be life-saving when there are complications during pregnancy. However, in Brand's view a c-section should only be employed when complications do occur or are likely to occur. They should not be undertaken as a matter of course, he emphasises.

"Obstetricians and gynaecologists should give their patients the choice of going the natural birthing route and should fully explain the advantages and disadvantages," suggests Brand. "Women have the right to be fully informed about the options available for the birth of their child."

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In Memory of our Fallen Colleagues - REST IN PEACE COLLEAGUES



Sfiso Ngwenya



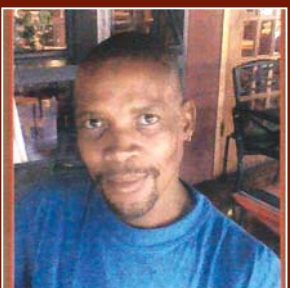
Mlondolazi Xhelo



Olona Mbangi



Stanley Mavhutha



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DPW Athletic Club Up and Running

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Come join the DPW Athletic Club- Pretoria

Any Departmental official intending to run road races is advised to join DPW athletic club and this is particularly the case when it comes to running track and fields, cross country, marathons and ultra marathons - Walkers are also welcome. The newly formed DPW Head Office athletic club is an ideal club for the more social runners. It has a relaxed and friendly character, and while faster runners are also welcome, the bulk of our members are

social runners with serious goals. Our club is based in Head Office. We train from Monday to Thursday and we also hold a 6 kilometre time trial run on a fast course on the streets around the Union Buildings park at 5:30pm. A number of social events take place at the club. These include club discussions and pre Two Oceans and Comrades talks. Organised training runs leave from the club during weekends. These runs are between 8 and 21,1 kilometer in length. Each year, the club has a trip away to a marathon or race outside Gauteng. This year, the club ran the Mafikeng marathon (42. 2 km) in Mafikeng, Soweto marathon (42, 2 km) and Lake Umuzi, Kosmos 3-in-1 marathon (73.3 km) in Secunda. Inexperienced runners are given training advice and written training programmes. These include all distances from 5 kilometres to the Comrades marathon.

The club is one of the cheapest to join. At the start of each year membership costs R120.00. This fee includes license numbers. Membership gives a runner access to run in any race in South Africa and the trendy orange, black and white club colours are a feature of races all over South Africa

Club address:

Department of Public Works, Private bag x 65, Pretoria, 0001

Committee

Confirmation of Committee Members & Portfolios

- Reuben Mahlatjie – Team manager
- Thapelo Mafabatho – Secretar
- Phuti Meso – Team Captain
- Moses Letlhaku – Chair Person/ Coach

Training details

Union Buildings Park

Time trials every Thursday 5:30pm.

Training is open to the public, all welcome.



Mr. Phuti Meso Team Captain



Mr Reuben Mahlatjie Team Manger, Mr Moses Letlhaku Chairperson ,Mr Phuti Meso Team Captain and in absentia Mr.Thapelo Mafabatho as a Secretary



Mr. Reuben Mahlatjie Team Manager



Mr. Moses Letlhaku Chairperson



PUBLIC WORKS ATHLETICS CLUB

