

NEWSLETTER

WORX-NEWS

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July - August 2012 ISSUE

The official newsletter of the National Department of Public Works

Happy Women's Month to all NDPW women

DEPUTY MINISTER gets his hands dirty for a good cause



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Mandela Day at Public Works



Minister addresses CIDB stakeholders



public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DPW GETS A WELL-DESERVED BOOST BY THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER



Petrus Sibiya

President Jacob Zuma's Cabinet reshuffle of 12 June 2012 saw the Department of Public Works getting a new Deputy Minister, Mr Jeremy Cronin,

this after the Department has been without a Deputy Minister for over seven months.

The Cabinet reshuffle was informed by Cabinet positions that became vacant following the untimely death of Public Service and Administration Minister Roy Padayachie and the resignation of Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Mr Enock Godongwana. The new Deputy Minister hit the ground running. Shortly after his appointment, he represented the Department on different fronts including presiding over the DPW Mandela Day celebrations in Cullinan recently.

The appointment of the Deputy Minister comes handy at the time when the Department is undergoing transformation (turnaround). His appointment should go a long way in boosting capacity at an executive level. The new Deputy Minister is not new to the public sector. Before joining the Department, he was the Deputy Minister of Transport. He brings with him a wealth of experience at an executive level. The Department welcomes the new Deputy Minister and wishes him well in his new portfolio. In giving you a sneak preview of our current issue of WorxNews, it is pleasing to announce that the Department joined representatives from all sectors of our society at Walter Sisulu square of dedication, Kliptown, Soweto on 04 and 05 July 2012 to participate in the National Summit on Social Cohesion and Nation Building which was celebrated under the theme: **"Working Together To Create a Caring and Proud Society"**.

This Summit was informed by the Freedom Charter which declares South Africa a unitary and sovereign state which is based on democracy, the rule of law, pursuit of equal human rights, non-racialism, non-sexism and the equality of all persons. It (Freedom

Charter) denotes South Africa as belonging to all who live in it, both black and white, united in diversity. The Summit was aimed at reminding South Africans that we are bound together by our common humanity. The Summit saw attendees signing a declaration wherein they committed themselves to embracing social cohesion and working towards building a caring and proud society.

In our current issue, you will also read about how an EPWP beneficiary made a striking difference in his community. You will also find out how different units from the Head Office and Regional Offices spent their 67 minutes on Mandela Day and many other insightful stories.



DPW colleagues from the Kimberley Regional Office donated food items and spent time with children admitted at a local hospital during Mandela Day

In closing, the WorxNews team once again appeals to all employees in the Department 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

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR WOMEN: THIS WOMEN'S MONTH



Reggie Ngcobo

Colleagues, friends and compatriots, August is that time of the year where everything is about celebrating women - the flowers of the nation.

This year's celebration on the 9th of August marks the 56th anniversary of the great Women's March of 1956. On that day, about 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings to protest against the carrying of pass books and a legislation aimed at tightening the apartheid government's control over the movement of black women in urban areas.

The establishment of the Ministry of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities consolidates government's programme to continue the development of women and is proof of the hard work our government has done for the emancipation of women.

The Women's Empowerment Fund and the Employment Equity Act continue to ensure the appointment and support of women in top leadership positions both in government and the private sector.

Interventions such as the rural and local economic development programmes and social safety systems continue to reduce the burden of women-headed households who bear the brunt of poverty.

Although government has done a lot to empower women, I think it's also upon all women to roll up their sleeves

and do things for themselves. **Women should break free from the bondage of looking down on themselves and most importantly dragging each other down.**

Ladies, united you shall stand and believe me, you won't get very far if you do not pick each other on the way to the top.

Let us learn from China - which now has more self-made female billionaires than any other country in the world. This is not because China has more females than any other nation. Many of these extraordinary women rose from nothing, to be heroines, despite having started out in abject poverty.



Several DPW units used Women's Day to honour female colleagues

On a groovy note, ladies get yourselves the Aretha Franklin CD titled **"Sisters Are Doing It for Themselves"**. That should be a motivation for you, to stand up on your feet and ring the bell to say you have arrived!

In conclusion, let me urge all men to work together to **STOP WOMEN ABUSE. BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL MAN, THERE'S A WOMAN.** In one way or the other, we need women.

"56 years of women united against poverty, inequality and unemployment"

Printing and Design done by
Tlommoho Communications
(012 343 4562/072 609 8746)

.....is the official newsletter of the National 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.

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PUBLISHED BY:
Department of Public Works Chief Directorate
Communications and Marketing

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

Special thanks to the following staff members who contributed to this issue: Katlego Nthabiseng Mampuru, Tumelo Tshetlo, Mashite Mogale, Thozama Mbill, Petrus Sibiya, Selaocwe Kabelo, Brian Dlamini, Tshuluzi Nkoana & Reggie Ngcobo.

MEET THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPUTY MINISTER

By Reggie Ngcobo



Department of Public Works Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin

Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi has warmly welcomed his Deputy, Mr Jeremy Cronin.

Deputy Minister Cronin joined the Department on the 13th of June 2012 after President Jacob Zuma announced changes to the national executive.

Minister Nxesi welcoming his Deputy and comrade said the appointment of the Deputy Minister came at the right

time for him as they are going to jointly lead the Department.

"As a politician, he comes from the ruling party, he is a National Executive Committee (NEC) member and also the Deputy General Secretary of the SACP," said the Minister.

Mr Jeremy Cronin is not new in government business as he is coming from the Transport Department.

President Zuma's change to his cabinet was necessitated by the untimely death of Public Service and Administration Minister Mr Roy Padayachie and the resignation of then Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Mr Enock Godongwana.

Mr Cronin brings with him a wealth of experience to the Public Works portfolio as he is the current Deputy General-Secretary of the South African Communist Party and has been a Member of Parliament since 1999.

The Deputy Minister has been a lecturer at the University of Cape Town from 1973 to 1976. Mr Cronin has held various positions within the ANC and the UDF. "He is one of the activists who participated in all the political discussions at Codesa, what we call the multi-party negotiations, which led to 1994 democratic elections," said Minister Nxesi.

"Known as a poet and an author, of course an activist, he enjoys his philosophical thesis," said Minister Nxesi. "He writes a lot of thesis, so we welcome our Deputy Minister, Comrade Jeremy, welcome Chief," said Minister Nxesi.



LEFT & RIGHT: Deputy Minister addressing DPW Senior Managers

THE PROFILE OF DEPUTY MINISTER JEREMY CRONIN

Current Positions

- He is the Deputy Minister of the Public Works Department of the Republic of South Africa, with effect from 13 June 2012.
- Member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the African National Congress (ANC).
- Deputy General-Secretary of South African Communist Party (SACP) since 1995.
- Member of African National Congress (ANC) in Parliament since 1999.

Academic Qualifications

- Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Cape Town.
- Masters of Arts Degree from Sorbonne University in Paris, France.

Positions last held/Career/Memberships/Other Activities

- He held a post of Deputy Minister of Transport of the Republic of South Africa from 11 May 2009 to 12 June 2012.
- Lecturer at the University of Cape Town from 1973 to 1976.
- Political Education Officer of the United Democratic Front in Cape Town from 1984 to 1987.
- Held Various positions in the ANC from 1988 to 1990.
- Chairman of the Portfolio Committee on Transport.
- Political Officer of the SACP in 1990.
- Member of negotiating Team at Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) Multi-Party Negotiations from 1991 to 1993.
- Co-Convenor of the Reconstruction and Development Programme Drafting Committee from 1993 to 1994.
- Editor of the African Communist Magazine.

Research/Presentations/Awards/Decorations/Bursaries and Publications

- Editor of a book called Ideologies of Politics in 1975.
- Author of 30 Years of Freedom Charter in 1985.
- Author of the Even the Dead: Poems, Parables and a jeremiad in 1997.
- Author of a poem called Inside and Out in 1999.
- Author of African Communist Magazine.
- Author of a poem Motho ke Motho ka Batho Ba bangwe.
- Author of More Than A Casual Contact: a poem in 2006.
- Co-Author of the 50 Years of Freedom Charter with Prof. Raymond Suttner in 2006.



DEPUTY MINISTER SPENDS MANDELA DAY AT THE REFILWE CENTRE

By Siyabonga Mhlanga



Deputy Minister of Public Works planting a tree on Mandela Day

The Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr Jeremy Cronin accompanied by DPW staff, paid tribute to former President Nelson Mandela by painting the walls and planting trees at the Refilwe Multi-purpose Centre in Cullinan, outside Pretoria. This was part of the International Mandela Day celebrations on the 18th of July 2012, where people are encouraged to do good and help others for 67 minutes.

Addressing a fully-packed hall at the centre, the Deputy Minister noted: "We've been asked by Tat'uMadiba to spend our 67 minutes of change and bring happiness to this Centre.

"We pledge to continue working with the Refilwe Multi-purpose Centre by providing electricity and we are in consultation with the University of Pretoria to use one of the halls as a medical centre or clinic," said the Deputy Minister.

"Mandela's struggle brought freedom to us and we have to promote this freedom everyday in respect of Madiba. Let us make everyday a Mandela day," he added.

The event was attended by local municipality representatives, local primary school pupils and community members. In his address, the Deputy Minister acknowledged the volunteers, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and all who partnered with DPW in making the day a success. "There are a number of NGOs who have committed to helping the home and the children without payment," he acknowledged.

Ms Julia Mashego, the founder of Refilwe Multi-purpose Centre was very delighted to receive the furniture donated by the Department of Public Works.

"I would like to thank the Department of Public Works, Social Development, sponsors and all the stakeholders of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) for their support towards maintaining this Centre. Thank you Mandela and happy birthday," said Ms Mashego.



DPW employees mopping the floors

One of the beneficiaries at the centre, Mr Mbuti Thomas Mlangeni (92) said: "We are happy with the services that Ms Mashego renders here and most of us (elders) feel at home here. May God bless Mandela." Mr Mlangeni is one of the drop-in elders who usually come in the morning and leave in the afternoon.

As part of his contribution to the centre, the Deputy Minister painted the walls of the Centre and planted trees as a symbol of peace and shelter for the Home-based Care Centre.

In her closing remarks, Chief Director: Gender, People with Disabilities, Youth and Children Rev. Naledi Stemela who was the programme director for the day said: "From today on we are pledging to take care of our kids as they are the future leaders of our country. Let us celebrate the next Mandela Day by encouraging these children". She was referring to the orphans who are registered under the Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme at the Centre.



DPW employees re-painting the walls of the Refilwe Centre

THE HORTICULTURE UNIT FLOWERS A SCHOOL IN SOSHANGUVE AS PART OF MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS

By Tumelo Tshetlo

Make Every Day a Mandela Day is the slogan for International Mandela Day. The Horticulture Unit of the DPW from the Soutpan Nursery got their hands dirty and celebrated Mandela Day by giving their effort, energy and more than 67 minutes of their time planting 150 plants at the Refitlhile Pele Primary School in Soshanguve.

"These plants will beautify the school; we will also explain to teachers and pupils how to take care of the plants and when to water them. This is our first outreach community programme and it is the first of many." These were the words of Ms Nongamthini Mnisi, a supervisor at the Soutpan Nursery.

The Horticulture Unit's responsibilities range from designing gardens for the Department of Public Works properties - to maintaining them, propagation, planting of seeds and looking after plants in their Soutpan Nursery. Properties whose gardens they maintain and supply with plants include, the Presidential estate, Ministerial houses, Sammy Marks Museum, Transvaal Museum, Willem Prinsloo, Magistrate Courts Gardens and Tswaing Museum. Their daily duty is replenishing and replanting dying and dehydrated plants and bringing them back to life, as well as constantly keeping an eye on gardens that they supply with plants. Life is exactly what horticulture brought to Refitlhile Pele Primary School in the form of three types of plants, namely, the agapanthus, black diamonds and the muphus.

"We are very happy with the plants that the Department is giving us. In 2001, the Johannesburg Regional Office also helped us by paving the school. We are pleased that we can rely on Public Works," said an excited Mr SS Mongwe, the Principal of Refitlhile Pele Primary School. He added that the school had been running a gardening programme whose seeds were funded by BMW in 1997. Through this programme, they have been able to sustain their feeding scheme which feeds up to 1500 pupils daily. The vegetable garden has also given community members an opportunity to come and cultivate it in return for vegetables which they either sell to make profit or use at home to feed their families. According to Mr Mongwe, the school uses gardening as a teaching tool where pupils have been allocated their own small gardens where they are taught mathematics and shapes. Gardening indeed plays an integral role in the education syllabus at Refitlhile Pele Primary School, so much so that in 2011, the school received the Premier Award for excellence by BMW for their Gardening Community Service Project. As part of

the school's contribution and celebration of Mandela Day, the pupils painted their classroom walls to create a conducive learning environment for themselves!

The pupils were ecstatic as they learnt how to transplant the plants they were given by the Horticulture Unit into the soil and sang Happy Birthday Madiba as they got their uniforms and hands dirty. The experience of gardening was definitely not something they were new to. The Horticulture Unit added beautiful flowers to the already growing and blooming vegetable garden of RefitlhilePele Primary School and promised to plant many more flowers at orphanages and schools from now on.



Horticulture staff members hard at work during Mandela Day at the Refitlhile Pele Primary School in Soshanguve



Horticulture staff members finally take a break from all their hard work



Pupils from Refitlhile Primary school enjoy getting their hands dirty



Horticulture staff members give the newly planted flowers their first taste of fresh water

DPW EMPLOYEES SPEND THEIR 67 MINUTES WITH UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN

By Thozama Mbili

Employees from the National Department of Public Works once again responded to a call to give 67 minutes of their time, tending to those less fortunate.

A group of about 30 employees, mostly from Inner City Regeneration (ICR) and Key Account Management (KAM) Branches, as well as from the Chief Financial Officer's (CFO) office, forfeited their lunch hour on Mandela Day and spent 67 minutes of their time at the Mohau Children's Centre in Atteridgeville, Pretoria – a care facility for children who are infected and affected by HIV/Aids.

The centre is currently home to 38 children, some whom have been abused and neglected by their families due to poverty and many other social ills.



DPW employees before leaving office to spend time with children at the Mohau Children's Centre on Mandela Day

The employees donated to the centre, food items, clothes and toiletries, among other things. They also supplied the children with an afternoon meal and snacks and spent the afternoon tending to the little ones. Adv. Nishi Sharma from the Office of the Deputy Director General: Inner City Regeneration says as a gesture to contribute to the idea of Mandela Day, the staff identified Mohau Children's Centre because it's a home for orphaned and abandoned children, some of whom are living with HIV/Aids and are unable to fend for themselves. Adv. Sharma added that the employees did not want to simply donate items to the home, but also wanted to take the opportunity to personally interact with the children and experience what it is like at the centre.

Mohau Children's Centre Manager Ms Ester Jaca says the centre has been battling to provide adequately for the children for the past three months and that the donations such as the ones from the Department of Public Works employees will give the centre a much needed boost. She went on to say she wished every day was a Mandela Day.

Adv. Sharma says the experience at the Mohau Children's Centre left colleagues with mixed emotions. "There was empathy at how ill some of the children are, anger at the irresponsibility of families by not taking care of their own children, sadness at the orphans who have no one to take care of them, compassion as some colleagues are considering fostering and even adopting the children, envy at the staff at the centre who are so effortlessly providing love, attention and care to the children and envy of the children themselves as they are not feeling sorry for themselves, but smiling and enjoying every moment of the way," explained Adv. Sharma.

She says the interaction with the children was short, but colleagues were going back as volunteers and even foster parents to the children. "In essence; irrespective of the challenges and minor obstacles, the smile on the children's faces when meeting us and receiving our gifts was priceless," concluded Adv. Sharma.



DPW Employees handing out lunch and snacks to children at the Mohau Children's Centre during Mandela Day



Packing the donation



DPW employees donated clothes, food parcels and sanitary towels among other things

NDPW PE REGIONAL OFFICE IS REACHING OUT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN NELSON MANDELA BAY METROPOLITAN

By Karina Vermaak

For the past few years, the whole world has been experiencing the pressure of the economic downfall of the European markets. The monetary constraints are felt in every sector of our communities, but especially more so in the low income sectors of the communities in which the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) operates. The NDPW is directly linked to the local communities in which we exist, as the people in these communities are the service providers and the reasons for our clients' needs. They are, in other words, the reason why we as a Department exist!



PE Outreach Group with the shoes collected for the Cedarberg Primary School

For those of us working for NDPW and who are dealing with the people involved in the building and property industries, it became evident that the need for assistance (of any kind) has become desperate as people are unable to provide even the most simplest item to their families. In June 2006, the PE Regional

Office formed the PE Outreach Group who identified the Algoa Park Street Kids project as their first beneficiary. With the assistance of our fellow NDPW workers, collections were made which enabled the Outreach group to assist with the supply of cooked meals and clothing to these kids with no homes. In some cases, this was the only cooked meal some of these kids received for the whole day.

Various other collections and deliveries were made since the first efforts in 2006. Some of the beneficiaries were the Kwazakhele Community, Sinethemba (a child care facility), the Laphumilanga HIV & AIDS Centre, the Kwazakhele Care Centre, The Aid Haven and the Khayga Care Centre. All received support from the PE Regional office family in the form of second hand clothing, food parcels, blankets, toys, etc. The effect that the donations had on beneficiaries and the success of the outreach programmes inspired the Regional Office to such an extent that it decided to donate an amount of R10 000.00 in 2007, to the Masibambane School and surrounding KwaZakhele community. The most memorable of the projects must however be the Cedarberg Primary School whose biggest request was school shoes. Many of the kids did not have the luxury of a simple pair of shoes! A list of names and sizes was given to the Outreach Group and officials were requested to "adopt" a child in order to provide this child with a pair of shoes. Every child was provided with a pair of shoes (and a surprise packet of sweets and cooldrinks) - the joy on their faces as they immediately started putting their shoes (and socks) on, was absolutely priceless and was something to always remember!

The PE Regional Outreach group also planned a special celebration in conjunction with Mandela Day in July 2011. The Ekuphumleni Old Age Home was identified for this special project as it was felt that old people are mostly forgotten and that they always appreciate even the smallest gesture, even if it is just a smile! Special Madiba birthday cakes were bought and a party was given to all the people living at the old age home. Blankets and food parcels were also handed out to assist with their needs. Weeks prior to Mandela Day 2012, the PE Outreach Group started collecting goods for the MTR Smit Children's Haven in Port Elizabeth. MTR Smit Children's Haven takes care of children whose parents or family cannot take care of them. They house approximately 110 children from all spheres of the Port Elizabeth community. As a non-profit organisation, they rely heavily on welfare funding

and donations from local businesses and community members. In light of the legacy created by Nelson Mandela himself, it was decided to also focus on what he loves most – our children. The PE Outreach Group decided to contribute 67 minutes of doing good to this worthy cause and institution.

A week before 2012 Mandela Day, PE Regional Office staff donated the following items:

- 25 Blankets
- 6 Pillows
- 7 Floor mats
- Clothes
- Cash to the amount of R1962.15

Out of the donated cash, more floor mats and pillows, sheets, fleeces, a cake and party packs were purchased. On Mandela Day, the PE Outreach Group left for their visit to the MTR Smit Children's Haven. They were greeted with cheer and joy by all the children who were so excited to welcome the NDPW staff to their home. Party packs filled with sweets were handed out to each child. Obviously no day of celebration can be complete without a cake!

Chairperson of the Outreach Group Ms Miranda Makinyane says without the support of the NDPW PE family members, this programme would never have had so many success stories and it would not have been possible to bring so many smiles to so many faces! "The biggest thanks and gratitude must be given to our colleagues who opened up their hearts (and wallets) to help people in need," said Ms Makinyane. She has extended a special thanks to all the members of the PE Outreach Group who made all this possible. The PE Outreach Group consists of the following officials (some of whom have left the Regional Office but continue playing a part in the Outreach Group in changing people's lives for the better!):

Khathutshelo Mashapha, Lesetja Toona, Siyabonga Ndlazi, Nozuko Mtyukatha, Shalima Adams, Ondela Hanise, Miranda Makinyane, Thembe Fobe, Rhyno Steenkamp, Pumeza Mngonyama, Sibulele Dlakana, Zoleka Wani, Nontando Mntonintshi, Lukhanyo Kopsani, Mkhosana Ntshona, Priscilla Gumede, Lillian Adriaan, Nosipho Sipungela.



PE Outreach Group with some of the donations received

MANDELA DAY IN BLOEMFONTEIN

By Don Manus

Bloemfontein DPW employees tend to the elderly on Mandela Day

The Department of Public Works employees at the Bloemfontein Regional Office celebrated Nelson Mandela Day on the 18th of July 2012 by tending to the elderly at an Old Age Home in Heidedal. Events Management Committee Members and volunteers from the regional office specifically rendered cleaning services to the entire premises and also inside the houses of the elderly; feeding and bathing the blind elderly people.

The Regional Office Choir entertained the elderly people with some sweet melodies to uplift their spirits, after assisting with the cleaning.

MINISTER NXESI CALLS ON PEOPLE WITH TECHNICAL SKILLS TO HELP REBUILD THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

By Tshuluzi Nkoana

Wam calling on all interested stakeholders to come on board and help rebuild the Department of Public Works." This is a clarion call made by the Public Works Minister, Mr Thembelani 'Thulas' Nxesi during a stakeholder meeting hosted by the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) at the Premier Hotel in Kempton Park recently.

Minister Nxesi made his call to all stakeholders and professionals in the built industry after listening to the presentations of different organisations. In his presentation during the stakeholder meeting, Minister Nxesi noted: "The Department of Public Works is technical by its nature, so its future is embedded in technical people." The Minister highlighted that the Department was considering to reopen workshops and to strengthen its technical wing to address the challenges it is facing relating to the lack of technical skills. Retired professionals were also requested to make a U-turn into the Department to come as mentors to young professionals who need to be nurtured. The Minister told the gathering that he is in talks with the Minister of Higher Education Mr Blade Nzimande to look into FET colleges to see how best they can be aligned to meet the demand of the technical profession. The Minister's call is in line with the Turnaround Strategy currently underway aimed at changing the Department of Public Works for the better. "One could argue that the message this time around landed on the right ears - active role players in the industry. Please second people to come and work with us," said Minister Nxesi.

The Minister remarked that he wanted to address irregular leases which cloud newspapers with negative reports. "We are calling on people with the right skills in the built profession to come and join us to position this Department," urged Minister Nxesi. "We have enough social scientists but we are looking for people with the relevant technical skills such as architects, land surveyors, artisans and so on, to help us serve our client departments without fail," explained the Minister.

Minister Nxesi also mentioned that the department still needs to attract more black young professionals and more graduates to be placed in regions, adding that this is the reason why the department is calling on retired people to mentor the young professionals.



Minister of Public Works calling on all professionals in the built industry



Members listening to presentations from different presenters



Members having a light moment during the meeting



Mr Lennox Gaehler, Member of Parliament listening to all deliberations during the meeting

MINISTER NXESI PRESENTS HIS BUDGET VOTE TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

By Bukiwe Mgobozi

Public Works Minister Thembelani 'Thulas' Nxesi has applauded the Department's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), saying it is making a real difference to people's lives. Minister Nxesi was delivering his budget vote speech to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in Parliament.

In his address, the Minister said that more than 2 million work opportunities have already been created since 2009 through the EPWP, adding that the Department's target through the programme is to create 4.5 million work opportunities for the period 2009 to 2014. According to the Minister, 98% of municipalities across the country have now signed up for the EPWP.

Minister Nxesi also announced the resuscitation of the Departmental workshops with an aim of developing in-house maintenance capacity as well as providing training opportunities for graduates and students in the construction sector.

The Minister also highlighted some achievements of the Department in Asset Investment Management, including making 51 state buildings accessible to people with disabilities and the rehabilitation of eleven buildings.

In his speech, Minister Nxesi also gave a report back on a number of interventions of the Department's turnaround strategy. He announced the completion of a desktop exercise by departmental officials who have been working closely with an auditing firm to reconcile deeds, records and other existing database to identify gaps. He says the physical verification of the cleansed database will take another year to complete, saying this will enable the devolution of 50 000 properties to provinces. Minister Nxesi says the joint programme with the Department announced by Treasury to audit 3000 leases aims to further identify irregular leases

and to collect monies owed to the Department. He says it also aims to review and to strengthen the systems of the Department relating to lease management and to train and capacitate staff accordingly.

Focusing on achieving a clean audit, Minister Nxesi says for the 2012/2013 financial year, the Department has employed additional capacity. He has stressed that as

much as the Department is still in trouble, it is however now stable. "The Department is still in ICU, but we are now stopping the bleeding, and stabilising the patient – before deciding on the appropriate long-term treatment," said the Minister using a metaphor.

Minister Nxesi also gave feedback on the outcomes of a meeting between himself as the Minister of Public Works and MECs of Public Works in the provinces (Min-Mec). He says the provinces undertook to share scarce skills, adding that the meeting also discussed the use of alternative construction methods

to replace mud schools in the Eastern Cape and the North West provinces. The Minister says these methods produce buildings that are more sustainable, cheaper and quicker to erect.

Minister Nxesi says the revitalisation of health facilities and the national school building programme, required that Public Works – nationally and provincially, together with client departments and implementing bodies, work closely to ensure effective delivery.



IDT CEO Thembi Nwedamutswu, Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi and CBE CEO Gugu Mazibuko



EPWP DDG Stanley Henderson, Communications and Marketing Chief Director Lucky Mochalibane and Intergovernmental Relations and Parliamentary Services Chief Director Adam Mthombeni



Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi, IDT CEO Thembi Nwedamutswu and Public Works Acting DG Ms Mandisa Fatyela-Lindie



Polokwane Regional Manager (RM) Mr Musa Ntshani, Pretoria RM Ms Nyeleti Makhubele, Johannesburg RM Adv. Jeanette Monare and Mmabatho RM Mr Ramabele Matlala



Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin planting a tree with the Ministerial Media Liaison Officer Mr Sabelo Mali during Mandela Day



DPW employees from the Bloemfontein Regional Office cleaning at an Old Age Home in Heidedal



Acting DDG Corporate Services Mr Butcher Matutle and Dr Miranda Mafafo also gave their 67 minutes cleaning at the Refilwe Centre



67 minutes with the Bloemfontein Regional Office employees wasn't complete without this cake



Chief Director Gender, People with Disabilities, Youth and Children cutting the cake for the children at the Refilwe Centre on Mandela Day



Refitlhile Primary School teachers with Ms N Mnisi from Horticulture



Adv Nishi Sharma from the office of the DDG Inner City Regeneration and the Mohau Children's Centre Manager Ester Jaka (on the right)



Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin joined DPW employees cleaning, painting and planting trees at the Refilwe Centre in Cullinan, east of Pretoria during Mandela Day



The hand paintings for Mandela



The elderly at the Refilwe Centre



Walking on the premises of the Refilwe Centre



Everybody really truly loves the camera after all the hard work

DPW MEN HONOUR THEIR FELLOW SISTERS ON WOMEN'S DAY 2012

A lot of DPW male colleagues surprised their fellow female colleagues with gifts to commemorate WOMEN'S DAY 2012



Many DPW male colleagues showered their female counterparts with gifts on Women's Day



The event wasn't complete without some snacks and drinks



Mr Mandla Sithole believes receiving a gift is as rewarding as giving it



Mr Thabo Pholotho ensures that Ms Angelinah Qubu doesn't remove that smile on her face



There is real comfort in Mr Jafta Tshebesebe's arms. If you don't believe this, ask Ms Relebohile Ramphekwa



Mr Simon Molepo received a 'thank you' hug from Ms Lapologang Koikanyang

MORE COVERAGE ON WOMEN'S MONTH DPW ACTIVITIES COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!....

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS ZOOMS INTO EPWP PROJECTS AND ASSET REGISTERS OF MUNICIPALITIES IN LIMPOPO

By Tshuluzi Nkoana

The Portfolio Committee on Public works visited Limpopo province recently to look into the challenges faced by municipalities.

According to the Portfolio Committee, municipalities are the heart of service delivery as they are closer to the masses. The committee's main focus was to look closely into Asset Management run by the Municipalities and also the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) projects. The week-long visit commenced on the 3rd of June 2012 with the provincial departments giving presentations on their business plans, with more focus on the asset registers, capital works projects and the EPWP. The committee was pleased with the progress made since the provincial government was put under administration towards the end of last year. During the visit, the Committee started off by listening to presentations by municipalities on the 4th of June 2012, before seeking clarity on certain projects and operations of different municipalities. The physical verification on the validity of different presentations started on the 5th of June with the visit to Lulekani to look into the road project by Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality which was followed by interviews with EPWP beneficiaries outside Phalaborwa to get first-hand information about the working conditions in these projects. The entourage proceeded to Rethusitswe Primary School before touring the Tzaneen Municipality. Senwamokgope Sport complex in Bolubedu attracted a lot of attention of the entourage because of its complexity, given that it touches on a number of aspects which include the EPWP element, Learnerships and logistical arrangements. From the project, the entourage travelled to Giyani to check the orphanage drop-inn centre in the area.

After a short visit to Vhembe Municipality, the entourage then visited EPWP projects in Messina. Some of the projects visited include the Lerato Crèche under the Early Childhood Development Programme (ECDP) and the street paving project in the area. One massive project visited was the Modimolle Junior Landcare Alien Plant Eradication Project under the Department of Agriculture which looks into the alleviation of alien plants in the area. Something special about this project is that it managed to employ a large number of youth in the area.

The chairperson of the committee Ms Manana Mabuza called for the intervention of health professionals to look into health conditions of the children at various crèches in the province. Without singling out ECDP in Messina, the chairperson personally called on political structures and business people to dedicate Mandela Day to help local crèches. The chairperson also called on the EPWP captains to intervene in assisting the municipalities to overcome critical challenges they are faced with. One such challenge is the absence of an up-to-date asset register for most municipalities.



Portfolio Committee members touring the water supply system in the Dendron area



Sports complex in Bolubedu



Park area in Senwabarwana Bochum



A visit to the street paving project in Musina

SOCIAL COHESION SUMMIT/PITSOKGOLO YA POPAGANO SETŠHABA

!KE E: /XARRA //KE – DIVERSE PEOPLE UNITE

'We are bound together by our common humanity' – Social Cohesion Summit 2012

By Mashite Mogale

!ke e: /xarra //ke is an ancient tongue of the /Xam people meaning "diverse people unite". This expression was a rallying point that saw South Africans from diverse linguistic, cultural, religious backgrounds and representatives from government departments (including the Department of Public Works) converging at Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication, Kliptown, Soweto on 04 and 05 July for a two-day Social Cohesion and Nation Building Summit. This Summit which was hosted by the Department of Arts and Culture was held under the theme:

"Working together to create a caring and proud society".

The Summit was also in pursuit of government service delivery agreement and outcome 12 which the Department of Arts and Culture is the custodian of. This outcome seeks to build an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenry. Furthermore, the summit was to take stock of the progress made toward building a national democratic society that is united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous since South Africa emerged from a long history in which race, ethnicity and culture were used as the basis of imposition of a divided, unequal and hierarchical society that excluded the majority of the population from citizenship.

In his opening address, President Zuma emphasized that Kliptown was a sacred place of the struggle for democracy and independence. "It is a place where in 1955 more than 3000 delegates across the length and breadth of our country, representing all racial groups came together for a congress of the people". As they converged in Kliptown they were inspired among others by the words of Pixley ka Isaka Seme who said:

"The greatest success shall come when man shall have learned to cooperate, not only with his own kith and kin but also with all peoples and with all life".

People who gathered at the Congress of the People in 1955 articulated a vision of an alternative South Africa, one that is more humane and inclusive. They declared boldly that; South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white; that all shall be equal before the law and that the rights of the people shall be the same, regardless of race, colour or gender. This vision was captured in what is called the "Freedom Charter".

Drawing lessons from those who took part in 1955, the Summit offered an opportunity for South Africans to dialogue with each other on the kind of society we seek to build. South Africans from all walks of life discussed the critical question; what does it mean to be a South African?

The morning of the first day was characterized by plenary sessions whereby delegates made presentations on the role of judiciary, parliament, legislature and councils, political parties, traditional leaders, labour, business and civil society in

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!KE E: /XARRA //KE – BATHO BA MEFUTAFUTA TSHWARAGANANG (SETSWANA)

'Re tshwaragangwa ke botho jwa rona jo bo tshwanang' – Pitsokgolo ya Popagano ya Setšhaba 2012

Go kwala jalo Mashite Mogale

!ke e: /xarra //ke ke puo ya bogologolo ya morafe wa ba /Xam e bokao jwa yone e leng gore "batho ba mefutafuta tshwaraganang". Tlhagiso eno e nnile ntlha eo maAforika Borwa go tsweng mo dipuong le ditsong tse di farologaneng ga mmogo le baemedi go tswa kwa Lefapheng la Ditiro tsa Setšhaba (DPW) ba kopaneng kwa Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication, Kliptown, Soweto ka di 04 le 05 Phukwi go tsenela Pitsokgolo ya malatsi a le mabedi ya Popagano le Kago ya Setšhaba. Pitsokgolo eo e neng e rulagantswe ke Lefapha la Botsweretshi le Setso e e tshotswe ka fa tlase ga moonono o o reng:

"Re dira mmogo go aga setšhaba se se nang le tlhokomelo le boipelo".

Pitsokgolo e ne e tswelletsa gape tumelelano ya thebolelo ya ditirelo ya puso le poelo ya bo 12 eo Lefapha la Botsweretshi le Setso e e okameng. Poelo eno e senka go aga setšhaba se se matlafetseng, se se siameng ebile se tshwaragane. Godimo ga fao, pitsokgolo ene e ikaletse go sekaseka kgatelopele e e dirilweng mo go ageng setšhaba sa temokerasi seo se kitlaganeng, se sa tlaole go ya ka lotso, bong ebile se gatela pele ka temokerasi ka gonne Aforika Borwa e sa tswa mo hisetoring e e boima eo lotso, bosemorafe le setso di neng di dirisiwa jaaka mabaka a go tlhola setšhaba se se aroganeng, se se sa lekalekaneng ebile se kgapela kwa thoko bontsi jwa baagi mo mererong eo e amang setšhaba. Mo puong ya gagwe ya pulo, Moporesidente Zuma o gateletse gore Kliptown ke lefelo le le itshekileng la kgaratlhelo ya temokerasi le boipuso. Ke lefelo leo ka 1955 batho ba feta 3000 go kgabaganya naga ya rona, e le baemedi ba ditso tsothe ba kopaneng go tsenela konkerese ya batho. Fa ba phuthagana kwa Kliptown ba ne ba rotloedwa ke mafoko a ga Pixley ka Isaka Seme yo o rileng:

"Kgatelopele e kgolo e tla nna teng fa motho a ka ithuta go dirisana le batho botlhe ba lefatshe e seng fela le bagaabo".

Batho ba ba kopaneng kwa Konkereseng ya Batho ba tlhagisitse ponelopele ya Aforika Borwa e ntšhwa eo e nang le botho ebile e tshwaragane. Ba buile ba sa kgale mathe ganong gore Aforika Borwa ke ya botlhe ba ba nnang mo go yone, bantsho le basweu; le gore botlhe ba tla lekalekana go ya ka molao le gore ditshwanelo tsa batho di tla tshwana go sa kgathalesege gore o wa lotso, mmala le bong bofe. Ponelopele e e kwadilwe mo go se go tweng ke "Freedom Charter". Re tsaya malebela mo go bao ba nnileng le seabe ka 1955, Pitsokgolo e neile maAforika Borwa tšhonoya go buisana ka ga mofuta wa setšhaba se ba batlang go se aga. maAforika Borwa go tsweng mo mafelong a a farologaneng a buisane kae tswelapelapele mo tsebeng ya 15



National Assembly Speaker Max Sisulu, President Jacob Zuma, Arts & Culture Minister Paul Mashatile and Western Cape Premier Helen Zille at the Social Cohesion Summit



Minister Jeff Radebe, Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma (now Chairperson of the African Union Commission) and National Assembly Speaker Max Sisulu flanked by eminent government officials

!KE E: /XARRA //KE – DIVERSE PEOPLE UNITE...continued from page 14

building a socially inclusive society. The key message was that the country has consolidated the process of building an inclusive, non-racial and democratic society over the last 18 years, however had not dealt with the material conditions of the of the majority of the South African people. An emphasis was made that South Africans needed to place the country on a higher economic growth path that would benefit all.

The second and the last day of the Summit saw delegates breaking into 5 commissions which robustly engaged on the critical question on what is it that holds us together or divides us as a nation. The commissions embarked on the following critical aspects:

- Economic inequalities
- Spatial divisions
- Social interaction, co-operation and solidarity
- Prejudice and discrimination
- National identity and unity.

The Summit concluded on a positive note with the signing of a declaration that commits government to creating a home where everybody feels free yet bounded to others; where everyone embraces their full potential, and where South Africa becomes a single and proud nation that cares.

!KE E: /XARRA //KE – BATHO BA MEFUTAFUTA TSHWARAGANANG (SETSWANA)

... e tswelapele go tswa tsebeng ya bo 14

ga morero o o botlhokwatlhokwa o o reng; go nna moAforika Borwa go kaya eng? Moso wa letsatsi la ntlha e nnile wa dipuo ka ga seabe sa boatlhodi, palamente, makoko a sepolotiki, baeteledi pele ba setso, badiri le mekgatlho ya baagi mo go ageng sešhaba se se tshwaraganeng. Molaetsa mogolo e nnile gore Aforika Borwa e tlamile naga e e tshwaraganeng, eo e sa kgethololeng go ya ka lotso mo dingwageng di le 18 tse di fetileng fela ga e ise e fetole maemo a ikonomi a bontsi jwa batho ba Aforika Borwa. Go gateletswe gore maAforika Borwa a tlhoka go baya naga mo tseleng ya kgolo ya ikonomi eo e tswelang mosola batho botlhe. Letsatsi la bobedi gape e le la bofelo la Pitsokgolo, e nnile leo batsayakarolo ba arogantsweng ka dikhomišene tse 5 tseo di buisaneng ka tsenelelo ka ga seo se ka re tshwaraganyang kgotsa seo se ka re kgaoganyang re le setšhaba. Dikhomišene di atlaatlhile dintlha tse di latelang tse di botlhokwa:

- Go tlhabela ga tekatekano ya ikonomi
- Karoganyo go ya ka mafelo bonno
- Kamano ya setšhaba, tirisanommogo le go nna seoposengwe
- Tlhaolele le kgethololo
- Boitshupo le kitlagano ya setšhaba.

Pitsokgolo e konoseditswe ka mowa o montle le ka go dira maikano ao a tlamang mmuso gore o tlhole naga eo mongwe le mongwe a gololosegileng ka tshwaragano le ba bangwe; fao mongwe le mongwe a kgonang go itirela, moo Aforika Borwa e tla nnang naga e le nngwe eo e ipelang ka go tlhokomelana.

PUBLIC WORKS EMPOWERS UMLAZI YOUTH



"The Department also caters for female students," says Mr Yanga Vikwa



Mr Mlungisi Mchunu with MUT students posing for a picture during the exhibition



Explaining more about careers for youth in the Department of Public Works is Mr Yanga Vikwa and Sandile Ndebele

By Brian Dlamini

The Department of Public Works (DPW) through the Human Capital Investment (HCI) unit participated in the Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) Careers Fair from 21 to 22 June 2012.

This Career Fair which was organised by the Co-operative Education Directorate of Umlazi campus was in commemoration of the 36th Movement Youth Month. The two-day Career Fair started on a high note as students were thirsty and hungry for information, job opportunities and careers in Government in

general and Public Works in particular. Amongst the attendees were mostly the second and the third year students. An HCI official from the DPW Durban Regional Office, who's an Assistant Director: Internship and Young Professionals Mr Sandile Ndebele was tasked with sharing and mobilising HCI programmes namely, Internship; Young Professionals and Artisan programmes on behalf of DPW. Amongst the exhibitors were Metrorail, Transnet, Department of Water Affairs, Department of Minerals, SABC, Toyota and Eskom.

Ms Zama Hlubi, a Job Placement Officer at Mangosuthu University of Technology said that the students were now more aware of job requirements from different industries. "The first and second year students got a chance to take a glimpse into the workplace at an early stage and the exposure will be an added advantage when they are eventually ready for the corporate world." She further pleaded with government to create more employment for Civil, electrical and Quantity Surveying students as these skills are declared very scarce. "I now know who my employer will be after I have completed my course," said Ms Zanele Mbhele - a 3rd year Quantity

Surveying student with a lot of enthusiasm and a smile. She went on to say that the Career Fair was an eye-opener, not only for her, but for all who attended the exhibition and the university students at large. Mr Ndebele said that Human Capital Investment (HCI) needed to create more opportunities for graduates, capacitate DPW mentors for a more effective skills transfer, and also strengthen Public-Private-Partnership with all stakeholders involved so that the Department can stay relevant and on par with the current trends in the built environment.

EPWP BENEFICIARY PLOUGHS BACK TO HIS COMMUNITY



Kids from Tabola Primary School



Mandlenkosi Mthembu flanked by Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi and Member of Parliament Buti Manamela, at the DPW budget vote speech in Cape Town, where he (Mandlenkosi) was the Minister's guest

By Selaocwe Kabelo

Mandlenkosi Christopher Mthembu - a 23 year old young man from the rural village of Phuthaditjhaba in Qwa Qwa is a true inspiration to his community. His early life experience as a seven year old, unearthed a determination in him to help those around him. One night he was forced to push his gravely sick mother to hospital in a wheelbarrow after an unsuccessful attempt to get help for her. On arrival at the Hospital, in a mode meant to remove rubble to the dumping site, his mother was declared dead.

His status as an orphan, took him into an orphanage home called Pheko Ka Kopanelo - a Non-Profit Organisation which is a dropping welfare centre with various programmes that fall under the EPWP Non-State Sector. The young Christopher Mthembu was enrolled under the environmental programme where he learned valuable gardening and food security skills. As an EPWP beneficiary earning R50 a day, he saved his monthly stipend to open a small business of public phones and selling vegetables, and with the profit from these, he went on to register for a Diploma in Business Management.

His compulsion for community development led him to a nearby school called Tabola Primary school in Ha Sethunya village, where he requested the school principal to use their unutilized fertile land to plant vegetables. From the same school, he adopted ten (10) orphans to train them in vegetable gardening. He also bought school uniform and shoes for four orphaned kids from the respective primary school.

"His drive to see those around him succeed, led him to form a youth organization called Youth with a Purpose where he trains matric drop-outs and school leavers in computer skills, entrepreneurship and food security."

With two volunteers, Phakiso Ntshala and Sibusiso Maseka, Youth with a Purpose is growing rapidly; it has thirty (30) learners who benefit from its programmes. Those involved in the programmes go the extra mile making door-to-door visits speaking to young people, and trying to understand their background and their needs.

They also conduct motivational sessions at schools, and also help the youth to deal with teenage pregnancy and HIV and Aids.



Mandlenkosi at his mini fruit and vegetable stall

In his own words, the young Mthembu said: "The stipend that I received from EPWP has changed my life and those of other children. I am now a dignified and proudly South African because of EPWP. Thank you to the Minister of Public Works, IDT, and Public Works for helping us".

"I am now a dignified and proudly South African because of EPWP" Mandlenkosi.

MUZI NJOKO BENEFITED FROM THE DPW BURSARY SCHEME

Worxnews' Tshuluzi Nkoana spoke to him and this is what he had to say.

1. **Can you tell us about your studies and the troubles you went through?**

I studied for a Masters degree at Wits. It's a very intensive programme and anyone who has done any course above an honours degree, will testify to that. The course is spread over two years studying full time or block release. The first hurdle I had to jump was the fact that it's no child's play to study when you have more pressing responsibilities like the fact that I had a fulltime job, I'm a father and a husband. Secondly, the course ties you to what is called a syndicate group: this is an involuntary group of students who have absolutely nothing in common except that they are studying the same course and I can tell you sparks fly in those groups - from different personalities to different politics and ethics.

2. **Where did you draw your motivation; who inspired you?**

Completing what I had started always stands as a motivation, quitting is never an option. Reading is one of my hobbies, I am one of those people who thirst for knowledge. I try to avoid what Hosea 4:6 says happens to people who are clueless: "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you as my priests. Because you have ignored the law of your God, I will ignore your children". I am inspired by people who come from humble beginnings and make it to the top against all odds. Look around you there is that someone who can inspire you. Know what you want and work towards achieving it - finish and klaar.

3. **How did you strike the balance between your work in the Department, your studies and other responsibilities?**

I am indebted to my colleagues at Intergovernmental Relations who I must say were very understanding and supportive. There were days where they had to cover for my absence. Also never underestimate the power of technology, there were times I was working on parliamentary questions right in the classroom, responding to emails as if I was just sitting in my office.

My wife played a very significant role on the home front as I was absent even when I was around the house.

4. **What was your research based on?**

My research was primarily on mentoring. I used the EPWP's Vuk'uphile programme as my case study. As I said earlier my passion is learning; I was interested on how knowledge is passed on in terms of skills in the construction industry. EPWP is the least understood intervention in the country - some take it to be a cure for all ills in societies while others take it as just a waste of resources.

5. **Can you share your findings and the recommendations for the attention of the captains of the EPWP?**

Mentoring in the EPWP programme is pretty expensive. Recruitment of participants in any mentoring programme should be as strict as possible. EPWP needs a communication strategy that will talk directly to those targeted, it must never be ambiguous lest you make the programme a free for all. Contractor development in this country needs to be driven from a single source and the question is can EPWP rise to the occasion?

Besides EPWP; there is a lot of academic research that has been done that impact on the mandate of DPW. For an example, while doing my research I came across a study done on Facilities Management, it is crucial that DPW tap into this knowl-

edge and implement some of the recommendations.

6. **How would you encourage others to study?**

Look at my picture and be encouraged!! On a serious note, never waste time because we all get chances but it is how we use those chances that will have an impact. Studying enriches the mind and introduces one to new ways of doing things. Having just a junior degree is no longer enough, people must always be looking for the missing puzzle in life, and I can say with confidence that it is hidden in books.

7. **Where to from here?**

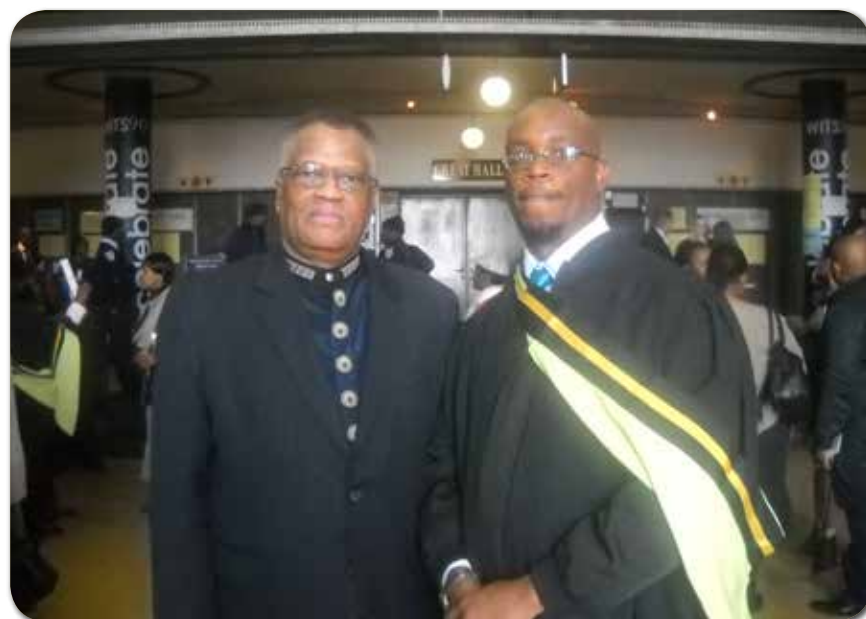
I have not yet decided. I am currently following the turnaround strategy in the Department. Maybe, just maybe out of that a PHD dissertation is in the offing!. One thing for sure, I am not done with studying. And yes, career wise I am looking at climbing the ladder.

8. **What kind of Support did you get from the Department towards your studies?**

DPW paid for my studies for which I am grateful. I am a proud beneficiary of the bursary scheme of the department. Fellow employees are encouraged to flood the bursary section of the department with applications in that way they may get a bigger slice of budget next time.

9. **Have your studies helped you in your line of work in the Department?**

Most definitely!! Working with institutions like Parliament and provinces has opened my eyes. The level of understanding has indeed improved. I am now able to privately diagnose what I think could be the stumbling blocks in the performance of the organisation. Education really opens one's eyes to problems and possible solutions.



Mr Muzi Njoko being congratulated by the speaker of the National Assembly just after graduating

For more information on the Departmental Bursary Scheme please contact:
Mr Solly Mwanza, Room Number 217 CGO Building
Tel Number: (012) 406 1300
Email: solly.mwanza@dpw.gov.za

MR SAMUEL MAMMEKOA UNTIES HIS SERVICE SHOES

By Tshuluzi Nkoana



Mr Samuel Mammekoa

A service contract that was signed in 1979 between The Department of Public Works and Mr Samuel Mammekoa ended recently. Soft spoken Samuel Mammekoa served the Department of Public Works with pride as a Messenger. A true public servant who will never pass any soul in corridors without saying Tameng!! (greetings); he was a teacher of note who knows ethics and morals. When sharing his experiences with WorxNews, Mr Mammekoa said that he enjoyed his stay in the Department. "I am one man who pride himself with my roots.

"I like to call people by their clan names particularly those I am familiar with as well as my colleagues. I am a Mopedi, speak Sepedi and very proud of that.

"I wake up every day ready to perform my duties, which entails delivering and collecting documents from a number of units and other departments in and around Pretoria, and this sometimes requires a lot of sacrifice. But I must remind you how difficult it was to serve during apartheid. I remember one day when I was ordered to make tea for a group of people who were in a meeting and ended up being accused of stealing teaspoons. I was rescued by my supervisor because we were disadvantaged by the colour of our skin. We had a very strict supervisor who at that time wanted us to perform to our best and nothing less, but one thing that I always cherished was that we were given uniforms as Messengers. My last word to my colleagues is that work is very important as we get so united and become a family because we spend part of our lives living together, therefore respect must play a major role in all our endeavours to build a better nation. We must retain our free spirit when coming to work". 'THOBELA'

MNA SAMUEL MAMMEKOA O ROLA MODIRO (SEPEDI)

Konteraka ya mošomo ye e saennwego ka 1979 magareng ga Kgoro ya Mešomo ya Setšhaba le Mna. Samuel Mammekoa esa tšwa go fela. Samuel Mammekoa yo a boelago ga boleta o šometše Kgoro ya Mešomo ya Setšhaba ka boikgantšho bjalo ka Moromiwa. Bjalo ka mošomedi wa setšhaba wa mmakgonthe yo a ka se tsogego a fetile motho diphasetšheng tša meago ka ntle le gore Tameng!! (madume); e be e le morutiši yo mokaone yo a tsebago maitshwaro le mekgwa. Ge a be a boledišana le ba worxnews o boletše gore o ipshinne ka go šomela Kgoro ye. Ke nna monna yo ke ikgantšhago ka fao ke tšwago gona.

Ke rata go bitša batho ka direkto tša bona kudu ba ke tlwaelanago le bona le bao ke šomago le bona. Nna ke Mopedi ke bolela Sepedi ebile ke e kgantšha ka sona. Ke tsoga mesong letšatši le lengwe le le lengwe ke ikemišeditše go dira mešomo ya ka, ye e amanago le go tliša le go tšea ditokumente ka diyuniting tše mmalwa le ka Dikgorong tše dingwe ka Pretoria le tikologo, gomme se ka dinako tše dingwe se nyaka gore o itime dilo tše ntši.

Eupša ke swanetše go le gopotša gore go bile boima bjang go šoma ka nako ya moragorago ya tshepedišo, ke gopola ka letšatši le lengwe fao ke ilego ka laelwa go direla sehlopha sa batho teye bao ba bego ba le ka kopanong gomme ka feletša ke pharwa molato wa go utswa malepola a teye. Ke ile ka phološwa ke mohlakomedi wa ka ge re be re hlokišitšwe mahlatse ke mmala wa letlalo la rena. Re be re na le mohlakomedi yo a bego a sa segego ga bonolo yo ka nako yeo a bego a nyaka re šoma gabotse ka fao re ka kgonago ka gona e sego se sengwe, eupša selo se tee seo ke bego ke fišagalelwa go se fihlelela seo ke bego ke bona se hwelela e be e le gore re be re filwe diyunifomo bjalo ka Baromiwa ka lebaka la maemo ao re bego re bona a le mohola. Lentšu la ka go bašomimmo go ba ka ke gore mošomo o bohlokwa kudu ka ge re e tšwa kgole; re kopane ka tsela ye gomme ra fetoga lapa le tee ka lebaka la gore re tšere karolo ya maphelo a rena re phela mmogo, ka fao tlhompho e swanetše go raloka tema e kgolo ka mešomong ya rena ka moka go aga setšhaba se sekaone. Re swanetše go tšweletša moya wa rena wo o lokologilego ge re etla mošomong. 'THOBELA'

MR CORRIE JACOBS HANGS UP HIS GLOVES AFTER 42 YEARS OF SERVICE

Uncle Corrie Jacobs retires after giving his 42 years of selfless service to the Department of Public Works.

Can you trace back your steps into the Department?

I joined the Department at the age of 18 as a Learner Technician in 1970 under the Structural Engineering unit, which was called Road and Bridges at the time. I then enrolled with Technikon Pretoria at the same time where I managed to get my diploma as a Draughtsman. Thereafter I enrolled for a Diploma in Civil Engineering and later registered for a Higher Diploma in Civil Engineering. The Department was able to nurture young people by allowing them to spend six months at a tertiary institution and another six months of inservice in the Department where we were able to gain practical experience



Uncle Corrie Jacobs

What are the highlights of your career in the Department?

As a Draughtsman, I did a drawing for SANAE (South African National and Artic Base) in the South Pole where I became a construction leader in that regard. My first trip to the South Pole was in 1982 and my last one was in 1997. I have also done a drawing for a helicopter landing at Marion Island. Something I consider as the highlight of my career which will always put a smile on my face is my involvement in the skills transfer programme where I imparted knowledge and skills to 43 draughtsmen under my mentorship.

If you were to be given a platform to advise the Management of this Department with any matter of your choice, what would it be?

I would advise the Department to train draughtsmen at our Regional Offices so that they can become inspectors of works. The Department needs to start with the in-house designers, artisans, engineers, etc. We must also capacitate the Department with technically skilled professionals.

Where do you see a missing link?

Engineers cannot do anything without the help of draughtsmen, "the Department without draughtsmen is like a hospital full of doctors but without nurses". Workshops must be re-opened and be capacitated with carpenters, builders, plumbers, electricians, draughtsmen .etc. Project Managers must manage projects rather than doing admin work. They must spend most of their time on site. For example, if you look at the 1980 annual report, we used to have 54 engineers in different domains such as structural, civil, mechanical, etc. but now in 2012 we have 2, everything is being outsourced and often at an inflated rate with shoddy workmanship. We should strive to have our own internal engineers even at top management level. We need managers with engineering skills to accelerate service delivery. We must try our best to serve our client departments efficiently.

What is your view on the young professional programme?

This is a good initiative, but I think that we should prioritise artisans in fields such as welding, carpentry, boiler-making, painting etc. We should be able to produce artisans who will grow through the ranks until they become professionals, the same goes for EPWP, it should be infused in the entire schooling curriculum. I would like to echo the Minister's sentiments of building capacity within the Department, but I would further suggest that the Department bring on board FET Colleges to fight the scourge of scarce skills shortage.

What is your view on the Turn-around strategy?

I think the Turnaround Strategy is a good initiative, but discipline must take the centre stage in the change process. This starts with time management, "always do your best and be on time". The strategy should see the Department becoming more technical, which is the sensitive aspect that we lack as a department at the moment.

What are your plans for retirement?

I plan to tour the country and the world because I never had time for social activities. During my retirement I will have more time on my hands for both myself and my family.

FRAUD AWARENESS AND INVESTIGATIONS INTENSIFIES THE FIGHT AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION !



By Tumelo Tshetlo

The Fraud Awareness and Investigations (FAI) Unit held Fraud Awareness Presentations for all DPW Head office units from the 25th of June to the 29th of June 2012. The presentations covered the following key areas:

- Definition of fraud and corruption;
- The effect of fraud and corruption within DPW and the economy as a whole;
- Educating staff about DPW's stance against fraud and corruption;
- Clarifying the DPW integrated anti-corruption strategy; and reporting mechanisms available to DPW employees

FAI is a Directorate within the Chief Directorate Internal Audit and Investigation Services. It functionally reports to the Audit and Risk Management Committee of the Department and administratively to the DG. The Role of the FAI directorate is:

- Analysing and monitoring Fraud and Corruption risks as part of risk assessment;
- Investigating allegations of Fraud and Corruption;
- Recommending and supporting disciplinary action against employees (Fraud & Corruption);
- Referring allegations of Fraud and Corruption to relevant law enforcement agencies;
- Keeping a register of all allegations reported;
- Creating Awareness and promoting a culture of anti-fraud and corruption within DPW.

The Fraud Awareness Presentations form part of the FAI's Fraud Prevention Strategy where the unit visits all DPW regions on a yearly basis to conduct workshops and presentations on fraud awareness. The unit also rolls out campaigns and programmes such as the Zero Tolerance campaign which was launched in 2007 at a Departmental Fraud Conference at Birchwood to raise awareness, enlighten, educate and communicate to staff members on matters around fraud and corruption within the Department.

The workshops have so far been conducted in all regions and Head Office was the last stop for the past financial year.

The FAI presentation defines fraud and corruption as follows:

Fraud: " the unlawful and intentional making of a misrepresentation which causes actual or potential prejudice to another ;the use of this term is in its widest possible meaning and includes all aspects of economic crime and acts of dishonesty. In other words fraud can be described as any conduct or behaviour of which dishonesty representation and or appropriation forms an element.

Corruption: any conduct or behaviour in relation to persons entrusted with responsibilities in the public office that violates their duties as public officials and is aimed at obtaining undue gratification of any kind for themselves or for others."

According to the Sunday Times, South Africa's civil servants have scored more than half-a-billion rand in government tenders, which were irregularly awarded to their spouses and relatives. Yet irregular tenders are not the only form of fraud and corruption. There are various acts that make-up fraud and corruption and the following were highlighted as being the most common within the Department.

- Bribery
- Collusion

- Fronting
- Cover quoting
- Unfair preferential treatment of suppliers
- Misrepresentation by contractors
- Conflict of interest
- Manipulation
- Falsification of records or supporting documentation
- Unfair distribution of incentives, procurement, fraud etc.

According to the FIA unit, circumstances or fraud motivators include greed, boredom, financial problems including debt and living beyond our means, low loyalty, revenge and a need to feed an addiction such as gambling, drugs and/or drinking. During the presentation, it was noted that not everyone who finds themselves faced with the above circumstances is corrupt, but such individuals are more susceptible to committing fraud.

"Yet as much as individuals may be susceptible to committing fraud, the Department may as well create loopholes that make itself an easy target for fraudsters to prey on. In such cases the Department would not have followed correct procedures in the appointment of employees resulting in a lack of competent personnel who are not sufficiently qualified for the tasks they are given, lack of proper administering of documents and records, operating on a crisis mode, and a lack of delegation of authority, among others, says Ms Alice Phophi, Assistant Director: Investigations.

According to the (FAI) unit, it is the responsibility of all employees in the Department to take part in fighting fraud and corruption. One way of fighting fraud and corruption is by reporting incidents thereof as follows:

For open reporting whistle-blowers (members of the public, public servants, service providers) may relay their suspicions verbally in writing or telephonically to the following contact details:

- Chief Audit Executive - Tel.: 012 406 1335;
- Acting Director: FA & Inv. - Tel.: 012 406 1328/2155

Alternatively, for those who wish to remain anonymous they may choose to use the below hotline:

Anonymous: - 0800 701 701 (National Anti-Corruption Hotline)

You and I can put a stop to Fraud and Corruption "Say NO to fraud and Corruption and report ALL suspicious Acts!"



Fraud Awareness Workshops held at Head Office by the Fraud Awareness Investigations Unit

OUR FALLEN COLLEAGUES AND 'CASUAL DAY' – IN SUPPORT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

By Nozuko Monama

Why you should get on board on Friday, 7th September 2012

It is that time of the year again where the Department of Public Works FUNdraises in style for CASUAL DAY through the FUNdraising campaign.

Many of us still ask the question WHAT is Casual Day? Casual Day is the biggest fundraising- and awareness-creating project in South Africa for persons with disabilities. The project encourages people to dress differently to the usual corporate dress code, whether dressed up or dressed down.

The 'license' to be dressed outrageously, is the Casual Day sticker which is obtained for a donation of R10. The project is managed by The National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities in South Africa.

The Department participates by collecting stickers from CASUAL DAY offices and selling them on behalf of the organisation to raise funds for various Non Profit Organisations rendering services for persons with disabilities.

Every R10 raised for a sticker is important as this is the means to provide material relief and promote rights to accessibility, education, housing, employment and full integration into society.

WHEN is Casual Day?

Casual Day is always on the first Friday of September. This year Casual Day is on Friday 7th September 2012.

WHAT do people wear on Casual Day?

They either dress up or down, depending on the dress theme presented by Casual Day. The point is, that people join in – AND wear the official Casual Day sticker – the most important part of the outfit.

WHAT is the THEME for 2012?

The Casual Day theme for this year is "Get on Board". So, dress like a sailor, captain or pirate. We don't mind if you are manager, or you are the President of the World; if you want to dress like a mermaid on Casual Day, do it - - just get on board!

WHY should people wear the official Casual Day sticker?

Your sticker is your 'license' to dress like a rockstar and show those around you that you are dressed like this because you support persons with disabilities. For enquiries on this campaign and on how you can get the Casual Day sticker, contact the following persons from The Gender, Youth & Persons with Disabilities Unit: Ms Nozuko Monama (012) 406 1097 or Ms Nomfundo Qiqimana (012) 406 1098.



In Memory of our Fallen Colleagues



Mr Justinos Sepeng



Mr Mlindi Nzimande

May their souls rest in PEACE

