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July - August 2014

MINISTER PROMISES 5 KEY DELIVERABLES IN HIS TERM OF OFFICE

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6 million job opportunities

Operationalisation of PMTE

Operationalisation of Governance, Risk & Compliance



Policy review culminating in a Public Works Act

Transformation of the Built environment, the construction and property sector

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public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA WORKS BECAUSE OF PUBLIC WORKS





Mr Reggie Ngcobo

CELEBRATING WOMEN AT PUBLIC WORKS

In an ideal South Africa, gender equality would be the norm but realistically women are still lagging behind men on a number of areas.

During the 2014 Women's Day National celebration held in Umlazi, South of Durban in the province of KwaZulu Natal, President Jacob Zuma said in the 20 years of democracy in the country, women representation in the National Assembly improved from 2.7% in 1994 to 41% in 2014. The President said more women are now in industries previously dominated by men including aviation, built environment and other spheres.

an improvement compared to the past, a lot more still needs to be done. These figures equal to 66 women in senior management positions compared to 171 men who are senior managers in the Department.

To all the women in the Department we say, have confidence and be prepared for a bright future ahead of you. As the saying goes, 'it's not always about how you've started but it's about how you finish'. You might have started at the bottom, but there is nothing stopping you from becoming a DG one day.

As we celebrate South African women this month, there are many positive developments taking place that affect us as the Department of Public Works. These include the ever increasing number of women entering the built environment, the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) which continues to assist women to get skills, the bursaries awarded to entice girl learners to study built environment careers, etc.

Ghanaian intellectual and missionary Dr James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey once said, 'If you educate a man you simply educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a whole nation'. As South Africa continues to make sure that no girl child will be denied education, women are treated equally and are empowered, women and children are protected – we warn those who will stand in the way of reaching these goals.

The Department of Public Works has also taken great strides in gender equality for senior managers. There are currently 4 women in our EXCO, 18 Chief Directors and 44 Directors. In as much as the above figures are

Wathinta Abafazi Wathinta Imbokodo!!!

All over the country across race, religion and economic status, many women still suffer injustices such as poverty, unemployment, lack of basic services, inequality, economic dependency, physical and emotional abuse, sexual abuse including rape.

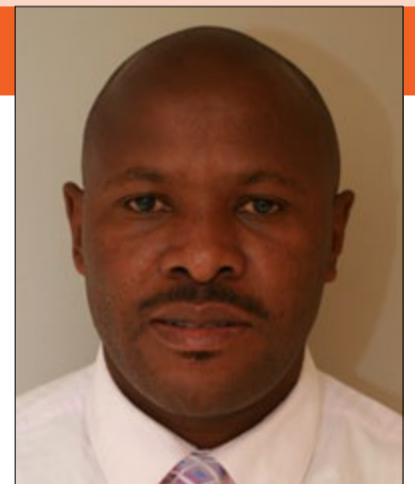
Since the dawn of democracy in South Africa, a lot has been done to improve the lives of ordinary women. We take pride in the strides we have taken to ensure women emancipation and government remains a leader in setting this example and putting policies in place to take this positive trend even further. A lot more still needs to be done.

'A LEAP FROM WHERE WE ARE INTO THE FUTURE'

Now that the Mandela Day 2014 has come and gone, it is an opportune time to thank all and sundry for taking time and doing their bit in honour of our father of democracy, former President Nelson Mandela.

place to live in. Let us all come up with sustainable projects and programmes attributed to Mandela, that have a potential of changing the lives of those around us for the better, forever. I challenge individuals, organisations and all nations to relook at our approach by building on the 67 minutes to make Every Day A Mandela Day! I believe that if we can put our minds to it, we can do it. Changing the world begins with us. If each of us can do our bit, every day, everywhere, we can influence sustainable change.

act, we can draw strength from the past to face the challenges of today, as we face the future with confidence to succeed. It is doable. As the women of 1956 made their mark under hostile circumstances, we can make our mark during democracy, especially that our democracy has reached its 20th mark.



Petrus Sibiya

But as we do that, we should not forget to ask ourselves a tough question of whether we are doing enough as a country and the world to honour this world icon?

Moving to August which is Women's Month: "Think of Women's Month and think of courage and boldness, think of catching the tiger by its tale and taking the bull by its horns," that is how best I can describe the 1956 women's march against oppression.


On another note, the Department applauds the project managers and all staff members who were instrumental in the restoration of the Military Health Base in Thaba Tshwane, one of the Departmental projects that emerged as the National Overall Heritage Award winner for 2014 at the prestigious South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA) 2014 Congress. It is milestones like these that need to be acknowledged and celebrated by all at DPW. These and many other milestones you will read about in our current issue of WorxNews.

Just serving 67 minutes on 18 July and going back to our cubicles, not following up on the good work we have done, until 18 July the following year, is just not enough. I think President Mandela stood for much more - a sustainable change. He was prepared to lay his life for social justice.

As the saying goes: "You can always take the easy way out and give up, but the real strength comes when you decide to keep pushing forward no matter what the circumstances are. You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have." This is how I think we can sum up the spirit of women of 1956 when they fought against apartheid laws.

In closing, the WorxNews team once again appeals to all employees in the organisation 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, especially during this critical era when the country celebrates the 20 Years of Freedom.

If we can review our approach to Mandela Day and adopt the one which can bring about sustainable change, we can be able to make this country and the world a better



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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 it's stakeholders.

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

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MINISTER NXESI PROMISES FIVE (5) KEY DELIVERABLES IN HIS NEW TERM OF OFFICE

By Reggie Ngcobo

Pictures By Charity Mathebula



Public Works Minister TW Nxesi during the Budget Vote



Public Works Minister TW Nxesi (on the right) with Deputy Minister in the Presidency Buti Manamela on the extreme left and Pastor Christopher Mathebula

Public Works Minister TW Nxesi has assured Members of Parliament (MP's) during his 2014 Budget Vote that his administration in the next five years will concentrate on five (5) key priority areas as the vision for his department.

Key to the Minister's priorities is the creation of six (6) million work opportunities for poor and unemployed people through the labour-intensive delivery of public services and infrastructure as promised by President Jacob Zuma during his State of the Nation Address.

Minister Nxesi said public employment programmes must facilitate community participation, and provide tangible benefits to communities, the society and the economy.

He said the Department will ensure the operationalisation of the Property Management Trading Entity (PMTE) and the transformation of the core property business (including construction management). "This necessarily includes a programme to rebuild technical and professional capacity in the Department. This is the core business of Public Works - custodianship of state

immovable assets and provision of accommodation to government - and accounts for 75% of the Departmental allocation."

The Minister said also important was the operationalisation of the Governance, Risk and Compliance Branch to drive anti-corruption and to spearhead the second phase of the Turnaround – Efficiency Enhancement - using the tools of planning, Service Delivery Improvement Plan and performance management. "This also means working with HR and Change Management to promote a committed performance driven work culture," said the Minister.

Minister Nxesi told the MP's that in consultation with all stakeholders, particularly the wider Public Works family in the provinces, a policy review culminating in a Public Works Act should be undertaken. He added that this would provide a solid foundation for the third phase of the Turnaround: Sustainable Development, and will clarify and refresh the mandate of Public Works.

"In partnership with our entities, the charter councils and relevant stakeholders, a renewed and sustained programme of action to transform the built environment,

the construction and property sectors, as part of the second more radical phase of transition to democracy is necessary," said Minister Nxesi.

The Minister did not mince his words when he said this must include support for black and female contractors and property practitioners; as well as the production of black professionals and artisans in the built environment disciplines.



Public Works Minister TW Nxesi looks on as Pastor Christopher Mathebula (on the left) and Chair Portfolio Committee on Public Works Mr Ben Martins shake hands

MINISTER ANNOUNCES THE RENAMING OF INNER CITY REGENERATION BRANCH TO SPATIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

By Reggie Ngcobo

Public Works Minister TW Nxesi has announced that the Inner City Regeneration Branch will soon be renamed Spatial Planning and Development.

He was speaking during his Budget Vote in Parliament on 16 July 2014. The Minister said the new branch will broaden its scope and will not just include Tshwane only but will also include other Metropolitans, towns, districts and small rural towns. He says this also supports the broader outcomes of rural development and improved local government and stimulate the impending Integrated Urban Development Framework announced by the President during his State of the Nation Address.

On the provision of state land, the Minister said assets that are held by Public Works in support of the service delivery obligations of the government and other social imperatives such as land reform and habitable human settlements will be released.

“During 2013/14 financial year, 128 hectares were approved for release for human settlements. A further 22 properties were identified for release in the current year for human settlements,” said the Minister.

Minister Nxesi emphasised the need to speed up the accessibility programme of the Department. He said under this programme, 15 buildings were made more accessible

for people with disabilities, which he said was a serious under-achievement on the Department’s target of 100 buildings for 2013/2014.

The Minister said this was due to contractual problems, “but there can be no more excuses. I fully expect Parliament to hold us to account on this matter. However, we are now confident of an improved procurement environment and, a further 51 buildings are prioritised for this current year”, said Minister Nxesi.

SPECIALISED SERVICES TOOK CENTRE STAGE DURING MINISTER NXESI’S 2014 BUDGET VOTE

By Reggie Ngcobo

Public Works Minister TW Nxesi has assured Parliament during his Budget Vote that as a matter of urgency, he is consolidating the stabilisation work of the Department.

Speaking on specialised services that are provided by the Department to its client departments, he concentrated on the Prestige Portfolio and Parliamentary Villages.

“As the main focus of the next five years, we seek to enhance the efficiency of our current business operations, employing better planning, performance management and Information Communication Technology (ICT) solutions as our tools and simultaneously embarking upon a fundamental policy review, culminating in a Public Works Act aimed at refreshing and clarifying the mandate of Public Works, and establishing a platform for sustainable development,” said Minister Nxesi.

The Minister mentioned that the Prestige Property Management Unit was now centralised in the Director-General’s (DG’s) Office and was undergoing restructuring with a view to greater specialisation. He said the key focus was to improve the management of customer relations and communication with departments and individual clients.

“We have revived the Parliamentary Villages’ Management Board. The initial phase of renovations in the Parliamentary Villages was completed during May and June 2013. The second phase will start during the recess period in September,” said the Minister.

He said furniture that needed to be replaced had been identified, and the process of delivering it was underway. He emphasised that the upgrading of the security system was underway and a development plan had been

drafted and would be put to the Parliamentary Villages Management Board for consultation and implementation.

“In respect of Ministers’ and Deputy Ministers’ official accommodation, I requested the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to investigate all Prestige projects involving excessive cost escalations, as a result, the Director of Prestige in Pretoria was charged and dismissed. In the case of Cape Town, we will report to Parliament, once the SIU completes its investigation,” said Minister Nxesi.

The Minister assured MP’s that costs for renovation of State-owned houses had now been capped at 30% of the market value of the property.

NEWLY-RESTORED MILITARY HEALTH BASE DEPOT SCOOPS A HERITAGE AWARD

By Petrus Sibiya
Pictures By Project Managers

The newly-renovated Military Health Base Depot in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria has emerged as the National Overall Heritage Award winner for 2014. The announcement was made at the prestigious South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA) 2014 Conference held in Cape Town recently.

This award winning project which was developed by the Department of Public Works was jointly designed by Jeremie Malan Architects and Impendulo Design Architects (Architects/Principal Agents) on behalf of the user-client, the Department Of Defence: South African Military Health Service (SAMHS).

The Department of Public Works' Heritage Award was one of the five categories up for grabs. There were also 10 individual category winners. For the 2014 awards, the Property Owners Association rated projects on all aspects including engineering, construction, economic viability, client and user-client satisfaction and architecture.

DPW Project Manager for the new Military Health Base, Mr Cebo Ndlovu hailed the project as a big success. "During the construction, we were able to overcome a number of challenges to provide this final product which will address the specific needs of the client. This project has been independently assessed to have reached the level of a 4-Star Green Star rating, and was recognised in the 2014 SAPOA Awards," Mr Ndlovu remarked.

Congratulating the winners of the 2014 Innovative Excellence in Property Development Awards, SAPOA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Neil Gopal said: "The winners highlight excellence in design and innovation. They meet today's challenges and tomorrow's needs, and reflect the cutting-edge of design in South Africa and globally."

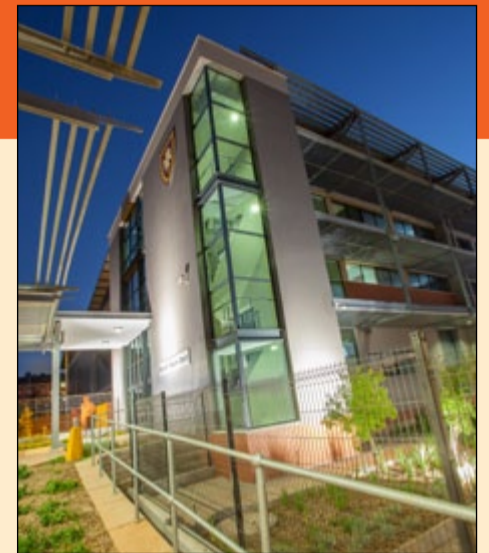
During the restoration of the depot, an existing property of 64 571m² in Thaba Tshwane was selected as the most suitable site. A number of existing buildings on site were identified to have significant heritage value and had to be retained in the new design. The set requirements for the project were met through a campus-style development with 12 buildings of different sizes and functions, including five heritage buildings being restored and creatively adapted for re-use. The depot is currently being used for pharmaceutical storage, general storage, vehicle storage, specialist storage (for weapons, ammunition and medical containers) and offices for the user-client – the SAMHS.



Project Manager for the Military Health Base Depot Mr Cebo Ndlovu



SAPOA award



The new Military Health Base Depot in Pretoria



Restored heritage buildings on both sides of the existing internal road with Building A entrance in the background



External reception area with wire sculpture of a military ambulance



Before and After the restoration of the hangar & platform type building

The project addresses the challenges of sustainability on various levels of design. On energy efficiency front, the greening of lighting and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning) installations was made a priority and the use of energy efficient equipment was specified by both the mechanical and electrical engineers. With the increased capital costs of the green equipment taken into account, the HVAC installation projects a saving of R3, 5m over 20 years. The lighting system of the building is equipped with occupancy and daylight sensors that automatically adjust electric lighting depending on the natural daylight available.

Hot water in the three largest buildings of the project is also provided by a heat-pump system, which results in further energy savings.

The project has an element of empowerment and job creation to it. During construction the main contractor employed about 700 workers, with subcontractors employing another 750 over a period of two and half years. The consultants appointed by the Public Works Department appointed around 100 skilled personnel. Local developing artists were also used to produce artworks and sculptures as part of the project. These and many sustainability elements were induced into the project which earned it a place in the 2014 awards.

MINISTER NXESI PROMISES TRANSFORMATION OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT AT THE UIA 25TH CONGRESS

By Reggie Ngcobo

Pictures By Tshuluzi Nkoana

Public Works Minister Honourable TW Nxesi, MP, says South Africa cannot be complacent with the fact that 20 years into democracy, only 24% of built environment professionals are black and only 9% are female.

The Minister was speaking at the opening of the International Union of Architects (UIA) 25th World Congress on 04 August 2014, in Durban.

The UIA is a non-governmental organisation, a global federation of national associations of architects aimed at uniting the architects of the world without any form of discrimination. From the humble beginnings of 27 delegations at the founding assembly in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1948, the UIA has grown to encompass the key professional organisations of architects in 124 countries and territories, and now represents, through these organisations, over a million architects worldwide.

The Congress which is held every three (3) years was this year, being hosted for the first time in Southern Africa and was attended by more than 3000 delegates from over 95 countries.

The UIA 2014 Durban World Congress was hosted by the South African Institute of Architects with the support of the Department of Public Works and the eThekweni Municipality, among others. This year's gathering themed: **'Architecture OTHERWHERE'**, seeks to celebrate diversity by exploring other communities, other regions, other disciplines and other ways of thinking about, practicing and teaching architecture.

The Minister was joined in the Congress by Higher Education Minister Dr Blade Nzimande, MP, KZN Public Works MEC Mr Ravi Pillay, eThekweni Mayor Cllr James Nxumalo, South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) President, Mr Sindile Ngonyama and International Union of Architects (UIA) President, Mr Albert Dubler.

Minister Nxesi said the government has committed that the next 5-years of administration will mark a second and more radical phase of transition to democracy. He said this includes the transformation of the built environment – the construction and property sectors – transforming ownership and management of the sector to better reflect the country's demographics, and producing

more black and female built environment professionals.

In his address, the Minister committed the Department of Public Works to working closely with the Charter Councils to monitor Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) scorecards and transformation objectives.

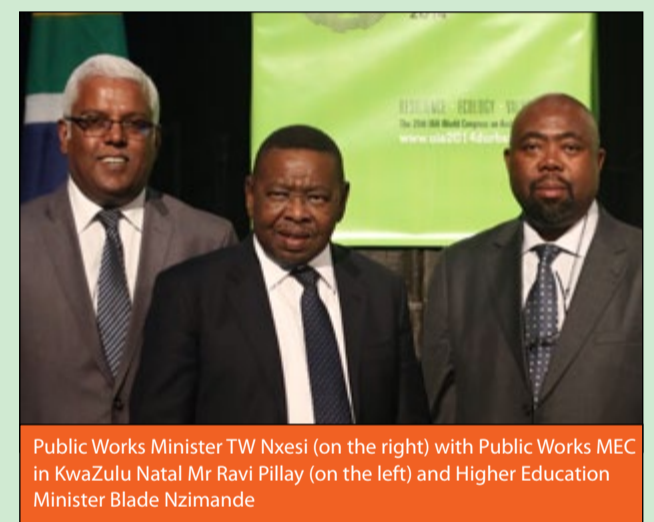
"We have also dedicated resources to help promote young professionals by firstly recruiting school leavers and supporting them to choose careers in the built environment, targeting children from historically disadvantaged backgrounds including black townships and rural schools, and girl children. These categories of our society need to receive the resources and encouragement to carve a career for themselves in these fields," explained Minister Nxesi.

He said he believed that this World Congress of Architects provided an opportunity to reflect on where South Africa is going as a nation – and on where Africa is going as a continent, in relation to the kind of built environment we want to create. "I believe that this Congress provides an important opportunity for African

architects – in particular – to contribute to a developmental agenda for architecture and urban design," said Minister Nxesi.



Public Works Minister TW Nxesi addressing delegates



Public Works Minister TW Nxesi (on the right) with Public Works MEC in KwaZulu Natal Mr Ravi Pillay (on the left) and Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande



Public works stall standing tall during the UIA conference in Durban

PRESIDENT ZUMA SAYS EPWP CONTRIBUTES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN

By Reggie Ngcobo

Pictures By Reggie Ngcobo



President Jacob Zuma and KZN Premier Hon Senzo Mchunu, Basic Education Minister Ms Angie Motshekga sharing a stage with other dignitaries

President Jacob Zuma says the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) has contributed immensely in the development of women in the country.

He was speaking during the National Women's Day celebration held in Umlazi south of Durban in Kwazulu-Natal.

"Many women are in the building sphere through the intervention of the Expanded Public Works Programme and the Community Works Programmes," said President Zuma.

He also urged young women to take up work opportunities that were previously reserved for their male counterparts.

"As a country, we have made important strides in our efforts to improve the lives of women since the dawn of democracy, but a lot still needs to be done," remarked President Zuma.

The President also said the ANC-led government has appointed more female ministers and deputy ministers to Cabinet as well as more women into other important positions throughout the public service.

He said the country has made much progress in response to the United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goal number 3

which speaks to the appointment of more women into leadership positions. President Zuma said 41% of South African women were in leadership positions.

"We have women building dams, roads and other infrastructure through the programmes such as the Community Works Programme and the Expanded Public Works Programme," said President Zuma.

The President also urged women to use the new Employment Equity Act as it gives them the right not to be paid less than their male counterparts while doing the same work.

"If women are still carrying buckets of water fetched from the river and are still cooking with fire wood because they don't have electricity, our work is not yet done," said the President.

President Zuma also pleaded with fathers in the country to take care of their children without the interference of government, and must do so voluntarily. He also encouraged women to report fathers who do not pay maintenance for their children; saying the Justice Department has improved its systems to help mothers to get maintenance money quicker than before.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public



Mr Rodwell Shirinda lights the Torch of Peace



Some of the women who attended the National Women's Day celebration in Umlazi south of Durban

Works delivered, to the event, the Torch of Peace which has been moving from one department to another, confirming the shared responsibility to ensure an environment in which all citizens can enjoy their rights to safety and security, as enshrined in the South African Constitution. The Torch of Peace has been safely guarded by the Department since the 57th anniversary of the Women's Day celebration last year.



**NELSON MANDELA
TRANSFORMED THE WORLD
CELEBRATE HIS LIFE
AND VALUES**

TRANSFORMATION FREEDOM
TRUTH FREEDOM UNITY RECONCILIATION
CHILD CARE AND CHILDREN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FREEDOM TRUTH UNITY JUSTICE
TRUTH FREEDOM EQUALITY
MEMORY AND DIALOGUE
TRUTH FREEDOM RECONCILIATION
JUSTICE FREEDOM RECONCILIATION
EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP
RECONCILIATION TRUTH FREEDOM JUSTICE
UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION
HAD A LEADING ROLE IN AFRICA'S
STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION AND UNITY
HE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CREATION
OF A NON-RACIAL, NON-SEXIST
DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA
HE DEDICATED HIS LIFE
TO THE SERVICE TO THE SERVICE
OF HUMANITY OF HUMANITY
IN THE FIELDS OF CONFLICT
RESOLUTION AND RELATIONS
THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS
AND ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

UNITE LISTEN LEARN REMEMBER UNITE ACT
SPEAK LISTEN UNITE LEAD SPEAK LISTEN UNITE ACT

UNITE LISTEN LEARN REMEMBER UNITE ACT
SPEAK LISTEN UNITE LEAD SPEAK LISTEN UNITE ACT

NELSON MANDELA DAY 2014



Public Works Minister TW Nxesi repainting the walls of a school in Atteridgeville



Pretoria Regional Office Acting Manager Mr Molatelo Mohwasa prepares to plant a tree during Mandela Day 2014



Mthatha Regional Office staff donated groceries to the Khanyisa Children's Home on Mandela Day 2014



Public Works Deputy Minister Mr Jeremy Cronin paints a building at the Sonnebloem Early Childhood Development Centre in Protea Park in the North West during Mandela Day



Durban Regional Office colleagues with some of the donations they gathered



Head Office staff members spent Mandela Day at the Sunrise School in Laudium in Pretoria



The Kimberley Regional Office staff members heeding President Jacob Zuma's call for a cleaner South Africa on Mandela Day



Staff members in the Port Elizabeth Regional Office spending time with the less-privileged



Pretoria Regional Office colleagues on Mandela Day



Nelspruit Regional Office colleagues deliver donated laptops to the Ntabamhlophe Combined School in Elandhoek

WOMEN'S DAY PICTURES



Polokwane Regional Office colleagues dance to the music



Anita Koen and her IT colleagues listen to speakers during the Head Office event



Winners of various contests pose together



Senior members in the Polokwane Regional Office



Some of the women in the Head Office during a Women's Day celebration



Women in unity celebrate their day in the Head Office



Winners of various contests pose together in the Polokwane Regional Office



Ms Takalani Moilla from the Head Office shares her story as a cancer survivor

PUBLIC WORKS INVESTS R32 MILLION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

By Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by Mamahlatse Marokane



Public Works Minister TW Nxesi delivers a keynote address

In upholding its mandate of poverty alleviation through the provision of work and training opportunities, the Department of Public Works and its stakeholders from other spheres of government hosted the Minister of Public Works, TW Nxesi (MP) who officiated at the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Artisan Development Programme graduations ceremony held in Kimberley, Northern Cape on 31 July 2014.

Forty (40) learners who completed their three year Artisan Development Programme under the umbrella of the EPWP - National Youth Service (NYS) were awarded their certificates in the presence of the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport in province, Mr Dawid Rooi and the Mayors from Umsobomvu and Gamaraga Local Municipalities in the Northern Cape.

This programme was piloted in 2011 and recruited one hundred (100) learners from the Northern Cape. The Department of Public Works invested R32 million in the programme for learners to acquire built environment skills and qualifications in five (5) artisan trades, namely: **Turning, Fitting, Boiler Making, Electrical and Welding.**

These learners were placed at the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa (NECSA) for their theoretical learning, and further placed within reputable mining companies

for workplace training mentored by qualified artisans as supervisors in fulfilment of artisan training requirements of the Skills Development Act 97 of 1998.

In their address during the ceremony, Minister Nxesi and the MEC Rooi congratulated the graduates on their achievements and highlighted the importance of addressing the skills gap in the country which helps to build the capacity of the state.

To this end, the Department had recruited learners to study different built environment trades. "That is also why, as Public Works – together with the Construction Education and Training Authority, we are currently providing bursaries to 132 tertiary students who are pursuing studies in the built environment disciplines, with three of them being from the Northern Cape", said the Minister.

WorxNews reporter, Ms Lesego Moretlwe caught up with one of the sixteen (16) graduates who are already employed, Ms Ntomboxolo Mbeqezi who had this to say: "Before I joined the EPWP Artisan Development Programme, I was not working and now I am a qualified artisan working for Eskom in Mpumalanga because of Public Works and EPWP, and I would like to thank government for that," she noted.

Another learner who also graduated, Mr Tebogo Chweu said: "A journey of thousand

miles begins with one step. I appreciate the opportunity that we got, we are what we are because of Public Works. It was not an easy journey, but it's worth it."

There was also a moment of silence for the four learners who lost their lives due to a car accident in 2012 (Louis G van Wyk, Duncan Saul, Delano Saul and Fabian Jobson), and Ms Welhemina Senokwane who passed away recently after qualifying to graduate.



Minister Nxesi and Public Works MEC in the Northern Cape Mr Dawid Rooi congratulate one of the graduates Mr Dixon Elroy



Some of the graduates listen attentively to Minister Nxesi

DPW FAMILY SHOWCASES ITS WORK AT THE 2014 TOTALLY CONCRETE EXPO

By Emmanuel Jiyane

Pictures by Thulani Ntombela



The African Construction and Totally Concrete Expo in conjunction with the Public Works Department recognise the contribution of female professionals to Africa's built environment

The Department of Public Works (DPW) together with its entities, Agrément South Africa, Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), Independent Development Trust (IDT) and the Council for Built Environment (CBE) exhibited at Totally Concrete Expo that was held at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg in South Africa.

According to the organisers: "The Totally Concrete Expo which was held for the first time in South Africa was a very successful conference for exhibitors with great attendance, excellent keynote speakers and exciting social activities".

The Africa's Construction Expo is the only forum that brings together construction professionals from the entire

continent. With over 150 speakers from 40 countries, five pre-conference seminars, three high level conference tracks, 4000 visitors, the Totally Concrete Expo 2014 was a perfect platform for the Department to showcase its work as a custodian of the built environment.

The Totally Concrete Conference is Africa's leading platform for contractors, engineers, quantity surveyors, architects and designers. About 60 % of participants are project owners, buyers, property owners looking to identify project tenders and source solutions, technology and material options to help boost projects of all sizes. The conference is also attended by government departments such as Department of Housing, Transport, Water, development agencies, mining companies and users of cement and concrete in general.

After everything was said and done through activities such as networking, exhibitions, discussions and presentations, the 2014 conference was wrapped up with the Women in Construction: Excellence Awards aimed at recognising the contribution of female professionals to Africa's built environment, which was the second annual Women in Construction Awards of the conference.

The event which kick-started with pre-conference workshops followed by the main conference and exhibition, was finally wrapped-up with the post event site visits.



Models pose to demonstrate new ways of improving concrete strength and durability of cement at the Totally Concrete Expo



Public Works employee offers information on Public Works at an exhibition stand at the Sandton Convention Centre

PERUVIANS BASED IN SOUTH AFRICA COMMEMORATE THE NATIONAL DAY OF PERU IN PRETORIA

By Thozama Nzama

Pictures by Thokozani Ngema

International Relations Chief Director Mr Percy Molefe says although trade is still low between South Africa and Peru, the two countries have seen a substantial growth in trade figures in a short time. He was speaking at an event aimed at celebrating the 193rd Anniversary of the Independence of Peru, held in Pretoria in July 2014. Mr Molefe represented the government of South Africa at the celebrations.

His sentiments were echoed by the Ambassador of the Republic of Peru in South Africa Ambassador Daul Matute-Mejia, who said bilateral trade between the two countries has grown steadily in the past year. "Peru brought from South Africa goods for one-hundred-and-twenty-two million dollars in 2013, showing a growth two times bigger than in 2012," said the Ambassador. He said Peru was looking forward to doing more business with South Africa.

Mr Molefe sighted the visit of former Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Marius Fransman to Peru in September 2013, as having played a significant role in deepening relations between South Africa and Peru. He said the successful Outward Selling Mission undertaken by the Trade and Industry Department as well as the twenty-two companies from the 2nd to the 3rd of June 2014, was an indication of a possibility for further economic development.

He revealed that South Africa was looking forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the

Establishment of Political Consultations between the two countries' Foreign Ministries. He expressed gratitude in the manner that Ambassador Matute-Mejia and his team, in the five years they've spent in South Africa, have worked with the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation in strengthening relations between South Africa and Peru.

Mr Molefe concluded his speech by wishing Peru all the best in the hosting of the COP20/CMP10 meeting of the United Nations Climate Change negotiations in December 2014 and said South Africa was ready to provide support whenever needed.



Doing the Marinera which shows a blend of the different cultures of Peru during the commemoration of the 193rd Anniversary of Peru Independence



Public Works Department's Chief Director - International Relations Mr Percy Molefe representing the government of South Africa



Mr Daul Matute-Mejia ambassador of the Republic of Peru in South Africa and Mr Molefe toast to the people of Peru during the National Day of Peru Commemoration in Pretoria

DPW HOSTS A SUCCESSFUL WINTER SCHOOL CAMP

By Tshuluzi Nkoana

Pictures by Thobi Langa

The Department of Public Works (DPW) through the Human Capital Investment (HCI) has successfully hosted the 2014 winter school camp aimed at nurturing young minds of South Africa. This year's camp hosted 100 learners, mostly from rural schools in the country from 13 -18 July 2014.

The winter camp is another effort by the Department of Public Works to address the skills shortage in the construction and property sectors which constitutes the core business of the Department.

Through this initiative, the Department hopes to attract young minds to have interest in Maths and Science which will gain them access into the construction and property sectors, and the built environment as a whole. The camp was educative and informative as a number of practitioners from the Professional Services Unit in the Department, entities, institutions of higher learning such as universities were invited to give insight orientation about their respective fields.

As part of the activities of the winter school camp, a number of exercises were organised to stimulate the minds of the learners who were encouraged to work in groups. **Lovelife**, a youth focus HIV prevention initiative in South Africa, was also afforded a platform to offer learners life orientation, life skills and physical training each

morning. During the camp, Dr Jabulani Nukeri, from the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SASTA), gave a motivational talk where he encouraged learners not to waste opportunities provided to them through the camp.

Teachers who came from the same schools as learners also underwent a Teachers' Programme aimed at encouraging and motivating them to excel in their profession. The Teachers' Programme further orientates teachers on how to calculate points for university entrance and also motivates them to become change agents in their respective schools. Dr Tshilidzi Netshitangane from the University of South Africa gave the teachers some pointers on how to handle different situations at school, which will also help them rekindle the love of teaching and create a positive environment.

In encouraging learners to study Maths and Science, HCI Director Ms Vangile Manzini remarked: "The Department of Public Works has already awarded bursaries to deserving students who excelled in Maths and Science, therefore you can be counted amongst the best in future based on your performance in these subjects," Ms Manzini noted. She also encouraged learners to take pride in their studies and do well in their final examinations so that they can earn themselves bursaries from the Department of Public Works.



Human Capital Investment Director Ms Vangile Manzini welcomes 2014 learners to the Winter School Camp



Pupils gather for the 2014 Winter School Camp



Pupils complete their physical science assignment

DPW NURTURES GIRLS INTO FUTURE LEADERS

By Tshuluzi Nkoana

Pictures by Tshuluzi Nkoana

The Youth Leadership Programme hosted its second annual Leadership Workshop in White River, Mpumalanga from 14-16 June 2014 which was mainly focused on the holistic development of girl children.

According to the organiser of the event, Dr Miranda Mafafo, the workshop meant to entrust leadership ethics into girls' minds with the aim of aligning their thinking with the government's National Development Plan. The Department of Public Works partnered with Statistics South Africa's Isibalo Capacity Building Programme and the National Youth Service to make the event a success.

As part of the activities for the event, Ms Nontsikelelo Qwelane, a renowned Educator and the champion of the girl child took to the podium to give girls life skill orientation. She was followed by Dr Emanuel Maepa who delivered a motivational talk to the girls focusing on leadership, boundaries to draw as a young girl and leader, and which boundaries to blur as she commits to serving the nation.

In her presentation during the proceedings, Dr Mafafo created a scenario whereby a few girls were chosen to lead their groups. These girls (leaders) were given topics and encouraged to lead their groups and posed as ministers for different government departments which are led by women. Girls were also encouraged to utilise statistical data for planning and decision making in resolving the relative challenges facing government departments such as water shortages for the Department of Water Affairs, the plight of women and children, education etc., in various departments.

The last day of the workshop saw girls being transported to Amakhaya Commune for the Children where girls spent their day doing washing, cooking, ironing, babysitting and cleaning the place for the children.



Dr Miranda Mafafo motivating young leaders on social issues



Young leaders tackling social issues during their workshop

ONE IS NEVER TOO OLD FOR EDUCATION

By Charity Mathebula
Pictures by Charity Mathebula



Ms Liezl Vermeulen

After leaving school early over 20 years ago, Ms Liezl Vermeulen (39) has now attained her matric. She obtained her matric on 14 August 2014, after achieving 5 B's from the 6 subjects she had written.

Ms Vermeulen, who has been working as a Senior Secretary under the IT Projects Directorate since 2006, completed several courses and workshops to gain knowledge, however she has always wanted to finish her matric.

She says she left school as a troubled teenager but now that she has grown up, she believes in finishing what she had started.

Ms Vermeulen registered to write matric and placed an order for the books that she would need. "I only attended classes for Accounting, as I had not done the subject back at school," she explains.

She says the decision to work on acquiring her matric was an easy one because of her family's support. She adds that she wrote the old matric and her exam papers were not that difficult. Only the sky is the limit for the determined Liezl Vermeulen.

GEPF DISPELS RUMOURS ABOUT MEMBERS STANDING TO LOSE THEIR GRATUITIES

The Government Employees' Pension Fund (GEPF) would like to dispel any rumours that its pensioners and members will lose their gratuities (lump sum) upon retirement from the public service.

GEPF Acting Principle Executive Officer, Joelene Moodley, would like to inform members that while the government is in the process of formulating proposals regarding retirement reform, the proposals in terms of annuitisation are aimed at private sector provident funds.

GEPF is a defined pension fund and changes related to provident funds will therefore not affect members of GEPF.

The government's proposals intend to align provident funds to those of pension and retirement annuity funds at retirement.

There is no intention by government to prevent workers from accessing their money. On the contrary, the aim of the retirement reforms is to encourage workers to keep their savings until retirement and beyond.

GEPF would like to inform its members that it is in constant engagement with the National Treasury around the retirement reform process and would like to re-assure its pensioners and members that their pensions are safe and

secure. Members should not resign prematurely, instead they should contact GEPF's offices to answer any questions they may have in this regard.

GEPF'S CONTACT DETAILS:

Toll free Call Centre: 0800 117 669

Email: enquiries@gepf.co.za

Website: www.gepf.co.za

Twitter: @GEPF_SA

PROVINCIAL OFFICES:

Gauteng: Kingsley Centre, Corner Steve Biko and Stanza Bopape streets, Arcadia, Pretoria | Eastern Cape: No. 12, Global Life Office Centre, Circular Drive, Bhisho | Free State: No. 2 President Brand Street, Bloemfontein | Kwazulu-Natal: 3rd Floor, Brasfort House, 262 Langalibalele Street, Pietermaritzburg | Limpopo: 87(a) Bok Street, Polokwane | Mpumalanga: 19 Hope Street, Ciliata Building, Block A, Ground Floor, Mbombela | North West: Mmabatho Mega City, Office No. 4/17, Ground Floor, Entrance 4, Mahikeng | Northern Cape: 11 Old Main Road, Kimberley | Western Cape: 21st floor, Standard Bank Building, Thibault Square, Long Street, Cape Town

SATELLITE OFFICES:

Johannesburg: 2nd Floor, Lunga House, 124 Marshall Street, (Corner Marshall and Eloff streets – Gandhi Square Precinct), Marshalltown | Port Elizabeth: Ground Floor, Kwantu Towers, Sivuyile Mini- Square, next to City Hall | Mthatha: 2nd Floor, PRD Building, Corner Sutherland and Madeira streets | Durban: 8th Floor, Salmon Grove Chambers, 407 Anton Lembede Street



RETIRE OR RESIGN

WITH GEPF: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



GEPF has very strict rules about the benefits it must pay to its members, pensioners and beneficiaries. These rules are set out in a law (an Act of Parliament, approved and signed into law by the President) called the Government Employees Pension (or GEP) Law or the Regulations as negotiated in the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC) for post-retirement medical benefits. This Law and its rules explain how GEPF must collect money from contributing members and employers, how this money must be invested and how it must be paid out to those who are eligible for benefits.



GEPF is a defined benefit fund and your benefits are guaranteed

GEPF is a defined benefit fund. This type of pension fund is different from the pension funds offered in most of the private sector (you can choose to belong to a defined benefit fund in the private sector as well, but it is not the norm). In GEPF, the type of benefit you will receive is not based on how much money you and your employer contribute, with interest, and when the money is finished there is nothing left for you. Instead, in GEPF your benefit is calculated based on formulas specified in the rules, and the benefit is determined on an exit factor, the number of service years you have, and your final average salary over the last two years of your employment.



Resignation rather than retirement – WHAT YOU CAN LOSE

GEPF has different benefits if you resign from government service rather than retiring. If you have more than 10 years of service and you decide to resign rather than retire, you will lose the following benefits offered by GEPF:



Monthly pension

You will only receive a once-off lump sum payment, called a gratuity, rather than receiving your lump sum and monthly pension, called an annuity (which is for life). Your spouse or life partner will also not receive anything from GEPF after you pass away, whereas they would have received 50% or 75% of your monthly pension, based on your choice on retirement, for as long as they live.



Medical aid subsidy

You will not receive any contribution towards your medical aid from the state if you resign. If you have 15 or more years of service, you may have been eligible to receive a government subsidy towards your monthly medical aid membership for the rest of your life if you had chosen to retire as per the conditions set out in the PSCBC resolutions. If you have less than 15 years' service, you may have received a once-off medical benefit (the amount payable depends on whether you have less than five years' service, less than 10 years' service, or less than 15 years' service). These all fall away when you resign.



Funeral benefit

GEPF pays a funeral benefit to help its members and pensioners pay the funeral costs when a GEPF member or pensioner dies. These benefits are also paid out on the death of the spouse, life partner or eligible child of a member or pensioner. This benefit consists of R7 500 for the funeral of a member or pensioner. The same amount is also payable for the funeral of a member or pensioner's spouse or life partner. For the funeral of an eligible child of a member or pensioner, the benefit is R3 000. This benefit is not paid if you resign.

THE SASOLBURG TOURNAMENT IN THE FREE STATE – JULY 2014

By Mduzuzi Zwane



The NDPW Pretoria Regional Office Volleyball team warming up before their match



The NDPW Pretoria Regional Office Netball team playing against the Free State Provincial Public Works team



The NDPW Pretoria Regional Office Netball team members Lerato Choane and Busi Maserumule defending against the Free State Provincial Public Works team



The NDPW Pretoria Regional Office Soccer team against the Free State SAPS



The NDPW Pretoria Regional Office Soccer team playing the final match against the Free State Provincial Public Works



The NDPW Pretoria Regional Office Netball team's Molatelo Mohale about to score a goal against the Metsimaholo Traffic Department

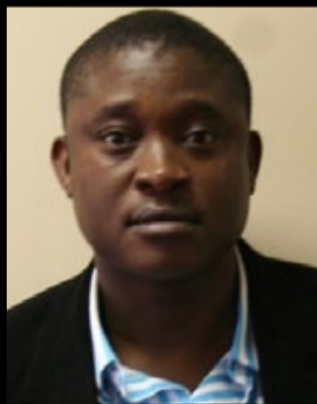
IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN COLLEAGUES



Mr Christo Marang from the Cape Town Regional Office



Mr Leslie Kramm from the Port Elizabeth Regional Office



Mr Moeketsi Mosila from the Johannesburg Regional Office



Mr Madimetsa Philimon Tloubatla from the Pretoria Regional Office



Mr Phillip Nukeri from the Head Office



Ms Freda Galela from the Cape Town Regional Office



Ms Patience Ringani from the Pretoria Regional Office



Mr Lawrence John Knowlden from the Cape Town Regional Office



Ms Evelyn Sibongile Nyundu from the Pretoria Regional Office



Ms Nomphiwe Ntumba from the Cape Town Regional Office

“May your souls rest in peace, you will always be in our thoughts”