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May - June 2014 ISSUE

Leadership continuity at DPW

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public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Mr Reggie Ngcobo

20 years later Where to for the youth of today?

In June 2014 we mark the 38th anniversary of the 1976 June 16 student uprising in Soweto as a free

people, proud and full of joy for taking the resistance of that generation and others before and after it to its final conclusion. We also however, continue to mark this day with a feeling of sadness, knowing that many people who also deserved to be celebrating with us today lost their lives so that we can achieve greatness. We salute them all.

We commemorate this day, not with defiance songs on our lips, but with words of praise and actions of gratitude to those who contributed to the better country than what it was 38 years ago.

The brave young people of that generation are today eminent premiers, ministers and members of the national and provincial parliaments. They are taking their rightful place in the ranks of the South African National Defence Force and other institutions and civil society. They are business leaders and pioneers that will take this country to even better heights.

I believe we, as a nation, should acknowledge that the heroes of those struggles had a noble mission. They were inspired by a thirst for knowledge which knows no colour, knowledge acquired through dedication and hard work, knowledge that taps talents and releases creative energies and knowledge that puts South African youth on par with the best in the world.

The reoccurring question for me is, "what about the youth of today? Are they able to fully enter the new and glorious era that the 16 June 1976 helped to usher them in? Are they doing well to emulate that heroism and dedication and turn it into an asset for the tasks that still lie ahead?"

There is no doubt that one of the challenges for the youth of today, is unemployment and lack of skills.

No matter what the origins of the profound education crisis and the high unemployment rate might be, the fact is that this has become our collective heritage.

They are no longer petitioners exerting pressure from the sidelines. They have to roll up their sleeves and together tackle the problems.

When the 16 June 1976 youth protest against the imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction turned tragic, the following question posed itself to the whole of South Africa: So Where to Now? The answer was in the sacrifices that were borne by Hector Peterson and many other young people.

To the question, So Where to Now, for the youth of today?, the answer is Let them together have a determination to learn, to build; and to live life to the fullest. The country thirsts for your talents and energy.

Together, Let's Move South Africa Forward!

EDITORIAL

Let's celebrate our youth this Youth Month

As the country celebrates Youth Month in June 2014, it is an opportune time for the Department of Public Works to gear and align its services to the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030, which requires of the Department to upscale the number of job opportunities it creates, with more focus on the youth.

Chapter three of the NDP focuses on growing the economy and expanding access to new entrants to the job market. As a requirement, this should not be undertaken in a manner that lowers working and remuneration conditions of existing employees. In doing so, the Department must focus on energy and infrastructure projects as sources of employment.

According to the NDP, the public sector is the largest employer and lies at the heart of service delivery. In aligning the services of the Department to the NDP, the Department's labour regime has to be conducive to service delivery and developmental objectives.

The NDP further calls for improved relations and commitments between the employer and organized labour to achieve a more effective working environment which will enhance access of new entrants to the job market as highlighted above. To achieve these milestones, skills development targeted mainly at the youth lies at the heart of this exercise. The Department as per the NDP requirement must balance the faster expansion in employment opportunities with protected human rights.

country's human resources and help forge cohesion.

On another note, the Department applauds the political principals (i.e. Minister TW Nxesi and Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin) on their re-appointment by the State President Jacob Zuma to continue to lead the Department of Public Works. This will enhance continuity in the Department as these leaders will continue from where they left off.

In its endeavour to turn the lives of South Africans around for the better, the Department embarked on a number of handover ceremonies, which you will read about in the current issue.

In closing, the *WorxNews* team once again appeals to all employees in the organization to assist in identifying information and articles (stories) worth sharing about themselves, their units, their projects and events in an effort to enhance information flow. The flow of information is very critical especially as the country celebrates the 20 Years of Freedom.

Thank you and enjoy the reading!



By Petrus Sibiya

WORX-NEWS

.....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.

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

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EDITOR:
PETRUS SIBIYA
Tel: 012 406 1836
Email: petrus.sibiya@dpw.gov.za
Website: www.publicworks.gov.za

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LEADERSHIP CONTINUITY AT DPW

By Reggie Ngcobo
Pictures By the GCIS

On the 25th of May 2014 when his Excellency President Jacob Zuma announced his new Cabinet, he opted for continuity in the Department of Public Works.

The President re-appointed Minister TW Nxesi and Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin back to their positions in a move that has been seen as a display of confidence in the pair's leadership capabilities.

The two have, for the past two years, steered the Public Works ship in the right direction, with the turnaround strategy introduced by the Ministry already starting to bear fruit.

Some of the great strides seen under the turnaround strategy include the appointment of a permanent Director-General, a Chief Financial Officer, and other senior managers.

The on-going process of putting together a proper Asset Register, the review of more than 3000 leases, the signing of the National Framework Agreement between the trade unions operating within the Department namely Nehawu and PSA and top management, are other achievements of the turnaround strategy. These developments have been hailed as a huge success of the 1st phase of the 3 phases of the turnaround strategy.

All along the Minister and his deputy have been very optimistic about DPW's rebuilding process. With the pair's return to their positions for the next 5 years, and the positive results of the turnaround strategy thus far, the Department can only grow from strength to strength.

According to a survey conducted through the change management processes, about 90% of DPW employees have overwhelmingly

endorsed the internal process of change and they believe that the renewal drive will benefit the organisation.

This overwhelming support of the turnaround has dispelled the perception that the change process is not being supported by staff members.

As the Ministry prepares to start the work of the 5th democratically elected government, their work will be cut out for them but with the majority of the workforce in the Department ready to walk the same path and take the Department forward, they will indeed reclaim the Department's mandate.



President Jacob Zuma during his inauguration ceremony at the Union Buildings in Pretoria



Minister TW Nxesi being sworn-in as the Public Works Minister for the next 5 years



Deputy Minister Mr Jeremy Cronin being sworn-in as the Public Works Deputy Minister for the next 5 years



During President Jacob Zuma's inauguration



At the Union Buildings in Pretoria



South Africans came out in numbers to witness the inauguration ceremony of President Jacob Zuma in Pretoria



Joyful members of the public during President Jacob Zuma's inauguration ceremony

DPW HANDS OVER RESTORED GELVANDALE MAGISTRATES' COURT

By Themba Thobela
Pictures By Themba Thobela

The community of Gelvandale and Helenvale, in Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape will now have access to justice closer to their doorsteps. This as Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin handed over the newly-renovated Gelvandale Magistrates' Court to the Minister of Justice, Mr Jeff Radebe on 23 April 2014.

The court was renovated by the Department of Public Works to the tune of R37 million. "This project was completed within budget and a total of R37 million was spent," said Deputy Minister Cronin. "The completion of the Gelvandale Magistrates' Court marks yet another milestone in our delivery programme," he added.

In his address during the handover, Deputy Minister Cronin said the renovated and upgraded Gelvandale Magistrates' Court project started as an innocuous initiative to upgrade the existing structure at the time to make it compliant with accessibility requirements for persons with disability. "There is a dedicated rehabilitation programme within the Department of Public Works to make all government buildings friendly to the disabled, the aged and other infirmed people," said the Deputy Minister.

The building has four levels and approximately 60% of the existing building has been kept and renovated while the remainder underwent major alterations, renovations and additions. The renovations of the Gelvandale Magistrates' Court created employment for the locals. "A total of 38 National Youth Service (NYS) beneficiaries under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) attended life skills training and 34 of those actually started on site with the project," remarked Deputy Minister Cronin.

In his address, Minister Jeff Radebe said that he was confident the court will be part of the broader socio-economic resolution of the challenges facing this area, which includes amongst others unemployment, domestic violence, drug abuse and gangsterism.



Public Works Deputy Minister Mr Jeremy Cronin hands over the symbolic key to Justice and Constitutional Development Minister Mr Jeff Radebe



The newly-renovated Gelvandale Magistrates' Court



Public Works Deputy Minister Mr Jeremy Cronin with Justice and Constitutional Development Minister Mr Jeff Radebe



The smiling Port Elizabeth Regional Manager Mr Johan Van Der Walt seen here with the Project Manager for the Gelvandale Magistrates' Court



Port Elizabeth Regional Manager Mr Johan van Der Walt, Deputy Director General Corporate Services Mr Clive Mtshisa and Advocate Lungi Mahlati, Director of Public Prosecutions



Members of the community of Helenvale and Gelvandale at the Imbizo for the opening of the Gelvandale Magistrates' Court

There are three court rooms at the Gelvandale Magistrates' Court and all of them deal with criminal matters. The Court will service cases from the Gelvandale and Bethelsdorp Police Stations.

The opening of the Gelvandale Magistrates' Court was done in the context of celebrating 20 years of freedom. "We demonstrate the commitment to restoring the dignity of those who were denied the right to accessible and

fair judicial processes in the past. Our aim is also to increase awareness, educate and encourage the public to utilize justice services and take ownership of this revamped court building," said Minister Radebe.

MINISTER DONATES LAND AND OFFICIALLY OPENS THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS

By Shudufhadzo Mudau
Pictures By Shudufhadzo Mudau



Deputy Regional Commissioner Ms Noziphiwo Dumbela, Minister TW Nxesi and Kouga Executive Mayor Booï Koerat



Bio Silter

The Minister of Public Works, Mr TW Nxesi says state land should be used strategically to improve service delivery. The Minister was speaking in Patensie, in the Eastern Cape on the 30th of April 2014, where the Department donated a portion of land known as Farm 815, to the Kouga Local Municipality together with the Waste Water Treatment Works.

The NDPW Port Elizabeth Regional Manager, Mr Johan Van Der Walt, who accompanied Minister Nxesi to the handover ceremony, said the Waste Water Treatment Works formerly served only the needs of the Patensie Prison Precinct, including the prison employees. He said the Kouga Local Municipality had no Treatment Works of its own and community members were not benefiting from the Waste Water Treatment Works. Following this handover, the municipality will now be able to provide bulk water services to the public.

The Minister said the Department embarked on a series of technical feasibility studies and consultations with all stakeholders and found, among other things, that the growing municipality urgently required a waterborne sanitation system to replace the existing bucket and septic tank system; and that the cheapest and most effective option was to expand the present prison Treatment Works to serve both the prison population and the local community.

He says as part of the turnaround plan for the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Department has focused on the improvement of property management capacity in the DPW. "For the first time in South Africa, we have a reliable Immoveable Asset Register. We now know what we own. The task now is to develop a coherent Asset Investment Management Plan. To achieve this, we have also had to operationalize a Property Management Trading Entity (PMTE) – and to professionalise

its activities. This is the core business of Public Works," explained Minister Nxesi.

The Minister said there could be absolutely no doubt that South Africa was a better place to live in today, than it was in 1994. "In general, I want to make the point that as Public Works – and as government – we have to use state land strategically to improve service delivery and to leverage these assets for economic and social development – and job creation. Gone are the days when we disposed of state land – without preconditions and so often it landed in the hands of speculators and private developers," clarified the Minister. He added that it gave him great pleasure to donate the property to the Kouga Local Municipality.



Cycling tank (Water treatment Dam) in Patensie, in the Eastern Cape



Public Works Minister Mr TW Nxesi with Mr Johan van der Mescht in Patensie, in the Eastern Cape



Port Elizabeth Regional Manager Johan van der Walt

CHATSWORTH POLICE STATION SOUTH OF DURBAN GETS A FACELIFT

By Bukiwe Mgobozi
Pictures By Brian Dlamini

Public Works Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin, MP, has officially handed over the Chatsworth Police Station, in the South of Durban in KwaZulu Natal, to Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa following renovations and rebuilding of the precinct by the Department of Public Works (DPW).

The work done at the police station cost R105m and was completed on budget and on time.

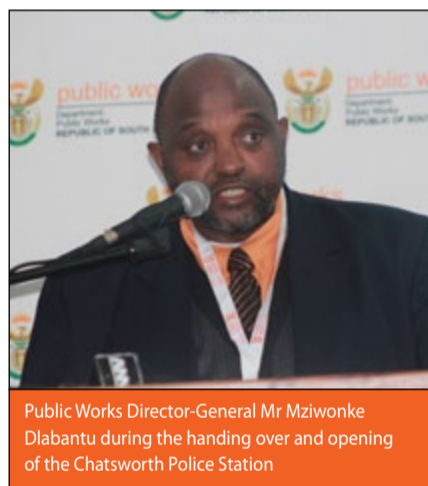
In his handover speech, Deputy Minister Cronin said the renovated precinct is one of the many good South African stories to tell. The Deputy Minister said the project

was estimated at R120m but after open and transparent tender processes, the project cost R105m, saving government R15m without compromising on the structural integrity of the building.

During the construction of the police station, 60 learners from the local community were recruited for the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). Deputy Minister Cronin said of the 60 EPWP learners, 19 have graduated as artisans in various technical fields and they will form a core cadre of public servants who will strengthen the government's efforts to capacitate the state and root out corruption.

The project also offered training to 27 DPW trainees who received skills in bricklaying, painting, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and carpentry.

The newly revamped police station comprises about 10 000 m² of facilities including a cell block, training facilities, control centre, administration offices and a community service centre.



Public Works Director-General Mr Mziwonke Dlabantu during the handing over and opening of the Chatsworth Police Station



Public Works Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin hands over the symbolic key to Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa in Chatsworth, south of Durban



The backview of the renovated Chatsworth Police Station in the south of Durban



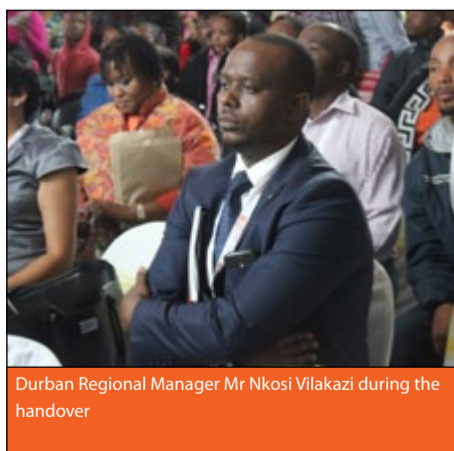
Entertainment by the men in blue



Chatsworth Police Station Commander Brigadier Conrad Marais was among those who attended the handing-over of the station to Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa



The parade for the official opening of the Chatsworth Police Station by the men and women in blue



Durban Regional Manager Mr Nkosi Vilakazi during the handover



The renovated Chatsworth Police Station handed over to Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa by Public Works Deputy Minister Mr Jeremy Cronin

MINISTER NXESI HANDS OVER THE REVAMPED COLONIAL COURT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

By Petrus Sibiya
Pictures By Petrus Sibiya

Minister T W Nxesi has committed the Department of Public Works to working hand-in-hand with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to 'bring justice closer to the people' through the provision of appropriate accommodation.

He was speaking during the official handover and opening of the Pietermaritzburg Magistrates' Court - Annex Building on 16 April 2014 in KwaZulu-Natal.

In handing over the revamped building to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Minister Nxesi noted: "It gives me pleasure to officially hand over this magnificent Magistrates' Court - that was comprehensively renovated by the Department of Public Works. As Public Works we will walk jointly with our client to address their accommodation needs. We will respond on time when issues are raised, this in an effort to make the justice system accessible to our people. Remember, the mandate of the Department of Public Works is to provide suitable accommodation to other departments of government so that they can deliver services to the people.

"In order to improve service to client departments, Public Works is now establishing joint technical teams to work with clients - so that we move together on a project and we ensure, at every stage, that we provide exactly what the client wants," explained the Minister.

In his acceptance speech, Justice and Constitutional Development Minister Jeff Radebe thanked the Department of Public Works for the sterling job of refurbishing the Magistrates' Court. He in turn handed the building over to the community of Pietermaritzburg. "It is our belief as the Executive that is charged with the comprehensive social, economic and political transformation of our country that all the negative trends in our society such as the criminal activities resulting into cases in our courts must decrease drastically and rapidly. These facilities that we handover to the community of Pietermaritzburg and

the various communities under its jurisdiction are our practical pledge towards that course of a crime free and just society," said Minister Radebe.

The Pietermaritzburg court is housed in a building that was erected in 1938. At some point, the court was vacated and gradually deteriorated over time. Eventually vagrants occupied the building and on 16 November 2006 a fire resulted in the structure being burnt extensively. On 2 September 2008 the building was handed over to a contractor to start with renovations. The building has since being refurbished to the tune of about R57 million under the watchful eye of the Department of Public Works.

The Court has the following facilities: 3 Civil Courts, 2 Maintenance Courts, 1 Children's Court, 1 Domestic Violence Court, 1 Harassment Court, 1 Sexual Offences Court, 12 Magistrates' Offices, 1 Office for the Area Court Manager, 3 Offices for Senior Admin Officials, 27 Offices for Clerks, 2 Offices for Interpreters, 2 Offices for Court Prep's, 1 Office for Intermediary, 3 Offices for Investigators, 3 Offices for Maintenance Officers, 2 Offices for Private Attorney Consulting and 1 Office for the SAPS.

This Colonial Court prides itself with great historical significance in that it was the court in which the departed icon former South African President Dr Nelson Mandela appeared on 05 August 1952 following his arrest at Howick, KwaZulu-Natal before he was transferred to Johannesburg for further trial and sentencing.



Public Works Minister TW Nxesi hands over the symbolic key to the Justice and Constitutional Development Minister JT Radebe



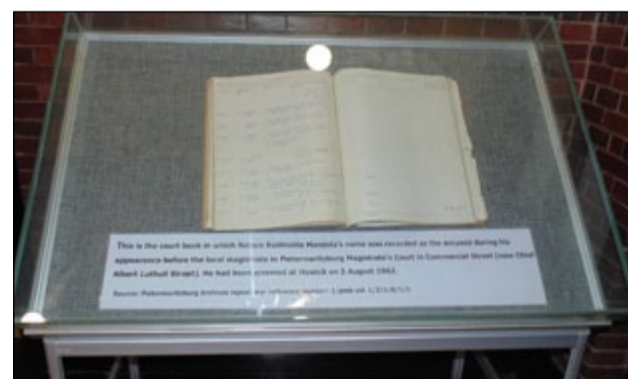
Minister Nxesi helps his Justice counterpart cut the ribbon to mark the official opening of the Pietermaritzburg Magistrates' Court on 16 April 2014



Minister Nxesi and Minister Radebe reveals a plaque during the handover and official opening of the revamped Pietermaritzburg Magistrates' Court



The revamped Pietermaritzburg Magistrates' Court - Annex Building



The court book in which the late former South African president Dr Nelson Mandela's name was recorded as the accused

DPW'S ROLE IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 5TH PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

By Petrus Sibiya

Pictures By Tshuluzi Nkoana & Thobi Langa

The Department of Public Works (DPW) deployed a proficient team to put together temporary infrastructure for the fifth democratic Presidential Inauguration. Most Departmental officials may have seen the state-of-the-art infrastructure at the Union Buildings during the inauguration on 24 May 2014, but little did they know that the team that was instrumental in organising the event is from DPW. **WorxNews** paid a visit to the Union Buildings to capture the behind-the-scenes preparations for this big event. See the pictures of the team and the infrastructure below:



Arrangements underway at the Union Buildings in Pretoria



Well-arranged lunch tables at the foyer of the Dome erected, mainly for the inauguration



The podium to be utilised by the State President during the inauguration



Well-decorated stage inside the Dome



Groundsmen putting final touches to the podium



Presidential podium at the foyer of the Union Buildings



DPW Task Team for the 5th Presidential Inauguration

Front Row – (from left to right) Irvin Letsetsetse, Walter Kgaphola, Rofhiwa Mudau, Scelo Zulu, Mandla Mabuza, Charles Pieters, Joseph Nkabinde, Munyadziwa Sikhathi, Mapaseka Ngake, Themba Nolusu, Abraham Songo

Back Row – (from left to right) Gugulethu Komane, Edward Mokoena, Lucky Ditsepu, Johan van Aarde, Eulala Kruger, Lori Kruger, Patrick Maphutha, Albert Smook, Susan O'niel, Ronald Mashao, Mike Masemola, Zwiitani Rambau, Johannes Kabinde, Ryan Lloyd, Abram Msiza, Msizi Mkhize, Lerato Choane, John Ellies, Rosina Khanyile, Wessel Wessels, Mpho Khorommbi, Thato Motebang, Adriaan Louw



Union Buildings foyer



Interior decoration inside the Dome

REBUILDING OF PUBLIC WORKS GATHERS MOMENTUM AS MINISTER NXESI SIGNS SDIP

By Anbigay Naicker

Minister of Public Works, Mr T W Nxesi, MP has approved the Service Delivery Improvement Plan (SDIP) for 2014/15 to 2016/17 as the Department's turnaround strategy enters its third year.

The SDIP is a road map to improve the performance of the Department and provides a trajectory that will be followed to ensure that Department achieves its strategic objectives. It will also "assist DPW in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery through the implementation of sound business principles while conforming to the National Government's social responsibility parameters," SDIP 2014.

Other SDIP objectives are to:

- Improve continually service delivery to user departments;
- Understand clearly and meet user departments' needs with improved response times;
- Improve efficiencies in all areas;
- Deliver quality products and services;

- Increase outputs and eliminate waste and related costs; and
- Introduce a service-driven culture to ensure necessary behavioural changes that in turn will support sustainability for service delivery improvement.

To realise these objectives and improve the Department's performance, the SDIP contains a detailed plan with specific targets. The SDIP also includes certain areas for improvement that were identified through a scientific situational analysis process:

- Provision of accommodation through construction;
- Provision of accommodation through private leases; and
- Strengthening customer relationship management.

SDIP also sets out the prerequisite improvement activities, the impact of the improvement on the clients, the current status (base line), the key performance indicators and the standards and the target dates.

The SDIP, which was widely discussed with all relevant stakeholders, covers a 3-year period in line with the medium term planning cycle.

During the three-year period, a detailed process of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the plan will be undertaken. The impact of the plan will also be evaluated.

Various Branches, supported by relevant governance structures, will implement the activities outlined in the SDIP. The employees and management will also participate.

The compilation and signing off of the SDIP document is a regulatory requirement in terms of the Public Service Regulations, 2001 (Part III.C.1).

In conclusion, it is prudent that all relevant stakeholders must own and adopt it to ensure its implementation succeeds.

TACTICS TO FIGHT FRAUD AND CORRUPTION IN THE DPW

By Thozama Nzama
Pictures By Tshuluzi Nkoana



The Minister of Public Works Mr TW Nxesi has approved strategies aimed at fighting fraud and corruption in the Department. The Anti-Corruption Policy, Anti-Corruption Strategy and a Whistle-Blowing Policy, which primarily give effect to the

minimum Anti-Corruption capacity requirements for departments in the public service, had been adopted by the Department of Public Works (DPW) earlier this year. These policies will ensure a broader and more holistic approach in the fight against corruption.

Four pillars inform the fight against corruption within the DPW, namely, prevention, detection, investigation and resolution. There are a

number of initiatives around the four (4) pillars of fighting corruption.

With respect to prevention, the Department is currently conducting a detailed Fraud Risk Assessment, at the Head Office and the Regions. This assessment will help the DPW understand the drivers of corruption within the Department. This will then enable the Department to institute the relevant checks and balances and internal controls to negate corruption.

Acting Deputy Director General: Governance, Risk and Compliance, Mr Imtiaz Fazel says they hope to have a comprehensive risk assessment as well as a response plan that goes with the Fraud Risk Assessment by the end of June 2014. He says thereafter, the response plan will be implemented in all branches as well as all the Regional Offices. The assessment initially

focused on those areas vulnerable to fraud and corruption, i.e. in the Supply Chain Management (SCM), where procurement irregularities and non-adherence to SCM processes is very likely.

An e-mail survey would also be conducted among DPW staff members, where a number of questions will be asked with respect to the staff members' awareness of the prevalence of fraud and corruption. Staff members would also be required to share whether they believe efforts so far have been adequate to address the problem of fraud and corruption in the Department. Hard copies of the survey will be made available for the staff members who do not have access to e-mail. Mr Fazel says when the assessment has been conducted; the Department will have a proper blueprint and understanding of where fraud risks reside and develop plans to respond to these facts.

DPW HONOURS 19 ARTISANS FOR THEIR HARD WORK

By Thokozani Ngema
Pictures By Mfundo Radebe

The National Department of Public Works, through its Human Capital Investment Unit (HCI) awarded Trade Certificates to 19 graduates who participated in the Artisan Development Training Programme that was implemented by the Department.

The programme is part of the Department's contribution to skills development in the country, under the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA) Act and the Employment Equity Act of 1994 aimed at supporting the National Skills Development Strategy. The graduates were awarded trade certificates in bricklaying, painting, plumbing, carpentry, electrical and mechanical engineering.

The ceremony took place in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, on the 11th of April 2014 and was officiated

by the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr Jeremy Cronin. In attendance was the Public Works Director-General (DG), Mr Mziwonke Dlabantu, the Deputy Director-General (DDG): Corporate Services Mr Clive Mtshisa, DDG: Regional Co-ordination Mr Butcher Matutle, the Durban Regional Manager Mr Nkosi Vilakazi and the Director HCI Ms Vangile Manzini.

As part of their training, the graduates did their practical sessions at the newly-built Chatsworth Police Station project in Durban.

In his keynote address, the Deputy Minister congratulated all the graduates and wished them the best in their future endeavours. He also expressed his gratitude to the Department's Durban Regional Office management for giving the artisans an opportunity to gain practical

work experience during the refurbishing and rebuilding of the Chatsworth Police Station, as well as to the Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) for funding the whole programme.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Deputy Minister mentioned that he also did carpentry when he was a young man. He also raised his concerns regarding the low percentages of females employed in the construction industry, which he said created a gap that needs to be filled.

Of the 19 graduates from the HCI programme, the Department managed to absorb ten; six were employed by other institutions, while the remaining three were still busy with their mechanical trade studies, which they have just completed.



Director-General Mr Mziwonke Dlabantu shakes the hand of one of the graduates, while Deputy Minister Mr Jeremy Cronin looks on



Deputy Minister Mr Jeremy Cronin delivers a keynote address



Stakeholders and DPW managers witness the awarding of Trade Certificates to 19 graduates



Durban Regional Manager Mr Nkosi Vilakazi, DDG: Regional Co-ordination Mr Butcher Matutle, Director-General Mr Mziwonke Dlabantu, Deputy Minister Mr Jeremy Cronin, DDG: Corporate Services Mr Clive Mtshisa and Durban Regional Office Head of HR Mr Romauld Joseph with some of the graduates

SA AND ANGOLA EMBARKS ON A MISSION TO STRENGTHEN AND DEEPEN BI-LATERAL RELATIONS

By Charity Mathebula
Pictures By Thokozani Ngema & Petrus Sibiya



DPW Deputy Minister Mr Jeremy Cronin and Secretary of State of the Ministry of Construction of the Republic of Angola Mr Ilidio Martins shake hands.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has welcomed a delegation led by Honourable Secretary of State of the Ministry of Construction of the Republic of Angola Mr Ilidio Martins, at the Departmental headquarters in Pretoria. The Angolan visit was aimed at strengthening and deepening bilateral relations between South Africa and Angola and between the Angolan Ministry of Construction and the Department of Public Works in particular.

The gathering served as an endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Public Works and Infrastructure Development signed by Angola and South Africa back in 2010, and also served as a platform to ensure that the two sides are on the same page as they work together to promote infrastructure development projects in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

In short, the attendees of the bi-lateral meeting recognised the need for the DPW and the Angolan Ministry of Construction to meet and develop an action plan in order for the agreement between the two countries to be implemented properly.

In his opening address, the DPW Director-General Mr Mziwonke Dlabantu wished the Angolan delegation a pleasant official visit in the country and told members of the delegation that South Africa was their second home. He recalled how the Republic of Angola supported South Africa during the difficult times of apartheid.

As part of the information-sharing between the two countries, the Director: Asset Investment Management (AIM) Ms Magdaline Tshabalala presented a detailed lecture on immovable asset management. She said as the custodian of national immovable assets, the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) was managing 40 000 land portions and 74 000 properties on behalf of the state. Ms Tshabalala said that AIM provided strategic leadership in the efficient immovable asset management and delivery of infrastructure programmes. "We ensure that we provide accommodation to our client departments for their service delivery objectives," she explained.

In his presentation, the Deputy Director-General for the Expanded Public Works Programmes (DDG: EPWP) Mr Stanley Henderson outlined the EPWP objectives, stating that the programme was aimed at giving work and income to poor households while ensuring that quality assets are provided and programmes are implemented in a co-ordinated way. The DDG explained, "These unique

employment programmes created work across the four sectors of EPWP, namely, Infrastructure Sector, Environment and Culture, Social as well as the Non-State Sector. One of the challenges it is facing is that of the provisioning of training to the participants of the programmes." Mr Henderson also mentioned that the EPWP will embark on its 3rd phase and has to create an estimated number of 6 million job opportunities. "We maintain assets such as buildings, schools, hospitals and roads, in doing so, we can create millions of jobs and this would alleviate crime and a whole range of other problems," said Mr Henderson.

Before proceeding to the private session of the bi-lateral discussions, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Construction of the Republic of Angola said based on the presentations, they were clear on how the DPW was running its operations. He thanked the Department of Public Works for hosting the Angolan delegation for the bi-lateral meeting.

In his vote of thanks, Public Works Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin, MP also expressed gratitude to the Angolan people for supporting South Africa during the struggle years and for assisting the country to break loose from the oppressive apartheid rule.



Members of the DPW and the Ministry of Construction delegations begin a private session of the bilateral discussions



Part of the Angolan delegation



Mr Stanley Henderson, Deputy Minister Mr Jeremy Cronin and Director-General Mr Mziwonke Dlabantu during the open session of the bilateral discussions



The Angolan delegation during the open session of the bilateral talks

CORPORATE SERVICES WELCOMES NEW CORPORATE SERVICES DDG

By Charity Mathebula

Pictures By Tshuluzi Nkoana, Thobi Langa & Shudufhadzo Mudau

Driven and determined – this is how Mr Clive Mtshisa was described by employees under the Department of Public Works' (DPW) Corporate Services branch when he was formally welcomed as a newly-appointed Deputy Director General: Corporate Services (DDG:CS) at the Department's headquarters on 09 May 2014.

The purpose of the event was to formally introduce the new DDG: CS to staff. The Corporate Services branch consists of the following units: Information Services, Human Resources, Legal Services, Security Management Services, Gender, International Relations and Communications & Marketing.

Mr Mtshisa has been acting in the capacity of DDG: CS since July 2013. He has previously worked as, among others, an Assistant Director at Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), founder and first CEO of Tshwane North College which is the biggest

FET in the country, Head of Skills Development at Higher Education where he established one of the best artisan (training) producing colleges in Ekurhuleni and he was acting CEO at Higher Education before he was seconded to the Department of Public Works. Mr Mtshisa is now permanently appointed as Deputy Director-General: Corporate Services effective from April 2014.

In his speech Mr Mtshisa recalled an incident that occurred when he first joined the DPW family, where an employee exhibited the commitment and work ethic beyond the normally relaxed attitude displayed by other employees in other government departments. He said this was contrary to the perceptions he had about DPW and what media portrayed about the department to the general public. The DDG notably stated he has five DDG's and not Chief Directors under his branch, due to the quality of these Chief Directors' work.

Amongst those who acted previously in this vacant post of Deputy Director General: Corporate Services were Mr Lucky Mochalibane: Chief Director Communications and Marketing, Ms Thembi Hlatshwayo: Chief Director Human Resources and Mr Percy Molefe: Chief Director: International Relations who highlighted the numerous experiences they encountered while acting in the influential position.

All the three Chief Directors were in agreement on a number of qualities such as responsibility, authority and accountability which they said were essential in this position.

In his vote of thanks, Acting Chief Director: Legal Services Mr Barney Tlou praised Mr Mtshisa for being a committed and humble person who strives for excellence and who is also result-orientated.



Chief Director: International Relations Mr Percy Molefe highlights the experiences he encountered while previously acting in the DDG: Corporate Services post



Chief Director Human Resources Management: Ms Thembi Hlatshwayo



Deputy Director General: Corporate Services (DDG: CS) Mr Clive Mtshisa



Acting Chief Director: Legal Services Mr Barney Tlou delivers a vote of thanks



DPW family members welcoming DDG Corporate Services



Chief Director: Security Management Services Mr Zwiitani Rambau, Chief Director: International Relations Mr Percy Molefe, Chief Director Human Resources Management Ms Thembi Hlatshwayo & Acting Chief Director: Legal Services Mr Barney Tlou are some of the managers under the Corporate Services branch attending the DDG's welcoming event



Staff members listening to speakers during the welcoming ceremony

HOME AFFAIRS FINDS A NEW HOME

By Shudufhadzo Mudau

Pictures By Lunga Mahlangu & Brian Dlamini



The Makhado Home Affairs service centre in Limpopo, handed over to Home Affairs by Public Works Minister Mr TW Nxesi



Public Works Minister Mr TW Nxesi (in the middle) hands over the symbolic key to Chief Operations Officer at Home Affairs Mr Thulani Mavuso and Limpopo Provincial Department of Home Affairs Manager Ms Nthoriseng Motsitsi

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has delivered the newly-built Home Affairs offices in a small town of Makhado in Limpopo.

This is in line with the Department's mandate and vision to cement its role in transforming the conditions of the previously disadvantaged communities through the construction industry.

Public Works Minister TW Nxesi MP handed over the new offices to the Home Affairs at a ceremony held in Venda. The Minister was accompanied by MEC for Public Works in the province, Mr Namane Dickson Masemola, officials from the Makhado local municipality and several government departments including the Department of Home Affairs in Limpopo.

Since 1994 the Department of Home Affairs in Makhado despite the fact that it serves a population of over half a million, has operated from a small office of approximately 100 square metres in a building which it shares with other government departments such as the Department of Agriculture, Justice and Constitutional Development, Health and the Department of Correctional Services. Office Manager Mr Kharinza Tshililo also testified that the previous offices were not good when it came to service delivery because they were small and people had to stand in long queues. He always received a lot of complaints on poor service delivery from the villagers, he said.

Addressing the beneficiaries of the newly-completed Home Affairs at Muduluni Sports Ground, the Minister of Public Works Mr TW Nxesi

called on the community to protect the building as it belonged to them and not to the Department of Public Works. The new offices have the following outstanding features, among others:

- 1 200 square metres of office and other accommodation
- Modern architecture
- An exterior of a durable and low maintenance face brick finish
- The design includes the passive energy efficient principles – it uses natural ventilation and day light – thus reducing the use of electricity
- Other facilities include:
 - Security
 - Adequate waiting room
 - Fingerprint area
 - Baby room
 - Matrimonial room
 - Archive space
 - Immigration office
 - Passport processing area
 - Boardroom
 - Disabled facilities, and
 - Ample parking

The Minister acknowledged that the implementation of the project took longer than expected which posed detrimental effects to the Department of Home Affairs in their quest to serve the people of Makhado. In some cases, the delays were caused by storm and the lack of adequate power supply. "This challenge has since been addressed with the erection of an electric power sub-station. In relation

to timeous delivery of projects, I can assure you that, as Public Works we have learnt from our mistakes," the Minister remarked.

The Minister also encouraged parents to send their kids to colleges, not only to universities because "in South Africa we have the shortage of artisans because our people do not take colleges seriously".

He also made an example about the area where he comes from, which he said local people were without the most needed skills. "When you want the services of a plumber for instance, you would not get it from the locals, you will have to import the skill from older generations of other race groups or from foreign nationals because South African youth do not want to go to colleges in order to become skilled workers. They think the only way is to go to universities and get degrees."

Below are statistics of people who benefited during the construction in Makhado in terms of employment and training:

- On average the contractor employed 26 skilled workers comprising of 19 builders and seven operators.
- Up to 37 unskilled labourers were employed at the building site from the surrounding areas in the Vhembe District. This includes the on job training.
- Local contractors, suppliers and gardening services were employed.
- The architects also played an important role in training the building contractor, transferring skills on how to manage the project.

One of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) beneficiaries Joshua Muravha said this was like a dream to him because he had been waiting for this opportunity for far too long. "With the new offices, people will be able to get their ID books in time unlike the old ones where they had to wait for ever. This was because in some instances, people who applied for ID's could not get them because some of the documents they submitted when they applied were misplaced in the small cramped offices." He thanked all those who contributed to bring development to the area, which brought with it employment, training and services to the people.



Stakeholders who attended the handover of the Makhado Home Affairs service centre



The waiting area inside the Makhado Home Affairs service centre built by the Department of Public Works



The Expanded Public Works Programme's beneficiaries were also at the handover ceremony of the Makhado Home Affairs service centre

WHAT YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT HYPERTENSION

Hypertension: Causes and Diagnosis

High blood pressure or hypertension is an extremely dangerous medical condition and greatly increases the risks of heart failure, stroke, kidney failure or other life-threatening events. Dr Joe explores what causes high blood pressure and explains why it is important to monitor your blood pressure closely.

Hypertension appears at the top of the list of GEMS's Top 10 medical conditions that are impacting the health and well-being of our members.

In this article we explore specific questions received from members, including Kleinjan in Garries, Fatima from The Bluff and Cecile in Pretoria about high blood pressure and its causes. We also focus on why it is so important to have your blood pressure checked regularly.

Why is it important to have your blood pressure monitored regularly?

High blood pressure is usually a symptomless medical condition and most people are completely unaware that they suffer from it. This is until a medical practitioner undertakes a routine blood pressure check and finds that their blood pressure is abnormally high or that they suffer some sort of health event as a result of their condition.

If we consider how dangerous consistent high blood pressure can be to our health, it is critical that we make regular visits to our healthcare practitioner for a check up which includes blood pressure readings. It is also important to discuss your risks of hypertension with your doctor, particularly if you are an older individual or if you have any history of high blood pressure.

What does blood pressure monitoring involve?

A blood pressure test is easy and completely painless. The doctor or nurse will use a type of blood pressure monitor or stethoscope. The monitor will usually have a cuff that is wrapped around your upper arm. Blood pressure can also be taken at home with a variety of home blood pressure monitors that are available on the market today. It is imperative that such a device makes accurate readings, however.

- Adults should have their blood pressure checked every one to two years if their most recent reading was normal.
- Those who suffer from high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes or other critical medical conditions should have their blood pressure checked more often, as recommended by their healthcare practitioners, and at least once a year.

How is hypertension diagnosed?

Our blood pressure changes all the time, usually dropping when we sleep and rising when we are nervous, anxious or exercising. Smoking may also temporarily increase one's blood pressure. For this reason we as doctors do not diagnose an individual with high blood pressure after just one high blood pressure reading.

Such a diagnosis should only be made after several blood pressure readings taken on several different occasions including when the person is relaxed and at rest. A doctor will assess how many such readings should be taken based on the patient's risk factors for high blood pressure. Those who have diabetes or have had a heart attack may, for example, be particularly vulnerable. Once diagnosed, a patient can be treated using medications and introducing lifestyle changes such as an improved diet.

What causes high blood pressure?

This is a very good question and the truth is that in most cases no direct cause is found. We call this essential hypertension. This type of hypertension usually develops over time and surprisingly accounts for 90 to 95% of cases. Some experts believe that ageing may play an important part in this kind of hypertension, as the arteries harden over time and become less flexible, causing blood pressure to rise.

In a minority of cases, high blood pressure is caused by other medical conditions such as kidney disease or hormonal problems, and this is called secondary hypertension. However, there are a number of risk factors for hypertension, and it is more commonly found in certain groups of individuals. These include people who:

- Have a family history of hypertension.
- Are older individuals – the risk increases as



people age, men being more vulnerable from middle age and women after menopause.

- Suffer from diabetes – more than half of those with type II diabetes tend to develop hypertension.
- Suffer from other chronic conditions such as kidney disease, sleep apnoea and elevated cholesterol levels.
- Are of African or Indian origin.
- Are obese – the heart usually has to work harder in obese individuals.
- Are not physically active.
- Have a poor diet that includes a lot of salt and few fruits and vegetables.
- Drink an excessive amount of coffee.
- Drink too much alcohol – more than two units a day can elevate blood pressure.

These at-risk individuals should take particular care to monitor their blood pressure and work with their doctors to manage their condition. If this is done, high blood pressure can usually be successfully managed.

Sources

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Issued by	:	Martina Nicholson Associates (MNA) on behalf of GEMS
Contact	:	Martina Nicholson
Telephone	:	(011) 469 3016
Email	:	martina@mnapr.co.za

20 YEARS OF FREEDOM, A MILESTONE INDEED

South Africa's democracy is 20 years young. This year the country celebrates with pride the achievements made since 1994. We must never forget that our democratic birth was rightly hailed as a miracle. Doomsayers and those who wanted us to fail had predicted chaos and civil war.

In 1994, the democratic government inherited a country that was faced with so many challenges. The first task was to ensure peace and stability, given the high levels of violence before 1994.

Twenty (20) years later, our country has risen from racial divisions to be a gateway to Africa. We have achieved a lot within a short space of 20 years, against the backdrop of 300 years of racial oppression.

In 1994, government introduced the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). The RDP acknowledged that "no political democracy can survive and flourish if the masses of our people remain in poverty, without land, without tangible prospects for a better life. Attacking poverty and deprivation must therefore be the first priority of a democratic government".

Through the RDP, government rolled-out a number of infrastructure projects including free houses to the people, building schools and proper roads.

Hitherto our country is the only country in the world that has built many houses for the people. Access to water and electricity is something that became a reality to many people after 1994. Equal working opportunities have been created to redress our painful past. Despite many achievements, the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality are a phenomenon that we face today.

Interestingly, we now have the National Development Plan (NDP). The NDP is something that is fairly new, however this is something that all South Africans should be familiar with. NDP is our vision towards 2030, our new road map. By 2030, we must have a nation where no one is hungry, where everyone is able to go to school and further their studies if they wish. It must be a country where work is available, where everyone is making a contribution, because each person has been provided with what they need to reach their full potential. We



should also tell the international community about the NDP, to attract foreign investment.

Faster economic growth can be achieved if the country invests more in education. Many people, who are unemployed, also don't have the necessary skills for jobs that require technical skills. We have few people who are qualified as Structural and Civil Engineers, Quantity Surveyors, Construction Project Managers, Landscape Architects, Town Planners, Property Valuers and Interior Designers. The Public Works Department has recently showed its commitment to transforming the built environment, when it awarded 120 bursaries to students who will be pursuing careers in the built environment. The country needs technical qualified people to deliver the massive infrastructure projects.

We are now writing a new story in the years ahead. In our new story our energies must be focused on attacking poverty and expanding a robust, entrepreneurial and innovative economy. Both the public and the private sector must support communities with the resources and capabilities that will enable communities to be engines of development. Development is a process of raising continuously the capabilities of all citizens, particularly those who were previously disadvantaged.

Let's celebrate 20 Years of Freedom with pride. As a country, we've come a long way, achieved a lot, but we should all of us direct our energies to making South Africa a better place for another 20 years.

Themba Thobela



Some of the DPW staff members who have shared their views on what they believe has changed for the better in South Africa, during the 20 Years of Freedom

DPW STAFF ON SOME OF THE GAINS REALISED IN THE PAST 20 YEARS



I come from a rural village in North West, formerly known as Bophuthatswana. 20 years ago we had no services like electricity, let alone prospects of having these services one day. Today we have basic services. We were highly isolated, even by the homeland system, nogal. We now live with pride.

Silas Matshwane.

There is a huge change. We have better education for all, we have a right to education and we have the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) which has assisted millions of young hard working students. It is about time South Africans appreciate what our forefathers went through for us to attain freedom.

Hildah Motshana

I am from Limpopo. 20 years back my village did not have electricity, water and a bridge to cross the river separating my village from surrounding villages, schools and town. After 1994 the government brought services to our village and a clinic which is shared by five villages.

I am happy so far but we can still do more.

Stanley Maahlo

I am from KwaZulu-Natal in a small town called Highflats. Before 1994 we never had electricity and we had to travel very far to get water. Today, we have electricity and we have access to clean water that is much closer to our homes.

Nondumiso Tenza

I am grateful that all South Africans can live, work and celebrate as **one Nation** and build a better future for all together as a nation. I am grateful to be part of the Rainbow Nation and to learn of other cultures and the diversities South Africa offers us all.

Anja Williams

I casted my first Vote in 1999, and I now realised we have had many democratic votes in this country, choosing our own leaders whom we believe will make a change. We are more united as South Africans and have fallen in love with one another, black and white.

Tebogo Motheohane

When I joined the Department in 1979/04/10, black men and women were sharing one toilet at ground floor and using one lift, the rest were for whites.

Thanks freedom, you have changed our lives.

Robert Mokhele

Before 1994 racism was very rife, it was unlikely to see people of different races working together or sharing a meal. Since democracy, we are now even able to get married to someone who is of a different race than ours.

Shikwambana Lunghile

When I queue for services i.e. at Home Affairs, State hospitals etc.; I get served on a first come first served basis and no longer based on the colour of my skin. This is one of the reasons I salute those who fought for this freedom we now have.

Ellen Tlouana

As a young person, what excites me most about democracy is the fact that the opportunities for young people to craft better lifestyles for themselves are enormous. What's even better is the fact that they are open to everyone, regardless of colour, creed etc. Everywhere you turn, new programmes and projects are being implemented to uplift young people.

Banjwangazibini Tshika

As South Africans we are now free to express our views on matters that affect us through the structures put in place by the government. We have access to information that in the past would be censored for an ordinary man.

Ruth Ramoroko

IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN COLLEAGUES



Mr Gideon Lourens Van Rooyen from the Cape Town Regional Office



Mr Karel Minnaar from the Kimberley Regional Office

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