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APRIL 2015

Modernising Home Affairs

Technology to
boost service
delivery

Farewell Minister Collins Chabane

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to a humble
servant of
the people

Celebrating 21 years of freedom

Minister Nathi
Mthethwa reflects
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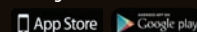


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Keeping up with the global communications community

I recently attended the World Communications Forum in Davos and, I must say, I came back home with a renewed vigour to help improve our communications strategies and policies to ensure that we serve as best as we can.

I was in the same room with communications officials, experts and opinion shapers from all over the world, and we all had beneficial experience and information to share on communications best practices.

Some communicators came from developed nations, while some were from emerging economies where their communications strategies are, like ours, evolving into modernised communications platforms.

I brought home a wealth of knowledge that I am confident to say will further help us reposition our communications strategy to ensure that we serve, educate and make information accessible to our people and that we also communicate the proudly South African story to the rest of the world.

We need to ensure that we keep up with our global peers and that we are not left behind.

It is very important that we adapt to best practices that will steer our communications machinery to ensure that the tide of change does not capsize our ship.

A few years ago, platforms like Twitter, blogs, podcasts, Facebook and Skype, among others, were not part of our everyday lives.

We have come a long way from the days of telegrams and post cards.

Today, the media industry, communicators and even members of the public have moved into this free for all platform – social media – to use new ways communicate and disseminate information.

While we should not abandon our traditional platforms – community radio, knock and drops and izimbizo, we must keep on trying to improve and utilise the power of communication to serve

the community, by informing, educating and providing open access to information.

To ensure that we are not left behind, President Jacob Zuma made proclamations that gave birth to the new Department of Communications with institutions such

as the SABC, Brand South Africa, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) and the Media Diversity and Development Agency (MMDA) being put under my watch.

The department, along with these entities, complement each other as far as advancing our communications mandate and modernising our traditional methods is concerned.

For example, Cabinet recently approved the Broadcasting Digital Migration Amendment Policy with an inclusion of a control system in



Set Top Boxes (STBs).

This positive development sets the scene for government to switch from analogue to digital broadcasting signal.

This means that consumers will enjoy uninterrupted radio frequency and the television broadcast quality will be in high definition.

This will also lead to the releasing of the much needed spectrum that will unleash high-speed, next generation broadband services, bringing us closer to our peers in terms of connectivity.

In a nutshell, information communications technology will be improved and the SABC will improve its broadcast quality, content and outreach to remote parts of the country.

Government will also rollout five million STBs to our

people residing in remote area at no cost. This will help government further increase its reach to those citizens as SABC also serves an important developmental purpose.

The content the SABC generates must do more than just entertain. It must inform and educate the public and adhere to the highest standards of moral integrity.

With super-fast broadband connectivity comes the need to reduce the cost to communicate.

ICASA, which plays a role of watchdog in the broadcast licensing and information technology space, is working tirelessly to ensure that it reduces the cost to communicate through the reduction of mobile termination rates and hopefully soon, the cost of broadband.

This will do justice to our people as evidence shows that more and more South Africans have access to devices with the ability to connect to the internet.

It therefore goes without saying that with this kind of broadband penetration, citizens will have access to information on their fingertips.

The recent launch of our government mobile app speaks to this. We need to ensure that our services are accessible, even on modernised platforms.

In this regard, Telecommunications and Postal Services Minister Siyabonga Cwele is leading the process of ensuring that the public service moves from a paper-based mode of service delivery to a paperless one.

Even with this and other positive developments, we still need to do more to ensure that we keep up with countries.

We need to remain relevant as far as our communications and media platforms are concerned to optimally improve our image and promote brand South Africa.

While we, as well as the mainstream media, have been doing our best to adapt to the ever-changing environment, it goes without saying that not many organisations have put policies in place to deal with the negative effects of the social media, from acts of cyber bullying to using on-line platforms to conduct criminal activities.

It is perhaps time to ensure that all sectors of society, not just the public service, balance the freedom of speech and expression with the wellbeing of our people.

There are countries that have implemented legislation that applies to online and social media issues between employers and employees in the workplace.

In the United States of America several states have enacted legislation to prohibit employers from requesting that employees or applicants for employment disclose their usernames, passwords or other personal account information used for online and social networking sites.

The United Kingdom has the Data Protection Act 1998 in place, which requires an employer to obtain consent before they can collect an employee's online data.

In China regulations are in place to prevent anyone endangering the 'legitimate interests of citizens' through the use of computer information systems.

In South Africa, there is currently no legislation that deals specifically with online and social media. However there are acts such as RICA, the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act and the Protection of Personal Information Bill, which will apply to online and social media.

In the absence of specific online and social media laws, employers must consider our common law and other statutes to determine their online and social media policy, and balance and protect the rights of both itself and its employees.

Lastly, I pen this message to you at a very difficult time. The passing of our colleague, Public Service and Administration Minister Collins Chabane, has left a void in all of us, a void that can never be filled.

I am sure my Cabinet colleagues will agree that working with him was a pleasure, as he remained a dedicated, loyal servant of our people and an exceptional leader to you and the public service.

Minister Chabane also has traceable struggle credentials and sacrificed time with his family to serve his people, while we were still faced with the oppressive apartheid regime.

His work in the liberation movement - from his days as the Economic Development MEC in Limpopo to his appointment as Minister in 2009 - speaks for itself. Mintirho ya vulavula.

And away from his duties, he was a remarkable human being, who was entertaining, courteous, loved music and was full of stories while he remained humble- an all rounded cadre.

To my colleagues who worked very closely with him and his protectors, remain strong; pick up where he left off and carry his legacy forward.

We might have lost a patriotic servant and friend, but we have gained a guardian who is smiling down on all of us.

Etlela hi ku rhula Muchaviseki (Rest in peace). 🕊️

Delivering the 2015 Budget recently, Minister of Finance Nhlanhla Nene laid great emphasis on the challenges that South Africa faces and that meeting these in a constrained economic environment is challenging.

There has been progress in the past 20 years, but he reminded the nation that “people are living in shacks, there are schools without sanitation, [and] there are patients without care. ...”

“There are still fault lines across our social landscape”, the Minister pointed out.

He acknowledged that it had been a “challenging Budget to prepare, under difficult economic circumstances. The resources at our disposal are limited. Our economic growth initiatives have to be intensified.

“Preparing a Budget under difficult circumstances is a reminder that our public services are many and varied, and that we rely on the efforts and good judgement of many thousands of public servants, teachers, health practitioners and law enforcement officers, every day.”

The Minister said the budget was “constrained by the need to consolidate public finances in the context of slower growth and rising debt. It was imperative to tackle economic constraints, improve growth, create work opportunities and expand economic participation.”

Government faced a delicate balancing act: the country’s development path is affected by resources being constrained by the economic environment yet efforts at development seek to lift these by “strengthening public institutions, investing in infrastructure and our people, supporting innovation and making markets work better.”

Against this backdrop, the 2015 budget was aimed at rebalancing fiscal policy to give greater impetus to invest, to support enterprise development, to promote agriculture and industry and make our cities engines of growth, said Minister Nene.

As members of the Public Service what does the budget mean to us? We are the custodians of the money allocated to us to bring about change in the lives of South Africa’s citizens.

The budget will be spent on the following:

- Basic Education – R203 billion.
- Local development and social infrastructure – R200 billion.
- Defence, public order and safety – R171 billion.
- Health – R157 billion.
- Social protection – R155 billion.
- Other items – R131 billion.
- General public services – R64 billion.

- Post-school education and training – R62 billion.

As public sector managers it is our duty to ensure that these allocations are spent as intended and in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act.

Our citizens cannot afford to be deprived of a better life because budgets are mismanaged or funds squandered on fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

We are entrusted with funds and should use them, not waste or fail to invest them, to fulfil our task of achieving a better life for all.

The Minister was very clear on this matter, pointing out that better value for money in public service delivery depends on rigorous financial management, effective systems and an unrelenting fight against corruption.

We must remain mindful of, and remind ourselves of it that, in the words of Minister Nene, we are accountable to citizens and taxpayers for ensuring value for money in our stewardship of public resources. 🇿🇦



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Home Affairs embraces **technological revolution**

The Department of Home Affairs is introducing cutting-edge technology to modernise its operations, including “paperless” services.

This is the kind of department South Africans can look forward to, says Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba.

In an interview with *PSM*, he said the department’s plan to modernise – which includes moving from paper to offering services digitally – was at an advanced stage.

Minister Gigaba is passionate about the plan, which is part of the department’s turnaround strategy to improve service delivery and reduce long queues and slow processes.

The Minister said once the migration from a paper-based database to a mostly digital system was complete, members of the public would enjoy improved services and that the depart-

ment’s 403 offices nationwide would operate optimally and efficiently.

“The department launched a modernisation programme in terms of which we want to move towards being completely paperless.

“In that regard, there is a number of service innovations that we have introduced, the most critical one being the live capture system when you apply for the smart ID card and passport.

“But that programme focuses both on the core infrastructure and core technology infrastructure of the department as well as the front end where the services take place,” he explained.

During his State of the Nation Address, President Ja-

cob Zuma announced that citizens would soon be able to apply for their smart ID cards at some banks – a move that would bring services closer to the people.

Minister Gigaba said the initiative would be a pilot project.

“We should soon start with the process of cleaning up the National Population Register (NPR), doing an audit, removing those people and names that ought not to be there and restoring the integrity of the NPR.”

He said the department would like all children to be registered for their birth certificates at the hospitals where they were born or within the first 30 days.

“So, over the next 12 months, we are going to be winding up the late registration of births process after more than seven years of running it so that we focus on registering births early.

“We have signed a memorandum of understanding with FNB, Standard Bank and the Director-General [Mkuseli Apleni] will soon sign another agreement with Nedbank, in terms of which a person will be able to go to the bank they bank with to apply for a smart ID card there,” he said.

The Minister added that the smart ID card pilot project would still, at this stage, apply only to senior citizens older than 60 years or 16-year-old first-time applicants.

This is the category of citizens that the department said were eligible to apply for the smart ID card at this stage and soon an invitation would be sent out to the other categories of citizens.

How the pilot project will work

The new system will see banks setting up Home Affairs desks or kiosks at their respective branches nationwide.

Upon arrival, a bank will capture biometric details from applicants – from a person’s photograph being captured to automated fingerprints being scanned – with people also being expected to make an electronic signature.

Minister Gigaba explained the bank would then be able to package the digital application and deposit it electronically at Government Printing Works.

“We will apply the live capture system at our banks like it happens at our offices, which should then mean that your collection point for your ID will be your bank instead of Home Affairs.”

The Minister said to date two banks – FNB and Standard Bank – have signed a memorandum of understanding with

the Department of Home Affairs for the pilot project.

Nedbank has indicated its willingness to participate and Minister Gigaba expects Absa to also join the partnership.

He said his department had also approached the South African Post Office to negotiate the use of some of its infrastructure.

“The South Africa Post Office has got the largest footprint in the country and with that footprint, there is no limit to what Home Affairs can achieve.

“I think the critical concern on our part is the security and the efficiencies that I think are among the current challenges that the Post Office is facing. Once those are resolved, we should be in a much better position to run this programme on a very massive scale.”

The department is expected to introduce several new innovations to assist South Africans in applying for their smart ID cards and passports in a convenient way.

These innovations are expected to help ease the queues at the Home Affairs offices nationwide, while delivering a crucial service to citizens quicker, efficiently and professionally.

Government has a massive task to ensure that over 38 million citizens with the green bar-coded ID books are issued smart ID cards.

To date, the department has issued over one million smart ID cards in less than a year.

The Minister said he was confident that the department would reach a target of 1,6 million cards by the end of the 2014/15 financial year.

Brace yourself for eChannel

Minister Gigaba added that in April this year his department would introduce a new electronic payment system for consumers to use when applying for their IDs or passports.

He said eChannel would enable a user to use their smart mobile devices or computer to apply for an ID or passport from the comfort of their homes.

The system, which would be piloted first, would also allow applicants to make an online payment like an electronic funds transfer, to accompany their application.

“eChannel will enable a person to file an application at home and go to Home Affairs or to a bank to get biometric details – automated autograph, photograph and electronic fingerprints – captured.

“We will then process your application and send the ID back to the point where the biometric was done,” he explained. >>

The Minister said while the pilot was taking place, officials from his department and the banks would work towards ensuring that security systems are not breached.

He said the new system would also help to address the infrastructure challenges that the department has in some of its offices, especially with regards to broadband connectivity.

“Not all our offices have broadband connectivity, but most banks do. So it will help to disperse the clients seeking services at our offices by enabling them to also go to their banks.

Currently, applicants of the new high-tech smart ID cards only have to wait for three to four days to get their cards from the day they submit their applications.

The department currently has 140 offices with a live capture capability, and once banks come on board, applicants might end up getting their cards quicker than the anticipated times.

The Minister added the department would expand the live capture system to another 28 offices during the new financial year.

While only senior citizens older than 60 years or 16-year-old first-time applicants are eligible for smart ID cards, those who approach the department to replace their stolen or lost documentation will be issued with the new smart ID card.

Establishing a Modernisation Task Team

Minister Gigaba said modernisation is key to his department’s turnaround strategy as it plays a role in integrating all crucial services for efficient service delivery.

Currently, the department’s co-network is not integrated, and this means components like the NPR are separated from the national immigration identification system and the Home Affairs national identification system.

“We need to integrate those into one system – the national identification system – for both South African citizens as well as foreign nationals that are in our country.”

He said the second anchor to the turnaround strategy is to provide an uninterrupted network supply.

The third anchor, the Minister added, is eChannel,



Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba.

which would go a long way in ensuring that citizens are served conveniently and efficiently.

“So, the modernisation programme is not complete. It is actually far from being complete, although it is already giving us hope, exciting us and showing us of how things could be.

“Part of what we are trying to do is to establish a Modernisation Task Team, which is going to bring together all the relevant role players – from Public Works, Sector Education and Training Authorities, National Treasury as well as us and Government Printing Works,” he said.

The task team would look at long-term plans for eGovernance in terms of Home Affairs and replace ageing infrastructure to ensure that the department keeps up with new technologies, Minister Gigaba added.

Deadline for late registration of births

The Minister said government would continue with its campaign to register children within 30 days of birth, as part of maintaining the integrity of the NPR.

“To this end, we have announced that we will cease the process of the late registration of births by 31 December 2015.

“This critical milestone will ensure that we safeguard our identity, citizenship and secure our population register,” he said. 📞

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home affairs

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Miller Matola keeps the brand alive

Writer: Albert Pule Photographer: Kopano Tlape

The national flag flies at half-mast outside Brand South Africa's building in Houghton, Johannesburg, as a mark of respect for two struggle icons, Moses Kotane and JB Marks, whose mortal remains were recently returned from Russia for reburial in South Africa.

Inside the building housing the institution mandated to market South Africa to the world, colourful artwork adorns the walls and there are plenty of magazines containing information on the country. Everywhere you turn something reminds you of the rainbow nation and it is hard not to be passionate about the country in such an environment.

Brand South Africa's outgoing CEO Miller Matola is clearly passionate about South Africa, an essential requirement for his job.

"It has been an exciting and challenging journey because when you market a country brand you are dealing with a multiplicity of factors, diverse stakeholders and perceptions and that makes it very complex.

"Part of the challenge is to bring together the different stakeholders and align their thinking to the vision that we have as a competitive country," he says.

Since 2010, Matola has been at the helm of the entity responsible for positioning South Africa in the international space.

Brand South Africa's primary objective is to develop and implement a proactive marketing and communication strategy for South Africa to promote the country locally and internationally.

They do so by, among others, telling the world about South Africa by exhibiting at major international events and conferences, such as the World Economic Forum.

"Our role is to create a positive and unified image of South Africa; one that builds pride, promotes investment and tourism, and helps new enterprises and job creation," Matola explains.

Brand South Africa also champions a programme called Play Your Part that was created to inspire, empower and celebrate active citizenship in South Africa. Its objective is to lift the spirit of the nation by inspiring all South Africans to contribute to positive change.

Dealing with perception

Since taking over the reins at Brand South Africa, Matola says one of the most difficult aspects has been dealing with perceptions when marketing a diverse country like South Africa.

"To move away from perceptions to informed awareness of what this country has to offer is a challenge."

"At times you have to debunk the stereotypes and the negative perceptions because sometimes they are just that – perceptions.

"A lot of negative perceptions are born out of ignorance and sometimes perpetuated by South Africans themselves. It could be South Africans abroad and they may also be created by media reports," he says.

According to Matola, Brand South Africa's job is to create a positive image of South Africa.

He adds that one strategy that Brand South Africa has developed and implemented well is to acknowledge the challenges the country is facing and talk about the proposed solutions.

Progressing through partnerships

Matola says promoting a country brand requires teamwork and other stakeholders play an important role.

Proudly South African, South African Tourism, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and Home Affairs are key stakeholders in assisting to promote South Africa to the world.

Each of these institutions plays a vital role. For example, while Brand South Africa is responsible for getting South Africans and the rest of the world to buy into South Africa, Proudly South African is responsible for marketing the country's products and services.

"These are very important stakeholders because they market certain aspects of the South African brand. We as

Brand SA are responsible for getting the world to buy into our people, services, government, governance, Constitution and our immigration policies.

"Ours is a much broader role but we work with all those entities and our relationship is intertwined."

Events that built the brand

Since 1994, South Africa has built a reputation for successfully hosting international sporting events. These include the Rugby World Cup (1995), Africa Cup of Nations (1996), World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), Cricket World Cup (2003) and the FIFA Soccer World Cup (2010).

Matola says the successful hosting of such events and South Africans' performance in international sporting competitions assist in countering negative perceptions associated with South Africa.

"If you look at our performance at the 2012 London Olympics, the performance of our team there was a boost for the brand of the country. The performance of [swimmer] Chad le Clos, in particular, was a highlight."

He adds that the admission of South Africa into the Brazil, Russia, India, China grouping also ranks as a highlight in the history of the country.

"That was a significant achievement for a country of our size, for a democracy as young as ours. To be admitted within that community of peers as an equal, that for me was a great achievement."

Low point in the history of the brand

Negative events cannot be ignored and there are times

when the strength of a brand will be tested by such events.

Matola concedes that events such as the shooting of 34 miners by police in Marikana in 2012 dented the image of South Africa, as did the recent looting of foreign-owned shops in Soweto and the West Rand.

"Whenever these things happen, they tend to have a negative impact on the brand and what is important is how we respond as a country."

He says the attacks on foreign-owned shops were in direct conflict with the reputation that South Africa has built since 1994.

"Our brand as a country has been built on values such as reconciliation and a strong humanitarian focus."

Global South Africans

Matola says one of the highlights of his time at Brand South Africa that he will long cherish is the growth of an initiative called Global South Africans.

Global South Africans is an initiative of influential, well-placed South Africans abroad who mobilise the international community and do marketing initiatives in their host countries.

Matola says the initiative has grown over the years and currently has representatives in many countries.

"When I joined, we had chapters only in the United Kingdom and the United States but in the past five years we have moved it to other countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Australia, New Zealand, Ghana and New Zealand."

With the Global South Africans initiative growing and the relationship between Brand South Africa and government departments improving, the outgoing CEO says he is happy that the team he is leaving behind will fly the South African flag even higher. 🇿🇦

About Miller Matola

Matola began his career in the education sector and it was while he was still a teacher that his interest in the tourism sector grew.

He then joined the Department of Tourism, where he developed frameworks for key service areas within the sector, before moving to South African Tourism to lead its Business Tourism Unit.

He also managed South African Tourism's Americas portfolio, which included the US, South America and Canada.

During his time at South African Tourism, Matola won the prestigious South African Airways award for "most outstanding individual in the industry" in 2002. He served as the CEO of KwaZulu-Natal Tourism before taking on the challenge of heading up the Durban International Convention Centre in 2006.

In 2010 he joined the then International Marketing Council of South Africa, which later became known as Brand South Africa.

Matola has a Bachelor of Arts in Education (University of the North), has completed the Wits Business School Management Advancement Programme, and is in the process of completing his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) through Thames Valley University in the UK.

Fast facts at your fingertips

In his 2015 State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma outlined the progress made so far in developing the country and new measures to better the lives of South Africans.

In the previous edition *PSM* took a look at some of the important numbers from the President's speech. This month we feature part two of those statistics.

Employment

- 6 million – target for work opportunities over five years.
- 850 000 – work opportunities created.
- 30 000 – work opportunities created by environmental programmes such as Working on Waste, Working for Wetlands, Working for Water and Working on Fire.
- 60 000 – work opportunities to be created by the Working on Waste, Working for Wetlands, Working for Water and Working on Fire programmes during the next financial year.



Land and Agriculture

- R2 billion – initial funding made available for the Agri-Park initiative.
- R500 million – projected to be generated in foreign exchange over three years from the export of apples alone.
- 300 – farmers in the Nwanedi Cluster in the Vhembe District Municipality in Musina, who are receiving support from the Limpopo Provincial Government to grow vegetables.
- 1 300 – hectares used for commercial purposes in the Nwanedi Cluster in the Vhembe District Municipality, Musina, to grow vegetables.
- 2 500 – jobs created by vegetable farmers in the Nwanedi Cluster in the Vhembe District Municipality in Musina.

Manufacturing

- 18 per cent – growth in the export of shoes.
- R2.8 billion – committed by government to companies in the manufacturing sector, through the Manufacturing Competitiveness Enhancement Programme.
- R12.4 billion – committed by manufacturers in private-sector investment.

Water and sanitation

- 55 – villages in Limpopo, Eastern Cape and North West benefited from the delivery of water in October 2014.
- R7 billion – lost by South Africa a year due to water losses.
- 15 000 – artisans or plumbers to be trained through the Department of Water and Sanitation to fix leaking taps in their local communities.

Infrastructure

- 92 – schools have been completed through the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI).
- 108 – schools under construction through the ASIDI.
- 342 – schools have received water for the first time.
- 351 – schools have received decent sanitation.
- 288 – schools have been connected to electricity.
- 16 – sites have been identified by government for the construction of 12 new Technical and Vocational Education and Training College campuses and the refurbishment of two existing campuses.

Fighting crime and corruption

- 659 – life sentences secured by the South African Police Service's Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Investigation Unit against perpetrators of crimes against women and children.
- 7 – anti-corruption institutions in place to combat corruption.
- 17 – pieces of legislation intended to combat corruption.
- 52 – persons convicted in corruption cases involving more than R5 million in the 2013/14 financial year.
- 31 – corrupt public servants convicted in the first quarter of 2014/15. 

CSP Today South Africa 2015

14 -15 April

The 4th annual Concentrated Solar and Thermal Power Conference & Exhibition takes place at the Southern Sun Cape Sun Hotel in Cape Town from 14 to 15 April.

Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Today South Africa's 2015 conference is the leading CSP focused conference and exhibition in the region.

More than 250 senior executives from key investors, developers, engineering, procurement, construction and suppliers attend the event to help develop the CSP industry in South Africa.

Speakers from the Department of Energy and Eskom will also address the conference.

For more information contact Brandon at brandon@csptoday.com



World Move for Health Day 2015

10 May

The World Move for Health Day forms part of the development of global and national strategies on diet, physical activity and health. It is an international event created in 2003 by the World Health Organization to promote physical activity as essential for health and well-being. It encourages people from across the world to take responsibility for their health by engaging in cost effective physical activities such as walking at least 30 minutes a day.

The main objectives are to:

- Facilitate the development of sustained national and local physical activity initiatives, policies and programmes.
- Increase population-wide participation in physical activity.
- Increase participation in physical activity through sport organisations, events and other socio-cultural forums.
- Promote healthy behaviour and lifestyles and address health related issues through sports and physical activity such as no tobacco use, healthy diet, reduction of violence, stress and social isolation.

6th Annual Rural Development Conference

27-28 May

Milla SA's 6th Annual Rural Development Conference takes place from the 27 May to 28 May 2015 at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli ICC in Durban. The theme for the conference is "Rural Opportunity Investment - We can all make an impact by increasing investment in rural development".

The conference is sponsored by Small Enterprise Finance Agency (Sefa).

The conference aims to engage rural investment stakeholders regarding promoting business driven projects with specific focus on support for business within the rural setting. This event will continue to put the spotlight on sustainable financing of sustainable investment within rural communities to ensure that self-sufficiency is promoted and that adequate resources continue to be allocated and accessible to rural South Africa and Africa.

It will afford delegates the opportunity to interact with peers from across the region to discuss, debate and learn the latest solutions to rural issues affecting South Africa and the continent.

The conference offers rural development practitioners opportunities to:

- Invest in rural sector talent.
- Collaborate to respond to cross sector rural development needs.
- Ensure new industry (and innovation) potential is explored in a rigorous way and the knowledge gained is shared.
- Enhance the adoption of rural research and development to prioritise investment markets.
- Champion productivity growth to support rural industry profit and sustainability.

For more information contact Tatenda Munetsi on 021 556 9253 or email tatenda@millasa.co.za



Raising the bar high

When she was just five years old, Janette Henzen-Du Toit asked her father a question not many children her age would have been pondering.

"What is the difference between an advocate and an attorney; which one is best?" she enquired.

Her father, in an attempt to explain the best he could to the little child, responded: "An advocate is a bit higher than an attorney".

And that was all Henzen-Du Toit needed to hear to decide on her future career.

"What my dad said stuck in my mind throughout my schooling. But in Grade 10, I thought maybe I should rather go into the medical profession, however in matric I decided to go with the law," she says.

Henzen-Du Toit is now an advocate with Legal Aid South Africa and is the High Court Unit Manager at the Johannesburg Justice Centre for the South Gauteng High Court. It's a managerial role, which includes dealing with high court

matters, appeal matters, monitoring the performance of practitioners in such matters, as well as mentoring and coaching other practitioners.

We are seated in her home in Rustenburg, with the mountains as a backdrop, and her husband, four-month-old baby boy and dog for company.

Having turned up almost three hours late for the interview due to road closures because of protests, Henzen-Du Toit is far from frustrated with us.

Instead, she welcomes us to her home with a big smile, snacks and an easy manner.

It is this very calmness and caring nature that has seen her progress up the ranks in the legal profession.

Passion for justice

It was a passion for justice that attracted Henzen-Du Toit to the profession.

"I believe in the Constitution but the execution of it

is sometimes the problem. I'm on the defence side and people often ask how do I feel defending guilty people.

I believe that everyone has the right to a fair trial and sometimes people are prosecuted for things they did not do."

It was this passion that led her, straight out of university, to do her pupillage at the Pretoria Bar Council.

"It was difficult to do pupillage at that age. You know that you have the backing from university and the knowledge and degrees but you do not have practical experience.

"I threw myself in the deep end but sometimes it's good to be out of your comfort zone because that is when you grow... If I did not do my pupillage at that stage I don't think I would have accomplished what I have. I've been admitted as an advocate for 16 years."

Henzen-Du Toit says she makes full use of all her knowledge when she approaches a case and with an Honours in Psychology and Masters in Criminal Law, there is a lot of knowledge to draw from.

"So the human side is the psychology and legal component is the criminal law. I really try to understand where the accused comes from and try to understand why.

"You have to, when you defend somebody, give them the benefit of the doubt. You don't have to believe his [or her] version to give the accused the best possible representation but you need to understand. You need to build a trusting relationship with that client."

The personal circumstances of the accused and their socio-economic background have to be considered as well as any psychological issues.

"What strikes me when I see an accused is that they are just humans like us."

Apart from representing accused people in high court, in 2013 Henzen Du-Toit was also appointed as an Acting Judge in the North Gauteng High Court, dealing with appeal matters.

"It was a wonderful opportunity being asked to act as a judge. It was a humbling experience to be associated with all the other judges. It was also a learning experience to deal with the appeals from the bench side.

"I felt a huge responsibility on my shoulders because I was deciding the fate of people. You have to be to-

tally fair in the circumstances knowing it's the person's last chance."

She also sat as an assessor last year.

The pressures of the job

South Africa may not be too familiar with the name Janette Henzen-Du Toit, but many will be familiar with the face, having seen it many times on TV screens as the trial of the century played out in the country's courts.

She was one of the assessors who assisted Judge Thokozile Masipa during the Oscar Pistorius murder trial.

"It was a challenge. It was not an easy matter; there were many, many factors we had to consider.

"It was not something that you could just discuss with someone in an hour and tell them why a certain judgement was reached or not," she says of the trial.

The media attention given to the case was quite frustrating because "they ran the trial by media".

"You can't comment at that stage because you are not allowed to and it's difficult to read and see how the media actually twists some of the things. It's difficult to remain professional in that situation but that was a learning curve.

"There was a lot of emotion with regards to that matter - people for Oscar and people against. Just keeping neutral was a challenge because you are human and you hear what people say; you read and hear things in the media; you see the families; you see all the emotions in court, and despite that you need to just stick to the facts."

Away from the intense media scrutiny and highly emotional nature of the case, Henzen-Du Toit is confident that the correct judgment was reached.

"We knew there would be a lot criticism, as well as comments, both positive and negative, but that's not why we did what we did. We were there for justice, according to what we felt at that stage by interpreting the facts and law in the best possible way. I still feel confident that we did that."

Juggling work and her personal life

As if the pressure of dealing with such a high profile case in the full glare of the media was not enough, Henzen-Du Toit was also battling personal issues throughout the trial.

"Most people don't know that during the Oscar Pistorius matter I was pregnant.

It was a very difficult pregnancy; I almost miscarried three >>



times and had to be hospitalised. In fact, between the judgment and the sentencing I had my baby."

Henzen-Du Toit was not even allowed to drive during the pregnancy and relied on her husband to drive her from Rustenburg to Pretoria throughout the trial.

"It's a huge challenge keeping your personal life away from your professional life but it was something I had to deal with.... It's a challenge being a mom and having a career, but I think it is a choice to have both."

Women in the legal profession

Henzen-Du Toit says she would like to see more women in her line of work.

"Although there is an increase in the number of women in the profession, there is still far more men. [At the Pretoria Bar Council for example] there are currently more than 600 advocates but maybe about a quarter of them are women."

She points out that while the profession may have originally been earmarked for men, huge opportunities exist for women to develop and progress in it.

Demand for Legal Aid

Legal Aid SA provides professional legal advice and representation to those who can't afford it, which Henzen-Du Toit says is helping to increase access to justice.

"I don't believe that there is only justice for the rich and Legal Aid is proof of that."

South Africans in need of legal services are not the only ones benefiting from Legal Aid.

"The standards in Legal Aid are very good. There are also plenty

of opportunities for the practitioners to get training and relevant experience

"There are clients that request Legal Aid practitioners, which is a good sign because it shows that they are practitioners of choice."

"The salaries are much more competitive and we are approached by many private practitioners and asked if there are vacancies in our organisation."

With so many South Africans unable to afford the fees of private counsel, Henzen-Du Toit says Legal Aid representatives do 95 per cent of high court matters.


This means that those employed by Legal Aid get much more exposure to litigation in the high court than private practitioners do.

All those years ago, when the five-year-old Henzen-Du Toit asked her dad about the difference between an attorney and advocate, he could not have imagined the path the answer would set her on.

But as Henzen-Du Toit's husband Albert tells me, there is no one prouder of her achievements than her dad.

"He would stand in front of the TV during the trial and take pictures of her in court. In fact, once we were in the boardroom for an important meeting and he mentioned there that it was his daughter who was an assessor in the Oscar Pistorius trial."

For all her achievements so far, Henzen Du-Toit is not done yet.

"I want to complete a Doctorate in Law. I would also love to have another opportunity to act as a judge," she says. 

INVENTOR of REJOICE APP

and Platform for Gospel in Africa: Mr NYIKO SHIBORE

BY MAPULA MAHOWA



REJOICE (invented by Nyiko Shibore) is an app that will be released in June 2015, it will be available in 21 countries with over 50 cellular networks. It is a platform to unite and uplift believers.

Noone is predestined to live a hopeless life and everyone has a multitude of opportunities to live life to the fullest. A great example of this is a young man who was born in an informal settlement, Poortjie, South of Johannesburg:

Nyiko Shibore, married to his beloved wife Tintsawlo and residing in Soweto with his family, knows exactly what it means to have "completely winned, dined and even got into bed with the trials and tribulations of this life".

But through all the tribulations, from sometimes sleeping on an empty stomach, striving to get good quality textbooks only to have them burned up when his home caught fire just prior to his final exams (not due to ignorance or not being cautious enough but due to the circumstances of life) to squatting in friends' houses until the situation improved, to struggling

to getting into tertiary education, to being a successful businessman, wonderful father and husband and a skilful inventor who is about to take South Africa by storm.

Key point to life

In life not every slice of bread comes buttered on both sides, most people shed tears and sweat to have the other side buttered to their expectations.

The greatest quote by Marianne Williamson says:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure, it is our light not our darkness that most frightens us.

One's background doesn't define or determine how one will turn out and most importantly playing small won't help you and does not serve the world, starting making your move today and stop playing small.

Leave your mark for gospel distribution online in Africa please contact push media see contacts below.



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High flying in SA's skies

With his eyes tightly closed and his body floating just below the clouds, the strong breeze on his face was the only thing reminding Corporal Daka-lo Mavhungu that he was 1 500 feet (about 457 metres) above the ground when he performed his first sky jump.

Last year Mavhungu, 23, became the youngest skydiver at the South African Defence Force (SANDF).

"During my first jump I was just praying that the parachute opens. I could not open my eyes; I kept them closed the whole time. My very first jump was a day jump," recalled Mavhungu.

After completing his matric at Maswie Secondary School in Tshakhuma, Limpopo, in 2009 he pursued a career in mechanical engineering at the Techniven Technical College.

But after a year, Mavhungu's interest in engineering waned and he felt the need to serve his country and its people.

"I love everything about being a soldier - keeping fit, giving

service to your country and helping other people. I come from a family where helping the community has always been at the centre, with my father being a pastor, so joining this profession came naturally to me."

In 2011, Mavhungu joined the military and after completing his six months of basic training, he joined 7 Medical Battalion, a unit within the SANDF that gives medical support to other units.

In the same year, he also began his journey into the world of parachuting by joining the 44 Parachute Regiment, which is South African Army's chief airborne unit and is based at the Tempe Military Base near Bloemfontein.

"I underwent six weeks of training to learn the basics of parachuting."

He explains that his course consisted of physical training, jumping from an aircraft and other elements.

"Part of physical training consisted of combat training where we trained for three days without sleep or rest."

Another component was ground training in a hangar and jumping from a Dakota aircraft.

"We had day and night jumps where we would be about 1 500 feet above the ground. I did more than 13 jumps to complete this course."

Then, in 2013, he did a basic free fall course, which



Corporal Dakalo Mavhungu 23, is the youngest skydiver at the SANDF.

was also six weeks, during which he was taught to jump out of the aircraft at 8 500 feet (about 2 591 metres) and only open the parachute at 3 500 feet (about 1 067 metres).

Last year, Mavhungu did the parachute dispatcher course. "This is where I am responsible for the paratrooper from the ground to the air. I am in the aircraft and I tell the pilot who will jump and when the jump should take place."

Mavhungu admits that while skydiving is plain sailing for him now, there were definitely nerves on his first jump.

"I love heights and I love taking risks. I must admit that at first I felt like I was going to faint at the idea of being so up in the air."

He says he was reluctant at first to tell his family of his newfound passion.

"In the beginning, I didn't even tell my mom that I was doing parachuting because of the danger associated with heights and parachutes. Since completing the course my family is very proud of me."

So far, Mavhungu has not been confronted with an emergency situation where he has had to apply his skills and usually jumps during demonstrations and military parades.

He is currently based at the Chemical Bio-

logical Radiation Defence (CBRD) unit, which is responsible for activities that defend the country against chemical, biological and radiological weapons. This also includes protection, detection and decontamination.

"The CBRD is a specialised field which I also have an interest in. Apart from skydiving, I enjoy working with chemicals and CBRD brings this to my life."

Mavhungu says that not many young people see the military as a career choice but for him the love for military has always been there.

"Even as a child, I always enjoyed movies with soldiers and I see a lot of potential and growth for me as a young person in this field."

He adds that his plans for the future include obtaining a Degree in Medicine while still being part of the SANDF.

"I would like to be doctor within the SANDF and pursue the love for my country and helping people," says the highflyer. 🇿🇦



EMFULENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: A SUCCESS STORY



Vaal River City, the Cradle of Human Rights

Cllr NG Hlongwane, Executive Mayor of Emfuleni Local Municipality



Emfuleni Local Municipality (ELM) consists of two major economic nodes, namely Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark. Vereeniging registered a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 2.6% and Vanderbijlpark a GDP of 2.2% for 2004; and Sedibeng 2.5% for 2004. It should be noted that while it is indicated that Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark are the two main economic nodes, the statistics provided are for the magisterial districts of Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark, including Meyerton.

ELM's combined GDP per region (GDP-R) (current Price R1000) for 2004 was estimated at R23 445 216 and therefore contributed about 4.8% to Gauteng's GDP-R and an estimated 93.8% to the Sedibeng economy' based on the GDP-R for the same year.

The budget was estimated at R1.08 billion in the 2002/2003 financial year and increased to R4.35 billion in the 2012/2013 financial year.

ELECTRICITY

Emfuleni Local Municipality is licensed to provide electricity in Vanderbijlpark, Bophelong, Boipatong, Ironsde, Eatonside, Roshnee, Rus-ter-Vaal and Vereeniging; and Eskom is licensed to provide electricity to the remaining areas within the municipality. Between Eskom and the Municipality, there is 100% coverage of Emfuleni as far as the provision of electricity is concerned. Electricity is an essential service and is a catalyst for development in the municipal area. Emfuleni Local Municipality provides 75% of its electricity supply to industrial enterprises and 25% to domestic users. The highest maximum demand registered within Emfuleni Local Municipality to date is 450MVA.

SERVICE DELIVERY ACHIEVEMENTS

For the reporting year, 1 400 houses situated in Tshepong Proper were connected to the electricity network. This was achieved because the Municipality provides top-up funding for the supply received from the Department of Energy (DoE) to ensure a sufficient electricity network. Traffic lights at three intersections were also equipped with photovoltaic power supplies to reduce the use of conventional sources of electricity and to ensure that the traffic lights remain functional during power failure. A total of 8 950 public lights (high mast and streetlights) were repaired at the same time. Free Basic Electricity (FBE) is made available to all registered indigents, at 50kWh per month.

Many of the beneficiaries are however situated in the Eskom areas of supply where the practice of bypassing electricity meters is rife and therefore limits the availability of FBE. FBE is provided to approximately 3 411 consumers on a monthly basis; not all consumers take up their allocated 50kWh every month and the total number of beneficiaries is not consistent.

PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY BY ELM FROM ESKOM

The area covered by the Municipality consumed 2 214 858 684kWh of electricity at a monthly maximum demand of 450MVA. In accordance with the latest statistics reported to NERSA, there are approximately 65 270 consumers, of which 59 296 are residential and agricultural, consuming approximately 25% of the total energy distributed by the municipality. The other 75% of electricity is consumed by the industrial and business consumers.

WASTE

Waste management in Emfuleni Local Municipality is categorised according to the following key functions: household, illegal dumps, business and industrial refuse collection, informal settlements, CBD cleansing and landfill site operations and management. Waste is collected once a week to 188 566 out of 220 135 households in ELM areas. The remainder of the households represents the informal settlements that are serviced through the removal of illegal dumps. Business waste is collected on a daily basis in the Vanderbijlpark - Vereeniging area (a total of 1 453 stands), as well as at Sebokeng and Evaton. Street sweeping services are also being done six days a week in nine CBD areas of Vereeniging, Vanderbijlpark (and outer business centres); as well as at Sebokeng taxi rank and all main roads. National Environmental Management Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008) provides reasonable measures for the prevention of pollution and ecological degradation and provides sustainable development.



Waste collection in Zone 12 Sebokeng



Unblocking sewer spillage in Zone 3

LANDFILL SITES

In terms of the total reduction of the general waste stream, 19.17% of the waste accepted at the operational landfill sites, which are equipped with weighbridge facilities (Boitshepi and Waldrift), are reclaimable; either by greens or material re-claimed at site. Palm Springs' landfill site waste streams will be measured once the facilities are fully constructed and the site is managed on a daily basis to record the incoming waste stream.

WATER

There is 100% water supply coverage to all formal and informal settlements. In the informal settlements, the water is supplied in accordance with RDP standards. The water system consists of 2 882km of pipe networks, 15 reservoirs and a small potable water treatment plant. The water supply system, including water treatment plants and the whole distribution system, were assessed by the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) for its blue drop performance ratings. ELM received blue drop compliance for the past three consecutive years. The quality of drinking water was maintained at 98% against the South African National Standard (SANS) 241.

During the 2013/14 financial year, ELM initiated Boloka Metsi Project. This project detected and reduced physical water losses in areas such as Sebokeng and Evaton, through the retrofitting of household plumbing and fixtures. A total of 105 people from the community were employed; and 55 000 households were visited door to door. The Knock and Drop campaign of the dropping off of educational material that the owner can read (35 859 households) was also implemented. A saving of 3 069 789 m³ or R16 029 556 has been achieved during the project which relate to a saving of 5.3% on the expected demand.

SANITATION

There is 100% sanitation coverage in all formal settlements. The Sanitation gravity network provides waterborne sewer connections to 230 000 stands in the Emfuleni Local Municipal area. A total of 5 250 stands make use of on-site sanitation systems like French drains and septic tanks. Some of the municipality's challenges include the bulk sanitation network which is old and overworked due to the demand

for sanitation services. Fifteen new telemetry system for sewer pump stations were completed; the Scada System at pump stations was upgraded; 30 pepper sprays in pump stations were installed; and sewer lines in Evaton and Sebokeng were replaced and maintained of 8 236 sanitation networks. The municipality treats 803 000 MI of effluent per annum through the following water treatment care works: Sebokeng (100MI/day), Rietspruit (36MI/day) and Leeukil (30MI/day). The development for the upgrading of Sebokeng Water Care Works has commenced successfully, with an investment of R200 million, provided through DWA Regional Bulk Infrastructure.

Reduction of sewer spillages in the greater Evaton/Palm Springs area due to ageing infrastructure, the following are actions taken to reduce the spillages:

- ♦ Replaced 5km of broken pipes
- ♦ Replaced 2km of pipes with capacity challenges
- ♦ 15km of pipes was swept due to sand deposit
- ♦ 92% of sewage problems logged were resolved within 48hrs

The municipality in partnership with Rand Water through a service level agreement received the following:

- ♦ Installation of pepper spray on all closed pump stations to curb vandalism
- ♦ 15 pump stations fitted with telemetry system
- ♦ High voltage switch gears installed at pump station 8
- ♦ Alarm systems installed to all closed pump stations
- ♦ Level controls upgraded at p/s 4 and p/s 9
- ♦ Routine inspection for servicing of pumps to prevent pump packing which might result in spillages
- ♦ Daily cleaning of sieves to remove foreign objects (cloths)
- ♦ Replacing old broken pipes on rising mains



ROADS AND STORM-WATER

Roads and storm-water in the municipality plays a significant role in the economic development of the area through planning, provision and maintenance of the road and storm-water infrastructure. The road infrastructure of Emfuleni Local Municipality links directly to national roads; thus making access to other key strategic economic hubs like Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni and the city of Tshwane easy and convenient. The safety of the community and protection of property from uncontrolled water flow due to rain and floods is managed through a network of 508km of storm-water pipes, 60km of lined canals and 169km of unlined canals supported by 12 270



Road patching in Moshoeshoe Road, Sebokeng

catch-pits. The planning of roads also includes provision of storm-water pipes in the previously disadvantaged areas as part of the equalisation of services.

The tarred road network hierarchy comprises 245km of primary roads, 204.4km of secondary roads, 206.1km of main tertiary roads and 772.4km of tertiary roads, giving a total of 1 484km of tarred roads. There is a concerted effort on the part of the municipality to have the other parts of the road network hierarchy tarred, which comprises 1 031km of gravel roads. Safety on the roads is enhanced by 14 602 traffic signs and road markings standing at 158 445 square meters. To address the problem of tarred roads, the municipality is also looking at alternative road construction methods to transform the 1 034km of gravel roads into tarred roads. For the year under review, 435km gravel road was graded; 280km gravel road re-gravelled; a total of 35 349 potholes were patched; 57 000m² square-meter potholes were patched; 38 735m storm-water pipes and channels measuring a total of 35km tar roads resealed.

SMART METER PROJECT

The smart meter roll out will assist in management of water losses in that all households will be accurately measured. It will also act as credit control measure in that water reduction will be possible for consumers not paying. The indigent subsidy will be effectively implemented as only six kilolitres of water will be provided and monitored as opposed to the current practice of implementing the

policy. It must be noted that the smart meters implementation will not resolve all the problems of non-payment. It will however assist in managing the demand for water and control consumption and therefore save on purchases from Rand Water.

Taking over Eskom infrastructure ELM is also considering negotiating with Eskom to use their electrical infrastructure to effect credit control, or alternatively taking the infrastructure back. However, it is known that the infrastructure of electricity has not been maintained adequately and the cost of repairs and maintenance may not be affordable for the municipality. With Metro that has to be self-sufficient, it is recommended that this be included in discussion for the national treasury to fund the refurbishment, while municipality takes over control of the electricity network.

DONATED TRACTORS

In 2013 GDARD, Sedibeng District Municipality and Emfuleni Local Municipality agreed on a scheme of leasing three tractors to emerging farmers and food garden communities. The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to ensure that farmers have access to contemporary agriculture mechanisation; that smallholder agricultural entrepreneurs are supported to become fully commercial farmers; maximise the potential competitive edge of Gauteng based on its endowment with natural and agricultural resources comparative advantage; increase the importance of the agricultural sector and improve its contribution to the Gauteng GDP; to contribute towards achieving provincial priorities of creating decent work and building a growing, inclusive economy, as well as stimulating rural development and food security; and to bridge the gap between the commercial, emerging and subsistence farmers by providing proper mechanisation to farmers at the lower end of the scale such as that they can compete for markets with the commercial farmers.

CURRENT PROJECTS UNDERWAY

- Upgrading of the Sebokeng water care works
- Storm-water canal in Sebokeng
- Tarring of roads in all wards
- Installation of high-mast lights in Sebokeng
- Upgrading of water reservoir in Sharpeville and Vereeniging
- Upgrading of water infrastructure Bophelong, Sharpeville, Sebokeng and Vanderbijlpark
- Develop 5 new transfers for Vanderbijlpark, Vaaloewer, Sebokeng, Evaton and Sharpeville
- Replace 11kV switchgear in various substations
- Extend burial space Rust-ter-Vaal cemetery
- Extension of Vanderbijlpark cemetery
- Establish municipal court of Vereeniging
- Establish municipal court Sebokeng/Evaton

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Minister Chabane leaves a lasting legacy

How does one define a life well lived? Most would point to the accomplishments of an individual or their impact on society. Others might well reflect on the personal attributes of the person or judge their achievements on the strength of the tributes that pour in.

Whatever standard is used, it is undeniable that a life well lived should leave behind a lasting legacy. The death of the Minister of Public Service and Administration, Collins Chabane, who was killed in a car accident, has robbed us of a hard-working and dedicated patriot.

At the time of his untimely death, Minister Chabane was en route from the funeral of Samuel Nxumalo at Magona village, outside Malamulele, in Limpopo. At the funeral he spoke of the dangers of long distance driving and fatal road accidents. Little did he know that his life and those of his protectors would be tragically taken through a road accident.

These two final acts in the life of Collins Chabane reflect the character of the man. He was a selfless leader who always put others first, and for whom duty to the nation and the people came first.

Like many others his story began in an unassuming manner. He was born in Xikundu Village, in Limpopo, on 15 April 1960. He attended Shingwedzi High School and in 1977 joined the African National Congress.

After school he registered for a BSc at Turfloop University, but in 1980 he went into exile and spent six years on Robben Island from 1984 to 1990.

He was imprisoned at the same time as fellow freedom fighters like Bheki Cele, Tokyo Sexwale, Kgalema Motlanthe and Mosiuoa Lekota - all key figures in national politics.

While in prison, Collins Chabane obtained his diploma in leadership and management from the Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership under the University of Limpopo. He also had a diploma in management from Esami in Arusha, Tanzania.

After his release from prison, Collins Chabane served as provincial secretary of the ANC in the then Northern Province (Limpopo) for eight years.

After the 1994 elections, he was elected to serve as a member of the first democratic Parliament and served on the constitutional affairs, defence and intelligence committees.

Three years later he was re-deployed to Limpopo and became MEC in Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi's Office. In 1998 he was appointed MEC for the Department of Public Works and leader of government business in the Legislature. One of the highlights of his tenure in Public Works was the establishment of the Road Agency, which was the first institution of its kind to be established in South Africa.

In 2005, Minister Chabane was appointed as MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. He

embarked on an international awareness programme on economic opportunities in trade and investment in the tourism, mining and agribusiness sector.

In 2009, he was appointed Minister in the Presidency responsible for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation in President Jacob Zuma's Cabinet. After last May's general elections, he became the Minister of Public Service and Administration. He was killed at the time when government was engaged in wage negotiations with public sector workers.

Throughout his long career in the public space, Collins Chabane always sought to unify and to provide solutions. He was motivated by an unending quest for excellence and driven to move South Africa forward. Wherever he served he was sure to leave a lasting legacy.

It is sometimes said that in death it is hard to separate the man from the myth. Most people knew Collins Chabane the dedicated and astute politician. Most know the unifier and steadfast civil servant.

However, these are but mere facets of the man. Away from the politics and the public service Collins Chabane was a devoted family man. He is survived by his wife Mavis and two children.

His love for all things musical was cultivated while on Robben Island. While in jail he learned music theory and how to play the harmonica. He shared his love of music with audiences around the country with his Marimba band Movement and recorded two CD's.

Collins Chabane was never one to shy away from a challenge and used what influence he had to inspire,



The late Minister Collins Chabane plays the harmonica at one of the many music festivals he participated in.

motivate and change lives. He was at home on the golf course. In 2009 the now annual Collins Chabane Golf Day was launched to raise funds for the Xakani Charity Trust Fund. Various charity organisations have benefited from this initiative.

On stage as a performer, Collins Chabane mesmerised traditional and indigenous music fans with his unique sound. He took the harmonica and mbira, instruments many ignore, and created tantalising sounds that many enjoyed. He shared stages with, among others, Thomas Mapfumo, Sello Galane and Don Laka.

He was truly an accomplished individual - in sporting terms he would be described as an all-rounder. His death has robbed the nation of a sterling patriot who still had so much to offer. However, his legacy lives on in government, in his contribution to our political, sporting and cultural lives. He was a giant whose deeds will echo through time.

That his life and that of his two protectors, Sergeant Lesiba Sekele and Sergeant Lawrence Lentsoane, were cut short in a fatal accident on our roads should concern all of us. Far too many lives are lost on our roads. Too many promising legacies are cut short by reckless and negligent driving.

Let us use this tragedy as a rallying point to prevent further road crashes and preventable deaths. Change begins with you and I. Simple individual actions such as obeying the rules of the road, keeping to the speed limit and being courteous to other drivers will mushroom into millions of collective actions across the nation.

We dare not let Collins Chabane's death be in vain. Together we can make our roads safer.

****Jeff Radebe is the Minister in The Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.***



Freeman Nomvalo, the late Minister Collins Chabane, Thabiso Magodiello and Andrew Nongogo at the GCIS Golf Day in 2013.

Obituary of Minister Ohm Collins Chabane

HERO OF HEROES A COMBATANT FOR LIFE, A PATRIOT TO THE END



A people's person, a gentle giant and a grounded leader who worked with a sense of quiet determination; it was the noble cause of striving for a better future for all the people of South Africa that served as a backdrop to the life of Minister Collins Chabane.

Early life

Ohm Collins Chabane was born on 15 April 1960, in the village of Xikundu in Malamulele, Limpopo (then known as the Northern Transvaal). He is the seventh born of the late Mr Etienne and Mrs Elizabeth Chabane.

Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK)

He joined the ANC underground at a very young age. In May 1980 he left the country to undergo military training with MK, where he used the nom de guerre, "Tom Chauke". Together with other MK members, he travelled to Angola via Swaziland and Mozambique. The group received special military training at Funda Camp in Angola. While in Angola, Collins Chabane was section commissar.

He infiltrated into South Africa in 1981 and completed numerous successful politico-military operations between 1981 and 1984. He was MK area commander for the Far North and North Eastern part of the then Northern Transvaal. Amongst others, he established MK's Bambatha Unit, which operated in the Tzaneen and Giyani-Malamulele area.

While underground in 1984, he was arrested by the apartheid security police and placed in solitary confinement for one year. Despite protracted and brutal interrogation at

the hands of the evil racist police, he did not reveal any information to incriminate any of his comrades. He was the only accused in his terrorism trial. In 1985 he was sentenced in the Tzaneen Regional Circuit Court to nine years' imprisonment on Robben Island.

Prison

On Robben Island, he served in the ANC's underground intelligence network and was the custodian of the shortwave radio that had been smuggled into prison to gather and disseminate news for prisoners. He was also responsible for acquiring and hiding political reading material, uMrabulo, as well as for the ANC's political programmes in prison.

ANC

In 1990, after the unbanning of the ANC and his subsequent release, Minister Chabane was appointed as the first office administrator for the then Northern Transvaal region. He established the ANC office and in December 1990 was elected as Secretary of the ANC in the region, with the major task of re-establishing ANC branches. At the time, the Chairperson of the ANC in the Northern Transvaal was Joel Netshitenzhe (Peter Mayibuye), who was later succeeded by Ngoako Ramatlhodi.

Minister Chabane was re-elected as Provincial Secretary unopposed for six times.

During this period, he was involved in navigating, on behalf of the ANC, complex political processes with the homeland governments of Lebowa, Gazankulu and Venda. During his time as the ANC Provincial Secretary, he established strong ANC structures. The ANC in Limpopo won the 1994 elections by 92%.

He became a member of the ANC's National Executive Committee (NEC) in 1990 where he served until his untimely passing. Since the 52nd National Conference in 2007, he was a member of the ANC's National Working Committee and served in various NEC subcommittees such as international relations, legislature and governance, and the National Disciplinary Committee. He was an ANC deployee assisting with the resolution of the conflict in Sudan.

National Parliament role

In 1994 Minister Chabane became a Member of Parliament and served in the following committees, the Constitutional and



Management Committee, Joint Standing Committee on Defence and Intelligence, the Standing Committee of Finance, and Minerals and Energy Affairs. He was also member of the Senate.

He also served as an ANC constitutional negotiator.

Provincial government role

In 1997, he was appointed a Member of the Executive Council (MEC) in the Northern Province, Office of the Premier. In 1998, he was appointed MEC for Public Works and leader of government business in the legislature. Minister Chabane established the province's Roads Agency, which was the first institution of its kind in South Africa.

He championed the training of unemployed people under the Gundolashu Construction Programme, which paved the way for the current Expanded Public Works Programme.

In 2005 he was appointed as MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. During his tenure in the department, he embarked on an international awareness programme on economic opportunities in trade and investment in the tourism, mining, and agribusiness sectors with special emphasis on Doing Business with Southern African Development Community countries and Africa broadly, as well as with the international business community.

National government role

In 2009 he was appointed as the Minister in The Presidency responsible for Monitoring and Evaluation. In this position, Minister Chabane was responsible for overseeing the implementation of the initial 12 outcomes that address the main strategic priorities of our Fourth Democratic Government. He was also responsible for the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

Minister Chabane was chair of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on State Funerals. In this capacity he led the team that was responsible for the funeral arrangements for former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, a task he effectively executed.

In 2014, he was appointed as the Minister for Public Service and Administration, a position which he occupied until his untimely death.



The late Minister Collins Chabane with his wife Nkensani.

Family and community life

The love relationship between Minister Chabane and Mavis survived exile, prison, ANC activism and the rigours of government work. They married in April 1994 and have two children.

As a member of the Chabane-Mhinga Royal family he played a unifying role. He had organised that the Royal family celebrates the annual Shakani Day in April.

Minister Chabane was a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Swiss Mission in South Africa) from his childhood. He was a member of Xikundu Parish and also active whilst in Pretoria. His contributions included, amongst others, sharing knowledge on administration and fundraising management for the church. He joined the Mens' Guild in 2006. Despite his busy schedule, he regularly attended its conferences and other events.

Minister Chabane is survived by his wife Mavis Khensani Chabane and two children, his son Matimba and daughter Tsakani, his mother Elizabeth and 10 siblings – Richard, Patrick, Cecelia, Donald, Tintswalo, Mhloti, Ellah, Nkhensani, Percy and Selby. From his father's second wife Johanna, he is survived by 11 siblings – Brighton, Dennis, Mkatoko, Jackie, Selina, Davies, Makhanani, Vonani, Hlulani, Constance and Etienne. ^{PSM}

Rest in Peace Ohm Collins Chabane

Rest in Peace Maluleke

*Famba kahle Maluleke, Chavani wa Mhinga, Nkuri,
Dlamani, Ximambani, Maxakadzi, Malenga, Gunyule,
Xixangaxile, Mun'wanati, Mucopi, Xinyelababeni, Matoto
ya tihuku.*

Before I die,

It has been my wish,

And still is my wish,

That whatever happens

Between me and Africa,

It shall not be through cowardice...

Or should I say,

Betrayal of my fatherland.



Capricorn delivers, its a fact

Capricorn District Municipality is the Category C municipality established and legislated to directly serve communities in Aganang, Blouberg, Lepelle-Nkumpi, Molemole and Polokwane with a total population of 1,2 million people. It is the water services authority whose primary mandate is to ensure sustainable provision of water and maintenance of water infrastructure. It derives its name from the tropic of Capricorn, the bottom of which crosses Limpopo at the northern section of the region.

Investment and Tourism

Capricorn District boosts a wealth of investment opportunities and diversity of economic sectors from which investors can derive long term benefits. We are well positioned venerated source of sound business with untapped galaxy of investment opportunities. The Capricorn district stretches lively from Eisterburg along the foothill of the lash of the Wolderburg mountains to the Tropic of Capricorn in the North. Capricorn is also in close proximity of South African Development Countries (SADC)

As a home of opportunities, no area has stimulated such curiosity or inspired such a unique tourism trade in recent years as has the

Capricorn District. Our district boost the following, the home of old legends that began reappearing the north front as our incumbents is stately underscored by the un rival moments.

This includes the migration of indigenous people, the exploration journeys of Voortrekker, the battle of resistance, the documented concentration camps, the supreme mountain climbing sites, the history telling rock art, the majestic mountain and wilderness areas, the age old diverse culture imbedded in the people, and the modern infrastructure that facilitates economic growth and organisation.

The fascinating diversity of the district incorporating grassy plains, bushveld, and misty mountains as well as millions of plants and animal species makes it a veritable place for travellers. The district has mines, farms, forests, cultural villages, dams, arts, game and monuments as well as being the centre for local African culture.

The district welcome everyone in the Limpopo region of tales, beauty, hospitality, growth and diversity. You can come and explore your interest in region whose unique geographic cradle pointedly ushered wonders and demystify discoveries.

Audit

Capricorn District Municipality, received unqualified audit opinion



Executive Mayor Cllr Gilbert Kganyago

for the financial year 2013/14. This mammoth feat speaks volumes about the quality of finance management systems that are in place. We are pleased that the Auditor General was satisfied with our books. Now the focus is on perfecting our systems towards achieving a clean audit.

Establishment of Municipal Planning Tribunal

In the spirit of the new Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA), all local municipalities have agreed to the establishment of the Municipal Planning Tribunal (MPT), which is a decision-making structure on land management applications for all local municipalities, which will comprise of municipal

officials and suitably qualified external persons (on five year term) to enhance the municipality's planning capacity on land use management matters.

The MPT is a giant step towards socio-economic development that will unlock a potential for land resources, industrial development, investment and entrench a paradigm shift in human settlements. It will make it easier for the district to redress distorted historical spatial patterns which left the district saddled with overwhelming number of economically derelict areas, poverty and social inequalities.

Water Testing Laboratory

The construction of a water quality testing laboratory for testing of drinking water is complete and will be opened soon at the University of Limpopo (Turfloop Campus). The "world-class" laboratory will be used by CDM and UL both parties for water quality testing, experiential training and research purposes. The project to the tune of R8 million is said to add more growth in infrastructure for the benefit of the students, municipality and communities. The laboratory will help Water and Sanitation's third and final year students to do their projects, and get hands on experience.

Theft of water pump machines and transformers

The district has, in the past few months, experienced a sharp escalation of theft and this seriously inhibits the social development and economic growth of the district and we have to find ways to combat it. We don't want to see communities losing their livelihood and businesses suffering as they can't cope with water supply interruptions as a result of this.

Capricorn District Municipality cautions all communities to be vigilant against theft of water pump engines and electrical transformers. This heinous crime has become a serious perpetual challenge across the district, which contributes to water shortages and further creates new delivery backlogs.

The Municipality spends millions a year in replacing pump engines and electrical transformers as a result of theft, but the judicial system treats this as petty crime.

We urge community people to help us put these criminals to book, report any theft to the nearest police or simple contact us at 0800 666 777 to report the case.

Awards

Our improved financial management systems have earned us a special recognition from SALGA during the 2015 Provincial Finance Week held recently in Tzaneen. We have lived up to our vision as the 'home of



excellence and opportunities for all' when the municipality won two Kamoso Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) awards. The municipality received recognition in a special category sector as the best functional district forum as well as environmental and cultural sector.

We also remain the best in SADC in terms of the coordination of Gender Based Violence programmes. An Award was received by the District as a Centre on Excellence on Gender Mainstreaming in South African Development Countries (SADC) facilitated by Gender Links. Gender Based Violence (GBV) Awareness Campaigns were held in all Local Municipalities to sensitize community members of the impact of GBV.



Municipal Manager Ngoako Molokomme and Executive Mayor Gilbert Kganyago



**CAPRICORN
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

Re Šoma Le Setšhaba

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Accountability and transparency **breed good governance**



Delegates of the Corporate Governance Workshop in Limpopo, (from left) Head of Department for the Limpopo Provincial Treasury Gavin Pratt with Senior General Manager for Sustainable Resource Management Motthanke Phukuntsi and Manager for Norms and Standards Emmanuel Mogofe.

Cabinet placed five Limpopo departments under administration in 2011. It was a necessary pain, as one official described the decision at the time. Limpopo was in a financial crisis and had depleted its R757,3 million overdraft facility with the Corporation for Public Deposits - a wholly owned subsidiary of the South African Reserve Bank, whose function is to invest money received from the government.

Fast-forward to 2015, the national government has announced that the province is no longer under administration. There is no doubt that the outlook for Limpopo has changed since 2011. By July 2013, the province's credit balance was at a positive R3,3 billion compared to an overdraft of R1,7 billion when it went under administration.

A cash-control strategy eliminated the overdraft. There was a reduction in unauthorised expenditure from R175 million to R16 million in the 2013/14 financial year and three departments (Health, Public Works and Roads and Transport) under administration improved.

Finance Minister Nhlamhla Nene was recently quoted as saying the intervention had brought a significant level of financial health to Limpopo and initiated a number of important projects that the province could carry into the future under the

leadership of the provincial executive council and the guidance of national departments.

While the provincial government's 2011 financial problems seem to be over, senior government officials in Limpopo are not letting their guard down, acknowledging the importance of proper financial controls to ensure there is no repeat of the previous challenges.

A high-powered provincial delegation – including MECs, mayors and municipal managers – gathered in Bela Bela recently for a Corporate Governance Workshop convened by the provincial Treasury.

During the two-day workshop, opened by Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Pravin Gordhan, the central theme was that the province should avoid, at all costs, the lack of financial management and maladministration that resulted in its troubles more than three years ago.

Even the catering at the workshop was designed to meet the demands of cost-cutting measures announced by National Treasury last year. Lunch was limited to a portion of chicken or beef and one soft drink per delegate, while breakfast was simply muffins and tea.

Participants at the workshop were adamant that they did not want to see Limpopo in the red again. In fact, the province's Finance MEC Rudolph Phala wants the gathering to be an annual event to help strengthen internal controls and governance.

"We believe this kind of workshop enhances good governance in the province as a whole, in both municipalities and at provincial level. Through what we learn at this workshop, we are able to follow legislation and ensure there is good governance in our province, ensuring that there is transparency and accountability," he said.

Minister Gordhan repeatedly mentioned accountability and transparency during his address, as he called for public servants and politicians "to go back to basics".

Former Auditor-General Terence Nombembe's presentation was titled "Good governance and ethical leadership for improved financial decision and performance management".

Nombembe, who is now Chief Executive Officer of the South African Institute

of Chartered Accountants, spoke about the importance of ethical leadership and long-term decision-making. He put the spotlight on the audit outcomes of the provincial government departments for the 2013/14 financial year. The total budget for Limpopo in the previous financial year was R49,7 billion.

Ten departments received qualified reports for being unable to adequately and accurately account for all financial effects of transactions and activities conducted. Some produced unreliable performance information and did not comply with the relevant regulations and legislation. The Department of Education, Gateway Airports Authority and Roads Agency Limpopo, all received disclaimer or adverse audit opinions.

One of the departments that improved its financial performance was the provincial Department of Health. MEC Ishmael Kgetjepe attributes the improvements to strict internal controls and strong leadership.

"There has been a lot of work we have been doing to improve our systems and since our department is the second biggest in the province, we have been getting negative reports from the Auditor-General.

"We have been having challenges mainly on assets and supply chain, and we have progressively been addressing all those challenges. Last year we moved from a disclaimer to a qualified opinion and we are working hard to improve on one item that has led to the qualification."

MEC Kgetjepe adds that without the Section 100 intervention by National Treasury, the provincial Department of Health would not have been in a position to stabilise its finances.

"We are now more cautious on what we spend. We are very careful about our income and expenditure trends and we are picking up risks earlier. The controls are much tighter and we are able to pick up early warnings so we are able to do what we should be doing," he says.

Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the Limpopo Legislature,

Rob Tooley, believes there is a need for oversight role players in Limpopo to be vigilant regarding accountability and ensuring that top management provide the desired level of assurance.

"Oversight structures must ensure there is accountability, transparency, clean government and integrity across government spheres," he says.

Tooley says the Corporate Governance Workshop should be used to emphasise the importance of internal controls in municipalities, state entities and departments.

"Managers must realise that they have that responsibility to ensure nothing goes wrong. I do believe that you must regularly talk about governance as leadership so you are able to remind yourself of what your responsibilities are".

Other speakers at the workshop included representatives from the Institute of Directors, the Institute of Internal Auditors, Institute of Ethics South Africa and the South African Local Government Association. 

New office hours to improve Home Affairs' services

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) has implemented new opening and closing hours for civic services front offices to help improve service to clients. The move is also expected to ensure that the department's offices have enough staff to attend to clients professionally.

The new opening and closing hours would afford managers and staff sufficient time to interact with each other on service delivery matters and front office operations.

Office hours for DHA will be from 7.30am to 4.30pm, including a 30-minute lunch break. Opening and closing hours for serving clients will be from 8am to 4pm.

DHA staff will work two shifts. The first shift will commence at 7.30am and end at 4pm while the second will be from 9am to 4.30pm. Both shifts will include a 30-minute lunch break.

Staff members on the 7.30am to 4pm shift will work a 40 hour week from Monday to Friday while those on the 9am to 4.30pm shift will work 35 hours from Monday to Friday and five hours on Saturday.

The Saturday shift will start at 8am and end at 1pm for staff members, and from 8.30am to 12.30 for service to members of the public.

R700m equity equivalent programme launched

Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies has launched a R700 million IBM South Africa broad-based black economic empowerment (B-BBEE) equity equivalent investment programme.

The launch of the equity equivalent investment programme is in line with the 2007 Codes of Good Practice that require all entities operating in the South African economy to make a contribution towards the objectives of B-BBEE.

The programme is expected to contribute towards the achievement of enterprise development, kick-starting an academic programme and the launch of a research programme.

"The equity equivalent programmes are expected to contribute towards the achievement of enterprise creation and development, foreign direct investment (FDI), accelerated growth and development of black rural women and youth, sustainable growth and development, human development with focus on education and skills development, infrastructure investment with an emphasis on developing the country's research and development infrastructure," said the Minister.

The Minister recently signed off on the programme for a period of 10 years.




First power from Medupi's Unit 6

First power was produced out of Medupi's Unit 6 recently, making it the first of Medupi power station's six units to be synchronised.

Synchronisation, or first power, is the process whereby the generator in the unit is electrically connected to the national power grid in such a way that its power is perfectly aligned with all the other generators to generate and deliver electricity into the national power grid.

According to Tshediso Matona, Eskom's Chief Executive, the synchronisation on 2 March, was the final stage marking an exciting milestone towards full commercial power.

"The electricity flowing into the grid marks a new beginning. Within the next three months, South Africa will see Medupi Unit 6's full potential of 794MW being fed into the South African national grid."

Minister of Public Enterprises Lynne Brown said: "The synchronisation of Unit 6 at Medupi power station is a step towards full power generation (794MW) and therefore, a step closer to alleviating some of the energy challenges currently faced by South Africa. This will contribute significantly to South Africa's and the region's economy in the long run." 

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Cheaper communication rates for SADC countries

People living in countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will be able to connect to each other cheaply with the proposed Roam Like At Home programme.

Telecommunications and Postal Services Minister Siyabonga Cwele announced recently that a new proposal to lower the cost to communicate in the SADC region, focusing on roaming prices, was under discussion.

South Africa took part in a recent meeting in Malawi where information and communications technology ministers from various countries discussed the proposal.

Speaking at the International Cooperation, Trade and Security Cluster media briefing recently, Minister Cwele said the meeting adopted the Roam Like At Home programme, which would see the implementation of wholesale and retail glide paths effective from this year.

"The progressive glide path to cost-based roaming tariffs will be applied through fee reductions by a factor of 67 per cent, 33 per cent and five per cent over the next three years," he said.

With the implemented reductions, consumers and citizens in the SADC region will connect to one another cheaper and this will also contribute to more affordable broadband access.

The Minister added that South Africa continued to broaden market integration through the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) negotiations among 26 eastern and southern African countries.

A number of African governments have signed the TFTA agreement to create solid intra-African trade.

Initial funding of US\$1,2 billion (approximately R14 billion) came from the African Development Bank and the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

The programme supports some of Africa's busiest trade routes, linking the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to the copper belt in Zambia and into Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It then continues down through Zimbabwe and Botswana to Africa's largest and busiest port, Durban.

Minister Cwele said the TFTA was expected to create a market of 625 million people and generate a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US\$1,2 trillion (approximately R14 trillion).

"We expect to take these negotiations further in a Summit of Heads of State scheduled for May 2015."

Tourism sector to boost job creation

Minister Cwele also noted that South Africa received over three million visitors, generating R20,3 billion that contributed to economic growth.

"The tourism industry is a major contributor to South African economic growth, jobs and employment of our citizens. This shows that ongoing efforts to showcase



Telecommunications and Postal Services Minister Siyabonga Cwele.

our country as a tourist, investment and destination of choice are bearing much-needed fruits during this low global economic outlook.”

He added that tourism continued to contribute significantly to South Africa’s national economy.

“The industry’s contribution to the GDP has expanded by 200 per cent since 1990.

“Tourism directly represents three per cent of our GDP and supports over 617 000 jobs. Including indirect impacts, tourism generated 9,7 per cent of GDP and supported over 1,4 million jobs last year.

“There is great potential for further growth, as we move towards the goal of becoming one of the top 20 global tourist destinations by 2020.”

In September, South African Tourism opened a country office in Sao Paolo, Brazil, to serve the growing markets of Latin America.

Minister Cwele added that domestic marketing campaigns were being stepped up to get more South Africans to travel in their own country.

Over the past five months, much work has gone into planning to improve infrastructure that would enhance the country’s destination offerings to tourists, with quality assurance embedded.

“This includes more detailed planning for a new Tourism Incentive Programme which will be launched next year, as well as more focused leveraging of our Expanded Public Works Programme investment in physical infrastructure and skills development,” he said.

South Africa and BRICS

Regarding the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) bloc, Minister Cwele said South Africa would continue to pursue value-added trade under the BRICS Forum to increase the exports of value-added products.

An example of this is the Midterm Meeting of the BRICS Business Council that took place in Brazil in February.

The Midterm Meeting is an opportunity to monitor developments towards adopting a Second Annual Report, covering the 2014/15 period, at the Seventh BRICS Summit, which will take place in Ufa, Russia, in July 2015.

He added that during the Midterm Meeting, the working groups on energy and green economy, manufacturing, skills development, financial services and infrastructure reported their advancements and proposals to the BRICS Business Council.

“The Business Council made advancements on proposals related to a favourable business environment, trade in local currencies, business travel, trade facilitation, logistics and connectivity, technical standards, investment ties and the New Development Bank. At the meeting new working groups on agri-business as well as deregulation and investment support were also adopted.”

Economic relations with countries of the North

Minister Cwele said South Africa continued to enhance economic relations with countries of the North.

“Engagements are continuing with the United States (US) to advocate for the extension of the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) with the inclusion of South Africa and for a sufficient period to allow for meaningful investment in view of the mutually beneficial nature of AGOA, which not only benefits South Africa but also American companies based in South Africa.”

AGOA is a piece of legislation that provides duty-free market access to the US for qualifying sub-Saharan African countries by extending preferences on more than 4 600 products.

It also provides duty-free access to all clothing and certain textile exports from countries that qualify. Through AGOA, South Africa has reportedly exported significant quantities of manufactured goods, most notably about 60 000 automobiles a year.

Since its inception in 2002, AGOA has achieved a great deal for both the US and African countries that benefit from it.

AGOA emphasises Africa’s emerging textile and apparel industry as the primary sector for trade benefits. 



Moving the Eastern Cape forward

"The Eastern Cape is at work and is moving forward with every step that we take."

This is the promise Premier Phumulo Masualle recently gave to the residents of the province, which, despite high levels of poverty in some parts, has given birth to many an acclaimed leader and boasts breath-taking beauty.

Already in office for nine months, Premier Masualle is determined to ensure that the Eastern Cape reaches its full potential. In addressing grinding poverty, he is firmly focused on creating more opportunities for the province's youth and on combating unemployment.

This is a critical focus area when one considers that the Eastern Cape is South Africa's third largest province by area, second largest by population and has a 30.8 per cent unemployment rate.

"We have an abiding objective to transform the economy to create jobs and sustainable livelihoods. We have to do this against an economic outlook characterised by, amongst other things, an economy that records one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, while youth unemployment stands at 50 per cent," said the Premier in his recent State of the Province Address (SoPA).

"We are rising to the task of creating sustainable jobs for our people. So far, 24 737 jobs, against a target of 13 234, have been created through economic agencies such as the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC), the East London Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) and the Coega Development Corporation. We are targeting 14 investments, with a value of R2.237-billion, in the two IDZs."

As part of promoting the province as an investment destination of choice, the provincial government is developing an Investment Promotion Strategy, aimed at creating an enabling environment for vibrant economic growth in the province.

In addition, the following job creation targets have been set for the 2015/2016 financial year - ECDC 7 000, Coega 8 797 and East London IDZ 5 500.

"In the coming year, jobs will be created in manufacturing, logistics, alternative energy, agro-processing and services.

We will also offer export support to businesses through the ECDC," the Premier confirmed.

The Eastern Cape's Provincial Development Plan (PDP), which was tabled on 3 February 2015 and is in line with the National Development Plan (NDP), details how the government is focusing on making people's lives easier and more rewarding in the province.

"We have set very clear principles to guide the execution of our responsibilities to realise the provincial developmental goals and are committed to strengthening levels of accountability and partnerships," he said, adding that this is being tackled with a sense of urgency.

Various programmes, projects and challenges outlined by the Premier in his SoPA came under the spotlight at *The New Age* briefing recently, where stakeholders from various sectors were given the opportunity to engage with the Premier and MECs on various topics.

"The aim is to anchor our province on an empowered society. Education and skills development are critical to addressing various concerns, as is human settlement and safety issues. Our interventions and programmes are aimed at moving the province forward," the Premier said.

Predominantly rural, one of the challenges facing the province is the inherited backlog of rural development. MEC of Human Settlements, Helen Sauls-August, said that after 20 years of democracy, 323 000 housing units had been built in the province.

"Over the past five years, we have built 61 000 units, which is a major achievement for the Eastern Cape. We are now at the point where we must ensure that we have integration of all human settlements so that we can have new neighbourhoods, towns and cities developed and not only housing units on their own," she added.

The MEC for Education, Mandla Makupula, said that it was encouraging that the people of the Eastern Cape, over the generations, had not failed to send their children to school.

"We must empower that legacy and build on it. As our province is not highly industrialised, it's clear that



Eastern Cape Premier Phumulo Masualle.

our focus needs to be on human capital development. Many of our province's challenges are socio-economic," he said, adding that with its many rural, marginal communities, economic factors impact negatively on education.

Skilled people are needed to drive delivery and transformation. "Many people who have left for better opportunities want to come back, but they want to come back to a driving environment, hence we are facilitating this," added the Premier.

The MEC of Finance, Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Sakhumzi Somyo, is confident that the province's game changers lie in its resolve to get into the big playing field where energy is involved.

"We have moved into the arena of gas production as we look into the potential in the Karoo Basin and we are turning the tide around energy issues with the wind turbines you see when driving through Jeffreys Bay, which produce a massive megawatt contribution to the power grid."

The province has made significant progress in positioning itself to become one of South Africa's energy hubs. The Jeffreys Bay Wind Farm, which is the biggest in Sub-Saharan Africa, started generating electricity

in mid-2014 and is expected to supply enough clean, renewable energy to meet the needs of over 100 000 households in the province.

In addition, over 45 per cent of the total project value of the Renewable Energy Facilities in the Eastern Cape has been allocated for local procurement. The intention is to stimulate the development of localised industries and the green economy.

The discovery of shale gas reserves in the Karoo Basin has provided an opportunity to further grow the Eastern Cape economy and create much-needed jobs.

The ground-breaking scientific research currently underway, in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, will be finalised by December 2015 and will map out a detailed technical understanding of the potential shale gas resource and possible environmental risks associated with its extraction.

It will further enable the provincial government to plan for optimal socio-economic and environmentally responsible outcomes.

In the area of green production, the focus is on ocean economies. One initiative is the Wild Coast Meander, which aims to capitalise on the Eastern Cape's 800km coastline. As part of unleashing the potential of the ocean economy, President Jacob Zuma launched »

No more queues?

UIF COMPLIANCE AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

The Unemployment Insurance Contributions Act 2002, requires every employer to contribute 2% of remuneration in respect of each employee who works for 24 hours and more. The employer contributes 1% and the employee contributes 1% and the total contribution to UIF is 2%.

The employer is expected to provide the UIF with both the declaration and the contribution amount, on or before the 7th of each month in respect of each employee. It is the responsibility of the employer to ensure that all employees are registered with the UIF.

The Fund has leveraged on technological advances to improve its operational systems to the benefit of its clients. The uFiling

system is an online application that is convenient and user friendly that employers can use to declare and pay contributions.

uFiling provides the following benefits to employers and agents:

- Improved service delivery
- A secure and convenient online service
- Instant updates and access to uFiling data; and
- Reduced data errors.

To activate as a uFiler the employer must have a UIF reference number. When opening the web page the user must logon to www.ufiling.co.za / www.ufiling.gov.za then click on Activate my uFiling account and select either domestic, commercial or agent to complete the activation process. The system will guide the user through the activation process. Once the activation process is completed, the user will immediately receive an email notification confirming his or her login details.

NB.: The uFiling system also allows employees to submit their UIF claims online.

For more information about uFiling

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Call centre number: 012 337 1680

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Operation Phakisa in 2014. The proclamation of the Wild Coast Special Economic Zone (SEZ) has also been identified as a key focus area in the coming financial year and a pre-feasibility study has been approved.

The East London Port has been identified for boat building and ship repair and Coega was identified for overflows from Saldanha Bay, with respect to oil rig repairs. In addition, five Aquaculture Development Zones (ADZs) have been identified in the province, namely Qolorha, EL IDZ, Hamburg, Coega IDZ and Port Elizabeth Port.

Through the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform the province will expand these ADZs to cover freshwater aquaculture in rivers and dams, to benefit rural communities. It will also open the first maritime high schools in George Randall and Ngwenyathi in East London in 2016.

The Eastern Cape, through its agriculture and agri-based industry, has great potential to be the country's food basket.

"During this term we are going to devise measures and strategies to tap into this potential to ensure the contribution of agriculture in improving the province's economy, particularly the rural economy," said the Premier in his SoPA.

At the Coega IDZ, an R86-million agro-processing multi-user facility is booming. The facility will enable small, micro and medium enterprises (SMMEs) to expand their value addition-activities in the Eastern Cape. Prospective investors involved in the processing of coffee, cereals, protein and energy supplements have shown a keen interest in the facility.

Since the establishment of the Eastern Cape Rural Development

Agency, the province has launched two rural enterprise development hubs at Mqanduli and Ncorha, at a cost of R45 million each. The hubs already have 1 500 and 900 tons of mealies in storage respectively. In the 2015/2016 financial year, two additional hubs will be established at Ludeke in Mbizana and at Mount Arthur in Lady Frere.

The provincial government is also working on a sustainable plan to revitalise the Magwa and Majola tea estates, given the economic potential of the two entities.

"During the term we will also focus on diversifying the economic value add of the two estates, through tourism promotion initiatives, amongst others. This is in line with our determination to promote the Eastern Cape as a tourism destination. To this end, we are providing training to tourism SMMEs in areas such as financial management, digital marketing and product quality," he said in the SoPA.

Responding to criticism levelled that the Premier is not serious about corruption, he is adamant that "this is far from the truth". "We take the fight against corruption very seriously," he said.

The Premier is confident that soon the Eastern Cape will be a better place to live in.

"The winds of change sweeping across our province will ensure that famine and hunger are banished and that our province is able to lift marginalised households out of poverty," he said. 📞





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Transport Education Training Authority

Heart of Skills Innovation



TAKES SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR TO HIGHER HEIGHTS

225 GRADUATES TO BENEFIT FROM A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TETA AND SAGDA!!!!

A Memorandum of Understanding signed between TETA and the South African Graduates Agency (SAGDA) on February 16, 2015 marks a turning point for many unemployed graduates who await workplace experience and internships to ready themselves for the workplace.

The CEO of TETA Mrs Maphefo Anno-Frempong, urges all stakeholders in the Transport sector to open their workplaces to place these graduates to fast track their work readiness. According to Mr Maqubela, CEO of SAGDA, these unemployed graduates will be placed in companies for a period of 12 months and some for 18 months starting from April 2015.



SAGDA CEO:
Mr Thamsanqa Maqubela

TETA CEO:
Mrs. Maphefo Anno-Frempong

54 RURAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS BENEFIT FROM TETA'S ADOPT A SCHOOL PROGRAMME

The 54 TETA Adopted Schools were selected in consultation with the Provincial Departments of Education and the Premier's Offices to ensure a wider reach of support to schools with career guidance, maths and science support, access to bursaries, relevant books' supply and other needs as identified by the schools.

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Transport Education Training Authority



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Heart of Skills Innovation

Balancing SA's finances



Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene.

When Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene sat down to prepare his maiden Budget announcement, in his own words, he knew it “would be a challenging Budget to prepare, under difficult economic circumstances”.

A realisation made clear by one of the inputs he received from a Johannesburger, who, mindful of these circumstances, wrote in response to the Budget tips campaign just to wish Minister Nene well for what he described as “a daunting task”. No tip followed.

The 2015 Budget announcement was indeed a tough balancing act.

As weakened global economic conditions weighed in on South Africa's growth and financial health, fiscal consolidation could no longer be ignored.

Though South Africa continues to register positive growth rates, many businesses have struggled to maintain profitability, the unemployment rate averages 24.3 per cent, according to the 2014 fourth quarter figures, and government is now also forced to adjust to slower revenue growth.

Despite these, coupled with rising debt, the Minister's Budget

speech needed to set the country on a path of growth by addressing challenges that hinder growth – such as the energy crisis, a lack of work opportunities and limited economic participation.

Prior to walking up the stairs of the National Assembly, the Minister had the task of cutting expenditure over the next two years and raising revenue from taxes to generate an extra R12 billion to help fund the budget for this year and another R15 billion for next year.

He also needed to narrow the budget deficit to 3.6 per cent.

And despite these constraints, the Minister needed to ensure that this year's Budget was in-line with the goals of the National Development Plan.

With all this in mind, the Minister delivered the Budget speech saying: “The 2015 Budget is aimed at rebalancing fiscal policy to give greater impetus to investment, to support enterprise development, to promote agriculture and industry and to make our cities engines of growth.”

Personal income tax

He also announced that from April 2015, taxpayers should expect to pay a percentage point more from their personal income tax.

The proposals, however, will see those in the lower income bracket – those that earn less than R181 900 per annum – being spared from tax increases.

The National Treasury said in its Budget Review that the proposals would raise extra revenue that would help close the gap in public finances in the short-term.

The revenue would also help government fund long-term policy objectives like the National Health Insurance (NHI) and expanding the post-school education system.

“The 2015 Budget proposals build on the progressive character of the tax system by raising all marginal rates by one percentage point, except for the lowest bracket, which remains unchanged.

“Leaving aside other adjustments, the rate changes

will result in individuals with an annual taxable income of R200 000 a year paying about R21 more in monthly taxes.

“Those earning R500 000 will pay an extra R271 per month; and those earning R1.5 million will pay an extra R1 105 each month,” the National Treasury explained.

Minister Nene said the tax proposals were aimed at increasing tax revenues for the corporate tax base, increasing incentives for small businesses and promoting a greener economy.

However, tax brackets, rebates and medical scheme contribution credits will be adjusted for inflation, as in previous years. The net effect is that there will be tax relief below about R450 000 a year, while those with higher incomes will pay more in tax.

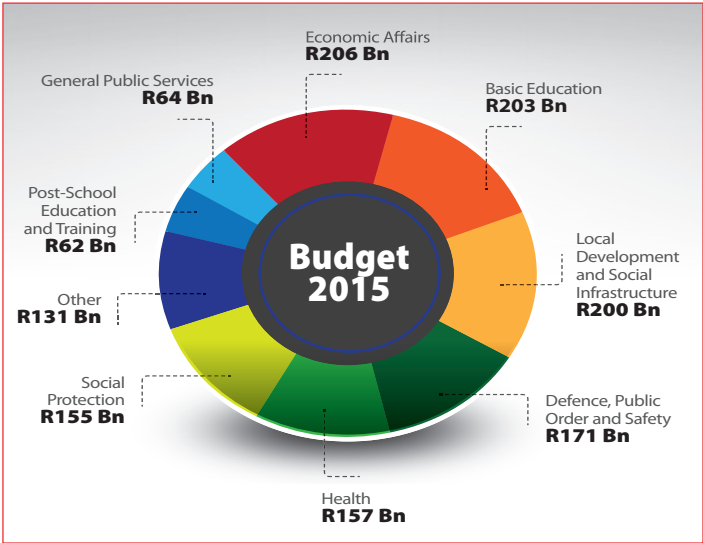
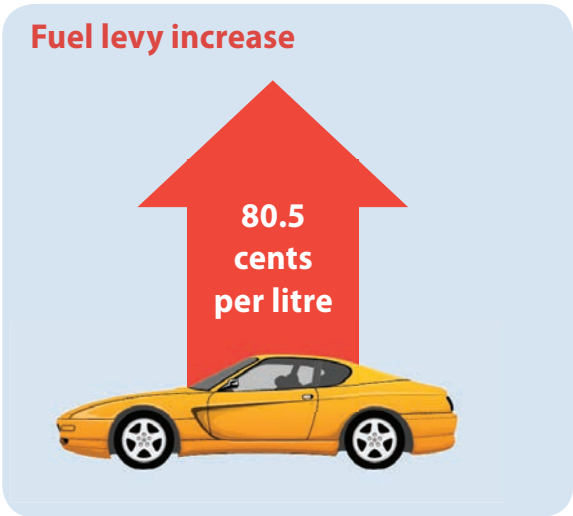
Increase in fuel levy proposed

Government has also proposed an increase in fuel levies.

This will result in fuel levies going up by 80.5 cents per litre, made up of 30.5 cents per litre for the general fuel levy and 50 cents per litre for the Road Accident Fund (RAF).

According to the National Treasury, South Africa’s fuel levies are comparatively low by international standards, and the recent decline in fuel prices creates space for an increase.

“An increase in the general fuel levy of 30.5 cents a litre will take effect in April,” the Minister said.



Managing the public sector wage bill

“Public sector salary negotiations are under way. A multi-year agreement that protects public servants’ purchasing power would allow for a stable, predictable wage bill and reprioritisation of resources towards areas of need.

“During 2015, the National Treasury will launch a comprehensive assessment of compensation budgets to tighten control of the public-sector wage bill,” he added.

Curbing government spending

The National Treasury said spending on non-core items will be closely monitored and that an instruction will be sent to all government departments across all spheres of government pertaining to this.

“Cost-containment measures first announced in 2013 have resulted in a decline in spending on non-core goods and services items, and will be strengthened.

“Between 2013/14 and 2014/15, expenditure on business consultants and advisory services, catering and entertainment, and travel and subsistence is estimated to fall by R1.5 billion.

“Spending on these items will be monitored and the Auditor-General will audit compliance,” it added.

UIF relief

Meanwhile, the National Treasury has proposed once-off relief on Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) contributions for the 2015/16 financial year.

The proposal comes after the fund accumulated a surplus of R72.3 billion during the 2013/14 financial year.

>>

Despite the more generous benefits mandated by a legislative amendment in 2012, the UIF estimates that earmarked contributions will add R51.8 billion to its accumulated surplus over the next three years, the National Treasury said.

“While government considers longer-term reforms, it proposes once-off relief for UIF contributors in 2015/16.

“Workers and employers each contribute one per cent of the first R14 872 of an employee’s remuneration.

“This threshold will be lowered to R1 000 with no change in benefits.

“In effect, employees will pay only R10 in monthly UIF contributions – and employers the same amount per worker – putting about R15 billion back into the pockets of workers and businesses in 2015/16.”

Minister dishes out good news

While the tax proposals revealed taxing times ahead, the Minister announced new tax breaks that would ease the burden on working and middle class income earners.

Transfer duty on properties

The new rates mean that:

- A zero per cent transfer duty rate will be charged for a property acquired for less than R750 000.
- A three per cent transfer duty rate will be charged for property worth between R750 001 to R1 250 000.
- A six per cent transfer duty will be imposed on properties bought for R1 250 001 to R1 750 000.
- Properties bought for R1 750 001 to R3 million will see buyers paying eight per cent in transfer duty.
- A transfer duty of 11 per cent will be charged for properties bought for R3 million and above.



“The rates and brackets for transfer duties on the sale of property will be adjusted to provide relief to middle-income households. The new rates eliminate transfer duty on properties below R750 000, while the rate on properties above R2.25 million will increase,” he said.

The new rates will only apply to property acquired on or after 1 March 2015 by any person, including companies, close corporations or trusts.

Sustainable financing of SOEs

The Minister announced during his Budget Speech that government was working hard to ensure that state-owned entities (SOEs), which collectively have an asset base of R364 billion, are well managed and contribute to economic growth and national development.

He announced short-term measures, including a R23 billion allocation to Eskom to be raised through the sale of non-core government assets.

The Minister also said that South African Airways had been granted a R6.5 billion going-concern guarantee to finalise its 2013/14 annual report.

This is in addition to the R7.9 billion in guarantees already extended to the airline.

The South African Post Office has been provided with a R270 million overdraft guarantee and a R1.7 billion going-concern guarantee.

“However, the financial position of some state enterprises is unsatisfactory, undermining their ability to contribute toward development.

“Reforms are required to ensure that state companies contribute to building a competitive economy and are not an unnecessary drain on the fiscus, and that developmental mandates are appropriately financed and serve the national interest.

“Private investment and partnerships with state-owned companies are elements of our strategy for strengthening infrastructure investment and improving service delivery,” the Minister said.

A collective effort

As Minister Nene pointed out to the National Assembly, preparing a Budget under difficult circumstances was a reminder that our public services are many and varied and that we rely on the efforts and good judgment of many thousands of public servants, teachers, health practitioners and law enforcement officers, every day.

Reminding the nation that the South African economy comprises a great diversity of enterprises, factories, mines, service centres and shop floors, welfare organisations, trade unions and industry associations, the Minister used his maiden Budget speech to make it very clear that “our collective future depends on the energy and enterprise of all of us.”



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Provinces ready to deliver

The Premiers of the country's nine provinces and their provincial governments have major plans to improve the lives of the people who live there. Details of these plans were outlined recently when the Premiers delivered their State of the Province Addresses.

Here are some of the highlights:

Eastern Cape

Eastern Cape Premier Phumulo Masualle says the province will focus on creating jobs and sustainable livelihoods in 2015.



Premier Phumulo Masualle

The provincial government has set a target to create 129 597 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) job opportunities and 37 000 more through the Community Works Programme (CWP).

"We have to do this against an economic outlook characterised by... an economy that records one of the highest unemployment rates in the country...

We are rising to the task of creating sustainable jobs for our people," he said.

Premier Masualle added that 24 737 jobs, against a target of 13 234, had been created through economic agencies such as the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC), East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ), and the Coega Development Corporation.

The province is targeting 14 investments to the value of R2,237 billion in the two IDZs.

"As part of promoting the province as an investment destination of choice, we are developing an Investment Promotion Strategy aimed at creating an enabling environment for vibrant economic growth in the province," said the Premier.

In the 2015/16 financial year, the ECDC is expected to create 7 000 job opportunities, Coega 8 797 and ELIDZ 5 500.

Premier Masualle said in the coming year, jobs would be cre-

ated in manufacturing, logistics, alternative energy, agro-processing and services.

"In an effort to further enhance job creation, we will support 280 small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and 70 cooperatives," he said.

This would ensure the active participation of previously disadvantaged sectors in the economy," the Premier added.

Free State

Free State Premier Ace Magashule says the province's job creation prospects are looking up, with 51 020 work opportunities created by the end of January this year through the EPWP.

He said the local government-based CWP had created 17 572 job opportunities in 14 municipalities where the programme was implemented.

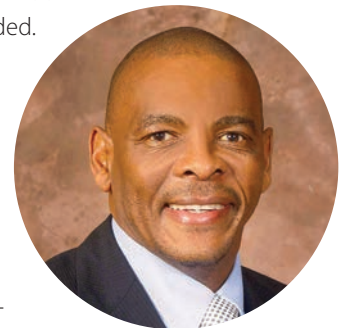
"It is envisaged that this programme will be expanded to create one million job opportunities by 2019," he added.

Education

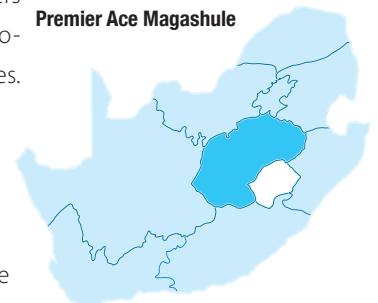
Regarding education, the Premier said 42 students would be supported towards their PhD studies; 134 towards Masters degrees and 136 towards Honours degrees.

Free State would also establish a Research and Development Institute, which would include student accommodation.

The Premier said the total number of subsidised Grade R classes increased by 80 to 1 145.



Premier Ace Magashule



"The provincial government is also subsidising 265 Grade R classes at community-based sites or independent schools. A total number of 49 350 learners have access to Grade R," he said.

Three new schools were completed in the 2014/15 financial year – Letlotlo Naledi Primary in Bothaville, Nthutuzelo Primary in Bultfontein and Lister Skosana Primary in Parys.

The Premier added that eight new schools would be built this year and that various projects were underway at 66 schools in the province.

"These projects will add additional classes at 31 schools, 29 administration blocks, 12 new halls, 12 new kitchens and 12 media centres and laboratories. Construction is in progress at 20 additional schools under the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery programme," he said.

Ten schools would also be upgraded to full service schools in an effort to cater for learners with special needs.

Gauteng

The Gauteng Provincial Government has announced three interventions to change the space and structure of the economy of the province to address unemployment, poverty and inequality.

Premier David Makhura said these interventions were spatial reconfiguration, township economy revitalisation and massive infrastructure investments that the provincial government would jointly undertake with municipalities and private sector partners.

As part of the plan, Premier Makhura announced the reconfiguration of the Gauteng City Region's space and economy along five development corridors that have distinct industries and different comparative advantages.

These are the:

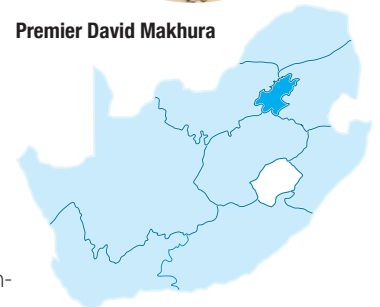
- Central Development Corridor, which is anchored by the City of Johannesburg as the hub of finance, services, Information and Communications Technology and pharmaceutical industries.
- Eastern Development Corridor, which is anchored by the economy of the Ekurhuleni Metro as the hub of manufacturing, logistics and transport industries.

- Northern Development Corridor, which is anchored by Tshwane as the country's administrative capital city and the hub of the automotive sector, research, development, innovation and the knowledge-based economy.

- Western Corridor, which encompasses the economy of the current West Rand district and the creation of new industries, new economic nodes and new cities.
- Southern Corridor, which encompasses the economy of the Sedibeng district and the creation of new industries, new economic nodes and new cities.



Premier David Makhura



Transforming the landscape

To change human settlement patterns over the next five years, 140 000 housing units will be built in Lion Park, Diepsloot East, Fleurhof, Cosmo City, Malibongwe Ridge and Goud Rand.

The City of Johannesburg, in collaboration with the private sector, is planning to transform the spatial landscape of the Central Corridor, which includes Masingita City, Rietfontein, Waterfall City, Modderfontein City and Steyn City.

The Premier announced that more than 100 000 housing units would be delivered over the next five years in areas such as Chief Albert Luthuli, John Dube Extension 2, Tsakane Extension 22, Germiston South, Leeuwpoort, Rietfontein and Clayville Extension 45.

KwaZulu-Natal

The reduction of maternal, neonatal and child mortality will be high on the agenda of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government over the next five years.

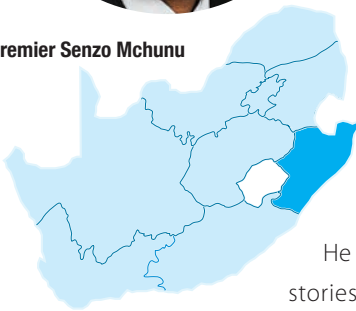
Outlining progress so far, Premier Senzo Mchunu said in the province the mortality rate among children younger than a year had declined from 10.8 per cent in 2010 to 7.3 per cent.

"We have seen a maternal mortality in facility ratio of 138 per 1 000 births, down from 195/100 000 in 2010. Life expectancy for males is up from 49 to 54 and for females from 50 to 59."

The province plans to accelerate the implementation of the Phila Mntwana campaign at community level to expand the reach for >>



Premier Senzo Mchunu



children under five years and ramp up TB screening and treatment in children in this age group.

"We aim to reduce the number of new HIV infections by 50 per cent by 2016 and reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS by expanding access to an appropriate package of treatment care and support to 80 per cent of all people diagnosed with HIV," said the Premier.

Sustainable human settlements

He also noted the number of success stories in delivering sustainable human settlements during the 2014/15 financial year.

"We have seen a decrease in the housing backlog from 17.9 per cent in 2010 to 13 per cent, with just under 100 000 having been built over this period; 22 316 housing units have been completed and 2 998 sites have been serviced in the last year, of which 12 923 units were delivered in rural areas in the last year."

Over 7 420 housing units were completed and handed over last year as part of the programme aimed at eradicating slums and upgrading informal settlements.

The Vulindlela People's Housing Process, where the community is involved in building their own homes, has to date built 2 349 houses.

Limpopo

Limpopo has become a destination of choice for international investors, says Premier Stanley Mathabatha.

"During our trade and investment mission to the People's Republic of China in October 2014, we signed memoranda of agreement with big investors.

"The first memorandum of agreement was signed with Hong Kong Mining Exchange Company (Hoi Mor) for the establishment of the South Africa Energy Metallurgical Base Project," he said.

The project, which has an investment value estimated at R38.8 billion, will be based in the Musina Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and will create 19 000 direct jobs over three years.

The Hoi Mor investment will result in beneficiation that integrates various resources and reduce the export of raw materials in favour for exporting beneficiated goods.

South African firm Women Investment Holdings has entered into

a joint-venture agreement with Jidong Development Group and China Africa Development Fund for a R1.65-billion investment in cement manufacturing, which will be based in Thabazimbi.

Construction, which started in 2014, is due to be completed in April.

Investing in agriculture sector

Premier Mathabatha said the provincial government was also introducing deliberate measures and focused investment in the agriculture sector.

"We opened Madzivhandila and Tompi Seleka Agricultural colleges at the beginning of this year.

"The colleges are now fully functional and operational. They have a student enrolment of no less than 140," he said.

The Premier added that the curriculum content had been restructured and developed to produce agricultural economists, extension officers, pasture and soil scientists, agronomists and horticulturists.

Mpumalanga

Mpumalanga has set aside R2.065 billion for its infrastructure development programme for 2015/16.

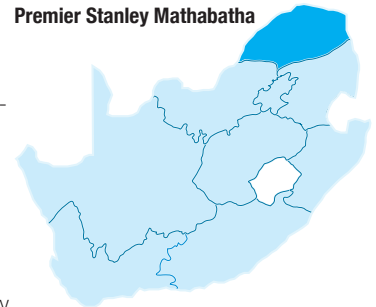
"Our infrastructure development programme continues to prioritise socio-economic infrastructure such as roads, hospitals and schools," said Premier David Ma-buza.

He added that the province was making progress in rehabilitating and maintaining the coal haulage network to mitigate the degradation of roads in the mining areas of the province.

"The construction of the 68 km Majuba railway is progressing well and the completion of this project will alleviate pressure on our coal haulage network, as it

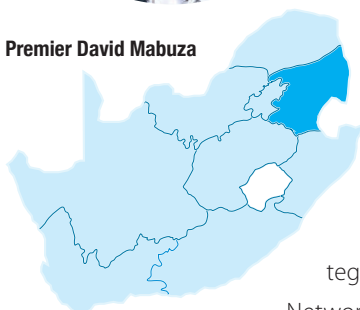


Premier Stanley Mathabatha





Premier David Mabuza



will change the transportation mode of coal to a number of power stations, especially Majuba Power Station, from road to rail," he said.

The first coal-loaded train is scheduled to begin operating on 31 May 2016.

Mbombela has completed phase one of the implementation of the Integrated Public Transport Network.

The construction of the infrastructure, which involves widening some parts of the central business district road network, is currently underway. The project is aimed at incorporating all modes of transport.

Premier Mabuza said the Moloto Rail Corridor Development programme has also been approved.

"The Moloto Development Corridor will be a catalyst for stimulating economic growth and job creation that will benefit the province, especially Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka local municipalities.

"It will attract private sector investment along the corridor, thereby increasing prospects for employment and local enterprise development," he noted.

The Premier said the province was making a significant contribution to enterprise development, and supporting businesses to create employment opportunities.

The province and the Department of Trade and Industry prioritised the establishment of the SEZ in Nkomazi to attract investment that would unlock growth and create employment.

"It will attract investment in a variety of industries, including the production of agri-chemicals and agro-processing initiatives.

"To support the proposed infrastructure investment, Nkomazi municipality has made land available for the establishment of the SEZ," he said.

North West

The North West Provincial Government says it will use alternative building methods to address the housing backlog in the province.

"In order to mitigate against financial constraints, the province will [use] alternative building methods in order to achieve more with the limited resources at our disposal," said Premier Supra Mahumapelo.

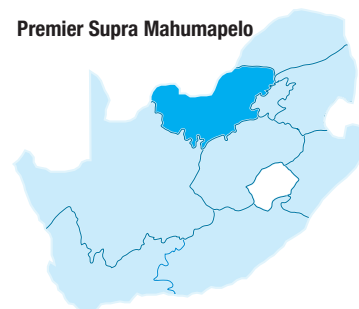
The provincial government has succeeded in building 223 591 houses since 1994.

"Today the housing backlog stands at 237 000, which is only reflective of informal settlements. Measures are being put in place to cater for people who are neither serviced under the RDP programme nor can access the bond market," the Premier said.

He added that the MEC for Local Government and Human Settlements would soon announce plans to provide houses and much tighter processes of managing the provincial housing beneficiary lists.



Premier Supra Mahumapelo



Municipalities

The Premier said the provincial government was concerned about the performance of municipalities.

"When the fifth administration assumed office in May last year, 15 municipalities were in intensive care as reported by the Auditor-General. Through dedicated intervention and leadership, seven have been rescued and eight still require on-going attention," he said.

Premier Mahumapelo added that the situation at Ngaka Modiri Molema was receiving attention and that a number of measures had been implemented to bring stability to the municipality.

These include the deployment of an administrator and new Acting Municipal Manager, the dissolution of the council and holding of by-elections

All of these form part of the turnaround strategy that is expected to bear results in 12 months, the Premier said. >>

Northern Cape

Premier of the Northern Cape, Sylvia Lucas, says the provincial government will focus on creating employment in 2015.

The provincial government would harness relations with both civil society and business to ensure that 18 000 more people have job opportunities.



Premier Sylvia Lucas

She said 18 000 people found employment in the fourth quarter of 2014.

"The majority of these jobs were created in the agriculture and construction sectors. The value of agriculture to the economy of the Northern Cape is of great importance. It contributes its share in terms of employment creation.

"Unemployment remains stubbornly high, but the province presents a number of opportunities in skilled areas. Improved educational attainment is key to address the skills required by the province," she said.

The Premier added the revitalisation of the agriculture and agro-processing value chain was critical for the province.

"We believe that the partnerships that we have already set in motion with the private sector and the mining houses will go a long way in contributing positively towards economic growth and job creation, as well as entrepreneurial opportunities in the province."

She said the provincial government would continue to use all government avenues, including the EPWP, to create decent work opportunities.

Education a priority

Education would continue to be a top priority for the province.

"We annually spend at least 65 per cent of the Northern Cape's budget on education and health. The Northern Cape government is intent on sustaining and improving the quality of education, which must reflect our developmental imperatives," she said.

Western Cape

The Western Cape Provincial Government will work towards improving access to the internet, tackling health challenges and increasing safety across the province.

The provincial government signed an agreement with the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) and fixed line telecommunica-

tion operator Neotel to extend broadband.

"The Western Cape Government, SITA and Neotel signed a strategic agreement to provide broadband services to approximately 2 000 government sites, including schools, libraries and health facilities over the next two to three years," said Premier Helen Zille.

She added that the improved broadband services would assist government in creating opportunities for people of the Western Cape.

"We believe the rollout of these hotspots will be a game changer for development. It will help reduce the digital divide, make economic opportunities more accessible and generate new business opportunities."

Health

Regarding health, Premier Zille said public-private partnerships would remain a top priority.

"Last year we launched the pilot wellness centres project at 16 pharmacies across the province. The Western Cape Department of Health provides free HIV kits to pharmacies in exchange for at least 10 per cent of their operating hours being spent on providing free health screenings such as HIV testing, blood pressure and blood sugar tests, helping to relieve the pressure on State clinics."

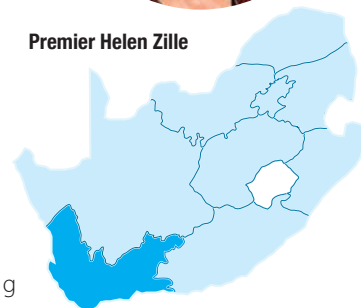
The province would also spend its R3,3 billion health infrastructure budget on upgrading existing clinics and hospitals over the next five years.



Premier Helen Zille

Safer communities

The Premier said that the province would implement various innovations to ensure that communities are safer. These interventions include providing resources to the City of Cape Town Metro Police, providing 40 safety kiosks and formalising youth safety partnerships with Northlink College. (PS)





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Women need a louder voice

On 8 March we celebrated the International Women's Day, which this year happened to coincide with our country marking the 60th Anniversary of the Freedom Charter.

These two events exalt the vital role women have played, and continue to play, in virtually all spheres of life.

We use occasions such as the International Women's Day to take stock and review progress, as well as barriers that continue to militate against women's empowerment in our country. They offer an opportunity to elevate women's emancipation and gender equality.

Indeed, as a country, we have done well in ensuring women claim their rightful place in society. In 1994, women constituted a mere 27.8 per cent of the 400 seats in the South African Parliament compared to the current 41 per cent. Similarly, the representation of women in provincial legislatures increased from 25.4 per cent to 37 per cent.

To this end, the governing ANC has consciously adopted a 50 per cent women representation in all decision-making structures. This has led to increased female representation in all spheres of government at legislative and executive levels. A lot has been achieved in ensuring that the people govern.

There is no doubt that South Africa's gender parity laws, implemented since the dawn of our democracy, have seen women rise to positions of power in the state, the private sector and indeed civil society. Although there is still much to do before we are content with the gains of women, there is no doubt that the status of women in our country has improved.

To accelerate the empowerment of women in this term of office, my department has planned national and provincial dialogues between March and June this year in order to provide a platform for discourse on the strides made towards the attainment of women empowerment and gender equality in South Africa and identify obstacles to women's progress. The dialogues will give women a voice to tell their stories. The national and provincial dialogues will lead to the development of the 'Report on the Status of Women', to be launched by the President on 9 August 2015.

We recently participated in the 59th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN-CSW) in New York, with the confidence that, despite challenges that women still face in South Africa, our country has made great strides to ensure women enjoy equal rights.



Minister in The Presidency responsible for Women, Susan Shabangu.

This year's session was of particular importance, as it marked the 20 year review of progress countries have made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA).

The BPA is an international declaration of women's rights established at the UN's landmark Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995. It covers 12 key critical areas of concern, which include women and poverty, violence against women and access to power and decision-making.

South Africa tabled its progress on implementing the Beijing Platform for Action fully knowing that in the past 20 years of democracy in our country, few countries can claim to have progressed as we have in ensuring the emancipation of women.

However, despite this magnificent progress we have made, we acknowledge there are still challenges that women in South Africa face. We stand firm in our belief nothing should be done for women without women. 🗣️

*** Susan Shabangu is the Minister in The Presidency responsible for Women.**

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Anti-crime efforts gain momentum

Together we move
South Africa forward

Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula.

Government's efforts to increase citizens' access to justice and combat crime are gathering steam as it rolls out a number of programmes to make South Africa safer.

Speaking at a recent Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster media briefing, Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, who is also chairperson of the cluster, said government was hard at work ensuring that all citizens, irrespective of race and location, had access to justice.

"Our government is committed to delivering equal access to justice for all South Africans, rich or poor, black or white, urban or rural.

"The transformation of the Criminal Justice System will strengthen the confidence of our people in the fair and impartial administration of justice for all."

More high courts

One of the ways in which government is achieving this is

through the introduction of High Courts in Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

Previously, residents of the two provinces had to travel long distances to access High Court services at the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria.

"We are pleased to announce that the hardship being endured by communities of Limpopo and Mpumalanga who have to travel to Pretoria at great expense to access High Court services will soon be over."

The High Court in Limpopo was expected to start operating this month, while services in Mpumalanga will come later.

"The Limpopo seat of the High Court will start operating from the beginning of April 2015 while that of Mpumalanga will follow a year later.

"We are also working hard to ensure that all people in our country are not deterred from accessing justice by financial constraints." >>

The Minister added that the JCPS Cluster was on track to increase the number of Small Claims Courts in each district.

Three hundred and thirty Small Claims Courts have been established across the country with 37 of them created over the past couple of years.

"We are fast approaching our goal of having a functioning Small Claims Court in each of South Africa's magisterial districts. I am pleased to announce that we only need to establish another 60 small claims courts to be 100 per cent compliant countrywide in this regard."

Last month, the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Michael Masutha, also launched a court annexed mediation service in North West. The service is aimed at resolving civil disputes.

"Through such mediation civil disputes, in particular maintenance and claims against the state, can be resolved quicker and more amicably and the huge costs of litigation will be averted," explained Minister Mapisa-Nqakula.

She added that the mediation services would be rolled out to other provinces in the next financial year.

Dealing with sexual violence

The Minister said sexual violence was a major concern to the cluster, noting that government had upgraded certain courts across the country into Sexual Offences Courts.

"We are concerned about reports of sexual violence in the country and continue to identify measures to deal with these heinous crimes.

"As part of our commitment to support victims of sexual violence, 33 regional courts have been upgraded into sexual offences courtrooms."

She added that in efforts to broaden access to justice, the rationalisation of magisterial districts in Gauteng and North West to align them with the municipal boundaries was in progress.

"This programme ensures that more of our people are able to access justice closer to where they live. The roll-out of the rationalisation project to other provinces will continue during the 2015/16 financial year."

Fighting corruption

Government is also making inroads in the fight against corruption.

Last year, President Jacob Zuma established the Anti-Corruption Inter-Ministerial Committee (ACIMC), aimed at overseeing work done in combating corruption in both the private and public sector.

"The ACIMC is mandated to coordinate and oversee the work of state organs aimed at combating corruption in the public and private sectors.

"The role and functions of the Anti-Corruption Task Team have been expanded to operationalise government's anti-corruption agenda and make corruption a national priority," noted the Minister.

SIU clamps down on corruption

Efforts to fight corruption were evident through the issuing of 16 proclamations, including an amendment that authorises the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to investigate allegations of corruption, maladministration and malpractice. "During 2014, the SIU had identified R417 million in cash/assets as potentially recoverable for the state from various investigations. In the same period, the SIU had recovered R13,7 million in cash."


The unit has referred some of the cases to other government institutions empowered to fight corruption.

"The SIU has also referred 156 matters to the National Prosecuting Authority for criminal prosecution and has brought 56 matters to the attention of respective State institutions for possible disciplinary action," explained Minister Mapisa-Nqakula.

In addition, 192 criminal cases involving 1 017 persons are currently under investigation and have led to 58 convictions the past few years.

By the end of the third quarter in 2014/15, 62 people had been convicted and freezing orders to the value of R430 million obtained.

Proceeds of crime and government losses to the value of R10.7 million were recovered by Asset Forfeiture Unit from government officials.

"The fight against crime and corruption will however continue unabated... We call on all South Africans to take hands with us. Together we can make South Africa a safer place for all and ensure improved quality of life for all," appealed the Minister. 

Big plans to unlock SA's economic potential



Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti.

Government has set aside 30 per cent of all its contracts to support small businesses and cooperatives in a bid to boost township and rural economies.

Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti announced this when he led a briefing of the Economic Sectors, Employment and Infrastructure Development Cluster, recently.

He said small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and cooperatives often failed due to a lack of business opportunities in both the public and private sectors.

"Policy and regulatory constraints which hinder the development, growth and competitiveness of small businesses include lack of finance, under-investment in economic infrastructure in townships and rural areas and a lack of appropriate policies to protect informal business.

"Government will therefore increase procurement from SMMEs, cooperatives, rural enterprises, and township and smallholder farm-

ers, with a target of 30 per cent set aside for designated categories of state procurement," said the Minister.

He said that to set the wheels in motion, Treasury would issue instructions in the form of 'practice notes' to all spheres of government and that transversal agreements with the affected sectors would be entered into with key procuring government departments and state agencies.

Government would also develop a framework to strengthen and regulate the informal business sector, including supporting township enterprises directly with economic infrastructure – like industrial parks and incubators – and basic equipment and machinery.

"In addition, a business rescue strategy aimed at supporting SMMEs and cooperatives in financial distress will be developed.

"The Small Enterprise Finance Agency will also be migrated to the Department of Small Business Development," Minister Nkwinti added.

Revitalising agriculture and agro-processing

To revitalise agriculture, government would establish Agri-Parks in 53 district municipalities.

However, the 27 poorest district municipalities would be prioritised during the 2015/16 financial year, the Minister explained.

"These will be fully-fledged agro-hubs that will offer all services along various commodity value chains.

"This 'one district, one agri-park' and 'every municipality a CRDP [Comprehensive Rural Development Programme] site' approach will include the selection and training of smallholder farmers, in partnering with the district land reform committees; R2 billion has been set aside to implement this programme in the coming financial year.

"An interdepartmental task team involving organised



agriculture is already working on plans to implement the programme,” he said.

Foreign land-ownership proposal clarified

The Minister also used the opportunity to clarify President Jacob Zuma’s announcement that the ownership of land by foreign nationals would be limited.

The Regulation of Land Holdings Bill, which will soon be sent to Parliament, will see foreign nationals being prohibited from owning land for agricultural use.

According to the proposal, they will be eligible to hold a long-term lease with a minimum of 30 years.

“The policy does not apply to residential property. A maximum ceiling of 12 000 hectares on agricultural land will apply to all legal and natural persons,” explained the Minister.

He added that government’s 50/50 policy framework, which paves the way for farm workers residing on farms to co-own land with farmers, would be implemented immediately.

“Government has received a number of proposals from commercial farmers and will pilot at least 50 projects during this period.”

Strengthening SOC's to transform the economy

The Minister said while government has, in the current economic climate, taken the lead in driving investment in the short- to medium-term, stronger state-owned

companies (SOCs) were needed to lead the transformation of the economy.

“We do recognise that most SOCs play a fundamental role in the economy and their services are used by other sectors.

“Therefore, their operational efficiency has a wider and far reaching impact in the economy.

“The cluster is committed to strengthening the regulatory environment within which SOCs can operate, improving their efficiency and forging the partnership between the SOCs and the private sector.”

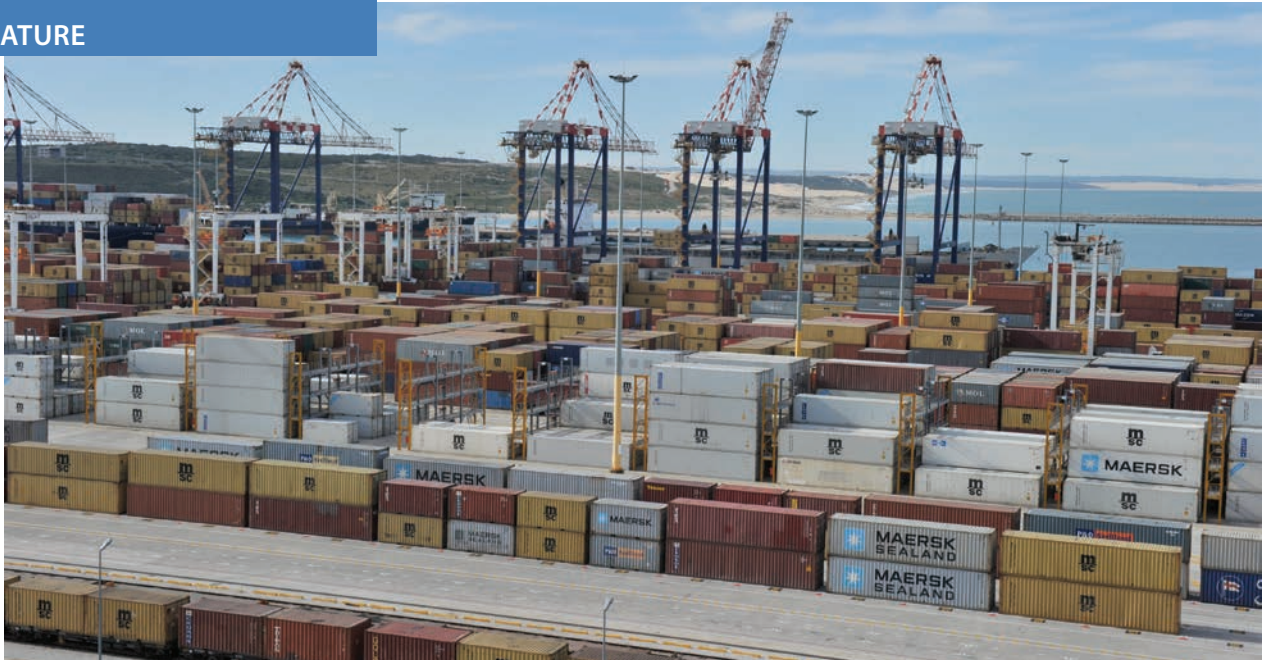
He said part of the actions that would be undertaken in the medium-term include:

- Finalising the SOC Act that would streamline the governance of SOCs across the different spheres of government and departments.
- Introducing a private sector participation framework that would forge sustainable partnerships between SOCs and the private sector.
- Setting clear remuneration standards that would link remuneration to the size of the company and performance bonuses to the sustainability of the company. This would also ensure that there was greater accountability and consequences for poor performance.
- Streamlining government’s shareholding in the ICT sector to accelerate investments in broadband infrastructure.

Growing the ocean economy and tourism

Minister Nkwinti said that South Africa’s oceans could contribute an estimated R129 to R177 billion to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

>>



"Jobs linked to the ocean sub-sectors could rise to a range of 800 000 to one million by 2033 compared to 316 000 in 2010. Although some sectors will achieve their potential through current policies and plans, others require strategic interventions to unlock their value.

"Our strategic partners have committed themselves to enhance the ocean economy through investment, increased trade, technology transfer, skills and capacity development."

Some of government's plans for unlocking economic potential include the marine transport, manufacturing and tourism sectors.

"This will include establishing purpose-built oil and gas port infrastructure at Saldanha Bay and other ports, with R9,2 billion already confirmed for Saldanha, maintaining and refurbishing existing port and ship repair facilities, fast-tracking decisions on issuing of licences in terms of Section 79 of National Ports Act, and reforming the port tariff structure to incentivise export of value-added or processed goods," he said.

The Minister added that establishing a supporting funding model for infrastructure development in ports to support manufacturing and establish purpose-built infrastructure for the oil and gas industry, allowing access for SMMEs and BBBEE firms and advancing local procurement and local content were also being considered as a means of unlocking the marine transport and manufacturing economic sectors.

On the other hand, the tourism sector is estimated to contribute over nine per cent to the GDP. The sector supports 1,4 million job opportunities in the country.

"Air connectivity and travel facilitation are significant facilitators of tourism. In this respect, the Air Transport Strategy has been finalised by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Department of Trade and Industry (dti), and is being pro-

cessed for Cabinet approval."

He added that to advance travel facilitation, President Zuma had announced a high-level review of visa regulations.

"This collaborative review will be aimed at balancing national security and tourism growth imperatives so as to advance our economic and social development objectives as outlined in the National Development Plan."

In addition to rolling out a cutting-edge global tourism marketing strategy, the National Department of Tourism is focused on enhancing the country's competitiveness through product enhancement and diversification as part of a broader destination development initiative.


The year of broadband

Minister Nkwinti said this year marked the beginning of the first phase of broadband rollout.

Government will connect government facilities in eight district municipalities. These are Dr Kenneth Kaunda in North West, Gert Sibande in Mpumalanga, OR Tambo in the Eastern Cape, Pixley ka Seme in the Northern Cape, Thabo Mofutsanyane in the Free State, Umgungundlovu and Umzinyathi in KwaZulu-Natal, and Vhembe in Limpopo.

"These are areas that ... have the greatest need and have the biggest infrastructure gap. Working with the National Treasury, funds have been set aside for this pilot phase of the broadband rollout."

He said government had also decided to designate Telkom as the lead entity to assist with broadband rollout.

"This decision will assist to accelerate the rollout of broadband because Telkom has the largest broadband network," the Minister pointed out. 

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UNPACKING THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PERSPECTIVES

AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

- To Raise Awareness and position the NDP as a South African plan – not only a government plan
- Unpack the NDP into an easy-to-understand, practical document outlining how government departments, provinces, municipalities, state owned enterprises and agencies.
- Promote and encourage public-private partnership investment opportunities in provincial and local government.
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Frans Baleni, Chairperson of the board

TRIBUTE

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) is running a bursary scheme entitled JB Marks Education Trust. The scheme was initiated in memory of JB Marks and embraces his most celebrated values. JB Marks was a selfless leader who committed himself to the freedom of the working class. It is for this reason NUM created the Trust Fund to sponsor the education of the children of its members and its support staff.

In this regard, the NUM and JB Marks trustees welcome the retrieval of the remains of JB Marks from Russia back to South Africa; the Union and the Trust have participated in processes linked to the return. We hope his selfless spirit reigning closer at home will continue to inspire the youth to aspire for further education.

The NUM NEC is immensely proud that the JB Marks Education Trust Fund established by NUM in 1997, will address the need for black educated graduates entering the mining, energy and construction sectors to empower its members and their children.

It has continued unabated to fulfil this need over the last 18 years, by providing tuition for members of the National Union of Mineworkers and their families, achieving meaningful change and capacity-building through improved education. The Trust has enabled 830 students to graduate with mainstream tertiary qualifications (including 15 medical doctors) and disbursed R154 million to over 2000 beneficiaries; in 2015, 200 bursaries were awarded, making a total of 700 undergraduate and 50 postgraduate student still in the pipeline.

Frans Baleni
Chairperson of the board

JB MARKS EDUCATION TRUST FUND

JB MARKS TRUST - LEGACY PROGRAMMES



JB Marks 2010 Awards winners

JB MARKS ANNUAL AWARDS – SINCE 2010

The JB Marks Awards are a key means of providing encouragement, while incentivising other disadvantaged young people to commit to ongoing education and staying the course. By celebrating the success of the award-winners, the Trust sends a clear message that failure is not preordained – dreams really can be achieved.

The JB Marks Awards accord recognition in a broad range of categories and it is important that the programme's prestige and credibility is evident from the outset. Eminent and respected judges play an important role in establishing the stature of the awards.



JB Marks & Louw (JB Marks wife) family at the inaugural JB Marks Award 2010

• **JB Marks Lifetime Achievement Awards**

The inaugural JB Marks Lifetime Achievement Awards 2010 was awarded to JB Marks posthumously; the award was received by the Marks family.



Mr. Hamilton Marks received the JB Marks 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of the JB Marks family at the 2010 JB Marks inaugural Awards



Dr. Lepulane Mathaila – Alumni Leader of the Year 2010 and Mr. Hamilton Marks received JB Marks Lifetime Achievement Award trophy on behalf of the Marks family.

• **JB Marks Alumni Leader of the Year Award**

This is awarded to the JB Marks graduates who put their education and professional qualifications to good use by making a meaningful contribution to their communities and the country whilst helping our nation with its fight against poverty.

The inaugural JB Marks Alumni Leader of the Year Award 2010 was awarded to Dr. Lepulane Mathaila who was among the group of doctors who played a significant role in contributing toward the men's Circumcision Programme in KZN to reduce the impact of HIV infection.

JB MARKS ALUMNI AND ASSOCIATES

Aligned with its NUM traditions, the Trust believes that the best form of aid is self-help, and has set up mechanisms to assist each annual intake. The Trust ensures mentoring and coaching from peers who are advanced students and graduates and who know the challenges they face and how to deal with them. This led to the establishment of the Core Team or Graduate Committee, which since 2012 has been called the JB Marks Alumni and Associates.

JB MARKS ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE

The JB Marks Education Trust Fund hosted its first memorial lecture in 2010 as part of its contribution to young people. Its purpose was to afford young people an opportunity to engage in constructive discussions with academic professionals, politicians and decision makers from various institutions who have contributed directly or indirectly to transformation in the country.

Thematic areas are chosen on an annual basis and carefully selected to trigger discussions on development oriented issues that contribute towards shaping the future of young people. Furthermore, topics are also linked to current policy and translated into a government programme of action. Eminent and prominent speakers are carefully selected on an annual basis to address the Memorial Lecture. Past speakers include, among others, Gwede Mantashe, Prof Somadoda Fikeni, Malusi Gigaba (Minister of Public Enterprise) in 2013 and Aubrey Matshiqi.

JB MARKS ANNUAL CAREER EXPO – SINCE 2012

A successful community outreach programme for grade 10 – 12 high school students is held annually in partnership with provincial and district departments of education. The Expo seek to provide a prime platform for students and industry to meet, network and exchange crucial information to put an end to the ever-concerning shortage of critical skills/careers in South Africa. Over 11,300 learners have attended the JB Marks Annual Career Expos since 2012.

The first JB Marks Career Expo in 2012 was hosted at Orbit FET College, Mankweng Campus, North West in partnership with Bojanala District Department of Education.

The second JB Marks Career Expo 2013 was hosted at Sekhukhune FET College – CP Phathudi Campus in Burgersfort, in partnership with Sekhukhune District Department of Education.

The third JB Marks Career Expo 2014 was hosted in Kimberley in partnership with Northern Cape Department of Education - Sol Blaartjie District Department of Education.

The fourth JB Marks Career Expo in 2015 is set to be held in partnership with Mpumalanga Department of Education – Gert Sibande District from 11th – 15th May 2015 in Amsterdam Environmental Centre.

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Principal Officer



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Struggle heroes return home

They left South Africa for Russia in 1963 to lobby the international community to support the fight against apartheid. But as apartheid's repressive laws intensified back home, John Beaver (JB) Marks and Moses Kotane both died in the 1970s and were buried in Moscow.

Almost 50 years later, their mortal remains have been returned for reburial in South Africa, a country they fought for until they met their death.

A delegation led by Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa arrived from Russia with the remains of the two struggle heroes on 2 March.

Marks died in 1972 and Kotane in 1978. Both were buried in Novodevichy Cemetery in Moscow.

The families of the two struggle heroes gathered at the Waterkloof Air Force Base to witness the return of their loved ones' mortal remains in a ceremony attended by President Jacob Zuma.

They were grateful to government for its efforts to bring back Marks and Kotane, describing their homecoming as a joyous occasion that brought with it relief.

Speaking to *PSM* Kotane's son, Sam, said receiving the mortal remains of his father evoked many emotions.

"My 103-year-old mother, her children, grandchildren and relatives were in the tent with me when we received the remains of my father... just about everybody had tears in their eyes when the coffin was brought into the tent," he said.

Sam added the family was happy that Kotane's remains had been brought back to a democratic South Africa.

"We are sad in the sense that he fought over a period of five decades for the liberation of this country. Unfortunately, he never lived long enough to see a free democratic South Africa.

Yet, we are happy that we are bringing him back to a liberated South Africa, and we take his remains and spirit. Our hearts are filled with joy."

Mixed emotions for families

Roswyn Marks, a grandson of JB Marks, said the return of his grandfather's mortal remains brought comfort to his family.

"It has brought back a lot of memories. I have been monitoring my father and grandmother, especially. There have been mixed emotions and they have been taken back to the old days. My grandmother had previously [for a long time] been [trying] to find him [JB Marks]... so this day has definitely brought comfort especially to her. She feels like her job has been done," he said.

Roswyn added that it was an honour to still have his grandmother, Maria Marks – JB Marks' wife – witness the event as she was also the eldest family member alive at the age of 87.

He thanked the Kotane family for the support during negotiations with government to bring back the mortal remains.

"If Ma'Kotane didn't write the letter to government [asking for help in bringing Kotane home] we wouldn't be here today," he said.

Roswyn described his grandfather as an icon. "He's been described among legends... today has definitely been overwhelming. There are just mixed emotions amongst us, and we will definitely cherish this memory for life," he added.

They fought for a free SA

President Jacob Zuma paid tribute to struggle heroes saying South Africa was a democratic country based on the rule

of law and fundamental human rights largely owing to the sacrifices made by Kotane, Marks and other activists of their generation.

"We are receiving their remains from Moscow, Russia, which was for them like a home away from home, where they were cared for and treated warmly by the friendly people of the former Soviet Union, and now the Russian Federation," said President Zuma.

He expressed gratitude to Russian President Vladimir Putin and the government of the Russian Federation for caring for the stalwarts in life and in death.

President Zuma added that their tombstones at the cemetery, which became their temporary home in Moscow, indicated the respect and the status that they were accorded in that country, and that further cemented the strong historic ties between South Africa and Russia.

"The cooperation of the Russian Federation in our efforts to bring these two giants of our struggle back to their land of birth, and the remarkable and stately send-off when they left Russia, will also forever be remembered by the South African people as a gesture of true friendship."

He said their homecoming was the beginning of a new chapter, which enabled South Africans to celebrate the contribution and raise awareness, especially among the youth, of what the two stalwarts did for the country.

"Although Comrades Marks and Kotane were unflinching members and leaders of the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party, we must as South Africans, across all political lines, celebrate their homecoming," he said.

Emotional scenes

Among the dignitaries at the reception service was Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, who found herself in the midst of the Kotanes when the coffin was carried from the aircraft into the marquee where the family waited.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said she was honoured to have shared the moment with the family.

She explained that although she was never fortunate enough to meet Kotane and Marks in exile, she knew of their roles in liberating South Africa.

"All South Africans should celebrate this day [2 March] and honour the struggle heroes. Oliver Tambo, in the 30 years that he led the African National Congress (ANC) and brought it back intact to South Africa, he couldn't have done it alone and was

only successful because he had a collective leadership and icons such as Kotane and Marks," added the Minister.

Kotane and Marks were granted official funerals when they were buried in their hometowns of Pella and Ventersdorp respectively.

Speaking at the reburial service of Kotane, President Zuma said the Kotane family and the nation would now have a place to go where they could mourn a towering figure in the liberation struggle.

"The people of South Africa and the world will now also have a monument to come and pay their respects to, and draw inspiration from the life of Moses Kotane the fighter, teacher, commissar, and administrator, intellectual, outstanding patriot, revolutionary and giant of our struggle," he said.

Through Kotane, President Zuma said government wanted to inspire the youth to read, work hard and rise through the leadership of organisations through commitment, dedication and hard work.

"Today we begin a new chapter in his life and in the history of our struggle. It is the chapter of bringing Moses Kotane home..."

"We have to bring Kotane home to our schools, universities, townships and rural villages. Our children, the workers, women, youth and indeed all our people, black and white, must know about this man who died in foreign lands in the quest for the freedom we enjoy today," he said.


The President also attended the official reburial of Marks, also in the North West.

He said Marks had worked with immeasurable commitment and dedication to ensure that the ideals of the Freedom Charter, which proclaim that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, were achieved.

"We have come together to celebrate the life of a distinguished South African who was totally committed and dedicated to freedom, equality, justice and human rights for all," he added.

He noted that Marks was one of the leaders who played a key role in the Communist Party-led anti-pass campaign of 1944.

"The success of Comrade JB Marks was remarkable. He had managed to mobilise workers from various countries from Southern Africa under one banner and purpose.

"He raised their level of political consciousness and collapsed the nationality and tribal divisions that the system had imposed to prevent collective action," President Zuma said. 



MOSES KOTANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



Mayor of Moses Kotane Local Municipality, Cnr Fetsang Mokati-Thebe

MAYOR'S MESSAGE ON THE REBURIAL OF MOSES KOTANE

On behalf of the leadership of the municipality, I am calling on communities to celebrate the life of Moses Mauane Kotane, whose remains were reburied in Pella village in North West Province on 14 March 2015, 09h00 at the official funeral, addressed by President Jacob Zuma.

We are realising our dream of bringing Malome Mauane Kotane home; as an intellectual, he showed us that working together can take you places. He is to us, an international hero. To pay our respects, let us give him a last ovation by preserving his legacy and honour his reburial in Pella village; this is a historic event. It is also befitting for us, the leadership of this municipality, to celebrate his life by ensuring that we provide excellent services to communities who are now enjoying the democracy that Moses Kotane dedicated his life to.

The year 2015 marks the 15th year since the establishment of the Moses Kotane Local Municipality. The road we have travelled thus far depicts a blend of rich history, worthy experiences and milestones which will be packaged for all to know and preserve and for the coming generations as a good story to tell during our democratic era.

I am very fortunate to have been part of the team that named this municipality after one of the country's most sought after and rare intellectuals, Malome Mauane Kotane,

who originates from Pella village in our jurisdiction. I have always felt that he is an international icon and a brand that resonates as a beacon of hope. We are still guided by what he stood for today and I urge all the people who originate from this municipality to join us in our quest to provide excellent and quality services to communities we serve. Decisively make your contribution...

We are mapping out ways to make use of our resources strategically in order to make an impact and stimulate the economy of the Moses Kotane Local Municipality. The aim is for it to be a caring and responsive municipality which is best to live in, work for and do business with.

Join us as we reclaim our glory as trend-setters in the local government arena. We are one of the top five municipalities in the Bokone Bophirima Province and are still geared towards working together to ensure that lives of the people of Moses Kotane Local Municipality are improved for the better.

We pride ourselves with quality service provision and visionary leadership that makes us a caring and responsive municipality of choice; and we are geared towards repositioning ourselves as a tourism destination of choice.

We are one of the municipalities with traditional leaders, noting the rural nature of our location. I am indisputably proud of the regular engagements we have with Dikgosi on governance matters. Pella village is now a final resting place of a legend; and we commit to preserve it for future generations.

“We pride ourselves with quality service provision and visionary leadership that makes us a caring and responsive municipality of choice”

VISION

“A caring and responsive municipality which is best to live in, work for, and do business with.”

MISSION

- By providing responsive, transparent and accountable leadership
- By creating an environment for business growth and job creation
- By providing sustainable services

VALUES

- Integrity
- Honesty
- Transparency
- Accountability

ABOUT MOSES KOTANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The Moses Kotane Local Municipality is a Category B4 municipality located within the Bojanala District Municipality, in North West Province. It was established after the re-demarcation of municipal boundaries and subsequent municipal elections in 2000.

The Municipality covers an area of approximately 5 719km² and is mostly rural in nature, comprising 107 villages and the two formal towns of Mogwase and Madikwe; its population is estimated at 242 554. The Municipality has a predominantly African population, with fewer Indian, coloured and white groups, mostly residing in the Sun City residence and Mogwase Unit 2. The total number of households is estimated at 75 193.

The economy of Moses Kotane is mainly characterised by tourism, mining and agriculture, owing to its location within the major tourism and mining belt of the North West province, Pilanesberg and Sun City. Industry and social services also form a critical part of the local economy. The Municipality is a water services authority and has dams in the following areas:

- Molatedi
- Madikwe
- Pella



Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Pogiso Shikwane

The Municipality is an EXCO type with 31 Wards. It is led by council, made up of 75 Councillors comprising Dikgosi, Ward and Proportional Representative Councillors. The joint senior political leadership, commonly referred to as TROIKA, consists of the speaker, mayor and the single whip. The Mayor is the head of a 10-member executive committee (EXCO), who head various portfolio committees. The municipality performs functions and powers assigned to it in terms of sections 156 and 229 of the constitution.

The Portfolio Committees:

- Integrated Development Planning, Performance Management System, Intergovernmental Relations & Town Planning
- Local Economic Development and Rural Development
- Human Settlement
- Communication and Corporate Support Services
- Finance
- Community Services
- Infrastructure and Technical Services
- Special Projects

On the administrative side, the Municipal Manager heads a six-member management committee comprising Heads of Department of:

- Office of the Municipal Manager
- Budget and Treasury Office
- Corporate Services
- Community Services
- Infrastructure and Technical Services
- Planning and Development



Foyer of the library



Library



South Africa moving closer to digital migration

High definition viewing pleasure. Next generation and fast wireless broadband connectivity. The age of digital migration is upon us.

These are some of the benefits that await consumers following a Cabinet decision to approve the publishing of the Broadcasting Digital Migration Amendment Policy for public comment in March.

The Department of Communications (DoC) gazetted the Amendment of the Broadcasting Digital Migration Policy on 18 March.

Cabinet also approved the inclusion of a control system in set-top boxes (STBs) in the implementation of digital migration, which will not control how broadcasters manage their content.

The DoC said this when it recently appeared before the Joint Portfolio Committee on Communications and Telecommunications and Postal Services at the National Assembly to give an update on the readiness to implement digital migration.

Norman Munzhelele, who heads policy and oversight for Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), said STBs are a transitional tool aimed at enabling migration from analogue to digital television.

"A control system does not mean a conditional access system nor does it mean an encryption of the signal to control access to content by viewers.

"A control system refers to a security feature to encourage the local electronic manufacturing sector," he explained.

The announcement by Cabinet to include a control system in STBs follows a protracted impasse between government and broadcasters.

At the heart of the dispute was whether government should

include a control system – which is a security feature inside STBs designed to protect the local manufacturing sector – or an encryption system, which would control the management of content by broadcasters.

Some, broadcasters were opposed to having an encryption system installed, as it would control access to programming.

Cabinet's approval of the Broadcasting Digital Migration Amendment Policy paves the way for government to implement digital migration, which is expected to improve broadcast quality and clear the radio frequency spectrum, currently occupied by broadcasters, to free up the much-needed next generation wireless mobile broadband service.

The disagreement between free-to-air broadcasters on digital migration has been the main reason South Africa was unable to implement DTT within the International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) agreed timelines to switch from analogue to digital broadcasting.

The ITU's agreed deadline for the switch off of analogue television signals is 17 June 2015.

Munzhelele said the main consequence of missing the ITU deadline was that South Africa would not be protected against signal interference.

In the event of theft, STBs would be designed in a way that they would not work outside the country's borders.

"The STBs must have minimal switching on or off security features to protect the subsidised STBs from theft or leaving South African borders.

"They must also have capabilities to enable the provision of government information and services," he added.

In its meeting on 4 March, Cabinet decided that in rolling out digital migration, it will provide free STBs to five million poor TV-owning households in South Africa. Priority will be given to the border region areas of the country to avoid and minimise signal interference between those regions and neighbouring countries.

The dates to switch from analogue to digital broadcasting signal will be determined by Communications Minister Faith Muthambi in consultation with the Cabinet.

South African Post Office ready to distribute STBs

DoC Acting Director-General Donald Liphoko said a memorandum of understanding to roll-out DTT was signed in July 2012, together with the SABC and the Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa.

As part of the agreement, the South African Post Office (Sapo) will ensure that STBs are distributed to poor households.

Of the 5.2 million STBs that will be distributed, the bulk, or 1.2 million, will be distributed in Gauteng, followed by KwaZulu-Natal (895 738) and Limpopo (585 840).

Sapo also said that while it was ready to distribute STBs, this relied on several external deliverables.

According to Sapo, the sign-off of the DTT Distribution Plan will enable it to immediately commence with the activation of its operational set-up and readiness plans.

"The Post Office will achieve 100 per cent system readiness within four months from the date of sign-off of the distribution plan," it said.

Sapo was roped in to play a role in distribution due to its presence in almost every community.

From manufacturers, the STBs would be delivered to the Post Office's warehouses, before they are trucked to its online outlets. There are 1 589 retail online outlets nationwide.

Sapo said delivery also depended on the appointment of the manufacturers for the DTT and DTH STB equipment for the finalisation of its packaging, barcoding, labelling, ordering and delivery requirements for the STB equipment with the appointed suppliers prior to the manufacturing thereof.

It also said it was dependant on the setting up of a DTT call centre for the testing and finalisation of the integration requirements.

Sapo was also waiting on the finalisation of the service-level agreement and the confirmation of the final approved number of needy households.

Sentech positions itself to broadcast digital signal

State-owned signal distributor Sentech said as at 4 March 2015, it had completed the roll-out of digital infrastructure at 177 out of 178 of the analogue sites, providing 84.01 per cent population coverage and 57.82 per cent geographic coverage.

The entity also said that it was on target to complete the DTT network rollout to 17 sites by the end of March.

"This will result in population coverage of 84.23 per cent and a geographic challenge of 57.99 per cent.

"Thereafter, the company will focus on further optimisation and stabilisation for commercial readiness. In addition, the company will align its current technical plans with the overall national ones.

"Finally, the company will continue with the roll-out of the four greenfield digital sites," the entity said.


On its engagements with customers, Sentech said it held fruitful discussions with broadcasters and agreed on tariffs with the SABC, M-Net, e.tv and TBN.

Sentech added that it was finalising master service agreements with the broadcasters.

How digital migration will benefit you

The current signal offers viewers a much lower sound quality and poor picture quality. This is expected to change when digital transmission is phased in.

The migration will also make more room for new channels and content, and the much-needed wireless broadband services will be freed up.

With government committing to distribute the STBs for free, the project is set to benefit millions of citizens living in disadvantaged areas. 

Celebrating the gains of freedom

The achievement of a stable and working democratic and free society in the past 20 years is a milestone. In fact, the past two decades of democracy and freedom marked a turning point in our development and progress as a nation. This has afforded us an opportunity to take stock of how far we have come. This introspection we have to do because, as the Greek philosopher Socrates said: "An unexamined life is not worth living".

It is only in the past 20 years, with the advent of a democratic government in 1994, that we have made strides to be a South Africa that belongs to all, a country that is based on non-racialism, non-sexism, democracy and, above all, economic justice and social equality.

The tension that generated so much conflict and fight over economic inequality, dispossession, racial division and oppression and lack of interaction, cooperation and solidar-

ity among all our people is beginning to fade. We have moved South Africa forward. But there is much more that needs to be done.

The past 20 years should teach us to be agents of the change and transformation that we want to see in our lifetime. We can celebrate our patience and triumphant spirit of working together.

Over the past year, with the advent of the second tenure of President Jacob Zuma, the role of the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) has been elevated to the forefront of highlighting the gains of the past 20 years.

This marked a significant shift in our mandate. In fact, this strategic shift has seen us lead on Outcome 14: Nation Building and Social Cohesion whose primary objective is to mobilise society to confront challenges that make it difficult for us to be the society we have set out to be.



Minister of Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa.

We understand the Nation Building Project to be an all-encompassing project that aims at economic, political and social transformation. Thus central to the challenges we face is to resolve the massive divisions and inequalities left behind by apartheid.

The core mandate of the Department of Arts and Culture is to spearhead the formation of an over-arching identity and encourage an active citizenry to be at the forefront of a transformative agenda to confront economic inequality, spatial division that is a result of land dispossession, closing the gap that exists between people as a result of a lack of interactive and cooperative networks and redefining the South African identity.

One of the greatest achievements of the last 20 years was that by 1996 the foundation to rebuild this society based on the ideals and principles of the anti-apartheid struggle were already in place.

Within two years of Nelson Mandela becoming the first democratically elected president of this country, apartheid laws had been repealed. In a significant development, South Africa suddenly became a sovereign state that scrapped the Bantustans, for instance, that promoted division based on race, language and ethnic identity.

This did not just happen in a vacuum. While still a toddler democracy, we had adopted and launched what has since become a world renowned Constitution. As much as this Constitution is criticised for being too advanced for a fledgling democracy, it is based on a vision of a South Africa built on a culture of reverence for human rights. It is a great achievement that we now have a society based on equality for all and that promotes values of non-sexism, non-racialism and, of course, democracy that unites us in our diversity.

The past 20 years has also seen us come up with new national symbols, including the flag that has since become one of the most recognisable throughout the world.

We have a national anthem and coat of arms that boldly declares in the Xam language that we are determined to be united in our diversity, //I ke// Ke e. The DAC is the custodian of these symbols and continues to vigorously pursue a programme to popularise them.



These are important building blocks to building a common identity among all people.

The need to celebrate our diversity as a cherished value cannot be emphasised enough. When we begin to appreciate these symbols for what they represent, we realise that they play a stronger role in forging an over-arching national identity. It is a good achievement on its own that we acknowledge that South African citizens are not a homogenous group. They come from diverse cultural, religious, ethnic and language groups.

Unlike other states in Africa and Europe, for instance, our diversity has since ceased to be a source of great conflict to be a tool that helps us appreciate difference. We know, as South Africans, that what has divided us is not greater than the ties that bind us.

No one disputes that the man we chose to be the first democratically elected president was the best choice that South African citizens made. Nelson Mandela was not the first black president but a South African president for all citizens of this country. He was a leader who was acceptable to almost all groups in society and held in high esteem across the spectrum of race, class or political affiliation. He was an essential symbol of what it means to be a caring and proud South African citizen.

He was pivotal in the charting of a new path that saw the country pursue the process of reconciliation. Much of this work was initially done through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). This is the cudgel that has been picked up by the DAC in its effort to promote nation building and social cohesion as an essential programme of government.

The TRC recorded and made public the details of the sins of the past. The DAC-led social cohesion programme is, essentially, about finding ways to heal the wounds and transcend the divisions of the past.

It remains a great achievement of the past 20 years that we»



had a special and unique President who understood the urgent need to heal the historic wounds of the past. His legacy lives in the spirit and values that are pursued by his successors, especially the current President Zuma who has prioritised nation building.

Of course, the resilience and triumph of the human spirit was on display during the peaceful and successful 27 April 1994 elections that made a resounding statement about the country's belief in nation building and social cohesion.

This was soon followed by a common voters' roll for the first time in April 1999. This was an important step for nation building because it symbolised equality before the law as envisaged by the Constitution.

Another significant consequence of this has been the transformation of the state and its institutions to be in line with the constitutional imperatives of non-racialism, non-sexism, equitable and democratic South Africa.

Over the past 20 years there has been a significant shift in understanding and appreciating the role of the arts, culture and heritage sector in democracy and freedom. The work of the DAC remains an important ingredient in the building of national identity and nation formation.

One of the greatest achievements of the past two decades is the recognition of 11 official languages. The DAC has put in place policy and legislation to promote and develop these languages.

It is an achievement that everyone enjoys a fundamental right to speak the language of their choice.

The DAC has set the deadline of 30 May 2014 for all government departments and state-owned entities to come up with clear plans on promoting language equality as stipulated by the Official Languages Act of 2012.

Perhaps one of the greatest developments worthy of observation and celebration is that government has officially recognised the pivotal role of the arts, culture and heritage sector by elevating it to a stand-alone Outcome 14: Nation

Building and Social Cohesion.

But special focus remains the transformation of society, through the arts sector, to be more inclusive and promote the country's Constitutional values and principles. This entails emphasis on diversity and reconciliation.

It is for this reason that apartheid era heritage sites, museums and memorials, for instance, have neither been closed down nor destroyed. Instead, over the past 20 years, we have introduced an additional narrative to the South African story. This goes beyond constructing new heritage sites and introducing new names, including the Freedom Park, that is now linked to the previously exclusive Voortrekker Monument. Others include the Steve Biko Memorial Campus in the Eastern Cape, the Chief Albert Luthuli Museum in KwaZulu-Natal, the Robben Island Museum in the Western Cape and, most recently, the Nelson Mandela statue at the Union Buildings.

As part of celebrating the unfolding culture of democracy in our country, we have reclaimed the fragments of our heritage that have been scattered in different parts of the world. It is against this backdrop that we repatriated iconic *Drum* journalist Nat Nakasa's remains, which were reburied in the Heroes' Acre in Chesterville, 50 years after he went to exile.

Most recently, we repatriated the mortal remains of the architects of the struggle, Moses Kotane and JB Marks, who were both buried in Russia.

As we continue to reclaim our past and shape our future, we should look up to these stalwarts for inspiration. Let us strive to uphold the ideals and the values that they stood for and inculcated in our liberation movement.

As our democracy turns 21 years this year, we find ourselves at a defining moment in our history. To be honest, it is not possible to cite all the great achievements in the last 20 years that are worthy of celebration. But there are more than 52 million reasons to celebrate. 🇿🇦

***Nathi Mthethwa is the Minister of Arts and Culture.**



Moses Kotane Institute
INNOVATION. THE FUTURE



THE STEM OF EDUCATION

ENHANCING ACCESS TO ECONOMIC ACTIVITY THROUGH
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM)

PROGRAMME OFFERING

1. STEM EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - STEM SCHOOLS
 - (a) STEM LEARNERS
 - (b) EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT
 - STEM GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT
 - (a) STEM FUND
 - (b) INTERNSHIPS (WIL)
 - (c) STEM LEARNER SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY
- INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
2. SECTOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS
 - (a) OCEAN ECONOMY SKILLS
 - (b) MARITIME TECHNOLOGY
 - (c) MARITIME ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

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MOSES KOTANE INSTITUTE

THE LEGACY LIVES ON

“It is an honour and privilege for me to be heading and leading an Institute that bears the name and embodies the values of our patriarch” said Sibusiso Mpungose, Chief Executive Officer of Moses Kotane Institute (MKI). His job is no mean brief. He heads up a KwaZulu-Natal based state-owned Science and Technology Institute that is mandated to facilitate access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education and skills development opportunities for learners, youth and adults from historically disadvantaged groups and individuals in order to enhance job creation, employment opportunities and service delivery.

MKI achieves its mandate through implementing innovative interventions and programmes, targeting disadvantaged schools, learners and educators to improve learner performance at GET and FET levels as well as access to university education in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The Science and Mathematics Education and Skills Development initiatives are implemented through a network of partnerships with institutions of Further and Higher Education, non-governmental institutions and other state owned entities.

The Moses Kotane Institute was established in 2009. The Institute is aptly named after one of the founders of the Liberation Movement, Moses Mauane Kotane. As an institute, we strongly believe that education, in and of itself, does not make an individual; rather a cocktail of disciplines and determination does. This is what we inculcate in our beneficiaries, through UBUNTU programme. Moses Mauane Kotane symbolises the quest for education for the betterment of society. This encapsulates the mission of the Moses Kotane Institute.

MKI seeks to address major skills shortfalls in the STEM disciplines and simultaneously develop graduates whose outlook are underpinned by a philosophy of UBUNTU. Our beneficiaries are mainly from disadvantaged rural backgrounds who, because of their socio-economic situation, would not have access to STEM education. The STEM learners are identified in consultation with the Department of Education; since inception MKI has reached thousands of learners – much of it in the form of STEM bursary fund. The liberation stalwart, Moses Mauane Kotane once said, “A country, a movement that does not value its youth, deserves no future”. Moses Kotane’s legacy truly lives on through the work of this institute.

As a newly appointed CEO, Mpungose is under no illusion about the mammoth task ahead and the associated challenges inherent in both the quantity and quality of STEM talent pipeline challenges faced by South Africa; but Mr Mpungose insists that he is poised to make a difference.



Mr Sibusiso Mpungose , CEO of Moses Kotane Institute



Science Laboratory: Experimental Learning

He further highlights that our South African economic competitiveness is strongly dependent on improved talent pipeline in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

The MKI remains deeply concerned by the alarming performance of our schools in Science and Mathematics and believes that this requires involvement of all, if the situation has to improve. We cannot continue to solely blame learners for such poor performance. It is against this understanding that MKI has decided to cut the problem at the root. Our STEM Schools are poorly resourced, especially those in the rural communities. STEM Educators are not provided with relevant and continuous professional development training to better equip them to teach the STEM subjects.

The sad reality is that most of our youth find themselves falling through the cracks of our education system and leave school. "What becomes of these kids? MKI targets this group and places them at TVET Colleges, prepare them through an access programme for mainstream qualification."

Moses Kotane Institute has made steady progress within KZN; but Moses Kotane, the man, was a national icon and his aspirations were for the entire country. "In the next five years we plan to replicate the MKI business model and thus expand our footprint", says Mpungose.

The general interest in Maths, Science and related disciplines amongst learners is at an all-time low. Rural learners who do not have the pleasure of experiencing science in action perceive science a subject far from their reach. We want to change the stigma and make science fun, practical and interactive. We want to arouse interest and effective resourcing of schools through mobile science and computer labs, including career guidance as a solution.

We are aware that we cannot do it alone; hence our call for effective partnerships between the public/private sector. In order to realise this mission, the Institute will be establishing a STEM FUND with the objectives to (a) support youth and graduates who require assistance to pursue STEM related opportunities; (b) enable learners from Child-Headed Homes to gain access to STEM education; and lastly, (c) ensure that schools are well resourced and equipped to deliver STEM education, including Information Communication and Digital Technology.

At MKI, experience has taught us that university dropouts are most influenced by poor life-skills (soft skills), social misfit and inadequate academic support and tuition. The STEM fund will, amongst other things, cater for such needs.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs has political authority over the institute and is currently the sole funder. The capability of the state is limited; additional funding and donors are crucial for the future financial sustainability of MKI. It is an institute that is unique in a sense that it has Ubuntu as a thread that runs through all its programmes, so much so that we are proposing that it becomes a course or an independent programme that all MKI beneficiaries undergo before the completion of their studies, in which ever field they chose.

Moses Kotane Institute has dedicated the entire year to honouring a great man, to embrace his values and dreams and celebrate his life and what he stood for. These celebrations will see MKI hosting an inaugural Moses Kotane Lecture and Gala Dinner to be held during his birth month, in August. MKI remains committed to its mandate which it believes is the key to unlocking the country's economic potential and global competitiveness.



MKI/Adams College learners during MKI Open Day



Business Process Outsourcing Graduation award at Coastal FET College



IT Graduation Ceremony at Esayidi FET College



Moses Kotane Institute
INNOVATION. THE FUTURE

How to prepare for **retirement**

Retirement is a time to be enjoyed. But to truly enjoy it, it is important to have enough money saved up and that means saving from an early age.

Retirement age differs from one employer to the other. However, retirement age for government employees is anything from 55 to 70, depending on one's contract of employment.

It is recommended that people save as much as possible for their retirement while still employed. Some fund rules do allow for voluntary contributions and one must consult the rules of the fund to which they belong to check if this is the case.

It is recommended that people utilise voluntary additional contributions to enhance their retirement benefits. Government departments have established retirement funds for their employees. The retirement fund can either be a pension or a provident fund.

The difference between the pension and the provident funds is that with the pension fund, a member may take one third of their retirement benefit and the balance is used to purchase an annuity, payable in instalments, while with a provident fund, a member may take the whole benefit in cash.

When you change jobs, rather preserve your benefit by transferring it to your new employer's fund instead of taking it in cash.

Some frequently asked questions

1. What are the implications of retirement?

One of the implications of retirement is that there is no regular income. If it is there, it is less than the regular income you earned while still employed and there is also the increased costs of living like medical aid costs to consider.

2. Who contributes towards a retirement fund?

Depending on the contract of employment, either both the employer and the member, or the employer alone contributes towards the retirement fund a certain percentage of the employee's annual salary.

3. Tips to prepare for retirement

- Regularly monitor your benefit statement to keep track of the




growth of your benefits and your fund's performance.

- Do a calculation to ascertain if your benefit pay-out at retirement will be able to sustain you after retirement.
- Remember, you do not get your full salary as a pension. Log on to www.mylifemymoney.co.za for a retirement calculator.
- Consult an authorised financial advisor to obtain expert advice on possible investments before and/or after retirement.
- Contact the GEPIF administration office before retirement, if you have any queries or to clarify issues you do not understand.

4. How do I monitor my retirement provision?

As a member of a retirement fund you are entitled to receive a benefit statement at least once a year from the fund or from the administrator of the fund.

The benefit statement must clearly reflect the benefits you are entitled to in terms of the rules of the fund upon registration, death or retirement. It must also reflect the name and the contact details of the person to contact in case of any uncertainty or query.

The Government Pension Law also allows payment of pension gratuity to beneficiaries of the deceased. This requires the member to complete the applicable form of the fund. 

Margie Whitehouse
Chief Marketing Officer, South African Tourism

Margie Whitehouse holds Bachelor of Business Science Degree, with an Honours in Marketing from the University of Cape Town. Whitehouse has over 25 years' marketing experience in both the public and private sectors. Her career began when she joined the Unilever management graduate programme in 1988. She has created and started brand consultancies to assist companies, both start-ups and established, to innovate and build strong brand identities. She's been involved with the South African Government for some time. Whitehouse previously served on the Board of South African Airways and worked with the Department of Trade and Industry, helping set up its marketing environment. She also worked in fashion for a number of years, and more recently with smaller and emerging brands.

Whitehouse has been consulting for the past few years. In her new position she will be at the helm of South African Tourism's efforts to market the country domestically and internationally.



Dr Phil Mjwara
**Director-General,
Department of Science and Technology**

Dr Phil Mjwara was appointed Director-General in April 2006 and recently his contract was extended for another



three years. He is responsible for policy development in the science and technology sector in South Africa. Prior to his appointment at the Department of Science and Technology, Dr Mjwara was the Group Executive: Research and Development and Strategic Human Capital at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. In 2001, he joined the National Laser Centre as its head. He was instrumental in growing the centre's activities from its inception, and in creating a network of centres in Africa until 2005. Dr Mjwara's public sector career includes serving as Director of Technology Development at the former Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology. His academic career includes serving as professor of Science and Technology Policy at the University of Pretoria, and physics lectureships at the Universities of the Witwatersrand, South Africa and Fort Hare. He has been involved in the management of technological innovation as well as in processes for policy formulation. Dr Mjwara led the team that conducted the first South African technology foresight project. He has published and presented numerous papers relating to physics, technology analysis and foresighting. Dr Mjwara is one of the co-chairs of the Group on Earth Observations based in Geneva.

Gerhard Wilhelm Visagie
Acting Head, Special Investigating Unit

Gerhard Wilhelm Visagie, who was recently appointed Acting Head of the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), has been in the law profession for 32 years. He holds BJuris and LLB degrees, both from the University of Port Elizabeth, and was admitted as an advocate of the high court in 1982. He was first employed by the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) in 1997 and has held various positions in the organisation. Most recently, he was the Executive Manager of Legal Services. Before joining the SIU, he worked as the main evidence leader for the Heath Commission. He has previously served as a prosecutor, magistrate and state advocate.



Sampling *African Delights*



"African Delights!" exclaimed Helen Moffett, a prospective editor for my upcoming collection of short stories. "Are you sure people won't think it's some recipe book?" At that moment I thought a recipe book would actually make a great metaphor for what I was trying to produce.

I always wanted to make books something that is as appealing as your favourite meal. Literature should be something both enjoyable and intellectually stimulating. These sentiments were best captured in *The Times* review entitled "Tales of Our Land," where Carolyn Meads says, "The strength of Mahala's work lies in the fact that it is both entertaining and thought-provoking."

African Delights is a book divided into four parts, each comprising a series of three short stories, more like a three-course meal. The stories in each chapter are interconnected, and each section links chronologically to the next. The collection begins in Sophiatown of the 1950s, runs through the emergency years of the 1980s, touches on the transitional period of the 1990s, and interrogates the present-day society in all its manifestations.

The first section, entitled "The Suit Stories: A Tribute to Can Themba", is obviously influenced by one of the most talented South African scribes, but one who never lived up to his full potential. He is most remembered for his classic story, "The Suit", which was first published in 1963 as the lead story in the first issue of *The Classic*, a journal edited by Nat Nakasa.

The year 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of "The Suit", and the story has become part of the staple diet of African tales. The resilience of this story, which has withstood the test of time over 50 years, is testimony to Themba's majestic pen and his mastery of the art of storytelling.

African Delights is not, however, about Can Themba, nor is it a series of dates and facts. It is the telling of authentically African tales. It is the recreation of our lives. In this book I try to create an emotional connection to draw the reader to the text. In the words of Es'kia Mphahlele, as a writer I see myself as a "historian of feelings." My writing style is influenced by oral narratives, and I use history as a backdrop to the human stories.

The stories move from the humorous escapades of Stompie, a witty character who never gets away from trouble, to the tragic story of Bhontsi, an orphaned lad who finds himself on the wrong side of the political divide and pays the ultimate price. The steadfastly principled Maggie, a domestic worker who does not conform to Samson Mokeona's boisterous chagrins, stands opposite the vulnerable Zodwa, whose simmering upward aspirations compromise the very core of her being.

These are characters who talk like us, live like us, and

are as fallible as many of us are. University of Stellenbosch academic, Dr Wamuwi Mbao, says, "Mahala writes the unmomentous, unobserved moments of daily black life into being." On the other hand, Prof Andries Oliphant says, "Written fluently and deftly, it [*African Delights*] is laced with wit, humour and satire testimony to an incisive, thoughtful and refined literary talent." Such feedback is important for me because I can't be an objective connoisseur of my own meal.

As the master chef, I had a clear view of the kind of meal that I wanted to prepare, the kind of flavour I wanted to inject, but only the consumers can determine whether it is indeed a delight. This is why it came as a relief that Crystal Warren, Senior Researcher at the National English Literary Museum, noted: "It's the kind of book you want to read really quickly and then go back and read slowly so you can savour every phrase".

Prominent Nigerian Poet and book critic, Tade Ipade-

ola, wrote: "To the West African reader, Mahala's offering reads like something in-between a Cyprian Ekwensi and a Chinua Achebe." Following these glittering reviews, the book was prescribed at many universities across the world. Most recently, it has been published by Bookcraft in Nigeria for distribution in West Africa.

Many more South Africans have not yet heeded Mandela Langa's appeal that: "Contemporary South Africa, a state in flux, needs to read these stories to understand how it is seen by some of the sharpest commentators that this democracy has produced". It may be appropriate to add that the lack of reading is applicable to this book and many other texts by South African writers.

One of my greatest ambitions is to see my work metamorphosing from page to stage. This is the meal that I am currently cooking, and I am looking forward to sharing *African Delights* with consumers beyond the literary fraternity. Great stories never evaporate! 🍲



About Sipiwo Mahala

Sipiwo Mahala was born in Grahamstown, Eastern Cape. He completed a BA Honours degree at Fort Hare University, and a Master of Arts degree in African Literature at Wits University. He holds creative writing certificates from Rhodes University in Grahamstown and Lancaster University in the UK. His short stories appear in numerous literary journals and magazines locally and internationally. He is the recipient of the 2006 Ernst van Heerden Creative Writing Award for his debut novel, *When a Man Cries*. Mahala translated his debut novel into his native Xhosa language as *Yakhal' Indoda*. His short story collection, *African Delights* was selected by Africa Book Club as one of the best books of 2011 in Africa. Mahala is a PhD candidate with the University of South Africa (UNISA). He is the Head of Books and Publishing at the Department of Arts and Culture.

Great tasting healthy meals

With greater awareness about the importance of a healthy lifestyle, more and more people are getting on-board the healthy eating bandwagon.

If you are one of them and are looking for some new recipes, look no further. Eating healthy doesn't have to mean boring, tasteless meals.

PSM takes a look at a few recipes and snacks that are filling, satisfy the sweet tooth without adding sugar, helps with digestion and have other health benefits.

Egg-less, dairy-less, flour-less oat cakes

(yields 24)

- 3 ripe mashed bananas
- ⅓ cup unsweetened apple sauce
- 2 cups rolled oats
- ¼ cup almond milk
- ½ cup raisins (optional)
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Directions:

Heat the oven to 180°C. Line the cookie tray with parchment paper. Mix all dry ingredients and using a wooden spoon stir in the liquid. Drop in rounded tablespoons on a parchment paper. Bake for 15-20 minutes until they turn brown. Cool and store in an airtight container.

Pepper fried-rice recipe

- 4 cups cooked brown rice
- 4 tbsp peanut oil or grape seed oil
- 450g bell pepper (julienne)
- 1 small onion (julienne)
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 tbsp dark sesame oil
- 1 tsp soy sauce
- Salt and black pepper to taste

Directions:

Cook rice, then chop onions and peppers julienne style. Chop and paste garlic. On a medium heat stove, place skillet then pour peanut oil. Then add onions and peppers, while stirring raise the heat to high. Add garlic, then season with salt and pepper stirring occasionally for 10 minutes or until the vegetables brown. Lower the heat to medium then add the rice. Cook while stirring for about 10 minutes. Stir in soy sauce and sesame oil, taste and adjust the seasoning. Serve warm or cold. The fried pepper recipe is very tasty and you may add other vegetables and/or chilli for variations.

Avoiding junk food

We often wonder what we can nibble on to avoid junk food at work or school. Here are healthy snack ideas to pack for work:

- Olives
- Carrots
- Pineapple – peeled and cut into desired shape
- Mulberries
- Rosa tomatoes and mozzarella balls on sticks, drizzle pesto if desired.
- Peppers – cut into strips
- Cucumber – wash, do not peel, then cut into quarters
- Watermelon slices
- Sweet melon rolled in Parma ham: Peel and cut melon into desired shape then roll Parma ham around each one
- Kiwi fruit – peel and slice in half
- Mango – Slice one half of the mango then score the inside but not cutting through the peel, when eating turn it inside out.
- Asparagus – blanched in salty water, refresh with cold water and drain
- Cheese and figs
- Mixed nuts and biltong

- Roast beetroot – parboil beetroot then place in an oven tray, drizzle olive oil and a pinch of salt and roast at 200°C for 15 minutes or until soft. Pack beetroot in a separate dish.

Cauliflower steak

By cutting a whole cauliflower into thick slices, you can brown and caramelize it like a meaty steak. Save any extra florets for crudité.

Ingredients:

- 1 large head of cauliflower
- ½ cup pitted oil-packed black olives, finely chopped
- 3 sun-dried tomatoes, thinly sliced
- 3 ½ tbsp olive oil, divided, plus more
- 2 tbsp chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
- Soya sauce and freshly ground black pepper
- 3 garlic cloves
- 2 plum tomatoes, cored, quartered

Preparation:

Remove leaves and trim stem end of cauliflower, leaving core intact. Place cauliflower core upside-down on a work surface. Using a large knife, slice cauliflower into four ½ "steaks" from centre of cauliflower (some florets will break loose; reserve them). Finely chop enough loose florets to measure ½ cup. Transfer chopped florets into a small bowl and mix with olives, sun-dried tomatoes, one tablespoon oil, parsley and lemon juice. Season relish with soya sauce and pepper.

Preheat oven to 400°C. Heat one tablespoon olive oil in a large heavy ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. Working in two batches, cook cauliflower steaks until golden brown, about two minutes per side. Add a tablespoon of oil to pan between batches. Transfer steaks to a large rimmed baking sheet. Reserve skillet. Roast cauliflower until tender, about 15 minutes.

Return skillet to medium-high heat and add garlic cloves and tomatoes. Cook until tomatoes are brown. Turn the tomatoes over and transfer skillet to oven with cauliflower. Roast garlic and tomatoes until tender (about 12 minutes).

Transfer garlic, tomatoes and ½ tablespoon oil into a blender. Purée until smooth. Season with salt and pepper. Divide tomato sauce among plates. Place one cauliflower steak on each plate; spoon relish over. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Summer fruit salad with sweet geranium leaves

[Serves 8-10]

- 110g (1 cup) raspberries
- 110g (1 cup) loganberries
- 110g (1 cup) red currants
- 110g (1 cup) black currants
- 110g (1 cup) small strawberries
- 110g (1 cup) blueberries
- 110g (1 cup) wild strawberries
- 110g (1 cup) blackberries syrup
- 325g (1 ½ cups) sugar
- 450ml (2 cups) water
- 6-8 large sweet geranium leaves

Directions:

Put all the freshly picked berries into a white china or glass bowl. Put the sugar, water and sweet geranium leaves into a stainless steel saucepan and bring slowly to the boil, stirring until the sugar dissolves. Boil for just two minutes. Cool for 4-5 minutes then pour the hot syrup over the fruit and allow to macerate for several hours. Remove the geranium leaves. Serve chilled, with softly-whipped cream or vanilla ice-cream or alone. Garnish with a few fresh sweet geranium leaves.

Herb tea

Here are some healthy herbal tea tips that encourage you to grow herbs in your vegetable gardens at home. They always taste best just picked! From spring onwards when the herb garden is full of an abundance of herbs we make lots of herb teas. Some examples of herbs you can grow which are readily available at nurseries are lemon verbena, rosemary, sweet geranium, lemon balm, spearmint, peppermint.

Ingredients:

Handful herb of choice
Boiled water
Honey (optional)

Directions:

Bring cold water to the boil. Scald a tea pot and take a handful of fresh herb leaves and crush them gently. The quantity will depend on the strength of the herb and how intense an infusion you would like. Put them into the scalded teapot. Pour the boiling water over the leaves, cover the teapot and allow to infuse for 3-4 minutes. Serve immediately in teacups. You may offer honey to people who are new to herb teas but generally herb teas are full of flavour that does not require sweetening. ☺



Image: <http://www.vcreporter.com/>

Understanding autism

There are many misconceptions about autism. With World Autism Awareness Day commemorated on 2 April, *PSM* takes a closer look at the disorder.

Autism is a disorder that affects the way the brain functions. There are different types of autism and different cases vary from mild to severe.

According to the National Autistic Society in the United Kingdom, all people with autism share difficulties when it comes to social communication and interaction.

Social communication involves far more than just speaking to other people – it involves non-verbal communication such as body language as well.

People with autism cannot easily read body language, making it difficult for them to understand what other people are thinking.

Because of this, they often react inappropriately in social situations. This leads to their difficulties with social interaction.

A person with autism may behave very differently to other people, sparking negative reactions in strangers. This can be highly frustrating for a person with autism and he or she may then lash out and make a scene.

Naturally, this usually makes the situation worse, though it is not the autistic person's fault.

There have been many sad personal accounts from people with autism telling of how the outside world appears to them.

Many autistic people find the world to be an extremely scary place where people, places and events become confused and jumbled into a big mess that is difficult to understand.

It may be the fear that this senseless and confusing world brings to the person with autism that causes them to behave unpredictably, particularly in public areas like shopping centres, parks and restaurants.

Despite the effects of autism on the

brain, many people with the disorder display extremely high levels of intelligence and there seems to be a particular pattern of an ability for a memory of numbers and patterns in these individuals.

The cause of autism is unknown, however it always becomes apparent in the early years of a child's development.

It is for this reason that most experts believe it to be a combination of genetic and environmental factors, although there is no scientific proof on the subject.

Because of this, there is no way to knowingly prevent autism, nor is there a cure for it. The disorder largely affects communication abilities, which is why most parents don't know that their child is autistic until around the age of two or older.

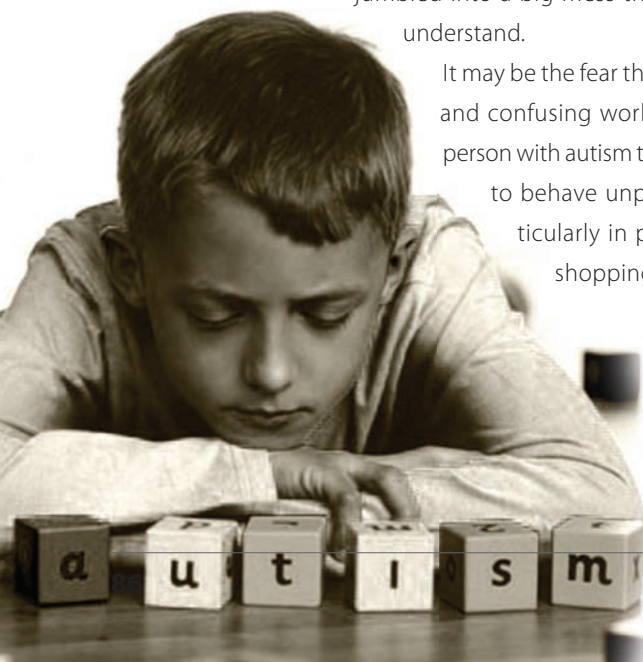
The lack of diagnosis in developing countries means that the World Health Organization is unable to give any statistics on the global incidence rate, however, the Autism Society of America estimates that one in every 110 babies is born with autism and that it is more common in boys than girls.

This lack of diagnosis also means that the condition of children with autism is likely to get worse as although there is no cure for the disorder, early intervention has been proven to lead to significantly better results.

Intervention ranges from medical and dietary treatment to psychological therapy, but because no two cases of autism are the same, there are no set rules of recommendation for improvement.

If you know of any children displaying the following symptoms, he or she may have autism and should be seen by a medical practitioner as soon as possible:

- Lack of or delayed spoken language.
- Repetitive mannerisms or tics such as flapping of hands.
- Lack of eye contact.
- Lack of interest in family members or friends.
- Lack of make-believe playing.
- Fixation with specific objects, or parts of objects.

Image: www.mychildwithoutlimits.org



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KZN: Kingdom of adventure

The Zulu Kingdom, KwaZulu-Natal, has long been known as one of South Africa's premier holiday destinations. We decided to put that claim to the test by trying out the adventure activities on offer.

Beautiful, sunny KZN

The oceanographer Jacques Yves Cousteau once said: "From birth, man carries the weight of gravity on his shoulders. He is bolted to earth. But man has only to sink beneath the surface and he is free." There are not too many places in the world better to sink beneath the surface than off the coast of KZN. The warm Mozambique current means the conditions are good for diving, spearfishing and swimming all-year round, and there are plenty of reefs teeming with fish and wildlife.

Probably the most well-known reef is Sodwana Bay, about a three hour drive up the north coast from Durban. The bay consists of four dive sites, imaginatively named 2 Mile Reef, 5 Mile Reef, 7 Mile Reef and 9 Mile Reef to indicate their distance from the launch site (Jesser Point). The reefs host many year-round animals such as dolphins and sharks, as well as seasonal visitors such as manta rays and humpback whales.

On the KZN south coast lie Aliwal Shoal and Protea Banks. Aliwal Shoal is a beautiful reef just off the coast of the town of Umkomaas. Just being underwater and hearing the crackling noise of the reef, tasting the salty water and feeling the strong current carry

you along, all while seeing a completely different world, is an adventure enough. However, Aliwal Shoal offers so much more than that: it's a large reef with many different dives on offer, with the main attraction being a dive to Raggie's Cave (so named because of many raggie-toothed sharks that are found in that particular spot). Encountering sharks on a dive is a lot less scary than it sounds – underwater the sharks are calm and could even be described as graceful creatures. Dolphins are also plentiful in the area, along with eels, rays and the occasional turtle. Protea Banks is further to the south (close to Margate) and offers good diving conditions with a high possibility of seeing bull sharks and tiger sharks.

Getting high in the city

Durban is one of the country's revitalised cities after hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup and there are now plenty of tourist attractions on offer. One of these is Moses Mabhida Stadium, a soccer stadium that is now a multi-purpose sports and entertainment centre. The Skycar - a cabin that runs up the arch of the stadium to the viewing platform at the top - is a big hit with visitors to the city. From the height of 106 metres guests have great views of the city in one direction and the ocean in the other.

The adventurous way to enjoy the view is by doing the Big Rush Big Swing. Guests walk up the arch on the south side of the stadium (with safety ropes attached to the stairs) before getting onto a platform at the top. From here it's an 80 metre free-fall swing into the bowl of the stadium, with most people screaming





their way through the 220 metre arc before being safely lifted back onto the platform.

From the stadium there's a stunning promenade running all along the beachfront, and if the weather is good it is full of activity with runners, cyclists, roller-bladers and skateboarders of all ages whizzing by. At the south end of the promenade lies Ushaka Marine World, the largest aquarium in the Southern Hemisphere. The park is a favourite for young families, and once again there's a chance for those with a head for heights to get the adrenaline pumping – the Wet 'n Wild waterpark boasts the highest slide in Africa.

Other adventures are also on offer in the Sea World aquarium, with dolphin and seal shows as well as penguin and shark feeding times. The park has 32 tanks holding sharks, rays, morays and many large fish species such as potato bass and kingfish. Once the viewing is done there is also restaurant called Cargo Hold with views of the animals. Shark cage diving and snorkelling in the lagoon (with about 1500 fish) are also popular activities.

Don't sweat the small stuff

Endurance athletes are a special type of species. Tougher than Mike Tyson in his prime, these characters have pushed through the pain barrier so often they've forgotten the meaning of the word. And there's nowhere in the country more popular for long-distance athletes to get their kicks than KZN. Runners flock to the province annually for the gruelling Comrades Marathon, a 90km trek between Pietermaritzburg and Durban. The race is the world's oldest and largest ultra marathon (it began in 1921 with just 34 runners) and is now capped at 23 000 runners per year. The race route alternates each year, with the "up run" from Durban to Pietermaritzburg seen as tougher race than the "down run" (the same route except in reverse). Cyclists can enjoy the Amashova Durban Classic, a 106km bike race that follows a similar route to Comrades, while Tour Durban offers a road race and mountain bike race though and

around the city of Durban.

Water enthusiasts will be attracted to the annual Dusi canoe marathon, a prestigious and popular race that runs about 120 km along the Msunduzi and Umgeni Rivers before finishing at Blue Lagoon in Durban. The first race was held in 1951 and had a non-stop format. Paddlers had to carry all their supplies with them, and it was Ian Player who won that first race in a time of just under seven days. Due to the dangers involved in night paddling the race is now held over three days, with each stage having a set start and finish point.

Rounding off the endurance sports is the Midmar Mile, the world's largest open water swimming event. Originally started by three friends and attracting about 150 swimmers, the race now draws over 35 000 eager swimmers per year to Midmar Dam. This event is held over a weekend with eight separate categories of races. For the very fit, swimming with the "8 Mile Club" group and competing in all eight races over the weekend is also an option.

Where the air is thin

Humans might not have feathers or super-light bone density, but that doesn't mean we are unable to fly. KZN offers various ways to get up into the clear blue sky, and all of them will get your heart beating at a considerably quicker pace.

Paragliding is available both on the coast and inland. Pilots and wannabe pilots can fly as well as complete their training looking out over the ocean at Bluff beach, while the town of Bulwer in the Drakensberg is known for its reliable wind conditions and is a good place to learn to fly. For people new to the sport a tandem flight with a qualified pilot is a great way to try it out and see if it's something they would like to pursue further.

Microlighting, which differs from paragliding in that it has an engine, can be done through the Ballito Microlight School. Guests can choose whether to do the 10 minute, 20 minute or 30 minute flight, and all flights boast beautiful views of rolling sugar cane fields >> and the big blue ocean (aptly named the Dolphin Coast, so keep your eyes peeled for these magnificent



creatures playing in the waves). Another peaceful way to take in the beauty is in a hot air balloon, the oldest form of manned flight. Sunrise flights are available through Sky Adventures, and there are various options available, such as flights overlooking the Drakensberg Mountains or above Tala Game Reserve.

For the very bold (and slightly crazy), the Durban Skydive Centre offers a wide range of adrenaline activities involving extreme heights. Tandem jumps from a light aircraft involve a 20 minute flight and then a 45 second free-fall followed by a six minute parachute descent. A static line jump means that

guests jump out of the plane solo, with the parachute automatically opening after a brief freefall. For the very committed, the Accelerated Free Fall course is a full course consisting of 11 jumps, after which participants are qualified independent skydivers.

Take a hike

Getting out into nature is always a good way to truly relax. Stretching all the way inland are the Drakensberg Mountains, a fearsome mountain range with plenty of hiking routes and nature reserves to be explored. Derived from the Afrikaans name meaning "Dragon Mountains," the Drakensberg Mountains are a sight to behold (the Zulu name, uKhahlamba, meaning "Barrier of Spears" is equally descriptive).

In the heart of the Drakensberg is Sani Pass, a winding gravel road leading into Lesotho and popular with 4X4 off-road enthusiasts and motorbikers. The mountainous topography is breathtaking, and there are many nature reserves nearby with plentiful hiking routes. The parks close to the town of Underberg are Cobham Nature Reserve and Lotheni Nature Reserve,

both ideal for those with a love for the outdoors. Cobham Nature Reserve, situated in the Southern Maloti-Drakensberg Park, offers unforgettable scenery and great hiking trails. Accommodation options are rustic, with options including a campsite as well as a cave, which can fit up to 12 people on overnight hikes. Lotheni Nature Reserve is just as beautiful, and has the distinction of being South Africa's first cultural and environmental World Heritage Site. Attractions include a settler's homestead museum as well as many rock shelters and caves, which contain a large collection of historic rock art preserved from the San people.

The Royal Natal National Park is on the northern side of the Drakensberg, home to the spectacular amphitheatre. This mountain feature is over five kilometres long and has breath-taking cliffs all along its length, with some over 1200 metres in height. Climbing to the top of the amphitheatre is a challenge in itself: the climb takes five hours there and back and involves some steep sections and two chain ladders to get to the summit. Another hike leaving from the same park is the Tugela Falls hike, a seven kilometre route, which will have hikers trekking through beautiful indigenous forests before being rewarded with the stunning view of the falls at the top.

The last word

Trying to sum up all the adventure activities in a large region is an impossible task, and no doubt there will be many readers who have a few activities to add to the list (for example we haven't even touched on the game reserves that are scattered throughout the province).

Hopefully, however, these ideas will spur many a reader into a more adventurous lifestyle and result in a new appreciation for everything our country has to offer. After all, if you're not living on the edge then you're taking up too much space! ☺





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Layering into *autumn*

The temperature has dropped but you are not ready to go all out into winter mode just yet. Not to worry, we have put together a very easy-to-wear layered look which will have you covered from brisk morning breezes to chilly evening outings. Length and proportion is key when layering. Your underlayers should be more fitted to keep your shape looking slim. A good belt will top off your look and help with any concerns about your waistline. Play with texture. It's best to incorporate a mix of materials when styling a layered look. Top it off with some accessories.



1. Pringle of Scotland Rosella long coat, **R2 800** 2. Mishah cocoon knit cardigan, **R425** 3. A-List combo jumpsuit, **R670**

4. Alexander McQueen laser-cut leather belt, **price on request** 5. Topshop square cuff bangle **R250** 6. Marc By Marc Jacobs Henry Chrono watch, **R3 759**

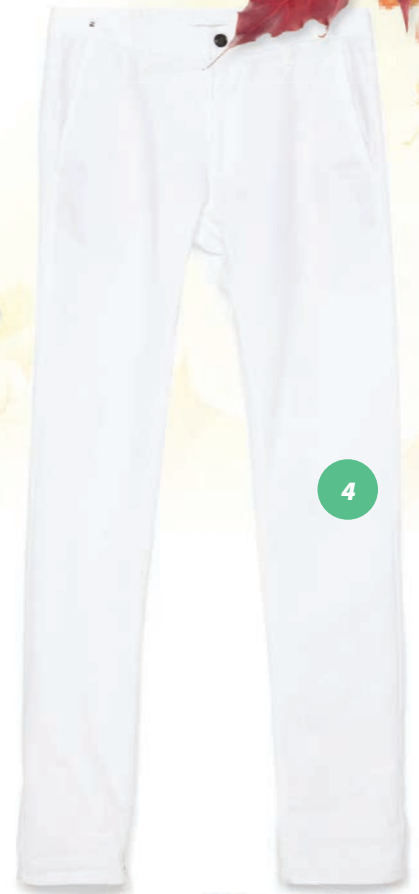
7. Sophia Webster Mika leather pump, **R6 295** 8. Bottega Veneta Roma large intrecciato leather tote, **price on request**



1



5



4

Don't be scared to play around with colours but there should be some similarities between a few of them. A long overcoat that can be worn over blazers without their hems showing is always worth having. A simple, straightforward, turndown collar shirt is a staple of menswear. Playing around with shirt colours and patterns is always good. Blazers are a must have for all men. A well-fitted blazer goes a long way from day to night.



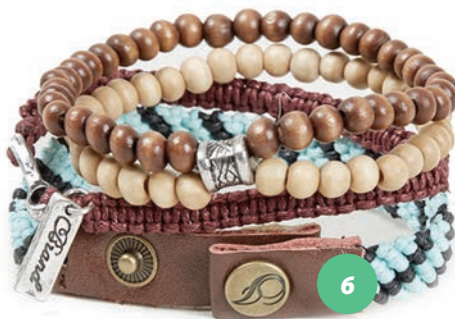
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7



6



8

1. J.Crew slim-fit wool and cashmere-blend overcoat **R11 150**
2. Paul Smith green slim-fit cotton and silk-blend blazer **R17 960**
3. Zara piqué shirt **R467**
4. Zara cotton trousers **R540**
5. Saint Laurent brown leather belt **R5 880**
6. Topman icon brand blue bracelet **R270**
7. Emporio Armani classic AR1792 watch **R5 900**
8. Topman navy trigger desert shoes **R650**



The agony and ecstasy of *owning a vintage classic*

South Africans are car crazy. While many of our overseas counterparts see automobiles as a means to get them from A to B, for us a car is a status symbol. A mobile billboard to shout to everyone that we have arrived, literally and figuratively. That is, of course, if we are driving a top-of-the-range model that is equal or better than the Jones' vehicle. The passion and enthusiasm can manifest itself in different ways; competitively, as in street racing, drifting, spinning or participating in official timed motor racing in its various formulas. Most times, though, this interest will also include collections of automotive memorabilia, radio controlled kit cars, motoring books, DVDs or when one is able to afford them, real vintage car collections.

Affordability always remains a critical issue, as the love of cars can be an expensive hobby. For many of us, the hobby started with collecting and pinning up giant posters of exotic dream sports cars such as Porsches, Lamborghinis and Ferraris, then subscribing to glossy motor car magazines before we got into the serious collection of model cars. Note, these model cars are die-cast replica scale models of the originals and not cheap and nasty battery operated toy cars.

Eventually, the bug is going to bite and unless you have an understanding spouse, things can become quite taxing matrimonially as well. I'm talking about the bug to acquire a vintage or classic car. You see these glorious wheels of yesteryear at motor shows, special occasions such as weddings, matric balls and in various print and electronic commercials. But most of all, the bug is going to bite you when you see your blockbuster movie hero/heroine driving off into the sunset or driving off a cliff in the classic sports car of your dreams. Think of the Ford Thunderbird driven off the canyon in the movie "Thelma and Louise".

Let me warn you though, whether it's a real childhood dream of owning a muscular, hair-on-chest, old school, throbbing V8 or a recent mid-life denial crisis, the symptoms are the same: "I want one and I want it now". So blinded are we at obtaining the "bargain of a lifetime" that we will often overlook a number of inherent and overt faults that weeks later, will become our undoing! Trust me I've been there.

What you have to remember is that for all its nostalgic and sentimental emotions, a vintage car is an old car and no matter how well it was built

in its day, over time, it needs lots of tender love and care which, obviously costs lots of money. And it never ends...

Don't mistake what you see on TV shows like "Pimp my Ride" or "Street Ridez" or "Extreme Overhauling", where rust buckets with metre long weeds growing from the undercarriage are retrieved from farmsteads to be magically transformed in record time into gorgeous celebrities on wheels. In the real world, nothing could be further from the truth. And if, like me, you are mechanically challenged, things can and will only get worse.

In my short, collect-a-vintage-classic lifetime, I have owned seven old Mercs and one Karmann Ghia. Among the seven, most were what Mercedes calls "Young Classics" meaning that they are around 20 years old. The oldest was a 1972 Mercedes Benz 230. You will notice that I used the tense "was", because I have sold all but two: a 1994 special edition E220 Sportline with full service history and only 140 000kms on the clock and a sexy 1996 two-door V8 Convertible SL 500 - my weekend special!

As for the rest, I've had a love hate relationship with them. While outwardly they all looked well-kept and desirable, dealing with rust in the most obscure of places, procuring expensive, sometimes unavailable parts and a never ending budget with lots of patience are required to prevent you from overdosing on Caltex Super Oil! Believe me, nothing is more heart-breaking and gut-wrenching as watching the expensive oil change done by the geriatric and hard-of-hearing Oom Freddie



An original SL, like this one, will set you back more than R3 million if you can find one.



Do you have R10 million to spare? If you do, this rare red SSK could be parked in your garage.



British aristocratic classics, like this Rolls Royce, are normally well kept but expensive to maintain.



There are many classic collectables but ensure that you consult experts and do your research carefully.

result in a major oil spill on your garage floor the next day.

So why do people still insist on buying an old car, vintage or otherwise? I can only speak for myself... and thousands of other dedicated collectors! Passion. Yes folks, simple word, but heavy in meaning and emotions. Passion for the memories of the golden age of motoring. This was a time when cars were designed by true motoring enthusiasts and not by bean counters that dictate design resulting in all cars looking "same-same" with little or no soul or character.

Think of amazing early cars such as the first mass produced Ford Model T, the original Volkswagen Beetle, the avant-garde frog-shaped Citroën DS, the oh-so-gorgeous gull wing Mercedes Benz 300 SL, the elegant Jaguar E Type, the legendary Willy's Jeep, the chrome embellished Cadillac Eldorado and other cars from the early era which represented the romance and magic that is difficult to replicate in our plastic throw-away society.

The final deal maker will be when you're confronted by hordes, okay, make that many, curious onlookers who will wave at you as they pass you, while others will actually take pictures on their cellphones and the hordes, sorry, many, who will strike up a conversation at the parking bay or fuel stops. Those experiences are just priceless and owning a unique, eye-catching beaut can be a wonderful and fulfilling thing but you need to do your homework first.



Everyone has to start somewhere. Beetles are relatively easy to find, fix and re-sell.

So if you've set your heart, mind and wallet on that priceless gem on wheels, then bear the following questions in mind and heed this timely advice from the experts:

- Are you buying a project car that you or a professional will be restoring?
- Are parts, manuals and expertise readily available?
- Are you planning to buy a performance exotic to use as a weekend special of an early daily run-about just like granddad had?
 - How long do you plan to keep it?
 - Are you planning to buy it as an investment?
 - How original do you want your project to be or are you happy to scavenge parts and turn it into a "Hot Rod" instead?
 - Take along someone who is an expert in cars (old cars especially) and check the nature and extent of the repairs that will be needed.
- Make sure you have a budget in mind for your project – it is easy to get carried away and find that your returns are minimal.
- Conduct a full internet research and consult other enthusiasts around the world for further advice.
- Join a local car club. You will get invaluable, expert advice at no cost.
- Once the car is up and running be sure to show it off at local motor shows and enjoy your labour of love. 🍷



Old Porsches make for excellent collectables but be wary of the vehicle history.

The old SA favourite "Kombi" is proving to be extremely popular among overseas buyers, who are shaping up excellent local examples and paying irresistible prices.



The writer's personal collection of Young Classic Mercs.



Pre-trip inspections, posture and blind spots

The issue with any defensive driving skills course in South Africa is the amount of resistance towards this driver enhancement programme. Nobody is willing to admit that they may not be entirely perfect drivers.

It is not uncommon for people to tell you that they've been driving for more than 30 years incident free and ask what can we teach them that they do not already know?

Admittedly, there may not be much, but a refresher course is not inappropriate because if you have had such a clean, incident free driving record, complacency is bound to set in and you could be a crash waiting to happen.

If you look at today's topic: "Pre-trip inspections, posture and blind spots", it will hardly raise an eyebrow. Some may ask: "Why are we not talking about over steer, loss of control or driving in adverse conditions?" It is coming, but we need to deal with the basics first.

Let's talk about pre-trip inspections, which are not just for long distance holiday travel.

Get into the habit of conducting a quick pre-trip inspection, both for the exterior and interior, looking at critical issues such loose body panels, oil leaks, tyre pressure and if you're driving company pool vehicles, license discs and the condition of the spare, jack and spanners. With the help of someone, check to see that all electrical components - lights, indicators, wipers and hooters are in working condition. Internally, check that all interior warning lights go out when the vehicle is started and that there is sufficient fuel. No loose items must be at the foot well near the pedals. Ensure you and all your passengers are buckled up.

While in the vehicle, ensure that your posture

is correct - no leaning far back where you barely see the driver's head. Leaning too far forward style is equally bad. What you need to do is adjust your seat so that your eye line is above the halfway mark of the windscreen. Your arms should have a slight "V" and the position on the wheel should 10-to-two. Your feet should form an "A" at your knees allowing for sufficient foot travel when clutching or braking hard.

All very boring, but you would be shocked at what we find people do and think that it's not very serious. Fact is, it might not be serious in normal driving but everything takes on a desperate meaning when you're caught in a hazardous situation and you suddenly find your hands crossing over limiting your movements.

Finally, let's talk about blind-spots - yes, those areas at least one metre away from the rear sides of a vehicle that are not covered by the interior or exterior rear-view mirrors making for many potential misses especially with regards to motorcyclists.

To avoid getting caught, especially when changing lanes, make a physical head check in the direction that you're going to turn. In other words, if you are turning right, you will check your interior rear view mirror, your right exterior rear view mirror and your quick physical head check over your right shoulder before signalling to the right.

Simple, obvious, but very serious if omitted and caught out. So, look, think and stay alive! 🚗

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Ultimate living room essentials

The best place to watch the game is probably at the stadium itself just as your favourite movie is best watched at the cinema. But why leave the comfort of your home when you can experience the same viewing pleasure in the comfort of your living room? *PSM* has put together a couple of essentials, which will turn your living room into a place the whole family can enjoy.



JBL SB400 Cinema Soundbar Speaker, R7 500

Making the right kind of noise. The SB400 is everything that you can ask for in a sound system. This device virtually needs no setup, just connect and play. Stream music wirelessly through any Bluetooth enabled device. No need to venture far, this soundbar brings cinema-quality audio into a small space and high style to your home. Its two-channel

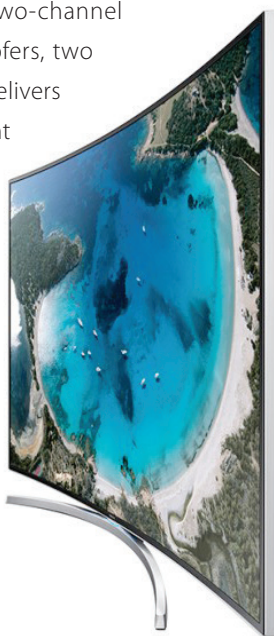
soundbar features four 2-1/4-inch (57 millimetre) woofers, two 1-inch (25 millimetre) tweeters and an amplifier that delivers up to 120 watts, which creates a 3D listening environment

from only two channels. The system also includes a 200 watt, 8-inch (200 millimetre) wireless subwoofer with bass-boost control.



Sony Sennheiser HDR 120 RF Headphones, R1 300

Keeping it to yourself. When you want to keep the noise levels down and not disturb the rest of the household reach for



Samsung H8000 Series 8 Curved Uhd TV, R43 599

Watching television will never be the same. The 65" H8000 Series 8 Curved TV provides a panoramic view that wraps around you and draws you into the picture. The screen is curved at the right angle to provide the optimal viewing distance for your living room.

DStv Explora, R1 999

Variety is the spice of life. The DStv Explora HD PVR single view decoder lets you discover, store and enjoy content like never before.

The new DStv Central menu lets you access a world of entertainment. View your playlist, plan your TV schedule, manage your recordings, choose blockbusters from on BoxOffice and record up to 220 hours of your favourite shows.

these headphones. The Sennheiser wireless headphones not only open you to a world of true freedom of movement but also breathes new life into audio with its sleek design. Its detailed, balanced sound reproduction coupled with strong bass response makes it an ideal choice for all types of music and TV applications. Rediscover the world of wireless freedom with a touch of simplicity and elegance. These comfortable to wear, lightweight headphones, gives you wireless freedom with reception range of up to 100 metres.



Playstation 4 (PS4)

R5 599

Something for the kids (dad included). PS4 is a next generation computer entertainment system, which not only redefines rich and immersive gameplay with powerful graphics and speed, but also deeply integrates social capabilities. It also passes as a blu-ray DVD player and houses an array of Sony content such as music and videos when you connect online.





My name is **Dr Joe**
and **together with GEMS**, the medical
scheme of choice for public servants,
I have committed myself to **making a
difference** to the lives of my patients,
many of whom are members of GEMS.

It's all about **the patient**

As a family practitioner I have forged long-standing relationships with my patients built on trust and understanding. Because of this they benefit from a **fully coordinated healthcare service**, which has **improved the quality of their lives**.



With the introduction of the **nominated family practitioner system**, GEMS has recognised the value of putting family practitioners where we belong, at the heart of the health of our patients.



With over **90%** of members located within **less than 10 kilometres** of a GEMS family practitioner, this is a positive and carefully considered development. More importantly, it means that **care will be well coordinated**, diseases will be better managed and the healthcare of members will go further.



It's just another way of showing that **nothing is more important** to GEMS **than the health and wellbeing** of their members.

GEMS, the choice of **family practitioners**

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