



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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Issue no. 40: October 2020

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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Provincial Taxi Lekgotla

By Moleboheng Maphutsi: GCIS, Northern Cape



Transport Deputy Minister Dikeledi Magadzi addressing various stakeholders at the event.



Various taxi associations across the province attending the Provincial Taxi Lekgotla.

On 14 October 2020, the Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison hosted a Provincial Taxi Lekgotla in Kimberley, under the theme: “4/4 Masihlalisane, towards a peaceful co-existence and shared prosperity.” The purpose of the event was to discuss the future of the taxi business and to establish long-term strategies for challenges facing the industry at large.

The session was attended by the Deputy Minister of Transport, Dikeledi Magadzi, Transport, Safety and Liaison MEC Nomandla Bloem, and the president of the South African National Taxi Council, Philip Taabosch, together with other notable provincial taxi associations officials.

Deputy Minister Magadzi applauded taxi officials for their selfless commitment to serve citizens amidst the COVID-19 global pandemic. “The services offered by the industry under these stressful times have not only contributed to the endurance of our industry, but most importantly, have held the nation together, thus ensuring the social cohesion we have all been striving for,” she said.



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MEC Bloem emphasised the importance of the contribution of the taxi industry to the economic growth and well-being of the province. “For our people in the Northern Cape, Deputy Minister, through the years, the taxi industry has also been our connection with employment opportunities, and with one another. There may be a lot of challenges in the sector, however, we cannot deny the important role it plays in securing accessibility for black people to employment, services and family,” said the MEC.



Transport MEC Nomandla Bloem addressing attendees.



Zwai Gxequ said:
“I started in the taxi industry in 2001 as a driver and became an owner in 2014. This initiative is good in a sense that we can apply policies and be guided by them. The Lekgotla affords us the opportunity to be vocal about the challenges we are faced with in our respective areas of business. It further supports and directs us accordingly. As an industry we need to be professional and have a sense of customer care.”



David Lebona said:
“I applaud government for the work it is doing in supporting us. I urge all my fellow associates to help fight taxi violence. We need to work peacefully to ensure that we provide our commuters with the best service.”

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Madidi bridge connects villages

By Ephraim Malema: GCIS North West



Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula at the official opening of Madidi Bridge.



The new launched Madidi Bridge.

Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula officially opened Madidi Bridge, which connects Madidi and Pasha villages on 13 October 2020. The Minister was joined Public Works and Roads MEC Gaoage Molapisi, Community Safety and Transport Management MEC Sello Lehari, Madibeng Executive Mayor Jostina Mothibe, Speaker of the Council, Kabelo Ntshabele and other government leaders.

The 50-metre bridge was built over the Sand River, which is also known as the Toloane River. It serves as a link between the remote village of Pasha and the rest of the Madibeng Local Municipality, and other neighbouring areas.

The construction project resulted in the training and employment of local workers over a period 16 months, comprising youth and women. In addition, 25 local sub constructors were given an opportunity to carry out site works. "The bridge will ensure a smooth flow of vehicles between the villages. People will be able to move from one area to another without problems," Minister Mbalula said.

The bridge was built as a result of the department's Labour Intensive Rural Roads Programme, which is used to improve the economic and social conditions of rural communities through the construction and maintenance of rural road infrastructure.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Transport Month radio programme

By Cholo Mothibi: GCIS, Free State



Cholo Mothibi being interviewed during a Transport Month talk show at Mosupatsela FM.

As part of celebrating Transport Month under the theme: “Together shaping the future of transport”, the Government Communication and Information System conducted a radio talk show at Mosupatsela FM in Botshabelo on 15 October 2020. The session aimed to highlight the important role of transport in the economy and also the negative impact that COVID-19 brought to the industry.

The talk show was conducted in partnership with the Department of Police, Roads and Transport, which was conducted telephonically by Hillary Mophethe. She explained that COVID-19 brought a huge backlog as most projects were closed and the taxi industry faced loss due to COVID-19 regulations.

The registering authority services at the testing stations, South African permits, learners’ licence renewals, and roadworthy tests were all affected, and all provinces are working on closing the backlog. Mophethe also discouraged the use of cellphones and the drinking of alcohol when driving.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Ekurhuleni launches fire station

By Itumeleng Bogatsu: GCIS, Gauteng



People who were in attendance.



Phumla Mashile said:

“I thank my entire team and the Ekurhuleni Metro for their tireless efforts, which resulted in the successful completion of this fire station. I always pride myself with the famous African proverb: ‘If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together’. It was not an easy task, and it took some time, but the results today showcase that we did great by working together. We are expecting to see the immediate impacts of this fire station.”



Ekurhuleni Mayor Mzwandile Masina cutting the ribbon to officially open the state-of-the-art fire station.



A new state-of-the-art fire station in Olifantsfontein was officially opened by the Executive Mayor of the City of Ekurhuleni, Councillor Mzwandile Masina on 8 October 2020. The station, built to relief the old fire station that was built in the mid-1940s in the same area, and it will serve the newly developed areas in the vicinity.

The areas to benefit include Winnie Mandela, Tswelopele, Clayville, part of Tembisa, Hospital View, Midstream Estate, Olifantsfontein industrial hub, the logistic corridor developing along the R21 freeway, R21 freeway, R562 linking Ekurhuleni with Midrand, Old Pretoria Road linking Olifantsfontein industrial hub with the City of Tshwane.

Mayor Masina said “the launch here today is not just a fire station, we are realising the ideal of South Africa in which infrastructure investment is geared towards people’s developmental agenda. We have reconstructed and upgraded the roads of the informal settlements so that ambulances and fire fighters can move around easily”.

As part of observing the rules and regulations of the COVID-19 Level 1, the launch was attended by a few community members and stakeholders such as Member of the Mayoral Committee for Community Safety, Councillor Pheladi Mmoko, Community Safety Oversight Committee Chairperson, Councillor Izak Berg, and Phumla Mashile of the P-Mash Project – the company that built the fire station.