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**CAUGHT IN THE ACT:** A Toyota Quantum belonging to the police being fitted with second-hand tyres in KwaMhlanga on Wednesday. PHOTO BY France Nyaka/AENS

## NEWS HEADLINES

### COPE: 'THEFT' CHARGES WITHDRAWN, BUT INFIGHTING CONTINUES

Now COPE wants to "recall" its only Member of the Provincial Legislature, Zale Madonsela (right).

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### ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY FOR JAMEELA

A dream has come true for nine-year-old Jameela Alli from Mpumalanga, who has been chosen from thousands of children worldwide to be a McDonald's Player Escort during the Fifa World Cup. Page 12



### "Naso-Ke Sihlabane"



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# MEGA boss demoted

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ISSN 1993-8209

# WELCOME BACK RIO S'GALAMBA MABUNDA

## ... BUT, COMRADE SPIKIRI BELIEVES, IT'S TIME FOR SUPER CHANGES AT ALROE PARK

Ziwaphi extend a warm welcome to Rio "Super Boss" Mabunda, who has recently been reinstated as the station manager for the biggest radio station in Mpumalanga, radio Gwalagwala. The listeners sorely missed you broer and we are hoping you used your time away from the station to study your market properly. While doing other business, we hope you were sizing up your competitors and looking for fresh ideas that should catapult the station to dizzy heights.

Radio Gwalagwala is suffering from state programming. The programme content is dry and lazy. Some of the presenters are lazy and shallow. They do their research on "shwashwi" pages of the tabloids that specialize in gutter journalism. Except for the current affairs teams and some of the talk show programmes, LiGwalagwala has nothing to be proud of.

The deejays are unashamedly, moonlighting. The station provides them with free advert time to market their own services and goods which they peddle for

personal commercial gain while utilizing or even abusing state resources. Some of them have become so engrossed in their own mighty that they are taking listeners for granted. In their shows they glorify the cheap culture of "party, booze and getting screwed" which is afflicting the younger generation of our society.

Without sounding like a moralist, Ziwaphi wants to encourage Mabunda to start thinking how he is going to raise the bar at Ligwalagwala. No longer will it suffice to maintain the current crop of sub-standard programs nor will it be acceptable to keep dead wood among the staff for the sake of loyalty.

Radio is fast becoming a sophisticated but down to earth platform for not only the poor but the educated, moderately rich and mobile people across all ages. Watching the SAMA awards over the weekend, one could not help but have a dry throat and a sour taste in the mouth when each time "Big Nuz" scooped an award, the whole group would thank radio Ukhozi for the support it has been giving them. Later, radio Metro, challenged the award winning group with complaints claiming that they too (Metro) gave Big Nuz high rotation airplay.

One wonders what the radio Gwalagwala deejays had to say. No longer will people silently tolerate mediocrity. Being loudmouthed is no longer the quality in one's resume for being a radio personality. The microphone now demands that public speakers should know what they are saying.

The day days of babalaased bubbling hot air over the airwaves are gone. Segmenting and quartering of the airwaves by the Public Broadcasting Corporation has yielded problems for rural provinces like Mpumalanga. It has killed off competition. Radios like Gwalagwala have enjoyed near monopoly of the broadcast airwaves for a long time. That has brought with it lethargic programs, tardiness and baseless confidence exhibited with alarming alacrity by a bunch of ignoramus who do not owe their jobs to any discernible talent, qualification nor effort.

Except for one or two individuals, I know of no other person at Gwalagwala who does research whether about music or any other subject before they take on the waves. Incidentally, it is only these individuals who play music by local artists. The others play their own cacophony of noise they call music. I know not of any public employment that would allow a worker to use the employer's time to market and sell personal goods and services for commercial purposes and personal profit. Last year, Ziwaphi published a story of a KaNyamazane based musician, "Jinda" who against all odds won the SATMA awards for the best Siswati Album. Ziwaphi decried the fact that both Ligwalagwala and the Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation had completely stonewalled the ground breaking works of the artist but nothing came of it, except in response to the article, Jinda was hastily called to the studio and a very rough job was broadcast, to shut us up.

Mabunda's return is one of the best things that have happened recently on radio Gwalagwala, and the culture of doing personal business in office must be rooted out, if the listeners would stand a chance of enjoying value for money. All these fly-by-night events management companies run from the station by individuals should disappear or the owners must disappear with them.

Take pride in your community and start serving them. This may make you unpopular in the corridors of your workplace but take solace in the fact that it is not your colleagues that made you.

You owe it to the large public out there who will settle for nothing less. The public demands good service from you. The fact that you chose to come back tells us that you have a fresh contribution to make and we can't wait for you to reign in positive changes. Get rid of dead wood and bring in fresh blood. Run the station along sound business principles and save us from blood sucking leeches who masquerade as public broadcasters for personal interests.

Welcome back Super Boss.



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## THUMBS UP TO THE 'HLANGUS

*The MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, finally sounded the death knell for the notorious Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA), marking an end to three years of iron fist management, unfulfilled promises and mediocre performance.*

My only disappointment was that the Executive Council (provincial cabinet) has decided to keep the old name.

The excuse that it would be costly to change the name is a very lame one, because image is very important, and the name of MEGA is associated with unscrupulous conduct.

We, however, applaud Mahlangu for finally relieving Nosizwe Nokwe of her responsibilities as the CEO of the parastatal. There is no other demonstration of a vote of no confidence than to remove her from the helm.

Mahlangu has committed to transparency within all the institutions under his control and he has stuck to his promise. He has not only been holding his

management accountable, but he has also ensured that they are accountable to the public.

Another Mahlangu who must be commended for her bravery is Dikeledi Mahlangu. When most people were enjoying and relaxing during the Easter holidays, she spent the entire weekend visiting all the hospitals throughout the province pretending to be a patient.

After her visits, she engaged on yet another visit to all the media houses in Nelspruit to share her experiences. I was impressed by her and her management's humility and openness, and her commitment to address some of the challenges that she had seen at the facilities.

According to reports, some of her managers in some of the hospitals were unhappy with the surprise visits, particularly because the MEC had never visited them since her appointment as MEC.

All we can tell them is that they must go to hell, because the MEC is not accountable to them, but to the population. These spoilt brats must do what they are

employed for. The department has the biggest budget, however, the conditions in the hospitals are unbearable mainly because of poor management.

Mahlangu also told Ziwaphi that she had instituted an investigation into primary health care centres (clinics) to determine the needs of these institutions. We at Ziwaphi believe that is precisely what politicians must do when they get into office. They must not assume that they already know the problems, but they must investigate what is hampering service delivery and then act. This will provide them the opportunity to redirect the department's budget to where it will make a difference instead of where morally bankrupt officials can make money for themselves.

Thumbs up to the two, but unrelated, Mahlangus for adhering to the principles of transparency instead of the outdated, "send us questions in writing!"

We wish all the politicians in the province and in the country could learn from them.

# MEGA boss demoted

After ruling Mpumalanga's biggest parastatal with an iron fist, the future of MEGA's ex-CEO looks uncertain

BY MUNTU SIYAYA

*Winds of change are beginning to blow at Mpumalanga Government's biggest parastatal, Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) with the demotion of the agency's former Chief Executive Officer, Nosizwe Nokwe.*

The MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Jabulani Mahlangu announced earlier this week that Gijima Dladla, who is also the CEO for the Mpumalanga Housing Finance Corporation (MHFCo) has been appointed as the acting CEO of the new entity, which is still called MEGA.

While the news for Nokwe's demotion were received with jubilation within the offices of the agency earlier this week, employees described the mood within the parastatal as "tense", but that they were happy to see that the once powerful CEO was as vulnerable as the victims of her strong hand tactics.

Nokwe took over the controversial parastatal from Phillip Dexter in 2006 following the merger of the Mpumalanga Investment Initiative (MII) and Mpumalanga Economic Empowerment Corporation (MEEC). Dexter subsequently became the board chairperson but was fired following a forensic investigation that was instituted by former MEC Craig Padayachee.

MEGA was formed to promote trade and investment and to provide funding for enterprise development within the province, however problems started surfacing at the parastatal when allegations started to emerge that MEGA was funding businesses that



**THUMBS UP:** MEC Jabulani Mahlangu (left) and the demoted ex-CEO of MEGA, Nosizwe Nokwe (right) contemplates an uncertain future

are based in Gauteng province and Mozambique, as well as allegations of mismanagement.

Almost a year later, MEGA has failed to answer media enquiries even after they had appointed a reputation management company to answer media enquiries.

Dladla has been in charge of the MHFCo for more than a decade and the corporation remains one of the success stories of the province. It has developed a reputation of exceeding whatever housing targets that it had set for itself since its inception.

The company is currently engaged in

several ambitious projects aimed at integrating previously separated white and black settlements in a number of municipalities in the province, such as Thaba Chweu.

The new MEGA's interim board is headed by Zweli Mncube, who took over from Dexter following the latter's dismissal and is also constituted by other board members who were part of the previous boards of MEGA, MHFCo and the Mpumalanga Agricultural Development Corporation (MADC).

Mahlangu also brought on board new blood in the form of former Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Boy Nobunga and trade unionist December

Manana-Mavuso who is the provincial secretary of the National Health and Allied Workers Union (NEHAWU).

The establishment of the new MEGA means the demise of the former MEGA which hogged media headlines for all the wrong reasons, such as defying Premier David Mabuza and MEC Mahlangu.

Old habits, however, seems to die hard in MEGA because despite the MEC's announcement that MEGA had ceased to exist, reports reached Ziwapahi that the senior management of the old MEGA were still convening their management meetings without informing the new leadership.

"As promised, we can report that the Honourable Premier has assented to the Bill which merges the old MEGA, the MADC and the MHFCo, to establish a new entity known as the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA), in terms of the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency Act of 2010 (Act 1 of 2010). This therefore means that the old MEGA and the MADC have ceased to exist, in terms of the law, by the end of March 2010, with the exception of the MHFCo, which still needs to be de-established in line with the Companies Act of 1973..." Mahlangu said on Monday.

Nokwe's five-year contract ends in March next year, however, if it is found that she has transgressed the laws of the country, she may be terminated before that time.

# COPE: Theft charges withdrawn

BY SYDNEY MASINGA

NELSPRUIT

*Theft charges against two members of COPE in Mpumalanga were withdrawn on Wednesday in the Nelspruit Magistrate's Court because of a lack of evidence.*

Murrel Zitha and provincial COPE Youth Movement chairperson Sibusiso Shakwane were arrested on April 3 after they removed a laptop from the party's constituency office in Nelspruit without permission.

They gave the laptop, which was used by regional chairperson James Nkambule, to the police crime prevention unit that is investigating charges against him of defeating the ends of the justice and conspiracy to commit fraud.

The charges against Zitha and Shakwane were laid by Ehlanzeni regional secretary Bheki Malaza.

"The person who opened the case

against us failed to come to court and the prosecutor decided to withdraw the case. This was just a waste of the justice system's time. This guy knew he had no case against us - maybe that is the reason he couldn't even bother coming to court," said Shakwane afterwards.

A senior COPE delegation, which will be led by parliamentary leader Mvume Dandala and national organiser Mluleki George, are expected in Nelspruit on Sunday to meet with the party's provincial leadership, which has been beset by infighting.

Issues on the agenda will include the recall of COPE's only member in the provincial legislature, Zale Madonsela (pictured), which was announced by provincial secretary Buks Mahlangu last Thursday.

Mahlangu said the meeting was "just a formality" to ratify Madonsela's recall.

"We decided to recall comrade Zale from the legislature because she failed to account to the party about funds



given to it by the legislature. She also opened a bank account on behalf of the organisation without authority from the leadership. We are confident that the national leadership will endorse our decision to recall her," he said.

However, national spokesperson Phillip Dexter indicated that Madonsela's recall was not necessarily a done deal. "The congress working committee met in Johannesburg on Monday and it was resolved that the national leadership will meet on Sunday with the province to hear the reasons for the proposed recall of Madonsela," he said.

The provincial secretary of the COPE Youth Movement, Willem Mokoena, said it would "defend Madonsela to the bitter end".

"One wonders who will benefit if Madonsela is recalled. In terms of COPE's list at the Independent Electoral Commission, Buks is next after comrade Madonsela. Is it coincidence that he is the one pushing for her to be recalled?" said Mokoena.

Provincial chairperson Ben Mokoena said Mahlangu was indeed next on the list to represent the party in the legislature, but that it had nothing to do with Madonsela's recall.

"We are just not happy with the way she represents the party in the legislature. She acts as an island and fails to report back to us about activities of the legislature," he said.

Neither Madonsela nor Malaza could be reached for comment on Wednesday.

# Meet Dadla the New MEGA Acting CEO

## PROFILE

*Earlier this week, the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Jabulani Mahlangu announced the appointment of Gijima Johannes Dladla, as acting CEO for the new Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA).*

Dladla is the CEO of the Mpumalanga Housing Finance Company, which will also form part of MEGA, once its business has wound up as required by the South African Companies Act.

Ziwaphi sought to find out more about this highly acclaimed, but soft-spoken and down-to-earth father of four.

We republish his profile which was first published in the MHFCO's Annual Report.

He was born in Carolina (Gert Sibande District of Mpumalanga) and after

matriculating in Nelspruit, he joined the financial department of a Nelspruit based manganese firm where he worked for 14 years.

During his employment with the company, he was one of the pioneers of the Black Trade Union Shop-stewards. He served as Chairman of the Shop-stewards Committee for a period of six years, and thereafter he set out to explore a different direction that was later to see him acquire an impressive number of academic qualifications locally and abroad.

The first, earned in 1988, was a B.Com (Accountancy) degree from UNISA. This was followed by a Higher Diploma in Business Administration (1989/1990) and then a Masters Degree in Business Administration (1990/1991), both from the University of Birmingham, England. He moved to Johannesburg in 1993 where his new job as internal auditor saw him servicing very diverse operations

and departments of Samancor/ Gencor. On his return to Mpumalanga in 1994, he joined the Mpumalanga Development Corporation as a General Manager: Business Finance. His move to head of the housing division of the same organisation is what really fuelled his interest in and passion for the housing industry.

This was followed by a stint at the Management Education Institute in the USA. He completed the Executive Leadership Development Programme sponsored by the USAID Office in South Africa.

In 1999, Dladla returned to the USA where he obtained the Wharton International Housing Finance Certificate from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dladla is a member of the Institute of Commercial and Financial Accountants and the Black Management Forum.



# Corruption exposure lies behind house attack

BY SYDNEY MASINGA

EMALAHLENI,

*Emalahleni municipal speaker Paul Van Castle says his house was attacked because of an investigation into corrupt activities in the municipality that has led to several suspensions.*

Van Castle's house in Vosman near Emalahleni (formerly Witbank) was petrol-bombed on Tuesday night last week.

"There is no doubt about it. My house was attacked because I recommended that the municipal manager [Ananias Langa] and other officials be suspended after they were implicated in a number of tender irregularities. I was appointed as the chairperson of the ad hoc committee that made certain recommendations after Deloitte &

Touche audited the municipality. It was found that the municipal manager and other officials were defrauding the municipality, so my committee recommended to council that they be suspended. My house was bombed only days after it was officially announced that these officials were suspended," said Van Castle on Thursday.

He added that the house would need only minor repairs, contrary to earlier reports that it had suffered extensive damage in the ensuing fire.

"It will set me back about R20 to R30 000. Fortunately, my house is insured and no one was hurt. I would like to send out a strong message out there that we will not tolerate incompetence and corruption in the municipality," said Van Castle.

Municipal spokesperson Lebohang Mofokeng also claimed Langa's supporters were behind the attack.

"After we suspended the municipal manager last month for allegations of tender irregularities, there have been people, even young boys, who distributed leaflets that incite residents of Emalahleni to destabilise the municipality. And all of a sudden the house of the speaker is attacked, so obviously the suspects must be these faceless thugs."

Mofokeng said the decision to suspend Langa was taken during a council meeting on March 18 after it received the results of a two-year-long investigation into tender irregularities.

"Council met on March 4 and took a resolution to give Mr. Langa seven days to show cause why he should not be suspended. He failed to comply with this resolution and hence the decision to suspend him immediately."

Mofokeng said the municipality was also investigating a number of other

councillors and employees who had been implicated in tender irregularities.

"Council has further resolved that the companies of the implicated officials be removed from the list of approved service providers, and all active work in terms of tenders and contracts awarded to those companies implicated will be put on hold until the investigations are complete," Mofokeng said.

"Letters will be sent to the implicated councillors to give them an opportunity to respond in writing to the allegations against them. These responses will be given to the council's ethics committee, which will recommend what further action, if any, must be taken against them," he added.

Langa's phone rang unanswered on Thursday and no message could be left.

# Another municipality placed under administration

BY SYDNEY MASINGA

NELSPRUIT

*The Thembisile Hani local municipality in Mpumalanga became the fifth local municipality in the province to be placed under administration.*

The municipality, which is based in Kwagqafontein, was taken over on Friday by the provincial government after three months of go-slow action by workers and reports of corruption and maladministration that led to service delivery protests.

The spokesperson of the provincial department of co-operative governance

and traditional affairs, Simphiwe Kunene, said the industrial action by workers contesting the salary adjustments of managers was a major reason for the decision.

"This unrest led to service delivery coming to a standstill and caused irreparable damage with regard to trust and working relations within the municipality and with the community. There were also allegations of maladministration, fraud and corruption that were brought to the attention of MEC Norman Mokoena," he said.

The department has appointed Vusumuzi Khubeka as the administrator, with Siphon Magwaza and

Tseko Taabe as his deputies.

"Mr Khubeka has extensive experience in the water sector and in project management and the administration team will begin their work immediately. The administrators have been assigned to turn the municipality around. They will be expected to develop a recovery plan with clear deliverables for the municipality with regard to restoring basic service delivery, improving financial controls, enhancing good governance, strengthening procurement systems, improving institutional capacity and implementing the findings of the auditor-general," he said.

Kunene added that the administrators

would be subjected to a performance review after six months, which is the intervention period envisaged. "We would like to request all the communities of Thembisile Hani local municipality and other role players to provide support to the administrators in turning around the municipality," he said, adding that Mokoena had deployed investigators to look into all the corruption allegations and that disciplinary action against municipal officials could follow.

Other municipalities under administration in Mpumalanga are Thaba Chweu in Mashishing, Lekwa in Standerton, Pixley ka Seme in Volksrust and Mkhondo in Piet Retief.

# First Lady, MaNtuli Zuma to give houses in Nkomazi

BY SYDNEY MASINGA

NELSPRUIT

*Nompumelelo "MaNtuli" Zuma (pictured), one of President Jacob Zuma's wives, will visit Mpumalanga on Friday to hand over low-cost houses to eight underprivileged families.*

According to a statement released by the Department of Human Settlements in Mpumalanga, Nompumelelo Zuma was touched by the plight of a severely burnt woman, Shirley Shabangu, when she visited KaMdladla village near Malalane in the Nkomazi local municipality last year. According to department spokesperson Freddy Ngobe, she asked that a house be built for Shabangu, who has been living in a shack.

"When we were busy with the construction of Shabangu's house last year, seven other requests of the same nature emerged. These included a blind elderly woman of Zwelitsha Trust outside Nelspruit, another elderly



woman from KaMdladla village, four families in Tekwane North, which included a child-headed household, and an elderly woman from Mozambique

who looks after four grandchildren," said Ngobe.

Premier David Mabuza, MEC for human settlements Madala Masuku, senior managers of the department and councillors are expected to attend the handover ceremonies.

In his state of the province address in February this year, Mabuza announced that the province would finish all 4 132 incomplete houses by the end of the 2009/2010 financial year.

"The financial year ended on March 31 this year and unfortunately 1 506 of the 4 132 houses are not yet complete because of bad weather conditions ... but they are at various stages of construction. The majority of these houses are ... about to be roofed," said Ngobe.

He said all the houses would be "handed over to the rightful beneficiaries very soon", but could not say when that would be.

"The beneficiaries just need to be patient for a little while longer. Their houses will be delivered," he said.

## Only one Buscor arson suspect still behind bars

BY THOBILE MLANGENI

NELSPRUIT

Charges were withdrawn against nine of the 10 people who appeared in court on Monday in connection with a case of arson after 19 Buscor buses were set alight outside Nelspruit, Mupmalanga, last week.

The charge against the remaining suspect, Thulani Ndlovu (37) of Pienaar, was changed from arson to malicious damage to property in the KaNyamazane Magistrate's Court.

According to a police source who wanted to remain anonymous, the suspects who were originally charged may become state witnesses.

Six suspects were initially arrested on April 13, a day after the buses were set alight at the Oggo depot in Daantjie. Another two buses were also burnt out at Spelanyane and Malekutu.

The KaNyamazane police arrested another four suspects last Thursday.

Ndlovu was not asked to plead when he appeared in KaBokweni Magistrate's Court on Wednesday. He was remanded in custody until May 3, when he will apply for bail.



EHLANZENI  
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

## EHLANZENI TOURISM KRUGER DAY



South African  
NATIONAL PARKS



### INVITATION

### CHILL OUT IN KRUGER AND RE-DISCOVER YOUR WILD SIDE

The Ehlanzeni District Municipality in conjunction with the Kruger National Park will be honoured to have you participate in the Ehlanzeni Tourism Kruger Day. The two day event aims to promote tourism within the district and will include the following activities:

• Golf Competition • Small Business Exhibition • Football Friday • Tourism and 2010 Presentations • Dinner and Entertainment • Tour of the Kruger camps

DATE: 30 APRIL - 01 MAY 2010 > TIME: 09H00 > VENUE: SKUKUZA GOLF COURSE

This is a great opportunity for communities and tourism product owners to showcase their offerings and maximise on opportunities available during the 2010 FIFA World Cup and beyond. Meet and interact with potential new business partners, clients, financiers and policy makers who can facilitate access to great opportunities in sectors such as tourism, manufacturing, agriculture and transport.

Transportation and Kruger gate fees will be at your own cost (food and drinks will be sold at the venue).

Ehlanzeni District Municipality is comprised of the following local municipalities: Nkomazi, Umjindi, Thaba Chweu, Bushbuckridge and Mbombela.

For more information contact: Hlengiwe Dube on 013 759 8516 or Ntsiki Masina on 013 759 8645

www.ehlanzeni.co.za | 013 759 8500

# Impact of our everyday actions on the NDR

BY COMRADE JOMO NYAMBI

*In contributing to the space being provided to those who believe in engagement it would be appropriate to begin by quoting the Chinese philosopher I. Ching who once said that:*

“To become a centre of influence holding people together is a grave matter and fraught with great responsibility. It requires greatness of spirit, consistency and strength. Therefore let him who wishes to gather others about him ask himself whether he is equal to the undertaking...”

The interesting part is that we are in a month that we celebrate the anniversary of the 1994 democratic breakthrough as it has been reflected in a number of contributions. We are in the 4th democratic government in our beloved country.

In advancing my view about the current challenges I am indeed cognisant of the responsibility we carry on our shoulders to assist in the fulfilment of our liberation's historic vision to ensure that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white.

Several volatile and unfortunate incidents recently have threatened to shake the core of our beliefs in this very same noble vision that transcends the



divisions and fault lines of programmed prejudice.

These incidents have led us to question the character and the soul of what we have built thus far.

It is in these times of social introspection that we acknowledge that we have risen above petty squabbles and racial parochialism to cement the idea of a new identity; an identity that encompasses all the multifacets to one commonality that all South Africans can relate to. That commonality is the hope that we are part of developing a whole; a whole that warrants citizenship of pride.

It became clear that there are still a few among ourselves who hanker for the past, choosing to be identified more with hatred than with reconciliation. This nostalgic few has purposely placed themselves at odds with our pluralistic view of a non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

However, we take solace in the knowledge that these hidebound racists have become an even fewer in our society, because in spite of their flawed ideological provocation and their emotional racial instigation they have been answered by patriotic South Africans with the calm and dignity that pacifies expected racial turmoil.

South Africans are seeing themselves more and more as one people, united in their diversity, they are rapidly recognising the commonalities in their hopes for the future.

If it is true that one should win through action and not argument or rhetoric, then our FIFA World Cup preparations are a bold exhibition of our common nationhood. Our single-mindedness in striving to host a successful event has already deemed us victors before the anticipated moment of kick off.

In the past few months we have displayed our pride and unity by donning Bafana Bafana jerseys in observance of Football Friday. We are now moving in harmony to the melody of the soccer dance, passionately waving flags and chanting out our support for South Africa and Africa at large. This euphoria has not been halted or disintegrated by the sad murder of Eugene Terre' Blanche because as a nation, we have wholeheartedly condemned this challenging incident.

Our objections to his bigotry in the past and the present lay in the fact that it represented a step backward and resembled a call to violence. It is therefore fitting at this point for me to quote a man of peace, O R Tambo, who said

“The fight for freedom must go on until it is won, until our country is free and happy and peaceful as part of the community of man, we cannot rest”.

And that is why we are not resting. We are committed to ensuring the project of transformation and integration does not change direction. Everyday we battle heavy constraints and obstacles to be farther tomorrow than we were yesterday. We have committed ourselves unreservedly while comprehending the dynamic and continuous tasks that lie ahead – a task of safeguarding the identity and citizenship of the new South Africa; as well as empowering our citizens with rightful belonging and proof of being.

It is partly for these reasons we have enunciated above which challenge us as people of Mpumalanga and South Africans in general to always strive to advance the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) at all times.

All the best in this endeavour.

*Jomo Nyambi is an ANC (MP). He is writing in his own personal capacity*

## Mpumalanga school children learn about human trafficking

BY THOBILE MLANGENI

NELSPRUIT

*More than 1 000 young pupils in Mpumalanga were taught the dangers of child trafficking and how to avoid it becoming their plight during a special workshop on Tuesday.*

The event, which was held by the provincial Department of Education at Lekazi Primary School in KaNyamazane outside Nelspruit, focused on safety during the Fifa World Cup in June.

“Some people will come to the games with bad intentions. They not only come to watch soccer, like you come to school to learn, but some will end up stealing from you in the process,” Sybil Mubi, senior education specialist from the Ehlanzeni region, told the children.

The workshop formed part of a series of trafficking awareness presentations to teachers, parents and pupils in the province ahead of the Fifa World Cup.

According to Mubi, trafficking is defined as the transportation of people from one area to another for the trafficker's personal gain.

In most cases, trafficked people are sold to criminals who use them for a variety of nefarious purposes. “Both sexes can be trafficked and used for sexual purposes, slavery or to fight in wars,” she said, adding that children are sometimes trafficked to work on farms, where they are forced to perform hard physical labour not meant for minors.



**The children at Lekazi Primary School in KaNyamazane listen attentively to the workshop**

“Slaves are forced to work for many hours, and they are not given water and food unless the person they work for decides it's okay to do so. If any of you were taken, you would lose your freedom to have water, food and friends,” she explained to the children.

She also said that some people were trafficked for body parts that can be transplanted, such as lungs, hearts and kidneys, or for muti.

Mubi warned the pupils that traffickers might be known to their victims.

“Be careful of someone you have just met. They may have moved to your area to get to know you and your family so that they can easily entice you to go

with them,” she said. “She also warned pupils against strangers who promised them a fancy lifestyle.

“These people might show you a picture of a beautiful home and lure you with that, but their intention is to make profit from you, not to share their lovely home with you.”

Mubi said reasons for trafficking included unemployment and hunger.

“This may tempt people to earn money by doing bad things,” she said.

She also urged the pupils to report strangers and their cars to their teachers and parents.

“The chances for a trafficked person to

return home alive are very slim,” she warned.

### CHILDREN TELL THEIR STORIES

After the presentation, six-year-old **Busi Xaba (front right)**, who is in Grade 2, told Mubi about a bad experience she's had.

She said she was almost caught by a stranger who had called her and her friends to his car on their way home from school last month.

“We saw that he was hiding something in his hands. He tried to give it to us so that we would go to him, but we turned and ran away,” she said. “She has never seen the car again and is proud that she made the right decision by running away.

“I will always run away from strangers and report them to my teacher,” she said.

**Eleven-year-old Tholinhlanhla Mbiba (at the far back)**, who is in Grade 6, said he knew of a child who had been stolen.

“Three years ago the girl, who was in Grade 3, was taken by a strange man on her way home. The police found the man the following day and he showed them where he had left the girl. She was still alive but we don't know what had happened to her while the man had her,” he said.

“From that day, I refused to walk home alone.”

# CAUGHT! Police vehicle gets second-rate tyres

FRANCE NYAKA

KWAMHLANGA

*A police vehicle has been caught on camera in KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga, where it was being fitted with second-hand tyres which most motorists would not touch.*

Fixing old tyres and selling them for as little as R80 each has become a flourishing business for foreigners who hawk the tyres next to the Moloto road near the KwaMhlanga Cross Road Plaza.

On Wednesday, this reporter spotted a Toyota Quantum from the police jacked up and ready to be fitted with skorokoro tyres.

A policeman had driven up alone in the vehicle and could be seen chatting to a woman carrying shopping bags nearby while the tyre service men fitted the second-hand tyres.

Motorist David Skhosana (34) said he would not touch what he called "these



**A Toyota Quantum belonging to the police being fitted with second-hand tyres in KwaMhlanga on Wednesday.** PHOTO BY France Nyaka/AENS

rejected tyres". \_"They are a death trap and I wouldn't buy them, even if they are being sold at lower prices. Human life is more important than bargains," said Skhosana.

One of the foreigners who work at the informal business, known only as Mlungu, said: "The police are bad customers because they always demand a credit service from us. They

sometimes come in with police vehicles to pick up tyres on credit to fit onto their private vehicles, but meanwhile they still owe us for services rendered for the state vehicles. Others have threatened us, saying we do not have passports or permission to sell second-hand tyres."

When contacted for comment, KwaMhlanga Police Station spokesperson Sergeant Nonhlanhla Kgosana said: "We are not aware of the allegations. They will be seriously investigated."

She did not want to answer a question about whether it was lawful for police vehicles to be fitted with skorokoro tyres, saying: "Please, I am busy. You can expect me to phone you back soon."

That did not happen, though, and she did not answer further calls to her cellphone.

Provincial police spokesperson Captain Leonard Hlathi also did not answer his cellphone.

## Creative workers union says 'Piracy is nothing but theft'

BY ERIC MASHABA

NELSPRUIT,

*The Creative Workers Union of South Africa says piracy is killing the music industry.*

The coordinator of the union, Alpheus Nhlathathi, said it resulted in job and income losses for artists because they do not receive the royalties owed to them.

"It is wrong and it is theft. Many musicians die very poor because of piracy and it is high time we deal with it head-on," he said.

He added that South Africans also had to stop buying DVDs and CDs from street vendors, who mostly sell pirated copies.

"They must help us to identify the people responsible for producing the copies. These people copy everything from music to movies. This is unfair to the actors, musicians and their management who work tirelessly to produce the work," he said.

Inspector Fanie Vilakazi from the Hawks' commercial branch in Nelspruit



**Street vendor Lawrence Kapasule of Malawi says he doesn't know whether the CDs and DVDs he sells in Nelspruit are fake**

said the piracy of music and movies - and even Bafana Bafana soccer jerseys - was escalating in South Africa.

"With the 2010 World Cup approaching, everybody wants to benefit financially. We are busy investigating the matter but our main concern is to identify the sources of the fake items - those who produce them," he said.

He said the situation would not improve by arresting and removing the street vendors.

"We need to deal directly with the manufacturers of the fake products. We really need members of the public to provide information to the police about where these manufacturers' hideouts are," he said.

A Zimbabwean street vendor who admits to selling pirated music and movies around Nelspruit, Charles Philip, said it was up to musicians and film producers to monitor their products.

"I'm a businessman and I sell what I can. As vendors, we grab every opportunity we get to make ends meet.

It's not easy for us to see whether the products are fake or not because they look genuine," Philip said.

He said the public was also to blame because people eagerly buy cheaper copies. \_"People are poor and that is why they buy cheaper things. In Jo'burg you can get any music CD or DVD for R5 on the street corners," he added.

According to intellectual property rights attorney Esmari Jonker, it is a criminal offense to infringe on someone's copyright by creating fake copies of their work.

"For a first offense, you can be fined R5 000 or get a three-year prison sentence per item. This goes up to R10 000 or 10 years in jail per item if you get caught again," she said.

But the Mpumalanga police seemed unaware of the Copyright Act (98) of 1978.

"We normally charge people with either fraud or possession of stolen goods," said Captain Klaas Maluka of the organised crime unit.

## Ermelo sex slave scandal: 9 in court

BY THOBILE MLANGENI

ERMELO

*The bail application of nine Nigerians arrested on charges of kidnapping and violating the Sexual Offences Act has been postponed to April 30.*

The men were not asked to plead when they appeared in the Ermelo Magistrate's Court on Friday.

They were arrested in Ermelo on March 15 during a special police operation after the body of a sex worker, Mizana Houo (32) from Pretoria, was found a

few days earlier. The police said she had been raped before and after her death.

The men are accused of kidnapping women from various towns and cities around the country and taking them to Ermelo, where they forced them to work as sex workers.

The women were allegedly given R30 a day for food and were forced to take drugs to make them addicted. Once addicted, they would have to buy their drugs from the gang.

According to Captain Leonard Hlathi, spokesperson of the organised crime

unit, 12 women aged between 17 and 32 had been rescued.

The victims told the police that the suspects took all their earnings, Hlathi said.

He added that officials from the Department of Home Affairs had confirmed that the suspects had previously applied for asylum to remain in the country, but according to their application forms they did not qualify.

"Department officials will also be in court to give testimony about whether the suspects are legally in the country,"

he said.

Hlathi urged women to be on alert to avoid being easy targets for men seeking to enrich themselves at their expense. "Women must not make friends with strangers," said Hlathi.

In a separate case, six Nigerians who were arrested in Ermelo on March 19 were found to be in the country illegally. They had told the police that they had applied for asylum but their papers turned out to be fraudulent. Hlathi said they would be deported soon.

# Mpumalanga's health services ready for World Cup

BY SYDNEY MASINGA

NELSPRUIT

*The national department of health and the local organising committee (LOC) have declared Mpumalanga ready for emergencies during the Fifa World Cup.*

Leading a delegation that inspected health facilities around Nelspruit on Wednesday, national 2010 health

coordinator Pumzile Kedama said the delegation was satisfied with the province's health facilities, equipment and staff readiness. "The province has bought 50 new ambulances and their emergency medical centre and other medical vehicles are ready for the World Cup. The delegation is happy with what we have seen," said Kedama.

The delegation included LOC general medical officer Victor Ramathesele, Dr. Confidence Moloko, adviser to minister

of health Aaron Motsoaledi, as well as provincial government officials, who included five MECs.

The delegation inspected Barberton Hospital, Rob Ferreira Hospital in Nelspruit and Themba Hospital in White River, as well as the VIP, spectators' and players' medical centres and the doping centre at Mbombela Stadium.

"We are also impressed by the progress

made at the stadium, where the medical rooms are currently being equipped. We have no doubt that this province will host a successful tournament," Kedama said.

The spokesperson for the provincial department of health and social development, Mpho Gabashane, said extra support staff and equipment have been deployed to the Mbombela Stadium, including 11 doctors, 13 nurses, 10 advance life-support personnel, 30 intermediate life-support personnel, 29 basic life-support personnel, 30 first aiders, 15 ambulances, two primary response vehicles, one disaster bus, two golf carts, two motorbikes and one all-terrain vehicle.

"We have also not forgotten that there are people who will be watching the games in the Fan Park that is currently under construction, so we have deployed the following staff to look after them: two doctors, four nurses, two intermediate life-support personnel, two basic life-support personnel and three ambulances," added Gabashane.

A number of public and private hospitals in the province have been designated for treatment of patients during the World Cup. In addition to the hospitals inspected on Wednesday, they are Middelburg, Witbank and Evander public hospitals, while in the private sector Nelspruit Medi-Clinic, Barberton Medi-Clinic, Midmed Hospital (Middelburg), Cosmos Hospital (Witbank) and the Higveld Medi-Clinic in Trichard near Secunda have been earmarked.



the dedet

DEPARTMENT OF  
Economic Development, Environment and Tourism  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

### BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE MPUMALANGA TOURISM AND PARKS AGENCY

The Member of the Executive Council (MEC) responsible for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is calling for the nomination of individuals to serve as members of the Board of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, in terms of Section 7(2) of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency Act, 2006 (Act No. 6 of 2006).

The Act stipulates that upon expiry of the term of office of the current board, the MEC must appoint a new board, consisting of not fewer than 9 and not more than 11 people as board members for the public entity.

Nominees proposed shall be fit and proper persons; South African Citizens; broadly representative of the population of the Province and have sufficient knowledge of, or experience in tourism and conservation matters.

Please note that applicants may be disqualified from being appointed to the Board, as stipulated by section 8 of the said Act, on the following grounds:

- becoming a member of the National Assembly or NCOP; any provincial legislature; municipality or being in the full-time employ of an organ of State other than the Agency;
- becoming subject to a final sequestration order under the Insolvency Act, 1936;
- being declared by a competent court to be of unsound mind or mentally disordered or defective;
- being convicted of any offence under this Act, or any other offence involving dishonesty for which he or she was sentenced to a minimum prison sentence of three months without the option of a fine.

Nominations, accompanied by comprehensive curriculum vitae and marked clearly with the words "Nomination for the MTPA Board" should be forwarded to the following address by no later than 10 May 2010:

POSTAL ADDRESS:  
THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT  
PRIVATE BAG X11216  
NELSPRUIT  
1200

PHYSICAL ADDRESS  
BUILDING NO. 4  
No. 7 GOVERNMENT BOULEVARD  
RIVERSIDE PARK EXT. 2  
NELSPRUIT  
1200

Enquiries can be directed to

Mr T N Fekude on (013) 706 4279 or 0824 142276

## Mine donates traffic vehicle

BY THOBILE MLANGENI

MIDDELBURG

Mpumalanga's department of public works, roads and transport has been given a fully equipped patrol vehicle by the Goedehoop Colliery Mine in Middelburg.

"The Ford Ikon 1.6 Trend has been branded with the department's logo, Sivuthu mlilo, which means 'we are on fire' against all motorists who neglect the rules of the road," said David Nkambule, provincial spokesperson of the department.

According to Nkambule, the vehicle will be used by traffic officials for patrols and other traffic duties in the Steve Tshwete local municipality.

The mine's general manager, Andre Fulton, said the initiative was the first of its kind to be introduced by the company.

"It is aimed at promoting a public-private partnership towards social investment, and also to contribute to the Arrive Alive campaign and road safety education for local communities," said Fulton, adding that the mine would also provide a fuel allowance for the car for a year.

# FET launches programme to address skills shortage

BY SIPHIWE NYATHI

MIDDELBURG,

*A new pre-apprenticeship programme to address the skills shortage in the South African tool, die and mould-making (TDM) sector was officially launched at Nkangala FET college in Middelburg, Mpumalanga, on Tuesday.*

"In total, 175 candidates started with their classes in February and the programme has harnessed global best practice to ensure the right candidates are trained and properly prepared to pursue careers in the industry and boost this declining sector," said Dirk van Dyk, CEO of the National Tooling Initiative (NTI).

The programme is a joint initiative between the NTI, the Toolmaking

Association of South Africa and the Department of Trade and Industry. It was also launched at six other sites across the country, namely the Coega Skills Centre in the Eastern Cape, Northlink FET college in the Western Cape, Ekurhuleni East college and Missouri Secondary School in Gauteng, Umgungundlovu FET college in KwaZulu-Natal and Lephalale FET college in Limpopo.

Van Dyk said the rate of people who began training for a career in the manufacturing industry and then threw in the towel before completing the process was unacceptably high.

"Globally, the manufacturing industry battles to keep people in manufacturing-related training programmes. SA-based research, which scanned entry rate versus qualification

rate across three manufacturing-related feeder subjects, showed a staying rate of less than 15%. In similar research conducted in Minnesota in the US, the staying rate was between 30% and 35% prior to the introduction of any form of pre-apprenticeship intervention."

For the programme, the National Tooling Initiative has developed new techniques and tools to assess which candidates would be most suitable for the sector.

"It was not only a matter of looking at their maths and science qualifications, but also assessing a number of other factors such as self-drive and resilience," said Van Dyk.

"This process is designed to raise candidates' level of competency prior to them following a specific manufacturing path.

It has been adapted for South Africa, drawing on similarities between the two manufacturing environments, including multiple cultures, English not being the mother tongue and weak rural schooling systems – especially relating to maths and science. In South Africa these weaknesses are exacerbated, thus we've expanded the life skills part of the programme to include additional remedial work on maths, science and English," he said.

Once successfully completed, the programme will provide candidates with proper insight into the tooling and manufacturing industries and lay a comprehensive foundation for possible advancement to the TDM-powered competency-based apprenticeship programme, which is due to be launched by the NTI next year.

# Mpumalanga airport ready for 2010

BY ERIC MASHABA

NELSPRUIT,

*Tight security will be in place at the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport during the 2010 World Cup.*

Operations manager Rowan Torr said management, the police and security personnel would ensure passengers and their luggage would be safe at the small airport.

"Our airport police and security will be monitoring every move to ensure everybody is safe. Since the airport was officially opened on 21 October 2002,

we've had minor theft cases but nothing too serious. We have great confidence in our security, which will also ensure that no loitering takes place. Patrols will be conducted on a 24-hour basis."

Torr said air traffic was expected to increase to four flights an hour during the World Cup.

"We have a top-up tower in contact with the one at OR Tambo International on a 24-hour basis. There will be no flight scheduled for landing at KMIA that cannot land," he said.

Two Sasol task teams will also be deployed at the airport.

"The task team will monitor the fuelling of aeroplanes at all times. We will also ensure that a million litres of fuel are always available and that our storage tanks are always full."

Torr said the airport had the capacity to land helicopters, regional jets, Boeing 737s and Boeing 767s.

"The basement and first floor of the airport building comprise plus minus 98 000 square metres. Facilities consist of a customs office for SARS, an immigration centre and a border police centre," he explained.

There also a SanParks and health

centre, information desk, car rental, retail charter lounge, baggage carousel, conference facilities, VIP lounge and restaurant.

"VIPs and teams will be escorted from their planes and will go through the chamber hall into their buses. There will be a specific area where they can easily depart from the airport to the Mbombela Stadium," Torr said.

He added that only Fifa president Sepp Blatter and "other high-profile persons" would get transport from aeroplanes to the airport building.

# "Naso-ke S'hlabane!" Meet Ligwalala's party DJ

NELSPRUIT

By Eric Mashaba

*Ligwalagwala FM DJ Fanie "S'hlabane" Ndinisa has three wishes: to meet former president Nelson Mandela, visit England and drive "the latest BMW".*

Fanie, who was born and bred in Barberton, Mpumalanga, joined Barberton Community Radio as a presenter in 1997.

"I loved radio from an early age. After working for BCR for almost four years, I joined Ligwalagwala FM in Nelspruit in 2001," he says.

"My programme is aired on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9pm until midnight."

During this time, he keeps listeners on their feet with his eclectic selection of hip-hop and kwaito, and party goers often say they prefer his show to any music that a live DJ could provide.



**Ligwalagwala FM presenter Fanie "S'hlabane" Ndinisa**

"Most of my listeners phone in to say they appreciate the good music," he says.

"What keeps us together is the respect I give to them as my listeners, and I love what I do."

Fanie is inspired by Eddie Zondi, who presents the Romantic Repertoire on Metro FM on Sundays.

"I adore him, especially his musical knowledge," says Fanie.

His moniker, S'hlabane (extraordinary), was given to him by his mother.

"When I began working for radio, people started calling me many different names. But my mother gave me that one and it stuck."

Fanie says he's excited by Ligwalagwala FM's success.

"We're a station that's growing and I'm excited to be part of such a great team. I'm looking forward to more

successes, although I do not see myself as a celebrity and I have no passion to become one."

His biggest fear is falling ill and being off air for a long time.

"I'm afraid of getting sick because that stops you from moving forward with your life," he says. "It becomes a challenge when another presenter has to cover your show for two weeks. You sometimes feel your listeners will drop you."

Fanie's most precious possession is his cellphone.

"I don't travel without it. If my house burnt down, I would only be worried about my cellphone, ID and bank cards. The rest can burn!"

Mmm, we wonder if that would apply to his yet-to-materialise BMW as well?

# Once in a life-time chance

BY ERIC MASHABA

NELSPRUIT

*A dream has come true for nine-year-old Jameela Alli from Mpumalanga, who has been chosen from thousands of children worldwide to be a McDonald's Player Escort during the Fifa World Cup.*

"I am happy that my name will be recorded in the history of the country and I'm even happier that I will get to watch the games live. I cannot wait for the experience of the attention from the crowds as I hold hands with the players," said the Grade 4 pupil from Lekazi Primary in KaNyamazane, who will accompany players on to the field at the Mbombela Stadium in Nelspruit.

Jameela participated in a live call-in programme on Ligwalagwala FM during which children between the ages of six and 10 could call the station to answer a soccer-related question.

"I correctly said who coaches Bafana Bafana and I also had to say why I wanted to be a McDonald's player

escort. I told the presenter that I wanted my name to be part of the 2010 history," said Jameela, who can hardly wait for the experience.

"I'm going to greet the players with a broad smile as a way of welcoming them in my province and country," she said.

Her father, Bhashini Alli, is equally excited.

"She is a good child. As her parents we are proud of her and the chance to escort players from overseas is amazing," he said.

Alli has bought

10 World Cup tickets for his family, including his 62-year-old mother, Gladys Mnguni.

The McDonalds Player Escort

recruitment campaign, which selected children from all the participating countries, started in January. The winners were drawn on March 23 at Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg.

The 1 408 children will receive training from the class of 2009, who carried out

their McDonald's Player Escort duties during the Confederations Cup.

They will travel to the matches with a parent or guardian and those from abroad will enjoy flights, accommodation, sightseeing tours and meals all courtesy of McDonalds.

## No World Cup concerts for Nelspruit

BY ERIC MASHABA

NELSPRUIT

*The Creative Workers' Union of South Africa has slammed host city Nelspruit's Fifa local organising committee (LOC) for not organising any live entertainment or kickoff concerts during the World Cup in June.*

"We have many talented artists who should benefit from the Fifa World Cup, but nothing has been said about their participation during kick-off concerts," said union coordinator Alpheus Nhlabathi.

"There have been talks of accommodation, transport, tourism and security in the province but little is said about the entertainment industry or who will be performing where and when."

Nhlabathi said South Africa was

blessed with unique music, dance and poetry.

"We should capitalise on and make the most of this aspect of our culture for the benefit of artists who have had no opportunities in the past," he added.

Janine Julies (pictured), senior manager in the 2010 communication department in the Mbombela local municipality, said there would be no live entertainment by any performing artists or musicians at the

Mbombela Stadium during the World Cup.

"The only live music performance will be at the Fifa World Cup Kick-Off Celebration Concert to be held in Orlando Stadium in Johannesburg on June 10. The only entertainment to be held in Mbombela Stadium is the soccer matches, and nothing else."



**Come June, Jameela will escort Fifa World Cup players in the Mbombela Stadium.**



# Long road to World Cup in Nelspruit

BY ERIC MASHABA

NELSPRUIT

*Mpumalanga journalists were barred from Fifa World Cup readiness assessment briefings attended by a parliamentary delegation in Nelspruit on Saturday.*

Members of the delegation refused to speak to the media or share transport with them and said they had been warned not to do so.

The parliamentarians inspected various projects, including the access roads to Mbombela Stadium, the N4 bypass road nearby, parking at the stadium and the upgraded routes and bridges to the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport.

The head of the provincial department of public works, roads and transport, Mathew Mohlasedi, said most of the projects were nearing completion after deadlines had been extended several times.

"The repairs and upgrading of the routes to the airport is 94% complete.



**A parliamentary delegation inspect the bridge near Nelspruit that collapsed on September 30 last year. In the green shirt and pants is Mathew Mohlasedi, head of the Mpumalanga department of public works, road and transport**

It involved the construction of a paved area for buses and taxis and a traffic circle at the intersection of provincial road D636 and the access road to KMIA. The completion date was March 31, and the traffic circle has already been opened officially," he said.

Mohlasedi said the road projects had been hampered by a variety of factors.

"Problem challenges were road-marking works, weather, the availability of asphalt and bitumen, and limited capacity in contractors."

He added that the access routes to and

around the stadium and a bus and taxi transport facility with shelters and toilet blocks was 95% complete.

"This project was scheduled for completion on March 24, but due to weather and asphalt supplies the completion date was updated to April 26," he said.

The completion of the R40's high-occupancy vehicle lane between Nelspruit and White River has also been delayed to April 16.

The P166 bridge, which forced road closures on the N4 when concrete beams collapsed on September 30 last year, has been fixed.

Madisha and Associates Consulting Engineers spokesperson Lawrence Maahlo said the beams fell down after oncoming heavy traffic had caused them to vibrate moments after they had been placed on the bridge.

"Every beam has been replaced and tightened and the bridge is now stable," he said.