



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**PROVINCIAL TREASURY**

## 2008 YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS



The Honourable Premier delivering the key note address at the Youth Day Celebrations ...Page 2



## 2008 YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

Throughout the country, people celebrated the youth day, 16 June 2008 under the theme "Entrenching democracy. All youth to the polls!" In Limpopo, the day was celebrated in Modimolle in the Waterberg district municipality.

About fourteen thousand people, most of whom were the youth, attended and celebrated the event. Among the dignitaries present were the honourable Premier for



**Mr Masilo Ratopola answering questions about the Limpopo Treasury**

Limpopo Sello Moloto, the MEC for Roads and Transport, Justice Pitso, the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Ms Happy Joyce Mashamba, the MEC for Health and Social Development, Seaparo Sekwati, the Executive Mayor for Waterberg district municipality, Pinky Kekana and the Youth Commission Chairperson, Rodgers Tshivase.

The IEC Provincial Electoral Officer, Ms N.A Mateta, delivered a speech that encouraged the youth to go and participate in the elections next year. She outlined the electoral process as a whole and urged them to ensure that they are registered.

"You have your X and please ensure that you use it to shape the future of this country", she concluded.

The Chairperson of the Limpopo Youth Commission, Rodgers Tshivase mentioned that today's youth face challenges that are unique to this age, which are, the fight against crime, violence, poverty, unemployment, lack of skills, HIV/AIDS, substance and alcohol abuse as well as lack of access to education. He further condemned all forms of discrimination, xenophobic and racist tendencies and practices. He emphasized that as a Commission, they warmly welcome the envisaged merger between the Umsobomvu Youth Fund and the

Youth Commission.

"The nature and character of our present democratic dispensation, requires a dedicated youth cadre who is driven by passion and love for change and development. A youth cadre who will remain honest, dynamic, committed, patriotic, visionary and revolutionarily responsive to the same ideals and sense of purpose that the youth of 1976 lived and died for, it requires the same passion, creativity and intellectual ability to rise and hold

firm in action for youth socio-economic emancipation, in the same spirit and voices that said "freedom in our lifetime." he hammered.

The honourable Premier for Limpopo Province, Sello Moloto stressed that while it was easy in the past to make the country ungovernable through petrol bombs and limpet mines, the task to rebuild the country has become even more daunting and complex. He said that it requires much more than singing slogans and toy-totyping, that it requires a new breed of young people who are conscious of their purpose and role in society. He strongly condemned crime, xenophobia, teenage pregnancy, moral decay, intolerance, alcohol and drug abuse and ignorance in today's youth. He urged everyone to rise and defend this country's hard earned democracy.

"Our hard earned democracy must come with responsibility and hardwork. Freedom can never mean that people are allowed to break laws or disregard the rights of others with impunity. The youth of today must also live behind a legacy which future generations of young people will be proud to identify with" he concluded.



**"Youthful exuberance!" Young dancers entertaining the crowd at the Youth Day Celebrations**



# Editorial Comment



**The Editor: Abe Mokoena**

A warm welcome to all our readers to volume 6 of our external newsletter. We are into the fourth month of the financial year 2008/2009. It's really amazing how quickly time flies by. The sweet gentle breeze of this new financial year still smells freshly in our noses like chocolate upon crème.

We remain driven by the saying that 'Knowledge is power' and so, the news that is contained within this newsletter is meant to empower the clients of Limpopo Provincial Treasury from both within and without. We sincerely hope that with your unwavering support and contributions we will make Limpopo Provincial Treasury's publications world class.

In the meantime, Limpopo Provincial Treasury will continue to use all its massed strengths for the socio-economic development of the Province as a whole. We are aware of the service delivery challenges that still face this province and we know for sure that our people expect us to move faster in advancing the national goal of the creation of a better life for all. And we dare not linger, for the road ahead is still too long.

In this newsletter you will read about the exciting Youth Day celebrations that took place in Modimolle. The spellbinding pictures behind every story tell us so much about the positive youth fever in this country. The pictures put our minds on a swinging merry-go-round. You will enjoy the article on the Deputy President's visit to Polokwane. We all know that the 2010 World Cup is no longer beyond the horizons. It is now within sight. So knowledge about Polokwane's preparations for this

massive event is very important to all of us. You will relish news about Limpopo Treasury HOD's visit to the Tender Advice Centres in the districts. These Tender Advice Centres are the face of the Department at the coal face of change.

The article and pictures on freedom day celebrations which took place in Bela-bela is a real reading feast. It shows how we as the people of Limpopo and South Africa value our hard won freedom and rights which we gained when we made that historic revolutionary transition from the previous system of government to a democratic one.

You will also revel in the column that was written by the intellectually dynamic Mr Mgxaji on "Trends developing in the performance of Limpopo's Economy". By acquainting yourself with the economic imperatives of our province, you will be empowered more than ever before because real power is economic.

As you enjoy the contents of this newsletter let's keep at the back of our minds the government's mandate. Let us always remember that there are people in this province who still do not have access to water. The touching picture of the child carrying a container of water which is bigger than herself on the cover page of this newsletter is a reminder that as government we still have "many more hills to climb".

Cheers!



## **EDITORIAL STAFF:**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Editor               | : Abe Mokoena  |
| Contributors         | : Joe Mphaho, Lorraine Hopane, Tiny Shipalana, Masilo Ratopola, Sadiki Muvhango, Zondi Khosa, Tukisho Serite |
| Marketing Sub-editor | : Mosebudi Matlopera   |
| Events Sub-editor    | : Masilo Ratopola  |
| Publisher            | : Andile Msindwana   |

## THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO POLOKWANE



**The Deputy President, Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka.**

The Deputy President of the country, Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka paid a visit to Polokwane on the 21 April 2008. The purpose of her visit was to be briefed about the progress that has been made so far by the Polokwane municipality in preparation for the hosting of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, get the challenges that are being faced and input on the recommendations. The briefing was done at the Meropa Conference Centre.

Among the dignitaries present was The Limpopo Premier, Sello Moloto, MECs, Executive Mayor for the Polokwane Municipality, Thabo Makunyane, Executive Mayor for Mopani District Municipality, Humphrey Mokgobi, Executive Mayor for the Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality, Namane Masemola.

Makunyane mentioned that the preparations for the hosting of the coming world cup presents Polokwane municipality with a chance to improve service standards in transport systems, information and communication

systems, food and beverage services, safety and security, emergency and medical services, disaster management systems, tourist information, leisure and entertainment services. He went on to emphasize that in trying to achieve all these, the city should make sure that 2010 benefits everybody, that resources are evenly distributed within the community and that they do not degrade the environment.

The construction of the Peter Mokaba stadium began in March 2007 with the target of completing it by March 2009.

A lot of progress has already been delivered on construction and maintenance of water sanitation infrastructure, electrification programme, transport infrastructure, waste management, disaster management and health services, safety and security, township improvement, job creation skills development, fostering social cohesion, and hospitality.

However, the project faces some challenges. Some of those challenges are: clarity regarding source of funding for 2010 infrastructure programme, inadequate institutional capacity within member institutions to professionally manage and deliver on the programme, shortage of construction materials, lack of participation of private sector in the preparation for 2010 world cup, lack of entrepreneurial skills amongst enterprises and access to capital by small enterprises.



**The Honourable Deputy President and the Limpopo Premier share jokes with workers at the construction site.**



# 2008 FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION



On the 27 April 1994, South Africans, irrespective of colour, race or gender, stood in long queues and some in the scorching sun to cast their votes in the historic first democratic elections. This ultimately gave birth to the new constitution of the Republic of South Africa in 1996. For the fourteenth time, this year, the people of South Africa gathered at different places on the 27 April to celebrate Freedom Day.

Limpopo's celebrations took place in Bela Bela at the Sanfa Sportsfield. About nine thousand people gathered at this venue to celebrate the historic day. They were there to remember those who died for freedom so that all could be free and reflect on the victories South Africa has scored so far as well as the challenges that are lying ahead.

Among the dignitaries who graced the occasion were, National minister for the department of Sports and Recreation, Rev. Makhenkhesi Stofile, National Deputy



**The Singing of the National Anthem at the Freedom Day Celebration in Bela-bela**

Minister for Public Works Mr Ntopile Kganyago, Limpopo Premier Sello Moloto, MEC for Roads and Transport Justice Pitso, MEC for Safety and Security

**to page 8**

## 2008 FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION ...continued

Ndou, MEC for Public Works, Rosina Semanya, MEC for Health and Social Development Seaparo Sekwati, the Executive Mayor for Waterburg Ms Pinky Kekana, Struggle veteran Ike Maphoto, mayors and councilors.

Addressing the public, Minister Stofile mentioned that the 27th of April should always occupy a special place in the hearts of all South Africans, old and young, black and white. He stated that this should be the case because it is precisely on that day when all South Africans were freed of the heavy cruel yoke of white minority rule, a rule which was punctuated by the abuse of the many human freedoms that the people enjoy today.

"We have recovered our right to speak as we wish and we can't go to prison anymore. Thousands of our people went to war against a system that was so abhorrent that it was declared a crime against humanity. The road to the 27 April 1994 was full of dangers not only for adults but even for school children.

For all black South Africans, their own country had become an open prison. We have achieved much as a country but we can't claim that we have changed the reality that continues to mirror our past" he emphasized. The Limpopo Premier, the honourable Sello Moloto urged the whole nation to celebrate the historic day because thousands of lives were sacrificed in the struggle against Apartheid rule so that the whole of South Africa could be free. "We must celebrate because our freedom did not come cheap. Millions and millions of our people lost their lives. We are till today, still tracing where others are buried.

The scars and the wounds of our freedom struggle are still open in the hearts of many. For such people we are trying to comfort and say their blood was not lost in vain. We will continue to celebrate this day because it brought us the many freedoms that we were unjustly denied in the past".

The Premier stressed that government is committed to the vision of continuing to improve the lives of the people and that through knowledge and skills, especially in the field of technology, our nation can survive in a globalised world which is manipulated through the use of computers.



**Dancing to the music of freedom!**



**"We are the future, we are the new tomorrow" says the youth.**



**"Africa my Africa!" The sweet sound of the giant African drum entertained the crowd.**



## Ministerial Imbizo

**ON the 12 April 2008, a ministerial imbizo was held in the Greater Sekhukhune District at Tshehlaneng,ga Mogashoa. The aim of holding the imbizo was to consult with the people in that area to know what their current service delivery challenges are. The event was held in line with the national imbizo week whose theme was: “Business Unusual: All hands on deck to speed up change.”**

About twelve thousand and five hundred people attended the occasion. Mr Essop Pahad, minister in the Office of The Presidency led the well attended event. And among the dignitaries who graced the occasion were Limpopo Premier, Sello Moloto, the MEC for Health and Social Development, Seaparo Sekwati, the Executive Mayor for the Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality, Namane Masemola.

Many Government institutions delivered their services to the public during the event and those are:

Limpopo Provincial Treasury, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Department of Education, Department of Health and Social Development, GCIS, SAPS, ICD (Independent Complaints Directorate), Department of Labour, Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, Public Works, Home Affairs, National Youth Service, as well as the Department of Agriculture. The Programme was directed by MC Seaparo Sekwati.

A variety of people ranging from senior citizens, people living with disabilities, the youths raised challenges such as: High levels of unemployment in the area especially among the youths, shortage of skills that can enable the people to work in the surrounding mines, high level of HIV/AIDS, incomplete RDP houses, Shortage of water, lack of electricity, roads that are in bad conditions and which become even worse during the rainy seasons, loadshedding which is causing problems in the surrounding mines, shortage of public transport and volunteers in health programmes who request compensation.



**The Honourable Minister in the Office of the President, Mr Essop Pahad, the Honourable Premier, Mr Sello Moloto and the Honourable Executive Mayor for the Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality, Mr Namane Masemola at the Ministerial Imbizo held in the Greater Sekhukhune District.**



# Youth Day Fever



**Opening Youth Day with the National Anthem**



**Teka! teka! teka!!!**



**Long live democracy, long live!**



**Youthful exuberance!**



**Music was born in Africa, the cradle of humanity!**



**"I can dance better than the late Brenda Fassie, the Madonna of the township"**



# Youth Day Fever



The Premier posing with Rodgers Tshivase



African renaissance!



MEC Happy Joyce Mashamba also graced the occasion.



"The day belongs to us, we the youth!"



Voter education being given to the youth.



"We hear you Honourable Premier"



## TRENDS DEVELOPING IN THE PERFORMANCE OF LIMPOPO'S ECONOMY



Mr. Xolisile Mgxaji: Economic Analyst, Limpopo Provincial Treasury

***"...The province has recorded an unemployment rate of 27.6 percent which is an improvement from the 2006 rate at 32 percent..."***

**The Economic Analysis section in Limpopo Provincial Treasury (LPT) continues to monitor the performance of the provincial economy.**

In an interview with Mr Xolisile Mgxaji, an Economic Analyst at Provincial Treasury, it was clear that some serious economic trends have emerged.

Mgxaji indicated that the provincial economic growth rate is currently estimated at about 4.1 percent which is less than the national rate at 5.1 percent. The provincial economy showed an upward during 2006 and slowed down in 2007. This was due to the tightening of the monetary policy and the increase in interest rates by the South African Reserve Bank. This, therefore, reduced the production rate as the consumer demand was low. The growth achieved by the province is derived from the performance of

sectors such as mining, quarry, wholesale, retail trade, hotels, restaurants, finance, real estate, business services sector, and the General government services.

According to Mgxaji, the province has recorded an unemployment rate of 27.6 percent which is an improvement from the 2006 rate at 32 percent. It must, however, be noted that this remains a very high figure compared to other provinces except Kwa-Zulu Natal. The provincial employment is mainly derived from sectors such as wholesale, retail trade, hotels, agriculture, forestry, fishing, social and other personal services. These industries absorb a significant number of employees estimated at around 820,000.

Mgxaji, further, gave a picture on the inflation circumstances within Limpopo. He said, "The overall national rate of inflation has been increasing significantly compared to the previous year. Inflation is currently at about 10.5 percent which is far higher than the target band of 3 percent to 6 percent. The high rising inflation is attributed to factors such as increase in prices of food, petrol and fuel. Limpopo has also been affected by these issues and, therefore, its inflation rate has increased to 12.1 percent by March 2008. What also complicates issues is the inflation rate experienced in rural areas. The rural inflation rate for Limpopo has been 13.1 percent during the March 2007 to March 2008 period. This is caused, among others, by increases in the price of fuel, and transportation."

To further explain the scenario Mgxaji made an example. Picture a person living in a rural area that depends on a social grant earning an amount of R970.00 per month. This person's real income is R610.83. This means that R970 income can only purchase goods and services that are worth R610.83.



**"I am the rose of Giyani, I fetch water 2km away from home everyday after school hours".**





**Vegetable vendors trying to make a living in Malamulele**

Mgxaji also indicated that the exports performance of Limpopo has increased steadily since 2000. The province has accounted for 6 percent share of total exports. These are in the sectors of mining, basic chemicals, basic iron and steel; mad machinery and equipment. This was due to weaker Rand/US dollar exchange rate. When the Rand/US dollar depreciates the demand for South African exports rises because they become cheap in the international market. Mining products constitute approximately 75% of total value of Limpopo's exports.

However, the exchange rate of the Rand has depreciated by nearly 14 percent for January and February 2008.

The province maintains a high unequal distribution of income, with a Gini Coefficient that ranges up to 0.7112. This unequal distribution of income is accompanied by high levels of poverty in the province which is estimated at about 60 percent.



**"Times are tough and hard, I travel 3km a day to fetch wood", says a lady in Giyani**



**Water headache! "Water, water and water everywhere, but not even a drop to drink"**



**"Mines should assist in the alleviation of poverty within communities", so said one concerned resident at an Imbizo in Sekhukhune District**

## **Theeletša Motheeletši**

"Public service delivery is based on a principle that proper planning is the middle name for policy and implementation."

***Hon. MEC Sa'ad Cachalia***

"We have insulated ourselves from the pain and suffering of our fellow citizens who are too poor to share our cycles and networks"

***Dr. Mamphela Ramphele***

*commenting on suffering of farm labourers*



## Limpopo Provincial Treasury Hosts An Imbizo With Municipalities

On the 27th of June 2008, Limpopo Provincial Treasury, led by honourable MEC Sa'ad Cachalia, met with municipalities from across the province at Oasis Lodge, outside Polokwane. The purpose of this session was to emphasise the need for municipalities to expend appropriately and comply with legislation on all matters of municipal finance management. The presence of the Mayors, Chief Finance Officers (CFOs) and Municipal Finance Portfolio Committee Councillors ensured that this imbizo reaches its desired outcomes.



**"Together we will make it, business unusually". MEC for Limpopo Provincial Treasury Sa'ad Cachalia shares service delivery creativity with the Honorable Maite Nkoana-Mashabane**

Addressing the delegates during this well attended session, MEC Cachalia highlighted that municipalities are at the front desk of service delivery.

In line with this thinking and considering the backlogs that some municipalities continue to float under, Limpopo Provincial Treasury (LPT) saw it fit to meet with the various municipalities as they are on the eve of starting the new financial year (2008/09).

MEC Cachalia also offered a hand to municipalities by committing employees at LPT to assist municipalities where there is a need. He also emphasised that municipalities should not wait for the Auditor-General's office to raise queries but should be pro-active and request assistance, where necessary, from Provincial

Treasury and the Local Government and Housing department.

MEC for Local Government and Housing, honourable Maite Nkoana-Mashabane was at the fore front giving an overview of the situation in the province. She stressed that, "as a developing nation we have no choice but to comply in the interests of the people."

The Head of Department for Provincial Treasury, Mr Rob Tooley also emphasised that it is important for all municipalities to plan so that there is proper co-ordination of activities and alignment of these with the funds available.

Ms Ennie Mathonsi from the InterGovernmental Fiscal Relations (IGFR) at Limpopo Provincial Treasury gave a presentation that spelt out a way forward on what municipalities are expected to do as required by legislation. Some of the issues discussed include guidance on budget preparation process, In-year monitoring, preparation of annual financial statements, preparation of annual reports, and other key imperatives dictated by the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA).

It was also emphasised that skills development and appointment of qualified support staff for Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) should become a priority.



**"We are all in this together". Municipal officials listening attentively at the Imbizo**



# UNIVEN HOSTS CAREER EXHIBITION

The Limpopo Provincial Treasury was one of the institutions that was invited to take part in the career exhibitions which were held at The University of Venda.

The purpose of organising these career exhibitions was to expose students at University level on the many opportunities that exist for them today which they can follow as they make their career choices.

Besides the University of Venda, there are many institutions that took part in the exhibitions.

These are:

The Department Of Health And Social Development , Edu-Loan, Telkom, The University Of Venda, Vhembe College, University Of Pretoria, Tshwane University Of Technology, South West Gauteng College, University Of Limpopo Turf loop Campus, University Of Johannesburg and Jeppe College. The exhibitions took place from the 12th to the 16th of May 2008.. All exhibitors were well received and thanked for acknowledging the invitation.

Scores of learners gathered at the tranquil auditorium from morning till late afternoon of 12th to 16th May to receive materials and information from all institutions.

The Provincial Treasury stall was crowded by learners who came to enquire about bursaries that the Department offers. Citizen's reports, service standards, annual reports, budget guides, budget booklets and information about the internship programme are some of the things learners walked away with.

The students managed to acquaint themselves with the core business of the Limpopo Treasury, for some of them did not know before what the department was all about. They individually expressed their gratitude for all the information that was given to them when they posed questions. When they left they were satisfied with the knowledge empowerment that they had received.

A mouth watering braai was organized when the exhibition came to an end. The university 's public relations officer Mr Takalani thanked all exhibitors for participating in the exhibitions.

## The HOD for Limpopo Treasury Visits Tender Advice Centres



**The HOD, Mr Rob Tooley with employees at Mopani Tender Advice Centre**

In line with the Limpopo Province's mandate of economically empowering previously marginalised communities, from the 12th May 2008, the HOD for Limpopo Provincial Treasury, Mr. Rob Tooley, visited four advice tenders in four districts. Those districts are Vhembe, Mopani, Sekhukhune and Modimolle. The HOD was accompanied by some members of the Communication directorate namely, Mr Andile Msindwana, Abe Mokoena and Joe Mphaho, the senior manager for Records Management unit Ms Ramuntshi as well as the senior manager for Supply Chain Management directorate Ms Mokgadi Malope.

The purpose of touching ground with the tender advice centres in the districts was to motivate staff to raise the bar in their performance, to remind colleagues at districts that they are not the forgotten sons and daughters of Treasury but that they are the face of the institution . He listened to their concerns and complaints which when addressed, can take Treasury to a higher level in the delivery of tender services.

The challenges which were raised by the four tender advice centres are almost the same, namely; Lack of proper branding of the tender advice centres, having only one telephone line, poor security , lack of exposure for tender advice centre activities[workshops] in the Departmental newsletters, poor filing and record keeping, controversial PMS implementation in the Department, cancelling of tenders, old resources such as computers, shortage of printers, hiring of cleaners to keep the premises tidy.

The HOD promised to knuckle down and make sure that all the concerns that were raised are addressed very speedily. He also committed himself to visit the centres every quarter with the intention of collectively checking on progress made on the commitments that have been agreed upon.

# TREASURY SIGNS SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH ABSA



**Honourable MEC for Limpopo Provincial Treasury, Sa'ad Cachalia, Mr. Piet Naude, the General Manager for Large Business, Ms Lurette Redelinghuys (for ABSA) and Mr. Rob Tooley, the HOD for Limpopo Provincial Treasury at Limpopo Guest Manor.**

On the 10th June 2008, Limpopo Provincial Treasury signed an important service level agreement contract with ABSA.

The event took place at Limpopo Guest Manor in Polokwane. The formal agreement between the two institutions is a mile stone that will surely go a long way towards improving the lives of the people of this province. The Executive Relationship Manager for Public Sector, Ms Lurette Redelinghuys said that ABSA has committed itself to working with government to improve and contribute to service delivery.

She further indicated that ABSA and Limpopo Provincial Government are willing to work together for the people of Limpopo. Piet Naude, the General Manager for Large Business said that this relationship it's not only about banking but also about serving the needs of the people in the province.

Honourable MEC for Limpopo Provincial Treasury, Sa'ad Cachalia indicated that the service level agreement



**Mr. Rob Tooley, HOD for Limpopo Provincial Treasury and Mr. Piet Naude, the General Manager for Large Business sign the service level agreement contract.**

**to next page**



covers a range of issues that affects the department like banking and home loans. He further indicated that ABSA has committed itself to making banking easily accessible to the people and to the department's employees. On a lighter note, he slightly changed the motto of ABSA that says 'Today, Tomorrow and Together' to "Today, Tomorrow and Forever working together."

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the HOD for Limpopo Provincial Treasury Mr. Rob Tooley and Mr. Piet Naude, the General Manager for Large

"Together we will deliver for our people", the three seem to be saying.



"As ABSA, our commitment to service delivery for the people is unquestionable"



"Today, Tomorrow and Forever working together"

We are delighted to bring you the sixth edition of this newsletter.

We thank you for the response you showed with our fifth edition

We hope that you will take part in our quarterly newsletters with enthusiasm and share with us ideas on how to improve on the content.

If you would like to write to us do not hesitate to do so!

Please call or write to Communication Services Directorate at the following:  
 Ismini Towers, 46 Has Van Rensburg Street, POLOKWANE, 0700  
 Tel: 015 298 7000, Fax 015 295 7010, Website: <http://www.limpopo.gov.za>

Ismini Towers  
46 Hans van Rensburg Street  
Polokwane  
0700

Private Bag X9486  
Polokwane  
0700

Tel: 015 298 7000  
Fax: 015 295 7010

Website: [www.limpopo.gov.za](http://www.limpopo.gov.za)

***The heartland of southern Africa*** - development is about people!