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STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS 2022

SOPA



SOPA 2022

Gauteng At Work

Investing in road infrastructure for smart mobility

21 roads underwent major rehabilitations, improving the mobility in the Emfuleni Local Municipality.



The Smart Mobility initiative, is aimed at improving the condition of the road network in the province.



Working with private developers, Gauteng is upgrading Allandale, a major artery in City of Joburg that is critical in the movement of goods and services.

Premier Makhura outlines Gauteng key priorities

• By Lerato Maitloane

Premier David Makhura is expected to deliver the State of the Province Address (SOPA) during the opening of the Gauteng Legislature on Monday, 21 February, at the Brixton Multipurpose Centre.

The SOPA is an opportunity for the Premier to give progress report on the implementation of the Growing Gauteng Together 2030 (GGT2030) plan of action while also taking stock of challenges faced by the province.

At SOPA 2021, Makhura vowed

to focus on recovering the provincial economy after the COVID-19 lockdown, improve educational and health standards, reduce crime, protect those vulnerable from urban poverty and hunger and improve the quality of life of residents through service delivery.

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Special focus will be on the high growth areas we have developed, the Specialised Economic Zones and the Township Economy Bill, which is now being finalised

Makhura's spokesperson Vuyo Mhaga said this year, the Premier is expected to clearly outline the service delivery action plan for 2022 amidst the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy which resulted in massive job losses.

"During his speech this year the Premier will give an update based on the Mid-Term Review, that was delivered in November. The review will address progress made since the beginning of the sixth administration up to so far and it will also combine the fifth administration.

"Special focus will be on the high growth areas we have developed, the Specialised Economic Zones and the Township Economy Bill, which is now being finalised," said Mhaga.

The draft Township Economy Bill, currently before the Gauteng Legislature, is part of government's efforts to make starting and formalising a business in the township seamless by loosening red tape and addressing by-laws that constrain the operation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and informal businesses in the province.

The intentions of the Township Bill tie in with President Cyril Ramaphosa's

STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS 2022

SOPA



Access to Quality Basic Education



A total 355 schools built in townships since 2014



455 schools equipped with smart boards, tablets and laptops

new programme of action to make it easier for SMMEs to access funding and technical support to enable them to thrive.

The Gauteng government has been focusing on high-growth priority sectors and infrastructure investment projects to unlock the transformation, modernisation and reindustrialisation of the province's city region.

These sectors include automotive, aerospace and defence; transportation and logistics; information communication and technology; energy; tourism

and hospitality; food, beverages, agro-processing and agribusiness; construction and infrastructure; financial services; cultural and creative services and industrial cannabis.

Gauteng has been accelerating the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. In this light, Makhura is expected to outline how the province will usher in a new phase in managing the pandemic.

Mhaga said the province remains committed to working with the people of Gauteng to build a better province. ■

The age of accountability- GAUTENG KEEPING IT CLEAN AND ETHICAL

• By Rofhiwa Marubini

The Gauteng Provincial Government is institutionalising integrity and ethical leadership among public officials and public servants.

Efforts to prevent, detect, investigate, and resolve acts of corruption and misconduct are also bearing fruit.

These are confirmed by the Integrity Management Report, which uses research and stakeholder inputs.

Since the commencement of the 5th Administration, Premier David Makhura has been consistent in promoting the highest standard of professional ethics.

This commitment saw the establishment of integrity management units in all departments and the

How can you report?

- Toll free number from a landline: 080 111 633
- SMS Call-back: 072 595 9139
- E-mail address: gpethics@thehotline.co.za
- Fax-2-Email: 086 726 1681
- Telephone Web App: www.thehotlineapp.co.za
- Website: www.thehotline.co.za



implementation of the open tender system which is underpinned by the Gauteng Anti-Corruption Strategy.

These have contributed to improved audit outcomes across departments and public entities in the province. The Office of the Premier leads from the front having received clean audit outcomes for nine consecutive years.

The Integrity Report reveals that collaborations with Chapter 9 Institutions,

forensic investigations by the SIU and provincial units, criminal proceedings and civil cases are being implemented to recover losses suffered by the State and to prevent further losses.

Proactive measures to detect fraud and corruption before it occurs are solidified through the lifestyle audits for Members of the Executive Council and

Continued - pg 3

vetting of senior public servants.

To date, the Premier and all MECs have submitted their vetting application forms to the State Security Agency (SSA).

Makhura says the lifestyle audits, will ensure the integrity of the council and confirm that neither of them is using their positions to enrich themselves.

Vetting has been extended to senior managers and Supply Chain Management (SCM) officials in all departments.

There are 784 Senior Management Services (SMS) members in the provincial government and 298 have been vetted.

A total of 352 SMS members are awaiting feedback and 127 members are in the process of applying to be vetted.

In addition, 272 of the 514 appointed officials at Supply Chain Management have been vetted. A total of 140 SCM officials are awaiting feedback.

Public servants who are doing business with the state have been flagged and are undergoing disciplinary hearings.

The Gauteng government is collaborating with the Public Service Commission (PSC) to investigate allegations related to human resource

management.

There are currently 70 allegations being investigated by the PSC. About 43 of these cases have been resolved and 27 matters are still under investigation.

These cases involve human resource irregularities, SCM irregularities, misconduct by officials, maladministration and fraud.

As part of improving reporting mechanisms, the Provincial Forensic Audit Unit has been relocated to the Office of the Premier to give it greater authority and to ensure that allegations of fraud and corruption are investigated, and that appropriate action is taken.

Since the inception of the National Anti-corruption Hotline in 2005, Gauteng has received 2130 cases.

A total of 2031 (96%) cases have been resolved and 99 are still outstanding.

The Gauteng government is also prioritising investigations into allegations of corruption.

A total of 270 requests were received by the Provincial Forensic Audit (PFA).

Of these 73 cases (27%) have been completed and reports issued to Heads of Departments.

A total of 53 allegations related to governance, unlawful demolition of RDP house, bribery, human resource

irregularities are investigated by the Public Protector.

Makhura said appropriate actions will be taken based on the outcomes of all the investigations of corruption cases.

"Conducting forensic investigation for alleged cases of corruption is meaningless if action is not taken by departments to resolve these allegations.

"Citizens can only trust the call to fight corruption when they have evidence that some effort is made to not only investigate their complaints, but disciplinary action is instituted against the implicated officials."

About 1269 recommendations were raised on investigation reports issued since the 2017/2018 financial year. A total of 694 of these recommendations are currently being implemented.

These include disciplinary actions, opening of criminal cases and recovering of monies lost by the state.

A total of 138 disciplinary actions, 37 criminal cases and 36 civil cases were recommended for the 2020/2021 financial year.

Makhura has committed that the Provincial Forensic Audit will continue to track the implementation of recommendations on all investigations quarterly. ■

GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER: THE JOURNEY TO 2030

When the National Development Plan (NDP) was presented to the nation in 2011, it set out a vision for South Africa – a prosperous country with no poverty or inequality.

The NDP states that South Africa has means, the people and the resources to achieve this goal.

The Gauteng Provincial Government shares this vision.

In 2019, the provincial government in consultation with all stakeholders including the people of Gauteng developed a plan of action, namely Growing Gauteng Together 2030 (GGT2030), as a contribution to the NDP.

The journey to 2030 is set on pillars on the economy, jobs and infrastructure, education, skills revolution and health, integrated human settlements and land release.

It maps the way for safety, social cohesion, food security, building of a

capable, ethical government and the province's contribution to building a better Africa and better world.

The GGT2030 plan, has made several concrete commitments to grow the economy and improve the quality of life over the next decade:

- Grow the Gauteng inflation-adjusted R2 trillion economy;
- Create 3.1 million jobs;
- Reduce unemployment from 29% to 15%;
- Reduce poverty from 25.3% to 16%;

- Reduce inequality from 0.7% to 0.62%;
- Reduce crime to be reduced by 50%.

The realisation of the GGT2030 will position Gauteng, as South Africa's powerhouse which leads the way in investments, manufacturing, technology, research, innovation and tourism.

A place for people from all walks of life can celebrate their dreams and realise their ambitions. ■

GGT2030

GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER



The journey to 2030 is set on pillars on the economy, jobs and infrastructure, education, skills revolution and health, integrated human settlements and land release.



Tshwane Automotive SEZ: a catalyst to Gauteng's economic reconstruction and recovery



• By Lerato Mailoane

The Gauteng Provincial Government, in an effort to reposition itself in the world economy, established Special Economic Zones (SEZs), premised on the full potential of all citizens and regions.

Described as a game-changer to stimulate investments and to promote industrial agglomeration, the SEZs act as a tool to help build the required industrial infrastructure. They also promote coordinated planning between government and the private sector, making them an anchor of Gauteng's industrialisation agenda.

The goal is to have at least one SEZ in each district or metro, specializing in distinct sectors and industries in each corridor, says Premier David Makhura.

My Gauteng examines the progress at the Tshwane Auto Special Economic Zone (TASEZ) in Silverton, Tshwane which has been dubbed as Africa's First Automotive City and how its growth is benefiting the small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs)

Launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2019, the TASEZ project, which in total will cover 204 hectares of land. Automotive manufacturers and suppliers will be instrumental in developing various vehicle components and services for Ford Motor Company.

With construction having started in August 2020 within the limits of the COVID-19 regulations, the planning,

design and construction work has to date delivered significant jobs, training and development to both the communities and SMMEs in the region.

The three spheres of government are investing R3,3 billion in infrastructure in this economic zone.

This has unlocked R4,3 billion investment by suppliers and a further R15,8 billion investment announced by Ford Motor Company in 2021. This makes it the biggest foreign direct investment since the 2010 World Cup.

Some of the component manufacturers, five in total, have already occupied facilities and their manufacturing operations have already begun even though it is at a small scale. This is expected to produce over 200 000 vehicles by 2022.

With a mandate to create employment opportunities and promote economic

participation for SMMEs, the TASEZ is providing non-financial and financial support to 262 Grades 1-7 SMMEs and over 20,000 jobs will be created for the City of Tshwane residents over a period of time.

The TASEZ has identified 220 SMME packages to be allocated to local SMMEs. These packages are to be allocated to realise the initial target of 45% SMME participation from the township to the value of R844 million. To date, 78 SMME packages have been completed, to the value of R284. 6 million have been awarded.

Thus far, 10 women owned SMMEs have been appointed to the value of R22.2 million.

A total of 12 youth owned SMME's have been appointed to the value of R18. 5 million and 1 SMME owned by persons with disabilities has been appointed to the value of R362 000.

The total of construction jobs stands at 997, with 558 of these opportunities allocated to the local community.

Young people are empowered with various training and development programs including work-readiness training, health and safety awareness training and technical skills training.

The TASEZ has Graduate Development Programmes to assist built environment graduates to obtain meaningful practical workplace experience.

The automotive hub has been developed through a joint partnership between the City of Tshwane, Gauteng Provincial Government and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic). ■





Tshwane Automotive SEZ adds hope

• By Lerato Mailoane

Mamelodi based Design Applications Building and Civil Contractors is a building and civil engineering construction company which has seen great success following its work on the construction of Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone (TASEZ).

Founding Director, Thabo Moumakwe said his business was established in 1996. Design Applications is one of the Small Medium Enterprise that is black owned, managed and controlled construction company.

Moumakwe said his company was awarded a tender to conduct structural analysis to determine what internal and external forces could affect the structure then ensure that the groundwork is appropriate before the construction of the TASEZ began.

"Our company ensured that the ground was stable by removing clay and replacing it with appropriate materials and reinforcements for the foundation to be ready for building," he said.

The businessman said this was the biggest project his company had undertaken totalling to over R20 million after completion. He said this enabled him to hire three permanent engineers and ten permanent support staff and on average during the construction he would hire 25 to 50 labourers over a

period of five months.

"When I quit my job in 1992, I had a dream to start my own business and stop living from pay cheque to pay cheque. Today, I am so happy I made that decision as it has improved my life tenfold.

"Being a business owner comes with great risks but also very rewarding upon the completion of project," he said.

Moumakwe said since he worked on the SEZ his business has also improved its grading and is now a Grade 7.. The grading system certifies that a company is capable of delivering projects up to a pre-determined contract value in a given class of works.

"To go up a grade, a contractor has to fulfil a certain criterion and has to have certain experience and qualification as well as staff requirements that he needs to fulfil," said Moumakwe.

The Design Applications Building and Civil Contractors construction company is currently working on a road rehabilitation project for Emfuleni Local municipality. ■



Being a business owner comes with great risks but also very rewarding upon the completion of project

WEST RAND MEGA PARK: planting to reignite economic growth

• By Qaqambile Maledle

Zuurbekom, although earmarked for agricultural purposes, unemployment and underdevelopment are high in the area forcing the last remaining farmers to relocate.

However, a new and unique West Rand Mega Park once completed, it's expected to reignite the economic activity in the area.

The R20 Billion project will comprise of Agri-Processing Hub and Industrial Park, with a food city centre that will include a fresh produce market and various food markets and other ancillary services.

These include meat and chicken market, fish and seafood market, dry goods market, flower market, funeral one-stop retail centre, wedding one-stop retail centre, hotel with conference facilities, training centre, restaurants, and fast-food outlets, and a kids recreational area.

Set on 302.6 hectares, the park developed by Maximum Group Holdings (Pty) Ltd and Afribiz is strategically situated at the intersection of R558 and N12 highway, at the entrance of Protea Glen in Soweto.

With the City Deep Fresh Produce market being 40 kilometers away, there is no industrial, agricultural facility or fresh produce market to meet the region's needs.

Maximum Group Founder and Group CEO, Slaven Gajovic is confident that the project will be a major economic and social boost for communities in Fochville and Western Gauteng which includes Westonaria, Randfontein, Krugersdorp as well as



The project works closely with the communities locally and nationally. It will create over 50 000 permanent jobs and 7,500 temporary jobs.

Lenasia and Eldorado Park.

Furthermore, the park will go a long way in positioning the West Rand as the produce basket of the province as some 40% of all fresh produce supplied in Gauteng comes from this region.

The development will also empower many businesses in the supply chain.

"These answers critical issues currently on the African continent job creation, improving exports, training and education, food security, assisting small and emerging farmers, to name just a few," said Slaven.

Young people are being trained and upskilled to participate in the project and the industry beyond construction.

"The project works closely with the communities locally and nationally. It will create over 50 000 permanent jobs

and 7,500 temporary jobs. It will be a major catalytic project and enabler of future growth in the areas of Soweto and Rand West," Slaven added.

The developers said they looked forward to a partnership with the government and other stakeholders to promote economic growth – part of the Growing Gauteng 2030 Plan.

The Gauteng Provincial Government has indicated that it supports the nomination of the West Rand Mega Park as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) as it will be a catalyst for the development and investment in the area. ■

PLAY YOUR PART STOP THE SPREAD

THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

FROM THE FRONTLINE - how I survived COVID-19

• By Lerato Mailoane

Almost three years have passed since the first COVID-19 case was first recorded on South African shores. Many have lost loved ones, leaving stress and anxiety for those who tested positive for the virus.

No one has been left unaffected by COVID-19, including healthcare and frontline workers who were on the forefront in the fight against the pandemic.

According to a research study: "Psychological distress related to COVID-19 – the contribution of continuous traumatic stress," the pandemic can become a seed for mental disorders.

"Individuals who have previously been exposed to a traumatic event or have experienced continuous traumatic stress are particularly vulnerable to the possible development of a mental illness related to the COVID-19 pandemic," the study found.

Shelisa Govender, a Production Level 1 Speech Therapist at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital shares the sentiments, having also survived COVID-19 which impacted her mental health.

"You must watch your mental health as this can have a negative impact on your physical health and on your immune system," said Govender.

When she tested positive for COVID-19, keeping in-touch with her family was her saving grace.

"We talk a lot about the physical symptoms, but we forget about the mental and emotional impact that COVID-19 can have. It is helpful to have a support network around you.

"I think what kept me moving forward was the love and support from my family and friends, with frequent calls and video calls. My mom and I would speak throughout the day, so I think just

having that interaction and just hearing positive news and being surrounded by people that are comforting and helpful keeps you motivated," she said.

Govender said what was more stressful was the loss of colleagues due to the virus.

"We have lost many health workers as they became infected while working with patients," she said.

Govender noted that it was difficult for health workers to care for patients at times.

"However, we know this is our calling and we try our best to ensure that patients receive the highest quality care," she added.

In addition, Govender further noted that now, more than ever, it was critical to highlight the importance of taking care of one's mental health.

This will enable people to overcome the trauma the pandemic has caused.

Government has reiterated that it owes a great debt of gratitude to the dedicated health care workers and other frontline staff who put their health and their lives at risk to care for the ill and vulnerable during this pandemic. ■

Individuals who have previously been exposed to a traumatic event or have experienced continuous traumatic stress are particularly vulnerable to the possible development of a mental illness related to the COVID-19 pandemic

HOW TO MONITOR AND REPORT COVID-19 VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

Health care workers play a key role in ensuring the continued safety of covid-19 vaccines

BEFORE VACCINATING



STEP 1: ASK

If the person getting vaccinated has ever had an allergic reaction to a vaccine, if yes refer the person to an allergy specialist or health provider, who will recommend next steps.



STEP 2: ASSES

Any health or medical conditions listed as precautions by the vaccine manufacturer or by your local immunization programme. These conditions include:

- Pregnancy
- Compromised immune system
- Severe frailty to older persons

People with these conditions are eligible for vaccination, but should be offered information and counselling



STEP 3: COMMUNICATE

Common side effects after vaccination, which indicate that the person's body is building protection against COVID-19.

- Common side effects include:
- Headache
 - Arm soreness
 - Mild fever
 - Tiredness
 - Muscle and joint aches

STEP 4: VACCINATE



AFTER VACCINATION



STEP 5: OBSERVE

The vaccinated person for 15 minutes - tell them how and where to report severe reaction

- Observe people with the past vaccine allergy reaction for 30 minutes after they have been approved by a specialist (step 1)

STEP 6: INFORM

Your supervisor immediately of any unexpected or severe reactions during the observation period or reported later.

- Complete the electronic paper Adverse Event Following Immunization form (AEFI) available online at investigation.gvs-aefi-tools.org
- Health officials will then investigate the event.

For more information:

Web: www.sacoronavirus.co.za Call the COVID-19 Hotline: 0800 029 999

PLAY YOUR PART STOP THE SPREAD

THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

More than 8.5 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered and 4.4 million people have been fully vaccinated in Gauteng!

If you have been vaccinated against COVID-19, thank you! You have owned your life and helped to protect Gauteng. If you have not yet been vaccinated, now is the time to do it.

Vaccination will help us restore the social freedoms we all yearn for and return of our economy to full operation.

Take no chances!

Even though there has been easing of restrictions, we continue to see new infections, which indicates that COVID-19 is still in our midst. The first and most powerful tool we have against COVID-19 is vaccination. Vaccination is by far the most important way to protect us against severe illness, hospitalisation or death in the event we contract the coronavirus.

If you have not yet been vaccinated, now is the time to do it.

Get vaccinated! Protect yourself

Those who are not vaccinated and those who are overdue for their second jab are urged to go to their nearest vaccination site. ■



VACCINES SAVE LIVES

The more people get vaccinated for COVID-19, the closer we will get back to the things we love, closer to the normal we once knew, to the heart-warming hugs and long visits with family and friends, to the adventures and discoveries of traveling and seeing new places.

#iChooseVaccination #VaccinesSaveLives

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Call the COVID-19 Hotline: 0800 029 999 | Web: www.sacoronavirus.co.za Send 'hi' on Whatsapp to COVID-19 | Connect: 060 012 3456
Use the MPILO APP and answer questions for self screening. (Download at App store or at Google Play Store)

BOOSTER SHOTS

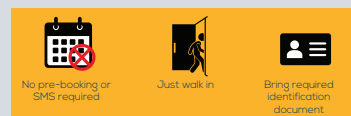
NOW AVAILABLE TO ALL OVER 18

J&J - 60 DAYS

Individuals who have received 1 dose of the J&J vaccine are eligible to receive a **booster dose of the same vaccine 60 days after their first dose.**

Pfizer - 180 DAYS

Individuals who have received 2 doses of the Pfizer vaccine are eligible to receive a **booster dose of the same vaccine after 180 days.**



#VaccinesSaveLives

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Call the COVID-19 Hotline: 0800 029 999 | Web: www.sacoronavirus.co.za Send 'hi' on Whatsapp to COVID-19 | Connect: 060 012 3456
Use the MPILO APP and answer questions for self screening. (Download at App store or at Google Play Store)

iSpan

Join the Gauteng Provincial Government by **applying for the latest vacancies** on the career portal here: <https://professionaljobcentre.gpg.gov.za/> NB: prospective applicants must please use the new Z83 form.

Don't miss out! **Register on the SA Youth network** to access a range of opportunities and support through the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention. Visit <http://SAYouth.mobi> or dial **0800 72 72 72 toll-free** today!

COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY in Gauteng



• By Qaqambile Maledle

The province has made good progress in broadening social assistance and social insurance since 1994. However, there is still more to be done.

The provincial Department of Social Development, working in partnership with other spheres of government, the private sector and civil society, has made a substantial progress in the realisation of the Growing Gauteng Together (GGT2030) plan.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought home the stark reality that 19% (3 million) of Gauteng residents are unable to meet their daily nutritional needs.

"The War on Poverty Profiling Programme is one of the most successful in this regard, by providing more than 2 889 695 households with food relief. Our food relief efforts were boosted by the Solidarity Fund contribution of R40 million," says the department.

During the 2020/21 financial year, a total of 46 920 job opportunities for young people were created through the provincial Youth Structures Programmes exceeding the target of 33 299. Furthermore, the programmes enabled 55 092 youth to participate in various skills development programmes through youth structures exceeding the 45 087 targets.

Meanwhile, more than 2, 3 million young girls have benefited from the

Dignity Packs Programme which provides sanitary towels to young girls residing in poor households.

The project aims to restore the dignity of schoolgirls who have poor school attendance and low self-esteem as a result of lack of financial resources, essential for affordable basic toiletries and sanitary towels.

According to the Department of Social Development, older persons continue to be vulnerable to different forms of abuse from communities and diseases associated with old age.

Government aims to enhance the quality of life and improve the health of older persons by engaging them in programmes that promote social, physical, mental and emotional well-being to prevent or delay the onset of ageing challenges and keep old age related illnesses at bay.

The department ensured 17 436 older persons were reached through service provided by funded community-based care and support facilities. The department active ageing programmes reached 9 778 older persons including gym facilities. ■

E During the 2020/21 financial year, a total of 46 920 job opportunities for young people were created through the provincial Youth Structures Programmes exceeding the target of 33 299.

LIFE CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES

THE YOUTH

• By Thembisa Shologu

Down but definitely not out' is the adage that recovering addict and alcoholic, Riccardo Mokgosinyane from Thokoza in Ekurhuleni lives by.

Although overcoming the stigma communities have of addicts is hard, Mokgosinyane says he chooses to wear his scars with pride as they are a sign that he has conquered.

Mokgosinyane was raised by his grandparents in Toekomsrus, Westrand. He had a beautiful childhood and great upbringing which is not the reason why he got hooked into drugs.

"I was brought up well. My addiction was because of me making wrong choices. I got introduced to drugs at school, I used my monthly allowance to sustain my drug addiction until I could not afford the life I was leaving anymore.

"This led to us bullying other children at school, robbing people and stealing," he said.

Mokgosinyane went for rehabilitation twice, the second time was different because he was introduced to programmes that make one aware of how the mind works, "remembering the good times only and not the bad ones."

On release, the family did not want anything to do with him. He lived at a rehab halfway house for 16 months. Seeing the change, his aunt then took him in and that is how he ended up in Thokoza.

Through Tshepo 1 Million programme and Thokoza Progressive Youth (TPY), he has acquired skills and qualifications that have enabled him to become an IT Operations Specialist and member of the media team at TPY.

Tshepo 1 Million programme is Gauteng province's flagship youth empowerment initiative designed to help young people to enter the labour market and access skills and entrepreneurial development.

The programme was launched in 2014 under the name Tshepo 500 000, and was redeveloped and unveiled as Tshepo 1 million in 2017 by Premier David Makhura.

Since 2019, the programme, through its partnerships in the various sectors,

has reached an average of 63% of beneficiaries.

"My life has changed. I carry my scars or as I like to rather call them, stars, as reminder of the life that I've lived and where I'm going. That I have overcome the stigma my community has about drug addicts," he said.

Mokgosinyane is currently doing his final year in Entrepreneurial Management of Innovation and Technology at Da Vinci Institute which relates to what he did under the Tshepo 1 Million.

"It focuses on how to do business, and how you can become your own boss and not depend on others to hire you. I survive by staying away from bad company, keep myself busy with school and finishing my studies. This is my last year," he said.

Another recipient, Fortunate Sethoga was also raised by her grandparents in Limpopo. Life was simple and growing up was not very exciting because of a poor environment.

In 2010, she moved to Johannesburg to further her studies in Electrical Engineering.

In 2017, Sethoga joined Tshepo 1 Million and was offered a four-year apprenticeship and is now a qualified Earthmoving Equipment Mechanic on a permanent contract.

"It was very interesting to meet a lot of young women who all had dreams and worked so hard to achieve them.

"We are indeed taking up space and our industry will no longer be male-dominated," said Sethoga.

Through her journey, Sethoga's biggest lesson was knowing that women can absolutely do anything they put their minds to.

Since 2020, one of the main challenges faced by TIM was the need

to shift from supporting youth face-to-face to doing it virtually and on the phone support, due to COVID-19 regulations.

Despite this, the programme is forging ahead and has set a target to reach a further 1 million young people by 2024.

The TIM programme is also aligned with the Youth Employment Service (YES) Initiative launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The YES initiative aims to see more than one million young South Africans being offered paid work experience over the next three years, as part of placing the needs of and opportunities for young people at the centre of inclusive economic growth.

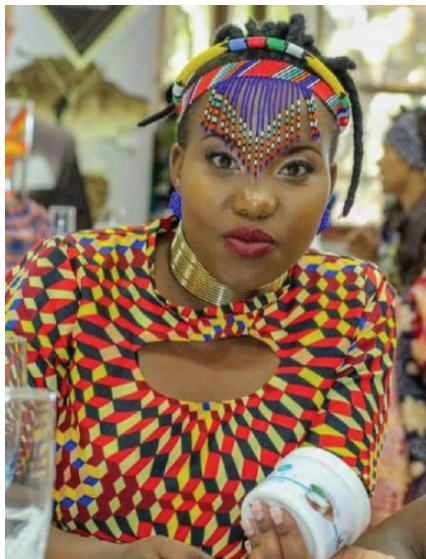
Thus far, a total of 19 771 work opportunities were created in Gauteng under this banner against a target of 36 457.

In drawing more young people into the

Continued - pg 11



Transitioning from unemployment to entrepreneur



• By Qaqambile Maledle

After years of being unemployed, Phumzile Mthembu took a leap of faith that would see her own the first baby skincare brand in Thembisa, East Rand.

Under Ingcweti (Pty) Ltd, trading as PureB Baby Care, the company manufactures baby ointments using coconut oil as a primary ingredient.

Phumzile started the company in 2018 after her son was diagnosed with skin irritation caused by eczema.

"After testing different kinds of products with fruitless results, I knew that something needed to replace them. It needed to be a natural skin-repairing that is gentle enough for everyday use. That was the birth of my company," says Phumzile.

With just R250 in her pocket, Phumzile ventured into business and today the company produces specially formulated hypoallergenic products that help repair and protect baby skin at the cellular level. This aids in soothing skin irritations such as eczema, ringworms and nappy rash.

As entrepreneurs, we need to keep going. As much as we want to sustain businesses, we need to keep looking up and making things happen.

PureB Baby Care was incubated at EKasi Lab in Thembisa. The eKasiLabs programme is an extension of The Innovation Hub's service offering disadvantaged young people entry points into the worlds of entrepreneurship.

Phumzile says the company is not only about repairing damaged skin.

"We also educate new parents and owners of childcare facilities - on skin

conditions and how to treat them."

With many Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the company has expanded its portfolio to produce hand sanitisers.

She attributes her successful entrepreneurial journey to collaborations.

"I have met individuals that I am willing to grow with. I've been recognized as one of the most innovative entrepreneurs of 2019 and I have since managed to supply at least three of our local pharmacies with our ointments."

PureB Baby Care was also one of the 117 businesses that showcased the Absa Lionesses Xpo.

Phumzile, who has a vision of bringing more people out of unemployment, advises young people not to let a good idea go to waste.

"As entrepreneurs, we need to keep going. As much as we want to sustain businesses, we need to keep looking up and making things happen." ■

From - pg 10

economy, the provincial government has initiated various other youth development and empowerment initiatives.

As at 30 September 2021, 9376 youth brigades were employed by the Gauteng Department of Education and the Gauteng City-Region Academy.

Skills development programmes, CoachLab and Code Tribe have trained

286 youth which resulted in 114 youth finding employment.

A total of 3 339 unemployed youth (1217 female youth and 2122 male youth) were trained in automotive skills at the Gauteng Automotive Learning Centre (GALC).

Gauteng government departments created a total of 93 314 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) work

opportunities against a target of 133895. To date, 69.7% of the target has been achieved, of which 41% were in the infrastructure sector.

These efforts by Gauteng Provincial Government are ensuring that young people are given access to opportunities so they can better themselves and drive change in their communities and contribute meaningfully to the economy.

FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

• By Qaqambile Maledle

While violence against women and children remains a big problem in communities, Gauteng government continues to work tirelessly to fight the scourge against gender-based violence (GBV) in the province.

A total of 620 GBV Brigades were recruited to lead community mobilisation, advocate for gender equality and report gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) cases and to also establish networks for support to victims and families.

Victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse in the province can seek help at green doors. Green doors provide victims a safe place, counselling, advice on opening a case and acting against their abusers, basic emotional support, basic care, and a place to rest for a short term while the department looks for a placement in a safe houses such as Ikhaya Lethemba.

Ikhaya Lethemba is a one stop centre for abused women and children offering accommodation, medico-legal assistance such as court preparation amongst others.

There are now 39 green doors across the province offering some relief in the fight against domestic violence and sexual abuse of women and children.

These centres are specifically designed for victims of domestic violence who live more than three kilometers away from a police station. The service is operational on a 24-hour basis.

Community Safety MEC, Faith Mazibuko said the opening of the green doors is in line with the Gauteng government's commitment to establish 50 victim empowerment centres to bring services closer to residents.

"We are calling on the private sector to



make a similar commitment to enhancing the empowerment of the women," MEC Mazibuko said.

These Green Door facilities are managed by ambassadors, who ensures that all the victims receive equal amounts of support and a place of comfort.

The Green Door ambassadors receive training on how to help victims deal with the situations they face. The centres are open to neglected and abused male and female adults and children.

The centres work together with the police and Victim Empowerment Centres in communities, which provide counselling by qualified social workers. A family member or a friend can report an abuse to the Green Door Centres on behalf of a victim of abuse.

Brown Lekekela set up a Green Door shelter in his backyard to give a place of safety, counselling and referral to victims of GBV in Diepsloot. He runs the shelter single-handedly and has dedicated his life to supporting and achieving justice for survivors of GBV.

He has always been involved in community structures. After he completed his matric in 2006, he worked as a volunteer at the Diepsloot Police Station, working with victims of crime.

"That's where I was exposed to the deep rooted and entrenched patriarchal beliefs that lead to the marginalisation of women in South Africa, leaving them exposed and vulnerable to diseases and violence," he said.

Diepsloot victim lifeline offers various services including referral to police, social workers, shelter, and clinics. They also do workshops, talks at schools and churches.

The provincial government also handed over 11 luxury sedan vehicles to Victim Empowerment Centres attached to the police stations that have been flagged as Gender Based Violence hotspots in the province. ■

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S PROJECTS in the fast lane



• By Thembisa Shologu

The Department of Public Transport and Road Infrastructure is forging ahead with some of the province's major road infrastructure projects. This despite some delays caused by COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns in major road infrastructure projects.

In 2021, the department officially unveiled its Transport Infrastructure House (TIH), an in-house capacity built within the department to drive and deliver transport infrastructure in the most efficient and effective manner taking into account the importance of cost, the quality of the transport infrastructure and the time within which transport infrastructure projects are delivered. The TIH will assist the department to gain a full view of its 67 transport infrastructure projects to the value of R23 billion from planning, design and to construction. "We are acutely aware of the state of our economy following months of depression due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, these 67 projects have become critical in helping us grow the economy of our province and create much-needed jobs.

"The TIH will also help us bring about efficiencies in the project delivery pipeline so that infrastructure is delivered on time, within budget and at the right quality," said MEC Jacob Mamabolo.

The department is also working with other provinces and state-owned entities to improve and unlock opportunities in



freight and logistics in the province and ensure the growth of this critical sector.

"The department will in the 2021/22 financial year, strengthen the partnership with KwaZulu Natal (KZN) Department of Transport, Transnet and the German Federal Ministry of Environment represented by GESI and collaborate on the development of a Smart Corridor solution between KZN and Gauteng as an urgent intervention to expedite projects along the corridor to improve the movement of freight and people," said Mamabolo.

Despite the constraints experienced by the department, it introduced agile strategies to achieve some of its targets.

"The Gautrain is currently at 24% of pre COVID-19 ridership levels. The Gautrain Management Agency (GMA) will conduct the feasibility study on behalf of the department for travel demand management of heavy road freight during peak periods in Gauteng.

"The study will include key tasks to understand the status of Truck Stops, current and future needs, roles and responsibilities of the department. The study will commence in the 2021/22 financial year," said MEC Mamabolo.

Through the use of smart technology and data, the department can speedily intervene and resolve bottlenecks which often result in time delays and cost overruns.

Key projects that will be targeted include the Vereeniging Intermodal Facility which has been under construction for more than seven years but still incomplete. The contract between the department and the contractor, Moreteng Investments (Pty) Ltd was eventually terminated in 2018.

The 9km K69, upgrading and doubling of Hans Strijdom (Solomon Mahlangu from the N4 to Mamelodi to K54 are at 50% complete and 74% complete respectively. Both projects started in Jun 2019 and extension of time (EOT) was granted, the revised completion date for K69 is June 2022 and 30 April 2022 for K54.

"The contractors were behind schedule due to encroachments within the road reserve. The K69 has not been attended to by the City of Tshwane (CoT) to date. While with the K54, the CoT only moved 200 dwellings in April 2021," added Mamabolo.

The National Department of Transport (NDOT) has allocated R 661, 2132, million for Provincial Road Maintenance Grant (PRMG) to alleviate the backlog of road maintenance for the financial year 2021/22.

Why you should not miss SOPA

• By Marubini Rofhiwa

February is a momentous month for both Gauteng Provincial Government and residents. It is a time for reflection, thinking ahead and prioritising the needs of the province.

Each year, the Gauteng Provincial Legislature (GPL), led by Speaker Ntombi Mekiwe, holds the first sitting which sees Premier David Makhura deliver the State of the Province Address (SOPA).

This platform is an opportunity for Premier Makhura to give an overview of the political and socio-economic state of the province as well as the Gauteng government's service delivery commitments for the year ahead.

This year, Premier Makhura is expected to deliver his fourth SOPA of the 6th administration on Tuesday, 21 February

2022 in a hybrid sitting at Brixton Multipurpose Centre.

To keep democracy functioning, everyone must take a constructive interest in how the province is managed.

Gauteng Residents can do so by tuning in to the live broadcast on @GautengProvince @GautengProvincialLegislature social

media handles from 10 am on 21 February 2022.

Alternatively, tune into DStv's Parliamentary Channel 408 or any of the Gauteng-based community radio stations to hear first-hand what is planned for the province. ■

**STATE OF THE
PROVINCE ADDRESS
2022**

SOPA

**David Makhura**
Premier of Gauteng

 **21 FEBRUARY 2022**

 **10h00**

 **Brixton Multipurpose
Centre**

STREAM LIVE ON   
#GPSOPA2022

 **GAUTENG**
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

 **STROOM
SAFE**

GGT2030
Gauteng Growth and Transformation Strategy

Here are five reasons why you should not miss SOPA:

1

SOPA gives us an overview of government's efforts and plans. It will highlight old programmes that have been successful as well as upcoming programmes yet to be implemented and how residents can get involved.

2

It will allow residents to scrutinise the information presented and to identify where taxpayers' money will be directed.

3

The Premier will address pertinent issues facing Gauteng residents. These will include plans to defeat COVID-19, province's social policy to improve educational and health outcomes, efforts in the fight against corruption, improving governance across the Gauteng City-Region to focus on delivering results and improving the quality of life and re-igniting the Gauteng economy.

4

It will give residents a glimpse of the province's future. How will government address the high youth unemployment? What is the province's progress with RDP housing distribution? Will there be any consequences for those involved in corruption? How will service delivery be accelerated? How will government ensure an equal future for all? SOPA will be the residents roadmap to finding the answers to these questions.

5

SOPA is democracy in action as seen through the robust debate in the legislature to allow all constituencies an opportunity to express their opinion. SOPA is preceded by intense discussions in the media and academic institutions that inform and shape public opinion.

SOPA 2022 -wish list

My Gauteng News took to the streets to get a cross-section of opinions from Gauteng residents on their SONA expectations.

Gift Mabasa (30):

"I wish the Premier would outline how the provincial government will address red tapes which are standing in the way for small businesses. The regulations take forever and the consultation requirements that are associated with them are very expensive. When you've worked your way through all the red tape, the market has changed. Many SMMEs have failed because of the red tape.



Lerato Mashishi (40):

He must address lack of service delivery in communities. It is a serious matter and people end up protesting and damaging the infrastructure that government has already provided. Our communities sometimes go for weeks without running water and this is not healthy. It would be great to see our leaders act quickly when communities have crises.

Sindiswa Gcali (35):

I wish the Premier can announce more job opportunities for the youth so that they do not rely on government grants for survival. This would also help minimise crime because people would be working instead of sitting in corners robbing people. Lack of employment also discourages youth from studying because there are a lot of unemployed graduates, they see education as a waste of time.



Thembi Nkonyane (62):

I would like the Premier to speak more on job creation in order to eradicate unemployment and poverty, especially for our youth. Government must make resources available to assist young people to take charge of their lives and eliminate dependency. He must also deal with cadre deployment, government needs to appoint competent and skilled people.

Mkhombiseni Manyathi (26):

He must focus on youth development programmes in our townships to keep the youth away from the streets. Communities need libraries that offer internet access.



Duduzile Miya (38):

I hope that the State of the Province Address can pave the way for gender-responsive planning and adequate resourcing of programmes to combat gender-based violence across the province.



Christopher Molete (22):

What I expect as a resident of Gauteng is to get a progress report on job opportunities that were promised. I want to know how many jobs have been created and where are those jobs. I would also like the Premier to give feedback on the progress that government is making in fighting corruption. Corruption hinders our development as a province.

Fundiswa Matheza (31):

It would be nice to hear the Premier speaking more on the delivery of houses. People have been on waiting lists for a very long time and some have even passed on without having a place to call home. There are just too many informal settlements with no proper ablution facilities.