

HOPE TO RURAL LEARNERS

Issued by the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport. For more information kindly contact Mr. David Nkambule on 013 766 6553 or 0716081059

BICYCLE DONATION BRINGS HOPE TO RURAL LEARNERS AT BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport donated a total of eight hundred and fifty four (854) bicycles to learners in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu made the donation on 07 May 2012, during a glitzy event held at Matlushe

Primary School at Wales in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. The event was graced by representatives from the local municipality, community members as well as traditional leaders.

Learners who walk at least 3km to school have finally had their plight addressed, when the department handed the bicycles to twenty five (25) schools. MEC Mahlangu during her keynote address issued a stern

warning to beneficiaries to safeguard the bicycles. “These bicycles should not be used for any other purpose except for travelling to school. I do not want to see parents riding the bike collecting pension funds at pension paypoints. I do not want to hear that the bikes are being ridden to buy drugs and alcohol at the taverns” she appealed. She requested parents to work closely with the Department of Education in a bid to avoid any vandalism which might occur as a

result of negligence. “Let’s make sure that the bicycles are used responsibly so that other future deserving learners can benefit. “Also, make use of the bicycle maintenance depot where they have been established to maintain the bicycles for free” she said..

Apart from the bicycle donation, the department has handed over at least ten (10) animal drawn carts to families within the area as well as four (4) brand new patrol vehicle for the

public transport inspectorate. The animal drawn carts would be used to collect water and woods for household purpose whereas the patrol vehicle would be used for all law enforcement operations. The bicycle and the animal drawn carts forms part of the bicycle project called Shova Kalula. The project is a nationwide project aimed at promoting non motorised transport system within the rural communities.



MSUKALIGWA INTERDEPARTMENTAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM REACHES OUT TO INMATES

By Thuthukasizwe Ngcobo

Behind the state of the art security fence and high walls is home to inmates incarcerated at Ermelo Correctional Services Centre. Most inmates in this centre yearn for the opportunity to continue with their lives in the outside world like all South Africans. On Friday May 11 2012, the Msukaligwa Interdepartmental Development Forum (MIDF) spearheaded by the vibrant and energetic chairwoman Mrs. Brenda Magudulela visited Ermelo Correctional Services to bring government services to these forgotten people. The MIDF was represented by Ermelo Community Policing Forum, Department of Health, Social Development, Home Affairs, Department of Education, Ermelo Correctional Services,

Department of Labour, Legal Aid South Africa, South African Police Services and Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. The MIDF brought joy to most inmates especially to those inmates who are due for release due to the special remission recently announced by President Jacob Zuma. The MIDF information session with inmates denoted that most inmates are in the dark about government department services and responsibilities towards them as the citizens of the Republic of South Africa. Amongst others, complaints aired by inmates were the unavailability of required documentation to obtain identity documents; the shortage of skills development programmes and the stigma of having

criminal record and not being able to be employed by government department once released from Correctional Centres. The Department of Health represented by Sister Dlamini urged inmates to go fro HIV testing and highlighted that male circumcision procedure will be done shortly in the Ermelo Provincial Hospital once logistical arrangements are in place. In closing, the Ermelo Head Correctional Centre Mr. Mandlenkosi Phungula warn those inmates who are to be released to align themselves with good community structures and refrain from malpractices in order to become socially responsible individuals for the benefit of the Ermelo community.



Caption: Ms. Mpume Mkhonza from Home Affairs addressing inmates

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