



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thari Ya Tsela le Tšhireletso Ya Setšhaba

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SHOVA KALULA

236 BICYCLES HANDOVER IN VHEMEBE DISTRICT

WHY 36 BICYCLES AT MARA MEAN MORE THAN TRANSPORT



Learners of Mara Combined School, supported by parents receiving bicycles. **Photo: Sello Sebele / LDTCS**

Matome Taueatsoala

Makhado - On Monday 22 June, I stood at Mara Combined School in Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District, watching 36 children mount their new Shovakalula bicycles and ride home for the first time without walking 3km through winter cold. Their smiles hit me harder than any budget speech ever could.

This Youth Month we mark 50 years since the Class of '76 rose against Afrikaans as a medium of instruction, against forced removals, against the Group Areas Act. We also mark 30 years since the Constitution of the Republic was adopted by the National Assembly in May 1996 and signed into law by President Dr Nelson Mandela in December that same year. The preamble calls on us to “heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights.”

Mara village, nestled in the Soutpansberg, carries the weight of that past. Like many communities in



MEC Violet Mathye addressing teachers, parents and learners. **Photo: Sello Sebele / LDTCS**

this fertile land, families here were declared “illegal squatters” under apartheid planning. The expansion of the Mara Research Station and surrounding white commercial farming operations saw people uprooted from ancestral land. Through “Black Spot” clearances and the Development Trust and Land Act of 1936,

residents were pushed into less fertile, overcrowded settlements, many into sections of the former Venda homeland. Distance, poverty, and dispossession were not accidents of history here. They were policy.

That is why handing over these 36 bicycles today felt like a quiet act of repair. Since April this year, the Department of Transport and Community Safety's Shovakalula Programme has been my mission: the "missing middle" for learners who live more than 3km from school but fall outside the Department of Education's scholar transport threshold. For learners who walk long distances daily, a bicycle is time, safety, and dignity.

I was joined by Mayor Cllr. Dorcus Mbooi of Makhado, Acting Mayor Cllr. Rose Mathukha of Vhembe, and Acting Head of Department, Paul Mainganye. Together we handed over 236 bicycles across Vhembe. 100 to Tshiitwa Secondary, 100 to Lumuka Secondary, and 36 here at Mara. Boys and girls received them without discrimination, because access cannot have a gender.

As those children rode off this afternoon, I was comforted by the weave of progressive decisions this democratic government has made since 1996. No child should be locked out of school by distance, poverty, or health. ***That is why rural schools have the National School Nutrition Programme, so hunger does not end a lesson. That is why we have free primary healthcare, so a cough or fever does not end a term. That is why the Department of Education runs scholar transport for learners travelling more than 5km, so distance does not end a dream. And that is why Transport and Community Safety runs Shovakalula, so the child who walks 3km, not 6km, is still seen and still supported.***

The Constitution did not promise us an easy journey. It promised us a just one. Strides have been made. Imbalances are being addressed, one bicycle, one meal, one clinic visit at a time. The youth of 1976 fought for a classroom without unjust language. Our youth today deserve a classroom they can reach safely, fed, and in good health.

To every learner at Mara who took that first ride home: ***Your future is not defined by forced removals of the past. It is defined by the pedal strokes you take toward it. Government will keep clearing the road ahead.***



Chief Director for Transport Operations, Paul Mainganye.
Photo: Sello Sebele / LDTCS



Mayor of Makhado Local Municipality, Cllr. Dorcus Mbooi.
Photo: Sello Sebele / LDTCS



Acting Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr. Rose Mathukha. Photo: Sello Sebele / LDTCS

MEC MATHYE WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES TO A DEPARTMENT OF OPPORTUNITY



MEC Violet Mathye addressing newly and promoted appointees. **Photo: Sello Sebele / LDTCS**

Sello Sebele

Polokwane - The seventh administration's commitment to fighting poverty through job creation and upward mobility was visible at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane, where MEC Violet Mathye welcomed a cohort of newly appointed and newly promoted employees of the Department of Transport and Community Safety.

More than a formal induction, the session reminded staff that every appointment and promotion carries hope. HoD Mr Stephen Matjena set the tone with a departmental overview and a clear message: each person in the room is a vital role player from day one. Whether the task is large or small, every duty moves

the department's mandate forward and opens doors for families and communities.

The day focused on practical learning that builds confidence. Employees engaged with sessions on Internal Control and Compliance, Employee Wellness and Special Programmes, Human Resource Management, the Public Service Code of Conduct and Ethics, fleet controls, and the Government Medical Aid Scheme. Each topic showed that service in this department is guided by rules, but sustained by care for both staff and the public they serve.

In her keynote, MEC Mathye welcomed the new team as part of the departmental family. She



HOD Stephen Matjena presenting on departmental overview. Photo: Sello Sebele / LDTCS



Waterberg HR Practitioner, Thapelo Sekoboane during Q & A session. Photo: LDTCS / Sello Sebele



Newly and promoted appointees listening attentively to different presentations. Photo: LDTCS / Sello Sebele

encouraged them to let dedication, innovation and commitment shine in their work. She urged them to invest in personal and professional growth, to keep learning, and to keep pace with a changing world. "Make serving others your calling, "Work in a way that makes you, your community and your family proud" she said.

The MEC closed by wishing the new appointees and promotees successful and fulfilling careers. She called them to be exemplary public servants dedicated to the people, and reminded them that their growth within the organization reflects the seventh administration's promise: jobs that create income, and careers that create upward mobility. "Hope starts with a job. Progress continues with growth."

POLICE HEROES HONOURED!

72 COP LEGENDS SMASHED DECADES OF SERVICE IN LIMPOPO!

They are the brave men and women in blue who risk it all to keep our streets safe and now they've got the shiny medals to prove it!



MEC Violet Mathye crowning dedicated SAPS members. Photo: SAPS / Adonia Maeko

South African Police Service (SAPS)

Polokwane - A massive total of 72 dedicated SAPS officers were officially crowned local legends at a roaring medal parade at the Capricorn School Sport Field in Polokwane.

These real-life crime busters were showered with praise for clocking up 10, 20, and a staggering 30 years of non-stop, loyal service to the people of Limpopo. The emotional day saw 42 veteran cops scoop the top award for three decades on the beat, while 24 officers bagged their 20-year medals, and six rising stars were celebrated for 10 years of fighting crime.

It was an extra tearful day for Limpopo's top cop, Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe. Standing tall, she revealed this was her absolute final medal parade before she officially hangs up her uniform for retirement. In a moving goodbye speech, she hailed her officers as the true "backbone" of the community.

MEC Violet Mathye also took the stage to salute the officers' jaw-dropping courage and sacrifice. She threw massive praise at Hadebe, calling her an "inspirational leader" who leaves behind a legendary legacy.

With the SAPS band pumping out the beats, it was a proper celebration for the frontline heroes who continue to stand firm against crime!

WHY ARE WE COMMEMORATING IDADAIT 2026?

Government commemorate the
**International Day against Drug
Abuse & Illicit Trafficking** to:



RAISE AWARENESS about
substance abuse.



PROMOTE PREVENTION and
early intervention.



ENCOURAGE TREATMENT and
rehabilitation.



SUPPORT RECOVERY and
reintegration.



MOBILISE COMMUNITIES to fight
substance abuse.

26 JUNE
**IDADAIT
2026**

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST
DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT
TRAFFICKING



**TOGETHER, WE CAN
BUILD HEALTHIER AND
SAFER COMMUNITIES.**

#KeMoja

#IDADAIT2026

Building a Caring Society. Together.

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