public works
Department of Public Works
FREE STATE PROVINCE

2011 MEDIA ADVISORIES AND STATEMENTS

OCTOBER 2011

4th Development Week – 17 -19 October 2011 at Ditlhake Sports Complex in Koffiefontein

When the diamond mines suddenly shut down operations in 2006 and thousands of residents of Koffiefontein found themselves without an income, the future looked bleak. Mired in grinding poverty that has been passed down from one generation to another, more than 50% of Koffiefontein's residents are stuck below the poverty line. But now the town is learning to look for solutions to its developmental challenges in a different way.

A partnership between the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and Letsemeng Municipality will also contribute to the local economic development initiatives of Koffiefontein.

Koffiefontein has been identified as the host of the 4th Annual Development Week - a gathering of community members, development experts, academics, developmental practioners, government representative, the private sector and other stakeholders where developmental solutions are discussed and shared amongst the participants.

Development Week provides disadvantaged communities with an ideal platform to reflect on their development, empowering them to learn from others' experiences, strategies and solutions for sustainable poverty eradication. It also provides an opportunity for the IDT and its development partners and stakeholders to listen to the voices, aspirations, needs and lessons of communities with the specific focus of finding lasting solutions to poverty eradication and local economic development.

The Development Week 3 day community dialogue will also include the public presentation of the IDT's 2010/11 Annual Report.

Building up towards the Development Week, Letsemeng Municipality and the IDT have started engaging the community to unearth key development possibilities and challenges. This includes a clean-up campaign undertaken by Letsemeng Municipality, the community and the IDT.

Members of the media and the wider community are invited to attend this exciting and informative event where they can learn about some of the hard bread-and-butter difficulties facing millions of ordinary South Africans every day - and about creative responses to turn around the country's development challenge.

The event will be honoured by the Deputy Minister of Public Works Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, Deputy Minister of Social Development, Ms Bongi Ntuli and the MEC for Public Works in Free State, Ms Sisi Mabe, and the Mayor of Letsemeng, Ms Thandiwe Reachable.

Date: October 17 to 19
Venue: Ditlhake Sports Complex, Koffiefontein, Free State
Contact: Vukani Mthintso: Tel: (051) 444 0970

AUGUST 2011

Department hosted successful roadblock

22 August 2011

The Department of Police, Roads and Transport in the Free State Province hosted a very successful roadblock at Villiers on the 19th August 2011 as part of Free State provincial government women's month programme. The operation was done jointly with Mpumalanga law enforcement officers.
In celebration of Women's Month, the road block was hosted mainly by women in uniform from Traffic, SAPS, Correctional services, Emergency medical services and N3 Toll Concession. This inter - provincial roadblock was graced by the presence of the MEC for Police, Roads and Transport in the Free State, Honourable Butana Komphela, and the MEC for Social Development, honourable Sisi Ntombela and the MEC for Public Works, honorable Sisi Mabe.

During the operation 3 083 cars were stopped, 1 124 people were searched and 22 vehicles were impounded, 337 fines were issued, one person was arrested for the illegal possession of a fire-arm and a person was arrested for speeding at 189km in a 120km/h zone. The total amount of fines issued was R 232 600.00 including impoundment fees.

Another inter-provincial roadblock in cooperation with Kwazulu-Natal province will soon be held at Van Reenen on the border between the two provinces. This joint operation will also be led by women.
MEC Butana Komphela congratulated officers who took part in the operation and said that he is proud of a job well done and that he was honored to be part of such a successful operation.

MARCH 2011

MEC Mabe visits projects in the districts

30 March 2011

The Department of Public Works led by its political head, MEC ES Mabe undertook to project visitation on 31 March 2011 and 1 April 2011. The purpose of the MEC's visits to the Thabo Mofutsanyane District was merely to assess progress on the projects in progress while simultaneously the MEC was familiarising herself with district personnel and work done in the districts.

The Thabo Mofutsanyane District visit was the first of its kind and it was just after the MEC tabled the department's budget vote/speech in a Parliamentary sitting in the Ngwathe Local Municipality. During her visits in the above mentioned dates, the MEC was joined by departmental officials including the Deputy Director-General, Mr B Matutle, Chief Director Works, Mr M Thebe, support staff from the MECs Office led by Mr L Mahoa, other support staff from the Communications Unit, Property Management, Security Services, Legal Services.

"Part of the objective for these visits is to make sure that I know departmental work taking place in the districts and that I interact with the personnel of the department openly," MEC Mabe added. MEC Mabe also indicated that everyone in the employ of Public Works needed to take the commitments made in the Budget Speech seriously as the department shall be measured on the recently tabled document, (department's budget vote speech was tabled by MEC ES Mabe on 28 March 2011 in Heilbron).

Areas visited by the MEC in Thabo Mofutsanyana include:

- Pietersdal Office Block
- Basotho Cultural Village
- Qwa Qwa Information Centre
- Fika Patso Accommodation Facility
- Thebe Hospital

- Makgolokoeng New Creche and Community Hall
- Construction site of Chief's House
- Diyatalawa New School and Creche
- Office Block in Bethlehem.

NB: Visits to other districts will be communicated in due course and shall be shared with all officials of the Department as and when that programme unfolds.

Enquiries:
Mlungisi Maqubela
Tel: 051 403 3805
Cell: 083 645 9311

JANUARY 2011

Intake for National Rural Youth Service Corps in Free State

31 January 2011

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and Land Reform in the Free State invites members of the media to the official welcoming of young people to the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) in Free State. The event will be held at the Thabu-Nchu College on Tuesday 01 February 2011.

Premier of the Free State Mr Ace Magashule will deliver the keynote address. Other dignitaries expected to attend the event are the MEC for Public Works and Land Reform and the Executive Mayor of Mangaung Local Municipality Mr Playfair Morule.

NARYSEC is a two-year programme that targets youth from 18 to 35 from rural areas and in possession of Grade 10 report. The programme is aimed at empowering the youth with various skills and is expected to create about 10 000 job opportunities for at least four youths from the 3000 rural wards in the country.

The details of the media briefing under the following details:

Date: 1 February 2011
Venue: Thaba-Nchu College

For further information regarding the Direction kindly contacts the following officials:

Mr Karabelo Raseobi
Tel: 051 400 4200
Cell: 082 3345 076

For RSVP kindly contact the following officials:

Mr Tshepo Diale: Communication Services
Tel: 012 312 8532
Cell: 071 850 1751

Enquiries:
Mr Eddie Mohoebi – Head of Communications Services
Tel: 012 312 – 9648
Cell: 082 550 1445