



VICTOR KHANYE

Good Governance translates to Service Excellence

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LIBERATION RESISTANCE ROUTE LAUNCHED IN DELMAS

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In a move to celebrate and honour the veterans that fought the war and were part of the resistance that led to the liberation and freedom of South

Africa the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) launched the liberation resistance route in Delmas. The event that was attended by the MEC for Finance, Economic

Development and Tourism Eric Kholwane and Thulani Nzima the Chairperson of the MTPA took place outside the Delmas court at the site of the treason trial memorial. The Treason Trial

Memorial in Delmas was placed in memory of the anti-apartheid activists who were tried in Delmas. The trial of the twenty-two activists that took place between 1985 and December 1989 was the longest at that time and led to the prosecution of eleven of the twenty-two activists who had pleaded not guilty to the treason charges. **Continue next page**



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Speaking at the event the MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism Eric Kholwane indicated that the route was a key factor in ensuring that there was an increased awareness of the people who played pivotal roles in the fight for freedom in the nation. He urged the community to take advantage of the facility and ensure that tourism began thriving in the area and is boosted by the resistance route.

The Chairperson of the MTPA Thulani Nzima indicated that the route linked to South Africa's history, culture and heritage was planned at attracting both local and international tourists. Whilst the Delmas site was the initial route launch it makes one of four key areas along a route that offers diversified tourism features but all pointing back to the freedom movement. These include Delmas, Emalahleni, Botshabelo and Mapoch caves. The VKLM Chief Whip Vusi Bhuda speaking after the event indicated that Delmas was not yet fully equipped in terms of facilities to host the tourists and needed to step up and answer the opportunity that has arisen. "we are not yet ready but we will need to step up and make Delmas an attractive stop over for tourists.

The other three sites are Lynnville C e n o t a p h : This monument honours the Mpumalanga heroes and heroines who died fighting for freedom and democracy. The Cenotaph is situated in a well-maintained park in Lynnville

Township across the road from the police station and library.

Botshabelo: Known as "The place of refuge" in Northern Sotho. It originated in 1865 when Alexander Merensky of the Berlin Missionary Society (BMS) was forced to flee, with a small number of parishioners following the attacks by the soldiers of Sekhukhune, the king of the baPedi, from his previous mission station, Ga-Ratau. To protect themselves against attacks from Sekhukhune, the missionaries and their followers built a fort, which was named Fort Wilhelm after the Prussian King Wilhelm. Now known as Fort Merensky and with its "Mediaeval" tower and walls that project above Botshabelo. It is a unique blend of Western and Sotho architecture.

Mapoch Caves: During the middle of the nineteenth century, a group of the AmaNdebele ruled by Chief Mapoch and known as the Mapoch tribe occupied the area around Rosseenekal. His son Nyabela who took refuge in the Mapoch's Caves and established his headquarters in that inaccessible maze of rocks and kloofs succeeded Mapoch. The ordinary kraals lay to the left of this stronghold and a pointed koppie called Spitskoppie to the south served as a kind of advanced fortification. This is an immensely important cultural site, especially to the Ndebele people of the area. A mighty statue of Chief Nyabela heralds your entrance to the caves.



Municipality celebrates Excellence in Matric

The annual Victor Khanye matric awards for the class of 2018 were held at Hoërskool Delmas on the 17th of January 2019 with the municipality play a key role in ensuring that the event is of high standard. The awards that celebrate excellence in performance on all fronts at the national level recognises scholars from across the six Delmas high schools that have achieved excellently in their studies. The top three achievers in the 2018 Matric year are Coleman Fredrick Simon, Nonhlanhla Mbonani, and Ngubeni Irene Ditebogo respectively. The flamboyant event was headlined by Councillor Dorcas Yeko the MMC (Health and Social Services) who stood in for the Victor Khanye Executive Mayor Eva Makhabane, Councillor Yeko addressed the delegates at the event and the university bound students stating that "the path ahead is not an easy one but you have demonstrated through your capabilities that you have all the competences to conquer to the ultimate best". On that day cheques were handed over to the best educators, most improved school, and top

achieving school, together with ten tablets and three laptops for the top achievers. The Victor Khanye Circuit Manager Rachel Ngwenya gave a resounding address when she spoke of the education status in Delmas indicating that there was a drop in the proceeding rate between grade eight and nine as compared to grade seven and eight and this was a worrying trend. She further stated that more needs to be done to guarantee the security of the teachers in schools stating that "we cannot hold a gun on one hand and teach on the other hand". The Victor Khanye Circuit managers remark comes at a time when learners have less regard for their teachers as numerous cases of teachers physically assaulted by learners are making headlines across the nation. Rachel Ngwenya continued to applaud the achievers gathered at the event stating that their hard work was a testament of their presence at the awards function.



MEC Mashego hands over contractors to VKLM, R555 rehabilitation

Public Works, Roads and Transport MEC Gillion Mashego introduced contractors and consultants for the R555 rehabilitation project. The estimated project cost almost R136 millions. The project is projected to take 18 months while employing at least 75 people.



From Left: Cllr Oupa Masilela, MEC Gillion Mashego, and Cllr Vusi Buda



“We are going to push” – Meet Charmaine Kubeka VKLM Youth manager

As of February the 18th this year Victor Khanye Local Municipality employed the first female Youth Manager in Charmaine Kubeka (CK). Charmaine Kubeka a thirty-year-old Delmas resident is not new to the office of Youth Development in Delmas having served in the office as an unpaid volunteer for eight months after completion of her honours Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Read on as we speak to Charmaine and find out about her role and plan within the Victor Khanye Youth Development office

SM: Who is Charmaine?

CK: Charmaine is a passionate female who has a drive for the youth, and as we speak I am currently serving as the Victor Khanye Youth Manager and in the ANC Youth league in Nkangala. I have served in numerous posts within the framework of social work having worked for SANCA (South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence), I have also worked with the Mpumalanga Mental Health association, these steps led me to the Mpumalanga Department of Social Development where I served as a social worker before moving to the Victor Khanye Municipality to serve as the current Youth Manager.

SM: You have been in the Youth office as a Manager for a couple of months how does it feel like on a day to day basis?

CK: What makes it easy is I have a background in social work and have previously served as a social worker; there are a lot of challenges on a daily basis and that background helps as we are kept on our toes to address the challenges and the needs that are youth specific.

SM: What changes have you rolled out for the benefit of Victor Khanye youth?

CK: Well, we have been having a facility challenge to roll out the full youth office structure, in the absence of that structure it is difficult to roll out an effective program that will impact the youth of Victor Khanye, with that said we have put in a proposal with the VKLM municipal manager which has been accepted and we will be moving to a new premise that will allow facilities that are fully focused on the youth, and an organisational structure that will serve the youth of Victor Khanye effectively.

SM: What are the challenges and the success?

CK: We already have a year plan and we have financial constraints to roll out the full program as calendared, however we have organisations that have stepped forward and offered to support us with some of the programs, we are also working in partnership with Collaborate an organisation that is financially supporting interns that we have placed in various organisations including the Victor Khanye youth office.

SM: How did it feel to be appointed as the Victor Khanye Youth Manager?

CK: I was happy, excited and challenged at the same time. Being a Delmas resident and having served as a social worker and in the youth office I was present to the challenges that stood ahead for me. I knew there was work to be done and whilst excited I was also aware of that this was not going to be just another day in the office.

SM: What is the future for your office and that of the youth of Victor Khanye?

CK: We are going push and make sure we offer a holistic approach to the youth challenges in Delmas, without side-lining the tackling of unemployment and deal more with SMME's, offering training and support with organisations such as the NYDA and knowing full well that excelling SMME's will create employment for the youth together with economic empowerment. We are going to hold a lot of consultation platforms for the Victor Khanye

municipality to engage with the youth.

SM: How will Victor Khanye benefit from your presence in the youth office?

CK: Firstly, Victor Khanye have an individual that is naturally passionate about the affairs of the youth and schooled in social work, having served on both fronts I will be able to direct my skills and experience to serve the youth of Victor Khanye and I am a woman I have a soft spot.

SM: What would you like to be remembered by when you leave this office?

CK: Impact, change, real change not just numbers, quality changes that will benefit people even after my exit. My desire is to formulate and roll out systems that will see a perpetuation of solutions directly benefiting and empowering the youth.

SM: What is your advice to the youth of Delmas?

CK: Let's us come together and collaborate. Let us work together to achieve common goals and get rid of the entitlement mentality. Let us come together and step into the space and bring the change that we desire and eliminate finger pointing and ask ourselves what can we achieve together? The system as it stands not just locally but nationally is not favouring the youth as unless the youth come together and participate we will remain with the same status quo. We need participation from the youth.

SM: You are the first woman to sit in the office of the youth

manager, do you feel that the women in Victor Khanye are being recognised? What are the challenges being faced by women in leadership positions?

CK: This is not only a Victor Khanye matter but a global matter, in Victor Khanye however we seem to have progress as we were the first municipality to have a female Mayor in Mpumalanga, we now have women in key positions but the truth remains that the mind-set and the view is still patriarchal. In more cases that not people will choose a male over a female in any position. The other challenge is that as a female we have a higher bar to prove our worth visavly a male counterpart in the same position.

SM: Fast forward to this time next year what do you want to have achieved with the youth in Victor Khanye?

CK: Reduction of the social ills rate amongst the youth in Delmas as we will go face to face and fight substance abuse in the areas of alcohol and drugs. To achieve economic growth amongst the youth and improve the level of education and access to higher levels of education for the youth of Victor Khanye.

CK: My role model is the late mama Winnie Madikizela Mandela, she was the first black social worker and had an ongoing fighting spirit. It's her ability and drive to fight against the odds and never give in. She stood on that fighting spirit to her death, even in omission from positions of leadership she remained true to herself and continued the fights aligned to her principles.



Charmaine Kubeka