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Pupils from Modimolla and Madibe villages to get bicycles

ELFAS TORERAI

PUPILS who walk to school in Modimolla and Madibe villages near Mahikeng will receive bicycles to ease their transport problems.

Community safety and transport management MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane will hand over the bicycles this morning. The bicycles are part of the Shova-Kalula project that started in 2003. The project is a partnership of the provincial and national Department of Transport to enhance the mobility of pupils.

Motlhabane will hand over bicycles to pupils of Mococe Secondary, Saane Secondary in Modimolla village and Seleje Secondary in Madibe village.

Department spokesperson Thabo Sematle said: "Shova-Kulula is a low cost transport intervention by the government. It comes at no cost to its beneficiaries. This intervention is particularly favoured to the pupils from villages, townships and small dorpien communities.

"This is an attempt by the state to redress past inequalities and to reduce impediments that inhibit access to education, social and economic opportunities," he said.

Sematle said the project was also a positive response to ensuring pupils had ease of access to education regardless of distances to school.

"Equally, it is a vehicle for reaching both social and economic opportunities for the rural communities. The main beneficiaries being pupils, who live in rural areas and are faced with a daily long-distance walk from their respective homes to school.

"The criteria for pupils to qualify for this intervention is based on the non-availability of public transport in the particular area, the inability to afford public transport and benefiting pupils who walk between 3km to 5km daily to and from school," he said.

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Mahikeng school wins safety contest

ELFAS TORERAI

SOL Plaatjie Secondary School will represent the province at the national road safety annual participatory educational techniques competition.

The school from Mahikeng in the Ngaka Modiri Molema district beat representatives from other districts in the provincial leg of the competition at the Orton Safari Lodge in Rustenburg.

The competition was designed to encourage pupils to be aware of road safety challenges in their respective communities and enhancing their presentations skills.

Pupils identify problems of road safety in their areas and offer solutions through verbal and model

presentations. The competition targets pupils from Grade 10 to 11. These pupils were encouraged to identify road safety problems within their schools proximity and come up with solutions which are road safety related.

During the competition, pupils were adjudicated on model displays and verbal presentation

Speaking during the proceedings the director for road safety at the community safety and transport management department, Motshabi Tshukudu said: "The government remains committed to working with the RTMC and other key role players such as department of education and sport development, public works and roads and local municipalities to ensure that we as the government continue to produce young road safety

ambassadors for years to come." He said through this competition, the department created opportunities for pupils to improve road safety in their communities.

"This project is regarded as a tool that has a potential to reduce road carnage in the province and we request identified role players to work with our department to instil those problems," Tshukudu said.

Boskuil Combined School came in second while Tau Rapulana High School finished third.

Each participating school received a token of appreciation that comprised of vouchers and gift packs.

The national competition will be next month at a venue yet to be announced.

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SAFETY FIRST: Sol Plaatjie Secondary won the competition.

EDITORIALS

Police need tools to do their job

S109/2017 Pg 12 SAPS Sowetan

There are many things within the police that need fixing. Far too many police officers regard wearing the uniform as a mere job, not a service to society.

And there are many officers who are criminals themselves, abusing their positions to enrich themselves. Bribery is a far too frequent occurrence.

Training is woeful, at best. There have been reports that many police officers are barely literate and, because of that, many investigation dockets are a shambles. Detective work, in many cases, is so poor that suspects go free. And there are hundreds of police officers on the streets carrying weapons without having firearms proficiency certificates.

Sometimes, the long arm of the law doesn't stretch very far, because some stations don't have the basic resources to attend to crimes.

Yet, all of those negatives must not blind us to the fact that there are still many within the police who are there to serve the people of this country and to ensure they stay safe – and get justice.

These are the people who can find themselves targets, simply because they are police officers. They are the people who are prepared to put their lives on the line for the rest of us.

Between April 1 last year, and March 31 this year, 40 police officers were killed in the line of duty. Many others were wounded or injured.

Those who died left behind grieving families – some of whom would have lost their breadwinner.

It is fitting that Police Minister Fikile Mbalula and Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa paid tribute to the fallen and pledged to intensify the fight against crime.

But fine words are nothing if they are not matched by action. Tackle crime, tackle corruption in the ranks and give our police officers the tools they need to do their jobs.