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KLCBT President Oupa Pilane responds to the DPWRT: Fix our roads!

Following the KLCBT's articles in the media recently, regarding the seriously dangerous state of the roads in the province, we received comment from the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT).

Importantly, this includes the acknowledgement of the importance of tourism as a key economic driver in the province. KLCBT's president welcomed this but mentioned that this is the first time ever that there has been an acknowledgement of this kind. Perhaps this is why there has been no prioritisation of tourism roads in the province.

The DPWRT said that some projects are already undertaken or planned, including the R36, R536, Graskop-Matibidi road, R537 and R538.

While KLCBT acknowledges the fact that the department has a huge task and is seriously under resourced, it remains strange that additional help from national government and/or SANRAL has not been escalated and that steps have not been taken to better manage the road maintenance and upgrade contracts. Previously neglected communities also still suffer with a huge maintenance and upgrade backlog.

(Read the complete article on www.klcbt.co.za—The Home Page)

KLCBT welcomes Malalane Chamber members to the family

The Malalane Chamber is the latest of Country Chambers to become fully affiliated with the KLCBT. While we have a great cooperative relationship with all chambers in the district, the KLCBT has expanded its services to include full affiliation and full administrative duties for the smaller chambers. This relieves them of administrative costs and compliance burdens and allows them to focus more on building relationships with their local government and to create more member benefits.

During the last week, we welcomed the Malalane members to the family who will all enjoy the full benefits of KLCBT membership.

National Minimum Wage Bill of 2017 effective 1 May 2018

Cabinet has approved the National Minimum Wage Bill, Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill as well as the Labour Relations Amendment Bill in November 2017.

With regards to Basic Conditions, the act has been amended to include its incorporation of the National Minimum Wage Act 2017.

The Labour Relations Act proposes an amendment to dealing with Picketing. The amendment requires that a commissioner appointed to deal with the dispute that may lead to the strike/lockout must determine the rules surrounding the picket. This is a welcomed amendment as it would force parties to agree on ground rules prior to embarking on Industrial Action. This could assist in curtailing the violence and disorder which is characteristic of strike action in SA.

The National Minimum Wage is set at R20 per hour or approximately R3500 per month for a 40 hour week and R3900 for a 45 hour week. It will be R18 per hour for farm workers and R15 per hour for domestic workers. Workers on the expanded works programme or learnership agreements will receive R11 per hour minimum.

Workers working less than 4 hours on a day are entitled to receive remuneration for four hours minimum for the day.

(Read full article on www.klcbt.co.za—Click on News, then on Important Business Updates)

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