

Bell delivers seven Graders to Mbombela Municipality

‘Funeral roads’ is what they used to call them, roads that were only graded when a funeral was about to take place in a certain area. These words were spoken by the Executive Mayor of the Mbombela Local Municipality, Councillor Cathy Dlamini during a memorable occasion on the outskirts of the capital of Mpumalanga province.

The occasion was the handing-over of seven Bell 670G Graders to the Municipality and the Mayor referred to the habit of only grading gravel roads in the rural areas when the need arose, such as that of a funeral, when many vehicles and pedestrians would be using the roads.

“I want to make it clear that the Mbombela Municipality had taken a conscious decision not to outsource our maintenance services which look after roads, storm-water drains and the like,” she added. “That is why we invested in these seven Bell Graders to ensure that our commitment to service delivery is a reality.”

The Mayor went on to refer to graders normally being seen as blocking one’s way on the road. She did

however expect that from now on, the citizens of Mbombela would see the beauty of such a machine as it was fulfilling a promise the Municipality had made in maintaining the roads on a planned and regular basis and not only when a funeral was to take place.

She further praised Bell Equipment for the speedy delivery of only five days since the order was placed for the machines. “Thank you for understanding and appreciating the needs of our people in your quick delivery,” she said. “We appeal to you to train our operators properly and to teach them to look after these machines, which really belong to our citizens.”

Representing Bell Equipment at the ceremony was Bruce Ndlela, Director of Business Development for Bell Equipment Sales South Africa Ltd. He said that as a proudly South African original equipment manufacturer and supplier, Bell Equipment understands the needs of the government sector and is not only able to supply the equipment necessary to get the job done efficiently and cost effectively, but is also able to offer unrivalled support of its equipment.

“Bell Equipment has the largest footprint of all the OEMs in South Africa with 19 Customer Service Centres in all the provinces. With our extensive network we are able to provide professional technical back-up and superior parts availability, supported by our state-of-the-art Global Logistics Centre based in Gauteng. This enables Bell to actively engage with some 283 municipalities in the nine provinces to address the infrastructure backlog that currently exists,” he said.

“To ensure that municipalities get the most out of their investment we offer intensive operator training because properly trained operators will promote the reliability and longevity of a machine as well as improve productivity. A well trained operator is less likely to damage a machine and will have the confidence to do his work well,” said Ndlela.

Ndlela also referred to Bell Equipment’s recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the company, the Development Bank of South Africa and the National Empowerment Fund, a move which was deemed to be beneficial in assisting municipalities and emerging contractors to finance their acquisitions of earthmoving equipment that would in the end create more employment and aid service delivery.

In closing he praised Mbombela Municipality for their professionalism, particularly the Fleet Manager, Mr Bobo Zitha and his team, who “knew exactly what the needs of the citizens were”.

The Mbombela Local Municipality covers some 3 451 square kilometres which is crossed by 274 kilometres of tarred roads and 2 100 kilometres of gravel roads. Maintenance of the latter has been prioritized and the seven Bell 670G Graders will be used extensively to maintain and rebuild some of these roads.

Councillor Dlamini concluded by saying the seven Bell 670G Graders were the best Christmas present that the Mbombela Municipality could give its citizens.



Above: Mbombela Municipality’s Executive Mayor, Cllr Cathy Dlamini gets behind the controls of one of the Municipality’s new Bell Graders.

Below: Mbombela Municipality in Mpumalanga takes its service delivery mandate seriously and has recently taken delivery of seven Bell Graders to ensure that rural road infrastructure is properly maintained by the Municipality.



At the handover were (left): Leon van der Linde (Manager: Bell Equipment Nelspruit), Dale Oldridge (Bell Product Marketing Manager: Graders and Dozers), Cllr Bheki Zulu, Raj Singh (Bell Customer Relations Facilitator), Charles Inggs (Bell Equipment Sales Representative), Bruce Ndlela (Bell Director of Business Development), Cllr Sibusiso Mathonsi, Cllr Cathy Dlamini (Executive Mayor), Cllr Zayd Boroko, Cllr Maurice Mazibane, Cllr Phazamisa Mathe, Cllr Patrick Nkala, Mr Sigananda Sibozza (Deputy Municipal Manager), Mr Jabu Sindane (Acting Municipal Manager), Mr Ntsose Malokela (General Manager: Technical Services) and Russell Conn (Bell Equipment Sales Representative).

