

MOPANI *Baceletica* **MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY** Official Quarterly Newsletter (April - June 2021)



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Editor's Note

This newsletter remains one of our key platforms to keep the people of Mopani informed about programmes implemented by the Municipality.

The lockdown has of course presented a daunting challenge. We have however adapted to the new normal. We have been able to optimally utilize other available communication platforms to consistently communicate activities of government at this level. Many people are now following our activities on our Facebook Page.

We write to you on the backdrop of yet another eventful quarter in which we have seen the Executive Mayor engage with the people of Mopani through the mayoral imbizo programme. And to borrow from his words, we are a democratic local government, therefore the Imbizo is an opportunity for us to engage with the public in the implementation of the medium term strategic framework (our programme of action espoused through the IDP), which is centered around the ultimate goal of improving the lives of people around the district.

We have successfully launched of the District Development Model, which is about consolidating the plans of all spheres of government and the private sector into the district space to ensure that we fast-track issues of service provision to the people.

We still invite members of the public to engage with us on how best we can make our communications platforms more interactive. It is only through engagements that we are able to get a sense of where we need to improve as a municipality, especially on the information needs of our people.



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EXECUTIVE MAYOR 'S FOREWORD



Executive Mayor CIIr Pule Shayi

Where are concluding the fourth quarter of the 2020/21 financial year – this pandemic. We are of course observing an increase in the number of infections recorded in the district, which may signal the start of the third wave. Therefore, we should remain vigilant. We must continue to do the right things such as wearing of masks, practising social distancing and washing our hands with soap and water or sanitizing.

We have endured great hardships arising from the novel coronavirus pandemic. It has caused massive damage to our economy. But working with our people, we have provided shelter to the homeless and through the District Food Bank, the generosity of the business community has helped us to ensure that the less privileged do not sleep on empty stomachs as we continued to battle the pandemic.

The establishment of the District Food Bank helped us to reach out to thousands of people across district. The partnership and contributions from the farming community was important to our efforts to fight hunger during the pandemic.

Indeed, we could not have done it had it not been for the humanitarian acts from our farming community and the caring business people who raised their hands at the time when our people needed them the most.

But even in the midst of this deadly virus, the journey of advancing people's power in every community continued, the essence of which is derived from the democratic breakthroughs emanating from the struggle and sacrifices from our people. We have worked together with our people to build better communities, although many challenges still remain but our people remain hopeful and confident on the work of this democratic local government.

We should at the same time acknowledge the progress made by government in the rollout of the vaccine programme. Government has now started with the vaccination of our senior citizens above the age of 60 years. We wish to encourage them to enrol for vaccination.

On behalf of the leadership collective, we wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to the brave frontline workers who continue to be of great service to the people of our district. It is indeed because of their selfless sacrifices that we were able to save many lives in our district and across the country.

We have successfully launched of the new District Development Model. We have done a lot of work in reaching out to various sectors to ensure the launch is a success. Recently, we had a successful engagement with the private sector. In the main, the session was about lobbying the private sector for buy-in, which is very key if the Model is to be implemented successfully here in the district.

The active participation by the private sector is very important because the socio-economic profiling of the district should be constituted also by programmes and projects from the private sector for maximum impact across the district. And we said during that engagement that the private sector should occupy the space and begin to play a prominent role in influencing government spending.

Through our joint efforts, we will be able to move the informal economy which is led largely by the black majority from the periphery to the centre, from the margins to the core of the economy. This is only possible is we integrate our plans and work as a collective. It is only through our collective actions and pulling of resources in the same direction that we will be able to significantly alter the socio-economic conditions of our people.

The Model presents an opportunity for us at this level to pull all budgets from other spheres of government into the district. We should then be able to advance the efforts to localize empowerment so that the money meant for the people of Mopani circulate in this district, and impact positively on the lives of our people. We have travelled this journey together, emboldened by the actions from the people of this district who delivered a single profound message that together we can advance people's power in every community. Let's continue to work as a collective as thrive to deliver on this mandate.

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Premier Mathabatha Iaunches Mopani District Development Model

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Premier Stanley Mathabatha says Mopani District will never be the same following the launch of the District Development Model at the Nkowankowa Stadium on Friday. "We are delighted to join the people of Mopani District as we unleash the spirit of khawuleza to propel our service delivery machine. Khawuleza is about cutting the red tape that impede the pace of service delivery. The spirit of khawuleza is about faster and more effective method of taking services to our communities," he said.

The Premier said that municipalities and other service delivery agents, must innovate and think outside of the box. "One of the ways of doing this, is through

partnerships and proper planning," the Premier as he launched the DDM where he was joined by several MECs, Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi and all the five mayors from the local municipalities.

In welcoming the launch, the Executive Mayor said the Mopani District Municipality will ensure that the basket investments from the many projects coming from the public and private sector should be able to create opportunities for SMMEs to thrive. "We want to commit ourselves that this launch set us on a particular path to work better to improve the lives of our people."

Hosi N'wamitwa II, who is the chairperson of the Local House of Traditional Leaders said the Model will help fast-track service delivery. "We are happy that this day has come. Delivery of services has been fragmented for a very long time, and the lack of standardization and coordination amongst the three spheres of government made it difficult for the needs of the communities to be taken into account during the planning and implementation."

She also used the opportunity to appeal to communities not to vandalize infrastructure, saying "let us teach our communities not to vandalize infrastructure when dissatisfied about service delivery. Let us keep the little that we have. We hope the model will help address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality."

The Premier earlier visited the Thabina Regional Water Scheme, which is implemented through the MIG funding. The project aims to resolve challenges of water supply in Lenyenye and surrounding villages. It was started in the 2017/18 financial year and part of the scope of work includes the construction of 12km of steel bulk pipeline from Thabina to Lenyenye and elevated steel tanks.

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WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL:

1. When was the Model initiated? By President Cyril Ramaphosa during the Budget Vote Speech for the Presidency in 2019. It was subsequently adopted by Cabinet, the Presidential Coordinating Council and then the extended PCC before it was taken to the various MINMECs forums.	2. What does the model seek to achieve? The DDM is an all-of-government approach that seeks to reorganize state accountability and coherence to better address development challenges within a district.
<text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text>	4. Who are the District Champions for Mopani? Minister Tito Mboweni, MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba and MEC Mavhungu Lerule- Ramakhanya. 6. How will the District Development Model be implemented? Th rough coord in ation of an intergovernmental process to reprioritize government programmes (develop one plan) to respond and unblock district development challenges.
7. Has the District Development Model replaced the IDP? No, the DDM will help in enhancing the implementation of the IDP because it advocates for greater involvement across the three spheres of government and the private sector.	8. What is the rallying call of the District Development Plan? "Khawuleza" which means hurry up in isiXhosa. One District, One Budget and One Plan.

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Executive Mayor embarks on outreach programme as he celebrates his birthday



xecutive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi handed over interactive smart boards to Maphokwane High School as part of his outreach programme on the occasion of his birthday celebrations on Wednesday, 30 June 2021.

Maphokwane High School is one of the best performing schools in the Namakgale Circuit. It has an enrolment of 1513 learners and 223 of them are in Grade 12.

"We are in the fourth industrial revolution. We are now going digital, and to that extent we have to get into that space prepared so that even when you get to the level of tertiary you are at par with any other learner coming from any advanced institution." He urged the grade 12 learners to work harder even under the difficult covid-19 conditions.

The principal of the school, Diboko Malatji welcomed the donation, saying "the smart boards will be very much useful in our school, because we have teachers who have comorbidities and through this equipment they will still be able to assist learners even when they are not at the school."

The Executive Mayor started his birthday celebration with a visit to Ratlabadi family at Myakayaka village in ward 29 of Greater Tzaneen Municipality where he handed over a contractor for a five-roomed house. The Ratlabadi family lives in a two-room shack after their mud house collapsed.

Joyce Ratlabadi, the 53-year-old mother told the Executive Mayor that she lives with her husband, two of her children and a grandchild. Her oldest son stays with neighbours due to shortage of accommodation at home.

"I'm overjoyed for this initiative, and I must thank you even before the project is completed. At least must kids will be able to sleep at home once this house is completed," she said.

The Executive Mayor said "we chose to celebrate this day with you, but also to hand over the contractor who will build a house for you. The completion of this house will help restore the dignity of this family."

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Mametja-Sekororo Phase 1B project creates 34 work opportunities as construction of pipeline from Santeng to Sedawa starts



he construction of a pump station and a 4km bulk pipeline project from Santeng to Sedawa in the Maruleng Municipality has recorded 24% progress with 34 work opportunities created so far.

The project is implemented as part of Phase 1B of Mametja-Sekororo Regional Bulk Water Scheme and will also include the upgrading of transformers. The Mametja-Sekororo Regional Bulk Water Scheme is a multi-year project funded through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant with the aim of providing water to over 24 villages in Maruleng Municipality. Meanwhile, the refurbishment of the bulk pipeline from the Mametja-Sekororo Water Treatment Works to Finale, The Oaks and Santeng is now at 27% with at least ten work opportunities created.

The Mopani District Municipality has also committed an amount of R3,6 million through the Water Services Infrastructure Grant for water reticulation project at The Oaks village.

The project is now at 15 percent. Speaking during a site visit to the projects, MMC for infrastructure Cllr Given Malatji said he was pleased with the progress recorded.

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"We have to appreciate the progress recorded so far, but it is important that we all work together to maintain the momentum because we have to complete these projects so our people here can have consistent supply of water.

"It is also important for our people to support this project the best way they can so that we avoid unnecessary stoppages. The completion of this project will provide relieve to our communities here," he said.



Maite Monyela, a mother of three children from Santeng village said the project has provided relief to her family. "My last job was back in 2018 in the farms. I'm now able to pay transport for my child to go to crèche and also buy school uniform," she said.

Winny Malepe, a 26-year-old from Santeng village said she supports a household of five: "I have never worked before in my life. The project has presented an opportunity for me to get a taste of what it feels like to earn your own salary. I'm able to use my earnings to support my siblings."

Reginah Ramoshaba, a mother of five children said: "My last job was in 2017 while I was still in Pretoria. We are working very well on this project and they always pay us on time.",

Tintswalo Machimana, a mother of two children said: "We are happy to be actively involved in this project, but also to get extra money to augment the social grants. So, we are to buy food for our families."







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Hanyani-Thomo High School dominates the inaugural Disaster Risk Reduction School Competition



earners from Hanyani-Thomo High School dominated the inaugural Disaster Risk Reduction School Competition hosted by Mopani District Municipality at the Nkowankowa community hall on Tuesday, 25 May.

The Hanyani-Thomo High School debate team was so dominant on the day, with four of the learners making it to the final top five. Talent Mkhabela amassed the most points at 86, 5, followed by Ripfumelo Mhlanga and Tumisho Bopape with 81, 5 points, Kanyisa Mathe from Makala High School was in position four with 79,5 points and Jabulani Ntimani from Hanyani-Thomo was in position five with 70,5 points. They walked home with prizes such as tablets, t-shirts, schoolbags, sanitizers and masks.

The debate was on the topic: Combating Covid-19 through community resilience. The best schools from the five local municipalities in the district received R6000 prize money to be used for projects aimed at fighting covid-19.

Addressing delegates at the event, Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi said that overcoming the pandemic remains a key priority of government for the year and urged the learners to be ambassadors in their communities. "These lessons that you have learned through this campaign should be utilized to empower your communities around disaster management. Let's have these presentations done in our churches and other community gatherings."











e said that rural communities are the ones mostly affected by disasters, adding that the Municipality is working with key stakeholders to ensure coordinated human settlement. "Through our good relations with traditional leaders and in the context of the new district development model, we will be working together to manage issues of human settlement in the district. We are aware of the dangers of people building in the flood lines. And it is only when we have a well-coordinated programme to allocate residential land to our people that we will be to avoid this.

"It is for this reason, why we want to elevate our programme of township establishment, and we have plans in place to support our local municipalities. We have finalized the appointment of the Municipal Planning Tribunal whose work in the main is around making assessments on land use and development applications within the district. And, like we said the institution of traditional leadership is also integral as we process this matter."

The Executive Mayor said that the Municipality will spend R1,9 million in the 2021/22 financial year to upgrade the Disaster Management's centralized communication centre, saying "this is key in improving the emergency communication with communities across the district."

He has also called on the private sector to partner with the Municipality in support of the Competition. "Working together we are able to build better communities. And most importantly is that working together we can save lives."



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Mopani District Municipality hosts Candlelight Memorial to raise awareness around HIV/AIDS

The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Cllr Pule Shayi led a candlelight memorial to raise awareness around HIV and AIDS at the Giyani community hall on Wednesday, 26 May.

He was joined at the memorial by the Mayor of Greater Giyani Municipality Cllr Basani Shibambu, the district commissioner of SAPS General Maggy Mathebula, pastors and officials from the Department of Health.

The Internationals AIDS Candlelight Memorial is held annually around the world to remember people who died of AIDS-related complications. The International Candlelight Memorial was first started in 1983 as a community mobilization project.

The Executive Mayor used the commemoration event to urge communities to do more to end the stigma and discrimination around HIV. "But this day is also a reminder that HIV is still with us and that collectively as government and civil society we can and we should continue raising awareness, breaking down the barriers of stigma and discrimination. It is only when we work as a collective in our communities that we will be able to give hope to our people."

He said that progress has been made in achieving the targets set out in the National Strategic Plan. "We have made significant progress in the fight against HIV as per the targets set out in the National Strategic Plan for HIV, in particular the 90-90-90 targets which are aligned to the UNAIDS goals.

"But, we do remain concerned that despite all these efforts from government to ensure that indeed our people live long and a healthy life, we still have people dying from HIV related illnesses. Our people continue to have multiple sexual partners, but worse is that older men continue to target young girls at high schools and sleep with them without protection," the Executive Mayor said.

He encouraged those infected to remain on the ARV Treatment, saying "we are also saying if you have HIV, do everything you can to stay on your treatment and join a support group of people living with HIV.

"Let me also take this opportunity to encourage our pregnant women to attend antenatal clinics, which is key to the effective implementation in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme."

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Mopani commemorates International Firefighters' Day

opani District Municipality's MMC for infrastructure Cllr Given Malatji has paid tribute to fire fighters who put their lives in danger in order to rescue trapped victims and save properties in communities across the district.

Malatji delivered a message on behalf of the Executive Mayor as the district commemorated International Firefighters 'Day in an event held at the Disaster Management Centre in Tzaneen on Tuesday. The team from MDM was joined by firefighting personnel from Working on Fire and the Letaba Fire Protection Association.

The International Firefighters 'Day is commemorated every year on the 4th of May to pay tribute to firefighting professionals across the world who risk their lives to save people.

"As a District, we are grateful that we have not lost firefighters in the line of duty over the past few years. However, on a day such as this we need to remember those that have lost their loved across the globe.

"We know that in your line of work what may look like a normal day may change into a tragic day within seconds. The images of firefighters who died in 2018 when fighting the flames that had engulfed the top storeys of the bank of Lisbon building in Johannesburg will remain with us forever. We mourn these and other lives lost around the country, but their lost lives should serve as a reminder of our commitment to endeavour at all times to strive towards continuously improving community safety," he said.

Malatji went on to acknowledge the role played by volunteer firefighters, saying "what is also important is that we use this day to appreciate your work because you always put your own lives on the line to fight flames in order to rescue lives and save properties.

"We want to extend our special gratitude to those that are doing this work on a voluntary basis, which is a clear demonstration of their



love for our communities. You always sacrifice your lives going all out there to fight flames, and today is about acknowledging your valuable contributions."

Malatji said the Municipality has plans to build fire stations in Kgapane in Greater Letaba Municipality, Gavaza in Greater Tzaneen Municipality and The Oaks in Maruleng.



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HEALTH MEC CALLS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION AS PHALABORWA PRIVATE HOSPITAL IS HANDED OVER TO GOVERNMENT





ealth MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba has called on the private sector to work with government to ensure that the Phalaborwa Hospital, which was officially handed over to the Department of Health on Tuesday, 01 June is maximally utilized to benefit the people of Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality.

The facility was previously leased out to the Clinix Health Group until the agreement was ended in 2017. It will now operate as a wing of Maphutha Malatji hospital.

"We are excited when an infrastructure like this is taken over by the state. We want this facility to be admitting the mayor and the ordinary man in the same ward. We must establish a project team comprising all stakeholders which on a monthly basis will be reporting to myself and the Executive Mayor on how to make sure that this hospital is fully functional in the next 24 months."

Ramathuba was speaking during the handover ceremony in Phalaborwa where she was joined by Mopani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi. The hospital has 38 beds for covid-19 patients.

The Executive Mayor welcomed the handover "The handover imposes an obligation on all of to mobilize all stakeholders from private and civil society so that we begin to collaborate and support the work in this district space. In the context of the imminent covid-19 third wave, this intervention becomes very important.

"It is an important breakthrough. It is only us that must lead efforts to support this transformative initiative. This particular initiative becomes a game changer in the context of our fight against covid-19. We will walk this journey together," she said.

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LED MMC says collaborations will help grow the agriculture sector

Mopani District Municipality's MMC for local economic development Cllr Christinah Mohale says that experienced farmers must impart knowledge to emerging farmers, but must also be prepared to learn from agricultural graduates the new innovation in farming.

She said that Council has approved the leasing of Moshupatsela farm for a long-term period to griculture Graduates for the purpose of farming for local and export market, but part of the requirement is that the graduates must be residents of Mopani District and must be in possession of plant production qualifications.

"So, it important that our experienced farmers work with these graduates to impart knowledge, but as well learn new innovative ways that may also involve the use of technology," she said.

Mohale was delivering the opening address to the district farmers consultative forum convened in Tzaneen on Wednesday, 09 June. Delegates discussed the establishment of a temporary governance framework for organized agriculture in the district and also reviewed the strategies to grow the sector.

"The spirit of this session should be around how do we work as a collective using our competitive asset to frontally confront these challenges facing us as a sector, but most importantly how do we begin to organize ourselves better so that we are coherent on our approach on issues of agriculture in the district."





Mohale said the launch of the District Development Model sets the District on a clear path for better coordination at the district space. And because through this model, development will be pursued through a single, integrated plan for the district, it means that the private sector as well must come on board with their plans through their participation in the IDP Rep Forums to ensure synergy as we work together to make the model a success.

"It therefore says in the simplest of ways the Agriculture Sector must also be better coordinated, so that you are able to have a stronger voice in the planning and implementation of projects around the district. It is only when you are better organized that you will be able to influence infrastructure project rollout in the district which in the main should be response to the needs of our people, and collectively we should be able to coordinate this work," she said.



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Council adopts a **R2,2 billion budget** for 2021/22 financial year.

A Special Virtual Sitting of Council held on Monday, 31 May has adopted a R2,2 billion budget for the 2021/22 financial year.

Delivering the budget speech, Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi said the budget will help council deliver on its commitment to provide sustainable basic services to the people of Mopani and also grow the economy.

He said that the Municipality will continue with work to provide sanitation in rural communities. "We are working around ensuring sustainable infrastructure development and maintenance. We will continue with the programme of providing rural household sanitation to communities across the district."

The Executive Mayor said that the Municipality is budgeting R146,2 million towards the repayment arrangement with Lepelle Northern Water and a further R50,2 million for the repayment arrangements with the Department of Water and Sanitation.

"Our goal is that of reducing financial dependency and provision of sound financial management, and to achieve this we have to increase revenue generation and implement financial control systems," he said.

He also said that the municipality will be setting aside R15 million to repay historic debt owed to local municipalities on losses incurred in the running of water and sanitation, saying "but it's also worth noting that we have put in measures to address the challenge of water function between ourselves as the district together with the locals. We are working around ensuring that we separate the water and sanitation transactions in the local municipalities.

"In the not so distant future, we should be able to take-over the function as the current WSP arrangements with local municipalities is not working for both the district and local municipalities. It's a matter that the Auditor General has consistently raised with us."



The Executive Mayor said that projects around sustainable infrastructure development remains a priority. "We are working around ensuring sustainable infrastructure development and maintenance. We will continue with the programme of providing rural household sanitation to communities across the district. In GTM we built 1584 VIP toiles, 1584 in GGM, 1506 in GLM, 1629 in MLM and 1494 in BPM. And for the 2021/22 financial year we are budgeting an amount **R90,1 million** from the MIG to continue with this work," he said.

TOTAL BUDGET: R2,2 BILLION

Operating budget: R1,2 billion Capital budget: R523 billion

Grants and subsidies:

- **R1,04 billion** from Equitable Shares
- **R481 Million** from Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)
- **R42, 3 Million** from the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG
- R10,1 Million from EPWP
- **R2,9 Million** Financial Management Grant
- **R2,2 Million** from the Rural Roads Asset Management Grant



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Executive Mayor delivers specially built wheelchair to Bontle Monyela

xecutive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi has delivered a specially built wheelchair to the 11-year-old Bontle Monyela from Mogapeng village in ward 27 of Greater Tzaneen Municipality. He was alerted about Bontle's plight through social media, and directed officials from the Municipality to assist the young girl.

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The Executive Mayor said members of ward committees must continue to be closer to the people, listening to the challenges faced by communities. "Our daily work is about responding to the challenges faced by our people. We are happy today we could assist Bontle."

Bontle's grandmother, Peggy Monyela told the Executive Mayor that her grandchild has been using the same wheelchair since she was two years old. "I want to thank God for this help from the municipality. Bontle will be able to return to school. She was lonely here at home when, but now she will go back to school."

The Executive Mayor was accompanied by the Mayor of

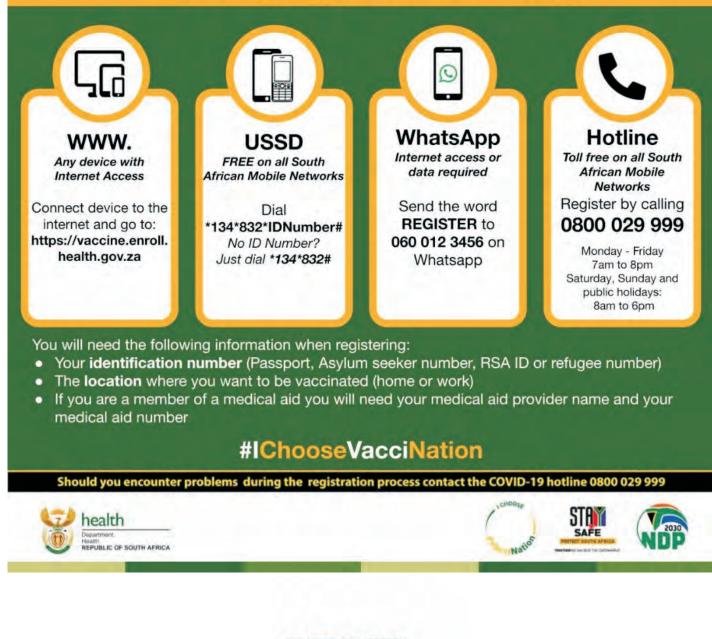




Greater Tzaneen Municipality Cllr Maripe Mangena and Cllr Martha Maswanganyi, the chief whip of majority party in the Mopani District Municipality. #Khawuleza

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Anyone 50 years and older can register for their COVID-19 vaccination Registering to get vaccinated is easy!





TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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VISION

To be the food basket of Southern Africa and the tourism destination of choice MISSION

Provide Services to the people and co-ordinate activities of other service providers resulting in the enhancement of sustainable social, physical and economic well being for all

VISION

To be a successful agro-production and eco-cultural-tourism hub, ensuring affordable access to basic services for all households

MISSION

To promote: Local, accountable democracy through active and informed community participation and co-operative governance; Social upliftment and environmental management to ensure a balance between improved quality of life and safe and healthy communities;

Economic advancement to alleviate poverty and unemployment and to sustain the economy;

Universal access to need-satisfying infrastructure and service rendering in a sustainable, affordable manner; Municipal transformation and institutional governance advancement.

Vision

To be the fastest growing economy in Limpopo, this will ensure access to basic services to every household.

Mission To exceed our constitutional mandate in delivering developmental ervices to our people through partnerships with stakeholders

Vision

"Best Tourism Destination in Limpopo by 2020"

Mission

·To ensure financial viability, sound administration, and accountable governance for investor attractiveness; To render all stakeholders with quality and affordable infrastructure and services for enhancing a safe and better life for all; To manage the environment for future sustainable economic growth; •To build the mining industry for economic growth; •To position Ba-Phalaborwa as a tourism destination of choice.

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Vision

The Vision of the Maruleng Municipality is to become the powerhouse of socio-economic development through sustainable and integrated agriculture and tourism.

Mission

The Mission statement reads as follows: "Maruleng is committed to the provision of integrated basic services and sustainable infrastructure development in an accountable manner



Vision

A municipality where environmental sustainability, tourism and agriculture thrive for economic growth.

Mission

A democratic and accountable municipality that ensure the provision of services through sound environmental management practices, local development and community participation.

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BA-PHALABORWA