



MOPANI *Bulletin*

MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Official Quarterly Newsletter (October - December 2021)



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



**Deputy Manager
Communications**
Odas Ngobenio
Ngobenio@mopani.gov.za

Editor's Note

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

We write to you on the backdrop of yet another eventful quarter in which we held peaceful local government elections. The fifth democratic local government administration has been sworn in, and the Executive Mayor has outlined the priorities for the next five years, and these will be around provision of water and sanitation, growing the economy, fighting corruption and wastage, and also making this

Municipality financially viable.

The Executive Mayor has used his acceptance speech on the occasion of the inaugural council sitting to call for support from all sectors of society as the term of the fifth democratic local government administration starts. He said the achievements of the past 20 years of our democratic local government were through the sustained sacrifices made by the people of our district who have remained actively involved on matters of local government.

We have witnessed the handover of water infrastructure to the community of The Oaks, which is linked to the Mametja-Sekororo Water Treatment Works. The Executive Mayor also had an engagement with that community, urging them to safeguard the infrastructure against vandalism and illegal connections.

On behalf of the team, we wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous 2022. We still wish to 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.

Table of Contents

Project handover at
The Oaks 4

Project monitoring
..... 5

Council inauguration
..... 6-8

DWS Deputy Minister
's visit to
Giyani..... 9

Handover of fire
trucks..... 13

Vooma Vaccine
Weekend..... 13

Address of
employees.....14-15

Pop-up market
.....16

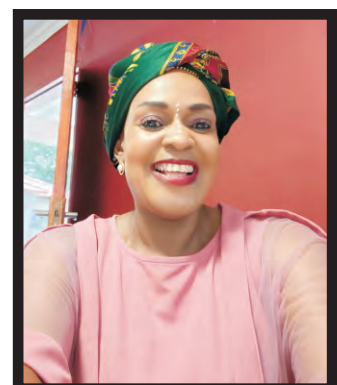
Arrive Alive.....17



Graphic Designer
Mapula Legodi
Legodim@mopani.gov.za



Media Liason Officer
Tumelo Malaka
malakat@mopani.gov.za



Communications Officer
Mildred Risaba
risabam@mopani.gov.za

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Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi

FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S DESK

The last time we engaged with the people of this district through this platform, it was prior the local government elections. And indeed, our people went out to participate in the November 1 elections, which effectively ushered in the fifth democratic local government administration. Therefore, we wish to express our deep appreciation to all our people in the corners of our district who voted in the local government elections.

As the fifth administration of our democratic local government, walking side by side with our people we have recommitted ourselves to consolidate on the breakthroughs made by the democratic local government over the last 20 years. And in doing so, we recommitted ourselves to hastily proceed on this journey of building better communities together.

We do not take for granted the support received from our people. We are fully aware of the volume of work ahead of us. We draw strength and courage from the sustained support from the masses of our people who have over the years remained true to the cause of our struggle for a better life as envisioned in the Freedom Charter.

Over the years, it has always been the unity of our people that gave impetus to our service delivery drive. Imbued by that spirit, we have recommitted ourselves to the programme of renewal and to work with our people in rebuilding the local government system that is responsive to the needs of our people in the context of the district development model, which is about improved, well-coordinated, accelerated service delivery.

We conclude the second quarter of the 2021/22 financial year, having recently handed over water infrastructure to our community in The Oaks. We have also been to Ward 24 of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality to monitor work done in implementing the Ritavi II Water Scheme project, and we can report to our people that we are pleased with the progress recorded thus far.

Phase 02 of the project which is valued at R41 million include the construction of bulk pipeline through Muhlaba, Petanenge to Zanghoma, the construction of new reservoirs, refurbishment of existing reservoirs, and the refurbishment of the existing booster pump station at Sasekani. We are happy that it has created around 70 work opportunities for our people there. A number of SMMEs are also benefiting from this project.

We are also encouraged by the work led by the Department of Water and Sanitation in implementation of the Giyani Bulk Water Project. The Minister was here a month ago, but we also hosted Deputy Minister Magadzi in the past weeks where she led engagements with our traditional leaders to lobby for their maximum support which should help complete the project as per the revised deadline.

We are still battling the covid-19 pandemic. It has worsened the socio-economic situation of our people. The biggest priority for all of us is to overcome the pandemic. The efforts to rebuild the economy of the country is largely tied to our fight to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. We still call upon our people to get vaccinated.

We have indeed come to the end of another eventful but also very difficult year. On behalf of the leadership collective in the Mopani District Municipality, we wish our people a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. Let's STAY safe and meet again in 2022 as we continue to push the struggle by a few more metres.

EXECUTIVE MAYOR CELEBRATES WITH COMMUNITY OF THE OAKS AS POTABLE WATER FLOW FROM TAPS



Mopani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi has urged the community of ward 03 in Maruleng Municipality to protect the existing water infrastructure

He opened the taps on Tuesday, 21 December 2021 marking the official handover of the project to the community of The Oaks village following the completion of a water reticulation project linked to the Mametja-Sekororo Regional Water Scheme.

The Executive Mayor later engaged the community in an imbizo session, where he again emphasised that the community should safeguard the infrastructure.

"This project has been dragging for long, and we pleased that we have finally succeeded in delivering water to this community. Our plea is for the community to safeguard this infrastructure, so that we are able to proceed to other villages. The Mametja-Sekororo project provides a sustainable solution to water supply challenges to our communities in this municipality."

He also visited Santeng village where there is a construction of a booster pump station and a 4km bulk pipeline project from Santeng to Sedawa. 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.

"

We urge our communities to work together to conserve water because it's a scarce commodity. But as well, they must also take care of the infrastructure because it's in their ultimate interest. We are happy for them and I suppose they are also happy. This is part of building better communities.

"

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EXECUTIVE MAYOR PLEASED WITH PROGRESS RECORDED ON THE RITAVI II REGIONAL WATER SCHEME PROJECT



The Mopani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi says he is pleased with the progress recorded in the implementation of the Ritavi II Regional Water Scheme (Sub-scheme 1) Phase 02 Project, which should benefit communities around Muhlaba, Muhlaba-Crosss, Sasekani, Petanenge, and Zanghoma.

The Executive Mayor led the political management team and members of mayoral committee on a monitoring visit to phase 2 of the project on Wednesday, 22 December 2021. The project started in April 2021, and should be completed in April next year.

Phase 02 of the project which is valued at R41 million include the construction of bulk pipeline through Muhlaba, Petanenge to Zanghoma, the construction of new reservoirs, refurbishment of existing reservoirs, and the refurbishment of the existing booster pump station at Sasekani. It has so far created 71 work opportunities for community members in ward 24 of Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

The project is at 89%, and the Executive Mayor said he was satisfied with the work done so far. "We are impressed by the fact that the consulting engineer and the contractor are still working within the time-frame in line with the expenditure.

"People are already drawing water from the project and around 21 SMMEs have benefited from this project. There has been stability throughout the rollout of this project and we owe that to the relations between community structures, the PSC, consulting engineer, the contractor and the community that said we want to receive water from this project," he said.

The Executive Mayor said the stakeholders should continue to monitor the implementation of the project. "We were able to open few taps and community is also impressed. Before the practical completion, we should be able to continue to monitor and make sure that our people get water from this project."

The contractor for Phase 3 of the project is already appointed and should begin with work at the beginning of the new year.

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CLLR PULE SHAYI RE-ELECTED AS THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



Mayoral Committee

1. Finance (full-time):
CLlr Nomsa Khandhela
2. Governance and shared services (full-time):
CLlr Lucky Mohlala
3. Community Services (full-time):
CLlr Dikeledi Mmetle Ramohlola
4. Water Services (full-time):
CLlr Maditshego Sefufi
5. Economic Development, Housing and Spatial Planning (Full-time):
CLlr Nyiko Baloyi
6. Infrastructure Development:
CLlr Masilo Maloko
7. Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture:
CLlr Dorah Makhananisa
8. Agriculture:
CLlr Maripe Mangena
9. Public Transport and Roads:
CLlr Sophia Magomane

The Mopani District Municipality's inaugural council of the fifth democratic local government has unanimously re-elected CLlr Pule Shayi as the Executive Mayor in a sitting held at the Khalanga Royal Lodge on Friday, 26 November.

CLlr Pule Shayi described his re-election as "absolute honor and privilege" and pledged to be of great service to the people of Mopani. He said that he will need the support from the community, including traditional leaders in executing the mandate. "over the years, it has always been the unity of our people that gave impetus to our service delivery drive.

"We recommit ourselves to the programme of renewal and to work with our people in rebuilding the local government system that is responsive to the needs of our people in the context of the district development model, which is about improved, well-coordinated, accelerated service delivery," he said

The Executive Mayor said the immediate task of the fifth administration will be the finalization of

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the district water master plan, which should aid the district in accelerating provision of clean drinking water. "We have to address water challenges in Lulekani, Lenyenye and in all the many communities still facing water challenges.

"Our people in Giyani are losing confidence in our work as government and they are justified. We of course remain confident and encouraged by the recent developments led by the Minister Mchunu and we embrace that commitment," he said.

He also announced a team of mayoral committee members, saying a lot of considerations were made in selecting councillors with experience and knowledge of the local government environment and the challenges facing the district.

"A lot of considerations were made when assembling a team that should serve with the Executive Mayor in the Mayoral Committee. We looked into the issue of continuity, which should assist us to reinforce on the work carried out by the fourth democratic local government administration, which led to the turn around on issues of audit findings and setting the municipality on a path of financial viability.

"We proceeded to consider experience in the local government sphere, which has been set at a minimum of five years. It's important for every councillor appointed at this level to have a clear knowledge of the terrain. The local government environment, but also the specific challenges facing Mopani District," he said.

The inaugural council also elected Cllr Martha Maswanganyi as the speaker of council. She previously served as chief whip in the 4th council. Cllr Magdelene Lewele was elected as the Whip of Council, while Pat Hlungwani was elected as the chairperson of MPAC.



PMT: Whip Cllr Magdelene Lewele, Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi and Speaker Cllr Martha Maswanganyi



"We do not take for granted the support received from our people. But equally, we are by no means naïve for we are not necessarily new in this space. We are aware of the task that lies ahead of us. It is a challenging one, but not insurmountable. We draw strength and courage from the sustained support from the masses of our people who have over the years remained true to the cause of our struggle for a better life as envisioned in the Freedom Charter."

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"Over the years, it has always been the unity of our people that gave impetus to our service delivery drive. Today as we stand here, we recommit ourselves to the programme of renewal and to work with our people in rebuilding the local government system that is responsive to the needs of our people in the context of the district development model, which is about improved, well-coordinated, accelerated service delivery."



"I know I can once again count on the support from my family, colleagues at the level of council, the administration led by Mr Kgatla. But most importantly, I wish to invite all our people to walk this journey with us as we build better communities together."



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Deputy Minister for Water and Sanitation visits Giyani



Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister Dikeledi Magadzi visited Giyani on Sunday, 28 November where she led community engagements as part of government's continued effort in mobilizing community involvement in the implementation of the Giyani Water Project.

Her first stop was at Maswanganyi village where she was joined by Mopani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi, the Greater Giyani Municipality Mayor Cllr Thandi Zitha, the District Speaker Cllr Martha Maswanganyi and MMC for water services Cllr Maditshego Sefufi.



Deputy Minister had engagement with the newly inaugurated chief and the community of Maswanganyi before proceeding to Homu 14A for another engagement. She urged all stakeholders to work together as the project is implemented. "This project should be completed sooner than the September deadline, that is what the minister wants. He says September is too far. He wants the project completed by June next year." She said there must be transparency in the hiring of labourers and SMMEs. "We can't do things under the table. People must know the project steering committee, and everyone must know what is happening in this project."



The Executive Mayor welcomed the commitment from the ministry. "We are pleased with this commitment from the ministry to see this project completed and delivering water to our people here in Giyani.

"The minister has already made an undertaking to get additional funding to finish the project. And today's community engagement with the Deputy Minister was key in renewing the confidence of our people, but also appeal for maximum support towards completion of this project," he said.

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Cllr Pule Shayi
Executive Mayor

Members of the Mayoral Committee



Cllr Dikeledi Mmetle Ramohlola
MMC Community
Services **(full-time)**



Cllr Nyiko Baloyi
MMC Economic Development,
Housing and Spatial Planning **(full-time)**



Cllr Nomsa Khandlhela
MMC Finance **(full-time)**



Cllr Maditshego Sefufi
MMC Water Services
(full-time)



Cllr Lucky Mohlala
MMC Governance and
Shared Services **(full-time)**



Cllr Masilo Maloko
MMC Infrastructure
Development Services



Cllr Sophia Magomane
MMC Public Transport
and Roads



Cllr Maripe Mangena
MMC for Agriculture and
Environmental Management Services



Cllr Dora Makhananisa
MMC Sport, Recreation,
Arts and Culture

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CHAIRPERSONS OF SECTION 79 COMMITTEES



Municipal Public Accounts
(MPAC): **Cllr Pat Hlungwani**



Chair of Chairs:
Cllr Sam Mothomogolo



Governance and shared services:
Cllr Basani Shibambu



Infrastructure Development:
Cllr Jeanette Rakgoale



Finance:
Cllr Modiegi Mathebula



Agriculture and Environment
Management: **Cllr Erick Hlungwane**



Water and Sanitation:
Cllr Florah Morwatshehla



Economic Development and Spatial
Planning: **Cllr Phetole Mampeule**



Community Services:
Cllr Sasavona Mathebula



Roads and Transport
Cllr Ntihanu Jameson Mbhalati



Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture:
Cllr Nsuku Ntshimbani



Ethics Committee:
Cllr Peter Matlou

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EXECUTIVE MAYOR SAYS THE CHURCH HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN ENDING VIOLENCE IN SOCIETY

Mopani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi says the church remains a strong foundation for morality and has a role to play in ending violence in society, and also give hope to the dejected.

The Executive Mayor was speaking at the Assemblies of God church in Namakgale on Sunday, 5 December - this on the backdrop of the 16 Days of Activism on No violence against women and children.

Residents of Namakgale are increasingly concerned by the recent killings in the township. Two men were reportedly murdered on Saturday evening, and this happens at a time when the community is still coming to terms with the gruesome murder of a 31-year-old woman just three weeks ago.

"We need to elevate the role of the church if we are to build safer communities and end the violence against women and children. The church remains an important institution that should shape our morals and values as a society.

"And as we celebrate this day with you, we also want to make an appeal that you should not distance yourselves from the challenges faced by this community. Let's join hands and end this scourge," he said.

He has thanked the church for the prayers during the local government elections. "Through prayer, we have witnessed free and fair elections. And today we are here to thank the church, but further invite you to hold us accountable as we continue on this journey of building better communities together."

The Executive Mayor was accompanied by the Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality Cllr Merriam Malatji, several councillors and leaders representing local structures. The church was celebrating with its senior pastor, Joseph Nkanyane for 30 years in the ministry



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Minister Didiza appeals to people to get vaccinated

Minister Thoko Didiza has appealed to people who have received their covid-19 jabs to go out and encourage everyone in their communities to also get vaccinated ahead of the anticipated fourth wave.

"We have to get vaccinated if we want to have festivities in December. We are pleased that you take responsibility in protecting yourselves, your families and your community by getting vaccinated today. But even when you have received the vaccine today, you must still continue to wear your masks. Assist us to encourage others to also get vaccinated so that we can all get our lives back to normal," she said.

Minister Didiza visited The Oaks village on Saturday, 02 October, leading the Vooma Vaccinations Weekend Campaign where

she was joined by police deputy minister Cassel Mathale, MEC for Social Development Nkakareng Rakgoale, Mopani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi and the Mayor of Maruleng Cllr Dipuo Thobejane. #IchooseVaccination



Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi on Wednesday 13 October handed over 3 specialized fire trucks to Greater Tzaneen, Greater Giyani and Ba-Phalaborwa local Municipalities. The trucks are to assist with a quicker response to the fires and disasters in the district.



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Let's push the struggle by a few more metres – EM says as he meets employees



The Mopani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi says the cascading of performance management system to all levels has to be implemented in order to enhance service delivery and help in employee personal development.

The Executive Mayor said this as he addressed staff on Monday, 6 December in a speech titled:

"Let's push the struggle by a few more meters – going an extra mile to serve our communities."

He also used the opportunity to introduce members of the mayoral committee and the political management team to staff.

"And we believe employees must be able to embrace performance management system, because it is only through performance management system where our employees will develop their abilities and grow. But what is most important is that every employee should contribute to the implementation of the SDBIP, and we are able to encourage and reward good performance," he said.

He said the previous council made great progress in improving the working conditions for employees, and also said employees must utilize the funds set aside for employee wellness.

"We have responded to issues raised by organized labour on personal protective equipment, especially for our firefighting personnel. We have also done well to renovate and build proper structures as in some of our remote offices. However, we acknowledge that there are still some issues that management should speedily attend to.

"We have also instructed the municipal manager to resolve the issue of covid-19 danger allowance. Those who deserve it must be paid. We have already approved the policy at the level of council. We also want to urge you to use the funds allocated for employee wellness. They say healthy mind in a healthy body. And this cheka impilo programme is important if we are to have productive employees."

The Executive Mayor said there has to be an improvement in the supply chain processes, but also warned against lapses in internal control. "Our SMMEs who have done and there is proof of work have to be paid within the prescribed 30 days. Why do u allow contractors to work without an order? Why are u not punishing contractors who have done shoddy work because they are exposing us to our people? We are trying to arrest that, and we want our employees to be bold in their workstations and not approve wrong things. Let's spend money in line with the approved budget," he said.

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He has also urged employees not to relax vigilance in the face of the covid-19 fourth wave, saying the municipality cannot afford to lose more lives having already lost three to covid-19. "Covid-19 is still here and we have a new variant which is already wreaking havoc in Gauteng. We must remain vigilant. We can't afford to lose more staff. We must come back from the festive season alive," the Executive Mayor said.



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MDM hosts inaugural pop-up market campaign

Mopani District Municipality in partnership with SEDA held their first pop-up market campaign at the Greater Giyani parking lot on Friday 03 December 2022, where SMMEs from the tourism, agriculture and trade & manufacturing sectors exhibited their products and services.

The pop-up market campaign is a platform for SMMEs, not only to exhibit and sell their products to local communities, but a networking session where they get opportunity to check, share their challenges and experience in their day to day operations.

"It was the first time attending a pop-up market initiative, and I didn't know what to expect. Though it was a last-minute invite, I can say we had a great day with great exposure and recognition not only in Giyani but in the social media as well. We also received great support from the municipalities and organisations such as SEDA and NYDA.

"As businesses we are grateful to have something like this in Limpopo. Looking forward to more opportunities such as these," said Mankwana Pheona Phalane of PhalMosh Poultry Farm from Maruleng Municipality.

The tourism industry has been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, since the initial lockdown which began in March 2020, which resulted in many establishments closing down and job losses.

Tourism is one of the key pillars of the district's economy, and the recovery of this sector is important in growing the economy of the district, creating jobs to many people who are dependent on this sector. With the festive season fast-approaching, there is hope that the sector will receive a boost.

NYDA, GTEDA, and the Limpopo Tourism Agency were among other institutions providing services on the day. Meanwhile, the Department of Health continued with its vaccine rollout programme on site.



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Launch of the District's Festive Season Road Safety Campaign



Mopani District Municipality took the launch of the district's festive season road safety campaign to Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality on the R71 road, which is amongst the top 10 most dangerous roads in South Africa.

Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi was accompanied by the speaker Cllr Martha Maswanganyi, members of the mayoral committee as well as the portfolio committee on transport. He told first responders ahead of his scheduled interaction with motorists that "One life lost is one life too many."

"The Festive Season is upon us. Many of our people will take to our roads, travelling to various holiday destinations. And indeed, we wish not to lose lives to road carnage during this period. This programme is about awareness to our people around issues of road safety. But we are also here to reaffirm our continued appreciation, but also to demonstrate practically that we value the work you do on a daily basis as First Responders in the district," he said.

The Executive Mayor said the safety of people on our roads will have positive impact in reigniting the tourism sector. Tourism is one of the key economic drivers of our district. Many people will be visiting our district, going to various holiday destinations, including the Kruger National Park and also to our neighbouring countries."

"Therefore, this period when holiday makers visit our district is very important to all our people whose livelihoods is dependent on that sector. It becomes important that we work together, particularly in support of that sector of our economy. But, we will also have many people using our roads travelling to reconnect with their families and friends in the district," he said.

When interacting with motorists, the Executive Mayor said "Don't drink and drive, because we have learned that the influence of alcohol is the biggest contributor to road fatalities. Don't leave children unattended in your cars, but also at home."



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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

Mopani District Municipality

Giyani Main Road, Government Buildings
Mopani District
Limpopo Province, South Africa

Private Bag X 9687, Giyani, 0826

Tel: +27 15 811 6300 | Fax: +27 15 812 4302

www.mopani.gov.za



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.

Greater Letaba Municipality

Botha Street, Civic Centre
Modjadiskloof
PO Box 36, Modjadiskloof 0835

Telephone Numbers
+27 (0) 15 309 9246

www.greaterletaba.gov.za



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 services to our people through partnerships with stakeholders.

Greater Tzaneen Municipality

Agatha Street, Civic Centre
Tzaneen
PO Box 24, Tzaneen 0850

Telephone Numbers
+27(0) 15 307 8000

www.tzaneen.gov.za



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.

Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality

Civic Centre Nelson Mandela Drive
Phalaborwa
Private Bag 01020, Phalaborwa 1390

Telephone Numbers
+27 (0) 15 780 6300

www.ba-phalaborwa.gov.za



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"

Maruleng Local Municipality

64 Springbok Street
Hoedspruit
PO Box 627, Hoedspruit 1380

Telephone Numbers
+27 (0) 15 793 2409

www.maruleng.gov.za



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.

Greater Giyani Municipality

Main Road BA 59, Civic Centre
Giyani
Private Bag x9559, Giyani 0826

Telephone Numbers
+27(0) 15 811 5500

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