



# MOPANI BULLETIN

## Mopani District Municipality

Official Quarterly Newsletter July - September 2018



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



## Editor's Note



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**L**et me take this opportunity to express my gratitude for having joined the Mopani District Municipality's Communications Unit where my central role is to handle communications of the institution. The Communications Unit has also been beefed up by the appointment of the Communications Researcher, Odas Ngobeni. The unit is now having a dedicated team of communicators who are working tirelessly to ensure that

there is effective communication among our internal and external stakeholders. The important stakeholders are our communities, traditional leaders, local municipalities, NGOs and the business sector among others. Majority of them are receiving services from the district municipality. The other central role of the unit is to ensure that a positive image of the Mopani District Municipality is created. In order for this to happen, readers of this external publication are urged to always give us feedback on the content of this Newsletter and also feedback on issues related to services delivery in general. This is the first publication in the 2018/2019 financial year which has just started a few weeks ago.

The Mopani District Municipality communicators and those from the five local municipalities under the district, have gone all out to gather news that we deem necessary to inform the nation about. In this edition we have highlighted a number of service delivery projects that have been completed in some of our local municipalities. Some of the highlights to note are that about forty contractors have already been handed over to communities and water projects have been launched from across the district municipality. Some have already resumed with the actual construction work of water projects, while some are nearing completion. This edition also serves as a communication platform in which messages on developmental issues are disseminated to our communities. This will also help to avert unnecessary service delivery protests that happens in some communities due to lack of enough information about the progress that is being made in a number of projects.

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# EXECUTIVE MAYOR 'S FOREWORD



**Executive Mayor  
Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale**

**L**et me take this opportunity on behalf of the political leadership, and the entire community of the Mopani District Municipality to congratulate Mr Basikopo Makamu for his appointment to the Executive Council of Limpopo, as the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development.

I had an opportunity to accompany him recently to Tanani Matiko Cooperative at Shawela village in the Greater Giyani Municipality. The cooperative is a good story that underscores the importance of team work, and perseverance.

I also wish to congratulate the mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, Councillor Pule Shayi after he was elected as the provincial Deputy-Chairperson of the South African Local Government Association-SALGA. We must also celebrate with the Greater Tzaneen Municipality for scooping the Second Greenest Municipality award in South Africa.

During his State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa has called on all of us to lend a hand in building a South Africa we all want. For us to achieve the goals set out in the National Development Plan, of creating 11 million jobs, ending poverty and inequality - we need to all play an active role by responding to the THUMAMINA call.

In the spirit of the THUMA MINA, the district municipality held a Ward Committee Conference in August. We have said during that conference that ward committees are an important pillar in the local government sphere. The ward committee structure act as direct link between municipalities and communities. Our communities are able to better express their hopes and aspirations through these ward committees.

To date many of our communities receive consistent water supply, and we are relentlessly working towards ensuring that all our rural communities across the district have access to clean, potable water at all times. A number of projects are already underway to address challenges of water shortages that are still faced by some communities. It is important to note that our spending on both the Municipal Infrastructure Grant and the Water Service Infrastructure Grant has significantly improved since the past financial year.

The recently held Water Summit has taken a resolution that communities must play an active role in ensuring that our water infrastructure is protected at all times. This as theft and vandalism have been identified as some of the contributory factors to challenges of lack of water. Our pipe line network is also losing a lot of water as a result of illegal connections and acts of vandalism on our infrastructure.

As the district municipality we are urging communities to use water sparingly, as dam levels have dropped significantly. We are already considering water restrictions in places like Thapane, Middle-Letaba and Modjadji where the dam levels are below 13%. Failure to use water wisely will result in our taps completely running dry soon, and we must jointly work together to ensure that we avert that. We have said in 2016, that "Together advancing people's power in every community. Local government in your hands.' We must draw an inspiration from the call, so as to build a better future for the people of Mopani, in honour of Tata Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu.



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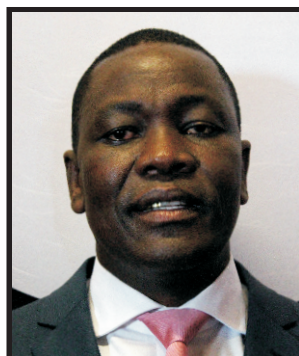
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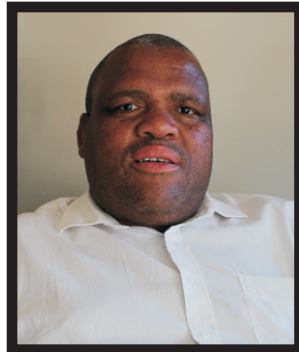
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# MDM INTERVENES ON CHALLENGES OF LACK OF WATER AT MUYEXE



**One of the Muyexe residents Khensani Mabledle drawing water from a communal tap in the area.**

The residents of Muyexe in the Greater Giyani Municipality are breathing a sigh of relief after they started receiving water from communal taps and some in their yards. This after the intervention by the Mopani District Municipality. The district just reverted to the old means of supplying water in Muyexe, by resuscitating three reservoirs that were no longer receiving water from four of the nine boreholes that were previously drilled in Muyexe about eight years ago.

Consistent water shortage has led to the collapse of some agricultural projects that were started by cooperatives just after former President Jacob Zuma declared Muyexe a pilot project under the comprehensive rural development programme. Since then a number of RDP houses, a satellite police station, a sporting facility and a Thusong Centre were built among others. Lack of water remained an area of concern for both the district municipality and the residents. Joint efforts by the Department of Water and Sanitation and Lepelle Northern Water at times covered some parts of Muyexe with water provision, while some residents could not get water from their yards and communal taps. Those residents who have the means have drilled boreholes in their yards and, in turn, sell water to those who solely rely on government for water. In a recent move which has been led by the district's Director for Engineering Services Paradise Shilowa, a pipeline is now abstracting water from Nsami Dam to three reservoirs in Muyexe. "We have decided to intervene in Muyexe after communities in Muyexe spent years without running water, as the water

authority we have a responsibility to ensure that our communities across the district get water. In that light we started engaging our partner, Lepelle Northern Water asking them to allow us to come in and also play our part and help to supply water to the community, as you would know that Muyexe is a national project." said Shilowa.

A number of thirsty residents of Muyexe are now seen fetching water from communal taps and some from tanks that have been put in their yards. Forty-six-year-old Khensani Mabledle is one of many residents who say they were surprised to start receiving water, way after reticulation and drilling of boreholes were done in the area. "We no longer pushing wheel barrows for long distances to get water from a borehole that is far from where we residing. We are delighted that we now getting water from communal taps that have been idling for a long time. We are pleading with authorities not to cut water supply to this area again they must continue supplying us with water, water is life we can't survive without." Said the delighted Mabledle.

The Mopani District Municipality has also started conducting tests on five other boreholes in a bit to get them to argument water supply in Muyexe. It is anticipated that the full operational of nine boreholes will go a long way in finding a long lasting solution to water challenges in Muyexe. Residents who are now receiving water in their yards are urged to use water sparingly at all times. Meanwhile a contractor who has been appointed to lay a water pipe line from Nsami Dam to Muyexe is currently doing tests and soon the capacity of water supply in Muyexe will be boosted.



# RESIDENTS OF VILLAGES IN MARULENG TO GET WATER SOON



**A construction worker hard at work at the Mametja-Sekororo Water Purification Plant outside Hoedspruit.**

**T**he residents of about 15 villages in the Mametja-Sekororo areas in the Maruleng Municipality outside Houdspruit will soon get running water. This as the completion of the construction of a water treatment plant at The Oaks is at an advance stage. Residents of The Oaks, Finale, Turkey, Santeng and Madeira among others will benefit from the first phase of the project. A total of 28 villages will get water in the area when all phases of the project are fully completed.

The Mopani District Municipality's Director for Water Services, Paradise Shilowa says the water treatment plant at The Oaks is expected to start supplying water to communities towards the end of this year. The actual laying of pipe lines from Richmond, a water source that abstract water from Blayde, that started a few years ago has already been completed. The main pipe line will abstract water from Richmond to The Oaks water treatment plant.

The Mopani District Municipality Executive Mayor Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale is pleading with communities who are still living without water to exercise patience. "I must indicate that as the district municipality we are determined to ensure that all our communities across the district get water, contractors who have been tasked with the responsibilities of building water infrastructure are working tirelessly towards making sure that water is supplied to all our communities in the five local municipalities, including Maruleng." Said Executive Mayor Rakgoale.





# THE MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY LAUNCH WATER PROJECTS IN TWO LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

**T**he Mopani District Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale has launched water projects in an effort to ensure that communities get water. Thousands of residents in 14 wards under the Greater Tzaneen and Greater Letaba municipal areas will benefit from the projects that worth millions of rand.

The construction work that has started will see many residents getting employment and also benefit from small business opportunities. The 14 wards are in the Thapane, Runnymede and Ramoroka areas.

Addressing councillors and other stakeholders, The Executive Mayor urged all councillors and community members to cooperate with the contractors who are on site. This is to ensure that there are no disruptions.

The contractors who were presented to the traditional leaders were also warned to complete the construction work without any delay.

The actual construction work in the areas will be completed during a period of eight to twelve months. The Executive Mayor reiterates that the District Municipality is determined to ensure that all communities who are still faced with water shortage get water soon.

The district is determined to ensure that the Municipal Infrastructure Grant for the financial year is spent and ensure that there's improved service delivery.

## Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure department launches the EPWP Forum in Mopani.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has launched the Mopani District Municipality's EPWP Forum, which will see thousands of jobs created in all the five local municipalities. The District Executive Mayor Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale has delivered a keynote address on behalf of MEC Nandi Ndalane. The Executive Mayor has called on all councillors and local municipalities to ensure that there is transparency in the employment of beneficiaries. The Executive Mayor says there's 81797 jobs that have already been created in the Mopani District Municipality and its five local municipalities in the previous quarter.

Some of the dignitaries who attended the launch were the Greater Giyani Municipality Mayor Councillor Sasavona Mathebula, Planning and Development Director Faith Maboya and Acting Director in the Office of the Executive Mayor Mr Pat Twala. Speaking of the milestone of EPWP Co-ordinator Samson Maunatlala has applauded the progress that has been made thus far.

Some of the beneficiaries working under the program are the residents of ward 27 in the Greater Giyani Municipality, Momia Ngomane from Xitlakati, Rejoice Mongwe from Kashani and Surance Ngobeni from Ndhambi villages. They say are now able to provide for their families with their monthly stipends as they used to mainly rely on social grants. "We really appreciate what our government has done for us, we are able to buy some basic amenities at home although the money does not cover all our daily needs" said Rirhandzu Chauke from Nkomo village.

About thirteen thousand jobs have thus far been created across the Mopani District Municipality. The Maruleng Municipality has employed 1067 EPWP workers, Greater Giyani 3602, Greater Tzaneen Municipality 1794, Greater Letaba Municipality 5096, Greater Giyani Municipality 1280, Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality 987 and Mopani District Municipality has employed 13826 workers.



# MOPANI HOSTS A SUCCESSFUL WARD COMMITTEE CONFERENCE



The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale delivering the keynote address to the 2018 District Ward Committee Conference. The Director for Technical Services, Mr Paradise Shilowa (Middle pic) making a presentation on the project implementation.

The Mopani District Municipality held a two-day Ward Committee Conference at the Karibu Leisure Resort outside Tzaneen. About 350 delegates from the five local municipalities who included ward councillors, ward committee members and some government officials converged under one roof from the 16 to the 17 of August 2018, to discuss the successes and challenges faced by ward committee members. The ward committee members who are in direct contact with communities interact with them on issues of service delivery.

Delivering her opening address, the Mopani District Municipality Executive Mayor Nkakareng Rakgoale has urged ward committee members to constantly communicate government programs that are aimed at improving the lives of communities.

"The elected representatives are not supposed to wait for communities to go to their offices to raise service delivery concerns. The ward committees and community development workers have an important role to play in facilitating these engagements. Our engagements with communities must not be limited to the quarterly meetings and the IDP/budget public participation processes. It is a constitutional imperative for local government to engage and involve citizens on matters of governance. We are not doing our communities any favour when we engage with them, but are obliged to do so" said the Executive Mayor.

The Executive Mayor further says effective

communications help to empower communities with information and also avert violent service delivery protests. "Destroying public buildings such as schools and road infrastructure during violent protests derail our plans to deliver a better life for our people. Ward committees have a role to play in making our people aware as to how this negatively impacts on our planning as municipalities". Said the Executive Mayor.

The South African Social Security Agency-SASSA, Home Affairs, the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Department and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) also made presentations. SASSA assured the delegates that social grant beneficiaries will continue to be paid without any hindrance at pay points and also at the Post Offices across the district.

With the 2019 general elections fast approaching ward committee members were urged to play an active role in assisting the IEC as it is embarking on a campaign of harvesting physical addresses of the electorates. The district Director for Water Services Paradise Shilowa also updated the delegates on the significance progress that is being made by the municipality in terms of water and sanitation provision.

On the last day of the conference the delegates agreed that communication between them and communities should be improved. They also pleaded with municipalities to increase the stipends that they are receiving on a monthly basis.

# MEC MAKAMU VISIT A COOPERATIVE IN MOPANI



Executive Mayor, Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale (left pic) together with the MEC for Agriculture, Mr Basikopo Makamu on-site inspection of Tanani Matimu Cooperative.

Limpopo MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Basikopo Makamu, the Mopani District Municipality Executive Mayor Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale and the Greater Giyani Mayor Councillor Sasavona Mathebula joined the Tanani Matiko Farming Cooperative run by disabled people in Shawela Village under Hosi Mahumani in celebrating casual day on the 07<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. The visit enabled MEC Makamu to have first-hand information on the successes and experience of the work done by the 19 members of the cooperative who are mainly women. MEC Makamu urged community members who are unemployed to emulate members of Tanani Matiko Cooperative and start farming projects as his department has programs available to assist deserving agricultural cooperatives. Members of the cooperative appreciate the level of support they are getting from the department of agriculture and other relevant sector departments. The dignitaries kick started the day's activities by ploughing some vegetable plants. MEC Makamu also handed over ploughing equipments to the cooperative.

## Mopani's top female farmers honoured



Matilda Mthavini, the winner in the category of Best Subsistence Farmer and the overall winner for the 2018 Female Entrepreneur Award accepts the prizes from Councillor Masilo Maloko and the Department of Agriculture's District Director, Harry Maboa.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Mopani District hosted the Female Entrepreneur Awards at Namakgale, in the Ba-Phalaborwa municipal area on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2018.

The Female Entrepreneur of the Year Awards was initiated in 2009 with the aim of encouraging the participation of women in agriculture and also to recognize their efforts and contributions they are making in addressing challenges around food security, job creation and poverty alleviation.

Speaking during the event, Member of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Agriculture, Cllr Masilo Maloko emphasised that agriculture can be able to make a dent in contributing to the target set in the National Development Plan.

Maloko also highlighted that government has continuous engagement with traditional leaders asking them to make land available for the emerging farmers farming in communities. "Government has over the past years initiated a number of programmes aimed at assisting emerging farmers, in line with our land reform program. We continue to engage with our traditional leaders to ensure that communal land under the trusteeship of traditional leaders is accessible and made available for development and economic growth." Said MMC Maloko.

He further said that the district municipality will support initiatives that contribute to food security in the district. "We are pleased as a district municipality to see women taking it upon themselves to create work for themselves and providing food for our communities. Government has a responsibility to lend a hand and support such efforts. We are acknowledging the effort made by these women who are doing their best in producing their products despite some of them facing water challenges". The overall winner Mathilda Mthavini represented the district during the provincial awards held in Vhembe.



# YOUNG FARMER PRODUCE FOOD FOR COMMUNITY OF GREATER LETABA



**Tswarelo Masutha with some awards he won at the Greater Letaba Entrepreneurship Awards**



**The Mopani LED Portfolio committee during their visit to Masutha farm, Mamaila village.**

**W**hen Tswarelo Masutha first started farming in 2012, the idea was just to follow on his parents' footsteps who had been doing subsistence farming for many years – little did he know that farming can change his life and that of his community of Mamaila village in the Greater Letaba Municipality.

He started on a half-a-hectare land which he had inherited from his paternal grandparents. "I started on the winter of 2012, ploughing spinach. The plan was to plough just for household consumption just like my parents had been doing all these years. Fortunately, the harvest was so good that year such that we started to even sell to the community."

"In 2013, I approached Spar supermarket at Modjadiskloof. They came in and checked the samples. They ordered hundred bundles for the following day, and I delivered and from there - the orders just kept coming," he says. The 34-year-old Masutha then registered his company in 2014, through the guidance from officials at the Limpopo Economic Development Agency. "I registered my business, and then received the Youth Support Grant from the National Youth Development Agency in 2016."

He went on to win the Award for Aspirant Young Farmer of the Year in the category of Top Producer – Household. He has since collected many other awards including the 2017 Overall Best Young Entrepreneur Award at the Greater Letaba Municipality. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development also bestowed the 2017 Young Aspirant Farmer of the Year Award on him.

The Department of Agriculture has assisted Masutha with technical support and supplies of seedlings, seeds and fertilizers. He now ploughs spinach, onions, and beetroot. "I have employed 12 people on this farm, but my plan is to employ more. If government can subsidize me, and also assist me with a tractor, I can go on to become a major commercial

supplier of spinach in the whole of Mopani and create more work for people," he says.

The chairperson of Mopani District's Portfolio Committee on Local Economic Development, Councillor Minkateko Shimange told the workers at the farm that municipality appreciates their work and initiative. The committee visited the farm in August as part of their week-long programme of visiting LED projects in all the five local municipalities. "We are happy because there are people out there who are working hard to contribute to our vision of being the food basket of Southern Africa. We encourage our people to start projects in the spirit of Vukuzenzele and government will come in to offer support to such initiatives," she said.

## THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AN OVERSIGHT VISIT TO VARIOUS PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT



**The owner of Shidila Lodge, Vydah Masoko shows off one of her guest rooms to members of the LED Portfolio Committee.**

The Portfolio Committee on Local Economic Development has conducted an oversight visit to thirteen projects across the Mopani District Municipality. The eight-member committee that was accompanied by councillors from the local municipalities and officials visited agriculture and tourism projects that are found in five local municipalities of the district. The main purpose of the week-long visit by the committee members was for them to get first-hand information on recent developments in the sector, to check the progress made, interact with the members of the identified projects and also to help identify some of the challenges that are affecting SMMEs and Cooperatives in general.

The owner of Shidila Lodge which is situated in the Greater Letaba Municipality, Vydah Masoko, has thanked the Mopani District Municipality for making it possible for her to attend the 2017 Durban Tourism Indaba. Masoko told the portfolio committee that she took advantage of her participation at the Durban Tourism Indaba to network with other role players in the tourism and hospitality industry. She expressed her gratitude to the committee members who visited the lodge on the 29th of August 2018. "I am grateful for the Local Economic Development Unit for putting together logistics for us to go to Durban and participate in the tourism indaba, today am able to host a number of guests due to networking sessions we had in 2017. We are here because of the support of the municipality's LED unit" said Masoko.

Masoko who started her business eight years ago is now employing 14 people at the lodge that keeps on growing. "I started with five rooms in 2011 and so far we have 17 rooms and it will be 23 in the next three weeks. We also offer conferencing facility and we have swimming pools for entertainment."

Councillor Mikateko Shimange who led the portfolio committee has thanked Masoko for having created job opportunities for locals who are now able to take care of their families. "We are happy that people like Vydah Masoko are helping us to realise our vision of wanting to be a food basket of Southern Africa and the tourism destination of choice, it all starts with initiatives like these. In order for us to be tourism destination of choice we need to have we need to have tourism establishments such as this one" she said.

The committee proceeded with its visit to Mohlalo Textile at Kgapane, still in the Greater Letaba Municipal area where Lillian Sebola pleaded for an extended piece of land in order for her to expand her business. Sebola is into agro-processing and textile manufactures marula jam, atchar and moringa syrup. "I can employ more than 10 people if the municipality can assist me with access to land. I have been approached by major retail shops, including Shoprite for my products, but I'm unable to meet their demands because I don't have space to work. I can't operate on this small garage. This is a family home.

The Department of Trade and Industry has been saying it will assist me with a fence if I can get land to work farm from" said Sebola.

Sebola also told the committee that she also assists children from impoverished households. "I have taken three learners to the University of Limpopo through this business, and they are now working. I started this business at the age of 60. I am now 78 and I have now started training youngsters and transferring the skills. I want to leave a legacy to this community." The committee also visited some projects in the Maruleng, Greater Tzaneen, Greater Giyani and Ba-Phalaborwa municipalities.

The Greater Letaba Municipality has promised to assist her with her application for land.



# EXECUTIVE MAYOR URGES THE IGR FORUM TO INVEST IN ICT INFRASTRUCTURE.

**M**unicipal and government offices within the Mopani District Municipality should be equipped with Wi-Fi access to help improve service delivery to the people. This according to the, Executive Mayor Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale who addressed the Inter-Governmental Relations Forum.

Delivering her keynote address to the Forum on Tuesday, 11 September, Rakgoale said that Wi-Fi access and general ICT connectivity will help in ensuring that there is an accelerated service delivery to our people, and also reduce the waiting period for the communities seeking services.

"The Wi-Fi access in these facilities will not only be beneficial to us, but will also assist our youth, particularly the unemployed youth to easily access information on government programmes, and the available opportunities for them." She also said that municipalities must continue to support the Thusong Service Centre Programme. "Let me also appreciate the significant strides that have been made by some local municipalities, in ensuring that we have operational Thusong Service Centres in our district.

"The centres are an important points of service delivery contact hence as the district municipality, local municipalities and sector departments we need to join hands and double our efforts to make them to be fully operational," she said.

The Mayor of Ba-phalaborwa Municipality, Councillor Pule Shayi gave the closing remarks on behalf of the Executive Mayor, urging municipalities to work hard in improving their audit outcomes.

"We have committed that we would improve on the audit outcomes. It is an issue all of us should commit ourselves particularly because we have just made submissions, dealing with the issues in particular streamlining our work within the internal audit, budget-treasury so that at that space we are able to bring that hard evidence that is needed and acceptable to the AG," said Shayi.

Shayi said that the local municipalities will have to make follow-up on resolutions taken at the District Ward Committee Conference. "In learning from Giyani as a case study, we should begin to budget for the R1500 stipend for ward committee members. An issue which we believe will be a process that will involve engaging Coghsta to ensure that we are within the framework. So that we don't find ourselves taking a popular view and get blamed for it later."



Executive Mayor, Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale in discussion with the Municipal Manager, Mr Republic Monakedi.



The mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, Councillor Pule Shayi delivering the closing remarks during the IGR.



The Mayor of Maruleng Municipality, Councillor Dipuo Thobejane, the Mayor of Greater Giyani Municipality, Councillor Sasavona Mathebula and the Mayor of Greater Letaba Municipality, Councillor Peter Matlou at the IGR forum



# THE MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY JOINS THE WORLD IN CELEBRATING MANDELA MONTH

The 2018 Mandela Day celebrations brings a smile to the Pfunanani Special School pupils and to Tatana Khazamula Makamu who is wheel chair bound. Mopani District Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale, councillors and the entire staff members of the district municipality joined the world in commemorating the life of Tata Nelson Mandela. The 18th of July 2018 has been characterised by a number of activities in the district municipality. In the Greater Giyani Municipality, the day kick started at Pfunanani Special School where the Executive Mayor and staff members embarked on a cleaning campaign. The Executive Mayor who addressed the school management and the district's employees highlighted the importance of continuously giving support to the special school. Rakgoale says the municipality's participation on the day is also in response to a call made by President Cyril Ramaphosa who urged all South Africans, especially government employees to respond to the THUMA MINA CAMPAIGN and ensure there is improved service delivery in communities.

The Executive Mayor Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale and her entourage proceeded to Nsavulani village, still in the same Greater Giyani Municipality to restore dignity to the Makamu family. The Executive Mayor officially handed over a modern ablution facility to Tatana Khazamula Makamu and his family as part of celebrating the Nelson Mandela International Day. The new ablution facility, will independently enable Makamu who is an amputee to have an easy success to the facility with his wheelchair. The dire situation that Makamu was previously living under, prompted him to build his own toilet, which is in an appalling condition with no privacy. The Executive Mayor and the MMCs dedicated 67 minutes of their time in painting the newly built ablution facility. "I want to take this opportunity and express my disappointment on people who are using social media and other platforms to criticise government, saying that we are celebrating the handing over of toilets. To us, today's activities here at Nsavulani village is about restoring dignity to Tatana Makamu who is wheelchair bound. Our visit to this family also enables us to identify some challenges that the Makamu's are faced with on a daily basis." said Rakgoale.



A recipient of an ablution facility Khazamula Makamu, his wife Maria and Ndhuna Magezi Milane just after receiving the facility from the Executive Mayor Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale and the Chief Whip Cllr Martha Maswanganyi.



MDM staff members on a cleaning campaign at Pfunanani Special School during the Mandela Day Celebrations.



The Executive Mayor Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale with some of the beneficiaries at Seshego Disability Centre in Ballon village in Maruleng.



*Before*



*After*



*"The Nelson Mandela International Day calls for everyone across the globe, to stand up and make a difference, change the lives of others by giving a hand in spending at least 67 minutes to improve the lives of other people in the society. We will also engage the relevant departments to also come on board as you can see that the family needs a house and other basic amenities."* Said Rakgoale. The Mandela International Day activities were also taken to Ballon village in the Maruleng Municipality where the Seshego Disability Centre received groceries and other basic amenities. The Executive Mayor Rakgoale pleaded with businesses and other stakeholders to also come on board and assist canterers such as Seshego to create a conducive living conditions for the people who are being taken care off there.



**Goodies that have been handed over to the Seshego Dissability Centre by the Executive Mayor Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale.**



**MDM staff members on a cleaning campaign at Pfunanani Special School.**





# MDM SPECIAL COUNCIL SITTING HELD AT THE TZANEEN DISASTER CENTRE ADOPTS A NUMBER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.



**Executive Mayor Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale speaking during the council sitting**

The Mopani District Municipality's Special Council Sitting held at the Tzaneen Disaster Management Centre on the 28th of August has adopted a number of items that were on the Agenda for the day. The Executive Mayor, Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale, who has the executive powers in Council, delegated some of the Members of the Mayoral Committee to present some of the items to the Special Council Sitting. Councillors who are representing various political parties have spoken with one voice to ensure that the business of the day is accomplished. The special council sitting has agreed on the disposal of the

municipal assets, extension of the acting period for the Director in the Office of the Executive Mayor, the reviewed IT policies and the annual performance, along with the exception report for the previous financial year as well as the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mopani District Municipality and the South African Development Communities (SADC Business Forum).

The disposal of the municipal assets is mainly targeting eleven vehicles that are no longer in a good condition. The councillors have agreed that the vehicles in question will no longer provide the minimum level of basic services as per the provision of the Municipal Finance Management Act. Council resolved that the Acting Director in the Office of the Executive Mayor, Mr Patrick Twala was to continue acting in the position as processes of filling the vacant position was unfolding. The high level of unemployment of the youth in the municipal area has prompted the council to adopt the signing of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Mopani District



**MMC Planning and Development Cllr MC Mohale and MMC Infrastructure Cllr MO Maswanganyi**

Municipality and the South African Development Communities. The memorandum of understanding will see young people who are seeking job and business opportunities meet regularly and engage each other on issues that are directly affecting them. The district and the SADC Business Forum will also create a platform for the district municipality and other stakeholders to promote tourism attraction areas that are found in the district. The memorandum of understanding will go a long way in helping the Mopani District Municipality to realise its vision to be the food basket of Southern Africa and the tourism destination of choice.



# MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY WOMEN CELEBRATE WOMEN'S MONTH IN STYLE.



**Executive Mayor, Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale with motivational speaker and renowned pastor, Dr Selina Malulele at Women's Month event.**

The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale has called on women to rally behind each other, instead of trying to pull each other down.

Speaking during the District Women's Month celebrations held at the Giyani Multi-Purpose Centre on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2018, Rakgoale said that part of the reasons why it may take South Africa many more years to have a female president is because women do not support one another.

"At times even when men say we see capacity in that woman, it's women who say she won't make it. We must be able to support each other. Many of you are already leaders in your own homes, but we still doubt our capacity to lead other structures within civil society. We must draw courage from Mama Sisulu who was the only women present at the founding meeting of the African National Congress Youth League, but she was never intimidated. The struggle against apartheid was not a struggle led by men alone. It was a struggle led by men and women, that is why we must carry on from where the 1956 generation of brave women such as Lilian Ngoyi left off," she said.

This Year's Women Month is celebrated under the theme, "100 Years of Albertina Sisulu, Woman of Fortitude: Women United in Moving South Africa Forward". Albertina Sisulu was a struggle icon, the wife to the late ANC stalwart Walter Sisulu. She died in 2011 and would have been hundred years old had she lived to this year.

The Executive Mayor also called on women to take part in activities within their communities. "Let us support survivors of abuse and encourage them to report cases. There is a child-headed family in your neighbourhood, but you have never bothered to check as to whether those children do get to have a meal before going to bed. It cannot be right. We must love and care for our neighbours Mama Sisulu and her generation were driven by the love for their country, and were prepared to surrender even their own lives in exchange for freedom for the rest of us. We need to appreciate their contribution by doing our bit within our communities," she said.

Also speaking at the same event, Dr Selina Malulele a renowned pastor and motivational speaker urged women to be confident and raise their kids to be confident. "As women we can move South Africa forward, but only when we are confident and we raise our kids to be confident. You can't be all over as a woman. You must know where you come from and where you are going. You cannot be directionless as a woman, but still want to move South Africa forward."

She also said that women need to submit to those in authority.

"Many of us are missing blessings in life, because we disrespect those in authority. Let us support those that are in positions of authority. Go back and submit to your authority."

Malulele who is also known for donating to needy communities around Giyani, said "this year I will be donating wheelchairs. My target is to donate 90 wheelchairs before the end of this year, I already have ten wheelchairs in my possession," she said.



# MDM LEADS AN INSPECTION BLITZ TO FOOD HANDLING PREMISES IN GIYANI



Director for Community Services, Mr Dumisani Shithlangu together with the Executive Mayor, Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale interacting with the Manager of Spar, Ms Johana Ramothwala during the inspection blitz.



Executive Mayor taking questions from journalists.

The Mopani District Municipality's Environmental Health Practitioners, SARS officials, the SAPS and other sector departments who were led by the District's Executive Mayor Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale and the Director for Community Services Dumisani Shithlangu, had a successful operation aimed at removing expired foodstuffs and other illegal items from shelves in a number of shops in the Giyani CBD on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2018.

The relentless efforts by the teams found that some shops are allegedly selling expired food to our communities. The confiscated foodstuffs will be disposed at an undisclosed location within the district. The operation follows a public outcry that was sparked by a video of expired groceries making rounds on social media platforms. There is now a national directive that Environmental Health Practitioners must embark on inspection blitzes within their respective municipalities.

Speaking to the media, the District's Executive Mayor Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale, has indicated that it is important to note that the operation is targeting all shops in the towns and villages across the district municipality, irrespective of who the owners are. "we

are here to check what is happening as we are accompanied by our health practitioners we want to check as to what kind of food is being sold to our people, as you can see some of the meat we have found here is rotten and it can't be, we are not fighting with them but we just want our communities to get value for money as they buy products from these shops." Said the Executive Mayor Rakgoale.



Food stuffs that have been removed from the shelves at some of the shops in Giyani, during a Food Safety Blitz operation held across the Mopani District Municipality.



The Executive Mayor Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale joins the Environmental Health Practitioners in checking compliance at one of the shops, during a Blitz operation aimed at removing expired food stuffs from the shelves.



# MDM HOLDS A WATER SUMMIT TO BOOST ITS EFFORTS OF PROVIDING COMMUNITIES WITH WATER



Members of the Mayoral Committee attending the Water Summit.

The Mopani District Municipality Executive Mayor, Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale has urged delegates who were attending the 2018 District Water Summit to mobilize communities who are receiving consistent water supply to start paying for the water they are utilising.

Delivering her opening address of the Water Summit held at the Karibu Leisure Resort on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2018, the Executive Mayor, told the delegates that public servants, who include nurses and teachers residing in the rural areas must pay for the uninterrupted supply of water to their homes.

"The mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa is residing at Mashishimale and he has requested the municipality to install a water meter in his yard, and he said 'because I'm now receiving consistent supply of water - I need to lead from the front and start paying.' We are saying all the other mayors and councillors must emulate the posture by the mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa and start paying in areas where they are residing." Rakgoale also said communities need to care for water infrastructure. "In many instances we have managed to put in place water infrastructure, but theft, vandalism and illegal connections are hampering our efforts of providing our communities with water.

"Illegal connections are adding strains to our already ageing water infrastructure, and as a result we are losing lots of clean, potable water due to leakages.



The mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Cllr Maripe Mangena with the Executive Mayor of Mopani, Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale.

We are therefore calling on our communities to work hand in hand with the police and local authorities to ensure that we clamp down on illegal connections and theft of our equipment," she said.

The executive mayor said the municipality may consider water restrictions in certain areas due to low dam levels, saying "The levels of our dams are low, and our failure to manage our water resources might result in our taps completely running dry soon. We are already considering water restrictions in places like Thapane, Middle-Letaba and Modjadji where the dams are below 13%, hence it becomes important for us to join hands and mobilize our people to start using water sparingly."

The municipality is recording improved spending on both the Municipal Infrastructure Grant as well as the Water Service Infrastructure Grant, and the executive mayor attributes this to district's efforts of building an institutional capacity by ensuring senior positions are filled with competent people in line with the back to basic approach. Delegates to the summit have urged the district municipality to introduce a Call Centre which will assist in tracing calls logged and improve the turnaround time for responding to cases of water challenges.



Presentation by Grace Matseba from SALGA and Cllr Oscar Maswanganyi, the MMC for Infrastructure acknowledging guests at the Water Summit.

# BURGERSDORP STADIUM REVAMP COMPLETE

By Neville Ndlala

In a bid to get young people and members of the public at large to participate in sporting activities the Greater Tzaneen Municipality has completed the upgrading the Burgersdorp Stadium. The head of project management unit in the municipality John Matlala says that the 13-million-rand project has been handed over to the local municipality that falls within the boundaries of the Mopani District Municipality.

The project is encompassing a palisade fence covering 75 000 square meters and a concrete pavilion to accommodate at least 500 spectators. The scope of work also incorporated the relocation of the "existing" artificial pitch which was installed as part of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Legacy projects that saw similar artificial pitches installed in all 52 SAFA regions. The plans to construct the stadium was announced by the then SAFA president Kirsten Nematandani during a mass funeral of five soccer players of an amateur team, Burgersdorp Shining Stars who lost their lives while the bakkie they were travelling in overturned and killed them instantly in 2009.

The facility will be available for use to the teams that are competing in local and provincial professional leagues and ordinary community members.

The Greater Tzaneen Mayor Maripe Mangena who launched the upgrading of the project in 2017 said the facility will go a long way in enhancing the municipality sports development efforts. Mangena said that he believes that through sports residents of the municipality will be able to build social cohesion. "the facility will help to get young people to fully participate in sporting activities and stop them from abusing alcohol and other substances. The facility will also encourage healthy life style living as residents will come in numbers and exercise from there" said mayor Mangena.

The residents the Greater Tzaneen municipal area have generally welcomed the municipality's effort to build the sporting facility for them. "Thanks, indeed this is good news for us basketball players, our prayers have been answered after so many years" said one of the residents, Rodney Mushwana. Percy Mushwana who is also a resident has congratulated government for building the infrastructure in the area. "Nice innovation Greater Tzaneen Municipality, that's sports development at its best" said Mushawana. Bookings for the stadium will be done in the municipality's Lenyenye satellite offices which have been handling the bookings for Lenyenye and Julesburg stadium.





# RE HLOKOMELA DINYAKWA TŠA BAAGI, DITSELA TJE DI BOTSE

By John Seokoma

**M**afelo a mantši tikologong ya Maruleng batho ba bile le hlotlo ye kgolo malebana le seemo sa ditsela mafelong a bona. Go be go le bothata kudu go fihlelela dikolo le fao re robatšago ba bo rena boroko bja mafelelo. Go setše go dirilwe go tlela seatla go retolla seemo se hlotšwego ke bohwa bja pušo ya hlaolele, ya go hlokomologa mafelo a morafe wa thari e ntsho. Lehono ge re lebelela Maruleng ka kakaretšo, go netefaditšwe go re ditsela ka moka tše kopanyago metse, di lokelwa sekontiri. Gona bjalo šedi e lebišitšwe go diseterata tša ka gare ga metse. Go šetše go phethilwe ka mošomo go la Finala, Makgaung, Lorraine, le Kanana-Mošate-Mahlomelong. Mafelong a, re netefaditše gore tsela e pheibiwa go fihla le ka dikolong. Fao go bego go na le hlokego ya maporogo a fase, re napile ra lokiša. Ge ke be ke bolela bošego le mosegare mo seya-le-moyeng sa Maruleng go re mohlako wa tsela Mahlomelong e tla ba sello sa maloba, bo Thomase makgolwa ka go bona ba be ba ntatofatša ka gore ke šireletša mogolo wa kgwedi le kgwedi ka masepaleng. Lehono nnete e šetše le mang? Mo ngwageng wo wa ditšhelete, go beilwe mašeleng a go lokiša ditsela mafelong a latelago:

Butšwana; Willows; Newline- Ga-Fanie; Kampersrus; Santeng; Bismark; The Oaks; Madeira; Mosate; Bismark; Worcester; le Balloon.

Go na le kgopolo ye fošagetšego ya gore ditirelo di humanwa ka morago ga gore batho ba emiše matolo, se dire se tlaetšwego ka "si ya inyofa." Kgonthe ya taba ke go re, khansele ke yona e tlogo ka sephetho sa gore ke ditirelo tše bjang tše išwago mafelong a go fapana. Se se dirwa ka morago ga ge go etetšwe metse ya fo fapana go kwa dikakanyo tša badudi. Metse ye e sego ya akaretšwa mo lenanenong la ngwago wo wa matlotlo, e tla fiwa šedi ngw ageng wo tlogo.

## BA-PHALABORWA MUNICIPALITY MPAC ASSESS SERVICE DELIVERY WITHIN THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

By Jonas Mahesu

The Municipal Public Account Committee Members in the Ba-Phalaborwa municipality have visited several service delivery projects to monitor the progress made in the projects. The MPAC Chairperson Kabelo Pilusa led the delegation to the service delivery sites such as the Selati Substation in ward 11 and 12, Extension and the upgrading of a single phase network phase-two in ward 11 and 12, Mashishimale Sports Complex in ward 8,9, the upgrading of Benfarm Street that cut across wards 3 and 17, Selwane Sports Complex ward in 18 and the electrification of Buffer and Kurhula new settlements.

MPAC chairperson Kabelo Pilusa says the main purpose for the visit to the project is to ensure that service delivery to communities in the Ba-Phalaborwa municipal areas is fast-tracked. "the purpose of our site visit is to make sure that we monitor the progress that has been made in terms of ensuring that there is improved service delivery in the municipal area. We want to make sure that everything is going according to plan as it is the municipality's mandate to ensure that money spent on upgrading of our facilities and the building of infrastructure in the municipality is used appropriately", said Pilusa.

Pilusa also expressed his satisfaction on the progress made with regard to the completion of the Mashishimale Sports Complex and the upgrading of Benfarm Street in ward 3 and 17 projects. "I'm glad to announce that the Mashishimale sports complex is in an advance stage and will be completed by June this year", further said Pilusa.

The Acting Director for Technical services Mr Cornelius Lourens, senior engineers and contractors accompanied the committee members.





# TWO PROJECTS COMPLETED IN GREATER LETABA

By Lovers Maenetje

**T**he Greater Letaba Municipality has completed the construction of the Shamiriri Sports Complex. An amount of R4.3 million has been spent in the 2017/2018 financial year to see to it that the project is completed. The project started in phases and has thus far seen the completion of a grandstand, pitch, guard house, fencing, parking bay, drive way, amongst other things. More than 20 people have been employed since the beginning of the project. Meanwhile the Thakgalane Community hall that has been completed is now operational. The Greater Letaba Municipality has spent R4.4 million to complete the project. The community will use the facility to hold their meetings and other events.





# THE GREATER GIYANI MUNICIPALITY BUILDS A DECENT HOUSE FOR A DESTITUTE FAMILY

By Steven Mabunda



The Greater Giyani Mayor Councillor Sasavona Mathebula has intervened and ensured that a decent house is built for the six members of the Maluleke family at Siyandhani village. The family used to stay in one dilapidated room.

One of the municipality's employees Mr Mctrevor Makhubele, identified the family which was living in a dire situation. As the political head of the institution and through her direct involvement with communities, the Mayor Sasavona Mathebula and her executive took part in the construction of the new house of 59-year old Simon Maluleke.



Maluleke has been struggling to support three of his six children that are still living with him through odd jobs and handouts that he received from the community members before the office of the mayor intervened. Mayor Mathebula also handed over groceries and some basic amenities to keep the family going while the municipality tried to find an alternative way to help the family sustain itself. "As part of our intervention, we have also instructed the ward councillor to help Maluleke to apply for the Social Relief of Distress grant with SASSA so that the family can have some relief as at the moment he does not qualify for the old age grant.", explained the Mayor.



Meanwhile the Mayor took the opportunity to commend the municipality's employee Mctrevor Makhubele for his caring heart. She urged other employees to follow suit. "We all have a role to play in the communities where we live. Let us contribute in our smallest way to put a smile on our poverty stricken neighbours. Now with that spirit, we will definitely bring about the most needed development throughout the Greater Giyani Municipality", she concluded.



#### 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.tzaneen.gov.za)



BA-PHALABORWA

#### 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](http://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](http://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

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