



MOPANI *Bulletin*

MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Official Quarterly Newsletter (July - September 2019)



**Executive Mayor leads mayoral committee
on projects visit programme**



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

Editor's Note

I have been given the task of acting in the position of manager responsible for communications, and by default the editor of this publication. This is a responsibility I have accepted with the greatest of humility.

This publication remains one of the key communication platforms which we use to communicate our programmes to the citizens of this district. It is also a platform which we can use to create awareness on the importance of active citizen participation on matters of governance.

Lately we have seen an upsurge in the number of protests, where people block roads and vandalize infrastructure. It is important for people of Mopani District to recognize that the right to protest is a right guaranteed in the constitution.

Section 17 of the Bill of Rights guarantees that **"everyone has a right, peacefully and unarmed, to assemble, to demonstrate, to picket and to present petitions."** The guarantee is not absolute. Exercising the right to protest even peacefully and unarmed can infringe upon the fundamental rights of other people. For instance, Section 21, sub-section 1, says **"Everyone has the right to freedom of movement."** Sub-section 3 says **"Everyone citizen has the right to enter, to remain in and to reside anywhere in, the Republic."**

In the process of exercising our rights, let us guard against infringing on the rights of other citizens. We have a listening government. There are various platforms we can use to engage with our elected leaders whenever we feel aggrieved about matters of service delivery.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage all citizens of Mopani to follow us on our Facebook page (Mopani District Municipality). We are committing to continue doing our best to ensure that you are kept abreast of all the developments in our district. We wish to invite your feedback and views, which can be shared with any of our team members on the available contacts.



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EXECUTIVE MAYOR 'S FOREWORD



**Executive Mayor
Cllr Pule Shayi**

As we have just celebrated Heritage Month in September, let us be reminded that we do so on the backdrop of 25 years of Freedom and Democracy. This Year (2019), Heritage Month is celebrated under the theme: "Celebrating South Africa's literary classics in the indigenous languages." The aim is to use the celebrations to galvanize society to embrace the culture of reading and incorporate it into our daily lifestyle.

Let us use Heritage Month to come together as South Africans to affirm our diverse cultures and in so doing, shape our national character as a "rainbow nation" that is at peace with itself. But as we do so, we also need to appreciate the role played by our brothers and sisters from other African countries in our liberation struggle. We have to work tirelessly to establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights.

We cannot afford to have our country's image tarnished by attacks on our African brothers and

sisters by criminals. We have committed to work towards building a better Africa and a better world, and these attacks directly weaken our resolve around that. We may not feel the immediate impact, but more and more of these African countries including the countries from outside the continent may see South Africa as lawless country and that may scare potential tourists.

As a district, our vision is "to be the food basket of Southern Africa and the tourism destination of choice." We are not able to achieve this vision, if we are to be isolated as a country. The tourism industry will shed some jobs and unemployment will worsen. Let us appreciate that we are one people, separated only by the borders which were not even created by us – a direct result of many decades of colonial rule.

Let me take this opportunity to also call on all men, young and old, to take a stand against attacks on women and children. His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, has already demonstrated government's firm position against gender-based violence. He announced a five-point plan during an extraordinary joint sitting of Parliament, but we really must also step up as men to say "not in our name."

We have committed to work on achieving a positive audit outcome for this municipality, and we shall not falter in fulfilling this task. The negative opinions have for years undermined our efforts to build confidence in our work of delivering quality services to the people of our district. We can no longer afford to have this Municipality associated with adverse findings. We are encouraged by the speed at which we are moving in resolving previous findings by the Auditor General from the 2017/18 report.

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EXECUTIVE MAYOR 'S FOREWORD

But, we have also said that this cannot be an extended era where wrong doing goes unpunished. Council has adopted a Consequence Management Policy, which is in pursuit of the prescripts of Section 32 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003. This Act requires municipalities to ensure the prevention of unauthorised, irregular or fruitless and wasteful expenditure and other losses.

Through this mentioned legislative provision, municipalities are directed to recover the losses from the persons responsible. The adoption of the Consequence Management Policy provides for a framework to implement this legislative directive.

We are at a point where we have to heed seriously messages around responsible water usage. We have not had sufficient rainfall over the past few years. The water in many of our dams is at frightening low levels. For example, we have already stopped abstracting water from the Middle-Letaba dam due to its reduced level. The Tzaneen dam which is a major source of water to most communities in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality is at just 9 percent. It really cannot be business as usual. We have to change our attitudes on water usage.

We have distributed additional water tankers to all our local municipalities. This is sure to assist in the supply of water to most areas where we have no alternative water sources. And while, we will continue to do our best to ensure constant supply of water, we are making this appeal to our residents to use water sparingly.

As we enter the Transport Month (October), we do so with clear conscience of the state of our roads. The rate of motor carnages and fatalities that we have had in the recent past cannot go unnoticed. We will have to work together with all interested parties towards travelling which is free of accidents. This is possible if we work together.

In the next quarter, we will work together with all government departments including municipalities; state owned entities and NGOs towards ensuring an integrated community engagement. We will do this by convening an Imbizo to allow community members to engage with their own government.

Fourth industrial revolution is one of topical issues. We have to battle with the conundrum of jobs shedding and mechanisation. These are some of the socio-economic contradictions that define the current political epoch. On the same wave length, already we will begin to imagine and ready ourselves for the future South Africa; the future educational curriculum; and effectively the future government institutions.

As we mark the 100 days of Executive Mayor in the office, there is optimism that we will deliver on what we have committed. We had identified few infrastructure projects to handover to the communities. This is not just a promise but an adherence to an unsigned social contract that we have entered into with our people.

Together we can build a better Mopani District. We do all these in the name and spirit of Thuma Mina!!!!!!

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Executive Mayor distributes water tankers and trucks to locals



The Executive Mayor together with the Speaker, MMCs and representatives from local municipalities during the event where he distributed water tankers, and trucks to locals.

The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Pule Shayi has distributed 10 water tankers, five crane trucks, 20 double-cab trucks and a low belt truck to the five local municipalities on Friday, 23rd August 2019.

Shayi was joined by Members of the Mayoral Committee and representatives from all local municipalities. He said the distribution of the fleet "is part of the effort in the broader scheme of what we are supposed to do as a district, which is water provision."

He said that Greater Letaba will get three water tankers

given the challenges of water in that municipality, Greater Tzaneen and Greater Giyani will each receive two water tankers, Ba-Phalaborwa and Maruleng will each receive one water tanker, while one water tanker will be stationed centrally to assist in emergencies.

The municipality has also procured 20 double-cab trucks, which will be servicing municipalities from the satellite offices. "Each satellite office will receive four double-cab trucks. We have five crane trucks which will be shared amongst the five local municipalities. The low-bed truck and the honey-sucker will be stationed in our head office in Giyani, but we are taking the honey-sucker for testing next week," said Shayi.



Executive Mayor, Councillor Pule Shayi in one of the water tankers which were distributed to local municipalities on Friday.

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Executive Mayor pledge to *strengthen* interaction with communities

The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Pule Shayi has promised to strengthen interactions with communities on matters of service delivery in the district.

Delivering his maiden State of the District Address at the Lulekani Stadium on the 12th of July, Shayi said that the municipality is "encouraged by the active participation of our communities on matters of governance. Our people have heeded the call we made in 2016, when we said that "Together advancing people's power in every community – Local government is in your hands."

"We are going to hold firm to the Back to Basics principles by ensuring sustained interactions with our communities, especially through the Imbizo programme. We must maintain constant contact with our communities by strengthening our feedback mechanisms. Our people must at all times be kept abreast of our plans, progress, and even our limitations," he said.

Much of his speech centred around youth empowerment, making pronouncement of free Wi-Fi at all public meetings and at the district's Head Offices in Giyani. "This will enable communities, young people in particular an opportunity to surf the net and also share activities for the day with rest of the world through social media platforms."

He said that 30% of municipal procurement will go to youth-owned enterprises. "We are marching ahead, and need to assure our young people that 30% of procurement at the district municipality will go to enterprises owned by young people. We will convene a youth indaba during this financial year in a bid to consolidate



Executive Mayor Pule Shayi delivering the State of the District Address at the Lulekani Stadium on the 12th of July 2019.

the efforts of all stakeholders behind the agenda of youth development," he said.

The Executive Mayor also took the opportunity to urge communities to use water sparingly. "The dam levels are between 5% and 40%. Boreholes in some areas have dried up, collapsed while in other areas there is just no underground water due to drought.

"We need to create an awareness to our communities on the need to start using water sparingly. A joint operating committee has been established to closely monitor the situation and to fully implement water restrictions as approved by council early this year," said Shayi.

Shayi has commended the community of Dan village for supporting police work in the fight against crime, saying crime in communities undermine investor confidence, hence government has made it a priority to build safer communities.

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Four of the local mayors in Mopani District Municipality attended the State of the District Address. From left, Mayor Basani Shibambu of Greater Giyani Municipality, Mayor Peter Matlou of Greater Letaba Municipality, Executive Mayor Pule Shayi, the Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Merriam Malatji, and Mayor Maripe Mangena of Greater Tzaneen Municipality.



Chief Whip of Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, Cllr Didodo Rapatsa, the Speaker of Greater Letaba Municipality Councillor Jeppe Makhahanisa and the Speaker of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Cllr Dikeledi Mmetle.



"Dan was known as crime hotspot in our province, but young people have raised their hands in response to the Thuma Mina call and are now patrolling the streets in support of the police work in that area. Our community, particularly the most vulnerable groups - the women and children feel safe in that area."

"We take our hats off to these young men and we extend an invitation to other communities to learn from Dan village as a case study. Our victory against crime will translate into improved investor confidence in our district, and ultimately boost our efforts in fighting unemployment and poverty," he said.



Chief Whip, Councillor Martha Maswanganyi and Kgosi Sekororo in attendance at the State of the District Address.

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EXECUTIVE MAYOR HANDS OVER SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR **GRAVELOTTE** TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT PROJECT



Executive Mayor with his team on a site visit to the Gravelotte Township Establishment Project

The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Councillor Pule Shayi has handed over two service providers responsible for the Gravelotte Township Establishment Project and the Land Use Scheme (LUS) to Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality.

There is a land earmarked for township establishment in Gravelotte where 400 residential sites will be made available to the public upon the completion of the feasibility study by the service provider.

Shai says the success of the project will enable Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality to increase its revenue base. "We hosted a Land Use Seminar in July, and we said at that seminar that as municipalities we need to elevate issues of land use management and improve spatial planning. Poor planning has proven to have far reaching socio-economic impact.

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Chief Whip, Councillor Martha Maswanganyi, Executive Mayor Councillor Pule Shayi and the Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa, Councillor Merriam Malatji during the hand-over of service providers to Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality

"The pace at which our people want space to live and to do business is so fast. It has overtaken our way of planning. Our planning is poor and weak. We can shoulder the responsibility, but if we are leadership. We should be considerate of these obtaining conditions and ask a question – what do we do."

"Uncoordinated human settlements impede our capacity as government to deliver adequately to the needs of our people. The success of the project we are launching here today shall serve as a case study for all our municipalities to initiate similar projects, which will aid in increasing our revenue base thus also improving our capacity to deliver services and maintain our existing infrastructure," he said.

He said that the Gravelotte project gives the municipalities an opportunity to "Let's support the process. Let us work with service providers to ensure that all this work gets done within then timeframe. This project will help us undermine the apartheid planning system. We will be bringing respect to our people because they must be able to take their kids from walking distance to a crèche, to a school, to a supermarket, to work without spending R50 going to and from home."

"We have in our last council sitting appointed members to the Municipal Planning Tribunal. The Tribunal is charged with the responsibility of receiving and disposing of land development applications and land use applications within the district municipal area," said Shayi.

He says the project also means that the municipality will be staying true to the objectives of the Freedom Charter. "The biggest programme of this democratic government remains the creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society. Through this project we wish to create a sustainable human settlement where our people united in their diversity will have a much improved access to socio-economic opportunities," said the Executive Mayor.

The mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality Councillor Merriam Malatji has welcomed the project. "This presents an opportunity for us as a municipality to widen our revenue collection base, which will us to improve on service delivery."

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Executive Mayor leads mayoral committee on projects visit programme

The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Pule Shayi led a team of mayoral committee members on a projects visit programme in all the five local municipalities.

The projects were identified during his State of the District Address, delivered at the Lulekani Stadium in July.

Amongst the projects visited were both the Tours Bulk Water and the Joppie-Mawa-Ramotshinyadi projects in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Mametja-Sekororo Water Treatment Works in Maruleng, both the Phalaborwa Sewage Plant and Mapikiri Reservoir in Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, the Sefofotse project in Greater Letaba Municipality and Zava in the Greater Giyani Municipality.

The Executive Mayor said that he is impressed with the progress made at most of the projects. "The visits enabled us to witness the actual construction work that is being carried out by contractors in our various communities. We are confident that at the end of the 100 days, I will have a positive service delivery story to tell to communities."

"The completion of such projects will make a huge dent in terms of ensuring that our communities get potable water and that we are able to address challenges of water and sanitation. This will also bring hope to all our people," said Shayi.



The Executive Mayor and Members of the Mayoral Committee checking progress at Sefofotse.



The Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi and Members of the Mayoral Committee interacting with some of the contractors at Zava village, where a package plant and still tanks are being completed.



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Let's explore ways to benefit from Musina-Makhado SEZ, says Executive Mayor

The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Cllr Pule Shayi has directed the district's Inter-Governmental Relations Forum to explore ways in which entrepreneurs in Mopani can benefit from the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone project.

"The technical committee on planning and economic development must investigate how best our entrepreneurs and young people can tap into the supply value chain in the Musina-Makhado SEZ," he said.

Delivering the welcome address to the IGR forum held in July, Shayi said that all municipalities and sector departments must ensure that at least 20 percent of government procurement goes to the youth and women owned enterprises.

"The premier of our province has made a commitment during the State of the Province Address that 20 percent of government procurement will go to enterprises owned by young people, another 20 percent to women-owned, while 7 percent will go to businesses owned by people living with disabilities. We should at this level ensure this directive is implemented by our respective institutions," said Shayi.

The forum has also been seized with the task of resuscitating the Thusong Service Centre Programme in the district. "We have previously discussed the need to support the Thusong Service Centre programme, and I wish to get progress on this resolution. We have said this is an important programme of government because it takes integrated services closer to our people.

"Our people in Maruleng still have to spend their hard-earned money travelling from their rural villages to Tzaneen to access government services when we could make such services available to them at the Thusong Service Centre. What is the difficulty in getting Home Affairs to service our people at Mkwakwaila Thusong? Our technical team must make assessment on the functionality and challenges in all these centres so that we are able to elevate whatever challenges to the provincial executive for intervention," he said.



Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Pule Shayi delivering the welcome address to the District Inter-Governmental Relations Forum.



MMC for Finance Councillor City Modjadji making an input during discussions at the IGR.

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NCOP visits projects in Mopani as part of its oversight work



Executive Mayor, Councillor Pule Shayi making a presentation to the NCOP on day one of the NCOP's visit to the province.

Quick facts about Dzingidzingi Water Reticulation Project:

- ☑ Targeting 847 households at Dzingidzingi and 488 at Bode village
- ☑ Implemented through the WSIG with a budget of R11 400 000
- ☑ To be completed in November 2019
- ☑ Employed 48 people (28 of these are female)

Quick facts about Tours Bulk Water Project:

- ☑ Targeting 24 villages
- ☑ Plant upgraded from 9 mega litres to 13,5 mega litres per day
- ☑ Project progress at 60 percent

Permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) visited projects in Mopani on Thursday and Friday last week, this as part of their Provincial Week Programme which ran from the 16th to the 20th of September.

The NCOP delegation to Mopani was led by Honourable Tshitereke Mathibe who was also joined by members of Limpopo Provincial Legislature. This year's Provincial Week Programme focused on local government centred around the theme: "Building sustainable, responsive and people-centred municipalities."

Executive Mayor, Councillor Pule Shayi made a presentation on the state of service delivery and welcomed the visit of the NCOP to the district. "This visit is part of oversight work for them to have a greater appreciation of what is happening at local government level, so that they are able to advocate and lobby for interventions at that level," said Shayi.

The NCOP visited the Dzingidzingi Water Reticulation Project, Makosha Road, and Mageva stadium in the Greater Giyani Municipality. In Greater Tzaneen they visited Tours Bulk Water Project, Mariveni Upgrading of Water Reticulation Network and Boreholes, Codessa and Hani Roads in Nkowankowa and Mulati Road in ward 25.



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Ward committees commit to strengthening relations with traditional councils

The MMC for Finance in Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Japisa Mathonsi has told delegates to the Ward Conference that strengthening relations with royal leaders must be a priority for ward committees.

Mathonsi delivered a keynote address on-behalf of the Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi to the two-day conference held in Tzaneen. She said that good relations with traditional councils will assist in curbing land invasion which lead to informal settlements and socio-economic challenges.

"We hosted a Land Use Seminar in July, and we said at that seminar that working with our royal leaders we need to improve spatial planning as municipalities. Poor planning has proven to have far reaching socio-economic impact.

"It is therefore important for us to strengthen relations with the royal councils in our areas, so that we plan together for integrated human settlement. We must at all times discourage land invasion, because government will not be able to deliver adequately to the needs of our people when human settlement has been uncoordinated," she said.

She said that ward committees must assist in encouraging communities to pay for municipal services. "We have directed at the level of the District IGR that our municipalities must work around developing or revising their revenue enhancement strategies. But, also that we must have updated credible indigent registers.

Ward committees must play a prominent role in assisting us to gather accurate data on people who can't afford to pay for services. Well, reality is that we can't be municipalities that rely on grants alone. We must be able to generate revenue to assist us to address infrastructure backlog and maintenance," said Mathonsi

Conference has resolved that a framework need to be developed to guide the increase of ward committee stipend to ensure uniformity across the district. The district IGR has previously resolved that the stipend be increased to R1 500 in all the municipalities. Delegates also said that sector departments must ensure that ward committees and political leaders are kept abreast on projects implemented in the district from inception until completion.



MMC for Transport, Councillor Japisa Mathonsi delivered the opening address on behalf of the Executive Mayor.



Speaker of Council, Councillor Wireless Sedibeng giving a way forward to the ward committee conference.



MMC for Water, Councillor Maditshego Sefufi responding to questions from delegates on water matters.

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Mopani District Municipality Council appoints an Acting MM



Acting MM Quite Kgatle



Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi commenting on the Audit Committee report during the ordinary Council Sitting.

An Ordinary Council Sitting of Mopani District Municipality held at the newly refurbished chamber in Giyani has approved the appointment of Quite Kgatla as the Acting Municipal Manager. Kgatla who is the Chief Financial Officer has been appointed to act in the position of Municipal Manager following the resignation of Republic Monakedi. He served his notice until the 31st of July 2019. Council also approved the appointment of Sekati Mangena as the Acting Chief Financial Officer. Council also deliberated and resolved on the following matters:

1. Head Count

Council has also adopted a project plan to conduct head count for all the district's employees and councillors.

2. Consequence Management Policy

Council adopted the Consequence Management Policy which is in pursuit of the prescripts of Section 32 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, read together with Section 62. The Act states that municipalities are required to ensure prevention of unauthorised, irregular or fruitless, and wasteful expenditure and other losses, and where necessary to recover the losses from the person responsible.

3. Reviewed Audit Committee Charter.

Council has adopted the reviewed Audit Committee Charter for the 2019/20 financial year. The Charter serves as a terms of reference for Audit Committee and also as a measurement tool to evaluate the performance of Audit Committee.

4. Reviewed Employment Equity Plan

Council has adopted the reviewed Employment Equity Plan for a period of five years. The plan is aimed at achieving equitable representation of suitably qualified people in all occupational categories through the implementation of necessary affirmative measures.

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5. Appointment of Municipal Planning Tribunal Members

Council has approved the appointment of members to the District Municipal Planning Tribunal on a five-year term of office. The tribunal is charged with the responsibility of receiving and disposing of land development applications and land use applications within the district municipal area.

6. Asset write-off

Council approved to write off infrastructure assets that are dry, vandalized and or components that were stolen or not found during verification.

7. Workplace Sport and Recreation Policy

Council has approved the policy on workplace sport and recreation which seek to provide participative opportunities for municipal staff members and councillors who have interest in sports and recreation activities.

8. Progress report on the 2017/18 Audit Action

Council noted progress made in the implementation of the Audit Action Plan, with 87 findings resolved from the 113 in the Auditor General's report. Progress is made in resolving the outstanding 26 findings.

9. Skills audit for members

Council has approved the skills audit plan, which is aimed at identifying the skills and knowledge that the organization requires as well as the skills and knowledge that the municipality currently has or may need in future.



MMC for Governance, Councillor David Maake presented a number of items in council including the item on conducting of head count of all employees and councillors.



Councillor Sharlotte Nkhwashu, the chairperson of MPAC presenting the report of the committee to council.

Farmers welcome the official opening of Masalal Pack-house



The chairperson of LED portfolio committee in Mopani, Councillor Richard Makasela assist workers at Davano farm with loading crates of tomatoes into a truck

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform has officially opened the multi-million revamped Masalal pack house near Eiland in the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality on 19th July 2019.

A group of organized farmers under the banner of GRASP which represent farmers in Gravelotte, Selwane and Priska approached the department with the request for the department to assist with revamping of the pack house.

The department then started with the process of repairs and refurbishment in 2015, and also replaced the machines to support the packing of

citrus in compliance with Euro-Gap standards. Over 120 people from the neighbouring villages of Priska, Majeje, Xitlakati, Selwane and Khazani are now employed in the pack house.

David Mlondobodzi, a farmer who is a stone's throw away from the pack house is one of the farmers who has hailed the support from the department. Mlondobodzi is the co-owner of Davano Farm Fresh (Pty) LTD together with his wife. He ventured into farming after his retrenchment from a tele-communications company in 2003. His farm now employs 13 permanent workers.

The farm produces throughout the year on a rotational basis, tomatoes, okra, green beans,

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David Mlondobozi of Davano Farm with HOD Maisela, Speaker of Mopani District Municipality Councillor Wireless Sedibeng, MMC for Agriculture Councillor Annicky Mathaba, MMC for Infrastructure Given Malatji and the chairperson of Local Economic Development, Councillor Richard Makasela at Davano farm.



Caption: The Head of Agriculture Department in Limpopo Ramatsimela Maisela with Speaker of Mopani District Municipality Councillor and MMC for Infrastructure Councillor Given Malatji as they are taken through the tour of Masalal Packhouse.

green pepper, cabbage and butternut. The department has since assisted the farm with a shade-net structure, drilled and equipped borehole, storage and office rooms, drip system, soil moisture monitoring system, water storage reservoir, drippers, pipes, and ablution facility.

Mlondobozi says he wants to take advantage of the proximity to the pack house by engaging in citrus farming. "We want to create more jobs, and we able to do so. Citrus is one venture we want to explore so we can make use of this state of the art pack house," he said.

The pack house is currently run by Mabunda Citrus, which is a partnership between Mabunda Farmers and Lona group of companies. The consortium is expected to establish an operating company, which farmers will a 45% controlling shares, LONA with 45% and Majeje Tribal Authority with 10%.

The Speaker of Mopani District Municipality Councillor Wireless Sedibeng delivered the keynote address on behalf of MEC Nandi Ndalane who could not attend the event.

He was taken on a tour of some of the projects initiated by the department, including the fishing project at Priska village. He later told the farmers and community members gathered at Masalal pack house that government will always support initiatives that create jobs for people.

"What we have seen here today is testament that indeed our people are capable of creating work opportunities for themselves and contribute to food security. The fishing project that we saw today at Priska is the first of its kind in our district and we hope to learn from it and replicate it in other communities," Said Sedibeng.

Meanwhile, Chief Mlungisi Ntsanwisi of Majeje Tribal Authority has announced plans to make available 600 hectares of land for citrus farming.

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Department of Agriculture rewards farmers with disabilities



Green Life Vegetable Projects from Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality won the award for Top Informal Market.

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Mopani District's Department of Agriculture has recognized persons with disabilities in agriculture during a function held at the Lulekani Community hall in September.

Green Life Vegetable Projects from Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality won the award for Top Informal Market. In the Category for Top Producer for Centre, it Ntluri Greenery Disable Project from which won got the R10 000 prize for position one, while Nthabiseng Special School from Phalaborwa emerged runners-up.

In the Category for Top Producer Household, Mbule Rodgers from Giyani was the winner. Motlokwa Edward from Greater Letaba Municipality got R800 for obtaining position two, followed by Thato Disable Centre from Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality at position three with a prize money of R6000.

The Member of Mayoral Committee responsible for Local Economic Development in Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Christinah Mohale said the municipality will always embrace efforts by people who contribute to food security. She addressed the Awards Ceremony on behalf of the Executive Mayor. She said the District Municipality will assist farmers to export their products to the SADC region and beyond. Mopani's vision is "to be the food basket of Southern Africa and the tourism destination of choice."

The chairperson of Persons with Disabilities in Agriculture in Limpopo, Thomas Kgapanne has once again called on the department and the municipality to work together to increase the prize money for winners. "The programme must start at local municipalities. Then winners from the local municipalities would then compete at the district level. So, we must work together to establish PDARD at local municipalities," he said.



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MOPANI'S FEMALE FARMERS RECEIVE ACCOLADES

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Mopani District Municipality bestowed awards to female farmers during an event hosted at the Mokwakwaila community hall in the Greater Letaba Municipality on the 8th August 2019.

The Female Entrepreneur of the Year Awards were initiated in 1999 with the aim of encouraging the participation of women and women with disabilities in the agricultural sector.

The MMC for Local Economic Development, Councillor Christina Mohale said the hosting of the Awards in August is significant because it coincides with the Women's Month celebrations.

"The hosting of the Mopani District Female Entrepreneur of the Year Prize Award Ceremony during this month underlines the importance of the contribution that women continue to make in our country."

"As we honour our heroines who confronted the brutal apartheid regime in 1956, we also need to celebrate these women gathered here today who are confronting the challenges of the day, which is unemployment, poverty and inequality," she said.

Mohale, who delivered the keynote address on behalf of the Executive Mayor said the district will work farmers around issues of access to market. "We know that there is an outcry by some of our farmers who do farming and have fresh produce but accessing the market still remains a challenge. The district municipality has set aside a budget where we are going to meet all farmers across the district and interact with them."

"This interaction will also serve as a platform for farmers to share best practices and also the challenges they encounter in the sector. I also want to take this opportunity and commend all farmers who are continuing with their farming activities despite the drought that has hit the district municipal area," she said.



The MMC for Local Economic Development, Councillor Christinah Mohale delivering the keynote address to the Female Entrepreneur Awards.



From left; Makoela Rebecca received an award for best female farm worker, MMC Mohale, Cllr Mokgadi Morwatshehla, Tinyiko Ngobeni (Best subsistence farmer), the representative from Modjadji Royal Council, the rep from Vuyeriwani Development Organization (Best Small-holder farmer), Mr Mabilo (Department of Agriculture's District Director) and Mhlarhi Khulaneni who won the award for best commercial farmer.

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The Mopani District Municipality Executive Mayor meets the Local House of Traditional Leaders.



The Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi during his meet and greet session with Royal Leaders



Chairperson of the Local House of Traditional Leaders Hosi Nwamitwa

The Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi has interacted with the Mopani District Local House of Traditional Leaders as part of his meet and greet sessions. Addressing the Local House of Traditional Leaders at the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipal Chamber on the 7th of July, the Executive Mayor said that the municipality is committed to strengthening relations with traditional leaders in the five local municipalities.

"It is important to indicate that the institution of Royal Leaders played a vital role for the attainment of our democracy, as we all know that they were at the centre of our struggle against the apartheid regime. As the generation of today, we still believe that our traditional leaders are relevant as they are custodians of our culture. As the district municipality we remain committed to work jointly with traditional leaders as we develop our communities." Said Shayi.

The royal leaders who were led by the Chairperson of the District Local House of Traditional Leaders, Hosi Phyllia Nwamitwa emphasised that there is a need for government to always consult with the traditional leaders before service delivery projects are implemented in communities. The Chief Whip of the ruling party Councillor Martha Maswanganyi and the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality Mayor Councillor Merriam Malatji also appreciated the cooperation that the traditional leaders are giving to government at large. All parties agreed that regular meetings between Mayors and the Royal Leaders will be held for further engagements.



The Chief Whip Councillor Martha Maswanganyi introducing the Executive Mayor.

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Executive Mayor meets Sport Confederation

Executive Mayor Councillor Pule Shayi met with the District Sport Confederation on Friday as part of his programme of engaging with stakeholders. He was joined by the MMC for Sport, Recreation, Art and Culture Councillor Nyiko Baloyi.

The Secretary of the District Sport Confederation, Schoolboy Shilubane said the confederation appreciates the opportunity to meet with the Executive Mayor within his first 100 days. "As the Confederation, we want to thank the Executive Mayor for creating time to meet with us within his first 100 days in office. We have never had this kind of interaction with the mayors in our district. This is a clear indication that the Executive Mayor takes issues of sports in our district seriously," said Shilubane.



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Mopani host delegation from OR Tambo District



1. The team from OR Tambo District Municipality with leadership of Mopani District Municipality, which included the speaker, chief whip, CoC and Hosi Nwamitwa, who is the chairperson of the Local House of Traditional Leaders.

2. Molemisi Seshoene of Council Committees making a presentation on the separation of functions during the interaction with the delegation from the OR Tambo District Municipality.

Mopani District Municipality hosted a delegation from the Eastern Cape's OR Tambo District Municipality whose visit was to benchmark on the functionality of section 79 committees of council.

The delegation from OR Tambo's Ethics and Councillor's interest Committee included two councillors, one traditional leader serving in council and two officials. The South African Local Government Association in Limpopo has earlier this year named Mopani District Municipality the best on the separation of functions.

Led by the Speaker of Council, Councillor Wireless Sedibeng, the team for Mopani District Municipality included the Chief Whip, Councillor Martha Maswanganyi, the Chairperson of Chairpersons, Councillor Masilo Maloko, chairpersons of section 79 committees, the Chairperson of the Local House of Traditional Leaders, Hosi Phyllia Nwamitwa as well as officials from council support and council committees.

Councillor Sedibeng said the visit will assist both municipalities to learn best practices from each other. "The interaction has assisted a lot as it formed the basis for a twinning agreement between the two District Municipalities. There are things we do in common, but there are also those that we differ in approach.

"The officials will prepare a report which will serve in various structures and ultimately make its way to council. Hopefully we can continue to learn from each other on how best we can strengthen oversight," he said.

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COUNCIL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES CONVENE AT SWADINI

Mopani District's Municipal Public Account Committee Forum convened at Swadini Aventura Resort for their annual District Wide Session from 02 to 03 September.

The forum was also attended by Speakers from all the municipalities in the district, Chief Chips, Chairpersons of Chairpersons, representatives from the South African Local Government Association, the Coghsta, the Chartered Institute of Government Finance, Audit and Risk Officers (CIGFARO), and the Mopani District Municipal Audit Committee.

"The forum convenes precisely to focus on how we can improve on issues of oversight. Issues of audit opinions. But, it is also a platform to encourage municipalities like Maruleng who have been doing well. Learn best practice from each other. We also use the forum to assess our work from the previous years since the forum was established in 2016."

"It was also about gauging the capacity of committees to discharge their oversight responsibilities within their municipalities. As part of way forward, a need was identified that all council members should be taken through processes on how MPAC operate," said Speaker Wireless Sedibeng.

The Forum has resolved to prepare exit reports so as to prepare for the new councils going into the 2021 local government elections.



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MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY HOST EXCITING 2019 GOLDEN GAMES

Elderly citizens from across the district converged at the Lulekani stadium in Baphalaborwa Local Municipality to take part in this year's golden games. This is an annual event organised to encourage healthy lifestyle for the elderly.

Participants competed in various sport codes such as soccer, athletics, jakskei, ball pass & kick, relay, ring the stick, and brist walk.

The MMC for Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture Councillor Nyiko Baloyi and the MMC for Community Services Mikateko Shimange-Fazi attended the games. MMC Baloyi told participants that "participating in physical exercises keep our bodies and minds healthy. From here we must go and encourage our grandchildren to follow suit because sport assist to fight diseases and keeps our grandchildren out of petty street activities. The municipality will provide the necessary support."

One of the participants Florence Shingange (56) from Mafarani village in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality indicated that participating in sport helps her to forget family problems. Shingange won the 400m brist walk competition "I am happy that I have won, I have been doing this for more than six years now, it helps me to forget about stressing family issues and keeps me healthy, in fact I enjoy and love what i am doing." Said Shingange.

Terrence Selepe (66) from Letaba local municipality who won the 800m race had this to say "I play football with local boys at my age, I have never stopped playing football since my primary days, sport is my only hobby because I don't smoke and drink, basically it's what keeps me busy."

All winners at the district level will proceed to participate at the provincial golden games.



Florence Shingange (56) from Mafarani village in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality



MMC for Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture Councillor Nyiko Baloyi



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Executive Mayor urge youth to embrace technological advances



The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Pule Shayi says young people must adapt to the technological advances of the fourth industrial revolution in order to remain relevant and create work opportunities for themselves, saying "failure to adapt to these technological advances, may mean that more and more of our people find themselves without work.

Shayi addressed about two thousand young people who braved the cold, windy weather to attend the Career Expo at the Lenyenye Stadium on the 06th of September. The Expo was organized by Mopani District Municipality to offer a platform for learners to get career guidance on further education and training opportunities. But, it was also an opportunity for unemployed youth to learn of the available economic opportunity programmes created by government and the private sector.

The Executive Mayor was joined by members of the mayoral committee, the Speaker of Council Wireless Sedibeng, the mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena, councillors from the district municipality and Joy Mayimela is serving in the board of the National Youth Development Agency.



The Executive Mayor said reducing the cost of data is important in the fight against unemployment. "Mopani District Municipality has committed to make free Wi-Fi available at all public events. We are aware that all of you gathered here need data on a daily basis. Young people need data to do research on economic opportunities and to interact with the world. We will ensure that our head office in Giyani become a free Wi-Fi zone before the end of this financial year."

He said that government has made great strides to ensure that young people from rural schools have equal opportunities to township schools. "over the past 25 years, through our democratic government, education has been an apex priority. We have made education free at all levels. Children from poor families are able to get a meal at school, and those staying far from school get transported to school through our scholar transport.

"We are also moving with speed to bring information closer to our rural communities through the provision of libraries. Over the past few years, we have been able to build two libraries in the rural communities of Mulati and Shiluvani here in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. Through the Department of Sport, Art and Culture in our province, we are now building a library at Runnymede village. We wish to caution you that you are fast running out of excuses for not attaining education, given the strides we have made as government to open the doors of learning for all," said the Executive Mayor.

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SMMES LAUD MDM AS THEY SHOWCASE PRODUCTS AT LETABA SHOW

The owners of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) have hailed the support from Mopani District Municipality for an opportunity to exhibit their products at the Letaba Show, which ran from the 7th to the 9th of August.

The municipality through the Local Economic Development Unit procured an exhibition stall which housed small businesses at the Show. The SMMEs exhibited and sold products ranging from home-made cheese, juice, bottled water, cleaning products, pallets, and photography services.

Beatrice Nkhwashu-Tshabalala, the Director of Beatnard Trading Enterprise which was formed in April this year says the experience has been worthwhile. "A lot of people visited our stall, and have shown great interest in our products. We are selling home-made cheese, yoghurt, and juice. We got positive reviews from customers here, and we want to thank the municipality for this opportunity. We are a new venture, and any exposure is appreciated," she said.

Joy Malatji, the co-owner of JoyDave Trading also praised the municipality and Seda for the support. "We have support from the municipality. Seda is assisting us with marketing products, but we also the backing from GTEDA. We used to operate from home, but GTEDA took us to the economic zone, the Nkowankowa industrial park," she said.

The Local Economic Development Manager in Mopani District Municipality, Khutso Malatji says the municipality always try to create platforms for new entrants. "We brought in SMMEs with



Mopani District Municipality's LED Manager, Khutso Malatji together with the Enterprise Development Officer Victor Mabunda offered support to SMMEs at the Letaba Show.



Exhibitors from Beatnard Trading Enterprise interacting with a customer at the Letaba Show.

diverse products and services, and many of them are new and have never had this opportunity. We hope that their businesses will grow, and they will be able to procure their own stalls next year. But, as a municipality we are also planning to host a flea market this financial year, which will attract more of our SMMEs and showcase our offerings as a district," he said.

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DISTRICT EPWP FORUM RECEIVES FIRST QUARTER REPORT ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Thousands of job opportunities were created through the Expanded Public Works Programme since the start of the 2019/20 Financial Year, this was revealed during the District EPWP Forum held in the Greater Letaba Municipality during the month of September.

The stats as of the 13th of September indicates that the district municipality together with the five local municipalities recorded a total of 2922 job opportunities in the first quarter of the 2019/20 financial year. A bulk of those were in the Infrastructure Cluster at 1791. The Environment and Culture Cluster contributed 797, while 334 job opportunities were in the Social cluster. Mopani District Municipality alone has already achieved 50 % of its target for the year, having recorded 1361 jobs in the first quarter.

The Expanded Public Works Programme was launched by government in 2004, with the aim of creating of work opportunities for unemployed South Africans thereby fighting poverty and providing skills development. The District EPWP forum was launched in July last year, with the task of coordinating the work of implementing bodies in the district.



MMC for Sport, Recreation, Art and Culture Councillor Baloyi chaired the forum on behalf of the executive mayor.

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Executive Mayor says economic freedom for women will end patriarchy



The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Councillor Pule Shayi has told the district's women's month celebrations that women must start to own the means of production in order to bring an end to patriarchy.

Addressing the district's women's month event at the Giyani Multi-purpose centre on the 29th August, Shayi said "Women continue to be oppressed, simply because they do not own the means of production. The struggle to emancipate women can't be left only to women, the entire society has to join in. Patriarchy remains the main challenge which delays the process of women empowerment as they are a historically marginalised group. As government we must ensure that we invest more on women in order to undermine the patriarchal system." Said the Executive Mayor.

The Executive Mayor further emphasised that the ground is now levelled as compared to the past for women to demand their rightful positions in society. "We have defeated the injustice system of apartheid which oppressed our people, the current system provides the space for women to raise concerns without any fear, you must use that advantage to fight for equality in work places." He said.

The event also marked the end of Women's month, which was celebrated under the theme: "25 Years of Democracy: growing South Africa together for emancipation of women." He said that women have always been active participants in the struggle for liberation.

"And this is by no means a favour for women of this country, they have earned their right to be included in leadership positions. Women fought shoulder to shoulder with their male comrades in the struggle for national liberation, and they have always been there to offer support to their warrior men. Perhaps freedom would not have come sooner had women not taken it upon themselves to confront the apartheid regime."

The activities for the day centred around issues of women empowerment, with presentations from women in business and women in agriculture. Mopani's HIV coordinator Calvia Mnisi made a presentation on HIV, Mpho Mothibi from Finance presented on financial management while Mapula Legodi from the Communications Unit delivered a motivational talk on women empowerment. Legodi is a finalist in Mrs Polokwane Pageant. She said that women must never be defined by their positions at work. "I want you all to understand the importance of self-worth, having unshakable faith in yourself and in your ability to follow through and get things done. Confidence is everything and it's actually the difference between being inspired and getting started."

Also attending the event were MMC Maditshego Sefufi, MMC Minkateko Shimange-Fazi, MMC Christinah Mohale, MMC David Maake, the chairperson of Mopani Women Caucus Councillor Sevwengwana Nkuna, and Dr Selina Maluleke, a renowned pastor and motivational speaker.



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HEALTH MEC LAUNCHES MALARIA SPRAYING CAMPAIGN AT ZAVA VILLAGE



The Limpopo MEC for health Dr Phophi Ramathuba has launched the malaria spraying campaign under the theme 'Zero malaria starts with me' at Zava village outside Giyani on Thursday the 5th of September. The Malaria season is between September and March.

The MEC's visit was prompted by the high number of malaria cases reported in the areas of Mopani and Vhembe districts respectively in the past years. She started her programme by visiting the family which was affected by malaria where seven family members were infected.

Ramathuba pleaded with communities to cooperate with the malaria fumigating team when they come to their houses. "In the 2017\18 financial year we experienced over eighteen thousand cases of malaria infections and hundred and sixty malaria caused mortality cases were reported but through our fumigating programme similar to the one we are launching today we managed to reduce the number in 2018\19 financial to just over six thousand infections and thirty-eight mortalities, however that thirty-eight remains a concern to us as government."

"We have identified Zava village because the area is one of the areas prone to the disease, through our interactions with the traditional leader we have agreed to work together particularly on the relationship between fumigation team and community members." she said.

Emma Mashale (86) told the MEC that she and her family members were victims of malaria in the past year. "I would like warn those who refuse malaria control team to spray their houses that the disease is real it attacked me and my six family members, fortunately we got assisted from the clinic and NKhesani hospital but the disease is painful, I urge all community members to cooperate with the team in order to avoid dire consequences." Said Emma Mashale

The MEC reiterated that the department is committed to recording zero malaria case in the affected areas. About 70 new malaria control personnel who have been added to the existing group to beef up the team will be roaming around the Mopani District Municipality area fumigating.

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Mopani conducts *Fire* awareness campaign



Mopani District Municipality's Fire and Rescue Services conducted a fire awareness campaign at Tinghitsi Primary School at Sasekani village in ward 24 of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

The fire awareness campaign is aimed at empowering the communities of Mopani with information of how to be more vigilant during the fire season and reducing the risk and impact of fire.

Sarah Zitha, an educator at the school welcomed the fire awareness campaign, saying "It was beneficial because it has also opened my eyes with regards to career opportunities in firefighting, especially as we offer career guidance to the Grade 7 learners."

It was a day filled with fun for the learners. Khanyisa Mabunda, a Grade 7 learner said "the awareness was informative, and I now know how heavy the fire fighter costume is and the reasons were explained to us. The life of a fire fighter must be protected through this protective clothing so they can save other people's lives."



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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



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



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

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