



MOPANI HOSTS A SUCCESSFUL WARD COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

The Mopani District Municipality held a two-day Ward Committee Conference at 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 16th to the 17th 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 and interact with them on issues of service delivery.

Delivering her opening address, the Executive Mayor Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale 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



Executive Mayor, Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale delivering the opening address to the 2018 Ward Committee Conference at Karibu.

protests derails 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.



Mr Paradise Shilowa, the Director for Water Services in Mopani District Municipality presenting the progress report on the implementation of water projects, including the planned projects for 2018/19 financial year.



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Councillor Wireless Sedibeng, Speaker of Council in Mopani directing the programme of the Ward Committee Conference.



Patrick Thwala, the Acting Director in the Office of the Executive Mayor presenting previous resolutions taken during the 2017 ward committee conference.

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.





MAYOR CALLS ON WOMEN TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER



Dr Selina Maluleke with the Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality at the District Women's Month event held at the Giyani Multi-purpose Centre on Friday

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

Speaking at the District Women's Month celebration at the Giyani Multi-Purpose Centre on Friday, Rakgoale said that part of the reason 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. 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.

Rakgoale 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 addressing the 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.”



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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.”

Maluleke 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.



Women attending the event at the Giyani Multi-Purpose Centre.



Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale delivering the keynote at Women's Month event in Giyani on Friday