



EXECUTIVE MAYOR CONFIDENT  
**OF A BREAKTHROUGH**  
IN LEPHEPHANE WATER PROJECTS

# MOPANI *Bulletin*

## MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Official Quarterly Newsletter ( April - June 2022)



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



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# Editor's Note

**W**e have come to the end of 2021/22 financial year. It has indeed been an eventful year. We have witnessed the transition from the fourth democratic local government to the fifth democratic local government administration.

Council has just approved the budget for the 2022/23 financial year. The Executive Mayor did indicate when delivering his budget speech that for the Municipality to meet its obligation to deliver services to the people of Mopani, sacrifices will have to be made. There has been significant reduction in budget allocated to non-essential services. The Municipality will pay special attention to reducing its debt with Lepelle Northern Water and the Department of Water and Sanitation.

During this quarter, we have successfully launched the District Intergovernmental Forum. The Executive Mayor has also been to Mageva where he handed over a contractor who will be implementing a water reticulation project which should benefit at least 1042 households upon its completion in December 2022.

In this edition, we also report on the MPAC public hearing, the handover of the water project at Mayephu village, and the visit to Lephephane Water Project as part of monitoring led by the Executive Mayor.

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

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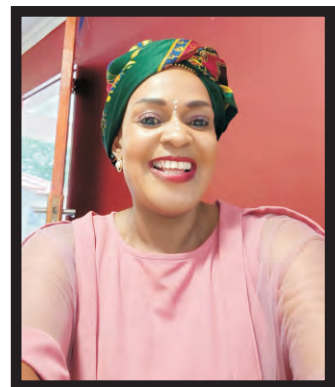
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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S DESK



**Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi**

We have come to the end of the 2021/22 financial year. Council has just approved a budget for the 2022/23 financial year which should enhance our efforts around working with our people to build better communities.

Government has recently repealed the covid-19 regulations, and that should come as a relief to many of people. The pandemic has worsened the socio-economic conditions of our people. The poor and marginalized remain the worst affected by this pandemic.

But even under these difficult conditions, emboldened by the continued support from our people, we remain fully focused on the work ahead of us. It is a commitment we made to our people on Friday, November 26. The end of the 2021/22 financial year also seven months in office for the fifth democratic local government Administration, and this becomes an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in

the context of our programme of building better communities together.

We have put in a lot of effort in reaching out to SMMEs over the past few months to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. We have awarded vouchers to thirty SMMEs - this in the categories of agriculture, tourism, trade and manufacturing. We continue to host the Pop-up Market campaigns.

We are hosting this campaign in partnership with the Small Enterprise Development Agency (seda). It's their concept which we have fully embraced at this level. In the main, through mall activations, the campaign seeks to assist our SMMEs and cooperatives to take their services and products closer to where people are.

The campaign is also key in encouraging our people in the district to purchase locally produced products and services in support of our SMMEs, and contribute to job creation. It's also an important networking platform for our SMMEs and cooperatives who are able to learn best practices from each other.

Together with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), we hosted a business opportunity workshop for SMMEs. At least 60 SMMEs attended and were trained on opportunities in recycling and value chain.

Working with SANDF and the Department of Agriculture, we have launched the Koba-Tlala Campaign here in the district. Through this project, the SANDF will procure agricultural produce from local commercial and small-scale farmers. Central collection points have been established in the five local municipalities where SANDF will collect the agricultural product.

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We have just recently appointed and handed over service provider for the Zava water reticulation project. Through this project, we should be able to do reticulation and connect at least 1041 households. This project should provide sustainable water to our people there, and should be completed by end of December this year.

Just like I said earlier, we have approved at the level of council our first budget as the Fifth Democratic Local Government Administration, and it must speak to the realities while we also strive to meet the expectations of our people.

This generation of councillors has committed to expand on the provisions of basic services to address in particular the backlog on water supply to our communities as well as provision of sanitation. Therefore, we can no longer postpone the implementation of our cost recovery strategy if we are to succeed in meeting our obligation to the people of this district.

Behavioral Economists, particularly proponents of rational choice theory, such as George Homans, Peter Blau and James Coleman, would argue that when presented with various options under conditions of scarcity, like we are now, will choose options that maximize service delivery than opulence.

With a history of unfunded budget, disclaimer audit opinion and ballooning UIFWE, our grants cut and roll overs rejected, debts to Lepelle Northern Water and Department of Water and Sanitation, we have to learn to live within our means, cutting our clothing according to our size without being overambitious, focusing on our core mandate.

So, we should still be able to work with what we have to deliver on all the commitments we have made in 2021. And this will require lot sacrifices from all of us. Let us continue to work together to build better communities.

**Cllr. Pule Shayi**  
**EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

## MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY'S EXECUTIVE MAYOR CONFIDENT OF A BREAKTHROUGH IN LEPHEPHANE WATER PROJECTS



**M**opani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi says he is confident the water reticulation projects in Lephephane will soon deliver water to the community, but also expressed concerns about vandalism and theft.

He led a team of senior councillors on a monitoring visit to ward 33 and ward 34 of Greater Tzaneen Municipality. The team included the District Speaker Cllr Martha Maswanganyi, Whip of Council Cllr Magdeline Lewele, MMC for infrastructure Cllr Masilo Maloko and Cllr Conny Ramothwala who is responsible for infrastructure in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

The Municipality has done water reticulation in Lephephane (Longvalley and Rasebalana), but vandalism of the pump station and the bulk pipeline has delayed delivery of water to the community.



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He also visited the Thabina Regional Water Scheme where the pipeline from Thabina to Lenyenye has been completed. The Municipality has commenced with phase 05, which includes the refurbishment of the bulk line to benefit villages such as Moime, Mmaphala, Nabane, and Maromafase amongst others.

The Executive Mayor said vandalism has delayed progress in Lephaphane, but there has to be solutions for the community to have access to consistent supply of water.

"There are indeed challenges that we observed, particularly in Lephaphane, issues of vandalism and cable theft in our pump station. This has made our community impatient because it impacts on our timeframe to bring water to our people.

"Working with the councillors and the structures at that level, we were able to agree in terms of the kind of plans we should be able to take forward. We need to ensure that early in the financial year we commit resources to close on that space," the Executive Mayor said.

He said he is encouraged by the progress on Thabina Regional Water Scheme. "We appreciated the progress at the Thabina Regional Water Scheme. We are confident that working with the community we should be able to resolve the immediate challenges so our people are able to get water."



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# Mopani District Municipality CELEBRATES

## International Firefighters' Day



The Mopani District Municipality's MMC for Community Services Cllr Dikeledi Mmetle has thanked firefighters for the sacrifices they make in putting their own lives in danger when fighting flames in order to rescue lives and save property.

She was addressing firefighters at the commemoration of international firefighters' day at the Tzaneen Fire Station on Wednesday, 04 May. "But what is also important is that we use this day to appreciate your work because you always put your own lives on the line to fight flames in order to rescue lives and save properties."

The International Firefighters 'Day is celebrated annually on the 4th of May to respect to

firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The event was attended by firefighters from Mopani District Municipality, Working on Fire as well as officials from the Letaba Fire Protection Association.

Mmetle also thanked volunteer firefighters, saying "We want to extend our special gratitude to those that are doing this work on a voluntary basis, which is a clear demonstration of their love for our communities."



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# International Firefighters' Day



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

She said the Municipality will continue to create good working environment for firefighters. "At the level of leadership, we will continue to support your work. We remain committed to the programme of upgrading the centralized communication centre, which in the main should help improve our efficiency in our coordinated approach in response to emergencies. Of course, limitations around budget have derailed our progress.

"We also want to commit that the purchase of personal protective equipment for our firefighting personnel remains a priority as well. We have an obligation to support your work as we continue to strive for improvement around issues of fire safety," said Mmetle.

The day was also characterized by many activities, including a competition which was won by Mr Kekana C from Maruleng fire station.



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# MDM takes draft IDP & Budget to the people



The Mopani District Municipality has been engaging with residents of the district to solicit inputs on the draft integrated development plan and budget adopted by council at the end of last month.

The public participation programme forms part of the IDP projects phase processes ahead of approval by council later this month. Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi says "we have done the other phases, analysis, and strategies. We are now taking the draft IDP and budget to the people, and we want our people to make further inputs on what projects to prioritize or reaffirm what is already contained in the draft."

"It's an important phase, and we want to implore our communities not to undermine this opportunity as we move across the district to interact with them. It's important that as we move to approve the final plan and budget, it speaks directly to the aspirations and needs of our people," he said.



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# EXECUTIVE MAYOR INTRODUCES A CONTRACTOR FOR WATER RETICULATION IN ZAVA

**M**opani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi has on Friday introduced the service provider who will begin with work of water reticulation in the village of Zava, Ward 28 of Greater Giyani Municipality.

Speaking during the stakeholder engagement session at the Zava community hall, the Executive Mayor said part of the scope of work from the R5,4 million project include reticulation, and also upgrading from the communal taps to yard connections, benefiting at least 1042 households.

The Executive Mayor appealed to community stakeholders to support the project to ensure its completion within the set timeframe of 6 months. "Let's give maximum support to this contractor to ensure that we complete the project before end of December."

The contract value is less than R30 million which means the contractor is not compelled to sub-contract 30% of the work, but the Executive Mayor said opportunities may still be available for small businesses to benefit from this project. "There may be opportunities for local businesspeople to supply material, do work around trench excavation and construction of valve boxes. Details around this will be communicated when the contractor meets with the community next week."



Michael Ngobeni representing the school governing bodies in the area said the project will bring relief not only to parents, but also to learners who had the burden of travelling long distance to fetch water. "With water at home, our learners will have time to focus on their school work. So, we are happy and grateful as the school governing for this project," he said.

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# Tshepo Mogano appointed as Municipal Manager



Council has approved the appointment of Tshepo Mogano as the Municipal Manager with effect from 01 June 2022.

Mogano previously worked as the chief financial officer having joined the Municipality in November 2020. He has been in local government for over nine years, majority of his time spent in the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality where he held various posts, including that of the chief financial officer from February 2017 until October 2020.

He holds a master's degree in business administration from the Stellenbosch Business School, a BCom degree in auditing, accounting, taxation, cost and management from University of Limpopo, a post-graduate diploma in financial accounting, and several post-matric qualifications.

Council has also appointed Paradise Shilowa who returns as the Senior Manager Water Services, while Morongwe Adelaide Monyepao comes in as the Senior Manager for Planning and Economic Development.

The Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi has wished Mogano and the two senior managers well in their new responsibility. "On behalf of the people of Mopani, we wish to congratulate all these appointed Senior Managers and believe that their contributions will enhance good governance and service delivery.

"Council was emphatic that appointees must hit the ground running, especially now that we are facing audit cycle, recruitment process start on CFO," he said.



SONIA NGOBENI

PARADISE SHILOWA

MORONGWE MONYEPAO

MOKGONYANA PHUTI

KHUTSO MOHLAMME

MANTSANA SEKGOKA

JOHANNES LETHOLE

VALOI HENDRICK

TUMELO MAFOGO

SNR MANAGER : CORP SERVICES SNR MANAGER : WATER & SANITATION SNR MANAGER : PLANNING DEPUTY MANAGER : SCM DEPUTY MANAGER : ASSET DEPUTY MANAGER : IDP MANAGER : LEGAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY : AUDITOR INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER

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# Council approves a **R2,2 billion budget** for 2022/23 financial year.

A special sitting of Mopani District Council held on Tuesday, 31 May has approved a R2,2 billion budget for the 2022/23 financial year, with the Executive Mayor saying "big sacrifices" will be made to deliver services to the people "choosing options that maximize service delivery than opulence."

He said the Municipality has been approving an unfunded budget for years, and it had to come to an end. "With a history of unfunded budget, disclaimer audit opinion and ballooning UIFWE, our grants cut and roll overs rejected, debts to Lepelle Northern Water and Department of Water and Sanitation, we have to learn to live within our means, cutting our clothing according to our size without being overambitious, focusing on our core mandate. We are a rational institution and our decisions should as well be rational, yet decisive."

The Executive Mayor said that the Municipality is budgeting R240 million to service the historic debts with both Lepelle Northern Water and the Department of Water and Sanitation.

He said the Municipality will have to adhere to the cost containment strategy adopted by council, and look for partnerships to implement campaigns around social transformation.

From the total budget of R2,2 billion, an amount of R1,4 billion (R 1 403 073 508) which constitute 64% of the total budget is allocated for the operating budget. The budget for employee related costs such as salaries and wages is at R460 million.

And the breakdown from transfers and subsidies is as follows:

- R1,1 billion (R1 170 419 000)  
Equitable Shares
- R523 Million (R523 460 000)  
Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)
- R50 Million (R50 000 000)  
Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG)
- R10,6 Million (R10 600 000)  
EPWP
- R3 Million (R3 000 000)  
Financial Management Grant
- R2,3 Million (R2 361 000)  
Rural Roads Asset Management Grant



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Municipality

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# MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY WELCOMES PARTNERSHIP WITH SANTAM

**M**opani District Municipality has entered into partnership with Santam which will see the insurance company supporting the Municipality in its efforts around disaster risk-reduction, this over a period of three years.

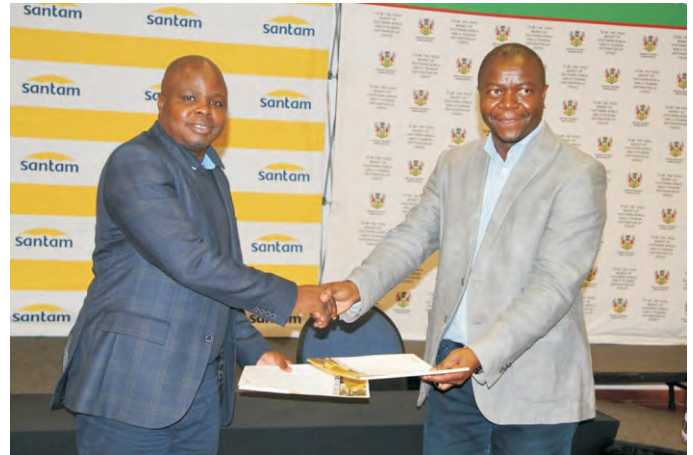
Santam has already donated skid units and knap sack sprayers which are very useful in fighting veld fires. The Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi has previously made the call for the private sector to join the Municipality in its disaster risk-reduction programme.

Speaking at the official launch of the "Disaster Resilience Partnership," he said the partnership comes at the right time when the Municipality has little resources to invest in disaster management. He made the clarion call last year "We have seen the equipment donated by Santam which should help our Disaster Management Team in mitigating the risks, but also enhance our ability to respond efficiently to disaster in the district.

"Therefore, this partnership is beneficial not only to us as a Municipality or our communities alone, but also to Santam. Through this partnership we will be able to save lives and property, which should ultimately also benefit Santam because its insurance claims around this district will be reduced, significantly," he said.

He also said poor communities are the ones mostly affected by disasters and its mainly because of lack of information and unplanned human settlements where people build houses on flood lines. "Through this partnership, we will be able to sustain our awareness campaigns in our vulnerable communities. But most importantly, we will also have an opportunity for a dialogue with our traditional leaders

Dr Moses Khangale, the Manager for Stakeholder Programmes at Santam said that other programmes will be rolled out to assist the district around disaster preparedness. "As the partnership evolves, we will look at other priority needs so that we are able to enhance your capacity to reduce loss of life and essentially build a stronger, disaster resilient district."



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# EXECUTIVE MAYOR SAYS WARD COMMITTEES SHOULD PLAY PROMINENT ROLE IN ENCOURAGING COMMUNITIES TO PAY FOR SERVICES

Mopani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi says ward committees have a role to play in helping end Eskom's load reduction in communities by leading campaigns for communities to start paying for services.

Addressing delegates at the launch of the district ward committee forum in Tivumbeni on Friday, Shayi said electricity demand has increased over the last years and Eskom is struggling to keep up with the load as many communities are not paying for the services.

"And we all are aware of the reasons why Eskom is implementing such drastic measures. Our people are simply not paying for services. Eskom is running at a loss, and unable to maintain its infrastructure," he said.

He said load reduction also affects production in most of the District's water treatment plants, including at the Ritavi Water Treatment Works which supplies water to communities around Nkowankowa in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

"We should be able to properly locate the role of the ward committee in this environment. Therefore, I would submit that ward committees must play a prominent role in leading campaigns that will encourage our communities to pay for services," said Shayi.

The Executive Mayor said that communities need to know that not paying for municipal services does affect the functioning of municipalities as well, and it impacts directly on the capacity to deliver services efficiently.

"Our inability to deliver services to our people will give rise to populist organizations that want to usurp power from democratically elected government.

But as well, ward committees should proceed to play a role in assisting us to gather accurate data on people who can't afford to pay for services, so that our municipalities can have credible indigent registers and ensure that our people are adequately subsidised for basic services," he said.



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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

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Mopani District  
Limpopo Province, South Africa

Private Bag X 9687, Giyani, 0826

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[www.mopani.gov.za](http://www.mopani.gov.za)

#### Vision

"To be the leading municipality in the delivery of quality services for the promotion of socio-economic development"

#### Mission

To ensure an effective, efficient and economically viable municipality through:

- Promotion of accountable, transparent and consultative and co-operative governance;
- Promotion of local economic development and poverty alleviation;
- Strengthening cooperative governance;
- Provision of sustainable and affordable services and
- Ensuring a compliant, safe and healthy environment.
- To improve the delivery of quality services through the use of smart technology

Slogan  
"Maatla go Setšhaba"

### 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)



#### 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

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+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

Main Road BA 59, Civic Centre  
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