

## Hanyani-Thomo High School dominates the inaugural Disaster Risk Reduction School Competition



Learners from Hanyani-Thomo High School dominated the inaugural Disaster Risk Reduction School Competition hosted by Mopani District Municipality at the Nkowankowa community hall on Tuesday, 25 May.

The Hanyani-Thomo High School debate team was so dominant on the day, with four of the learners making it to the final top five. Talent Mkhabela amassed the most points at 86,5, followed by Ripfumelo Mhlanga and Tumisho Bopape with 81,5 points, Kanyisa Mathe from Makala High School was in position four with 79,5 points and Jabulani Ntimani from Hanyani-Thomo was in position five with 70,5 points. They walked home with prizes such as tablets, t-shirts, schoolbags, sanitizers and masks.

The debate was on the topic: Combating Covid-19 through community resilience. The best schools from the five local municipalities in the district received R6000 prize money to be used for projects aimed at fighting covid-19.

Addressing delegates at the event, Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi said that overcoming the pandemic remains a key priority of government for the year and urged the learners to be ambassadors in their communities. "These lessons that you have learned through this campaign should be utilized to empower your communities around disaster management. Let's have these presentations done in our churches and other community gatherings."

# inside Mopani



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He said that rural communities are the ones mostly affected by disasters, adding that the Municipality is working with key stakeholders to ensure coordinated human settlement. “Through our good relations with traditional leaders and in the context of the new district development model, we will be working together to manage issues of human settlement in the district. We are aware of the dangers of people building in the flood lines. And it is only when we have a well-coordinated programme to allocate residential land to our people that we will be to avoid this.



“It is for this reason, why we want to elevate our programme of township establishment, and we have plans in place to support our local municipalities. We have finalized the appointment of the Municipal Planning



Tribunal whose work in the main is around making assessments on land use and development applications within the district. And, like we said the institution of traditional leadership is also integral as we process this matter.”



The Executive Mayor said that the Municipality will spend R1,9 million in the 2021/22 financial year to upgrade the Disaster Management's centralized communication centre, saying “this is key in improving the emergency communication with communities across the district.”

He has also called on the private sector to partner with the Municipality in support of the Competition. “Working together we are able to build better communities. And most importantly is that working together we can save lives.”

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