



Mopani District
Municipality

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MOPANI

EXECUTIVE MAYOR CALLS FOR SUSTAINED FOCUS ON WATER SUPPLY PROVISION AS HE OPENS THE STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION



The Mopani District Municipality's three-day strategic planning session got underway on Wednesday, 17 February with the Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi using his opening address to call for a sustained focus on the plans to expand water provision to communities in the district.



The Executive Mayor also announced that Hi N'wa Mati Friday Campaign which was disrupted by the floods is set to resume next week. Through fixing and maintenance of boreholes, the campaign has been key in providing water to communities in the district – with over 300 boreholes fixed by end of December last year.

“Through Hi Nwa Mati Friday and Operation Fix All, we have reached out to many communities and reignited hope to our people. These are important gains, but we must as well concede that notable gaps remain. We still have communities that still experience water supply disruptions, the challenge of ageing infrastructure, increasing demand, and water theft.



“We started in August. In four months, we had refurbished around 340 boreholes, and our people have been getting water. We went to where they stayed. We said we will not be in the community meetings. We must go to the street, where the people are, and we must speak to them there. The lessons that we have learned, if we are smart as professionals, we can use those lessons to sustain the provision of water to our people,” he said.



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He said the Municipality will also intensify efforts on infrastructure maintenance, saying ageing infrastructure was a challenge which contributed to water losses. “It must be ourselves here that discuss water security and properly locate our role as different stakeholders. There are immediate actions that we should be able to implement, including leak detection and repair programs. But as well, we must be firm against issues of illegal connections and water mafias.”

The Executive Mayor said 2026 will be a very challenging year, saying that the session becomes important in helping to assess the progress made in the implementation of the service delivery and budget implementation plan (SDBIP), and the broader commitments made in 2021, anchored around the programme of building better communities together with our people.

The Executive Mayor said the session must align its plans to the three priorities as identified by the Government of National Unity, which include to drive inclusive growth and job creation, reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living, as well as building a capable, ethical and developmental state.

Education MEC, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya and MEC Jerry Maseko also attended the strategic planning session in their capacity as political champions for the district development model. Senior traditional leaders, delegates from sector departments, state-owned agencies, chapter 9 institutions, and the business community were some of the delegates to the strategic planning session.

