

MOPANI Succession MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Official Quarterly Newsletter (October - December 2020)

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Editor's Note

We have come to the end of a very difficult year. And indeed we are still grateful for the opportunity to be writing to the people of Mopani through this platform. It remains an important platform in keeping the people of Mopani informed about programmes implemented by the Municipality.

The lockdown has of course presented a daunting challenge. We have however adapted to the new normal. We have been able to optimally utilize other available communication platforms to consistently communicate activities of government at this level. Many people are now following our activities on our Facebook Page.

We write to you on the backdrop of an eventful quarter in which we have seen the Executive Mayor lead a successful Men's March against gender-based violence and femicide. The men's march received overwhelming support from many men in our district. We have also witnessed the handover of three fully furnished houses to indigent families in N'wadzekudzeku – a life changing event.

We still 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 of our people.



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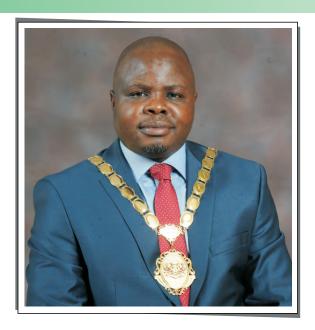


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EXECUTIVE MAYOR 'S FOREWORD



Executive Mayor CIIr Pule Shayi

We have come to the end of a very challenging year. The coronavirus pandemic has had devastating impact on our lives.

Indeed, as the curtain comes down on 2020, this may be an opportune moment for reflection. We do know that Covid-19 has affected our everyday life, and left many of our people without work. Many have lost hope and their self-worth. But together we have endured.

Through the District Command Council, at this level of government we have been able to coordinate the efforts of all key stakeholders in response to this onslaught. We thank the individuals and organizations who through their acts of generosity have consistently made donations to the Food Bank, which provides relief to the less privileged.

Even under these difficult conditions, we have rejoiced with our communities who benefited from the short-term water projects implemented through the MIG reprioritized funds. But, we have also registered steady progress on our long-term bulk water projects.

We rejoiced with the three indigent families at N'wadzekudzeku who recently received fully furnished houses, thanks to the generosity of the businesspeople who continue to contribute in improving the livelihood of our people.

Our biggest concern is the increase in the number of gender-based violence cases, but at the same time we are also encouraged by the resolve shown by many men who stood together and spoke loudly against this scourge. Together we have marched to register our commitment in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide. We have said we will not look away when women and children are abused and killed in our communities.

Many will be taking to our roads travelling to various holiday destinations, we implore all roads users to act responsibly. We do know that 50% of road fatalities are caused by drinking and driving. So, we plead with all motorists to avoid drinking and driving.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ presents no an opportunity for all of us to recharge as we spend time with family and friends. Our only plea is that we celebrate responsibly, more so as the coronavirus is still with us. We all need to make our smallest contributions to the urgent task before us, which is that of containing the rise in Covid-19 infections. And we can do so by avoiding large gatherings as they have proved to be super-spreaders.

On behalf of the leadership collective, we wish all people of our district a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Together, we will face 2021 with renewed strength as we continue to advance people's power in every community. Let us stay safe.

Cllr Pule Shayi Executive Mayor

Minister Sisulu launches

Sand Water Extraction Project

in Sekhimini village

uman Settlement, Water and Sanitation Minister Lindiwe Sisulu has launched the pilot Sand Water Extraction Project which will benefit the communities of Sekhimini and Ga-Kuranta.

Sisulu who was joined by MEC Basikopo Makamu said that South Africans must embrace innovations to find solutions to the water challenges facing the country. "In a country as dry as ours, innovation is absolutely essential. There is another company here in Limpopo experimenting with extracting water from the atmosphere. So, we can't be resistant to new ideas."

The project was implemented in the Molototsi river by Lepelle Northern Water, with the Minister saying "I am grateful for all the cooperation Lepelle Northern Water received from the two spheres of government here in Limpopo.

"This is a solution for rural areas struggling with water. We are looking for any solution that can be found to service the needs of our people. Without water there is no life," she said.

Sisulu condemned people who disrupt infrastructure projects because of 30% sub-contracting. "Most of our people who do not have a job find it easy to stop a project when it starts. We have to find a way of fighting this.



We must find a way of educating our people and say – anything that benefits mankind finally benefits everyone."

She praised the interim board chairperson of Lepelle Northern Water, Joe Mathebula saying he has brought changes to the changes. "Water is part of his life. He was in Robben Island and water was part of his life. We thank you for bringing water to this community. We had a great deal of problems before he came."

MMC Maditshego Sefufi said the launch of the project happens at a time when the district is experiencing drought. "The level of water in all our major dams are very low. Middle-Letaba which is one of the major dams in the district is at 0,7 percent. Tzaneen Dam is at just over 8%. So, underground water becomes an alternative.

"As the water service authority, we want to commit to work with all key role players at the level of local municipalities to ensure sustainability of this project. We are also going to need the support of community structures in ensuring that the infrastructure is protected against vandalism," she said.

Executive Mayor calls for civil society involvement as he leads Men's March on GBVF



The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Cllr Pule Shayi has appealed to civil society organizations to partner with government in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide.

He told hundreds of men who had joined the men's march against gender-based violence in Giyani on Friday, 20 November that government alone will not be able to win the fight. Mopani District has recorded over 200 sexual offence cases between July and September this year as per the statistics released by the Police Minister a fortnight ago. More than 150 of these cases are rape.

"This remains a societal problem. We commend the efforts by the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa for making financial resources available to address gender-based violence and femicide.

"Government has established the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Gender-Based Violence to coordinate the response to GBVF. This team has already handed over the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide to President Cyril Ramaphosa, in April this year," he said.

The Executive Mayor said that government has moved to amend three bills which will aid the justice system in responding to GBV. "The **Criminal and Related Matters Bill** seeks to introduce stricter bail conditions and sentencing provisions. The **Domestic Violence Amendment Bill which** will address gaps and anomalies which needed to be closed since the Domestic Violence Act came into effect in 1999.

"The **Criminal Law Amendment Bill** will extend protection afforded to victims of GBV and introduce a new offence of sexual intimidation and extend protection for victims of incest. The finalisation of the **Victim Support Services Bill which** will regulate the provision of sheltering, the prevention and combating of hate crimes bill," he said.

He said he was encouraged by the support from the religious community. "We are happy we have respected church leaders joining us today on this march. We say this because the church has a much bigger role to play in building a society where morality takes prevalence."

Shayi also urged men to report when they are abused. "We are using this march here today to recommit ourselves to treat women and girls in our society with the utmost care and respect.

"We will not look away and remain silent when women and children are abused, raped and killed in our communities. As fathers in our homes, we will raise our boys to respect women, to respect themselves, to value life and human dignity. We also want to implore those of us (men) who are abused at home to gather courage and start reporting cases to law enforcement authorities. Taking your own life is never a solution."

Mopani District Municipality convenes Youth Economic Indaba

xecutive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi has implored young people to take advantage of the economic opportunities created by government and the private sector.

He said that that only young people with skills will be able to adapt to the demands of the fourth industrial revolution, saying "we are partnering with key stakeholders from public and private sector to offer skills training for young people.

"We convened this session so that we begin to grapple with the opportunities that exist in government, but also in the private sector so that you can make the most of them and become what you want to become."

The Executive Mayor said this as he addressed young people at the inaugural District Youth Economic Indaba held at Mamaila village on Wednesday, November 25. He said that young people must take a lead in proposing solutions to the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The Indaba was convened under the theme: "Exposing young people to economic opportunities, bridging the gap on economic imbalances." The Executive Mayor said the Indaba creates "a platform for networking, information-sharing and also exploring ways to unleash the economic growth potential of our district in order to create the much-needed jobs for our youth."

"To us, this an opportunity to further pledge our support and commitment to the youth development agenda. But in the main, the Indaba is about you coming out to debate and formulate solid proposals to respond to the challenges confronting young people in our district," he said.

He also said that the Municipality will continue to look for partnerships that will help create opportunities for young people. "On partnership, as a District Municipality we have entered into formal agreements with strategic partners in the economic development space. We have a memorandum of understanding with the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda).

"We also have entered into a formal partnership with the Youth Entrepreneurship Project (YEP), this as we continue to ensure coherence in the coordination of youth empowerment in the district. Through, the LED unit and the office of the Youth Coordinator, we will continue to explore more partnership opportunities," said the Executive Mayor.











Mopani gears up for Agricultural Indaba

Mopani District Municipality will be hosting an Agricultural Indaba and a Food Festival in March next year, the Executive Mayor has made this announcement as he addressed stakeholders during a breakfast engagement held on Tuesday, November 24.

The Indaba will be held under the theme: "growing local economy, building trade markets and embracing local produced products."

The Executive Mayor said the Indaba will assist in exposing the investment opportunities in the district. "The District Farmers Indaba that we are hosting next year will be about showcasing our growth potential as a district, including investment opportunities.

"It will also be about networking and information sharing between ourselves as government, businesses and farmers - both established and emerging. So, we use this opportunity to invite the private sector in this new exciting journey of rebuilding the economy of our district."

He said that agriculture is the only sector that has not shed too many jobs. "It has experienced an annual average growth of 2,89 percent despite covid-19. All other economic sectors experienced serious decline. In this district, we are more depended on mining and agriculture as the two most apex economic drivers of our district."

The Executive Mayor said the business community must have debate on how best they may benefit from the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. "The SEZ provides a window of opportunity for our local businesses to tap into that economic space, an opportunity we must relentlessly pursue. The SEZ is not only for those two municipalities in the Vhembe district, it's a programme that should benefit the entire province. And I wish to implore delegates to this breakfast session to have a discussion around this matter and propose the best ways in which we may exploit that space."

The Executive Mayor also thanked the agricultural community for having made donations during the Covid-19 lockdown. "At the level of the food bank, we received food parcels which our people were able to benefit across the district. We remain indebted and we believe from the food security point of view, we have an obligation to partner and collaborate with the farming community so that communities that are depended on the work we do may continue to benefit."









Three indigent families get fully furnished houses



Rejoice Mbedzi, a mother of two from Nwadzekudzeku village was lost for words when MEC Basikopo Makamu and Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi arrived to officially handover a fully furnished house to her family.

Mbedzi has been staying in a one-roomed mud house with her husband and two daughters. "I didn't think this will ever happen to me, even when they started with the foundation I still did



MEC Basikopo Makamu who also handed fully furnished houses to two other indigent families said the handover was consistent with the goals of the freedom charter, which says "there shall be houses for all."

The families were identified by the ward councillors who notified the Executive Mayor about the plight. The Executive Mayor then visited the families as part of his birthday outreach programme in June where he pledged to build them houses.

"We want to thank the businesspeople who are not only driven by profit, but the love for our people. They are prepared to share what they get from this government with the less privileged. There is a backlog from the housing priority list, so together with these generous businesspeople this becomes our contribution in giving decent shelter to our people," said the Executive Mayor.





I'm overjoyed. I'm grateful for this huge gift from our government.

Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams introduces vocational training initiatives for the youth



he Department of Communications and Digital Technologies is mandated to lead the fourth industrial revolution in South Africa, and will invest in skills that will help South Africans not to be out of jobs, but to be responsive to the markets needs and skilled in the digital economy.

Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams made the announcement during her visit to N'wamitwa where she handed over 20 laptops with broadband connectivity to Xitsavi Youth Centre on Thursday, 15 October. She said the department through NEMISA has a programme to train 15 000 young people on film and TV production in digital storytelling, website development and smartphone repair. The Minister said SITA will refurbish the post office at N'wamitwa.

She further announced that Giyani: Land of Blood will be back on the screens soon, saying "it is my hope that we will continue to see the stories and the culture of vatsonga showcased on our television screens. This has to go beyond SABC."

The Minister was accompanied by MEC Basikopo Makamu, MEC Thabo Mokone, Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi, the Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality Cllr Maripe Mangena, and senior officials from eleven of the state entities reporting to the ministry of communications and digital technologies. She also handed over certificates to young people who have been trained on smartphone repair and announced that more young people will be trained.







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Executive Mayor urge tourism establishments to build partnerships

Partnerships and collaborations will assist the tourism industry to survive beyond Covid-19 – this according to the Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi.

The Executive Mayor visited the Modjajdi Nature Reserve before proceeding to Royal Khalanga Lodge as part of his programme of monitoring the impact of Covid-19 on tourism establishments.

He said that forging partnerships on capacity building programmes should be prioritized. "We need to forge partnerships that will ensure that these tourism establishments are sustained and we are able to preserve our heritage as a district."

He said that Mopani District Municipality is strategically located to mobilize resources in support of tourism in the district. "It is however important for the tourism establishments to be properly registered and also to register employees with the UIF in order to benefit from government support packages," said the Executive Mayor.

Her Royal Highness Hosi N'wamitwa said that Royal Khalanga Lodge has the potential to create work opportunities for many young people, saying "the youth is our future."

She applauded the support the royal council continues to receive to receive from Mopani District Municipality, and expressed confidence that the new district development model will fast-track service delivery. Royal Khalanga Lodge was built through the funding from the Department of Tourism.









District Taxi Lekgotla as the country celebrate Transport Month

Department of Transport & Community Safety hosted a district Taxi Lekgotla in Mopani on Friday, 16 October - a platform for leaders of taxi associations to engage with government on ways to make the taxi industry to be economically viable and accessible to all communities.

The district lekgotla was held in preparation to the provincial lekgotla. MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya said one of the key topics for the Lekgotla was around the professionalization of the taxi industry and improving customer care. "Minibus taxis remain the backbone of public transport and the service of choice in most rural areas, townships and semi-urban areas."

She said that violence hurts the reputation of the industry and appealed to leaders of taxi associations to always find amicable ways to resolve their differences. The Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi, Transport MMC Japisa Mathonsi, the Mayor of Greater Giyani Municipality Cllr Basani Shivambu also attended the Lekgotla, which is held on the backdrop of Transport Month under the theme: "Together shaping the future of transport."









Deputy Minister Mathale says DDM will help improve service delivery to the people







Deputy Police Minister Cassel Mathale says the new district development model will be implemented as per the commitment made by President Cyril Ramaphosa. He said this during the department's Rural Safety Imbizo held in Giyani on Saturday, 28 November where he was accompanied by Deputy Minister Dikeledi Magadzi of Transport, Deputy Minister Boitumelo Moloi of Employment and Labour, and Deputy Minister Sdumo Dlamini of Agriculture, land reform and rural development.

Mathale said that police needed support from other stakeholders in the fight against crime in line with the pillars of the new district development model, which talks of one plan, one budget, one government.

He said that the model will ensure that the socioeconomic challenges that often lead to crime are speedily resolved. Also in attendance was MMC Mikateko Shimange-Fazi as well as the mayor of Greater Giyani Municipality Cllr Basani Shibambu. #Khawuleza

Mopani to strengthen relations with private sector







The Mopani District Municipality will build from the firm foundation laid at the strategic planning session in getting the private sector to partner with government in an effort to enhance service delivery and grow the economy, the Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi said.

Delivering the closing remarks on day 3 of the strategic planning session held from November 30, the Executive Mayor said "moving from here, we are going to embrace every action that brings us closer to each other, especially as we proceed towards the launch of the new district development model."

"It would have unfair for us to expect our stakeholders to come out here and make pronouncements around projects for collaboration and partnership. What is most pleasing to us is that this is going be partnership and collaboration that will go beyond the profit motive. It's a partnership that is about growth. A partnership on skills development programmes and also linkage to supply chain management programmes."

The Executive Mayor said that the municipality will have to find innovative solutions to the challenges of water facing the district. "We take seriously the submissions made around exploring sand water extraction. We will be able to learn from the Pilot project at Sekhimini and Ga-Kuranta. We will also follow with interest the work of the catchment management forum here in the district, but also in the province.

He also used the opportunity to implore leaders and businesses to reach out to less privileged during the festive season. "Our private sector has been reaching out to our communities during the lockdown, and we want to appreciate that act of humanity. PMC reported yesterday that they have donations of food parcels worth around R600 thousands.

"We want to implore not only the private sector, but all of us as leaders in our communities to reach out in our individual capacity to those less privileged. Let us all adopt a family in our neighbourhood and inspire hope in their lives."

Deidre Carter, the CEO of Agri-Limpopo said that communities must assist in exposing farmers who may be abstracting more water than their allocated quota from the dams around the district. "Let's name and shame. Help us to identify who are these farmers who are accused of stealing water in order for us to take it further."

Executive Mayor visits Harvest Time Church as mobilizes against GBV



The church has a big role to play in creating conditions that give hope to the people. The Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi said this as he addressed congregants at the Harvest Time Church in Giyani on Sunday, 29 November.

He said that people were faced with many challenges and losing hope in every institution, including the church. "We are trying to do our best as councillors, and as leaders in our communities, but the challenges are so many.

We are submitting ourselves today to be recharged and brought back on the path of righteousness. So that we are able to contribute in making the lives of our people better."

The leader of the church, Apostle VV Hlongwana delivered a sermon, titled: "A father to the fatherless." The visit to the church happenned at the time when the country was on the last day of the

five days national mourning in remembrance of people who died of Covid-19 and victims of gender-based violence and femicide.

The Executive Mayor said he was "inspired" by the level of compliance with the Covid-19 safety and health protocols. He was accompanied by the mayor of Greater Giyani Municipality Cllr Basani Shibambu and MMC for Transport Cllr Japisa Mathonsi.



Executive Mayor congratulates Hosi N'wamitwa on her honorary doctorate

e wish to extend our congratulatory message to Her Royal Highness Hosi N'wamitwa for her honorary doctorate. It's a unique achievement, and we believe it should be celebrated by everyone within the district and beyond. Many generations to come will draw inspiration from her courage and commitment as a champion for gender equality in South Africa, especially because of that landmark constitutional court decision in 2008 around customary law.

But, we also continue to learn from her wisdom as the chairperson of the Local House of Traditional Leaders in Mopani. She is playing a leading lobbying for development in the district. It's a befitting honour for someone so selfless and dedicated to changing the lives of our people.

lives of our people.



MMC Shimange-Fazi encourages employees to make use of wellness programmes

ommunity Services MMC Councillor Shimange-Fazi has appealed to employees to make use of employee wellness programmes in the workplace, saying "research has shown that employees who take advantage of wellness programmes are more productive."

Speaking during the "Cheka Impilo" event held on Friday, 18 December, Shimange-Fazi said that the biggest problem may not be HIV and TB, but lifestyle diseases such as obesity, diabetes and cholesterol.

"And all of these lifestyle diseases can be prevented if we lead a healthy active lifestyle. Many of us including our children are obese, and it is obesity and lack of physical activity that contribute to the rise of diabetes and hypertension.

"This event today is about encouraging our people to screen for non-communicable diseases. We are making an appeal to all us as leaders, but in particular our officials to engage in daily physical exercise. But also embrace the employee wellness programs in our workplace," she said.

Shimange-Fazi said that she was worried that despite all the government's efforts to ensure that all our people live long and a healthy life, people still perish. "Our people continue to have multiple sexual partners, but worse is that older men continue to target young girls at high schools and sleep with them without protection.

"Recent statistics paint a picture that says that almost four out of every ten new HIV infections in South Africa occur among females between the ages of 15 and 24. And indeed if we were to dig deeper we would find that these infections are caused by older men," she said.

She also appealed to employees to contribute in the fight against the spread of covid-19 during the festive season, saying "we all need to make our smallest contributions to the urgent task before us, which is that of containing the rise in Covid-19 infections. And we can do so by avoiding large gatherings as they have proved to be superspreaders."







MDM hosts capacity building workshop for Disability Development Forum

The Mopani District Municipality hosted a twoday capacity building workshop for the Disability Development Forum from 08 to 09 December 2020 at Ivory Tusk Lodge in Tzaneen.

It took place just five days after the celebration of the international day of persons with disability. The theme for the workshop was "Together Building an Empowered South Africa Inclusive of Disability Rights. #DisabilityInclusiveSA"

The workshop was attended by 60 persons with various forms of disabilities including persons with albinism, deaf and blind people and they were representing the disability development forum committees of five local municipalities as well as representatives of sector departments.

Speaking on behalf of the Executive Mayor, Cllr Mikateko Shimange-Fazi who is the MMC for community services said "the main objective of the workshop is to capacitate the leadership of the forum to be able to increase their advocacy role, improve service coordination collaboration coordination as well as discussing the plan to start with the establishment of ward disability committees in order to strengthen the voice of persons with disabilities at ward level."

The workshop also focused on providing capacity to persons with disabilities on issues affecting their lives as it started with presentations on "disability and COVID-19" as well as disability and gender-based violence to ensure persons with disabilities are able to stay in a healthy and safe environment in an integrated mainstream society.

One of the key resolutions taken is to prepare for the greater representation of persons with disabilities in key structures such as ward committees and other municipal structures in 2021, but also to prepare for the hosting of a Disability Indaba.







In pictures: Public consultation meetings on by-laws

Mopani District Municipality's Council held a series of public consultations on the draft water services and fire services by-laws which were adopted by council earlier this year. The Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi led the first round of consultations with senior traditional leaders during the month of October before public consultations were held across the District in November.











DISINFECTION of MODJADJISKLOOF TAXI RANK













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Three indigent families get fully furnished houses **Eefore** *After**















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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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 promo

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

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> 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

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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

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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

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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

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