



# MOPANI *Bulletin*

## MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Official Quarterly Newsletter ( July - September 2021)



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

## Editor's Note

This newsletter remains one of our key platforms to keep the people of Mopani informed about programmes implemented by the Municipality.

We write to you on the backdrop of yet another eventful quarter in which the Executive Mayor delivered the State of the District Address that detailed the work of the fourth democratic local government in advancing people's power over the last five years. This edition carries a summary of that speech

We have also hosted the Minister of Water and Sanitation who came for an assessment on the work of providing water to the communities around the district. But his special focus was on the Giyani Water Project, and he has vowed that the water project will be fast-tracked and those involved in malfeasance that contributed to the delay will also be held accountable as the SIU concludes its investigation on the project.

The Executive Mayor used the opportunity to engage with the Minister on other challenges, including the issue of water rights impacting on the supply of water to our communities of Maruleng, Greater Tzaneen and Greater Letaba. He further used the opportunity to lobby for more funding on the Mametja-Sekororo Regional Bulk Water Project, which aims to provide water to over 25 villages once completed.

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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## EXECUTIVE MAYOR 'S FOREWORD



**Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi**

**W**e have come to the end of the term of council for the 4<sup>th</sup> democratic local government. It was the journey we traversed together with our people, emboldened by their overwhelming support and mandate, and we set forth and committed to work in advancing people's power in every community.

And indeed, we have worked together with our people to consolidate on the gains recorded over the last 20 years of our democratic local government. We have made huge advances in delivering sustainable basic services in our communities across the district.

Our people in Selwane have consistent supply of water. Our people in Finale and The Oaks have consistent supply of water. Our people in Sekhimini and Nkuri-Tomu have consistent supply of water. These are some of the many communities we have reached out to in the past five years. We have detailed these achievements in the State of the District Address delivered last month.

However, we should be the first to concede that challenges still remain and it is only the sustained commitment from our people to remain involved in developmental initiatives that gives us hope that we can turn the tide against deplorable conditions facing our people.

Together with our communities, we look forward to the completion of the Giyani Bulk Water Project. We met with the minister recently, and he has committed to see through the completion of this project, but also ensure that those involved in malfeasance are held accountable.

We celebrate all the achievements with our communities, but we are also aware of the task that is ahead of us, which will need all of us to once again unite and as we continue to advance people's power in every community. We also must thank the colleagues in the opposing benches for their contributions in the past five years.

This generation of councillors faced many challenges, and the biggest been the covid-19 pandemic. It has claimed 670 lives in our district thus far. We have all lost people closest to us or know of someone who has died of covid-19. It has not made the work of this council easy. It has worsened the socio-economic situation of our people.

The biggest priority for this government and for all of us is to overcome the pandemic. The efforts to rebuild the economy of the country is largely tied to our fight to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. It is for this reason that we call on our people to get vaccinated, but also continue observing the health protocols.

We call on our people to continue to be actively involved in the developmental initiatives in our communities, because local government is indeed everybody's business. Let's make it work

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## Executive Mayor calls for more vigilance as Covid-19 third wave hits



**E**xecutive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi has urged members of the public to remain vigilant in the midst of Covid-19 third wave. He said this as he led the District Command Council on Friday, 09 July, during a campaign to sanitize long-distance minibus taxis operating from the Tzaneen mall taxi rank to various destinations outside the district.

The Executive Mayor also distributed masks and sanitizers to taxi operators. He was joined by the leadership of SANTACO. "We are here today as the District Command Council to support one of our key stakeholders, the taxi industry as we continue the fight against the covid-19 pandemic. We know that our support to the industry is also directed to all our people who are reliant on this sector for transportation.

"We have agreed at the level of the District Command Council to support this sector because the lives of our poor people who are using taxis every day is in your hands as taxi operators. This partnership is very important. You must know that every mile that you drive, you are not alone. We are here as government to support you," he said.

He has also appealed to taxi operators above the age of 50 years to register for vaccination. "We are in the third wave of this covid-19 pandemic. The delta variant is now in our district. The numbers are increasing rapidly and we are worried as the command council. Tzaneen remains the hotspot in the district followed by Phalaborwa. We are losing lives every day. Therefore, it is important that we continue to work together to save lives, but most importantly is that our people must get vaccinated so that we are able to reach the herd immunity.

"This journey is not easy, and we should never undermine the importance of doing the simple things such as washing our hands or sanitizing, wearing our masks and social distancing. As you drive our people around, please do it with the sense that everyone of us is our brother and sister's keeper."

The Executive Mayor said that government is working hard to make beds available for those who may need to be hospitalised due to covid-19 infections. He said that there were additional beds at the Phalaborwa hospital which was recently handed back to government by the Clinix Health Group, and now operates as a wing of Maphutha Malatji hospital.

# First batch of graders handed over to local municipalities



The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Cllr Pule Shayi handed over the first batch of graders to the three biggest local municipalities on Friday, 17 September.

He said the next batch will go to Ba-Phalaborwa and Maruleng Municipalities. Speaking during the handover ceremony at the Disaster Centre in Tzaneen, the Executive Mayor said, "this is part of our commitment from an organized local government point of view to serve our communities. These graders will be used to undermine the deplorable road conditions in our communities.

"It is the rainy season, and we want to think on behalf of the people of Mopani that these graders will grade our streets so that economic activities could rollout, but also goods and cars are able to move from one point to the other. At least going forward our people should have confidence that we as local government remain committed to issues of service delivery."

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## SODA in numbers

- ☒ 242 students funded through the Executive Mayor's Bursary Fund
- ☒ 23 898 EPWP jobs created over the last 5 years
- ☒ 400 SMMEs assisted to participate in tradeshows
- ☒ 14 384 VIP toilets built over the last 5 years
- ☒ 903 operational boreholes in the district
- ☒ 42 661 households supported through the District Food Bank

# SODA

## Executive Mayor delivers State of the District Address

**M**opani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi delivered the State of the District Address on August 31, giving an overview on the work of the fourth democratic local government administration over the past five years.

He said that the current generation of councillors worked with the people of the district in consolidating the gains recorded over the last five years of democratic local government. "We have made huge advances in delivering sustainable basic services in our communities across the district.

"However, we should be the first to concede that challenges still remain and it is only the sustained commitment from our people to remain involved in developmental initiatives that gives us hope that we can turn the tide against deplorable conditions facing our people."

The Executive Mayor said that the Covid-19 pandemic has not made the work of council easy. He said that it has worsened the socio-economic situation of our people. "Our people have not only lost jobs, they have also lost hope and their sense of self-worth, and sadly, many have also lost their lives to this virus. The South African unemployment rate keeps rising. We have now hit the record high of 34.4%. Therefore, the biggest priority for this government and for all of us is to overcome the pandemic.

"The efforts to rebuild the economy of the country is largely tied to our fight to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. It is for this reason that we call on our people to continue observing the health protocols as government continues with the vaccine rollout programme," he said.

He said that over 42 000 people have assisted through the District Food Bank established in April last year, saying "We should proceed and express our gratitude to the business community, and in particular the farmers who have supported our initiative around the establishment of the District Food Bank."

The Executive Mayor said that bringing water facilities closer to communities across the district was one of the commitments made in 2016. "We are able to report today that we have indeed improved the quality of our people's lives through water infrastructure provision. More and more of our people now have access to water closer to where they reside."

He said that communities around Selwane in the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality have consistent supply of water, the Mameitja

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-Sekororo project yielding results with two villages benefiting from it. The community of Nkuri-Tomu in the Greater Giyani Municipality also has consistent supply of water.

"But of course, the biggest success story in this municipality has to be the Sand Water Extraction project in Sekhimini village. We are pleased that our people have consistent supply of water in that community. We will continue with the water reticulation project to ensure that all households share into the benefits of that project.

"We should also report to our people today that through the WSIG, we have also implemented several projects in the Greater Giyani Municipality. We wish to highlight the Makosha project where we spent R7million in 2018, constructing a pipeline and steel water storage tank," the Executive Mayor said.

He said the Municipality is moving closer to the completion of the Thabina to Lenyenye Regional Water Scheme project in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, which in the main should assist us to resolve water supply in Lenyenye and surrounding villages.

"This is one of the biggest projects for the district for we know that consistent supply of water to Lenyenye township will boost our efforts around revenue generation. We are completing the last phase of laying the steel bulk pipeline from the Water Treatment Works to Lenyenye. We have constructed reservoirs, and we are now constructing a booster pump station," he said.

He said the Municipality is on a path of sound financial management and reducing financial dependency. "As part of our efforts to increase revenue generation, we have taken over operation and maintenance in two of the water treatments plants previously managed by Lepelle Northern Water – the Nkowankowa Water Works and the Modjadi Water Works. This is a significant breakthrough in the context of our continued efforts to get the Municipality to operate as a going concern.

"We have recorded a slight, but momentous improvement in the audit opinion over the last two years, having moved from an adverse opinion in the 2016/17 financial year to Qualified opinion in two successive years. And over the years, council has observed an improved commitment on the work around reducing the unauthorized, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure," he added.



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# EXECUTIVE MAYOR WELCOMES WATER TANKERS FROM DBSA



Mopani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi has welcomed the donation of three water tankers from the Development Bank of Southern Africa which was preceded by a symbolic handover of boreholes to communities in Maphalle and Maswanganyi on Friday, 30 July.

DBSA drilled a combined total of 11 boreholes in the Greater Giyani Municipality and Greater Letaba Municipality – this as part of its COVID-19 municipal infrastructure support programme aimed at assisting local government to respond to the pandemic.

The Executive Mayor who also appealed to the communities to safeguard the water infrastructure said, "we are appreciative and we can also confirm that we already have a plan on how to move from here and begin to service our people. We will make the most of this intervention to build a stronger case for further interventions in the entire district space. In the context of the district development model, we should be able to lobby for more partnerships to help us accelerate service delivery to our people."

In handing over the water tankers, Chucheka Mhlongo who is the Head of Local Government Support at the DBSA said they have committed over R150 million to a variety of infrastructure-focused COVID-19-support interventions.



Mabotse Serakele from Maphalle village told the Executive Mayor she was overjoyed to have water closer to where she lives.

“We were paying R2 for 25litre of water. We are very happy that we now have water that we don't have to pay for.”

“The focus of the infrastructure rollout programme, which is spearheaded by the Local government team will be directed towards municipalities with poor access to basic services such as electricity, water and sanitation. Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, followed by Mopani District, are the first beneficiary municipalities to receive the giant water tankers and the opening of the boreholes.

“This is part of the Bank's infrastructure delivery mandate which includes working with the private sector and local government to refurbish existing boreholes, install new ones, repair electrical equipment to support water services, and deploy water tankers and other water storage facilities,” he said.

Mabotse Serakele from Maphalle village told the Executive Mayor she was overjoyed to have water closer to where she lives. “We were paying R2 for 25litre of water. We are very happy that we now have water that we don't have to pay for.”



# EXECUTIVE MAYOR GETS HIS , COVID-19 JAB URGES YOUNG PEOPLE TO VACCINATE



**M**opani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi who is also the chairperson of the District Command Council on Covid-19 has received his Covid-19 vaccine at the Mopani TVET College in Namakgale on Friday, 27 August.

He also used the opportunity to mobilize young people to vaccinate, saying "we are encouraged to see the students here very enthusiastic about the vaccine, and we therefore applaud those that have also vaccinated. We hold a view that the students here have a much bigger role to play in their communities in mobilizing other young people to get the vaccine in order for us to proceed faster towards the population immunity. This generation of young people has an obligation to spread correct information to our communities about the vaccine, but also help in dispelling misconceptions and fake news about the vaccine," he said.

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# ANOTHER INDIGENT FAMILY GETS A FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Cllr Pule Shayi handed over a fully furnished house to the family of Mametja Mangena at Mmaphala village on Monday, 26 July.

The 81-year-old man who lost his wife a year ago has been living in a dilapidated mud house with two of his children and a grandchild where they were often attacked by rats.

A local businessman built the house after learning of Mangena's plight during the funeral of his wife. He then initiated contact with the ward councillor and together they started working on the project.

The Executive Mayor hailed the selfless spirit of businesspeople who are willing to assist government in providing shelter to the less privileged. "We are grateful to have businesspeople who are willing to contribute positively in changing the lives of our people, and they do this work without expectations of any reward."



## MORE LIVES TOUCHED AS EXECUTIVE MAYOR HANDS OVER FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE IN GREATER TZANEEN



**T**he lives of Ramatladi family in Mandela Park near Myakayaka has been changed for the better - this as the Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi officially handed over a fully furnished five-roomed house on Monday, 30 August.

The family has been living in a two-room shack after their mud house collapsed.

"I'm so grateful for the municipality to have built this house for me and my children. They are like family to me. I'm overjoyed," Joyce Ramatladi.

Ramatladi lives with her husband, two of her children and a grandchild. The construction started on 30 June when the Executive Mayor visited the family to do sod-turning.

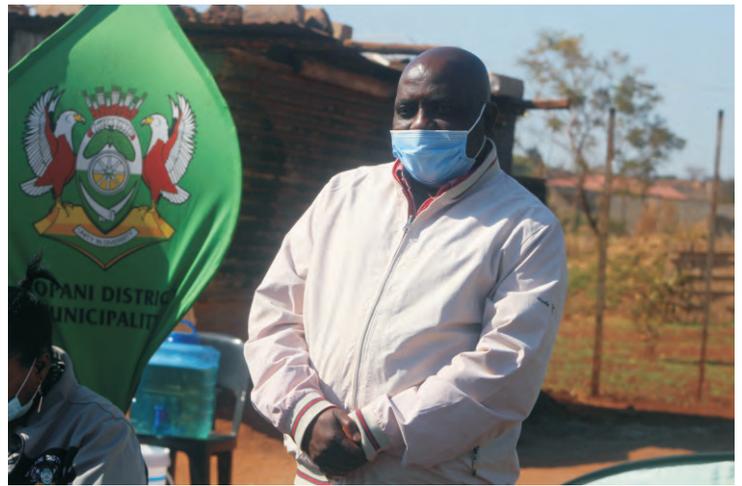
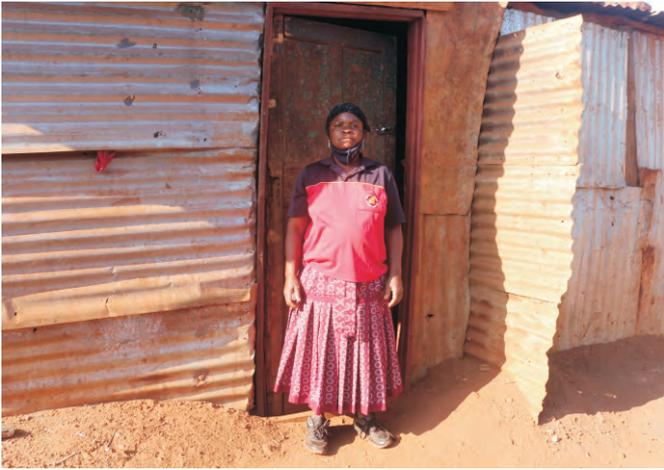
The Executive Mayor said councillors should look for partnerships with business people in order to reach out to indigent households.

"It's one of the many housing projects that as a District we have been able to help our people. The Ramatladi family should be able to take ownership and occupation of this house in the context of ensuring that the conditions that they were living in will to a particular extent be improved.

"Business community out there, working with government should be able to proceed and help other families," he said.

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# Minister commmits to fast-track completion of Giyani project



The Water and Sanitation Minister Senzo Mchunu has pledged to ensure that the Giyani Water Project is completed and those involved in malfeasance that caused the delay are held accountable as the Special Investigating Unit continues with its work on the matter.

The minister visited Mopani on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September where he met with the Executive Mayor and various stakeholders involved in the Giyani Water Project, including the Board of Lepelle Northern Water, the Giyani mayor and the Giyani Water Forum.

"We have met with the SIU and they briefed us and we have assured them that we will provide them with the all the necessary information and assist them to fast tract their investigation because we want all those involved to be dealt with. It cannot be correct that we allow people to do as the please with public money and face no consequence on their misdeeds," the minister said in a statement.

He said that a revised plan to ensure water provision to the people of Giyani will be received in a week's time. "The timeline is in a week's time. The plan will be placed before us and we will consider it. If we agree on it we will then source money and fund it so that we know that now the full scope, this is the full budget while investigations continue but strongly monitored and supervised by us."

The Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi welcomed the commitment from the minister to support efforts in water provision around the district. "The minister was able to dedicate the entire day to listen to the submissions we have made, and gave clear instruction with timeframes. This kind of approach is different from how we have been dealing with this matter before.

"The minister was very specific in terms of our submission and the support which we say should be given. The acting DG was given clear instructions to begin processes together with the regional office on the submissions we have made. From we are seated we are able to sniff some positivity with regard to the kind of intervention the minister is conjuring," he said.

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# GET YOUR JAB!



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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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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

Giyani Main Road, Government Buildings  
Mopani District  
Limpopo Province, South Africa

Private Bag X 9687, Giyani, 0826

Tel: +27 15 811 6300 | Fax: +27 15 812 4302

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

- 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

Botha Street, Civic Centre  
Modjadjiskloof  
PO Box 36, Modjadjiskloof 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

Telephone Numbers  
+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

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