

MUNICIPALITIES WILL CLOSELY WORK WITH TRADITIONAL LEADERS ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Executive Mayor Cllr. Pule Shayi told the Mopani District Municipality's strategic planning session that municipalities in the district will work closely with traditional leaders in using the Geographic Information System (GIS) as a tool for disaster risk reduction and helping the district adapt to climate change.

Delivering his closing address at the three-day strategic planning session, the Executive Mayor said GIS is a tool that the district will utilize in spatial planning as part of disaster risk reduction. His remarks comes on the backdrop of the recent floods that left hundreds of people homeless and also caused significant damage to infrastructure across the district.

“And collectively, as local government, the traditional council, we should play a role in reducing these disasters. Therefore, we'll leverage on our GIS capacity to use it as a disaster risk reduction tool so that we are able to adapt. We already have a climate change strategy which speaks to all the risks and how we should be mitigating, but also the resilience that is expected at that level,” he said.

He said the Municipality is taking a hard stance on project disruptions and measures are in place to ensure that chance-takers who attempt to disrupt water projects will face the full might of the law.

“ So from here and forth, let it be recorded that there will be no water project that will be stopped, whether by the community or any other person. We have found a proper answer in that space,” he said.

The Executive Mayor also said the sustained cooperation between government, and the business community is very key in bringing lasting solutions to the challenges of youth unemployment, poverty and the high dependency rate in the district.

“It is through that relationship that we can set forth on a path to creating jobs, reduce poverty, undermine dependency rate, and improving the lives of our people right where they live. We must therefore embrace the spirit of partnership and collaboration to create an environment for young people to thrive.

He said the high youth unemployment in the district is both a social risk and a missed growth opportunity. Infrastructure and service improvements can and should catalyse local economic activity and job creation, especially for youth.

“Through our infrastructure project, we should consider as part of skills training, but also apprenticeship, clauses, and MOUs that make it compulsory requirement for in-service training for young people outside your ordinary EPWP requirement. Which then means we should have a distinct wide MOUs with TVET, inexperiential opportunities, and integrated learning,” he said.