

Mopani District  
Municipality

# MOPANI

JANUARY - MARCH 2025

# BULLETIN

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## EXECUTIVE MAYOR OFFICIALLY HANDS OVER VEHICLES TO ARTISANS

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

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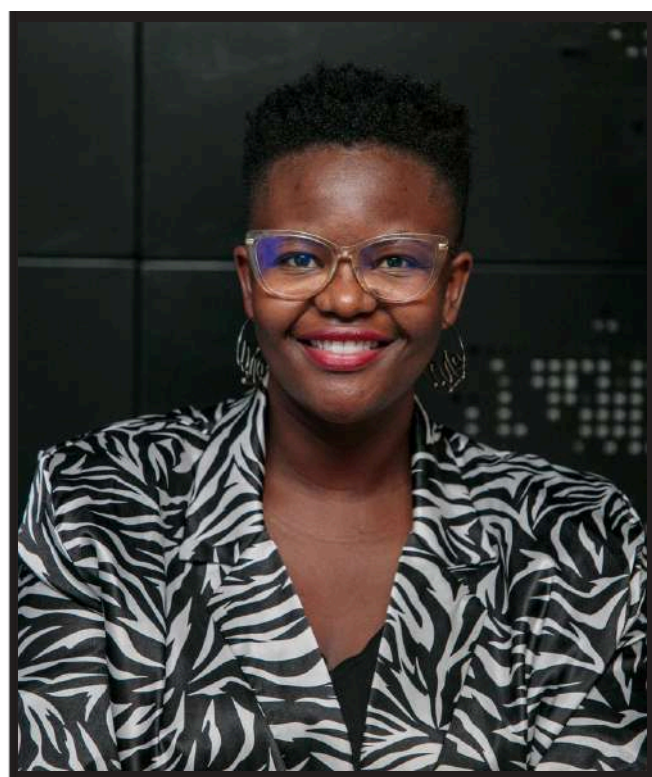
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# Editorial

We write to you on the backdrop of yet another eventful quarter. The Municipality has been recognized in many fronts. We take our hats off to the communications team which has received two awards from SALGA, the first for being the Most Proactive and Responsive District Communications Team in South Africa.

The second award is for being usage of Social Media Platforms, which we must also give credit to all the people in the district who are following our social media platforms. We wouldn't have received this recognition without your support.

SALGA has also recognized the work by the Municipality around spending of the conditional grants. To that extent, we have received two awards for 100% spending on the municipal infrastructure grant and the regional bulk infrastructure grant.

The Municipality has also been named 1st Runner Up by SALGA, and thus received an award for Innovative Revenue Enhancement Strategies – this as part of the Local Government Pitch Deck 2025.

All these achievements speaks to the collective efforts and hard work. On behalf of the Communications Team, we congratulate the Municipality for the recognition. It serves as inspiration for improved service to the people in the district.

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.

We further invite members of the public to engage with us through our social media platforms, including our Facebook Page.



**Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi**

## Executive Mayor's desk

We have come to the end of third quarter in the 2024/26 financial year. We conclude the quarter having recently adopted at the level of Council, the draft reviewed draft reviewed Integrated Development Plan 2025/26 together with the draft Budget. This integrated development plan is grounded on the social compact made with our people around the programme of building better communities together.

Our work at this level of our democratic government is done within the framework of the district development model which is about improved, well-coordinated, accelerated service delivery in the district space. Through this model, various stakeholders including the other spheres of our democratic

government, the business community and civil society actively participated in shaping the programmes as detailed in this reviewed integrated development plan.

We take this opportunity to implore members of the public and all stakeholders to participate consultative meetings which are set to start in the coming weeks. It is through those consultative meetings that we were able to receive inputs on the most immediate needs and aspirations of our people across the district.

We have committed to expand the provision of basic services to address the backlog, particularly the water provision to our communities in the district. We have to ensure that more and more of our people in the district have access to piped water in their homes. We will be prioritizing the electrification of boreholes while also ensuring that we protect and secure our water resources.

We end the quarter with the celebration of Human Rights Month which is always an opportunity to remember and honour those who made it possible for us to achieve freedom and democracy. The many people who paid the ultimate price for us to enjoy this freedom. During this month, we honour in particular the 69 heroes and heroines who were shot and killed by the evil apartheid regime on March, 21 of 1960.

The commemoration of the Sharpeville massacre will remain a reminder of the journey we have travelled as a country. Through the selfless sacrifices of our forebears, we are today, all guaranteed of human rights, including the right to life, equality and human dignity.

Well of course, the commemoration of this year's human rights also coincides with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Freedom Charter, which proclaims that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it" and that "all shall be equal before the law."



# From the Executive Mayor's desk

The best ways to honour the sacrifices made by our forebears in our struggle for liberation, and also to strengthen and defend the legitimacy of our hard-fought democracy is to deliver quality sustainable services to our people. It is the least we can do to honour those who paid the ultimate price for us to have this freedom.

We recently had a fruitful engagement session, led by Deputy Minister Masemola, Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba and MEC Makamu. We were able to lay bare the challenges that resemble an impediment on our capacity to deliver much-needed services to our people. The session was convened on the theme: "Every Municipality must work."

Rising from that session, we have reaffirmed our commitment to make our municipalities work better and faster to ensure that our communities have access to clean water, dignified sanitation, quality road infrastructure, consistent energy supply, as well as information, communications and technology services.

Let me congratulate all the municipalities for the recognition at the annual SALGA Municipal Audit Awards. We celebrate consistency around the audit outcomes, but also the meticulous spending on the MIG by all our municipalities in the district. We have to sustain our efforts around producing credible audit results, and the target is for our municipalities that have consistently been achieving unqualified to claim the clean audits during the 2024/25 audits.

We also congratulate the Communications Team for the recognition by SALGA as the Most proactive and responsive district communications team in the country, and also the recognition for the usage of social media as a platform for communicating government programmes. We celebrate these achievements together with our people in the district.

**CLLR. PULE SHAYI**  
**EXECUTIVE MAYOR**



# EXECUTIVE MAYOR OFFICIALLY HANDS OVER VEHICLES TO ARTISANS

Executive Mayor Cllr. Pule Shayi handed over vehicles to artisans who are working within the Water Services Directorate, saying this will help the team to respond faster to issues of water provision in the district.

Speaking during the handover ceremony which was held on Tuesday, 25 February at the Disaster Manager Centre, the Executive Mayor said he was aware that the vehicles were still not enough, but the current batch will go a long in improving service delivery.

“We are handing over 15 bakkies in the context of operations and maintenance. Our people need sustainable water provision on continuous basis. They frown at uninspiring service delivery. These vehicles will go a long way in helping us to deal with operations and maintenance, water leaks and repairs so that our response time is even faster,” he said.





# “LOT OF WORK AHEAD, BUT WE ARE NOT WEARY”- EXECUTIVE MAYOR TELLS MPAC



Mopani District Municipality’s Executive Mayor Cllr. Pule Shayi has conceded that there is lot of work to done to change the municipal audit outcome, but says the Municipality is upbeat about the future.

Delivering the closing address to the MPAC public hearing held at Metz village in Maruleng Municipality, the Executive Mayor said “Mopani District Municipality is on a qualified audit opinion for a second consecutive year, which is not consistent with our target as the fifth council.

“But we should as well indicate that it represents progress from where we were when we started as the fifth council. We still have a huge volume of work ahead of us, but we are not weary. We remain determined to run the course, and finish strongly. It is our shared determination, working with the people of Mopani that will see us through.”

He took the opportunity to thank MPAC for work done in investigating unauthorized, irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditures dating back from the 2010/11 financial year. He said that Council knows where the bulk of the challenges are.

“There is general consensus that improvement in the audit opinion is intimately tied to the work of MPAC. Therefore, it is important that we pay maximum attention on the areas raised by the AGSA, but also how we proceed in implementing the recommendations arising from the work of MPAC.

“In the past the AGSA had raised, consistently the key risk areas, which of course we have been trying to attend to and this include, the quality of financial statements, quality of submitted performance information, improving on supply chain management, and our financial health,” he said.

He said that the Municipality has already established a Unit that is responsible for financial reporting. “As we speak today, we have appointed Deputy Manager responsible for reporting together with accountants whose work would solely be on reporting and ensuring that we compile annual financial statements inhouse.

“And this of course means that the practice of consistent monthly reconciliations becomes embedded to our work. We have to perform on a monthly, the reconciliation on the water sales transactions with the local Municipalities,” the Executive Mayor said.



# MDM REAFFIRMS ITS STRATEGIC GOAL AS IT SETS OUR PLANS FOR 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Mopani District Municipality has reaffirmed its strategic goal “to be the food basket of Southern Africa and the tourism destination of choice.” This was confirmed by delegates the three-day strategic planning session held at Bela-Bela from 19 - 21 February 2025.

Addressing delegates at the start of the session, Executive Mayor Cllr. Pule Shayi said plans at the district must be aligned to the three priorities for the 7th Administration around inclusive growth and job creation, reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living, and building a capable, ethical and developmental state.

He said that major breakthroughs were recorded by the Fifth Council. “The journey of this fifth council has not been an easy one, but through our collective efforts and shared determination, profound progress has indeed been made. We have covered so much ground in the past three years, and to that extent we should be able to reflect on that journey, the footprint left behind, but most importantly we should use this session to look to the future.”







The Executive Mayor used his opening address to implore delegates to help explore ways to grown the district's economy, saying "as we converge at this level, we have to plan for the more than 1,3 million people in the district. As we converge ourselves here, unemployment rate is at over 35% in the district. We wish to lionize the private sector's contributions that enhances the economic prospects of this district, but also impacting in more ways than one the lives of our people."

He said that efforts to deliver sustainable water to the people is compromised by the ageing infrastructure. "The issue of ageing water infrastructure is a big challenge. We therefore should be debating plans to expand the infrastructure, but as well discuss what funding model would be quicker for us to meet the growing demand."

The strategic planning session also received presentations from Limpopo Connexion on the broadband infrastructure rollout, LIEDA on their investment catalogue, Letaba TVET College on the Water Adaptation Strategy through LED. The Malte Pluvian Holdings & the University of Limpopo Digital Hub made a presentation on the Mopani Agriculture Research Laboratory.

In his closing remarks, the Executive Mayor reaffirmed the priorities that include resource mobilization for water infrastructure provision, improving on project management, improving the audit opinion, cultivating a strong professional working culture, and enhancing the skills capacity of the workforce.





# MDM COMMUNICATIONS TEAM RECEIVES TOP HONOURS



The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) has named Mopani District Municipality's Communications Unit as the Most Proactive and Response District Communications Team in South Africa.

The Municipality was nominated alongside the West Coast Municipality from the Western Cape, and Ngaka Modiri Molema from the North West Province. The MDM's Communications Unit also received an award for being the most active on Social Media Platforms, beating off competition from the Western Cape's Garden Route Municipality and Enhlanzeni Municipality from Mpumalanga Province.



"It is a big recognition for us. It just shows that hard work pays. We are a small team with a small budget, but able to compete with other municipalities with much bigger budgets for communication. What works for us is that we try to make the most of what is available.

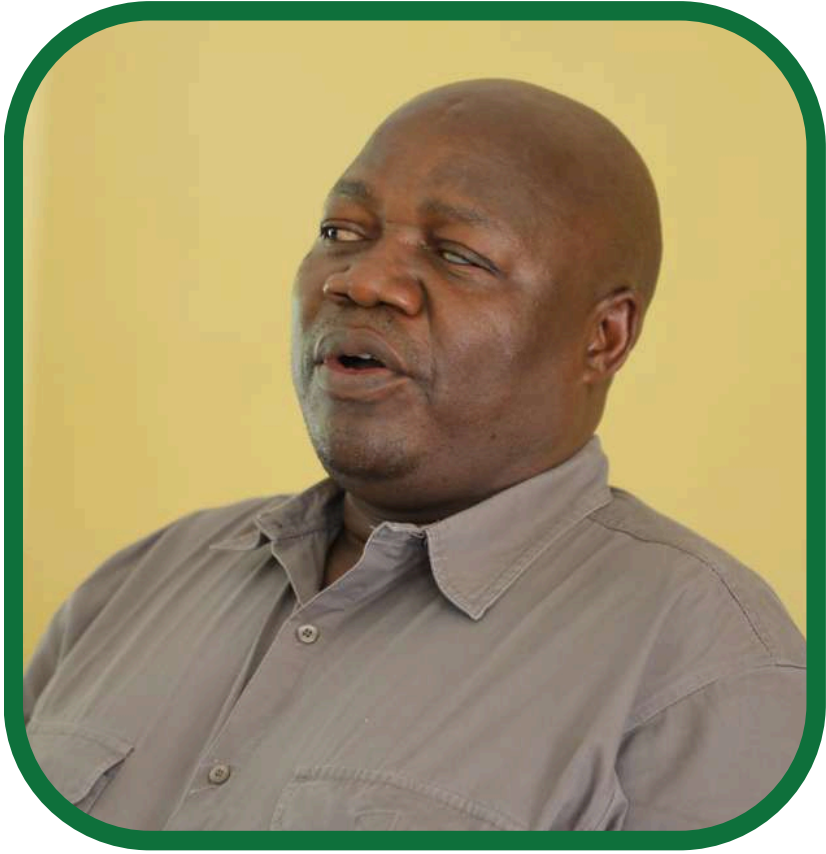
"The team is highly motivated and passionate, and of course with full support from the both the leadership at the council level as well as management. We are always ready to serve the communication needs of the people in the district, and giving the necessary support to the media," he said.

SALGA Chief of Operations said "this nomination highlights the dedication, innovation and hard demonstrated by your team in delivering outstanding results. Your efforts have not only set a benchmark but continue to inspire excellence across the sector."





## WORLD WETLANDS DAY COMMEMORATION COMPETITION WORKSHOP



The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) in partnership with Mopani District Municipality hosted the Environmental Education Awareness School Competition 2025 workshop at Maruleng Local Municipality on Thursday 23 January. The workshop was aimed at introducing the rules of the competition to the 15 participating schools, sharing knowledge on wetlands, air pollution & climate change as well as waste & water management .



The competition is conducted in commemoration of World Wetlands Day, which is celebrated on the 02nd of February each year. The theme for this year, as provided by the UNEP, is "Protecting Wetlands for our Common Future" .







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## EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S EXCELLENCE

# Awards



Executive Mayor Cllr. Pule Shayi has commended the meteoric rise by Mopani East Education District which has improved from 77,3 % in 2023 to 85.3% in 2025, forcing its way to the top five in the province. Mopani West Education District improved from 83, 8% in 2023 to 87, 2% in 2024. Mopani West is the second leading district in the province.



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# Back 2 School



As part of her back to school campaign, MEC Naledi Kekana today visited Khetho Nxumalo Agricultural Secondary School and Babangu Early Childhood Development Centre in the Greater Giyani Municipality.

"I believe that investing in your future will promote a strong foundation for lifelong learning in Agriculture," said MEC Kekana as she donated agricultural production inputs to support their garden initiatives.

She was accompanied by Member of Parliament, Hon. Kate Bilankulu (MP), Mopani District MMC for Community Services Cllr. Basani Shibambu, Giyani Giyani Municipality Mayor Cllr. Thandi Zitha, and the Mopani SAYC executive committee. The visit is part of the government's ongoing effort to encourage excellence in agricultural education and strengthen local communities.



MEC Basikopo Makamu has assured learners at Hlomela High School that government will give all the necessary support to the school in its efforts to improve the performance. The school is one of the underperforming schools in the province with a 33% pass rate in the 2024 NSC, a further drop from the 44% recorded in 2023. The MEC visited the school on Wednesday 15 January as part of the back to school campaign. He was accompanied by Mopani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr. Pule Shayi. "You are not alone this year. You will not travel this academic journey alone," the MEC said.







**Executive Mayor Cllr. Pule Shayi together with the Speaker Cllr. Martha Maswanganyi and Chief Whip Cllr. Magdelina Lewele were at the Ranch Hotel in Polokwane to join the Premier, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba and Education MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya for the 2024 Grade 12 NSC Results Announcement on Tuesday 14 January.**







Dr. Phophi Ramathuba led the media launch of the 2025 Marula Festival, saying the festival is key to creating jobs and improving the livelihood of the people. The premier was joined by Executive Mayor Cllr. Pule Shayi, Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality Mayor Cllr. Merriam Malatji and Greater Giyani Municipality Mayor Cllr. Thandi Zitha.



Executive Mayor Cllr. Pule Shayi has this afternoon led a meet and greet session with the District SAYC Executive Committee which was elected in December 2024. The committee used the opportunity to present to the Executive Mayor the resolutions taken at the Assembly. He has assured the committee that Mopani District Municipality will support fully the youth development initiatives led by SAYC in the district.







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# CONDOLENCES FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC DEATH OF SOLDIERS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

Mopani District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Pule Shayi, and Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality Mayor, Cllr Merriam Malatji, visited the bereaved Malesa family at Mashishimale, Matshelapata to offer their condolences following the tragic death of soldier Matome Justice Malesa.

Malesa is one of the three soldiers from Mopani who died while on a SADC mission deployment in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Mayors met with family members to express their sympathy and support during this difficult time.

"On behalf of the people of Mopani, we are devastated by this loss, said Executive Mayor Shayi. Together with the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, we are here to comfort the family during this difficult time."

He added that Malesa's service and sacrifice would not be forgotten.

Mayor Malatji echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the community's shared grief and the importance of supporting the Malesa family.



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





#### 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 9887, Giyani, 0626

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

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

#### Vision

"To be the leading municipality in the delivery of quality services for the promotion of socio-economic development"

#### Mission

- To ensure an effective, efficient and economically viable municipality through:
  - Promotion of accountable, transparent and consultative and co-operative governance;
  - Promotion of local economic development and poverty alleviation;
  - Strengthening cooperative governance;
  - Provision of sustainable and affordable services and
  - Ensuring a compliant, safe and healthy environment.
- To improve the delivery of quality services through the use of smart technology

Slogan  
"Maatla go Setšhaba"

### 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

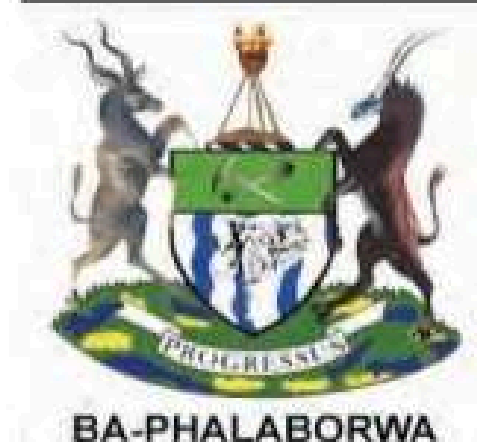
- To ensure financial viability, sound administration, and accountable governance for investor attractiveness;
- To render all stakeholders with quality and affordable infrastructure and services for enhancing a safe and better life for all;
- To manage the environment for future sustainable economic 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

Main Road BA 59, Civic Centre  
Giyani  
Private Bag x9559, Giyani 0826

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+27(0) 15 811 5500

[www.greatergiyani.gov.za](http://www.greatergiyani.gov.za)

