

## EXECUTIVE MAYOR HANDS OVER SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR GRAVELOTTE TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT PROJECT



**Executive Mayor with his team on a site visit to the Gravelotte Township Establishment Project**

The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Councillor Pule Shayi handed over two service providers responsible for the Gravelotte Township Establishment Project and the Land Use Scheme (LUS) to Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality on Wednesday.

There is a land earmarked for township establishment in Gravelotte where 400 residential sites will be made available to the public upon the completion of the feasibility study by the service provider.

Shai says the success of the project will enable Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality to increase its revenue base. "We hosted a Land Use Seminar in July, and we said at that seminar that as municipalities we need to elevate issues of land use management and improve spatial planning. Poor planning has proven to have far reaching socio-economic impact.



# inside Mopani



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**Chief Whip, Councillor Martha Maswanganyi, Executive Mayor Councillor Pule Shayi and the Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa, Councillor Merriam Malatji during the hand-over of service providers to Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality**

“The pace at which our people want space to live and to do business is so fast. It has overtaken our way of planning. Our planning is poor and weak. We can shoulder the responsibility, but if we are leadership. We should be considerate of these obtaining conditions and ask a question – what do we do.”

“Uncoordinated human settlements impede our capacity as government to deliver adequately to the needs of our people. The success of the project we are launching here today shall serve as a case study for all our municipalities to initiate similar projects, which will aid in increasing our revenue base thus also improving our capacity to deliver services and maintain our existing infrastructure,” he said.

He said that the Gravelotte project gives the municipalities an opportunity to “Let's support the process. Let us work with service providers to ensure that all this work gets done within then timeframe. This project will help us undermine the apartheid planning system. We will be bringing respect to our people because they must be able to take their kids from walking distance to a crèche, to a school, to a supermarket, to work without spending R50 going to and from home.”

“We have in our last council sitting appointed members to the Municipal Planning Tribunal. The Tribunal is charged with the responsibility of receiving and disposing of land development applications and land use applications within the district municipal area,” said Shayi.

He says the project also means that the municipality will be staying true to the objectives of the Freedom Charter. “The biggest programme of this democratic government remains the creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society. Through this project we wish to create a sustainable human settlement where our people united in their diversity will have a much improved access to socio-economic opportunities,” said the Executive Mayor.

The mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality Councillor Merriam Malatji has welcomed the project. “This presents an opportunity for us as a municipality to widen our revenue collection base, which will us to improve on service delivery.”

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