



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 tradeshow
- ☒ 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

Mopani 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 Mametja - Sekororo project yielding results with two

Follow and like us on facebook @Mopani District Municipality

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

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.



Follow and like us on facebook @Mopani District Municipality

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