



**Mopani District
Municipality**

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MOPANI

EXECUTIVE MAYOR SAYS ACCESS TO RELIABLE INTERNET CAN HELP END THE CYCLE OF POVERTY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES



Mopani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi says that access to reliable high-speed internet can help end the cycle of poverty as it is key to small business development and in enabling youth to access education, skills and employment opportunities.

The Mopani District Municipality has partnered with Limpopo Connexion for the rollout of broadband network infrastructure in the district which will allow communities to free public Wi-Fi, particularly in township and rural areas. WiFi towers have already been erected in areas such as Lenyenye, Dan Village and Nkowankowa as part of the rollout.



Speaking at the launch of the Lenyenye Wi-Fi Tower on Friday 21 November, the Executive Mayor said the rollout of WiFi infrastructure in communities throughout the district has been the commitment of the Fifth Council, reaffirmed during the State of the District Address.

"Wi-Fi plays an important role in today's life. It has become an essential backbone for small businesses, significantly influencing their growth. It also plays a bigger role in enhancing economic opportunities for our young people. Therefore, it has been our commitment to help our communities, in particular young people, to adapt in this digital age.

"Our entrepreneurs should be able to leverage on this Wi-Fi infrastructure to engage with their customers through social media or even utilize e-commerce platforms to broaden their reach," he said.



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The Executive Mayor said the infrastructure will also greatly benefit young people, adding that it presents an opportunity for young people to develop their digital skills and engage in remote learning.

“Through this important infrastructure, we can help bridge the gap between education and employment. By putting at the disposal of our communities this wi-fi infrastructure, we are contributing to the creation of a more equitable landscape, where innovation can flourish, and young people can pursue their dreams,” he said.

Matsebe Phasha, the chairperson of Limpopo Connexion said the partnership with Mopani District Municipality is setting a benchmark on how Limpopo Connexion can collaborate with municipalities across the province. He urged entrepreneurs to leverage on availability of this infrastructure to promote their businesses.

“Free Wi-Fi is not just a social issue, it is an economic asset which we should embrace. Working together with our municipalities, we can unlock the future of inclusion, growth and the opportunities for our communities. What we launch today is more than infrastructure, its an opportunity for young people, SMMEs and the entire Mopani community, ” he said.

