

## Executive Mayor urge youth to embrace technological advances







he Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Pule Shayi says young people must adapt to the technological advances of the fourth industrial revolution in order to remain relevant and create work opportunities for themselves, saying "failure to adapt to these technological advances, may mean that more and more of our people find themselves without work.

Shayi addressed about two thousand young people who braved the cold, windy weather to attend the Career Expo at the Lenyenye Stadium on Friday, the 06<sup>th</sup> of September. The Expo was organized by Mopani District Municipality to offer a platform for learners to get career guidance on further education and training opportunities. But, it was also an opportunity for unemployed youth to learn of the available economic opportunity programmes created by government and the private sector.

The Executive Mayor was joined by members of the mayoral committee, the Speaker of Council Wireless Sedibeng, the mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena, councillors from the district municipality and Joy Mayimela. Mayimela is serving in the board of the National Youth Development Agency.

The Executive Mayor said reducing the cost of data is important in the fight against unemployment. "Mopani District Municipality has committed to make free Wi-Fi available at all public events. We are aware that all of you gathered here need data on a daily basis. Young people need data to do research on economic opportunities and to interact with the world. We will ensure that our head office in Giyani become a free Wi-Fi zone before the end of this financial year."

He said that government has made great strides to ensure that young people from rural schools have equal opportunities to township schools. "over the past 25 years, through our democratic government, education has been an apex priority. We have made education free at all levels. Children from poor families are able to get a meal at school, and those staying far from school get transported to school through our scholar transport.

"We are also moving with speed to bring information closer to our rural communities through the provision of libraries. Over the past few years, we have been able to build two libraries in the rural communities of Mulati and Shiluvani here in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. Through the Department of Sport, Art and Culture in our province, we are now building a library at Runnymede village. We wish to caution you that you are fast running out of excuses for not attaining education, given the strides we have made as government to open the doors of learning for all," said the Executive Mayor.