



MOPANI BULLETIN

Mopani District Municipality

Official Quarterly Newsletter

Elders Day Pg 14



Thanksgiving Rain Pg 5



Excellence Awards Pg 10



"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.

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Editor's Note



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Mopani District Municipality team is led by a woman who is capable of holding a knife at the sharpest edge. Executive Mayor Nkakareng Rakgoale made ambitious commitments, of course achievable, while she delivered the watershed inaugural address following the 3rd August 2016 community elections that Mopani District Municipality should start improving its performance. Indeed, some of the commitments are now coming to fruition.

Indisputably, Mopani District Municipality is endowed with sufficient resources and capabilities from political and administrative wings. The municipality is a confluence of vast experience and skills. The strategic vision of the municipality has been re-affirmed and all and sundry within the institution knows who we are and what services do we offer.

The municipality has steadfastly tried its utmost by embarking on activities that impacted positively towards the lives of Mopani community. This publication endeavours to showcase some of the good stories being carried out by the municipality.

Welcome and enjoy the read!

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EXECUTIVE MAYOR 'S FOREWORD



**Executive Mayor
Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale**

We entered the third quarter of our financial year with so much resolve. We went to our lekgotla to interrogate our mid-term report and also to find strategies on how to improve on our performance during the current term until the end of the financial year. We also embarked on a thorough process of strategic planning that informs our planning for the entire cycle of 2016-2021 term. We have also resuscitated the district intergovernmental relations forum which will among many important tasks monitor our performance as municipalities and sector department in the district.

These are some of the means which we employ on a continuous basis to ensure that we expedite the delivery of services to our communities since we are at a local level which is a buffer zone of service delivery. One of the means that we are doing now is to strengthen our Local Economic Development programs to ensure that it respond to issues of unemployment and poverty since this year is the year of radical economic transformation. We have a responsibility as local government to play a role in facilitating issues of economic development at a local level. This is so because the Constitution of

the country places the responsibility of planning and economic development on local government.

We certainly have to punch beyond our weight to ensure that we continue to align with the Back to Basics approach as we build on the achievements already made on the delivering of basic services. We strive to enhance the capacity of the local state to deliver on its mandate, develop and strengthen local economies, create jobs and promote job placement especially for the youth, build spatially integrated communities and improve access to municipal services and reduce outsourcing in municipalities. Let us work together to deepen people's power for radical economic transformation.

Thanksgiving for *Rain* takes off at Nkowankowa Stadium



Hundreds of people gathered to witness the historic 'Thanksgiving For Rain' service at the packed Nkowankowa stadium, in the afternoon of Wednesday 15 March 2017. The Executive Mayor of Mopani District, Cllr. Nkakareng Rakgoale invited members of the public, Pastors, Elders and leaders of all Churches in Mopani, to a say 'thank you God for opening the heavens and let the rain fall on us'. On the 4th November 2016, a 'prayer for rain' service was held at Nkowankowa Community Hall, wherein the Executive Mayor mobilized diversified stakeholders, including Churches, to gather and pray for rain. At that time, the District was going through one of the severest droughts ever witnessed. Dams in Mopani were increasingly getting dry and empty. Animals, both domestic and wild, started to crumble away, people waited patiently as days passed by, the sun becomes extremely hot, the land was dry, signs of rain showed no more and all the hopes that it would rain sooner, started to fade. The Executive Mayor, in her speech on the 4th of November 2016 during the day of prayer for rain, after being inspired by the story of the four lepers in the book of 2Kings 7; who were

also in the midst of famine, who asked one another as to why they should sit there and die whereas there's God who promised that those who looked upon Him shall never be disappointed, gave a prophetic speech that: "On behalf of the people of Mopani District, we welcome the abundant rain that the heavens is releasing into our district and our country, owing it to the fervent prayers you have made here today", and she committed by announcing that from her office, there will be a District Day for Prayer even if there's no drought.

It took seven (7) days for the heavens to open up and rain was released in abundance, said Pastor Lucia Hlophe from Ba-Phalaborwa, who was the co-host of the programme with Pastor Mbhungana T.T from Greater Tzaneen, for God of heavens to honour the collective prayers and opened the flood gates of heavens. The Executive Mayor demonstrated clearly that God has changed the situation around and the levels of the dams have risen significantly from the rain God has given.



The Thapane and Merensky dams were empty and now they are 100% full. Nsami dam was below 8%, which resulted in the excretion of its water to be stopped, but now stands at 95%. Middle Letaba dam is now at 95%. Tzaneen dam was at 18% and later shoot to 52%, Modjadji dam was at 19% and currently stands at 66% and Tours dam rose from 20% to 80%. Thabina dam rose from 19% to 100%. This is the evidence that the situation is much better today.

Amongst the dignitaries who attended the service, was Kgosigadi Sekogopo, Kgosi Sekororo, Kgosi Mogoboya, Apostle Moss Ndala who led the thanksgiving prayer item with great diligence and strength, and the worldly revered, Dr. Rev. Elijah Maswanganyi, who was perfectly introduced and well-ushered to the podium to deliver the Word of God by Pastor Strike Manganyi. The message delivered was walking well along the path of the speech of the Executive Mayor, wherein they both called all believers, leaders of Churches and Pastors, to put aside all their differences and work together, to play a role in the developments of Mopani District.

As if that was not enough, praise songs came from national and world renowned gospel artists who came to grace the occasion. Lebo "Lion of Judah" Sekgobela blew out all of us as she helped us send electrifying praises to the Lord God Almighty. Kenny Shivambu's GO EXPLOR also left a remarkable performance. Another spirit moving performance was absorbed from Onkgoptse 'The Great' Tiro and Andy 'local ke bosso' Ramatsoma. What a day it was!!!! Puulaa, ayineeeee!!!!!!!



Executive Mayor hosts Imbizo for Pastors

One of the most effective ways that government utilises to consult members of the public and community stakeholders is through imbizo's. This time, the Executive Mayor held an imbizo, to engage with Pastors in all their different ranks. It is a meeting which one has not seen happen in many years of this democratic government, particularly in Mopani District.

In the morning of the 15th March 2017, the Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Cllr. Nkakareng Rakgoale invited Pastors, Reverends, Apostles, Bishops, Prophets, Church Elders and Leaders to gather and engage on matters and challenges that face Churches within Mopani District and the work of God in general. More than 300 pastors and Church leaders, from different Churches in Mopani District, attended the meeting, which at the end, they all agreed in one voice, that it was very important and has addressed more important aspects, though it was long overdue. Pastors were amazed and at the same time, expressed much gratitude to the visionary leadership shown by the Executive Mayor, to have at least, separately engaged Churches to discuss the roles that the Church need to play in society as well as to continuously pray for peace in our nation, safety of our towns and villages, safety in schools, exams and bursaries for matriculants, rainfall, drought free land, service delivery infrastructure and others.

The Executive Mayor subscribe to the scripture in the book of **2Chronicles 7:14**, which reads: **"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; the will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land"**, as the basis for the meeting. This meeting came about during the time when the Executive Mayor went from one municipality to the other, one Pastors fraternal to the other, asking and lobbying Pastors in Mopani to come together and pray God to open up heaven and allow rain to fall down. The drought was severe at the time and underground water was almost finish.

During the imbizo, Pastors had an ample opportunity to raise genuine challenges that which municipalities and all authorities should look at, in assisting the smooth running of Churches. Amongst those were that, government and Traditional Authorities must refrain from allocating them sites which are close to taverns and shebeens, close to graveyards. Also of noting was that, when Preachers from outside municipal boundaries apply to conduct conferences, revivals and other form of prayers meetings, such application should be subjected to the scrutiny by the traditional authorities.

Critical achievement that the meeting adopted, was that a similar meeting should be arranged at least once a year, going forward, and that Pastor's should as well form part of government process and programmes, and be able to send their inputs and priorities regarding service deliver through municipal IDP processes.



Mopani MPAC hard at work

Mopani District Council appointed councillor City Modjadji as a chairperson of Municipal Public Account Committee (MPAC). Since its appointment MPAC has worked hard to strengthen oversight role and to make the municipality more efficient and effective in the use of resources.

Mopani District MPAC was appointed in line with section 79 of Local Government Municipal Structures Act N0 117 of 1998 after August 03 2016 community elections. MPAC provides oversight **role** over the executive **functions** of council and to ensure good governance in the **municipality**.

Mopani MPAC is under the tutelage of Councillor City Modjadji and the committee comprises seasonal and hardworking councillors. Councillor City Modjadji hails from Ga-Kgapane township in Greater Letaba Municipality. He is the erstwhile mayor of Greater Letaba Municipality and has served in that capacity for almost eight (8) years. He possesses a wealth of experience on local government. He has served African National Congress (ANC) in various capacities and is currently Mopani ANC Regional Executive Committee (REC) member. He has been an REC member for a very long time. On the academic front, councillor City Modjadji is a scholar of note who is currently enrolled for second year Masters degree in Public Administration with the University of Limpopo.

Mopani MPAC did not have time for a honeymoon after their appointment. In lieu, they have already held three day district wide session and conducted projects inspection in different parts of the district to inspect implementation progress. The committee managed to assess and tabled its report on the municipal mid-year report to council and successfully had an engagement session with the executive, whereby senior managers responded to issues raised in the mid-year report for the financial 2016/17. The committee had already developed questionnaires in preparation of the incoming district public hearing on the Municipal Annual Report of 2015/16. It had managed to achieve its milestone through teamwork, collective support from other council committees and municipal officials.

Mopani MPAC strives:

- To review the municipal's quarterly, mid-year and annual reports and develop the oversight report on the annual report for consideration by Council.
- To assist Council to maintain oversight over the implementation of Supply Chain Management Policy.
- To examine the financial statements and audit reports of the municipality and in doing so, the committee should consider improvements from previous statements and reports.
- To evaluate the extent to which the Audit Committee's and the Auditor General's recommendations have been implemented.

- To promote good governance, transparency and accountability on the use of the municipal resources.
- To examine the Mid-Year Review documents in line with Integrated Development Plans.
- To recommend or undertake any investigation in its area of competence on matters currently serving or has served before the committee.
- To seek any information and have access to it from any councillor/employee.
- To report to Council on the activities of the committee.
- To perform any other function assigned to the committee through a resolution of Council.

Councillor City Modjadji has no choice but to live up to the expectations. He is renowned to have performed well as the Mayor of Greater Letaba municipality through hands-on style of leadership.



MPAC Chairperson
Cllr City Modjadji



Cllr GA Maluleke

Governance and Shared portfolio committee retreats to Phalaborwa

The Governance & Shared Portfolio Committee had a strategic retreat in Phalaborwa at Sefapane lodge from 23rd – 24th February 2017. The purpose of the session was for the committee to be fully exposed to the environment and to eventually be able to strategize. The executive arm of council was led by MMC Baloi N.N whereas the legislative arm was led by Portfolio Committee Chairperson Cllr Maluleke G.A. The retreat assisted both the MMC and Chairperson as it was also dealing with matters referred to the committee by the council.

The committee resolved on putting interventionary measures to ensure good governance within the institution. This included the following among others:

- ☐ The IT division to be resourced as per their earlier submissions on ensuring disaster recovery measures,
- ☐ The institutional policies to be updated and implemented to realise their purpose,
- ☐ The implementation of upper limits to be done in a manner that will not disadvantage any councillor at a later stage.
- ☐ The internal control and planning measures including organogram review to be expedited and aligned,
- ☐ The elements of municipal grading to be closely looked at by way of convincing council to apply revenue collection mechanisms, and
- ☐ The District IGR forum to be resuscitated with a focused attention.

The portfolio committee is chaired by a highly experienced and capable councillor Maluleke **GA**. Councillor Maluleke GA comes from Mnghonghoma village of Greater Giyani Municipality. He holds B. Proc and LLB degrees from University of Limpopo. He practised as Attorney from 2000 hitherto. In 2006 he was appointed as Commissioner of Small Claims Court in Giyani. From 2014 to 2016 he acted as Magistrate in Thohoyandou. Before becoming a councillor in Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Maluleke GA was an Executive Committee member in Greater Giyani Municipality. He is an asset to Mopani District Municipality and the municipality stands to derive immense benefits from him.

EXECUTIVE MAYOR AWARDS EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



Cindy Mikateko Mabuza of St George High School in Nkowankowa Circuit scooped the overall best learner award, while Xihlovo Duncan Mabasa of Risinga High in Man'ombe Circuit and Nortjie Abel Hermanus of Ben Voester High came out in the second and third place respectively. Cindy Mikateko Mabuza went on to also win the best learner in accounting while Xihlovo Duncan Mabasa scooped the top learner award in both mathematics and physical science.

Speaking during the awards, Executive Mayor Rakgoale says the awards seek to also motivate learners and teachers to perform well. "These awards seek to acknowledge excellence bearing outcomes from some of the most important and visible stakeholders in the education sector which are learners, teachers, schools and also circuits. Education for us is and will remain a societal issue. I believe that there is no single stakeholder acting independently will produce the desired outcomes."

Mokwane High School in Shiluvane Circuit managed to improve their results from 35 to 87 percent which made it the most improved school in the district. Saint George High School was crowned the best private school in terms of ordinary pass percentage while Mothoboni High School from Mamaila Circuit was awarded the best public ordinary school in terms of pass percentage.

Executive Mayor Rakgoale said the excellence shown during the previous academic year is acknowledged along the difficult conditions under which teachers often operate from. "We wish to salute all learners, schools and teachers who have emitted excellence in their service standards. We are here today to acknowledge your extraordinary efforts, which have been achieved in often under very difficult conditions in service to our children, many of whom come from poor communities," she said. Winners received trophies, certificate and laptops.

Mopani District Municipality Executive Mayor Nkakareng Rakgoale in collaboration with the district department of Education hosted a district education excellence awards. The awards are aimed at appreciating best performing schools, circuits, teachers and learners who performed extremely well during the 2016 academic year.



Mopani Speaker convenes a Ward Committee Conference

The Speaker of Mopani District Municipality, Cllr Wireless Sedibeng convened a Ward Committee conference on the 7-8 March 2017 at Karibu Lodge in Tzaneen. The conference which was attended by over 300 delegates, inclusive of all secretaries of ward committees, Councillors and Speakers across Mopani District, convened under the theme 'Building strong ward committees and strengthening participatory democracy' was aimed at creating a concrete platform for all ward committees in all five local municipalities to function actively and efficiently. The conference aimed at re-affirming that communities become an integral part of municipal programmes.

The Executive Mayor, during her opening speech, applauded the work which ward committees were doing within the 129 ward in Mopani District. She again emphasised the constitutional obligations that municipalities should effectively encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in all the matters of local government, as enshrined in section 152 of the Constitution. The conference also gave a clear mandate that communities must come first, in all municipal programmes, and that service delivery must be a priority in order for them to bring change within this five (5) year term of office which is likely to end in year 2021.

One of the most important achievement of the conference, was the launching of the District Ward Committee Forum. The Speaker of Mopani launched 25 members elected during the conference to serve in the District Ward Committee Forum. This forum is chaired by the Speaker, and is mandated to ensure that all ward committees in all municipalities remain functional and are able to report all service delivery programmes and challenges to their respective Councils. The District Ward Committee Forum is represented by five members from each local municipality to be an advisory body to the Speaker, to enhance communication between the municipality and the community on municipal programmes and to assist in the mobilization of residents around Councils' activities.

By virtue of being the Speaker of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Wireless Sedibeng presides over the District Speakers'



forum which comprises all Speakers of the local municipalities in Mopani. Councillor Wireless Sedibeng is a man of illustrious and impressive career. He hails from Mahekhwe village in Bolobedu under Greater Letabamunicipality. He is a pioneer par excellence. He is the first person from the village to obtain matric (grade 12), which he passed with flying colours. He is the first person from the village to enrol at tertiary, which he completed within the prescribed period. The first person from the village to qualify as the teacher and the first person from the village to become a principal of a school at a very young age. He is a university graduate with a B.A degree.

After the unbanning of the ANC and other political formations in 1990, he was instrumental in establishing structures of the ANC in Bolobedu East. He was the most acceptable face of the ANC in the area as the country was going through capricious political epoch. He is the founding chairpersons of ANC Rama branch and Bolobedu East Zone. He was elected as the deputy secretary of ANC North East Region. Again, he was the longest serving ANC Lowveld regional secretary. He was appointed ANC Mopani region deputy co-ordinator after the disbandment of then regional executive committee. He is currently the deputy secretary of the ANC in Mopani region. He is matured and seasoned cadre of the glorious movement who went through the acid test.



Wireless Sedibeng is one of the longest serving councillors in South Africa. He is part of the crop of councillors who participated in all phases of local government. He has served as a councillor from the pre-interim phase of 1994, throughout the transitional phase of 1995 to 2000 until now. He is the former Chairperson/ Mayor of Bolobedu Hlanganani Transitional Local Council (TLC) and he also served as the Chief Whip in Greater Letaba Municipality. He knows local government like the back of his hand. He is currently ensconced as the Speaker of Mopani District Municipality after resigning as the District Senior Manager of **South African Social Security Agency (SASSA)**.



It is against this background that the ward conference continued smoothly until its logical conclusion in capable hands. The conference concluded by declaring and endorsing that Ward Committees will play an effective role in bridging a gap between community stakeholders and municipalities as well as to ensure that healthy working relations between ward committees, traditional leaders and Community Development Workers are nurtured so that government service must be able to reach all communities.



EXECUTIVE MAYOR LAUNCHES DISTRICT AIDS COUNCIL

The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale has, oncemore, led by example by proving to be the champion of her programs in general, HIV/AIDS in particular. The launch of the District AIDS Council was witnessed by various stakeholders on the 15th February 2017 at Giyani Banquet hall.

"This program will be leading and giving administrative support to core functions of government through refinement of policies, ensuring efficient and effective interventions in key matters relating to HIV/AIDS. This includes compliance with legislation in achieving Batho Pele principles and best service delivery practices," said Executive Mayor.

"We also want to put it before you, that this initiative is guided by the National and Provincial Policy Framework developed in line with the structural arrangements outlined in the HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) strategic plan adopted between 2007-2011 to regularize and legalize the constitution and operations of these governance structures," explained Executive Mayor Rakgoale while giving the marching orders to those elected to serve in the district AIDS Council.

The official launch of Mopani District AIDS Council as a structure will ensure maximum consultation on any of matters relating to HIV/AIDS within the district, especially with key stakeholders executing their functions as stipulated and outlined by the strategic master plan for a period of five years.

"We hope that this structure will stick to its purpose according to the Policy Framework which is to promote an enabling environment for more effective and efficient delivery on commitments to fight against HIV and TB," added Executive Mayor while stating that it is expected that District AIDS Council members should also give support to HIV and TB Multi-Sectoral response in the entire district area.

During the launch it was emphasized that the council should work together with all the stakeholders including the technical team, including the department of Health in its co-ordination role and providing further services in order to realize the work of the AIDS Council.

Aids Councils are important forums for the encounter of experiences and peoples of different cultural backgrounds who share a positive desire for a better world. Through coordinated efforts to expand HIV prevention and treatment interventions, integrating HIV/AIDS into broader health services, increasing funding and improving human rights across vulnerable populations including reducing stigma and discrimination, society will begin to move towards an AIDS free generation. The goal is ambitious, but achievable.

In conclusion, Executive Mayor Rakgoale reiterated that members should take cognizance of their role as a monitoring body, to evaluate and implement resolutions of the AIDS Council. To come up with a communication plan, create community dialogues, do social mobilization and campaigns and in that way they will be doing justice to execution of their allocated responsibilities.

Annual Elders Day Celebration

The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Cllr Nkakareng Rakgoale, took 3 days to pamper elders at the Kruger National Park (KNP) for their annual Elders Day Celebration.

100 years old Mr Matele Shayi from ward 9 in Mashishimale Ba-Phalaborwa and the 49 golden boys and girls came from the five local municipalities under Mopani and were selected from different elderly persons' forums.

On day one the Executive Mayor hosted a Gala Dinner in which the elders were addressed by the acting Executive Mayor of the district, Cllr Anna Sono and were given goodies for the excursion.

They visited Mopani Camp, Shingwendzi Camp, Pafuri Border and Pafuri village in Mozambique. Mozambique was the highlight of most elders as they were for the first time able to cross borders to a different country. Pafuri being a place they have heard about from their early ages.

"I am so happy that the Executive Mayor brought us here to come and see wild animals and to be able to mingle with my peers," said Elizabeth Baloyi, one of the people who visited KNP.

The elders were able to see some of the big five and a series of other wild animals.



Xitsonga Music Awards 2017 a True Reflection of a Unified People

It has been a glittering affair at this year's annual and the 14th instalment of Xitsonga Music Awards hosted by the popular SABC Radio station Munghana Lonene FM in partnership with the Mopani District Municipality held at Giyani stadium. The activities started on the 24th March at the newly built Emoyeni Royal Resort outside Giyani town which hosted the who's who in the Xitsonga language circles. Known as the **Night of the Legends**, the Gala Dinner evening is held a night before the main event with the aim of honouring the most remarkable talent that have stood the test of time in the Xitsonga Music and have restored the dignity of the culture and heritage of the Vatsonga/Machangana.

Among those awarded with the life time achievement awards in 2017 included the duo/group known as Revolution in the music circles who happen to be the twins. Again, the group step on footprints of other legendary musicians such as Dr Thomas Chauke, Ray Chikapa Phiri, and Shipo Hotstix Mabuse, whom the station recognised for their role in making Xitsonga Music to be where it is today.

The celebration continued to the 25th March 2017 at the Giyani Stadium and started with the award ceremony where nominated musicians competed for these most coveted awards. It was a night belonging to Themba Nyathi for his work on the song *Khanimamba* that took four awards. "When lighting strikes, it will repeat at the same spot, but this time it did strike four times" said Nyathi during his acceptance speech. Other winners of the night include Ekcson Maluleke who walked away with the most envied award known as the Dr Thomas Chauke Award Artist of the year, presented by this legendary Xitsonga musician of the Ximatsatsa fame to the winner. Immediately after the awards the festival patrons were treated to a hectic line-up of local and national artists such as Boti Ready, Sunglen Chabalala, Kwesta, Arthur, Dr Thomas Chauke, Mr Bow, Themba Nyathi, Penny, King Monada, Joe Shirimani and Benny Mayengani who closed the show down



MDM appoints a new legal eagle



**Tshikovhi Happy
Manager Legal**

Mopani District Municipality has finally filled the post of Manager Legal which had been vacant since 2015 following resignation of the then incumbent. The absence of Manager Legal has had adverse effect for the municipality on legal front. The new Manager Legal is anticipated to retrieve the municipality from the jaws of the jungle.

The legal eagle has landed. Mr Happy Tshikovhi is the new Manager Legal for Mopani District Municipality. He is a labour guru the municipality has ever appointed, bar none. He holds LLB from University of Venda and LLM from University of Limpopo, including qualifications in school for legal practice. He served articles from 2008-2010. He honed his labour skills as Professional Assistant from 2010-2011 at Lebea and Associates Attorneys. He was a Legal Advisor at Capricorn District Municipality from 2011-2015. He also worked as Manager Legal at Molemole

Municipality from 2015-2017. He is currently a resident of Polokwane, but originally from Thulamela municipality.

The era of Mopani District Municipality limping from one legal debacle to another is a thing of the past. The municipality is commended for appointing a man with legal acumen, critical judgement, analytical skills, good communication and interpersonal skills. We strongly believe that the legal backlog which has followed the municipality like a well-trained dog will start receding away like a mist which is ashamed of a rising sun. We welcome Mr Happy Tshikovhi as our new colleague and wish him well in his new post.

MDM appoints new Employees



Hlasi Phillip
Manager Supply Chain



Masonta Shalati
Assistant Accountant



Sekgobela Bethuel
Accountant



Mampuru Pataki
Organisational Structure



Mojela Jimmy
Accountant



Thobakgale Mmamoloto
Pay Roll

Greater Tzaneen Municipality



MAYOR OFFICIALLY OPENS NEW ROAD & HANDOVER A HOUSE

Greater Tzaneen Municipality Mayor Maripe Mangena officially opened the newly tarred Tickelyline to Makhubidung Road on Wednesday 8th of March 2017. The road which is 3km long cost the municipality R16.4 million and was funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). It will directly benefit residents in Tickelyline, Myakayaka, Glasswork and Makhubidung villages.

The road also links communities to Dr CN Phathudi Hospital, Shiluvane Library, Maake Plaza as well as various schools and Churches. At least 42 labour workers mostly locals were employed for the duration of the project. The road was also built through a local contractor.

Meanwhile, Mayor Mangena also handed over a house to a 26-year-old Delina Maenetja of Myakayaka village. Delina, a mother of two children aged 5 and 8 lived in a shack and had to be relocated as her shack was in the route of the new road.

Delina now occupies a standard RDP house in Myakayaka village. Delina who could not hide excitement said she felt blessed that she now has a house of her own. She said at least she now knows that if ever she dies her children will have a place to stay and no one will throw them out.

Speaking at low key event attended by locals and stakeholders, Mayor Maripe Mangena urged residents to look after the new infrastructure. He said that if they damaged the road instead of government bringing more development they would have to fix the damage which he said would slow development in the area. The road was built by Makasana Construction supervised by Southern Ambition Consulting Engineers (SACE).

The Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality is a man of action. He is credited for personally making interventions whenever there are service delivery concerns. He is visible, energetic, affable and his leadership style is much appreciated by all and sundry.

Greater Giyani Municipality



Rain brought some relief



The recent rains did not only bring some relief in most parts of the province that were hard hit by drought. It also brought hope in the families whose breadwinners are anglers who spend their time fishing by the bank of Nsami dam every day.

Hasani Baloyi is one of the anglers who fish by this bank. To him the abundance of water at Nsami dam does not only signifies the end of water struggle which saw many people scramble to get a drop of water last year, it also signifies an opportunity for more fish for his family.

Unlike other anglers who sell their catch in town, Baloyi sells his catch right there by the dam and in the community where he lives. "There are people who wait for me at home to buy fresh fish when I return in the evenings," he explained.

Baloyi is no different to the rest of the individual traders that are found in Giyani town. Each day these hawkers fight tooth-and-nail to ensure that their families have something to eat through the little sales that they make. These sales, when combined are said to boost local economy with jobs creation.

The municipality has therefore developed strategies through which it supports hawkers in the form of creating conducive working environment for them. "We have started a process of registering them," explained the head for Strategic Planning and Local Economic Development Cllr Elisa Mabunda, saying the municipality plans to set aside a budget in future in order to build them a flea market.

According to her, local hawkers contribute up to 8% of the municipality's economic growth.

"Our informal studies indicate that we have a circulation amount of more than R50 000 a day between local businesses and hawkers which boosts employment in our municipality," she said adding that there were plans to revamp the whole town.

"We're going to meet with local businesses to discuss plans which would see all old buildings in our town getting re-newed in order to attract investors," she concluded.

Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality

12th Limpopo Marula Festival



Limpopo Marula Festival is a drawcard that attracts domestic, regional and international tourists to Limpopo during the Marula season, which officially begins in January and ends in April each year. The festival is used as a platform for locals to showcase products they have made from the marula fruit such as jam, hand and body lotion, soaps, cooking oil, nuts and atchar.

The festivities in the 2017 calendar had an array of events namely: Go loma morula, fun fair, street parade, SMMEs Exhibitions, cuisine ala marula, marathon to music festivals held over a period of two weekends, starting from February 23 through to March 5.



Marula festivities are gaining momentum year on year in Ba-Phalaborwa local and Mopani district municipality. The series of events held over this period reinforce and galvanize economic activities in and around the district as tourism and hospitality business boom and linkages created with other industries. It is a known fact that during this time of the year accommodation establishments (1300 beds) are sold out as they are booked well in advance due to the nature of events held over this season. This creates economic spin-offs of great magnitudes and for that we are happy to be the permanent host of the event on annual basis.

The experience offered by the series of activities during marula festivities is unique, as our cultural diversity and wildlife are celebrated in the only way that our municipality can offer. The Festival of the First Fruit, which is the ceremonial tasting of the first fruit hosted by the five traditional authorities in partnership with Ba-Phalaborwa local municipality. These build-up event provides a platform for locals to celebrate their heritage and culture with a stage created for local talent to be celebrated in a form of song and dance.

The Limpopo Marula Festival contributes in excess of R40 million to the local economy of Ba-Phalaborwa and the Mopani District through the general trade and generate more than 500 job opportunities to the local communities, a figure that should be doubled in 2017," as alluded by MEC Sekoati of Limpopo Economic Development, Environment & Tourism (LEDET).



Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality

The annual festival benefit more than 1400 rural women whose Marula Brewing Co-operatives are registered with LEDET.

SANParks says the annual Marula Festivities benefits the nearby Kruger National Park. Hundreds of tourists have made their way to the park, waiting for the music festival to start. They also alluded to the fact that they have a share; because Phalaborwa is their busiest gate, some of the people who have been introduced to the park also come back with their families."

Karl Schutte of Amarula Distell Group, said they are proud to be part of the economic intervention for Marula Festival. Mr Schutte also highlighted that "In excess of 60 000 people directly and indirectly benefit from our harvest, from collecting the fruit to extracting the nuts for oils and proteins used in an array of products. It is this involvement with the people that holds the key to a rewarding and sustainable future for all."

The build-up events organised by Ba-Phalaborwa municipality in conjunction with the five Traditional Authorities benefit locals economically as offerings (services and products) are procured locally with the intention of supporting SMMEs and local artists. Local artists, those who are not trending and not known nationally have been provided with a platform to show case and battle for positions as part of the line-up for the two scheduled festivals during build up events that were held with the traditional authorities.

Planning and conducting festivals involves many members of the community, which yields a



number of social benefits. The best thing about being involved with festivals and events is the opportunity to help build a community, foster a sense of pride within a community, and engage a community. Residents with community pride are more likely to speak positively about their town to others and to volunteer with organizations and activities that support the common good. Festivals promote community pride by celebrating things that make a town special and evoke good feelings.



Greater Letaba Municipality

Mayor launches GLM's Gender and Men's forum



The Mayor of Greater Letaba Municipality Cllr Peter Matlou is a new broom. He knows the importance of organised community structures. Since taking over the reign, he never wasted anyone's time but has already formed and met with all key stakeholders in the municipality. Residents of Greater Letaba Municipality are happy with his participatory style of leadership. With him at the helm, the municipality is poised for greater things.

Mayor Peter Matlou officially launched the newly elected Gender and Men's forums in Greater Letaba Municipality. The two forums were elected and launched recently at Mamaila Mphotwane, Ga-Phaphadi village. Members of community across the spectre of life such as traditional leaders, sector departments, traditional health practitioners, youth, people living with disability, Pastors and others came in their numbers to witness the launch.

The Mayor was very happy about the turn-out indicating that it shows that people want to take part in decision making issues and are interested in issues of governance. "Issues of gender are very sensitive and delicate. Discrimination is rife in our society, we need forums like these to stabilize the nation and urge government to do things accordingly. We cannot run municipal affairs as government without your inputs. We cannot address inequality without the guidance of these structures", the Mayor emphasized. "We have elected structures today which we believe will speak for the people in a united voice and we say as government, we are going to recognise that voice. These two forums, amongst others, will be used for the benefit of our people. We do not expect members to abuse the platform given to them. We expect them to share genuine concerns of the people and proper advice when a need arises", the Mayor continued.

Mayor Peter Matlou is currently an ANC Mopani Regional Executive Committee member. He has been a relentless cadre of the movement for a very long time. He is humble, approachable and accessible. He is not aloof. He is a man of the people. He pays a great deal of attention to structures that have been deemed in some quarters as being inconsequential. His love for community consultation and public participation will come to fruition during budget allocation for capital projects. Consultation with stakeholders is one of the most transparent cornerstones of involving communities in the affairs of municipalities. South African communities have never taken kindly to projects that are implemented in their neighbourhood without their involvement. The Mayor is doing exactly what is loved by the people of South Africa.

Buckle-up!

DO YOU KNOW...?

- IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN TRAFFIC LAW, THE WEARING OF SEATBELTS IS COMPULSORY
- THIS REQUIREMENT ALSO APPLIES TO MINIBUSES / MIDIBUSES, WHICH MUST HAVE SEATBELTS FOR EACH SEAT
- INFANTS (UNDER THE AGE OF 3 YEARS) MUST BE SEATED IN AN APPROPRIATE CHILD RESTRAINT. IN A STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES, IT WAS FOUND THAT 75% OF INJURIES IN CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FOUR COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED IF THEY WERE WEARING SEATBELTS, AND 50% OF INJURIES IN CHILDREN BETWEEN 4 AND 12 YEARS OF AGE
- IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DRIVER TO ENSURE THAT ALL PASSENGERS FASTEN THEIR SEATBELTS. FINES WILL BE ISSUED FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THIS REQUIREMENT
- WEARING A SEATBELT IS FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY!



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VISION

To be a successful agro-production and eco-cultural-tourism hub, ensuring affordable access to basic services for all households

MISSION

To promote:

- Local, accountable democracy through active and informed community participation and co-operative governance;
- Social upliftment and environmental management to ensure a balance between improved quality of life and safe and healthy communities;
- Economic advancement to alleviate poverty and unemployment and to sustain the economy;
- Universal access to need-satisfying infrastructure and service rendering in a sustainable, affordable manner;
- Municipal transformation and institutional governance advancement.

Greater Letaba Municipality

Botha Street, Civic Centre
Modjadiskloof
PO Box 36, Modjadiskloof 0835

Telephone Numbers
+27 (0) 15 309 9246

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



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



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



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

Telephone Numbers
+27(0) 15 811 5500

www.greatergiyani.gov.za