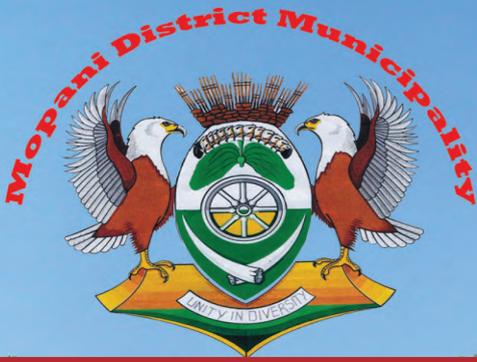


MDM SPECIAL COUNCIL SITTING HELD AT THE TZANEEN DISASTER CENTRE ADOPTS A NUMBER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

The Mopani District Municipality's Special Council Sitting held at the Tzaneen Disaster Management Centre on the 28th of August has adopted a number of items that were on the Agenda for the day. The Executive Mayor, Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale, who has the executive powers in Council, delegated some of the Members of the Mayoral Committee to present some of the items to the Special Council Sitting. Councillors who are representing various political parties have spoken with one voice to ensure that the business of the day is accomplished. The special council sitting has agreed on the disposal of the municipal assets, extension of the acting period for the Director in the Office of the Executive Mayor, the reviewed IT policies and the annual performance, along with the exception report for the previous financial year as well as the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mopani District Municipality and the South African Development Communities (SADC Business Forum).

The disposal of the municipal assets is mainly targeting eleven vehicles that are no longer in a good condition. The councillors have agreed that the vehicles in question will no longer provide the minimum level of basic services as per the provision of the Municipal Finance Management Act. Council resolved that the Acting Director in the Office of the Executive Mayor, Mr Patrick Twala was to continue acting in the position as processes of filling the vacant position was unfolding. The high level of unemployment of the youth in the municipal area has prompted the council to adopt the signing of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Mopani District Municipality and the South African Development Communities. The memorandum of understanding will see young people who are seeking job and business opportunities meet regularly and engage each other on issues that are directly affecting them. The district and the SADC Business Forum will also create a platform for the district municipality and other stakeholders to promote tourism attraction areas that are found in the district. The memorandum of understanding will go a long way in helping the Mopani District Municipality to realise its vision to be the food basket of Southern Africa and the tourism destination of choice.





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THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AN OVERSIGHT VISIT TO VARIOUS PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT



The owner of Shidila Lodge, Vydah Masoko showing the Portfolio Committee one of the guest rooms at Shidila Lodge.

The Portfolio Committee on Local Economic Development has conducted an oversight visit to thirteen projects across the Mopani District Municipality. The eight-member committee that was accompanied by councillors from the local municipalities and officials visited agriculture and tourism projects that are found in five local municipalities of the district. The main purpose of the week-long visit by the committee members was for them to get first-hand information on recent developments in the sector, to check the progress made, interact with the members of the identified projects and also to help identify some of the challenges that are affecting SMMEs and Cooperatives in general.

The owner of Shidila Lodge which is situated in the Greater Letaba Municipality, Vydah Masoko, has thanked the Mopani District Municipality for making it possible for her to attend the 2017 Durban Tourism Indaba. Masoko she told the portfolio committee that she took advantage of her participation at the Durban Tourism Indaba to network with other role players in the tourism and hospitality industry. She expressed



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her gratitude to the committee members who visited the lodge on the 29th of August 2018.

"I am grateful for the Local Economic Development Unit for putting together logistics for us to go to Durban and participate in the tourism indaba, today am able to host a number of guests due to networking sessions we had in 2017. We are here because of the support of the municipality's LED unit" said Masoko.

Masoko who started her business in 2011 is now employing 14 people at the lodge that keeps on growing. "when I started with the business eight years ago I only had five rooms, but now through the support of the district municipality and the community at large I have managed to build more rooms, as am speaking to you in the next

three weeks a total number of rooms will be at 23. I am currently having 17 rooms" further said Masoko. Masoko has asked the authorities to help them with the upgrading of the access road to her establishment.



The owner of Shidila Lodge, Vydah Masoko showing the Portfolio Committee one of the guest rooms at Shidila Lodge.

Councillor Mikateko Shimange who led the portfolio committee has thanked Masoko for having created job opportunities for locals who are now able to take care of their families. "We are happy that people like Vydah Masoko are helping us to realise our vision of wanting to be a food basket of Southern Africa and the tourism destination of choice, it all starts with initiatives like these. In order for us to be tourism destination of choice we need to have we need to have tourism establishments such as this one" she said.

The committee proceeded with its visit to Mohlalo Textile at Kgapane, still in the Greater Letaba Municipal area where Lillian Sebola pleaded for an extended piece of land in order for her to expand her business. Sebola is into agro-processing and textile manufactures marula jam, atchar and moringa syrup. "I can employ more than 10 people if the municipality can assist me with access to land. I have been approached by major retail shops, including Shoprite for my products, but I'm unable to meet their demands because I don't have space to work. I can't operate on this small garage. This is a family home.

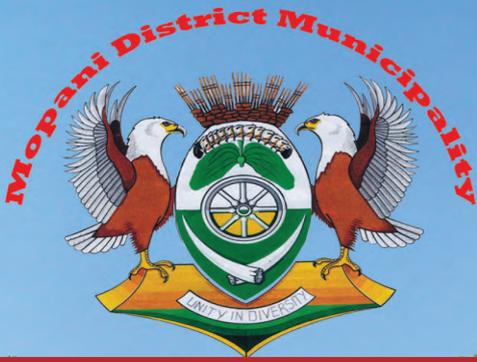
The Department of Trade and Industry has been saying it will assist me with a fence if I can get land to work farm from" said Sebola.

Sebola also told the committee that she also assists children from impoverished households. "I have taken three learners to the University of Limpopo through this business, and they are now working. I started this business at the age of 60. I am now 78 and I have now started training youngsters and transferring the skills. I want to leave a legacy to this community." The committee also visited some projects in the Maruleng, Greater Tzaneen, Greater Giyani and Ba-Phalaborwa municipalities.

The Greater Letaba Municipality has promised to assist her with her application for land.



The Portfolio Committee at Masutha Farming at Mamaila village in the Greater Letaba Municipality.



SPEAKER COUNCILLOR WIRELESS SEDIBENG DELIVERS A WELCOME ADDRESS DURING THE K2C NETWORKING SESSION HELD OUTSIDE HOEDSPRUIT.



The Mopani District Municipality Speaker councillor Wireless Sedibeng has urged women to play an active role on matters that are related to nature conservation. Sedibeng who was speaking on behalf of the district's Executive Mayor Nkakareng Rakgoale addressed hundreds of delegates who attended the Kruger to Canyon Biosphere Region Networking Workshop, held at a lodge outside Hoedspruit on the 28th of August 2018. Sedibeng said that the networking sessions must empower women who have interest on economic activities that are related to tourism and nature conservation.

“Our district municipality is very proud since it is geographically located along Kruger to Canyons Biosphere region, which is product of the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere implementation program that embraces the most amazing natural wilderness of the Kruger National Park and beautiful mountainous escarpments.” Said councillor Sedibeng.

The workshop also focused on socio-economic development initiatives brought as a result of the existence of the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region.

The K2C Board of Directors Chairperson Dr John Job also addressed the delegates, while Lawrence Mokgakane presented feedback on Biodiversity Economy Innovation and People and Parks Conference.