

The coat of arms of the Mopani District Municipality is centered on the page. It features a shield with a green and white design, including a wheel in the center. The shield is flanked by two red birds with white wings. Above the shield is a crest with a green leaf and a yellow wheel. Below the shield is a yellow and green banner.

*MOPANI DISTRICT  
MUNICIPALITY*

*ANNUAL REPORT  
2004 - 2005*

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**COUNCILLOR M.H MOKGOBI**

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

The 2004/2005 financial year was a year full of activities within our district. While we were able to achieve our milestone, what was more interesting for us to note was the continuing challenges that lie ahead. This year also marked the end of our first term of a developmental local government and as a result, many of us will soon be vacating office but what then becomes very important is the legacy you leave behind. People will never remember you of what you have not done instead of what you did when you had an opportunity. This was the same with all of us who came through an election of 2000.

While it is notable to reflect on the success of 2004/2005, we do that mindful of the fact that our people still need water, sanitation, roads and electricity. These are the sought of things that our people everyday talk about during their social clubs or any other gathering. That was exactly what we always experienced. As the municipality, we came to understand and realise the critical role that we are expected to continue playing, that is, to coordinate the activities within the district and support our local municipalities. In implementing this constitutional mandate, we have managed to build a solid, mutual relationship with our four local municipalities been Ba-Phalaborwa, Greater Giyani, Greater Letaba and Greater Tzaneen. This positive development enabled the five municipalities to be able to share the limited resources that were within our disposal.

As a way of improving our inter-governmental relations, the District Mayors Forum was resuscitated in 2004 wherein all Mayors had an opportunity to meet supported by the Municipal Managers, to deal with matters of common interest and importance to the people of Mopani. This resulted in the district playing its role very well supported by the local municipalities. It did not come as a surprise when we won the Vuna Award on the District Category within the province. The award signalled the beginning of many more good things to come while it added more pressure on us to keep doing very well.

During the year in review, we were able to support our municipalities in providing water and sanitation to our communities. This was done through the service level agreements which were signed allowing our local municipalities to continue rendering water services while the district became the water services authority in 2003. While there were challenges, our municipalities were able to handle those in good care to the best interest of people of Mopani.

We were also able to embark on campaigns such as the 'Back-to-School' wherein a number of schools that produce 100% percentage pass on the matric results plus those that failed were visited as part of motivating them. During these visits, we were able to learn a lot of things which also assisted us to improve our service delivery approach. It was discovered that some of the schools who were able to produce such good results, were also operating under difficult circumstances hence we managed to assist some of them in renovation, sanitation and water supply.

Public participation is one of the pillars of democracy and it is not different even in local government. Since we do not have ward committees as a district, we were able to visit a number of villages within the district accompanied by the local mayors. The emphasise of the outreach programme was to popularise services that municipalities are rendering and also to begin to demonstrates how government can collaborate to ensure an accelerated service delivery.

As we present the 2004/2005 financial year report, we want to always remember our hard earned democracy and what it has brought to us while defending it by ensuring that every citizen of the country has access to basic services. This can only happen if we continue to work as a team like we did throughout the year. The highlights of the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 are presented below.

God Bless You!

Councillor M.H Mokgobi

Executive Mayor

January 2006

## **CHAPTER 2          PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS**

### **CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

This annual report will cover all Human Resource related aspects, which are inter-alia Labour Relations, Personnel and Administration, Training and Development and Organisational Development matters.

### **KEY SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS AND CHALLENGES**

The institutional structure was reviewed during this period in order for it to be aligned with the functions of the District as provided in the Legislation. As on July 2005 the labour complement of the municipality was as follows:

- Approved positions: 230
- Positions filled: 92
- Vacant positions: 138

| <b>Department</b>  | <b>Positions approved</b> | <b>Filled positions</b> | <b>Vacant positions</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Municipal Manager  | 28                        | 18                      | 10                      |
| Corporate Services | 45                        | 29                      | 16                      |
| Technical Services | 17                        | 9                       | 8                       |
| Community Services | 110                       | 23                      | 87                      |
| Finance            | 21                        | 7                       | 14                      |
| Planning and       |                           |                         |                         |

|                      |            |           |            |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Economic Development | 9          | 6         | 3          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>230</b> | <b>92</b> | <b>138</b> |

The institution had an Employment Equity Plan (EEP) which demonstrated the target to be attained during the recruitment processes. The representative in terms of Designated and non- Designated were as follows:

| <b>JOB CATEGORY</b> | <b>POST-LEVEL 0-3</b> | <b>POST-LEVEL 4-6</b> | <b>POST-LEVEL 7-9</b> | <b>POST-LEVEL 10-15</b> | <b>POST-LEVEL 16</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Designated          | 13                    | 24                    | 45                    | 18                      | 12                   |
| Non designated      | 1                     |                       | 5                     |                         |                      |

In terms of the staff turn over during the year in review, the total number of staff was 120 with 50 been appointed while 5 permanent staff and 1 Senior Manager resigned. Mopani District Municipality has been committed to sound labour relations hence a Local Labour Forum was established with a representation from both the employer and employees.

Regarding training and development, the municipality had a budget of R 410 000.00 which was complemented by the funds from other institution as follows:

- LGWSETA - R 136 538.00
- DLGH - R 158 000.00
- Learnerships - R 75 000.00

As a way of compliance with legislation, the municipality submitted a Workplace Skills Plan wherein an amount of R 136 538.00 was paid to the municipality as stated above. In terms of the training programme, R 497 446.00 was spent during the year in review. For the Learnerships a total of 10 participated in the LED programme at Level

4 with 6 being unemployed members and 4 employees within the four local municipalities.

## **ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

The report covers the 2004/5 financial year with specific reference to the secretariat support to council and records.

## **KEY SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS AND CHALLENGES**

### **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

During the period under review council has convened six meetings for both special and ordinary council meetings. The meetings were held as follows:

| <b>ORDINARY MEETING</b> | <b>SPECIAL MEETING</b> |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 22 October 2004         | 09 July 2004           |
| 15 December 2004        | 11 May 2005            |
| 01 April 2005           | 13 June 2005           |

### **MAYORAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Mayoral Committee has convened nine meetings during the report period as follows:

- 01 September 2004
- 02 September 2004
- 11 November 2004
- 26 November 2004
- 25 February 2005
- 07 March 2005
- 01 April 2005
- 29 April 2005
- 10 May 200

On 30 March 2001 Portfolio Committees were constituted as follows:

- Water Committee : Cllr G M Mushwana
- Human Resources : Cllr G M Mushwana
- Economic & Tourism : Cllr S V Mathye
- Technical Committee : Cllr N P Lebepe
- Electricity : Cllr C A N Meletse
- Finance : Cllr M N Makhurupetji
- Health & Community Services : Cllr N V Mathonsi
- Disaster management : Cllr T J S Sibanda

These Portfolio Committees have run until 22 October after which they were restructured as follows:

- Governance & Administration : Cllr C A N Meletse
- Trade, Economic Development & IDP : Cllr S V Mathye
- Intergovernmental Relations : Cllr N P Lebepe
- Social Services : Cllr N V Mathonsi
- Finance : Cllr M N Makhurupetji
- Disaster : Cllr T J S Sibanda
- Infrastructure Service, Roads & Transport : Cllr G M Mushwana

## **RECORDS MANAGEMENT**

As a new institution that was created after the 2000 Local Government elections the District Municipality did not have systems in place to ensure for the fulfilment of its objectives. Records Management systems are no exception. The Administration Division has compiled a File Plan for the municipality that was sent to national Archives for approval. The File Plan was indeed approved and implemented. This is the tool that guides the municipality with regard to custody and disposal of public records. A Registry Procedure Manual was also developed and approved by the National Archives. This is the document that guides the municipality in dealing with any matter relating to registry.

## **FINANCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

In terms of the MFMA, a municipality must establish a budget and treasury office which is led by the Chief Financial Officer. Within our municipality we have established a department with only two middle managers who are charged with specific responsibilities. It must however be mentioned that we spent most of the years without a Chief Financial Officer but the Deputy Director Finance was acting in that capacity until the position was filled in May 2005. While that was a milestone, it was very clear that the department needed to be reviewed in order to cater for all the functions that are to be performed in terms of the MFMA. Financial management involves compiling and preparations of budgets, expenditure control, income management and rising of loans including investments.

## **KEY SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS AND CHALLENGES**

The department is responsible for the following functional services:

- Budget and financial planning;
- Revenue management;
- Expenditure management;
- Financial reporting and accounting;
- Supply chain management;
- Treasury and;
- Information Technology.

While the department is charged with these responsibilities, it must be stated that there were limitations in terms of the human capacity. The structure that existed did not adequately speak to the functions of the department hence most of the services were not adequately executed. What is more encouraging is the fact that even though there were those realities, the department was able to execute its core function with the limited human resources available. It must also be noted that in terms of revenue management, the department only performed the monitoring and control responsibility since revenue management was outsourced since the establishment of the municipality. Regarding IT, this is an area that never looked good for us since

there was no staff to handle the function but the department assigned a staff member to look at the soft issues.

In terms of the income generated during the 2004/2005 financial year, the municipality was able to raise a total of R 31,152,297.41 while the grants received are R 138 838 206.68. The income generated is predominantly from the Regional Council Levy while the other incomes such as tender documents, donations, flammable liquids, interest and insurance claims accounted for R 5 889 125.66. The table below will reflect the income per month, grants and other incomes:

### **RSC LEVIES**

| <b>Month</b> | <b>RSC Billed</b>      | <b>Received/Collected</b> | <b>Variance</b>       |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 04 July      | R 3 000 000.00         | 2,405,310.80              | 594,689.20            |
| 04 August    | R 3 100 000.00         | 1,876,208.77              | 1,223,791.23          |
| 04 September | R 3 200 000.00         | 2,146,793.31              | 1,053,206.69          |
| 04 October   | R 3 300 000.00         | 2,869,590.00              | 430,410.00            |
| 04 November  | R 3 350 000.00         | 2,742,256.42              | 607,743.58            |
| 04 December  | R 3 400 000.00         | 2,999,344.55              | 400,655.45            |
| 05 January   | R 3 400 000.00         | 2,514,801.88              | 885,198.12            |
| 05 February  | R 3 400 000.00         | 2,855,684.19              | 544,315.81            |
| 05 March     | R 3 400 000.00         | 1,617,041.49              | 1,782,958.51          |
| 05 April     | R 3 450 000.00         | 3,688,250.60              | -238,250.60           |
| 05 May       | R 3 500 000.00         | 2,634,910.00              | 865,090.00            |
| 05 June      | R 3 500 000.00         | 2,802,105.40              | 697,894.60            |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>R 40 000 000.00</b> | <b>R 31 152 297.41</b>    | <b>R 8,847,702.59</b> |

**Grants and other incomes**

| <b>GRANTS</b> |                         | <b>OTHER</b> |                       |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Month</b>  | <b>Received</b>         | <b>Month</b> | <b>Received</b>       |
| 04-Jul        | 25,000.00               | 04-Jul       | 928.56                |
| 04-Aug        | 14,492,561.51           | 04-Aug       | 91,657.61             |
| 04-Sep        | 5,187,500.00            | 04-Sep       | 4,820.48              |
| 04-Oct        | 6,884,380.80            | 04-Oct       | 59,560.00             |
| 04-Nov        | 2,147,840.50            | 04-Nov       | 66,900.00             |
| 04-Dec        | 32,078,487.00           | 04-Dec       | 57,606.91             |
| 05-Jan        | 11,980,000.00           | 05-Jan       | 23,569.17             |
| 05-Feb        | 16,649,782.00           | 05-Feb       | 25,661.31             |
| 05-Mar        | 42,509,156.00           | 05-Mar       | 1,139,726.80          |
| 05-Apr        | 6,709,578.00            | 05-Apr       | 33,673.92             |
| 05-May        | 3,169,952.90            | 05-May       | 2,663,795.80          |
| 05-Jun        | 3,967.97                | 05-Jun       | 1,721,225.10          |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>R 141,838,206.68</b> |              | <b>R 5,889,125.66</b> |

## **TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

The Technical Services Department provides water, sanitation, electricity and roads services to the community. This is done through a close collaboration with the four local municipalities.

### **KEY SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS AND CHALLENGES**

#### **Water Services**

Transfer agreement was initiated during this 2004/2005 financial year, However it could be concluded due to different condition of employment between DWAF and WSA. The Transfer agreement also focused on the following issues:

- Development of contracts [DWAF]
- Legal matters
- Human Resources issues
- Financial issues [the task team was to deal with the funding for refurbishment of water scheme and the methodology to be applied.]
- Technical Issues [DWAF, conducted functionality of Water Schemes some way back however the responsibility of the municipality was to do verification of information captured.]
- Section 78 processes

This agreement could not be finalized during 2004/2005 financial year. Schemes are still outstanding and will be operated and maintained by DWAF, until such time that mutual agreements on take over conditions will be reached and signed by both parties.

#### **Masibambane Theme 3 Programme**

Various studies was identified by DWAF to enhance the capacity of MDM. Most of the Service Provider appointment were made. As Mopani we also benefited from this programme in order to develop the institutional arrangement capacity. The budget was R2, 1m. The achievements reached during the period of this report were the following:

### ***Technical Assistance***

New World Project was appointed to co-ordinate the Masibambane Theme 3 activities, submit payment claims on behalf of Service Providers and assist MDM in general, to perform duties pertaining to the Water Services Business. This ongoing service was rendered in close collaboration with the Water Service Manager and the Director: Technical Services.

### ***Water Service Development Plan***

A Water Service Development Plan [WSDP] was compiled. The WSA managed to have the draft which was adopted by Council.

### ***Free Basic Water***

Mopani managed to compile a Free Basic Water policy for the entire District, which Mopani District Municipality benefited and is currently being implemented. Meetings and workshop were conducted and finally Mopani's information was also captured in the National DWAF Website on Free Basic Water.

## **SANITATION**

Mopani managed to budget R6, 910 950.60 for household sanitation and 2309 household benefited. This was just a drop in an ocean looking at the service gap that exists with the rural areas.

## **WATER SERVICES BY LAWS**

It was observed that Local Municipalities within the area of jurisdiction of Mopani District Municipality were using developed different water services by laws. This became an area required intervention by the WSA. WSA embarked on a process to rationalise all By Laws that were being used by Local Municipalities. Mopani District Municipality then developed By Laws to be used across the District which is ready for promulgation.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

For the period in review, the following are the service delivery projects implemented also outlining the cost and beneficiaries:

| Name of Project                                    | Project Value           | Household benefited |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Thomo/ makosha/ babangu water cost recovery        | R 2'245'614             | 2 350               |
| Xikukwane water reticulation                       | R 2'069'650             | 307                 |
| Bonwana water reticulation                         | R 576'500               | 1 560               |
| Giyani unit A storm water                          | R 1,610,294             | 8 200               |
| Giyani A & D2 street repairs                       | R 3'852'950             | 197                 |
| Giyani Bulk Rehab & Cost Rc.                       | R 4'500'000             | 8 230               |
| Xivulana water reticulation                        | R 1'027'000             | 776                 |
| Mavalani water reticulation                        | R 1'316'379             | 999                 |
| Giyani Unit F storm water                          | R 1'341'000             | 4 565               |
| Giyani D1 street repairs                           | R 3'300'000             | 1 622               |
| Rotterdam water supply                             | R 3'143'859             | 2 170               |
| Rapitsi/Mapana Water Supply                        | R 1'347'366             | 1 750               |
| Matswe & Senopelo water                            | R 1'368'000             | 2 040               |
| Mamaila water supply                               | R 1'796'491             | 821                 |
| Maphale/Jamela water                               | R 1'347'368             | 2 532               |
| Femane/Ntata water                                 | R 1'347'368             | 225                 |
| Raphahlelo water                                   | R 5'389'473             | 3 993               |
| Refilwe/Nakampe water                              | R 2'750'877             | 11 115              |
| Sephukubje water                                   | R 3'159'580             | 2 465               |
| Ramaroka/Masaseni water                            | R 898'245               | 327                 |
| Tshabelane Water                                   | R 1'527'018             | 619                 |
| Moshakga water                                     | R 945'965               | 337                 |
| Sekgopo water                                      | R 2'807'000             | 1 000               |
| Sedibene water                                     | R 2'582'456             | 1 091               |
| Nkowankowa Unit C water                            | R 763'508               | 480                 |
| Nkowankowa Unit C sanitation                       | R 808'421               | 480                 |
| Lenyenye Extension water                           | R 1'585'824             | 922                 |
| Thapane Phase III water                            | R 11'917'13             | 11 000              |
| Letaba RWS-Xihoko rising main                      | R 9'437'200             | 20 453              |
| Selwane water                                      | R 7'139'280             | 1 945               |
| Namakgale E water reticulation                     | R 2'694'737             | 1 062               |
| Namakgale E Sanitation                             | R 3'800'000             | 2 033               |
| Mopani household Sanitation for all municipalities | R 18'633'000            | 5 324               |
| Mopani Sanitation                                  | R 25'392'000            | 12 831              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                       | <b>R 134'421'936.00</b> | <b>115 821</b>      |

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Department is responsible for coordinating, monitoring and supporting the local municipalities with regard to the following programmes/services:

- HIV AND AIDS
- Sports, Art and Culture
- Environmental Health Services
- Health Services
- Fire Services

The report will cover all the activities that happened during the year 2004/05.

### KEY SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS AND CHALLENGES

During the period in review, the department managed to coordinate and host a number of events or campaigns. The events were held as per table below:

| Event                                 | Date held  | Attendance figures | Host Municipality          |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| WIPPA                                 | 07/09/2004 | 360                | Greater Giyani             |
| Launch of the District Health Council | 29/10/2004 | 1500               | Greater Giyani             |
| District Candlelight Memorial         | 31/05/2005 | 2500               | Greater Letaba             |
| Distribution of food parcels          |            | 828 food parcels   | All local municipalities   |
| World AIDS Day celebration            | 07/12/2005 | 2300               | Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality |

On the other hand, a submission of 14 business plans was made to Limpopo Trust Fund for funding. The District has supported NGO's and Community home based project in the entire district. All the projects equally shared R164 000 namely:

- Hlayiso Community Health and Counselling – GTM
- Shamavunga Community Projects –GGM
- Ntshuxeko Health Development Organisation GGM
- Lesedi Child Care - Ba-Phalaborwa
- Ba-Phalaborwa HIV/AIDS - GGM

## **SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE**

The District is committed to support and promote Sport, Arts and Culture in the following:

- District Heritage Day celebrated on the 24/09/2004, 1500 people attended the event, and we committed R20 050
- Celebrated OR Tambo Games on the 30/09/2004 R 86 060 committed. The Provincial games were held on the 24/02/2005, 130 participants represented the district.
- Supported the Provincial Indigenous Games held on the 29/01/05 at Hoedspruit.
- On the 14 July 2005 the following committees were launched:
  - Moral Regeneration Movement
  - Sport and Recreation Council
  - Arts and Culture Council

The District supported the Talent search programme which was initiated by Arts and Culture Council; all local municipalities were involved in the selection process

The Executive Mayor' Charity Cup was held in July 2005 Four Soccer teams participated, that is, Dynamos, Bilika All Stars, Winnerspark and City Pillar. The tournament was won by Winnerspark.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Evaluation of food Handling and preparation outlets was conducted during 2004/05 and the following were the findings:

- 1353 food handling premises evaluated and 75% complies with the Minimum Health Standards;
- 142 Spaza Shops and 140 Street food evaluated 70% complies with the Minimum Health Standards;
- 221 school monitored for proper water and sanitation 68 % had a adequate water and sanitary facilities;
- 28 meat delivery vehicle checked to ensure compliance with Food Transportation Standards 80 % complies with the standard;
- 137 Schools monitored for nutrition 78% compliance with minimum health standard;
- 132 health facilities were visited to monitor proper waste management and 65 % compliance with health standards.

Health education was conducted on the premises indicated above.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

ARV accreditation was done for the following hospitals:

- Nkhensani

- Kgapane
- Maphuta Malatjie
- Dr CN Phatudi

Executive Mayor visited the above mentioned hospitals from 21-23 June 2005 accompanied by Portfolio Committee Members from the local municipalities and members of the management. All the above hospitals were accredited on condition that the problem of understaffing and privacy will be addressed.

## **FIRE SERVICES**

The core function is to prevent fire and preserve life through the emergency services. The department has allocated nine (9) vehicles were distributed to all fire stations the statistics of the services rendered are as follows:

|                         |   |     |
|-------------------------|---|-----|
| ○ Veld & forest fire    | - | 138 |
| ○ Building fires        | - | 71  |
| ○ Rescue Services       | - | 275 |
| ○ Vehicle fires         | - | 26  |
| ○ Special services      | - | 45  |
| ○ Industrial fires      | - | 12  |
| ○ Hazmat                | - | 05  |
| ○ Humanitarian services | - | 13  |

## **PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

The Directorate for Planning and Development has a mandate in respect of the following core functions and performance areas: General Administration, Spatial Planning, Local Economic Development (LED) and Tourism. This report is aimed at giving a brief outline of the activities of the directorate for the period from July 2004 to June 2005. The report will cover activities in all performance areas mentioned above.

### **KEY SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS AND CHALLENGES**

The Directorate for Planning and Development has a mandate in respect of the following core functions and performance areas: General Administration, Spatial Planning, Local Economic Development (LED) and Tourism. This report is aimed at giving a brief outline of the activities of the directorate for the period from July 2004 to June 2005. The report will cover activities in all performance areas mentioned above.

The directorate came up with site demarcation support programme to local municipalities to assist the local municipalities to address site demarcation backlogs. For a start R400 000.00 was set aside to assist local municipalities with the production of layout plans and general plans. The amount was proposed for the following year's budget and it was approved by Council. Layout plans and spatial planning reports submitted to the district from local municipalities were assessed for compliance. The assessment reports were sent to the respective local municipalities, service providers and the Department of Local Government and Housing. It was noted that different municipalities used different formats to process land use applications. The Spatial Planners Technical Committee came up with uniform guidelines for processing land use applications. The guidelines were circulated to all local municipalities for comments.

Mopani's Local Economic Development (LED) programme gives all sectors the opportunity to work together to improve the local economy. It also aims at enhancing competitiveness and thus encourages inclusive sustainable economic growth. Through the process of procurement policy the municipality was successful in influencing its partners to consider BEE when procuring services. The following objectives were achieved during 2004/5:

The following activities in support of SMME's in the district were undertaken:

- ❖ **Makosha Bakery:** The district bought an oven for a bakery at Makosha and 10 women benefited from the transaction as more bread could be baked. The bakery supplies bread around the village and nearby schools and crèches.
  
- ❖ **Partnerships with Limpopo Manufacturing Advisory Centre (LIMAC) and Limpopo Business Support Agency (LIBSA):** In addressing the gap between the 1<sup>st</sup> Economy and the 2<sup>nd</sup> economy the district in partnership with LIMAC assisted 101 SMME's in marketing, ensuring quality standards and control, and accessing start up capitals. As a result there has been a 20 % growth in SMME's establishment in the district for the year 2004/5. The SMME survival rate of the 101 SMME's was at 90%. Eighty entrepreneurs were capacitated through LIMAC's SMME support programme.

An agreement was also signed with LIBSA to assist in the development of fourteen community gardens business plans. At the end the period under review LIBSA were still collecting information on the projects.

The district has a direct responsibility to market and promote tourism products and icons as defined by the Municipal Systems Act no 32 of 2000. In the quest for the above function the following national and local exhibitions, shows and events were attended:

- ❖ **National Exhibitions and shows:** The district attended the following exhibitions and shows during the year under review: The Durban Tourism Indaba, the Getaway Tourism show in Randburg and the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) inaugural conference in Tshwane.



Provincial MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (DEDET) Collins Chabane, addressing tourism enthusiasts and practitioners at the May 2005 Tourism Indaba in Durban.



Basani Kubayi, an official in the directorate and Cllr Groenewald, a member of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development and the IDP manning a stall at the Durban Tourism Indaba

- ❖ **Local Exhibitions, Shows and Events:** Greater Giyani show, the Mopani to Marula festival in Phalaborwa, the Hadedra Festival and the Letaba Show in

Tzaneen, Itereleng Photo exhibition in Tzaneen, Baleni Day Celebration hosted by The Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (DEDET) on behalf of the Mahumani community, and the World Tourism Day hosted by the Ba Phalaborwa Municipality. The first tourism brochure was launched in December 2004 by the district Executive Mayor at a glittering function held at the district banquet hall.

The district placed its first television advert on Etv. The thirty minute advert also covered a provincial tourism advert by Tourism and Parks Board. The district also placed a full page advertorial in the Quarterly Journal for Trade Partners and Investors magazine named *South Africa*.

The experience gained through the attendance of these exhibitions, shows and events assisted in putting Mopani District on the Tourism Map as well gaining more knowledge not only on tourism related activities, but also on trade and investment which will further boost economic development in the district.

In addressing cultural diversity in the district, the directorate took initiatives to support cultural tourism. Two areas were identified in the Greater Giyani and Ba-Phalaborwa Municipalities and they are Baleni Ivory Route Camp and Muti wa Vatsonga Museum respectively. A budget was set aside to assist Baleni with the development of a picnic site for the Mahumani Community and the development of traditional huts at Muti wa Vatsonga.

An attempt was made to have the Shangoni Gate opened for the public. It was envisaged that this will boost the economy of the district. Several meetings were held with several stakeholders and interested parties. The District Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Trade and IDP accompanied by a Councillor from Thulamela Local Municipality made a visit to the Gate to look at the feasibility of the opening of the gate. The District also put aside a start up capital for the programme.

A programme of this magnitude has huge financial implications when one takes into consideration the road infrastructure that needs to go into it. The District

tried to look for partners to Co-finance the programme but was unsuccessful and the programme had to be temporarily abandoned.

The district forged relationships with the following stakeholders:

- Trade and Investment Limpopo (TIL): development of a concept for the district Arts and Craft Market
- W K Kellogg Programme: initiation of Local Area Planning (LAP) programme at Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality
- Independent Development Trust (IDT): assisted in the development of Strategic Management Plan of the Directorate
- Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA): Co-funded the development of Tourism Strategy, Local Economic Development (LED) Framework and strategy, and Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and Land Use Management (LUMS).
- LIMAC: assisted in the capacity building of SMME's engaged in manufacturing
- LIBSA: assisted in the development of business plans for community gardens
- University of Venda for Science and Technology (UNIVEN): assisted in conducting a Co-operatives Baseline Study. Results are still pending.
- Tourism and Parks Board: assisted in the district municipality's participation in national exhibitions and shows
- Southern Education Research Alliance (SERA): assisted in the project management of the Natural Resource Development Programme at Greater Giyani Local Municipality. Mopani District Municipality co-funded the Mopani Worms and Bee Keeping projects within the programme.
- National Development Agency (NDA): assisted Community Gardens in grant finance and training.

The department is looking forward to a number of additions in planning functions. Among others, the directorate looks forward to assume development planning functions which will include infrastructure planning, trade and investment planning and the Geographic Information System (GIS). The directorate also looks forward to

the coordination of the district's Spatial Development Framework (SDF), Land Use Management Systems (LUMS), Local Economic Development (LED) Strategy and a Tourism Marketing Strategy.

### **CHAPTER 3            AUDITED STATEMENTS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The 2004/2005 audit report by the Auditor General was not available as the audit was not conducted for the financial year in question. It is anticipated that it will be made available once all the audit backlogs have been cleared with the Office of the Auditor General.

## **CHAPTER 4            CONCLUSION**

The 2004/2005 annual report of Mopani District Municipality is a fulfilment of the Constitutional mandate given to local government. Indeed the report reflects all what the district municipality has done in an endeavour to ensure a developmental local government which is transparent, accountable, effective and efficient. It is our believe that the report will give the citizens of the district an opportunity to reflect and assess the performance of this institution since it was established in 2000. We have achieved a lot of milestones but we believe that more is still to come.

We have come to the end of the term for the current leadership in Council and a lot has been done since their election into office in 2000. Mopani District Municipality never existed before 2000 and that in itself confirms the fact that there were neither systems nor staff in place at the time of establishment. However, it must be indicated that our local municipalities have contributed tremendously in shaping their district hence our success is their success too.

The people of Mopani will be going to the polls on the day of the election with a confidence that their leadership have executed the mandate given the many challenges they faced throughout the term such as the lack of staff, insufficient funds and many more others. As a district together with our local municipalities, we want to appreciate the unwavering and participation throughout our programmes by our communities and stakeholders. To the outgoing Councillors, you have made your mark. Our people will always remember what you did to them. Your leadership has brought us where we are today and we will always cherish that with all our hearts.