

SPEECH



**Mopani District
Municipality**



STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS

**Executive Mayor
Cllr Pule Shayi**

12 July 2023

 **GIYANI COMMUNITY HALL**

 **11:00**



www.mopani.gov.za

**To be the food basket of Southern Africa and
the tourism destination of choice**



**Speech by his Worship, the Executive Mayor of Mopani District
Municipality, Councillor Pule Shayi on the occasion of the of the
State of the District Address (SODA),
12 July 2023 at the
Giyani Community hall.**

Madam Speaker, Cllr Martha Maswanganyi;

All our mayors present here;

Whip of Council, CllrMagdelene Lewele and all whips present;

The speakers from our local municipalities;

Members of the Mayoral Committee;

The chairperson of the Local House of Traditional leader, Kgoshi Pheeha; baberwa ba mmakgodi a Lerotse baila Letsamaka,ba rego fase ga ke robale,ke tshaba go robega molala

All our royal leaders present here, Matswarathamaga,Maaparankwe,ba ka mafateng a matelele a mohweleretshipi,dikota maledu,madula phate a moshate, Ba Ndabezitha ba hina,Vinyi va misaba,Mipfumo swibongo ku katsa niti Nduna.

Kgosi yaka ye e mpusaga,Kgosigadi Mosebotsana Shayi,wa setshaba sa ba Ga Shayi Ditlou,Nkurwane ya ka Mosate moitiya komana ra tsoga re ega morogo.

Chair of chairs and all chairs of our Section 79 Committees;

Our Cdes in the opposition benches.Leaders of opposition parties;

Fellow Councillors;

Municipal Manager, Ntate Tshepo Mogano and your team of senior managers;

Chair of the Audit Committee, Ntate Modipane;

The leadership of ANC in the region, Cde Goodman and the REC collective;

District commissioner of SAPS, General Mashava;

The representative from SALGA;

District ward committee forum, and all our ward committees;

Representatives of our Sector departments and state owned agencies;

Our esteemed colleagues from the private sector;

Our guests from chapter 9 institutions, in particular Mme Mokgalabone from the IEC;

Pastors, bishops present here, in particular the delegation from ZCC (Naledi) and ZCC St Engenas church;

Government communicators and members of the media present;

Leaders of organized labour, in particular SAMWU and IMATU;

Lapa la gesu la ga Shayi le eteletswe pele buti a ka Moruti Molefe Shayi, Iman Ananias le Kgaetsedi yaka Pulane.

All our invited guests, and our people listening through the radio stations;

Ladies and gentlemen

Vaka hina, rixile!

Madam Speaker, *ka titimela. Xi vuyisa na n'wana vukatini.* go tona ga go ntsha le ditshosana maotsane.

It is once again with a profound sense of honour and humility, we give this morning, on behalf of the leadership collective an account to the people of this district. We do so, in the main guided by our collective responsibility and obligation to live up to the expectations of the Freedom Charter.

On the 26 of June 1955, in Kliptown, our forebears agreed on a programme of action underlined by the prophetic words: **the people shall govern**. The freedom charter remains to this date, the guiding document for our sustained work in changing the lives of our people. We will not rest until the aspirations of our people as espoused in the freedom charter are realized.

We gather today here on the backdrop of Mandela Month. It is during this month that we celebrate the life and legacy of the founding father of our democracy, President Nelson Mandela, including his call for global action for solidarity in reducing food insecurity and climate change.

Today as we account to the people of Mopani, we are reminded of his words when he said, I quote: "It can be said that there are four basic and primary things that the mass of people in society wish for: to live in a safe

environment, to be able to work and provide for themselves, to have access to good public health, and to have sound educational opportunities for their children.”

And indeed, as we celebrate a century and half a decade of his life, we should continue to embrace the approach as informed by the Nelson Mandela Goals 2019-2029 which is of course focused on effective, sustainable, collaborative interventions. The campaign identifies five key areas for global partnerships, which are:

- Education and literacy
- Food and nutrition
- Shelter
- Sanitation
- Active citizenship

Mandela made a clarion call, which all of us must respond to today, when he said, and I quote: **“In this new century, millions of people in the world’s poorest countries remain imprisoned, enslaved and in chains. They are trapped in the prison of poverty. It is time to set them free.”**

Madam Speaker

It is against this background that I wish to introduce my special guests today. I have a young man who has taken keen interest in farming. His name is Nyiko Godfrey Maswanganyi, 35 years of age now from Mavalani village, here in Greater Giyani Municipality. He has been doing cash crop farming on a 7-hectare land. And this morning, we want to appreciate him for the contribution that he is making to food security in the district.

As part of government’s efforts to support his work, the Department of Agriculture has set aside **R4,5 million** to assist his farming venture. This will

be around the construction of a 1 ha shade nets, drip irrigation system, pump station, fertigation unit and reservoir, ablution facility, pack shed with pre-packaging crates and tables. *Mavoko ya munhu a ya mili nhova*. We applaud his efforts, and we are pleased to have him in our midst.

My second special guest today is Principal Mary Mokgalaka from Madjadji Primary School in Ga-Selwane, Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality. Her school has a food garden which is able to feed learners and sell its produce to our people around Ga-Selwane.

It participated in the Best School Awards Competition for the 2022/23 financial year where it won at the level of the province and also national. And for their efforts, a kitchen valued at **R800 thousands** will be constructed at the school by the Department of Education. We celebrate her and her entire team at the school as you collectively contribute towards our efforts in fighting hunger and poverty. May we give a round of applause to her.

My third special guest for the day is a young lady, one of the youngest biophysicists in the country. She has won the 2022 award at the Top 16 Youth-Owned Brands Inaugural. She is the founding CEO of Mater Pluviam Holdings. She holds a Master of Science degree in Genetics from the Stellenbosch University.

She is an innovative scientist that aspires to close the gap between scientific knowledge and its application in the agricultural industry. She has experience in agricultural research. She has worked on sustainable farming, plant pathology, agricultural waste management and post-harvest waste.

Her name is Mmapula Lesailane. She will be leaving to Brazil in the next few days to participate at the University of Sao Paulo Agricultural Summer School. We are happy to have her in our midst.

Hi khensa migingirinko leyi va yi endlaka ku lwisana na vusweti no vona leswaku mhisi a yi tlakuli tshuri laha xifundzeni-ntsongo xa hina.

Madam Speaker

Imbued by the spirit of Nelson Mandela, we must step up our efforts of providing quality education for all our children, and ensure that all children in Early Childhood Development do have access to learning resources for development. Two weeks ago, we had an opportunity to visit at least two ECD centres (Mikateko Day Centre in Boyelang and Khamangu Early Learning Centre), where we handed equipment as part of our contribution to early childhood development.

This morning, together with the mayor of Greater Giyani Municipality, we started at the family of Mkansi at Makoxa B9 ward 13, to do sod turning to hand over a contractor to build a house to the child headed family of 08 living and sleeping in one room depending on foster grant and child support grant. The contractor will build a three-bedroom house, fully furnished upon handing over.

Few weeks ago, we did the same at Ngove, Sikhunyani and Gandlanani and work has already started at that level. This is part of our efforts to provide shelter for our people, thereby pushing the struggle by few more meters.

We must also work around reducing hunger in families. Together, we need to move with speed to provide safe shelter for families to live and thrive in, and eliminate homelessness. We need to accelerate the provision of water and access to safe sanitation in all our communities.

The fundamental question that we should ask ourselves is what President Thabo Mbeki asked at the time we were mourning the passing of President Nelson Mandela, when he said, I quote: **“What shall we do to respond to the tasks of building a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa, a people-centred society free of hunger, poverty, disease and inequality, as well as Africa’s renaissance, to whose attainment President Nelson Mandela dedicated his whole life?”**

Therefore, in honour of this selfless icon, we should recommit ourselves to the programme of accelerating service delivery, growing the district economy, fighting corruption and maladministration. That is why we are hosting this State of the District Address under the theme: **“Our renewed commitment to accelerate service delivery and build the District’s economy.”**

Madam Speaker

We are steadfast in our commitment to the social contract as entered into with our people in the context of the fifth democratic local government. And we remember vividly the resounding message delivered by our people that **of building better communities together.**

We wish to use this opportunity to present a synopsis of the work of government in this district space over the last twelve months, and take an immediate glimpse into the future. And as we do that, we should immediately register our sincere and deep appreciation to our people that have been with us during the IDP/Budget consultation process.

As part of this process, we have been to all our local municipalities and the issues raised are common. Our people want us to improve on water provision. Our people want better roads. Our people want employment and economic opportunities.

We should acknowledge the tremendous improvement in the coordination of government work within the framework of the district development model, and in particular thank the representatives from our sector departments and the business community. It's never easy to change old habits, but we are observing that there is a greater will to see the model succeeding in this District. Through this model, we are set on a path of accelerating service delivery to our people.

Our plans as outlined in the IDP for the 2023/24 financial year will be implemented with a total budget of **Two billion- one Hundred and Forty-Five Million –One Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousands – One Hundred and Fifty (R2 145 178 150).**

From this budget of R2, 1 billion, an amount of R1, 5 billion (R1 560 512 269) which constitute **72%** of the total budget is allocated for the operating budget. **R548 million (R548 214 000)** is the capital budget, which constitute at least **25%** of the total revenue.

1. PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES

1.1 Water

Madam Speaker

When accepting the responsibility to serve our people, we did make a solemn pledge to spare no effort in trying to reduce the backlog on water provision in the district. We are able to report to the people of Mopani today that we have indeed moved some meters in our programme of improving the quality of our people's lives - this through water infrastructure provision. More and more of our people now have access to water closer to where they reside.

In the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, we have three contractors busy with work as part of Phase 2 of the Lulekani Water Scheme. The work includes installation and refurbishment of metered yard connections, the construction of rising main, as well as the gravity main from Matiko-Xikaya to Humulani. We will continue with implementation of Lulekani Benfarm Water Scheme Project with a budget of **R74,3 million** as we start the 2023/24 financial year.

We are reporting today that through our bulk water infrastructure, our communities in Maseke and Boyelang will have consistent supply of water as we work towards completion of Phase 4 of Makhushane Water Scheme project. Through the MIG funding, we have set aside **R50 million** as part of this project.

Lepelle Northern Water has set aside a budget of **R93,5 million** infrastructure projects in the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, and this will of course include the refurbishment of the radial gates at the Phalaborwa Barrage, and phase 2 of the project to replace the stoplogs at the Phalaborwa plant.

Greater Giyani Municipality

Vanhu vaka hina laha Giyani a va lahlekirile hi ku tshemba ka leswaku va ta ma vona mati yo huma Nandoni, va ehleketa leswaku i ku rindza n'weti. Mati ya Nandoni ya fikile laha Giyani, leswi endleka leswaku va singula ku va na ntshembo ra leswaku mati ya ta fika laha va tshamaka kona.

Hi rhandza ku teka nkarhi lowu hi khensa vandavezitha lava va seketeka migingiriko leyi. Hi tlhela hi khensa swiyenge hikwaswo leswi swi hoxaka xiandla eka Mopani Multi-sectoral task team nhweti yin'wana na yin'wana ku landzelerisa ntirho lowu wu nge le ku endliweni laha Giyani wo humelerisa mphakelo wa mati.

Tani hiloko Holobye Senzo Mchunu va kombisile, mati yo suka eNandoni ya fikile e pulatini ya hina ya Giyani hi mugero (canal). Project ya ku fensela mugero (canal) yi sungurile ka mavhiki lama hundzeke. Hi nkensa nsekentelo wa vaaka tiko loko project leyi ya ha emahlweni. This is a key milestone in this project. We are busy with work around refurbishment and rehabilitation of the Giyani Water Treatment Works, which is currently at 30 mega litres a day to at least 36 mega litres a day.

Hi ringeta hi matimba ku vona leswaku loko hi ri karhi hi yisa emahlweni ntirho lowu pfluxeta plant, mphankelo wa mati a wu kavanyeteki. Kambe ha swi tiva leswaku a swi olovi. Hikokwalaho hi lava ku kombela vaaka tiko ku hi lehisela timbilu loko ha ha yisa emahlweni ntirho lowu.

Hi sungurile hi migingiriko yo ngenisa ti phayiphi leti nga na timitara emajareteni ya vaaka tiko eka minghanga yo ringana 24 tani hi Phase 1 ya projeke leyi. Vaaka tiko va hina eBambeni va tsaka hi ntirho lowu wu nge le ku endliweni. Va na ku tshembha ka leswaku mati ya ta fika emugangeni wa vona hi Pipeline D. Five SMMEs are benefiting from that project in Bambeni.

Mangwa yi pfumale timondzo hi ku rhumisa. Hi huma eka Homu 14A laha mindyangu yo ringana 1106 yi nga ta va na mati emajarateni. Dzunisani Maluleke loyi anga muakatiko eka Homu 14A wa pfumela leswaku project leyi yi ta tisa ku ncica swinene. Hi huma eka Ngove, ward 10 na ward 21 laha ntirho wu nga le ku fambeni kahle. Na le Homu 14B ntirho wu famba kahle swinene.

Ntirho wu le ku yeni emahlweni eka Sikhunyani laha vanhu vo ringana 36 va nga le ku tirheni. Ntirho wu le ku yeni emahlweni eka Bode, Maswanganyi, Makoxa, Muyexe, Mhlava Willem, Risinga View, Mageva, Xikukwani, Nwakhuwani, Kamnniginisi Block 2, Gawula, Vuhehli, Mapayeni, na Mhlaba Willem.

Hi rhumerile va n'wa kotiranta eka miganga ya hina ya Ndindani, Mahlathi, Khakhala, Thomo, na Maphatha. The completion of phase 1 of this project Madam Speaker, is set for January 2024. At least **35 317** households should have water direct in their homes when this project is complete. It has already created 410 work temporary work opportunities, and more will be created as the work continues.

Our local SMMEs are benefiting, though many sub-contractors have not yet been appointed. Therefore, more and more SMMEs will benefit from implementation of this project, but also gain much valued experience. Phase 2 ya project leyi yi ta sungula lembe leri landzelaka yi karhi yi kongome eka miganga yo ringanga 31.

The complaints on issues around the Middle-Letaba dam are still receiving attention. DWS is still busy with investigations. And while the investigation is ongoing, there are two options which have been put forward as recommendations to the Mopani Multi-Stakeholder Task Team.

One: The need to build a weir at Klein Letaba and a canal to take water to Middle-Letaba dam. Two: Proceed with and complete the feasibility study on water recycle where effluents in Wastewater Works are treated to a tertiary level and re-used in augmenting the dam.

In Greater Letaba Municipality, the home of the Rain Queen, we have a number of water infrastructure projects currently underway. But we have also budgeted **R70 million** towards Sekgosese Water Scheme project in the 2023/24 financial year. We also have **R7 million** for Sefotse to Ditshosine project with specific focus on Ramahlatsi bulk and reticulation.

In the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, the president spoke of the project to extend the Tzaneen Dam wall during his State of the Nation Address.

Government, through DWS has started with work around this project, which entails raising the dam wall by three meters.

The project, which is valued at over **half-a-billion** will create more than 200 temporary work opportunities, with 25 already appointed. At least **37,46%** of the budget will go towards the support of SMMEs through sub-contracting. The end goal is that raw water storage capacity of the dam increase from **157 million** cubic meters to **195 million** cubic meters. And this is positive news for our communities around Tzaneen.

In Bulamahlo cluster, we have succeeded in ensuring that the people of Lenyenye have water direct from the Thabina dam. Through the completion of Phase 5 of this project (which is now on practical completion), our people in Moime, Mokomotji and Marumofatse are benefiting from this project. It had created **41** work opportunities with **21** small businesses also benefiting. We have budgeted **R64, 3 million** to work towards completion of this project.

We were in Mogapeng village in March this year, we have seen first-hand the progress made through the Tours Water Scheme Project. Phase 3 of this work, which focused around the refurbishment of bulk lines and reticulation has had impact on our people in Ward 26 and Ward 27. At least 28 local SMMEs benefited from the project while it also created 36 work opportunities. Phase 1 of this project, which is now on practical completion has created 179 work opportunities with 20 SMMEs benefiting.

The Tours Water Scheme should ultimately benefit 24 villages around that cluster. And we have again set aside an amount of **R72,5 million** as part of this project. We also have the Lephephane bulk water project with an amount of **R60 million** set to begin during this financial year.

In Lesedi cluster, we have the Ritavi 2 Water Scheme Project, which should ultimately benefit our communities in ward 17, 18, 20, 24, and 32. We have

been to Muhlava, Petanenge, and Zanghoma. Our people are happy with our efforts to bring water in their doorsteps. We will be able to continue with this work as part of Phase 4 with a budget of **R70 million**.

In the Relela Cluster, we have experienced prolonged stoppages on the Thapane project due to the dispute with the contractor. We will in this financial year 2023/24 spend **R41, 3 million** on the Thapane Regional Water Scheme Project (upgrading and extensions) and **R8,1 million** Thapane Regional Water Scheme (upgrading of water reticulation).

In Maruleng, we have a budget of **R12,5 million** for the Hoedspruit Bulk Water Supply. The construction of the pump station in Santeng and the rising main to Sedawa is complete. We are awaiting the delivery of electrical cables and energizing in order to proceed with pressure testing.

The Department of Water and Sanitation has approved the IRS for Mametja-Sekororo Regional Bulk Water Scheme Project. Therefore, we should be proceeding with better enhanced pace in implementing this project for our people to have sustainable provision of water. To that extent, the Municipality is finalizing the designs to secure appointment of contractors who should take the work forward in the 2023/24 financial year.

We still have many of our people around the district who depend on boreholes for drinking water. We have a total number of **1715** boreholes in the district, though we still have 306 that need energizing. We have budgeted **R20 million** in the 2023/24 financial year for borehole development as and when there is a need to do so for our people to have water in the immediate.

We have set aside at least **R28 million** from the maintenance budget to target specific areas we have identified as critical need of maintenance, and this would include Mokgoba Sewer in Modjadjiskloof where we have

allocated at least **R2,7 million** for that work. The work there of course is around replacing the collapsed septic tank and the pipe system.

We will be implementing the telemetric system at Kampersrus in Maruleng, and also attend to the collapsed borehole, re-equip it with 22kw pump and motor. We all replace the transformers, and install palisade fencing at the water treatment works.

We will also replace the steel storage tank at Nondweni Water works, and 2 of the 75kw submersible raw water pumps where we have budgeted just over **R3,5 million**. We will repair the raw water pumps, potables pumps, soft starters and compressors for Ga-Kuranta Sand Water Treatment Works.

We will be drilling, testing and equipping a borehole at Daniel Rabalela as part of our short-term intervention to the water challenge in that village. We will be replacing the bulk water meters at Nkowankowa-Dan reservoirs as well as the zonal water meters in Nkowankowa township.

We will be installing 4 submersible pumps and two mixers at the Giyani Wastewater Works. We have set aside **R2,3 million** to install two raw water pumps, valves and at least 300m long 200millimetre diameter pipeline from the canal to the Middle Letaba Water Works.

We have around **R2,5 million** for work in the Tours Water Works, and this would include the supply and refill sand filters and nozzles, installing the shelter for chemical dosing pumps and storage tanks. We have additional **R1,4 million** for the installation of magnetic flow meters for inlet and outlet in Tours Water Works.

We will be installing pre and post disinfection system for Thabina Water Works to assist in handling iron and manganese from raw water. The work will include the installation of inlet and outlet magnetic flow meters and the isolation valves at the plant.

We will be replacing the malfunctioning inlet screen at the Nkowankowa Sewage Works, and also repair the digester drum at Lenyenye Sewage Works. In Hoedspruit, we will be installing screen in Lebamba and also install two sewage cutter pumps.

Madam Speaker

We are continuing with work around improving the quality of water we produce. And to that extent, we have joined the SABS proficiency laboratory testing. Participation in this programme will help us improve both our Blue Drop and Green Drop.

The report released by the Department of Water last month on the Green and Blue drop status of municipalities does not paint a good picture. Mopani is one of the municipalities not doing well. We have developed plans to address the challenge.

But we have gone a step further and advertised posts for officials to work in the water quality space, including one post at management level. The closing date for the posts was yesterday. Therefore, this should help us improve our capacity to adequately respond to the challenge.

We didn't have cholera cases here in the District, except for the family that had travelled to Hamaanskraal from Greater Letaba Municipality. We have taken water sampled and done several tests from all our treatment works, and the results came back negative.

1.2 Sanitation

Fellow councillors

In reaching out to our rural communities, at least **5858** households have benefited from the (**VIP toilets**) programme, completed in the 2022/23 financial year.

We have built **688** in Maruleng Municipality, **1419** in Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, **1159** in Greater Giyani, **1032** in Greater Letaba Municipality and **1667** were built in Greater Tzaneen Municipality. We are completing a further **43** in Greater Giyani and **107** in the Greater Letaba Municipality.

1.3 Provision of electricity

Madam Speaker

At the level of local government, and through our local municipalities we have continued with work around provision of electricity to our rural communities. Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality has set aside **R20 million** for electrification of rural households in Majeje, Makhushane, Mashishimale, Mosemaneng, Nodweni and Priska.

Here in Greater Giyani, we have electrification projects in Shivulani, Mninginis Block3, Homu 14A, Bode extensions, Sikhunyani, Mapayeni, Daniel Rabalela, Homu14B, Gawula, Khakhala, Loloka, Mageva, Mahlathi, N'wadzekudzeku, Giyani Section F, and Siyandhani.

In Greater Tzaneen, in the past financial year, **R16,1 million** was spent in connecting electricity to 1496 rural households. A further **R18,7 million** is set aside during the 2023/24 financial year. The communities to benefit include, Akanani, Mackery, Mandlakazi, Mugwazeni, Rikhotso, Thabina Valley, Mokgwathi and Ramotshinyadi. The Municipality has also set aside **R6 million** for maintenance on the 11KV Waterbok to Selwane village MV line.

1.4 Maintenance of roads

Madam Speaker

During our engagement with our people as part of the IDP/Budget consultations, they have raised sharply the issue of roads in the district.

Even with the limitations that exist, there is ongoing work to improve the conditions of our major roads and internal streets.

Having bought 5 graders during the 2021/22 financial year, we succeeded in employing grader operators who should contribute in enhancing the work at the level of local municipalities. We should also move to applaud the support from the provincial government through the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as led by MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale, particularly the efforts around “**Operation Thiba Mekoti Ditseleng.**”

We have seen maintenance work on the D1292 from D1350 Nkambako, the D3840 from Giyani to Phalaborwa and the D3200 from R81 to Mokwakwaila. Of course maintenance from the D3840 from Giyani to Phalaborwa is almost complete. The progress on the D11 road Ga-Mamaila Kolobetona is above 90%. The work on the D3641 from D3812 to D3745 Altein is also closer to completion.

In Greater Tzaneen Municipality, the phase 1 progress on the D3873 road Lenyenye to D4139 Mosoroni is also above 90%. Two-third of the phase 1 work on the D3873 Bokgaga to Lephephane is also done. In Greater Letaba, the D3179 from Medingeng to Malematsa is also progressing well.

The Department, through RAL will in this financial year be doing rehabilitation work on the D3840 Road from Giyani to Makhuva as part of Phase 2, the D11 from Lemondokop to Ga-Raphahlelo as part of Phase 2 and 3, the D3873 from Bokgaga to Lephephane as part of Phase 2.

The department is busy with designs for the D548 road Georges Valley from the R36 in Tzaneen to R71 Haenertsburg, the D3180 from D447 Maraka to R71 Shayameriri, the D3786 Mashishimale road from R3 to R1, the D3812 Homu14B to Vuhehli, the D3775 Mhangweni to Mafarana, the D3164 Olifantshoek through Rotterdam to Senwamokgope and Etielene.

The same is happening with regard to the D3804, D3805 Xikukwane to Mbatlo and also the P43/3 road leading from Letaba ranch to Eiland. The work on this road should provide relief to our farming community in that area.

A contractor has been appointed to start with upgrade work on the D3248 road, Thapane access to N'wamitwa. RAL is also working with the Department to fasttrack the regraveling of the D3247 from Nwamitwa via Babanana, the D3878 road in Balloon next to Ga-Sekororo, the D3187 road from Mokgwathi, Lekgwareng to Dzumeri.

The regraveling of the D3247 in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, the D549 road in Greater Letaba Municipality and the D3878 road in Maruleng Municipality, will also be done during this financial year.

The Department is also working with SANRAL on the design and upgrade of the following roads: The D3810 Thomo to Hlomela, the D3878 Calais to Ga-Sekororo, the D3187 road Mageva to Makhuva,

In Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, the work in ward 03 as part of the upgrading of from gravel to tar in Benfarm will continue with the budget of **R30 million**. The municipality will also upgrade from gravel to tar the Honeyville to Dinoko Sebera road with an estimated budget of **R28 million**, the Mabine to Sobby tarven road with an estimated budget of **R29,7 million**. The Municipality also has plans to construct storm water culverts in Lulekani, and also in Mashishimale,

Here in Greater Giyani Municipality, the Mayor Cllr Thandi Zitha has assured us that the project as part of Phase 4 and storm water Phase 1 in Giyani Section F will continue through internal funding. The Municipality will use the MIG funding to pursue the Siyandhani ring road project with a budget of **R27 million**.

There will be work to upgrade from gravel to tar the road at Shikhumba, with a budget of **R14,5 million**. An additional funding will be sourced internal for the project at Shikhumba. At least **R900 thousands** has been set aside for Nkhesani Hospital access road, **R1,5 million** for completion of Phase 2 upgrading from gravel to paving at Makosha. Half-a-million will go towards the upgrading of Giyani Section E road from gravel to paving.

The Municipality will also **R6,5 million** from the MIG to implement the project to upgrade from gravel to paving the streets ta Selawa. **R2,5 million** towards Hlomela upgrading from gravel to tar. There will be some work starting in Babangu, Nwamakena and Shawela,

In Greater Letaba, the Municipality will implement street paving Moshakga/Makaba with a budget of **R8 million**, the Ramudumo street paving with a budget of **R13,8 million**, the Abel street paving with a budget of **R13,5 million**, the Burkina Faso street paving with a budget of **R9 million**, Maupa street paving with a budget of **R9,6 million**, Masakhaneng street paving with a budget of R6 million. The budget of **R900 thousands** is set aside for the construction of Rampepe access bridge.

Greater Tzaneen Municipality has completed work on the project from Nwamitwa Bridge via Nhlengeleti school to taxi rank. Paving of Moseanoka to Cell C Pharare internal streets is almost complete. The upgrading of mulati Access Road at completion stage. The paving of Risaba, Mnisi, and Shando, to Driving School in Ward 5 is nearing completion. Paving of the main road from Nduna Mandlakazi to Jamba cross in Ward 13, also at completion stage.

With a budget of **R33,4 million** from the MIG, the Municipality has already started with the paving project for Zanghoma to Mariveni road. **R19 million** has been set aside for the upgrading of Marirone to Motupa Access road. The two projects will create in excess of 180 temporary work opportunities.

The Municipality will also work on rehabilitation of Dan Access Road from the R36 road (Scrapyard) to D5011 road at Teba).

There is ongoing work to rehabilitate roads in our townships in Greater Tzaneen Municipality. Our people appreciate the work done at Bankuna street in Nkowankowa and the Lenyenye main road. There is a budget of **R2,5 million** for Letsitele main road. The mayor also tells me that the Municipality has budgeted **R9 million** to purchase construction equipment such as graders.

In Maruleng Municipality, the home of wildlife haven. The Municipality as led by Mayor Musolwa will implement the project to pave the road in Mabins with a budget of **R16 million**, the construction from gravel to surface as part of Sofaya to Mahlomeng access road project with a budget of **R20 million** will be implemented this financial year. There are plans to rehabilitate the Ga-Sekororo access road with a budget of **R5,3 million**.

The Municipality will also be implementing a project to rehabilitate the Kampersus road with a budget of **R3 million**. The rehabilitation of Metz access road will also be implemented this financial year with a budget of **R9 million**, Lorraine access road with a budget of **R1,6 million**. **R15 million** is set aside for Shikwane access road from gravel to paved.

1.5 Other infrastructure projects

The Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality will use the MIG allocation to proceed with work around refurbishment of the Namakgale stadium. The Greater Giyani Municipality has set aside **R10, 6 million** from the MIG for Mavalani Indoor Sports Centre, and a further **R5,7 million** from own fund. The Municipality will also construct the community hall at Jim-Nghalalume with a budget of **R7 million** and the additional funds from own source.

GGM will also use R2million towards Mageva Sport Centre pitch extension, R2million for refurbishment at the Giyani Stadium, R1,5 million for Giyani Section E Sport Centre, and R2 million for Gawula Sports Centre. Over R5million has been set aside for the landfill site.

The Greater Letaba Municipality has set aside R9,4 million to complete the Madumeleng/Shotong Sports Complex. The Greater Tzaneen Municipality has completed the installation of High Mast Lights in Nkowankowa, Mariveni, Lusaka, Sethong, Xihoko, and Mandhlakazi.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SPATIAL RATIONALE

2.1 Local Economic Development

Madam Speaker

We continue to support and promote the economic sectors in the district in order to grow the economy, focusing in the main on agriculture, mining, tourism and manufacturing. Our vision remains that of being the food basket of Southern Africa and the tourism destination of choice.

We have continued with the Pop-up Market campaigns in partnership with the Small Enterprise Development Agency (seda). In the main, through mall activations, the campaign seeks to assist our SMMEs and cooperatives to take their services and products closer to where people are. At least 180 SMMEs have participated in the campaign during the 2022/23 financial year.

The campaign is also key in encouraging our people in the district to purchase locally produced products and services in support of our SMMEs, and contribute to job creation. It's also an important networking platform for our SMMEs and cooperatives who are able to learn best practices from each other.

We worked with the provincial government to support SMMEs at exhibitions expos such as the Durban Indaba and the Rand Easter Show. One of the products that was of great interest to participants at the Rand Easter Show is the Mopani Protein Bar, made by a proudly South African company owned by a woman.

Together with the Wholesale Retail SETA, we have trained and issued vouchers to 70 SMMEs in the district, majority operating as informal traders. At least 50 learners are undergoing training through Agri SETA in the district.

The Department of Agriculture continues to support efforts around food security, and to that extent they spent **R19,8 million** during the 2022/23 financial year to provide support to vegetable farmers. During the 2022/23 financial year, they spent **R4,7 million** in support of North Elephant, **R4 million** on Mabodyane Coop, and **R3,2 million** on J Makhubele, operating in the Greater Letaba Municipality.

In Greater Giyani, they supported SEDA Coop with **R2,9 million**. In Ba-Phalaborwa, they supported Raleputso with **R5,2 million**. The aim in the main is to get these farming enterprises to achieve certification in both South African and the Global Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

This financial year, the Department has set aside **R4,5 million** to assist Vhukensas in Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality. Part of the work will be around construction of shade nets, drip irrigation system with tensiometers, pump station, ablution facilities, and pack shed.

Here in Greater Giyani, they will support Risana Agricultural Enterprise which is owned by Tinyiko Maswanganyi, my special guest for today. In Maruleng,

they will support Malemelapeba Poultry. The support will include the construction of 3x3000 broiler houses.

This farming enterprise belongs to a young woman who has shown some experience and appetite in the poultry farming business. As Chief Albert Luthuli once said, **“When women begin to take an active part in the struggle, no power on earth can stop us from achieving freedom in our lifetime.”** We are indeed pleased that women are in the frontline of sustained battle against the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty, and inequality.

The second phase of Majeje Citrus project is allocated **R12 million** to implement the revitalisation of agriculture and agro-processing value chains.

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) also continues efforts around support to young people in the district. In the 2022/23 financial the NYDA in the issued grants valued at **R1,6 million** to 36 businesses owned by young people in the district. The agency has also issued grants to 19 young people, valued at **R188 thousands**.

At least **R457 thousands** was spent in support of businesses of young people through vouchers. A total of **2604** young people were reached through various training programmes including in areas of business management, coop governance, sales pitch, BBBEE, job preparedness and life skills.

Through the Expanded Public Works Programme, we were able to create **2797** work opportunities. We are again going to use the **R8,7 million** EPWP fund to continue with efforts around poverty alleviation through this programme.

We will in this financial year make bold moves to formalize partnerships that seek to promote local economic development in the district. We already have proposals for MOUs between MDM and Seda, but also with Agri Seta and Letaba TVET college.

2.2 Spatial Rationale

We are continuing with work around building integrated, sustainable human settlements. The Municipal Planning Tribunals in the District have processed around 110 development applications, and this of course include township establishment projects.

To that extent, the Greater Giyani Municipality will implement town establishment projects in Siyandhani, Dizingidzingi, Sikhunyani, Ngove, and also formalization of Makosha Risinga extension, and also Church View. The work to demarcate 700 site at Ndengeza has a budget of **R700 thousands**.

Maruleng Local Municipality has set aside **R200 thousands** as part of the township establishment in Hoedspruit (Berlin portion 39).

3. SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Madam Speaker,

We have through our disaster relief efforts, we spent **R2 million** to assist affected households during the 2022/23 financial year. During the 2022/23 financial year, our Fire and Rescue team responded to 1128 and at 195 structural fire. Working with local municipalities, we hosted 54 fire awareness campaigns in our communities

Through our partnership with SANTAM on disaster risk-reduction, which should target our vulnerable communities, we have installed fire detectors, fire extinguishers in the 4 special schools at the value of **R800 thousands**.

We have through partnership with EWSTA, trained 100 unemployed young people who were placed in our water plants for practical purposes on Water and wastewater reticulation learnership. They have received certificates at NQF Level 4. Additional 30 will be absorbed in an electrical engineering learnership during this financial year.

We will continue to support the institution of traditional leadership as led in the District by Kgoshi Pheeha. We have again set aside **R800 thousands** to assist in the coordination of their activities in the district. Broadly government has high regard for this institution.

The work to construct the Raphahlelo and the Majeje traditional council offices is progressing very well. We are of course pained and saddened by the passing of Kgoshi Malatji, and may his soul continue to rest in peace. And at the same, we take the opportunity to congratulate Kgoshi Sekororo na Ndavezitha Ndengeza on their inaugurations.

The institution of traditional leadership is central to us realizing the future as envisioned in the National Development Plan and the UN's Agenda 2030 and Africa's Agenda 2063, which speaks of building a new society that is inclusive, that is peaceful, equal and just. This institution is key to us promoting economic and social inclusion, social cohesion and active citizenry.

Having said that, we are nearing the end of the initiation school season. We have not had major incidents in the district. We thank the support from our traditional leaders. We had 51 approved initiation schools in the district. Our wish has always been for a death-free initiation school season, and so far we are pleased with the efforts from all the relevant stakeholders.

We applaud the initiative as led by MMC Mmetle, Senior Manager Ntimbane, colleagues from CoGHSTA, Department of Health and the Department of

Education on the workshop that you had with our traditional surgeons (Maines) around issues of environmental health.

4. GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ladies and gentlemen

We have a responsibility as a democratic local government to promote democracy and sound governance. Today, we can also report to our people that we still have a stable council with functional committees, and continue to engage with all stakeholders within the IGR framework.

We also wish to report to the people of Mopani that we have a full complement of the senior management team in Mopani District Municipality. But, this can easily be undermined by the new regulations that came into effect in November, which effectively dictate that senior managers be appointed on permanent performance-based contracts.

And because we appointed our senior managers before this regulation, some may look to secure permanent contracts by joining other municipalities. We should not be surprised to see our senior managers leaving to join other municipalities where they will be assured of permanent contracts.

Council has recently approved the appointment of a young man, named Tshepo Monakedi, aged 35 as the senior manager for Planning and Economic Development. This young man holds two master's degrees, including one from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom. He is currently pursuing a PhD in urban and regional planning. He should be an inspiration to many of youth in the district, and we look forward to his contributions to the development of this district.

Mopani District Municipality is still on a disclaimer audit opinion. We take collective responsibility for this disclaimer audit opinion. However, we want

to assure our people that we are going to change the outlook. We know where the problems are, and our immediate and most urgent task is to zoom in and correct such. The Provincial Government has agreed to support our work through Section 154, not Section 139 as it was earlier widely reported. But most importantly is the work initiated at the level of council. We have adopted the AG's action plan, but we are also working on the action plan from the internal audit. We have already compiled a nine-month financial statement, and this in the main, is part of our efforts to correct the misstatements highlighted by the AG in the last report, and ultimately we should be able to have an accurate opening balance in the 2022/23 annual financial statement.

Through support from council, and in particular the Municipal Public Accounts Committee as chaired by Cllr Mfanakosi Moses Mkhabela, we have investigated the unauthorized, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditures dating back more than a decade ago.

As part of this work, the report presented to council in this last sitting, luminously projected the meters we have covered. At least 57 out of the 110 findings had been resolved, which represent over 50% progress in this regard. We should be able to build on this momentum and we enter the home stretch.

We have had calm and labour peace in the Municipality, and we credit this to the leadership of organized labour who have so far shown great maturity when dealing with issues affecting employees, particularly at the level of the local labour forum. Equally, we acknowledge and appreciate the role that MMC Mohlala plays in that space as the leader of government business.

5. FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Madam Speaker

Our goal is that of provision of sound financial management and reducing financial dependency on grants. And to achieve this, we have to increase revenue generation and implement financial control systems

To that extent, we are implementing the revenue enhancement strategy amongst others. We are going to be installing the water consumption meters, bill and collect revenue direct from water consumers. This will be a targeted approach, starting with big businesses.

We have to sustain the positive development emerging from the community services department. For the first time ever, the Department has been able to generate income for the Municipality. We had an income of **R1 525 million** coming through our work around health certificate charges, air emission license charges as well as from fire (building plans and incidences charges).

And again we give credit to MMC Mmetle, Senior Manager Ntimbane for this work, but council as a collective should share into the credit having approved the municipal health and environment by-laws.

We have developed a consultancy reduction strategy, that of course include skills transfers. There is ongoing work to fill the vacancies in the Budget & Treasury Directorate with skilled, experienced employees who should, not in the long distant future be able to take over the work done by consultants.

Madam Speaker

We have just adopted a budget a month or so ago, and our commitment is to stay true to ourselves and focus on our core mandate. We are aware of the limitations that exist around income generation, but we still need to live up to the expectations of our people. We have committed to choose options that maximize service delivery than opulence.

We are working around meeting our obligations on the repayments of our historic debts to both Lepelle Northern Water and Department of Water and Sanitation. We are budgeting **R61 million** towards servicing the historic debt we have with both Lepelle Northern Water (**R36 million**) and DWS (**R25 million**), which constitute **2.8%** of the budget.

And we must as well take this opportunity to register our appreciation for the support and cooperation from the Board of Lepelle Northern Water as led by Dr Mphephu. In the spirit of cooperative governance, we have observed and enjoyed improved relations over the last years and that has been sustained under his leadership.

This financial year will mark the defining moment in our cost recovery strategy. We have to ensure that we prevent water distribution losses. We also have to move some few meters in implementing that strategy.

There are negotiations underway with the Vhembe District Municipality. We are looking at signing and MOU between the two municipalities for water distribution in the ladders without any payments thereto. We have already finalized and signed service level agreements with local municipalities here in the District.

In conclusion, madam speaker

All of us have the inherent obligation to contribute to the vision that Mandela had. It was him who said, I quote: **“Whether you change the linen or stitch up wounds, cook the food or disperse the medicines, it is in your hands to help build a public service worthy of all those who gave their lives for the dream of democracy”**

Nghala yi vomba exihlahleni, and on that note we do wish to take this opportunity to register our profound gratitude to our people for the continued support. We have walked this journey together. We thank the African National Congress for the privilege to serve our people at this level of our democratic government.

We thank you, madam speaker as well as Cllr. MagdeleEline Lewele at the level of PMT, comrades in caucus, our colleagues in council who relentlessly enrich our debates at that level. We also acknowledge the work of Ntante Tshepo Mogano, the municipal manager, his team of senior managers, and the entire administration.

Let's continue the relentless struggle for a better life for all, as envisioned by Chief Albert Luthuli and all our forebears who gathered at Kliptown in June of 1955. Let's march forward with the programme of building better communities together.

I thank you

Kea leboga

Khanimamba