

Sekhukhune News

Official External Newsletter of Sekhukhune District Municipality

HIGHLIGHT SODA 2017

3rd Quarter 2016/2017

APRIL 2017

Supporting
SDA in its quest

SETTING THE HIGH SCORES
WITH MSCOA

MAGOSHI GET
TECH ENABLERS



Editorial



Editor-in-Chief

Kgopelo Phasha ...

Welcome to another edition of the most informative and trusted quarterly external newsletter – Sekhukhune News. While covering activities of the third quarter, our editorial narrative will focus on April month as a heightened period of engagement with citizens. We are dedicating the greater part of our storyline to ensuring that the communities join the conversation and are taken to confidence about the latest developments in the District.

In this edition we will demonstrate how the political leadership of the District led by Executive Mayor Cllr Stanley Keamotseng Ramaila took it upon themselves, through decisive programme of action articulated in the State of the District Address, to serve the people and move the District forward by strengthening the social compact.

Amilcar Cabral, one of Africa's foremost revolutionary leaders, once said: "Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone's head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children."

These words by the revolutionary leader of Guinea-Bissau should serve as a guide to all our councillors to hold fast to their roles in our communities. Our people are not interested in big ideas or factional battles; they want to see real improvement in their everyday lives through service delivery. They want their representatives who have been elected to honour their commitments and help move our District, and ultimately the country, forward.

Citizens of this country used the democratic right and opportunity to councillors across different political pursuits with a firm believe that they are the people who have their best interest at heart and understand their needs. This means our councillors have been entrusted to make a real difference to people's lives and should be responsible for delivering basic services in line with the pillars of the Back to Basics approach, which emphasises putting people first, promoting

good governance, transparency, accountability and ensuring sound financial management and accounting. We exemplify progress made in ensuring sound financial management and accounting (in Page 7) through an article on 'Setting high scores with mSCOA'. Back to Basics approach is aimed at ensuring that municipalities perform their basic functions without compromise, and this was reiterated by the Executive Mayor during the SODA speech.

The article on Page 4 – 6 is dedicated to extensively covering the efforts directed at the revamp and realignment of Sekhukhune Development Agency to become a responsive engine of radical economic development in line with the District's strategic direction, its challenges, demands and aspirations of our people. Page 8 will focus on the State of the District Address highlights and the Executive Mayor's call to citizens to understand that their responsibility does not end with voting. And that they must find ways to hold those elected accountable and keep them focused on citizens' needs and priorities. Page 9 gives a concrete expression to this by inviting citizens to 'Join the Conversation' by making use of various platforms such as IDP Public Participation, created to engage them on core developmental priorities, and get feedback on various developments in their areas.

I urge you all to write to us, contribute articles or comments, and follow the example of Masehlaneng community (see Page 15) by inviting us to developmental community activities and events via email: phashak@sekhukhune.gov.za. We will ensure that your views and contributions are published in the next editions of Sekhukhune News external newsletter.

Ke a leboga!

Mr Kgopelo Phasha
Editor-in-Chief

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Executive Mayor's Message



A HEIGHTENED PERIOD OF ENGAGEMENT WITH CITIZENS

We hit the ground running in the month of March and April 2017, our marathon ranged from the sector consultations on Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA), Annual Report Consultations, State of the District Address, Integrated Development Plan and Budget Consultations. We draw our energy and inspiration from the fact that this year South Africa marks the 20th anniversary of the signing into law of the Constitution. Former President Nelson Mandela signed the final draft into law in December 1996 and it came into force in February 1997. The Constitution laid the foundation for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people.

Our existence as local government is based on the Constitution as the supreme law of the land and the people's contract to "heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights".

It is the product of a long process of struggle and multiparty political negotiations in which politicians, lawyers and representatives of civil society played a role.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa is regarded as one of the most progressive and transformative constitutions in the world, however, like most progressive policy prescripts the Constitution may end up being a curse than a blessing to the people on the ground if we don't strive to give it a concrete meaning through radical approaches. Owing to this consideration, we fully commit ourselves to the National Development Plan (Vision 2030) and the 9point Plan together with the Freedom Charter, as outlined by the state President, His Excellency, Mr Jacob Zuma, during the State of the Nation Address 2017.

We wish to state that we fully support of the Presidential pronouncement regarding radical economic transformation. And in our case, we wish to demonstrate our commitment by declaring that for us as the people of Sekhukhune Kingdom, we will embark upon radical economic and agrarian transformation, due to our comparative positioning as a hive for mining and agriculture. Hence our unwavering support of the national imperatives which are in the main focused on industrialization, mining and beneficiation, agriculture and agro-processing, energy, small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs), managing workplace conflict, attracting investments, growing the ocean economy and tourism. And apart from the 9point Plan, the state President has also added science and technology, water and sanitation infrastructure, transport infrastructure and broadband roll-out as national economic key focus areas. We have made an unswerving commitment bridging relations between business, labour and government, in order to stabilize the financial outlook and performance of the local industries.

The Presidential call has been made for all South Africans to highlight the celebratory energy as this year coincides with the centenary of struggle stalwart Oliver Reginald Tambo who epitomised our struggle for liberation. It presents an opportunity to reflect on the many sacrifices that were made for the freedom we enjoy today and on how South Africa's democracy was achieved.

Tambo was steadfast in his resolve for a liberated South Africa. While in exile he rallied the global community against the incorrigible apartheid state and spearheaded international sanctions to bring about change.

In deed had during the Freedom Month, and even throughout the year 2017, encouraging citizens to reflect on the progress made over the last 23 years. It is also a time to recommit ourselves to the Constitution which is the foundation of our democracy and the very essence of what freedom means. We will use every available opportunity to thematically remember the life of OR Tambo by highlighting the progress made in advancing and restoring human dignity; Foster nation-building and social cohesion; Deepening understanding of where we come from and how our democracy was achieved; Identifying and celebrating untold stories and unsung heroes and heroines in every community and every workplace; Mobilisation of society in its entirety around the implementation of vision 2030 "Our future make it work"; Inspiring confidence of the nation and building a positive image of SA as a proud and caring nation; Showcasing South Africa's diverse backgrounds and cultures through different art forms.

I thank you,

Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila
Executive Mayor

WATER AND SANITATION TOPS THE DISTRICT AGENDA



When we say 'Water is life – Sanitation is dignity' we are not sloganeering, we give credence to our existence as the water services authority. The mid-term Lekgotla of Sekhukhune District Municipality earlier this year has noted impressive progress water and sanitation infrastructure projects around Sekhukhune District Municipality. This has been signified by more than 50 percent in spending of Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). The total allocation for MIG was R457,984,000, expenditure to date is R234 316 765,16, translating to 51%, and the remaining balance is R223 667 234.84. There is impressive progress in other infrastructure related grants such as RRAMS, RBIG and WSIG. In terms of RRAMS the total allocated budget is R2,120,000, expenditure to date is R1 013 520,00, translating to 47,8% and the remaining balance is R 1,106,480. The total budget for RBIG is R206,349,000, the expenditure to date is R200,471,000, 97% and remaining is R5, 878 000. For WSIG, the allocated budget is R64 000 000, expenditure to date is at 6%, and there is still more work to be done.

The specific projects on the ground in their various stages include: Ephraim Mogale VIP Backlog Programme (Phase 2.1), the total amount budgeted in 43 300 000.00, expenditure to date is 9 520 513, 74, the project is construction of 2700 VIP units, progress to date is 538 excavations, 438 building of linings, 307 top structures build.

Elias Motswaledi VIP Backlog Programme (Phase 2,1), the total budget is 45 200 000.00, expenditure to date is 22 803 713, 08, planned scope of work is construction of 3000 VIP units, and progress to date is excavation = 726, Pit lining = 561 and 738 top structures installed.

Zaaiplaas Village Reticulation Phase 2 (Vlakfontein, Sovolo and remaining villages), the total budget is 5 019 826.00, expenditure to date is 269 348, 82, and the scope is construction of bulk pipe line, 3.8 Ml Dindela Reservoir and Construction of pump station, and progress to date is Reservoir progress is at 35 % construction, the pump station public notice for objection finalized.

Zaaiplaas Connector pipes from Bulk to villages including reservoirs (Khathazweni, Rondebosh and Dindela), total budget is R17 713 105.00, expenditure to date is 8 772 243,87, the scope is construction of Zaaiplaas water reticulation (Construction)

reservoirs 100%; bulk line 100%), progress to date is, .contract B overall progress to date is at 75%, pipe laying is at 95% and manhole chambers at 78%, the 3 reservoirs are at 65% complete. Contract A, overall progress is at 92%, pipe laying is 98% complete and manhole chambers are 95% complete. All 4 reservoirs are completed.

Tafelkop Reticulation and Cost Recovery, total budget is R23 355 182.00, expenditure to date is R13 698 089,93, actual scope is the construction of 90km pipeline, progress to date is exposing of existing services, excavation 8km, pipe laid, 8,07km of 75mm dia =44%,30.7 km Of 110 mm dia = 46.1%, and overall Progress is 63.6%.

Makhuduthamaga VIP Backlog Programme (Phase 2,1), total budget is R45 940 000.00, expenditure to date is R29 307 792,95, scope is construction of 3590 VIP units, progress to date is a total of 1022 VIP toilets have been completed but no happy letters have been signed as yet and H&H is at stage 2 of project implementation.

Sekwati Reticulation upgrade Phase 4, the total allocated budget is R17 847 059.00, expenditure to date R9 902 838,00, progress to date is 30km reticulation pipeline, 102 communal standpipes and upgrading of a pump, progress to date is 85% Construction of Sekwati Reticulation upgrade Phase 4 & 6, 3km pipe laid, tested and certified, approximately 6km of trenches not excavated, awaiting approval of funds for blasting.

Ga Moloi area and surrounding villages water supply, the total budget is R47 000 000.00, expenditure to date is R30 235 598,25, progress to date is construction of 105km of 75mm uPVC pipe,10.4km of 160mm upvc, 6.1km of 200mm HDP E pipe, 4.7km of 300mm HDPE, installation of Valves ,fitting,1 booster pump station and installation of 70 standpipes for contract A,B and C, progress to date is contract A is currently at 62%, contract B and C are at 88%.

Nkadimeng: Phase 9 to 11 (Makhuduthamaga) - Ditlabaneng, Ramphelane, Matsebeng, Sebetsane, Kgoalane, Mathibeng, Dinotsi, Matolokwane), total budget is R8 822 744.00, current expenditure is R7 046 048,82, scope of work is 9E-Extension of Nkadimeng Bulk Water Supply from command reservoir to Makhuduthamaga and neighbouring Fetakgomo villages,

progress to date is 9E-Testing and fixing leaks on the bulk pipeline. Fixing the defects on the snag list done. Overall progress 98%.

Fetakgomo VIP Backlog Programme (Phase 2,1), total budget is 30 895 000.00, expenditure to date is 8 882 334,94, scope is construction of 2460 VIP units, progress to date is *Excavation = 1209 *Pit lining = 777 *Installation of top structure = 268.

Olifants Contract 21: Borehole Refurbishment Southern, total allocation is R13 000 000.00, expenditure to date is R2 295 092,91, scope Refurbishment and Development of Boreholes in Southern Area, overall progress 20%, existing borehole phase, analysis =100%, Eskom = 0%, refurbishment = 0%, pump house = 10%, pipe lines = 0%, Geohydrology Phase, define borehole site=50%, Drill & Test = 10%, Install Pump = 0%, pipe line = 0%, Eskom = 0%.

Olifants Contract 22 : Borehole Refurbishment Northern, total amount allocated is R13 000 000.00, expenditure to date R1

346 467,55, scope of work Refurbishment and Development of Boreholes in Northern Area, and actual progress is 25%.

Olifants Contract 23 : Connector pipes lines, total budget is R4 000 000.00, expenditure to date is R2 458 907,91, progress to date is construction of connecting pipeline to and from Ga-Nchabeleng, BB Kloof Mokhulwane reservoir and road crossings and Re-construction of Makopa Reservoir, overall progress is 90% based on reservoir construction at Mokhulwane, which is 100%, Makopa at 90%, Ga-Seroka at 00%, Sesesehu at 00% and pipe line at 50%.

Ga-Malekane, Masha upgrade and extend reticulation, total budget is R14 901 566.00, expenditure to date R10 194 721,11, scope of work is, A-Construction of water reticulation, B-Construction of pumping main, abstraction works, reticulation and water storage, C-Construction of package plant and rising main, A- overall progress- 100% Contractor focusing on snag list and additional work and B- Overall progress is 88% shuttering at the reservoir, C- overall progress- 74%, package plant delivered on site.

Other side of the pipeline

“Pipeline” is normally associated with null prospects or a worrying series of empty promises, particularly in our District’s service delivery landscape where communities wait so long for projects to be completed. The pipeline we are referring to is part of the Olifants River Water Resources development Project (ORWRDP) Phase 2, and it surely deliver results. This was affirmed by the Executive Mayor during the Stakeholder engagements meeting for the ORWRDP Phase 2 which took place from the 25-26 January 2017 at Thaba Moshate Casino and Resort. The meeting was convened by Aurecon Ndodana Joint Venture in partnership with the Department of Water and Sanitation.

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Councillor Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila was accompanied by Fetakgomo Mayor Cllr Johannes Phokane, Chief Whip Cllr Vincent Shoba and Exco Members. The two day event included

an in-house meeting where progress reports were interrogated, followed by an onsite inspection and oversight visit to monitor areas or villages which will be affected by the project during its implementation phase. Stakeholders invited were Magoshi along R37 route, affected stakeholders within the Fetakgomo-Greater Tubatse Municipality as well as the Member of Mayoral Committee for Infrastructure and Water services. The primary objective of the meeting was to outline and discuss the status of both primary and secondary water infrastructure for Olifants River Water Resources Development Project Phase 2 (ORWRDP 2). Primary infrastructure comprises of the following sub-projects which are predominantly Bulk Raw pipelines. The secondary infrastructure comprises largely of potable water reticulation for affected villages within and along the pipeline routes of primary phases. This involves the treating and purifying of the raw water, erection of reservoir and general reticulation to existing communal draw points.

A tribute to the Late Mdeka William Mohlala

Saturday 17 June 2017 was branded by a cold rush as thousands of mourners descended to Tafelkop village to pay their last respect to the man known as an “An icon of peace, a cultural activist and traditionalist”. The late Mdeka William Mohlala rightfully deserves these accolades for he is a self-made international artist of a rare Sepedi music genre. Ntate Mohlala as he was affectionately known started his journey of life on 26 March 1933 at Mamone village Ga-Mohlala. In 1993 when he was 60 years old he established makgakgasa dance group called “Dikwena Tse Botse Tsa Ga-Matsepe”. With the group Dikwena Tse Botse Tsa Ga-Matsepe the late Moteka Mohlala proved his talent, confidence, commitment and patriotic. He have recorded their albums as Tumpu, Jakarta, Moretheto, Isalaka (Aids) and Tatemogolo Mathamosela. He has led his group Dikwena Tse Botse Tsa Ga-Matsepe

touring through the country and abroad including the 2014 tour to Robben Island – Cape Town, Botswana (2003), Jakarta, Indonesia (2006), Ribnitz – Damgarten, Germany (2007), Caçapava- Novaprata – Passo Fundo, Brazil (2014) and Anseong –South Korea (2016). Other awards of great distinction include the Adult group category 1997 awarded by Department of Sport Art and Culture and the Fur die erfolgreiche teilnahme dees ensemble 18 Internationales – Germany 2011 and the Mundial de folklore 2014 – Brazil. He performed for provincial, national and international events that entertained communities, Mayors, Premiers and Presidents.

ROBALA KA KHUTŠO MPHELA ‘A MOLOPO ‘A PHOGOJANE ‘A PHOGOLE

Supporting SDA in its quest



First established in 2009, Sekhukhune Development Agency (SDA) was revamped in 2007 following the appointment of a seven member board. The agency’s purpose, according to the Provincial Gazette Extraordinary of 04 December 2010 – No 1863, is to act as a peculiar vehicle to identify, initiate and implement high impact economic projects that create sustainable job opportunities. The current SDA Board was first introduced to public during the State of the District Address on 24 March 2017. SODA, being the Executive Mayor’s platform to outline progress across the broad spectrum of issues and the obtaining conditions in the District, was strategically used by the Executive Mayor to give progress report on SDA. This platform also served as the official welcoming of the new board members and an opportune moment to ignite their commitment to re-engineering and realigning the agency’s role with the District’s conditions, the existing shareholder compact and the SDA mandate.

The SDA Board of Directors is led by Chairperson Mr Oupa Nkoana and is representative of constituencies such as organised business, academia, community activists and corporate citizens. The term of office of the board is five years (2016 – 2021). The SDA Board was appointed in terms of Section 93E of Municipal Systems Amendments Act No. 44 of 2003.

On 19 to 21 April 2017 the SDA Board hosted the initial strategic planning session whose participation was extended to economic development stakeholders to take full ownership of the strategic direction that SDA seeks to take in line with radicalisation of economic development landscape in the District.

The strategic planning session served as a platform to update stakeholders and shareholders (Sekhukhune District Municipality) about the drastic departure the agency seeks to take in terms of approach, priority projects and positioning of SDA to address unemployment and poverty. This was also a platform to openly review business modelling, visioning, strategic objectives, projects and how the agency will interface with organised business and international experts to leverage the short term and long term high impact economic development projects. The 3-day robust discussions ventured into unpacking the strategic focus, underpinning principles and opportunities available for SDA such as the implementation of De Hoop Dam Masterplan and the ecosystem of the Special Economic Zone earmarked for Steelpoort. At the time of going to press SDA was finalising their five year strategy, programme of action, the new website and other information product that will articulate its projects and programmes.



SDA invigorated at SODA

During the presentation of the State of the District Address on Friday 24 March 2017 at Moses Mabotha Civic Hall in Fetakgomo-Greater Tubatse Local Municipality the Executive Mayor manifested that as the majority share-holder, the District Municipality continues to support the Sekhukhune Development Agency (SDA). And for this financial year, SDA has been allocated 3 million Rands to operate. He also announced that Mr Oupa Nkoane has been appointed as Chairperson of the SDA Board. Mr Nkoane and all board members were asked to rise so that the audience can recognise them for further engagement. Executive Mayor pronounced that “As the new Council, one of our strategic objective is to re-engineer SDA as a special vehicle purpose for local economic development and job creation. We have mandated the new board to outline a process of re-modelling the agency, in order to meet its intended objectives”.

He further said that in the council’s 100 Days in Office, he received concerns from various stakeholders about lack of visibility and

perceived under performance by SDA. He spoke emphatically that at operational level the SDA as an economic development special purpose vehicle, the Sekhukhune Development Agency is geared to operate as it has fully established offices in Groblersdal and is in the process of exploring number of business models and feasibility studies for implementation. He highlighted that besides all the shortcomings over the years the District believes that the Sekhukhune Development Agency is better positioned to stimulate and unlock economic potential and growth of our district economy. In addition, when implemented, De Hoop Master Plan will augment the Agency’s asset portfolio as there are plans to build a tourist attraction centre.

“In essence, our people have not felt the presence of this structure since its establishment 7 years ago. This calls on the new board to reposition the SDA so that it is visible amongst the people and seen as initiating economic programmes, in partnership with our Traditional Leaders and business community” Executive Mayor said in the SODA speech.

We are mSCOA ready



Manager Budget Rebotile Makgati ...

Rebotile Makgati, the mSCOA Champion or Sensile Maseko in front of the mSCOA presentation screen at Lekgotla Boardroom

Sekhukhune District Municipality has made strides in terms of implementing mSCOA IDP alignment. This means the District has succeeded in unpacking and aligning projects with the new chart, in preparation for IDP submission using the mSCOA classification. According to the mSCOA Champion in the District Ms Rebotile Makgati, the process of implementing mSCOA is inspired by the Constitutional values of transparency and expenditure control.

She indicated that the basis for introduction of mSCOA is informed by the Section 216 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, provides that national legislation must prescribe measures to ensure transparency and expenditure control in each sphere of government by introducing generally recognized accounting practice, uniform expenditure classifications and uniform treasury norms and standards.

Makgati added that among the problems that led to the introduction of mSCOA were the state of data in local Government, namely, inconsistencies, poor data integrity and irregular reporting restricted the accuracy of information being fed to Legislatures, the very institutions that make recommendations with regards to policy and service delivery objectives, and that this ultimately affects Parliament's ability to oversee local Government bodies.

Makgati advises that the main purpose of the mSCOA is to establish uniform expenditure classifications for local government, and that the Sekhukhune District Municipality council has since approved for system upgrade and that there are advanced plans for clearing of suspense and dormant accounts.

She concluded by hinting that the municipality has already received the mSCOA data string that includes the alignment of tabled budget to mSCOA charts on the Local Government database portal and that they are finalising the mSCOA Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure readiness report for upgrading of financial system.

What is mSCOA?

SCOA is an acronym for a Standard Chart of Accounts which is a National reform that has been promulgated by Gazette No. 37577 dated 22 April 2014, called the Standard Chart of Accounts for Local Government Regulations, 2014. The "m" in the acronym distinguishes between a Municipal Standard Chart of Accounts and a Provincial/National Standard Chart of Accounts.

mSCOA - what does it mean for you?

mSCOA affects all municipal officials across the municipality at all levels and will require a total mind shift in the way officials are performing their day to day activities.

Who is affected by mSCOA?

The Regulation on mSCOA indicates that it affects all Municipalities and their entities.

What is the purpose of mSCOA?

The introduction of a Standard Chart of Accounts for Municipalities (mSCOA), will, inter alia,:

- Aid transparency; accountability and overall governance in the daily; monthly and yearly activities of municipalities;
- Aid the standardization of 278 different municipal 'charts of accounts' (COA);
- Improve the quality of municipal information that is compromised, i.e. it will introduce a uniform classification of revenue and expenditure items;
- Enhance monitoring and oversight by Councils, DCoG, Treasuries and legislatures;
- Comparability of information across Municipalities, i.e. Benchmarking, standards and measures.

Will mSCOA affect any payment owed to you / by you to / from SDM?

No, mSCOA will not affect any payment owed by you/to you. Its aim is to standardise how all Municipalities classify their financial data, i.e. it introduces a standardised classification of a Chart of Accounts (General Ledger) across all Municipalities.



State of the District Address 2017 did not occur at the grand podium on Friday 24 March 2017. This annual speech is delivered by the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality on occasion of a special council meeting whose invitation is extended to members of the public. State of the District Address (SODA), not only reports on the conditions of the municipality but also allow the Executive Mayor to outline the District's strategic agenda in line with provincial and national priorities, themes and key messages. The address fulfils the role of the Executive Mayor to periodically shed information on the state of affairs of the Municipality and recommend necessary and expedient measures.

As a drastic departure to the traditional approach, the 2017 State of the District Address began long before the Executive Mayor took to the podium at Moses Mabhona Hall in Fetakgomo-Greater Tubatse Municipality (LIM476). It began with a multiple building blocks such as getting all members of the community to participate in the SODA speech through phone-in programmes in the five community radio stations of Sekhukhune District. The social media campaign took-off through Sekhukhune District Municipality facebook page and by writing inputs at the back of the leaflet regarding issues that members of the community wished the Executive Mayor to address. Few moments before the address the Communications Division in the Office of the Executive Mayor distributed the portable booklet format version of the speech to allow members of the public to take the speech home to read at the comfort of their environment. The Executive Mayor acknowledged the role played by social media in our lives today and quoted from the views expressed by citizens on this platforms.

Quoting verbatim from the SODA speech, the Executive Mayor said: "Like Vusi Ntuli who wrote "There has been a vacuum on matters of youth development in Sekhukhune District Municipality for the past 10 years or so, It's one thing that the EM must deal with as a matter of urgency. The municipality must establish a District Youth Council, avail decisive budget meant to finance and fund youth projects and programmes. Develop LED units and incorporate them into youth development which should be located into Executive Mayor's

State of District Address 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

office. And also establish a mining academy in Sekhukhune. "And Tebatso Rakwena wrote "I will be glad if the Mayor can address the issue of water, clinic and roads at Mpheleng". In response to Vusi and Tebatso, I say that we have heard you and necessary steps will be taken to address your concerns. On that note, we are calling upon all councillors to use social media platforms and create groups chats with members of their communities in order to intensify communications"



Other highlights from the speech was the acknowledgment of top achievers in education including successful community and private sector partnership driven initiatives such as Aveng/Kutlwanong Rebone Maths and Science Centre and Hulisani Education Resources Centre in partnership with Mamone Science Centre. Aveng/Kutlwanong Rebone Maths and Science Centre provided tuition to more than 480 learners from 20 feeder schools across the District from grade 10 to 12. The Sekhukhune District chapter is the best among top performing Kutlwanong maths and science centres across the country. Hulisani Education Resources Centre in partnership with Mamone Science Centre have improved performance of learners in the Sekhukhune District through the Saturday and vacation programme funded by the Standard Bank of Southern Africa. In 2015 the programme registered 395 grade 12 learners producing 23 distinctions in Maths, 26 distinctions in Science with 131 bachelor passes. Five (5) learners were awarded bursaries by the Standard Bank to study Actuarial science and Engineering. In 2016 the programme registered 440 learners producing 15 distinctions in maths, 26 distinctions in science with 191 bachelor passes. Top achievers in Grade 12 pass rate went to the two best performing schools, namely, Hoer Skool Ben Viljoen in Groblesdal, which obtained 100% matric pass and Moreku Secondary School in Phokwane, which also obtained 100% matric pass.

These achievers were invited by the Executive Mayor and were given a congratulatory standing ovation for their impressive



MAGOSHI GET TECH ENABLERS



After a rigorous effort to ask for donations from private sector, there were generous offers that tallied with the total number of 75 traditional leaders of Sekhukhune District Municipality. According to the Executive Mayor the laptops handover to Sekhukhune District's traditional leaders followed several engagements with Magoshi through which lack of resources was identified as one of the problems confounding the traditional leaders.



"After our initial engagements we realised the desperate dearth on a number of enablers and resources such as laptops for traditional leaders to work for their communities in the fast paced conditions of the digital age" Ramaila said "As the District Municipality we brought the laptops to you in order to aid you to catchup with the technological systems that

will allow you to work optimally. As we continue to meet, you will engage us on other set of resources you require to perform your work and serve communities with great distinction. This, I assure you, is only a starter pack of many connected efforts to work with you and help you to better the lives of our people" Ramaila told traditional leaders during the presentation of laptops.

Executive Mayor further said the handover was also to strengthen the District Municipality's relationship with the traditional leaders because of the shared interests in serving the community.

Kgoshi Boleu Rammpudu of Congress of Traditional Leaders Chairperson in Sekhukhune District said they were thankful for the laptops given to them.

"There is no traditional leader who is not thankful for the laptops, particularly the expediency with which the Executive Mayor has delivered on his promise to intervene on the dire need. In just 200 days in office the Executive Mayor has proven to us that we can all accelerate our pace" said the elated Kgoshi Rammupudu.

Kgoshi Rammupudu was complimented by Kgoshi Lehwelere Matlala who said the swift action by the Executive Mayor to deliver the laptops was in line with the ruling party's policies to add impetus to the movement forward of developing people's lives.

IDP: JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Integrated Development Planning with communities is not just an annual ritual or fulfilment of the legislative prescripts on IDP/Budget. It is essentially a platform to enable community members to make their voices heard and get a detailed insight into the direction where municipality's resources will be channelled. The 2017 IDP Public Participation roadshow took off on 05 April 2017 at Groblersdal Fire Station focusing on staff members. Other constituencies that were consulted include Magoshi (traditional leaders), chambers of commerce and other forms of business organisations, labour organisations and the general public in all the four local municipalities of Sekhukhune. During the consultative IDP roadshows the Executive Mayor explained the process from adoption of the Draft IDP and Budget for 2017/2018 by the council sitting dated 30 March 2017. He shared with different constituencies the Draft Integrated Development Plan; Draft Budget/ MTREF for next three years and Organisational structure for 2017/2018. He further explained that the on-going consultation will be concluded within the month of April and the final IDP and Budget for 2017 – 2018 will be adopted by Council before the start of the new financial year of 2017-2018.

Among the projects that are prioritised in the new financial year the Executive Mayor indicated the Mooihoek bulk water supply phase 4E which is the construction of 6 kilometres of pipeline from Burgersfort to Dresden pump station (Command reservoir) of R36 million. Another major bulk water project in the cards is the Nebo BWS (RL19) which is the construction of 5.0km pumping pipeline from T-off of Makgeru to the new 10ML reservoir at Schoonoord, construction of gravity pipeline valued at R55 million. Moutse area will finally win over its woes of water shortage as the Moutse BWS (RL14) will be geared to connect the mechanical and electrical (M&E) for the extensions to the Groblersdal Water Treatment Works at a tune of R60 million. The increasingly densifying town of Jane Furse will enjoy relief through completion of the Jane Furse RDP Package plant at R2,7 million as well as the Moretsele water reticulation which will be completed in the new financial year at R2 million.

The burning issue of Jane Furse Municipal Offices came out sharply as community members raised their concerns about the protracted delay of the process. In response to these concerns, the Executive Mayor assured members of the community that the finalization of lease agreement for land with Pedi Mamone Traditional Authority is on course and an amount of R250,000 has been put aside to facilitate the process.

The Executive Mayor also emphasised that SDM believes in the catalytic role of education to change the conditions and sharpen the skills required for the successful implementation of its projects and programmes.

"Our firm believe in education of the African child is articulated by the fact that we set up a R4.1 million bursary scheme that continually award 10 internal bursaries for capacitation of staff members and 5 external bursaries to compliment the community development through funding academically deserving young people to hone their career paths in the on-demand skills" said Executive Mayor Ramaila In terms of the development of special groups, he said these diverse groups of vulnerable members of society is also enjoying priority in the new budget and the integrated development planning. Women's Development Initiatives for which 3 programmes for economic development and on gender based violence are earmarked is budgeted R130,000.00. Four youth programmes that have high impact on youth development will be supported at R400,000.00. Three activities for the Persons with Disability will be funded at R90,000.00. Executive Mayor did not mince words about the obtaining challenges that drag down the institution from achieving its objectives. Some of the challenges include bloated organizational structure, the increasing fleet costs, increasing overtime costs, costs of securing buildings and other municipal assets and lack of adequate planning information. Among the solutions devised to address these challenges is the intent to generate a detailed study on water and sanitation services must be done in next five years to create foundation for future projects.

Homecoming of Kgoshi Mampuru II & Saint Manche Masemola statues

London and Pretoria held something precious for the people of Sekhukhuneland for so long. The remains of Kgoshi Mampuru II and the statue that resembles Saint Manche Masemola were trapped in both cities for numerous generations. While the young Manche Masemola who was a young African convert of the Anglican church did not go to London in her mortal form or in her lifetime, the story of her short life put her among the venerated faithful at the London's Westminster Abbey. Manche Masemola was the first African martyr of the Anglican Church who was murdered by her parents for following the Anglican church teachings the age of 14.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has approached Sekhukhune District Municipality to be part of the inter-organisational steering committee for the preparations of the unveiling ceremonies of Manche Masemola burial site and Kgoshi Mampuru II statue. The steering committee comprise Masemola family, Mampuru Royal House, Anglican Church, SAHRA, Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, CoGHSTA, Limpopo Economic Development Environment and Tourism (LEDET) and the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality.

According to Mr Dumisani Base Sibayi - the SAHRA Executive responsible for Heritage Conservation Management his organisation is given the mandate and all powers by laws of the Republic of South Africa to identify and record graves of victims of conflict and any other graves which it deems to be of cultural significance and may erect memorials with the grave.

"We have identified two compelling cases in line with our mandate to build structures such as statues or memorials to honour the victims of conflict, that is Manche and Kgoshi

Mampuru II. Manche, a young woman of Bapedi community, passed her short life in Sekhukhuneland. It is believed that Manche was born around 1913 in Ga-Marishane. Father Augustine Moeka of the Anglican Community of Resurrection had established a mission at Marishane. It was with her cousin Lucia that Manche first heard Moeka preach. She wished to hear more and began to attend classes twice a week. Fearful that she would leave them, or refuse to marry, her parents sought to discourage her. When she defied them, she was beaten. On the 4th of February 1928, her mother and father took her to a lonely place, killed her, and secretly buried her. Shortly after, her sister Mabule also died apparently of shock and was buried next to her grave. Her vow 'I will be baptised with my own blood'" Sibayi said.

He added that Kgoshi Mampuru II, the son and rightful successor of Malekutu I to the Bapedi throne on the other was brutally executed in a public spectacle by the Pretoria Boer Government on 22 November 1883 for his defiance of the orders of the Transvaal Boer Republiek. While his execution was a sad brutal exhibition, it is unfortunate that his remains could not be found to this day. As a consolation for the entire Bapedi nation, SAHRA has began the process of building a statue in his honour.

He concluded that South Africa Heritage Resources Agency has thoroughly consulted with the Kgoshi Mampuru II's descendants under the authority of Kgoshi Mampuru Billy Mampuru III and the communities under Pedi-Mamone Traditional Council to give the ultimate honour to Kgoshi Mampuru II among his people and the living custodians of his gallant legacy.



EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S CUP FLOWS WITH CREAM OF TALENT

JANE FURSE SAFA Artificial Turf was abuzz with football action on the weekend of 28 and 29 January 2017. Though the two-day competitive feat could not crown the ultimate champion of Sekhukhuneland due to postponement of the final match due to heavy rain, it is worth recounting the blissful moments of the captivating weekend. Participating clubs in the tournament were Heights F.C, Mocatation F.C, Sekhukhune Arsenal's F.C, R.T. Giant Killers F.C, Mashilo Happy Boys F.C, Mooihoek Eleven Experience F.C, Ngwaabe City Motors F.C and Jane Furse Highlanders FC.

Day 1 of the Top 8 tournament was officially opened on the arrival of the Executive Mayor and the leadership of South African Football Association Sekhukhune Region who pledged to maintain their partnership to expose hidden talent and unearth young people's potential. In a short address players and the sporting enthusiast gathered at the Jane Furse SAFA Artificial Turf, Executive Mayor expressed his deepest gratuity to the South African Football Association for considering his office in their noble pursuit of championing youth development through football.

Day 2 of the football spectacle was graced by honourable Member of Executive Committee for Sport Arts and Culture in the Limpopo Provincial Government Mme Onnica Mokgobedi Moloji who joined the Executive Mayor on a marathon of community sport events organised in different places on that weekend.

As the tussle for the Executive Mayor's Cup was heating up the rain clouds conspired against the tournament, making the drenched pitch was unplayable. The team of Officiating Officials (Referees), namely, Niving Kobo, Nnana Ntabo, Mokoana Simon, Simon Maabane, Moloto Phumelelo, Mabilu

Korkie, Gumede Freddy, Thapelo Mahlaba, Mokalapa John and Komane Frank took a unanimous decision to postpone the final match to 21 March 2017.

In deed the promise to stage the final match to crown the ultimate Kings of Football in Sekhukhune was honoured.

The final match was played at Groblersdal Rugby Stadium to also mark the Human Rights Day celebrations. The professionally arranged setting of the final event was so impressive to the levels of television spectacular. It began with teams and officials procession to the field where finalists and their Officiating Officials descended to the pitch. Teams and Officiating Officials position themselves on a straight line facing the main stand with their development teams accompanying their teams flanked by 8 Ball boy who positioned themselves around the field. The leadership procession to the field did not disappoint as they gallantly descended to the pitch for wishing the teams luck. Team Captains led the leadership to their respective teams as they introduce their team mates to the leadership.

After the final whistled the winners and runner-ups of the tournament were honoured during a short Prize Giving Ceremony which began with awarding Gold Medals to the Officiating Officials. The Honourable Councillors and SAFA Region leadership presented 12 Trophies to the best individual performance. Honourable MMC. Mnisi and SAFA Region leadership presented 25 Bronze Medals, markers, balls and bibs to the team that took position 3. SAFA Provincial leadership presented 25 Silver Medals together with markers, balls and bibs to the losing finalist that landed in the second position. His Worship the Executive Mayor Cllr. Stanley Ramaila and SAFA National representatives bejeweled the floating Trophy, 25 Gold Medals, markers, balls and bibs to the winning team which was the highest honour to the cream of talent in the District.





Bapedi Kings honoured



18 March 2017 went down the history as a day that validated the eternal pre-eminence of heroes and heroines that stood up in defence of the land and common identity of Bapedi people. Among these pioneering heroes and warrior kings, the King Thulare III Foundation identified Kgoshikgolo Thulare I, Kgoshikgolo Sekwati I and Kgoshikgolo Sekhukhune I who reigned the Marota empire in the 1800s.

The ultimate honour to these great leaders was festooned in a form of an annual event aptly called the Bapedi Kings Celebration held on the third weekend of March under the authority of the Bapedi King Thulare Victor Thulare III. During this annual event King Thulare Victor Thulare III rallies the communities of Sekhukhuneland and neighbouring kingdoms, academia, the media, heritage enthusiasts and the members of the community to bear witness to the historic heritage and celebration of Bapedi culture at Tsate 3 Great Place in Mohlaletse village, Fetakgomo-Greater Tubatse Municipality.

Among the speakers at the 2017 instalment of this annual event was Professor Mathole Motshekga of Kara Institute and Professor Leseilane Mampuru of the University of Limpopo. Thobela FM Cultural Heritage Documentary Programme also helped to profile the event through the coverage of the full footage and interview with the King Thulare Victor Thulare III and other speakers. Cultural performances including the traditional entourage (mogobo), epic poetry of the three warrior kings and different Bapedi traditional genres gave everyone in attendance an electrifying spectacle.

Historic Facts about the three Bapedi Kings
The Bapedi originated from the Bakgatla and moved to the Eastern-Central Transvaal. This is where they built a powerful empire in Bopedi, by a skilful combination of diplomacy and military conquest. Their motto, **"Fetakgomo o sware Motho, Mofetakgomo ke moriri oa hloga"**, was used to build a strong and revered Pedi nation. They implemented it practically in building a nation by bringing in small tribes, not slaughtering the weak and defeated people, by using cattle to marry as many women as possible from neighboring tribes, by admitting outsiders and refugees into the fold of the tribe and by conquering recalcitrant tribes. The empire grew over time to a stage where at the zenith of its success it covered the area between the Lekwe (Vaal) and the Lebepe (Limpopo) rivers, in the south and north, and the Komati river and the Kgalagadi, in the East and in the West respectively (Magubane, 1998:p127). They regarded the entire vast land as their own and Pedi soldiers were sent to check the boundaries. They fought everyone who encroached on it - Boers, British, Swazis, Arab slave traders, and others.



As a consequence, the Marota, as the Bapedi are affectionately addressed, were the de facto rulers of a great empire that included people of other origins, including the Bakgaga, Batau, Bakone, Baroka, Batlokwa, Baphuthi, Bakwena, Bakgatla, Bantwane, BaMongatane, BaMohlala, Mapulana, Matebele, Matlala, Batswana, MaSwazi, Batswako and others. They all owed allegiance and had a common loyalty to the Pedi kings. They even requested initiation sessions from the Pedi kings. So it is clear that, **"historically the Pedi were a relatively small tribe who by various means built up a considerable empire. This resulted in their language being accepted as a lingua franca and indeed, with minor adjustments, as the medium for Bantu schools in most of the Transvaal."** (Monnig,1967:v)

"Initially they were small and weak, but they soon began to establish their authority over a number of other Sotho groups and started to play a dominant role in the area. The basis of the Pedi power was laid by King Thulare (1780-1820). Thulare was a fearless warrior and a wise statesman." (Van Aswegen, 1990:p63)

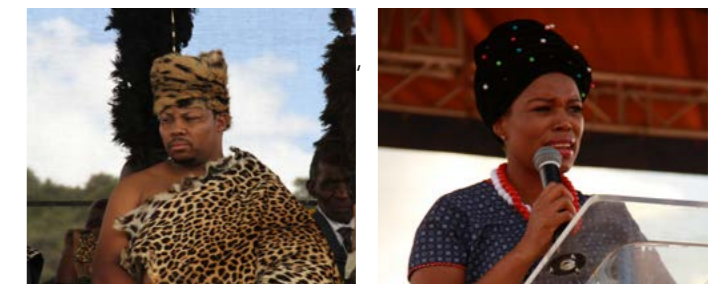
The Bapedi, like any other tribe, had their kings and royalty, their succession struggles and a powerful culture and tradition.

"The Pedi owned large herds of cattle and were skilful manufacturers of iron tools." (Van Aswegen, 1990:63) It is because of their dependence on cattle for their everyday livelihood, that cattle imagery dominated their language in idioms, praise songs, poetry and speech. Cattle represented a concrete expression of Pedi wealth. They therefore dominated

such ceremonies and intra- and inter-tribal matters as funerals, marriage, initiation, court fines, song, ancestor worship and traditional rituals.

The birth of King Sekhukhune While the birth of King Sekhukhune to King Sekwati and his wife Thorometjane Phala in 1814 may have gone almost unnoticed, he was to bring joy, pride, prowess and bravery to the Pedi Nation. When he was born the young boy was named Matsebe. He acquired the name Sekhukhune later in life as a nickname and, like all such names, over time it replaced his real name. The young Matsebe acquired the name Sekhukhune as a consequence of his outstanding role in fights against Boers. The Boers used forts and many attacks on the Bapedi to encircle, besiege and starve them into submission. It was a situation of permanent siege against the Bapedi. As part of their military strategy they used to block Pedi access to water and food. In this situation, the brave young Matsebe used to move quietly under cover of darkness or forests, a khukhuna, with his trusted lieutenants to get food and water for his people.

This activity was the backbone of Bapedi survival from the scorched earth policy of the Boers. That is why on his sereto (praise-poem) he says, **"ke paletse maburu ka Tsate, sebata ke a khukhuna. Moka boditsi ke hlahla le phoka."** (I survived Boer assaults on Tjate. No one could catch my movements. I am very slippery.) This is the brave young man who came to be known as King Sekhukhune.



When his father, King Sekwati, passed away in 1861, Sekhukhune, with the help of his Matuba regiment, militarily repulsed an attempt on the throne of his father by his half-brother Mampuru. In true serota tradition he then allowed Mampuru to leave the Bapedi peacefully. In celebrating that success Sekhukhune inserted in his sereto (praise-poem) that, **"ke hlabile monna ka lerumo gara goro a be a hloma motshongwane yake ke pheko ya motse wowe."** (I stabbed a man with a spear in the middle of a homestead enclosure and he flew his feet to the air as if it is a consequence of a traditional bone divination.) On ascending the throne of his father he proved to be a worthy successor. That is why to this day the Bapedi honour, respect, fondly remember and pay tribute to him lovingly. He continued where his father and forebearers had left to build a powerful Pedi Kingdom. King Sekhukhune over the years grew into a unifier, warrior-king in the category of Kings Moshoeshe, Makhado, Maleboho, Makgoba, Ngungunyane, Mokopane, Mzilikazi, Cetswayo, Hints, Sandile and Tshaka.



Policies to strengthen the social compact, and protect the vulnerable

There is a saying that the moral test of a nation is how it treats the most vulnerable in society. Societies are judged by how they treat the poor, older persons, homeless, orphaned, people with disabilities and children.

In the District, we are fortunate that the Office of the Executive Mayor called a workshop to develop, refresh and review the policies that will guide the District to advance and protect the rights of the vulnerable groups while strengthening the social compact with all role players. The workshop was aptly named the Strategies and Policies Development and Review Workshop, it was organised on 23rd of February 2017 at West Street Boardroom in Groblersdal. The workshop was dedicated to ensuring that all policies to be adopted by Council and championed by the Office of the Executive Mayor are guided by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

these policies are instruments that give our people the power to advance their lives. Let me assure you that there are efforts to raise awareness about these policies. These efforts include holding dialogues across the district and engage with the affected constituencies to learn more about the challenges they are facing and identify policy gaps that needs to be filled, and explore how best these strategies and policies can be used to enhance access to services to the people” said MMC Mnisi

He added that beyond their primary use, these policies will also be used to enable Office of the Executive Mayor and its partners to respond quicker and more effectively to the needs of the impoverished communities.

Some of the policies and strategies include the District Communications Strategy, Moral Regeneration Policy, Policies on the rights of Children, Elderly, Women, Persons with Disabilities, the language policy. In their spirit and essence these policies enable the municipality to uncover and intervene in a number of social challenges facing communities. They also prescribe a legal standing through which the District can offer assistance, strengthen and expand the delivery of developmental services as well as identifying and providing support required in communities without being drawn into the territory of ‘unfunded mandate’.

MMC Mnisi concluded by highlighting the fact that workshopping of strategies and policies provided an ideal opportunity to learn more about the sharpness and responsiveness of the obtaining policy framework, and how it enable the Office of the Executive Mayor to identify and tackle developmental challenge, and ensure that the most vulnerable are treated with respect and also know how the policies and strategies adopted by council can be used to improve their lives. will be filled by the seamless branding of the municipality, and that once the CI Manual is concluded it will be elevated to the council for approval.

According to the Member of Mayoral Committee for Youth, Women, Children and Disabled Persons Cllr Tele Peter Mnisi the fundamental objective of the workshop was to ensure that all strategies and policies are geared towards supporting the most vulnerable and protect their dignity. “Beyond the approval processes including the adoption of these strategies and policies by the fully constituted council of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Office of the Executive Mayor aims to work with all affected role players including Magoshi, non-governmental organisations, members of public, statutory sectoral bodies such as the youth councils to raise awareness about the policy direction the district has taken, and how they will be affected” advised Cllr MMC Mnisi. He indicated that it will be business unusual as the leadership has decided that no policy and strategy document belongs to the shelves.

“Having policy documents that gather dust in the shelves is the worst thing that could ever happen when we know that

Re-imaging Sekhukhune is loading

Corporate Identity Manual that will unify the branding of all District functions, assets and everything that belongs to the district is in its final stages of research and viability study. This include the plans to ensure that all the reservoirs, dams, purification plants, offices and all outlets through which members of public interface with brand-Sekhukhune are clearly identified and resonate with the brand.

The Corporate Identity Manual has been canvassed to ensure greater awareness among members of public about the assets, projects and items that distinctly isolate the powers and functions of Sekhukhune District Municipality. According to the champion of the municipality’s branding Mr Willy Mosoma there are creative plans such as involving young people with a graffiti and signwriting gift to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the rebranding of the

municipality in line with the Corporate Identity Manual.

“The Manual will be a management tool to govern the compliance and handling of the SDM brand by all stakeholders including communicators and internal staff. It empower us to have a legal standing where a stakeholder has abused, misrepresented or even mishandled the SDM brand, and ensure that all implementing agents and users including service providers follow guidelines and correct procedures for handling the SDM brand” Mosoma said

Mosoma added that even internally there are lots of gaps that will be filled by the seamless branding of the municipality, and that once the CI Manual is concluded it will be elevated to the council for approval.



Masehlaneng Celebrates 60 Years

Saturday 15 April 2017 was the most colourful day for residents of Masehlaneng village annexed to Ga-Phaahla village under Kgoshi Letsiri Phaahla. This was not due to the Easter Weekend festivities but a unique community driven concept called ‘Proudly Masehlaneng Projects’ through which community members marked the celebration of 60 year of the establishment of the village in 1957. In her address to the six decade milestone on behalf of the Executive Mayor, Member of Mayoral Committee Manganeng

(pictured) congratulated the community of Masehlaneng for projecting a positive image of the district by engaging in long term visionary projects and programmes for the development of their village. MMC Manganeng also took the opportunity to commend the vibrant social media campaign led by the Proudly Masehlaneng Projects conveners to popularize this programme beyond the boundaries of the village and municipal area.



We care for children

Sekhukhune District Municipality has recently joined forces with the Limpopo Department of Social Development to celebrate and validate children’s rights. The District is in the process of adopting policies that will advocate for children’s rights and ensure that families and all existing support structures devise programme to create a favourable environment for children to thrive and become future leaders. During the IDP/Budget Consultations there was an indication that at least two Children’s programmes to be conducted with a budget of R40,000.00 which will stimulate efforts to advance children’s interests in the district.

KALUSHI the film, our Freedom Month footprint



‘Where there’s a will, there’s a way’. This saying is particularly relevant to the gesture made by the Limpopo Department of Sport Arts and Culture by making it possible for the residents of Sekhukhune and Waterberg Districts to watch the brand new motion picture film about Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu. The Department showcased the film of Kalushi which is depicting the life of Solomon Mahlangu as part of the build up to Freedom Celebrations on 25 April 2017.

Mahlangu who was a 23-year-old freedom fighter was executed by the Apartheid regime on 06 April 1979. His bravery in the face of death-screaming gallows made him a distinct freedom fighter of all time. He is remembered for the last words he said to his mother “Mama – Tell my people that I love them and that they must continue to struggle. My blood shall nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. Aluta Continua!!!” The showcasing of Kalushi – the film

of the life of freedom fighter was a unique opportunity for the residents of Sekhukhune considering that there are no movie theatres or cinemas in all the major towns of the district. The department also ensured that the three-hour viewing of the blockbuster film on 25 April 2017 was free for all to enable the residents of Sekhukhune to join the celebration of Freedom month in an entertaining way.

Freedom Month of April 2017 covers the four important dates and anniversaries, they are, the execution of Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu on April 06, 1979, the assassination of Chris Hani on April 10, 1993, the passing of Oliver Reginald Tambo in 1993 and first democratic general elections that ushered South Africa’s freedom on April 27, 1994. This makes the month of April the most important period in South Africa’s long walk to freedom.