

Sekhukhune News

Official Internal Newsletter of Sekhukhune District Municipality

3rd Quarter 2017/2018

MARCH 2018



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ON THE ROAD**

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SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

Editorial



Editor-in-Chief
Norah T. Maseko ...

The overarching theme of the 3rd Quarter edition of the third edition of Sekhukhune News is motivated by OUTCOME 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship. This particular Outcome, among other Outcomes outlined by Government of the Republic of South Africa, compliments the spirit of the recent Annual Report Public Consultations for 2016/2017.

The Annual Report is indicative of number of successes recorded in the 2016/2017 financial year. The Annual Report does not overshadow challenges that still confront the district. As a public participation programme of the Draft Annual Report 2016/2017 Consultation is an extensive process of oversight through bringing to confidence a vast range of interest parties. It began on 01 February 2018 with staff members of Sekhukhune District Municipality at the newly declared A.B Skhosana Fire Station. Other stakeholders consulted include Magoshi, the general public, special groups as well as labour and business.

One of the areas of municipality's performance reflected in the Annual Report is financial accountability and stability. There is consistency in terms of improvement of the quality of the Unqualified Audit Opinion from the Auditor-General (AG) of South Africa for 2016/17 financial year. Noting key recommendations and areas of improvement isolated by the AG, no effort shall be spared to ensure that the District earns its place as an excellent and accountable custodian of public funds.

Integrated development planning can't be emphasised if we are to succeed in this pursuit of excellence. It is an essential part of participatory local government and a Constitutional imperative

that will afford our communities a positive experience of freedom and democracy. In the month of March and April 2018 we will be embarking on the IDP/Budget Consultation for 2018/19, the Annual Report to reflect the 2018/2019 work will be tabled in the 2019/2020 financial year. I am bringing this to your attention so that you see the connectedness of these planning and public accountability consultative activities.

Development planning and implementation within the municipality revolves around community interaction and consultation through outreaches, tabled budgets, draft plans, draft annual reports, and a range of other legislative and non-legislative engagements. For this reason we are forever indebted to our Political Management Team (PMT) for their commitment in ensuring that these public participation programmes are conducted with great distinction.

As we advance towards the third financial year of the current Council, we are increasingly seeing prospects of building a capable to respond to service delivery and inherent local government challenges in our communities. The introduction of the War Room is one such an indication that we are firmly steering our service delivery vehicle to the right direction.

I hope you find this edition of Sekhukhune News as exciting and informative as we intended it to be. If you have any suggestions and inputs, feel free to e-mail your thoughts to the editorial team: phashak@sekukhune.gov.za.

Thank you!

Norah Tivetile Maseko
Editor-in-Chief

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Executive Mayor's Message



In August 2016, residents of Sekhukhune gave the fourth council under the leadership of African National Congress a mandate to lead the district for the term that ends in 2021. It is a mandate that we have taken seriously and I am very pleased to present the 2016/2017 Annual Report which sums a full financial year that reflect on the fourth council's performance. It represents the baseline against which the 2016 – 2021 administration will measure its improvements in the lives of the residents of the district. Of course, we have inherited certain challenges such as sanitation backlog, land use, staffing and water supply impediments.

Despite the district's efforts to create jobs through municipal projects and other efforts, unemployment in the district is still stubbornly high. The ranks of unemployed are increasingly swelled by young people. The district has much to do in respect of its revenue collection in order to co-fund its mandate of providing creative development solutions in partnership with local municipalities, communities and other stakeholders. With attendant challenges on land use, the district managed to establish the Joint District Municipal Planning Tribunal which deal with land use and development applications for the four local municipalities, namely: Elias Motsoaledi, Ephraim Mogale, Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Makhuduthamaga. The tribunal, though not yet functional, is a product of a workshop held on 24 November 2016 with traditional leaders in Jane Furse to deal with Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA).

Sanitation provision is edging closer to the 10 thousand mark with at least 9447 VIP toilets provided to households across the district at a cost of R138 816

million. Backlog in water infrastructure and the pace of service delivery in the district remains below the expectation of communities. We acknowledged, during consultations with traditional leaders on 08 February 2018, that in the past we were entangled in poor planning which resulted in complicated and inefficient governance decision making processes which had impact on the rollout of service delivery, and ultimately funds being returned to National Treasury.

Looking ahead, we constituted the War Room on Service Delivery. The War Room is formed by men and women committed to improving the lives of residents of Sekhukhune. It's a team of hands-on technical and political teams capable of re-organising the district to ensure it works for the people of Sekhukhune. Our approach is about getting the basics right. In the year under review we have appointed the new Municipal Manager, Ms Norah Tivetile Maseko, a seasoned local government administrator who is capable of helping us drive the new strategic priorities. To achieve some of the forecasted future plans as outlined in the Strategic Planning Session held in November 2017, I would like to call upon employees of the district to hold their grip tightly on the fast moving service delivery vehicle so that they may not be left out. In the coming financial year I implore upon our approximately 1000 employees to work towards fast-tracking service delivery and brighten their corner of excellence.

We have a chance like no other to take Sekhukhune to greater heights, let's seize the moment.

Ke a leboga!

Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila
Executive Mayor

DOORS of learning open at Phokwane Library



Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Ramaila elevated his commitment for an educated Sekhukhune by honouring the opening of the state of the art library in Phokwane village, Makhuduthamaga. With fewer libraries erected in the villages, a state of the art library was opened at Phokwane 04 February 2018. Locals in and around the Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) will benefit from the newly built library in the village. The new facility was officially opened by the SDM mayor, Stan Ramaila. The community, leaders and the enthusiastic pupils joined in the excitement of opening their new library. The library provides a beautiful and creative reading space with a range of books suitable for everyone.



Speaking to the guests Ramaila also encouraged the public to take full advantage of the opportunity that has been given to them. "In the past years the people from Sekhukhune had been asking for the government to improve education facilities. It is so wonderful that we are today opening the library. I know this community will take good care of the library, because it is not ours or the staff's library, it belongs to the community. It is a safe haven for both our children and older people to come to," he said.

The opening of the library is one of programme spearheaded by the MEC of sport in Limpopo, Onicca Moloi to promote research, universal access to technology, and reading in the far flung rural area of Limpopo. Linked to this initiative is the newly launched ICT Lulaway Pilot Project. This ICT initiative will provide unemployed youth with access to technology and information in order to take advantage of job opportunities. Furthermore, the ICT Skills play a crucial role in helping the youth to create more opportunities for themselves in terms of entrepreneurship.

MEC Moloi said in Limpopo, the three libraries; Thulamela Library in Vhembe District, Mokgalakwena in Waterberg District and Ga-Phaahla in Sekhukhune District; have been identified and equipped with the latest technology and data connections for all library users to access through Mzansi Libraries Online project which has received funding from the Global Libraries Initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The aim of the grant is to strengthen public libraries in providing new technologies such as computers, data and software and training in ICT to uplift local communities.

The official launch ceremony for Limpopo province took place on 23 February 2018 at Thohoyandou Town Hall, Thulamela Municipality, Vhembe District. The Limpopo provincial launch followed the national launch by Lulaway and the National Library of South Africa on 12 September 2017 at Sharpeville Library, in Gauteng Province. Lulaway was born in 2011, and was converted into the first Lulaway Job Centres. Lulaway is the owners of internet cafes and today's runs over 160 Job Centres in all the nine provinces in South Africa. The purpose of this pilot project is to bridge the gap between employers and these high potential youth.





ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ROAD

The Joint Public Participation on the 2016/2017 Draft Annual Report took off with the consultation of traditional leaders at Ga-Nkoana Civic Centre in Apel under Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality on 08 February 2018. The proceedings shoot off with few announcements by Acting Council Secretary Mr Ralph Tshwane. The Presiding Officers of the day were Cllr Naume Phala, honourable Speaker of Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality together with Cllr Maria Manamela, honourable Speaker of Sekhukhune District Municipality. Honourable Speaker of Fetakgomo Tubatse Cllr Naume Phala gave a welcome address which drew emphasis on the need to strengthen cooperative governance at all levels and ensure synergy in all the work that involves communities.

“The joint programme of SDM and local municipalities is the most effective way for government to speak in one voice. When we do not speak in one voice, our messaging becomes a noise. In essence our communities see us as one government, no matter the difference in terms of powers and functions. It is upon us to strengthen the working relations so that delivery of services to communities does not become a daunting task” said Cllr Phala

Among dignitaries in attendance were Members of Mayoral Committee Cllr Thembekile Sihlangu who introduced dignitaries while Cllr Ralepane Mamekoa introduced Magoshi together with the Chairperson of the District House of Traditional Leaders Kgoshi Manamane Mogashoa. Cllr Orginia Mafefe, Chairperson of Chairpersons of Portfolios shed the purpose of the consultation. She encouraged the participation in the thorough scrutiny of the Annual Report. The draft Annual Report for Fetakgomo Tubatse was tabled Cllr Renkie Khoza on behalf of the Mayor Johannes Phokane. Some of the discussion points that arose from the presentation by the Executive Mayor to Magoshi included delays in terms

of securing land for township development and relocation of offices from Groblersdal and Lebowakgomo into Jane Furse. He highlighted progress registered during negotiations with role players such as Magoshi and Land Claimants.

Following the issue of land was the concern of funds going back to National Treasury when they are supposed to be making an impact on the service delivery backlog in the district. After receiving inputs from Magoshi on this thorny issue the Executive Mayor’s remarked that solutions include forward planning which will predetermine the expenditure patterns.

“By forward planning we mean that budget must follow planning that is proactive and enable us to executive within the financial year, thereby preventing the further losing of much needed funds. This means by July we will readily take our plans to Department of Water Affairs to approve plans. In the past our planning was like a kneejerk reaction, and we can’t continue condoning such because consequences are apparent in this Annual Report. And we promise to get in right this year – 2018. We draw our assurance from the fact that National Treasury is aware of our efforts and our forward planning include 2018/2019; 2019/2020; 2020/2021” said Ramaila

Traditional leaders also raised with grief the inability by the district to comply with the Disability Act regarding the employment equity quota for disability. By all indications the issue of compliance was discussed in the District Lekgotla and is set to be finalised by Council. On the other the District Policy for Persons with Disability was approved by Council for implementation.

Progress made in installing almost 10 000 Ventilated Improved Pit latrine (VIP) toilets was not well received by some traditional leaders until the Executive Mayor explained its

linked to the Constitutional function of water and sanitation. “Installing almost 10 000 VIP toilets in communities where there were apparent health hazards is done, not as an adventure, but as a core role of ensuring access to dignified and safe form of sanitation. This is validated by the mantra: ‘sanitation is dignity’. Any suspicion that we put more resources towards VIP toilets than water is not informed, we always ensure a fair balance” added Ramaila

Executive Mayor Ramaila outline the detailed programme of the 2016/2017 Draft Annual Report Public Participation Programme which included consultation with General Public for all local municipalities, starting with Elias Motsoaledi at the Pentecostal Christian Fellowship Church in Tafelkop on 12 February 2018, Ephraim Mogale (14 February), Makhuduthamaga (15 February), Fetakgomo Tubatse (16 February). Special Groups such as

women, youth, elderly, disabled and other vulnerable groups were consulted at Makhuduthamaga Local Municipal Chamber on 20 February 2018. The consultations were concluded with Labour and Business on 28 February 2018. He concluded that the public participation programme was cast wider to allow the district, as a crucial role player in developmental local government, to advance the needs of the vulnerable groups like the youth, elderly, women, People living with disabilities and children by continuously advocating for policies, programmes and initiatives that elevate their social standing.

“This is our sure way of integrating vulnerable groups in government-wide programmes and initiatives implemented through partnerships and social compacts” Ramaila concluded



DAY 1 focusing on OUTCOME 1



Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila opened his official diary by visiting schools as part of the Back-to-School campaign. His mainspring to action was informed by one of the Government's Outcomes – Outcome 1: Improved quality of Basic Education.

Executive Mayor interacted with learners from Grade 8 to 12. Together with his counterpart, Cllr Constance Kupa of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, they urged learners of Esther Maleka to put up a heroic performance and add to their previous successes.

He dedicated his school reopening day on Wednesday 17 January 2018 to visits directed at the top achieving schools in Groblersdal Circuit which covers parts of Elias Motsoaledi and Ephraim Mogale Local Municipalities. The first port of call was Hoerskool Ben Viljoen in Groblersdal which edged closer to 100% pass rate yet with glorified quality pass. Esther Maleka Comprehensive School in Marble Hall was also in the league of best performing schools. At both schools, lessons kicked off immediately. At Esther Maleka Comprehensive School the

To the amusement of the Executive Mayor and his collective the Class of 2018 at Esther Maleka set the bar a bit higher for their individual performances which would solidify the school's 100% pass.

Taking cue from the Executive Mayor, Honourable Mayor Kupa of Ephraim Mogale said: "We pride ourselves by recognising our best achievers. We are overwhelmed by the great determination displayed by educators and learners of Esther Maleka Comprehensive School".



Executive Mayor establishes 'WAR ROOM' on service delivery

TAPS SHALL HAVE CLEAN RUNNING WATER!

This is not just a sloganeering wish, it's the epic war cry from the Executive Mayor who established the War Room to expedite implementation of water infrastructure projects. This, according to the Executive Mayor, is an effort to meet the detonating urgency to resolve water shortages.

The Executive Mayor said this when he briefed traditional leaders about efforts to improve Water Infrastructure during the Public Consultation on 2016/2017 Annual Report on 08 February 2018 in Apel. He said the War Room will serve to unlock the impediments and allow communities to experience uninterrupted constant delivery of water services, which will include lesser water cuts, shortages, leaks and service delivery protests.

He added that the "War Room" constantly receives progress reports every two weeks on planned tasks and that this ensures the Infrastructure and Water Services (IWS) Project Team is able to tick boxes on deliverables.

"There are thousands of households that have not experienced clean running water, in some villages schemes that were handed over collapsed taking us more steps backwards. These are the challenges we want to uproot and deal with conclusively through the 'War Room'"



LAND QUESTION UNBUNDLED

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ROYAL MOMENTS AT MAMPURU II DAY COMMEMORATION



As it dawned on Saturday 27 January 2018, droves of well-wishers, traditional leaders, members of Zion Christian Church and the public made a foot traffic to Sekwati Sports Ground in Mamone to mark the 2018 Annual Mampuru II Day Commemoration. It was a majestic affair of Kings and Queens, Royal Highnesses, Lords, Princes and Princesses of from all parts of South Africa. Surprise visitors were the royal entourage from the land of King Sobhuza. Among the clergy who bejeweled the annual commemoration was His Grace Bishop Lekganyane. National Government was represented by Minister Michael Masutha of Correctional Services and Deputy Minister Obed Bapela of Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. At the provincial level MEC Jerry Ndou represented Premier Stanly Chupu Mathabatha while Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Keamotseng Stanly Ramaila and Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Cllr Minah Bahula proudly ushered and welcomed guests to the memorable royal occasion in Republic South Africa.

His Majesty Kgoshi Mampuru III was commended by many speakers for reminding nations, kingdoms and institutions, on an annual basis, of the significance of Kgoshi Mampuru II and what he stood for with a broader view of reminding young generation who we are and where we come from. In her resounding welcome address the Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Cllr Minah Bahula told more than 6000 crowds gathered in Mamone village that the event was about going to the roots. "We can never know what is expected of us as the present generation if we do not know of our origins. Foreign tendencies are bound to negatively affect and afflict us in ways that make us lose our purpose in life. We are gathered here to reconnect to that purpose" Mayor Bahula said. Among the speakers that spoke of Kgoshi Mampuru II's courageous and illustrious leadership in his lifetime and even moments before his demise in the gallows of Pretoria. The community of Mamone through song, dance, theatre, sculpture and other forms of art expressed its longing for the remains of Kgoshi Mampuru II to be buried among his people. As the quest for his remains remain thorny, consolation in a form of a statue has been sort. According to the Pedi-Mamone Traditional Authority spokesperson Mr Nelson Mampuru the statue was design to represent the spirit of a warrior watching over his

people and the nation as a whole. "The building of the statue in the belly of the community is bound to give us guidance and shower all of us with blessings. It allows us to have a constant image, to remember and recognize him as our leader" said Mampuru. Speaking on behalf of Limpopo Congress of Traditional Leaders Kgoshi Letsiri Phaahla is faced with deep seated challenges and that events like Kgoshi Mampuru II Day presented a ray of hope. "Traditional leadership in our land and the rest of our mother continent Africa are the bulwark against the onslaught of so-called modernity and Western civilization on our cultures, traditions, moral values and ancestral lands. King Mampuru II, together with his fellow kings and other traditional leaders of the past look up to the current crop of leaders to defend our identity as a people. The loss of freedom by Africans at the hands of European invaders went hand-in-hand with the loss of our land. Our freedom and democracy, therefore, is not complete until all of our heritage and land have been recovered" Kgoshi Phaahla said. "As representatives of the kings of the past let us ask our government if it truly believes that our ancestors would be satisfied with the status accorded their descendants in a free South Africa. If the government believes that they would be satisfied they it must continue with the status quo. If not, the powers of traditional leaders must be restored. Crime is rampant in our areas because there is no law regulating the functioning of our royal courts, so-called Traditional Courts" Phaahla added. Key among speakers from national government was Deputy Minister Obed Bapela of Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) who said the issue of land enjoys high priority in the government forward planning and policy direction. Inkosi Phathekile Holomisa who is Deputy Minister of Labour said his department is prepared to hold meetings with Traditional Councils, to give communities information relating to benefits of the Unemployment Insurance Fund, Compensation Fund, Employment opportunities and other services. The event was concluded at 18h00 after the address by the hosting Kgoshi Mampuru III who also presented awards in honour of dignitaries.



MINISTER ZOKWANA'S "BACK TO SCHOOL" IN MAGUKUBJANE



Magukubjane village in Elias Motsoaledi Municipality was fortunate to receive Minister of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF) Senzeni Zokwana. His visit to Magukubjane was part of his "Back to School" programme. Accompanied by Member of Mayoral Committee (MMC) Cllr Makaeya Alfred Matlala, councillors and officials from the department, the Minister took his convoy to Magukubjane Secondary School and Mashiyane Primary School, which form part of the programme were identified through consultation with the Department of Basic Education in Limpopo's District Office.

This initiative is aimed at motivating and supporting learners and teachers to take the school curriculum to the next level. DAFF, on the other hand, intends to offer bursaries to prospective students in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The challenges facing both schools are almost the same. Magukubjane Secondary School has a shortage of classrooms, existing classrooms with poor quality where learners are sent home when it rains due to leaks, inadequate learning facilities, school fence destroyed and school garden abandoned, hazardous floors which could be risky to both learners and teachers.

Mashiyane Primary School's needs are: additional classrooms, shortage of learning facilities, lack of food garden, building of new ablution facilities and lack of security fence.

The Minister Senzeni Zokwana awarded a bursary to one of the learners from Magukubjane Secondary School. Some stakeholders saw the need to intervene where Perishable,

Produce Export Control Board (PPECB) donated 20 Sharp scientific calculators; Fruit SA pledges with 10 pairs of school shoes from size 1 to size 3, Forestry branch from DAFF, has donated citrus and indigenous trees – some planted by the Minister and schools principals. Minister gave money to Principal of Magukubjane Secondary School, Ms. Grace Ngoasheng, to patch the holes in the classrooms, video of DAFF career guidance, OBP will drill borehole and putting up tank for Magukubjane school to access water, DAFF awarded a bursary to a learner from the said school, Agricultural Research Council (ARC) to assist with soil and water testing. Other entities inclusive of South 32, EXXARO, Anglo American SA and Du Point-Pioneers promised to pledge after they conducted needs assessments from the respective schools. On his concluding remarks the Minister encouraged learners to do more even under these conditions and School Governing Body (SGB) together with parents to work together in shaping the future of their children. The community of Elias Motsoaledi benefited from the Minister's donation of two hundred trees to be planted in the area as part of the department's "One Household One Tree" campaign. The Minister will also establish vegetable gardens in one of the schools to be visited as well as donate 200 garden tools to other schools.



LET'S ADDRESS THE VOTERS' ROLL

Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila is encouraging all eligible South African voters to visit their voting stations on the weekend of 10 and 11 March 2018 to update their details on the voters' roll. He urged members of the community to take to heart the fact that "The voters' roll is the bedrock of electoral integrity, and that its quality is the foundation for credible, free and fair elections. This includes making sure all eligible votes are registered in the correct segment of the voters' roll. Executive Mayor Ramaila was amplifying the call by the Electoral Commission to engage voters to update the voters' roll in preparation for the 2019 elections. The Electoral Commission will on the weekend on 10 and 11 March 2018 open its voting stations for all eligible voters to update their details. "Let's go in our numbers to the voting stations. They will be opened to assist new voters to register to vote, allow already registered voters who have moved since they registered to

reregister in their correct voting district and allow registered voters whose address details are not on the voters roll to provide their information" said Ramaila. He remarked that the District support of the drive to encourage voters to visit voting stations on the set dates as part of supporting the Electoral Commission's campaign under the slogan: "Let's address the voters' roll". He said voters visiting their voting station should take a copy of their bar coded ID book, smart ID or temporary certificate. Voters can contact 0800 11 8000 from Monday till Friday during office hours to find out their correct voting station and can ask questions. Those with access to the internet can update and review their addresses on the online facility is available at <https://www.elections.org.za/myIEC/account/Register>. Registered voters can also SMS their ID number to 32810 to receive an SMS containing the address of their voting station (charged at R1).



Executive Mayor's Condom Week Message Let's put a pink alert on Cancer

Sekhukhune District Municipality's Aids Council is one of the statutory bodies established within Office of the Executive Mayor to tackle the detonating urgency of addressing challenges relating to HIV/Aids in the District. While we are gaining the ground in our fight against HIV/Aids we have increasingly realised that Cancer has become the latest opportunistic disease that kills people infected with HIV. The District Aids Council cautioned us to direct our efforts cancer. It is imperative for us as government to support the launch of cancer campaign with a greater impact, similar to the HIV counselling and testing campaign.

This has been concretely expressed by the President of the Republic of South Africa during his maiden State of the Nation Address which called the nation to act on cancer which is now a cause of death among young people. Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi cautioned us to the fact that the cancers that are on the increase include breast, lung, prostate, colon, rectum and cervical. These cancers are killing those infected. And that the cancer campaign would include

talking about testing, early detection, prevention and treatment. We will also venture into a space where we deepen awareness and confront of lifestyle diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. We also endorse all efforts by Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) relating to encouraging South African citizens to support the third year of the World Cancer Day campaign. The slogan for this year is: 'We can, I can'. World Cancer Day took place each year on 4 February, providing the platform for the world to unite and raise the profile of cancer in a positive and inspiring way. We join the calls for everyone to be more active in every sense in the fight against cancer by incorporating sport-related and wellness activities into daily routines. Physical activity has been shown to combat cancer, including risk reduction, helping cancer patients manage the side-effects of treatment such as fatigue, depression and heart damage. Office of the Executive Mayor has already joined the efforts to raise awareness and amplify awareness about fighting cancer in communities and we would like everyone to join by wearing pink to highlight the cancer scare.

MARULA SEASON local economy thrives

Africa's most versatile fruit – Marula, which also grows vastly in Sekhukhune District, will be celebrated in honour of its economic and cultural qualities. At the provincial level the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Ms. Onicca Molo, will lead the annual official opening of the First Fruit Season 2018, to honour the cultural heritage of the Ku Luma Vukanyi or go loma Morula. The ceremony is held annually aimed at promoting knowledge and awareness about the African Tradition associated with the golden fruit of Africa - Marula.

District build-up activities towards the annual Marula Festival were held in the Sekhukhune including the visit by MEC Seaparo Sekwati of Limpopo Economic Development Environment and Tourism (LEDET) to the royal kraal of Kgoshikgolo Kgagudi Kenneth Sekhukhune in Maroteng. MEC Sekwati together with MEC Molo encouraged communities to promote their Morula related activities as they contribute to marketing Limpopo's cultural diversity and heritage. At the provincial event held in N'wamitwa/Valoyi Cultural Village, Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Mopani District the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture provided thousands litres of Marula beverage, which was consumed by the public during the event after the formal programme. The people of Limpopo call Marula the "food of kings and ancestors," and celebrate the "Feast of First Fruits by pouring offerings of fresh juice over the tombs of their late chiefs and family. The Limpopo government has been celebrating this event since 2005 in all the five districts on rotational basis. It is also celebrated through diverse cultural dance.



MAAPARANKWE'S WEEKEND WITH THE PRESIDENT



Few days before his election as the President of the Republic of South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa spent the weekend interacting with Limpopo's traditional leaders including courtesy visits to chiefs and kings. In Sekhukhune, the President's visit was facilitated by Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila. According to Executive Mayor Ramaila, the visit was part of the national leadership's effort to re-connect with traditional leaders and the communities at large. President Ramaphosa to touch base with the two royal palaces for Bapedi Kgoshikgolo Kgagudi Kenneth (K.K.) Sekhukhune and King Victor Thulare at Mohlaletsi.



Other traditional leaders visited in the province include Limpopo's famous Rain Queen's regent Mpapatla Modjadji, at Khethagoni the royal palace. Vha-Venda King and the Ba-Tsonga chief were also visited. The President said it was vital to engage with traditional leaders as they were a key component of rural development.

"This journey is going to take us the whole year, going the whole country visiting our traditional leaders, churches and communities, various other organisations, as well going to the grave sites of our departed leaders, this is part of the Centenary Celebration of Nelson Mandela – who would have turned 100 years had he lived." Said President Ramaphosa

During his visit President Ramaphosa donated five bulls whose handover was witnessed by Executive Mayor Cllr Stanly Ramaila.



We need achievers in Maths and Science



The draft Annual Report 2016/2017 Consultation aroused the thorny issue of gender sensitisation when taking stock of job creation against the number of women employed in 2016/2017. In his overarching response to some of the challenges relating to employability of women, he emphasised the importance of young girls to be encouraged and supported to choose Maths and Physical Science in school as future jobs will derive from careers linked to these subjects.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution, the Executive Mayor said, brings

improvement opportunities in the ballooning Information Technology sector and increased ability of informal sector hopefuls to find opportunities.

"For the district to join the world in its pursuit for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), women can no longer be spectators and seize opportunities to be history makers. SDGs are measures for us as government to gauge our fight to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all" said Ramaila



Sekhukhune District Municipality

Political Management Team



Council Speaker
Cllr Maria Manamela



Executive Mayor
Cllr Stanley Ramaila



Chief Whip
Cllr Tseke Lepota

Members Mayoral Committee



MMC Corporate Services
Cllr Alfred Matlala



MMC Budget & Treasury
Cllr Thembekile Sihlangu



MMC Infrastructure &
Water Services
Cllr Mbusi Mahlangu



MMC Office of the Executive Mayor
(Women & Gender Empowerment)
Cllr Yvonne Mmakola



Deputy MMC
Infrastructure & Water Services
Cllr Lorraine Manganeng



MMC Planning & Economic
Development
Cllr Samson Nkosi



MMC Community Services
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