



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2022

CLLR JULIA LATA MATHEBE IS NEW EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Council of Sekhukhune District Municipality today elected Cllr Julia Lata Mathebe as Executive Mayor.

Cllr Mathebe, who until now was Council Speaker, was elected to the position of Executive Mayor uncontested during a special Council meeting.

This makes her the first female to hold the position of Executive Mayor in the history of the Sekhukhune District Municipality.

Her election follows acceptance of Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila's resignation by Council.

Cllr Mathebe was Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, a position she relinquished after the November 2021 local government elections.

She is bringing to the top position, a wealth of experience, having been in local government since 2000, in various positions.

Councillors also elected Cllr Kgwediebotse Chego as Council Speaker, Cllr Choris Phokane as Council Whip and Cllr Mathale Mabatane chairperson of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee.

Upon her election, the Executive Mayor announced the following councillors as Members of the Mayoral Committee:

MMC for Infrastructure & Water Services (IWS):

Cllr Bella Kupa,

-1st Deputy, Cllr Merriam Malatji,

-2nd Deputy, Cllr Jan Mohlala,

MMC for Budget & Treasury Office (BTO):

-Cllr Maleke Mokganyetsi.

She was also appointed as a leader of government business.

MMC for Community Services:

-Cllr Stanley Ramaila

MMC for Corporate Services:

-Cllr Frank Ratau

MMC for Planning & Economic Development:

-Cllr Baatseba Leshaba

MMC for Women, Children, Old Age People with disability

-Cllr Orginia Mafefe,

MMC for Youth

Cllr Kuki Sefala,

When committing to do everything humanely possible to expedite the provision of services to the residents of Sekhukhune, Executive Mayor Mathebe announced the launch of OPERATION TLEMA TEKKIE-RE NWE MEETSE.

“This is a call to action to all of us, from the Executive Mayor to Member of Mayoral Committee, from ward councillor to municipal officials at every level,” says Executive Mayor Mathebe.

She adds:

“Under OPERATING TLEMA TEKKIE-RE NWE MEETSE, the Executive Mayor herself will join the blue-collar workers at the site, and brave the scorching heat, if that is what it’ll take for the people of Sekhukhune to get water. We will hit the ground running.”

The Executive Mayor also outlined key priorities in the next 100 days.

They include:

- Doing an audit of all major water schemes and projects and decide on the intervention,

- Seeking audience with Minister of Water & Sanitation Honourable Senzo Mchunu, to fast-track the collaborative process he has already put in place to unlock the De Hoop Dam Scheme,

- Engaging local and small business enterprises and Magoši, to ensure water projects proceed seamlessly,

- Attend to the spillage of sewage from either sewer lines or wastewater treatment plants in areas such as Motetema, Leeufontein, and Praktiseer,

- Paying special attention to the Sekhukhune Development Agency, and ensuring that it functions optimally to attract investments to the district and create jobs,

- Set aside R2-million on small businesses owned by youths and women, with the aim of capacitating them to become competitive,

- Update the indigent register and craft a revenue collection strategy in order to maintain and operate the existing water infrastructure sustainably, and

- Meet with leaders of the mining sector, considering that there are about 27 mine operations in Sekhukhune, to discuss if the existing social labour plans are indeed inclusive and successful in bringing labour, government, business and communities into agreement.

The Executive Mayor told Council that everyone, including councillors and municipal officials must roll up their sleeves and get down to work.

Mathebe holds NQF Level 6 qualification in Municipal Governance & Management from the University of Johannesburg, and a plethora of qualifications and certificates in local government.

Separately, she is in the penultimate year as a student of Bachelor of Public Administration at MANCOSA

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