



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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Office of the Executive Mayor

**REMARKS BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR
MINAH BAHULA ON THE OCASSION OF THE
MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION HELD ON
THURSDAY, THE 13th FEBRUARY 2025 AT BLYDE
CANYON, A FOREVER RESORT.**

Programme director,

Honourable Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Local Mayor Cllr
Merah Mahlase,

Honourable Council Speaker, Cllr Judy Mphelane
Nkgadima,

Honourable Chief Whip, Cllr Mosedi Thamaga,

Members of the Executive Committee,

Municipal Manager, Mr Ronald Moganedi and your team,

Chairperson of Municipal Public Accounts Committee,

Chair of Chairs,

Representatives from Sector Departments especially

Limpopo COGHSTA,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Programme Director,

I feel greatly honoured and privileged as a former Mayor of the municipality to be afforded this precious opportunity to talk to you. I always feel at home when I am amongst you. I spent the better part of my life at this institution, and I sometimes feel emotionally belonging here.

I want to congratulate you for maintaining the unqualified audit opinion. I want to upfront urge you to work towards obtaining a clean audit. This strategic planning session is challenged to work on the modalities to that effect.

Programme Director,

The strategic planning session is taking place a week after the State of The Nation Address. The President was emphatic on the role that the municipalities play in

changing the lives of our people. We are at the coal face of service delivery. He acknowledged that the local government system has some design problems that must be solved with the updating of White Paper on Local Government to outline a modern and fit-for-purpose local government system.

Programme Director,

We must be seriously concerned as the municipalities when the President says that in many cities and towns across the country, roads are not maintained, water and electricity supply is often disrupted, refuse is not collected and sewage runs in the streets, during his SONA. We need to do thorough introspection because water, roads and electricity is our primary function as local government.

I am aware that Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality is doing very well in terms of the provision of roads.

The district municipality is a water service authority and water service provider. We have devolved some of the operation and maintenance functions to our local municipalities through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality was the first beneficiary, and the

communities are already reaping the rewards. We started at Borderspruit ga Tisane.

Programme Director,

When we took office in the district municipality on the 17th November 2023, the situation was not good. We spent the sleepless nights to turn the corner. The municipality was always in the news for wrong reasons. The communities were up in arms waging service delivery protests because of lack of water. We unveiled number of initiatives to deal with the provision of water in the district. The demand is too high, but we are not resting in laurels. We are moving from the local municipality to the local municipality to find lasting water solutions in the district. I spent the first two weeks of the year here at Fetakgomo-Tubatse with the Ward Councillors dealing with water challenges.

Programme Director,

In conclusion, I wish you a fruitful and progressive strategic planning session.

Sekhukhune District Municipality won two awards during the 8th SALGA National Communicators Forum held in Jeffrey's Bay, Eastern Cape Province on Tuesday evening. The most media profiled municipality under

media monitoring and most active team on revenue collection. We are reaping the rewards of your grooming for the head of communication that was recruited from Makhuduthamaga. We deserve a round of applause.

I thank you.