



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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Office of the Executive Mayor

**OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS BY
EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY CLLR MINAH BAHULA ON THE
OCASSION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC
PLANNING SESSION HELD ON MONDAY THE 24th
FEBRUARY 2025 AT LOSKOP DAM FOREVER
RESORTS.**

Programme director, Mr Takura Chamuka

Honourable Council Speaker, Cllr Kgwediebotse Chego,

Honourable Chief Whip, Cllr Aaron Machipa,

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Leaders of Opposition parties in Council,

Chairperson of Sekhukhune Development Agency Board

Mr Serote Tshabedi, and the CEO,

Municipal Manager, Mr Mahlagaume Meshack Kgwale,
and the Senior Managers,

Representative of DWS, Mr Maunatlala P,

CEO of Innovative Dry Sanitation System, Mr Mahubane
H.M

Representative of Provincial Treasury, Ms Mokoena M,

Representative of COGHSTA Limpopo, Ayi Phalane,

Representative of COGHSTA Mpumalanga, Ms Marlene
Faure,

Chief Executive Officer of FTIP (SEZ) Mr Mr Kgopong
Solly,

Representatives of Organised Labour,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Programme director,

We are a nation in mourning. President Cyril Ramaphosa
in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the South
African National Defence Force (SANDF) received the
mortal remains of the SANDF soldiers who lost their lives

in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Thursday the 13th February 2025 and officiated on the handover ceremony to their families. The country has lost 14 selfless soldiers who perished in line of duty to defend Mother Africa. We are all the sons and the daughters of an African Continent. We have a revolutionary responsibility to strive for Unity and Peace in our Continent. Two of the departed soldiers who come from the district were laid to rest on Saturday the 22nd February 2025, **Lance Corporal Tseke Moffat Molapo from Moroke Village**, Fetakgomo Tubatse local Municipality and **Staff Sergeant Shwahlane Theophilus Seepe from Schonoord Village**, Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality.

I am going to request that we all stand up and observe a moment of silence in their honour. May Their Revolutionary Soul Continue to Rest in Peace.

Programme Director,

The strategic planning session is taking place three weeks 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.

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 and sanitation is our primary function as a water service authority and water service provider. President has given the National Marching orders and we are looking forward to receive the provincial ones from the Premier on Thursday the 27th February 2025 during the State of the Province Address.

We expect a bold pronouncement from **the Premier on the relocation of the District Offices from Capricorn to Sekhukhune**. The Provincial Government Lekgotla pronounced itself clearly on **the resuscitation of the Interministerial Steering Committee** on same. We urge on our members who are on the District Offices Relocation Steering Committee to play their part. We don't want to be left behind.

Programme Director,

We have gathered her today out of the comfort of our offices to **draw a clear mind map** of the road we are going to travel in the next financial year. We booked here for the next three days. We don't want distractions but to be more focused on the work ahead of us. We have always been in the news for wrong reasons as the district municipality. **The narrative has changed for the better**, because we are not resting in our laurels but are amongst the people trying to solve their service delivery issues. The work that we are doing is receiving necessary attention from our communities. They acknowledge that

we are doing something about **their problems especially on water and sanitation**. It will always seem to be not enough because of the **historical backlog**. We don't want to hear excuses or lamentations but creative ideas on how we can improve service delivery in the district.

The office of the Executive Mayor has initiated the **Borehole Projects for the Traditional leaders**, We are happy to formally announce that project is near completion, **Elias Motsoaled and Ephraim Mogale are concluded**, Makhuduthamaga and Fetakgomo-Tubatse are **both at 60%** due to the high number of traditional authorities in the two local municipalities. The project will not only benefit the traditional authorities but also their communities especially the boreholes that have high capacity of water like the ones at Ga Kgoshi Riba and Ga Kgaoshi Maimela.

Programme Director,

We resolved to devolve some operations and maintenance functions to the local municipalities through

the signing of the Memorandum of understanding. We started with Makhuduthamaga local municipality as a pilot project and the municipality is already reaping the rewards. We concluded the signing of the MOU with Ephraim Mogale and Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipalities. We experienced contractual challenges with Fetakgomo Tubatse local municipality. The challenges have since been resolved and we are on the verge of signing the MOU.

The municipality held an extended Mayoral Committee last week. The extended Mayoral Committee was attended by members of the PMT. The meeting was convened to deal with **the implementation of the satellite offices** of the Executive Mayor. We expect to conclude on the matter as soon as possible.

Programme Director,

We gathered here last year on the same exercise. How far are we in implementing the 2024/2025 strategic planning resolutions? We were emphatic on the resolve

to ensure that there is **forward planning** in the municipality. By now we should have been above 50% in spending our grants. We must develop acceleration plans to mitigate against our underspending. I don't want to introspect our resolutions one by one but elected to single out forward planning. It contributes seriously to our inability to move out of the negative audit opinions zone. We must soberly engage on the challenges that impedes on the timely implementation of the plans.

Office of the Executive Mayor convened and **extraordinary meeting with the all the contractors on Municipal Infrastructure Grant**. The meeting was convened to deal with under performance as we noted that we are still **below 50%**. We are going to hold a follow up meeting next week and the invitation has been extended to the consultants. We want progress not only on spending but on the actual work on the ground. It is not a political overreach as we cannot sit back when there is an overwhelming underperformance. We want progress.

Programme Director,

There are also some perennial labour related issues that must be addressed once and for all. It cannot be correct that our own employees would intermittently close our own offices for issues that be easily resolved through the legislated channels. We have a Local Labour Forum that is instituted to deal with labour related issues. Does it have the capacity to do so? Workers are always complaining about Salary Disparities, Alignment, General Workers performing the work of Heavy-Duty Operators, Overtime and Standby allowances. Develop permanent mechanisms to deal with those issues.

Programme director,

The best dish always reserved for the last. Sekhukhune District Municipality won two awards during the 8th SALGA National Communicators Forum held in Jeffrey's Bay, Eastern Cape Province on Tuesday the 11th February 2025. The **most media profiled municipality** under media monitoring and **most active team on revenue** collection. We congratulate the communication

team and revenue collection team for their efforts. They deserve a round of applause.

The Strategic Planning Session is formally opened, and you are warmly welcomed.

I thank you.