



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

Internal Newsletter

SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

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ENGLISH

SEKHUKHUNE SHINES AS HOST OF THE 2025 IMSSA – SALGA LIMPOPO PROVINCE EMPLOYEE WELLNESS GAMES



The spirit of sportsmanship, wellness, and unity was on full display on 6–7 June 2025, as Sekhukhune District Municipality successfully hosted the 2025 IMSSA–SALGA Limpopo Province Wellness Games in Groblersdal. The event brought together 13 municipalities from across the province for two days of competition, camaraderie, and celebration of employee wellness.

The games, a collaboration between Inter-Municipal Sports South Africa (IMSSA), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), and Sekhukhune District Municipality, marked a historic milestone as one of the most well-supported editions since the inception of the IMSSA–SALGA Games in 2007.

Zanele Khumalo

story on Page 3

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COMMUNICATIONS

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UPDATE



HELLO CUSTOMER

We are busy with water meter master file update

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Zanele Khumalo



“It was the very best. It was the first time ever since IMSSA’s inception to have support of that magnitude,” said Stephen Mhlabane, Chairperson of IMSSA Limpopo Province and National President. “The memorandum of understanding between IMSSA, SALGA, and Sekhukhune paved the way for the smooth running of the games.”

The event began with a kilometre-long parade from Bareki Mall to the Groblersdal Rugby Stadium, featuring bikers, a brass band, the games’ mascot, and thousands of municipal employees and employers. The parade was graced by notable dignitaries, including MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture Hon. Jerry Funani Maseko, MEC for Health Hon. Dieketseng Mashego, and Executive Mayor Cllr. Minah Bahula, alongside national and provincial sports leaders.

As part of the Executive Mayor’s Cup Outreach Programme, accredited coaches and umpires were trained across football, volleyball, and netball—an initiative that not only enhanced the quality of play but also left a legacy of skills development within the province.

The closing ceremony featured an electrifying football final between Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and Vhembe District Municipality, which ended in a nail-biting penalty shootout. Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality emerged as the overall champions, with Sekhukhune District securing a commendable second place, winning three trophies and multiple medals across various codes, including lawn tennis, fishing, and aerobics.

“The best highlights were when table tennis, tennis, golf, and aerobics participated for the first time and won medals,” shared Levi Madhlaba, Chairperson of the Municipal Sports Committee. “Even teams that didn’t win showed incredible effort, and we pledge our continued support to them.”

Beyond competition, the games served as a platform for showcasing the identity, values, and economic vibrancy of Sekhukhune. Local businesses thrived, accommodation facilities were fully booked, and tourism in the area experienced a notable boost. “Discipline was the order of the day; SAPS experienced an incident-free event, showing how effective the organisers were,” Mhlabane noted. “It was value for money.”

The event also demonstrated the unity between political leadership, administrative staff, and athletes, with leaders visibly present and supportive from the opening to the closing ceremonies. “All sporting codes should keep the momentum going, engage in regular practice and friendly matches, and recruit widely across the district,” advised Madhlaba. “Carry the same winning spirit, dedication, and discipline into the SAIMSA Games.”

With the SAIMSA Games in Lesotho on the horizon, both leaders expressed optimism. Mhlabane encouraged participants to aim high: “Go there and compete fairly and diligently in the spirit of wellness games and strive to be among the top 10 in SADC.”

The 2025 IMSSA–SALGA Limpopo Province Wellness Games will be remembered not just for its medals and matches, but for the unity, professionalism, and community pride it inspired. Sekhukhune has set the bar high and the journey to Lesotho has begun.



From Classroom to Career: How Sekhukhune's Internship Programme Empowers the Next Generation

Charlotte Malatjie

The Sekhukhune District Municipality has reaffirmed its commitment to empowering young people through the launch of its comprehensive Internship and Learnership Programmes, which commenced on 3 June 2025. Designed to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and workplace experience, the initiative is already equipping local youth with valuable skills and opening pathways to long-term employment opportunities.

A total of 165 beneficiaries have been enrolled across 11 projects, spanning skills programmes, learnerships, work-integrated learning (WIL), and internships. Of these, 90 are employed learners under section 18.1, while 75 are unemployed learners under section 18.2. Departments hosting interns range from the Office of the Speaker and Corporate Services to Communications, Budget and Treasury, and Local Economic Development.

Interns were selected based on their qualifications, geographic location, and alignment with departmental needs, with preference given to candidates residing within the Sekhukhune District. According to the municipality, the programme is not merely a placement exercise—it is a structured, meaningful development journey. "Interns work on meaningful projects, develop new skills, and receive guidance on career development. This approach fosters professional growth, autonomy, and recognition, ultimately contributing to interns' success," reiterates Mr Chilwane

One of the participants, Moganedi Motsatsi Kamogelo, placed in the ICT department, described the opportunity as life-changing:

"I was excited and motivated when I found out I had been selected. So far, I've learned technical skills, customer service, teamwork, and problem-solving. It's very hard to get into this field without experience, so



this internship is a great step to get your foot in the door”.

The programme’s objectives go beyond short-term skills development. It also serves as a strategic investment in the municipality’s future workforce by creating a talent pipeline, infusing fresh perspectives into service delivery, and strengthening relationships with educational institutions.

On 4 August 2025, the municipality further expanded its empowerment efforts when 14 plumbers were officially inducted to commence their learnership programme. This addition reflects the municipality’s dedication to diversifying skills development and addressing technical skills shortages within the district.

Capacity-building workshops, mentorship from experienced supervisors, and active participation in municipal projects ensure interns gain both technical know-how and an understanding of local government operations. “Seize the opportunity to acquire valuable skills and contribute meaningfully to your department’s objectives,” the municipality advised the new intake.

By investing in structured internships and learnerships, Sekhukhune District Municipality is not only addressing youth unemployment but also nurturing a new generation of skilled professionals ready to contribute to the community’s socio-economic development.



UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE AND VALUES OF THE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Boitumelo Mokobake

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is essentially the emotional, psychological and social backbone of the Sekhukhune District Municipality. Its primary mission is to enhance employee and workplace effectiveness through prevention, early identification and/or resolution of both work and personal problems that may adversely affect employees' job performance and their families social functioning. The (EAP) offers a wide range of support services designed to meet the diverse needs of employees and their families. These include confidential counselling for personal, family, or work-related matters; a dedicated Substance Abuse Programme; Stress and Trauma Management services; and bereavement support to help employees navigate loss.

In addition to emotional and psychological support, the EAP also promotes physical well-being through activities such as sports, fun walks, and team-building exercises. To further encourage a culture of wellness, the programme runs awareness campaigns and hosts the annual Wellness Day, ensuring employees have access to information, resources, and opportunities that strengthen both personal resilience and workplace effectiveness.

The EAP Unit manages the full scope of these services. This includes offering counselling sessions, referring employees to external specialists such as rehabilitation centers, psychologists, or medical practitioners, and coordinating wellness activities across the municipality.

The Unit also conducts substance abuse group counselling, organizes trauma debriefing sessions, and produces case management and programme reports. Administrative responsibilities, such as

initiating procurement memorandums and managing payments for services, also fall within the Unit's mandate, ensuring that all activities run smoothly and are properly accounted for.

The EAP handles case documentation and tracking with utmost care to protect privacy. "Only authorized EAP staff are allowed to access case files, and personal identifiers are always removed from documents to ensure anonymity," explains Sithembile Matlala, the EAP practitioner. "Access to any memo or report is strictly role-based, and this is how we maintain confidentiality and build trust with our employees."

While the EAP has made great strides in supporting employee wellness, it does face challenges. The programme is currently run by only one practitioner, creating a staffing gap, and the budget is limited. In addition, while participation in group wellness activities is strong, uptake of counselling services remains relatively low, partly due to lingering stigma around seeking help.

Nevertheless, the municipality remains committed to strengthening the programme, improving resources, and ensuring that employees know support is available whenever they need it.

"Employees can access EAP services in multiple ways. They may refer themselves by walking in, phoning, or sending an email; they may also be referred formally by a supervisor or manager, or informally through a family member. Importantly, the services are available at no cost to employees and their immediate families, and staff have the right to choose whether to be assisted by in-house EAP officials or practitioners from within the district" She indicated.



THE EAP EMPOWERS WOMEN THROUGH MENOPAUSE EDUCATION



Menopause is often not spoken about and yet it's a natural phase of life that directly impacts women in the workplace, influencing not just their physical health but also their professional performance and emotional wellbeing. The Sekhukhune District Municipality Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) stepped in as a lifeline, supporting staff through life's transitions by providing safe, confidential, and an all-inclusive wellness platform.

Sithembile Matlala, the EAP Practitioner who has responsibilities of being a counsellor, coordinator, case manager, campaigner and a financial administrator, has launched a Woman Empowerment campaign to educate woman about menopause and how it affects them as corporate professionals. Menopause is a natural biological transition that signifies the end of a woman's reproductive years. It occurs when the ovaries permanently cease ovulation and significantly reduce the production of estrogen and progesterone. The clinical diagnosis is established once a woman has experienced 12 consecutive months without menstruation, provided the absence is not attributed to pregnancy or other medical conditions or illness.

Menopause does not happen overnight; it goes with body maturity and a progression of distinct

phases. Perimenopause typically begins at mid to late 40s when menstrual cycles begin to become irregular and symptoms such as hot flushes, mood fluctuations and sleep disturbances begin to surface. Menopause generally occurs between ages of 45 and 55, the average being 51 when menstruation ceases completely. The final phase is the postmenopausal stage when the symptoms may persist but usually diminish in intensity.

The EAP Women Empowerment Campaign is a great initiative because without education, workplaces pretend menopause doesn't exist which results in absenteeism, career dips or women dropping out completely. Educated women can advocate for policies, flexible schedules, wellness programs and the support of the EAP and keep their talent in the workforce.

The Women Empowerment Campaign will produce numerous positive results in the professional settings of women and men in Sekhukhune District Municipality as women will gain confidence through the knowledge and the shamelessness the open talks will bring. The EAP plans to form quarterly meetings with women and to establish discussions concerning men and their health as well.



Executive Mayor Councillor Minah Bahula Leads the Revolution of Smart Water Meter Readers



The Sekhukhune District Municipality, led by Executive Mayor Cllr Minah Bahula, has unveiled a cutting-edge Smart Water Meter Reading system in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality, marking a significant milestone in the district's water management strategy. The initiative introduces user friendly, technology enabled meters that allow residents to track and manage their water consumption in real time. By providing accurate, instant readings, the system aims to improve service delivery, encourage water conservation, and boost revenue collection through



precise billing.

"This is about putting the power to manage water usage directly into the hands of our communities," Mayor Bahula said during the launch. "We are investing in technology not

just to modernize our infrastructure, but to ensure a sustainable and responsible future for Sekhukhune."

The new meters are expected to significantly reduce water losses, help detect leaks more quickly and improve overall infrastructure efficiency. Beyond the technical upgrades, the program reflects a broader vision, one that aligns with the district's commitment



to environmental management and service excellence. With the Smart Water Meter Reading system now operational, residents will be able to make informed decisions about their consumption, fostering a culture of conservation while supporting the municipality's drive toward financial sustainability.

The smart meters represent a major step toward reducing water losses and improving infrastructure efficiency. By placing control in the hands of residents, the district is not only modernizing its services but also

encouraging responsible water use.

Beyond these immediate benefits, the meters offer real-time monitoring, accurate billing, early leak detection, and valuable data for municipal planning. They help reduce operational costs, empower residents to make informed choices, and support long-term sustainability goals. With this initiative, Sekhukhune is not only enhancing service delivery but also building a foundation for a more transparent, accountable, and resilient water management system.



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The South African Arts and Culture Youth Forum (SAACYF), in collaboration Sekhukhune District Municipality, will celebrate the graduation of **30 ASPIRING FILMMAKERS** who have successfully completed an 8-weeks intensive Film and Scriptwriting Skills Development and Training Programme.

Executive Mayor
Cllr Mirah Bahula

BOEKETLONG LODGE MOGORWANE - JANE FURSE

THURSDAY, 31 JULY 2025 TIME: 11:00

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune  

ENQUIRIES

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SAMWU IN SEKHUKHUNE

Zanele Khumalo

The South African Municipal Workers Union (Samwu) in the Sekhukhune local has reiterated its commitment to servicing its members in a recent intervention meeting that was conducted on May 6, 2024, at the West Street headquarters. Numerous provincial, regional, and local shop stewards were present at the event, which was critical in addressing important issues and promoting unity within the organisation.

The meeting, which covered important topics impacting Samwu members in Sekhukhune, was chaired by notable individuals such as Provincial Chairperson Cde Nditsheni Mufamadi and Provincial Secretary Cde Patrick Aphane. Together, the participants pinpointed areas that needed work and came up with resolutions that would strengthen harmony and cohesiveness among the leadership.

One of the main resolutions was allowing the local authorities to manage Sekhukhune's problems. This transition was to be facilitated by Regional Treasurer Cde Nono Phokoane and Provincial Secretary Cde Patrick Aphane. In order to ensure efficient coordination and communication, the Sekhukhune Shop Steward Committee was also asked to create a thorough meeting and large-scale gathering roadmap.

In addition, it was decided to incorporate the regional secretary and deputy regional secretary into the shop steward WhatsApp group to facilitate easy communication and cooperation. The significance of the local operating independently,

without outside management, was emphasised, indicating a revitalised sense of empowerment among participants. Shop stewards were directed to stop participating in other WhatsApp groups and to stick to the official platform for group communication in an effort to simplify channels of communication. Shop stewards were advised to meet immediately in order to create a schedule for the future mass gatherings and Labour Local Forum (LLF) sessions. Most importantly, it was decided that no shop steward would face disciplinary action, reiterating a commitment to cultivating a climate of trust and cooperation.

The discussion covered issues related to the Motor Vehicle Subsidy Award, which was given by the SALGBC in May 2022, in addition to internal organisational considerations. Although 16 Samwu members were covered by the award, issues with management and the council's choice to deny benefits to those without contracts surfaced.

In response, it was decided at large that Samwu will fight for treating all members equally and making sure the prize is administered impartially. The Deputy Provincial Secretary was assigned the task of managing this case and was determined to see it through to its just conclusion. The resolutions that came out of the intervention meeting represent a big advancement for Samwu in Sekhukhune. The organisation is prepared to overcome obstacles and carry on its essential role in helping the community by placing a high priority on unity, capable leadership, and treating all of its members fairly. Sekhukhune Local's dedication to its members doesn't waver as it recovers with fresh vigour.

Zanele Khumalo

Imatu, steadfast in its dedication to community engagement and solidarity, urges its members to embrace the spirit of public holidays by actively participating in communal celebrations. Recognizing the importance of fostering connections and strengthening bonds within neighbourhoods, Imatu champions the idea of members joining hands with their communities during these special occasions. By encouraging such involvement, Imatu not only promotes unity but also underscores the significance of collective joy and shared experiences in enriching the fabric of society. This call to celebrate together reflects Imatu's unwavering commitment to building vibrant, inclusive communities where every individual feels valued and connected.

On November 28, 2023, Imatu observed Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Day with genuine sincerity, marking a momentous occurrence at Moroke Depot. They donated bracelets and tents to survivors in a heartfelt display of support, signifying both practical aid and unity. This event demonstrated the community's dedication to resolving GBV and promoting an empathetic and empowered culture, serving as a light of hope. Imatu continues to actively contribute to the creation of safer and more supportive settings for all those impacted by gender-based violence through these programs.

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FINAL 2024/2025 IDP/BUDGET REVIEW



Vision

An innovative leader in integrated economic development and sustainable service delivery.

Mission

To improve the quality of life for all communities through:

- Provision of a democratic and accountable government;
- Promotion of inclusive and egalitarian economic transformation
- Promotion of a safe and healthy environment
- Fostering of community involvement and stakeholder engagement
- Strengthening institutional capacity
- Promotion of social cohesion

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