

# Sekhukhune News

Official External Newsletter of Sekhukhune District Municipality

2nd Quarter 20/2021 / DEC 2020

ENGLISH



**"Plan Properly": Ramaila**

**STOP GBV**

**New House for  
Koko Maroga**  
(109 years)

**STAY  
HOME**

SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS



**SEKHUKHUNE**  
District Municipality



## In the end, we must win !

THAT THE DARKEST hour is just before the dawn, is an axiom many can attest to. It's true that at a point when we contemplate giving up, often that's when our breakthrough is near.

Even truer is that women know labour pains are a clearest indication that finally, the baby's on the way. Our country, and of course the world too, is in trouble. We've the highest corona virus infections in the continent. Leaders of government, in all three spheres, and all stakeholders, have done everything humanely possible to minimize the impact of the pandemic.

At the district level, the Sekhukhune District Command Council (DCC) has been hard at work, enforcing compliance, monitoring and assessing interventions that seek to contain the spread of the virus. The DCC is chaired by Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Ramaila, and it comprises Mayors of all local municipalities in the district, including senior officials from municipalities and sector departments such as health.

It's a mammoth task considering that a win over corona virus is largely dependent on people's behavioural change. While the second surge has reached our shores, there are reports of a third surge in other parts of the world already. This is surely not a good news. But perhaps we shouldn't despair. Human beings have always triumphed over tragedies.

Just over a hundred years ago, the 1918 flu pandemic, also known as the Spanish flu caused a great amount of disorder the world over.

It's estimated that between 50 and 100 million died of the Spanish flu.

In the 1300s, large sections of the populations, mainly in Europe, Asia and the United States, died as a result of the Black Death pandemic. The Black Death inflicted immeasurable terror among people. The Black Death was terrifyingly infectious. People suddenly sickened and died.

"Meanwhile, in a panic, healthy people did all they could to avoid the sick. Doctors refused to see patients; priests refused to administer last rites; and shopkeepers closed their stores. Many people fled the cities for the countryside, but even there they could not escape the disease: It affected cows, sheep, goats, pigs and chickens as well as people," writes History.Com, about the the Black Death pandemic.

Arguably, the corona virus is equally destructive. It's evident now that the normal we knew before the COVID-19 outbreak is gone, others argue for good.

But we can't give up the fight now. On many fronts, previously our country had been to hell and back. This could be the darkest hour. But what's certain is dawn of a new day's on the horizon.

Moloko !

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**Executive Mayor:** Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila

## Executive Summary

Coronavirus remains part of our lives-and it compels us to do things differently henceforth. Other countries, mainly in Europe, are imposing hard lockdown restrictions anew. The war against corona virus is certainly not over.

### ONE AND ALL MUST NOW GET DOWN TO WORK

Over the past years, government generally made progress on the provision of social services.

However, the Covid-19 outbreak spotlighted the enormity of the backlog. As a water services authority, we are grappling with a historical water infrastructure backlog.

Of the total Budget approved by Council for the 2020/21 financial year, a large portion, R586 million, will go toward bulk water projects. A clarion call is made to one and all to roll up sleeves and ensure these all important bulk water projects are completed on time.

Many of our ratepayers were economically hard hit by lockdown restrictions. Particularly significant, was Council's resolution to decrease water and sanitation tariffs by 8 percent as of 1 July 2020. This resolution will stand for the 2020/21 financial year and its primary aim is to lessen negative effects of Covid-19 on our ratepayers. As per the priorities of government's Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-2024, this administration is working tirelessly toward building a capable and honest municipal governance. Council recently appointed new municipal manager and director of Infrastructure and Water Services. These crucial appointments bring the much needed stability at senior management level.

Corruption remains enemy number one of the people. Our unflinching resolve is to fight against corruption to the bitter end. Several internal disciplinary hearings in the municipality are underway. Separately, we will allow the criminal justice system to investigate and prosecute those who lined their pockets with public funds.

Equally, every one of us must join the fight against violence that's meted at women and children.

Every man in our district should take a stance and commit to not abuse women and children in any form. Men and women alike must also raise the alarm whenever they suspect or witness incidents of abuse against women and children.

Let's grow South Africa together.

**Re a aga. Si akha.**

THE COVID-19 outbreak threw the world into a long-lasting tailspin. And as matters stand, we're all compelled to adapt to this new normal. When coronavirus first emerged, it appeared to be a faraway concern. In many parts of the world, people never thought they would be infected or affected by it. But as it's now common knowledge, the dreaded virus rapidly spread to virtually every country in the world. Millions of people were infected. Sadly, some lost their lives. Our district was not spared either. We therefore take this opportunity to convey our sincere condolences to families, friends and colleagues of those who lost their loved ones to the corona virus.

President Cyril Ramaphosa was among world leaders who showed excellent leadership. Amid the anxiety and uncertainty, the president led us from the front, instilling confidence in us as a nation. The decision to close the economy and impose hard lockdown restrictions was surely not taken lightly. In the face of the invisible enemy that threatened to take the lives of many South Africans, government had to strike a thoughtful balancing act. But, we're definitely not out of the woods yet.

## ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE IS NOT THE WAY TO DEAL WITH ANXIETY AROUND COVID-19



Avoid using alcohol and drugs as a way of dealing with fear, anxiety, boredom and social isolation. There is no evidence of any protective effect of drinking alcohol for viral or other infections. In fact, the opposite is true as the harmful use of alcohol is associated with increased risk of infections and worse treatment outcomes.





# STOP GBV & CHILD ABUSE

Report GBV 0800 428 428



**Council Speaker**  
Cllr Maria Manamela

**“If you turn a blind eye to Gender Based Violence (GBV), you’re part of the crime !”**

COUNCIL SPEAKER of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Maria Manamela pleads with both men and women to confront GBV head on. Manamela says the fight against GBV and violence meted at women and children must be fought by all

in our country everyday-at the hands of men,” President Cyril Ramaphosa is quoted as saying in the National Strategic Plan On Gender-Based Violence & Femicide, which Cabinet has adopted.

**The strategic plan outlines five interventions which government and civil society must implement:**

- I. Urgently respond to victims and survivors of GBV,
- II. Broadening access to justice for survivors,
- III. Changing social norms and behaviour through high-level awareness and prevention campaigns,
- IV. Strengthening existing architecture and promoting accountability, and
- V. The creation of more economic opportunities for women who are vulnerable to abuse because of poverty.

Manamela told the Special Council meeting that the fight against GBV can only be won if all people joined forces. “We must denounce all cultural practices that perpetuate gender inequalities as we all join in the fight against this scourge,” Manamela said.

She pleaded with her fellow councillors and all residents of Sekhukhune to continue fighting GBV and child abuse throughout the year, beyond the 16 Days Campaign.

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Moloko Moloto

citizens of South Africa.

As chairperson of Council, Manamela presided over a Special Council meeting on Wednesday 25 November at a town hall, in Marble Hall.

The Special Council meeting took place on the first day of this year’s 16 Days Campaign.

Internationally, the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign (16 Days Campaign) is a United Nations campaign which takes place annually from 25 November (International Day of No Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

In South Africa the campaign is taken even a step higher, considering the unacceptably high levels of gender based violence and femicide.

In September 2019, during a special joint sitting of Parliament, President Cyril Ramaphosa drew a line in the sand when he announced the Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

An amount of R1.6 billion was sourced through budget reprioritisation to support the ERAP.

“Women and girls are being abused, assaulted and murdered

# Ipoloke!

## #Beat Covid-19



**SEKHUKHUNE**  
District Municipality



## "WE COMMIT TO PLAY OUR PART"



Moloko Moloto



MEN AND BOYS made a pledge to stop violence against women and young girls.

Those who attended the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence event in Tafelkop on 9 December 2020 promised to actively fight this social ill.

The event was jointly held by the Sekhukhune District Municipality and the South African Police Service.

The day started with a march that was led by the Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila, Council Speaker Cllr Maria Manamela and three members of the mayoral committee, Cllrs Orginia Mafefe, Sello Mnisi and Lorraine Manganeng.

Speakers at the event denounced the abuse of women and young girls as a demon that must be confronted head on.

Vhutshilo Mabirimisa, site coordinator from the National Prosecuting Authority talked about the Thuthuzela Care Centre which government operates from Groblersdal Hospital.

Victims of sexual assault and abuse were encouraged to approach the Thuthuzela Care Centres for assistance.

Thuthuzela Care Centres are one-stop facilities that are aimed at preventing secondary victimisation of rape and abuse victims.

The facilities also aim to improve conviction rates by reducing the time taken to finalise cases.

At the event, a 20-year-old sexual assault survivor talked about her abuse at the hands of her stepfather. While the ordeal has left permanent scare, the young woman encouraged victims of sexual assault to speak out.

"Parents must create an environment for their children to speak out. Please listen to your children," the young woman pleaded.

Executive Mayor Ramaila said while the police and the criminal justice system were needed in the fight against, it must be noted that the problem requires a multi-pronged approach.

"The problem is psychosocial, our minds are messed up !," Ramaila said.

"In our culture, a strange man walking in the street is everyone's uncle. But today we are animals, we're like lions prowling for a prey," Ramaila said.

He called on all men in Sekhukhune and the country to end the violence against women and children.

To assist the young sexual assault survivor with her studies, Ramaila committed that the Sekhukhune District Municipality will make sure she gets a bursary and a laptop for her to finish her National Diploma in Human Resources studies at UNISA.

The police warned men that all perpetrators of sexual abuse would be arrested, irrespective of their standing in society.

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Moloko Moloto

**IMAGINE** villages that have water pipes connected to yards across Sekhukhune District Municipality. This is exactly what Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila seeks to achieve going forward. This marks a fundamental change from how the district municipality had traditionally implemented water reticulation projects in villages.

"We need to do household connections," Ramaila says. He believes that while the Reconstruction Development Programme (RDP) water reticulation system, through which residents communally share water taps in the streets has helped to reduce the water infrastructure backlog, it's about time the district municipality moves towards yards connections. Ramaila outlines benefits of yards connection:

- **Water Tariffing:** This way the municipality will recover costs for water provision in an equitable manner. Those who afford must pay, and indigent residents will get free basic provision of water as per legislation. Currently, it is impossible to bill people who get water through a communal system.
- **Water Metering:** The municipality will be able to measure and meter water supply. This will help save a lot of water that is lost.
- **Water Pressure:** People will have a constant water pressure because illegal connections will drastically reduce. Where people connect illegally, it will be easier to disconnect and impose fines.

The Executive Mayor says this new reticulation system will help generate revenue for the district municipality. "Currently, you have people who afford, but still don't pay for water because of illegal connections and the fact that it's impossible to bill them through the RDP standard. But the household connections will enable us to generate revenue that we will use to maintain the existing infrastructure," he says.

"When you put a pipeline that passes through a village, you encourage illegal connections," Ramaila says. A yards connection project is already in the pipeline. The municipality has already appointed a consultant and contractor to undertake a yards connection project in Letebejane under the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality. Work is scheduled to begin before the end of the current financial year. "Approximately 900 households will be connected by the end of this project," says Ramaila. "The yards connections projects are certainly sustainable, especially in areas where we have adequate water sources," says Ramaila.

Expect more yards connections going forward, concludes Ramaila.

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## NEW SHELTER FOR KOKO MAROGA AND HER FAMILY.



Percy Moagi

EVERYONE deserves a proper roof over their head. When information that Koko Legadi Maroga did not have a suitable household came to the attention of Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila, it was clear he had to jump in both feet. The intervention couldn't be postponed. For a long time, Maroga, 109 years old, stayed in a dilapidated mud house with her four orphaned grandchildren.

"Every human-being's inherent dignity must be respected, and if conditions around particularly those who are vulnerable take away their dignity, it's the responsibility of those who have the means to assist," Ramaila said. Seeing that the situation was dire, Ramaila appealed for the intervention of Good Samaritans. In no time, construction of the new house for Maroga began.

In the middle of winter, in June 2020, ownership of the 5 room house was officially handed over to the centenarian in Mooihoek Village, Ga-Maroga in Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.

All the three bedrooms, a seating room and kitchen were fully equipped with new furniture and related appliances. "I'm completely lost for words...I'm so happy that in the end my grandchildren now have a proper house they call home," said Koko Maroga.

This was yet another charity project Ramaila has coordinated since 2016.

Ramaila has helped build houses for the child-headed family of Matlala in Phokwane, as well as for the indigent families of Phala in Tsimanyane Village and Mogola in MaSeven Village. "All of us should embrace and heed the "Thuma Mina" call of action by President Cyril Ramaphosa, if we truly want to make a difference in the lives of people we are meant to serve. Any form of intervention, big or small, can change someone's life for good," Ramaila added.

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# PLAN PROPERLY

Moloko Moloto

## FORWARD PLANNING!

That's the only way to go. These are the orders by Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila to all municipal officials, particularly those responsible for Infrastructure & Water Services (IWS).

During the Mayoral Committee meeting held in November, Ramaila reminded IWS department of the importance to fast-track the implementation of all approved water projects.

As a water service authority, the district municipality is enjoined by legislation to supply the people of Sekhukhune with water.

"We want implementation of the acceleration plan," Ramaila emphasized.

But the acceleration of services will only happen if there is forward planning.

"Start advertising contracts in December already. By May we

should've concluded supply chain management processes, waiting for the beginning of the new financial year (in July) to start working," said Ramaila.

The mayoral committee insistently stated that, going into the new financial year, the municipality must spend all the conditional grants allocated for approved projects. However, the Mayoral Committee warned municipal officials to not flout the law when awarding contracts.

"Follow the supply chain management policy and all applicable legislation to the letter," says Ramaila.

The municipal manager, as accounting officer, was instructed to do quality assurance of all contracts before she approves and awards them.

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## KEY APPOINTMENTS



**Ms Maureen Ntshudisane** was appointed as new Municipal Manager with effect from 1 September 2020. She holds a master's degree in

Development Planning from the University of Witwatersrand and has 15 years' experience in local government, 10 of which were in senior management.

Her previously held positions at senior management level include chief operations officer and municipal manager. As the most senior administrative official in the municipality, her role is to assist Council to reposition the institution as a true leader in service delivery.



**Mr Maselaganye Matji** is now at the helm of the most critical department in the district municipality. He was appointed Director: Infrastructure and

Water Services with effect from 1 September 2020. Matji holds a master of science in Civil Engineering from Stellenbosch University and Master of Business Leadership from the University of South Africa. He has 27 years' experience in the infrastructure sector, with a special focus on the water and transport services.



**Mr Isaac Mahlakwane**, was recently appointed as acting Mayoral spokesperson. He joined the district municipality as a Youth

Development Officer in June 2019.

Before that, he was an advisor at various financial service providers and he taught economics & statistics at the Independent Institute of Education (IIE).

Mahlakwane holds a BCom Honours Degree in Economics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.



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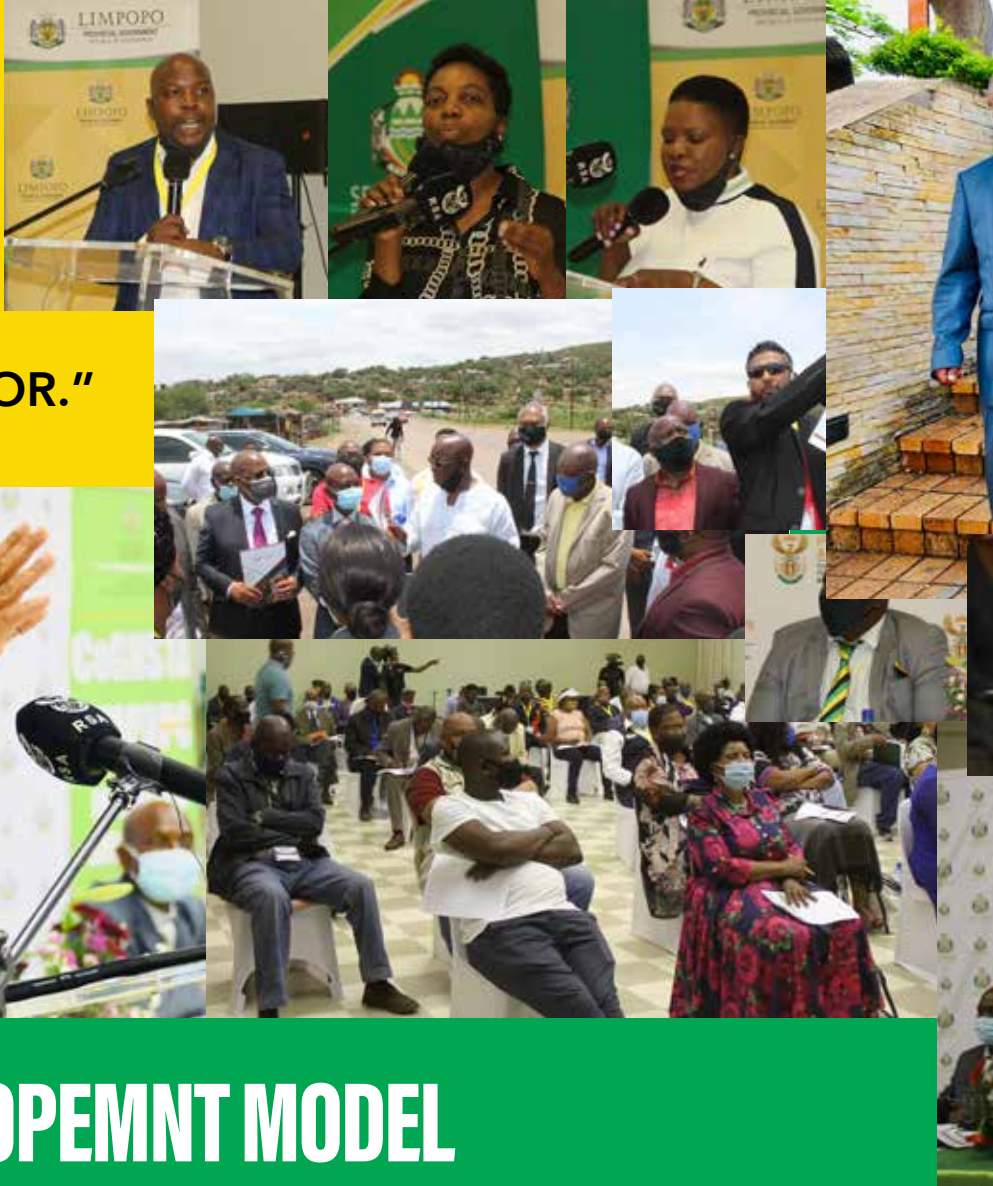









**"SEKHUKHUNE  
IS RICH, BUT IT'S POOR."**



# DISTRICT DEVELOPEMNT MODEL INAUGURATION IN SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT

Moloko Moloto

**"SEKHUKHUNE IS RICH, BUT IT'S POOR."**

Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila emphatically says this has to change. He was speaking at the inauguration of the Sekhukhune District Development Model (DDM).

The DDM was officially inaugurated in Steelpoort, in October, by Deputy Minister in the Presidency Honourable Thembi Siweya. Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) MEC Basikopo Makamu represented the provincial government.

All the traditional leaders in Sekhukhune district were invited to the inauguration, and they attended in large numbers. Sector departments, mining companies, municipalities, state owned agencies, and the private sector were all represented at the one-day event. The DDM was first launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa in the Eastern Cape in 2019. And in Limpopo the president launched it in Waterberg District Municipality toward the end of the year. The DDM seeks to ensure integrated planning,

budgeting and development by all three spheres of government.

While government will spearhead the DDM, its success is dependent on the actual involvement and participation of the private sector and civil society. The DDM is inspired by Khawuleza, a call of action the president has repeatedly reiterated. At the inauguration, Ramaila highlighted the important role the private sector has to play in the development of communities.

Sekhukhune district is richly endowed with mineral resources-in particular the platinum group metals.

Many of the mines operate in the Eastern Limb of the Bushveld Complex, which Steelpoort and other areas in Sekhukhune are part of.

Ironically, in Steelpoort, motorists and pedestrians still depend on infrastructure that was built over 100 years ago.

"In this very area, the people of Steelpoort are still using a single lane bridge to cross the river...it can't be right that (even) when we have more than 30 mines in Sekhukhune, yet we don't have a single stadium that's





Moloko Moloto

Deputy Minister in the Presidency Thembi Siweya has reiterated the importance of intergovernmental relations. She also emphasized the significance of public-private partnership. Speaking at the inauguration of the District Development Model in Steelpoort, Siweya said government seeks to ensure that the DDM becomes a success. "Government is of the view that a united people in action, will deliver real focused development in areas where our people live," she said.

On many occasions we have shown that we are capable of achieving a lot when we work together. Speaking about the importance of multi stakeholder forums, Siweya said government is already using this approach. "We are already using the same model to deal with COVID-19. Corona Command Councils have been introduced in all spheres of government and already there are benefits," Siweya said. "We are also using these structures to deal with another pandemic, the perpetual abuse and killings of women and young girls," Siweya said. She urged South Africans to put a stop to gender based violence.

"Women and young girls too, are human. They have rights, they too, deserve to enjoy this democracy. They must be able to walk the streets without fear of violation and abuse," Siweya said. The deputy minister also acknowledged the involvement of mining companies in the planned construction of a new bridge in Steelpoort. "Construction of the bridge is an economic catalyst on its own, some of us will get jobs and address real issues of poverty," said Siweya.

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been approved by the Premier Soccer League," said Ramaila.

However, he appreciated mines that have contributed to the project that will commence soon with the construction of a new bridge in Steelpoort.

Also, Ramaila frankly spoke about delays, in implementing projects that will fast-track service delivery, by the government. He cited the fact that, even though in 2002, former president Thabo Mbeki identified Sekhukhune as one of the most impoverished places that needed special intervention from government, not much has happened. He noted that, a similar commitment was made by former president Jacob Zuma, yet the process happens at a snail's pace. Ramaila expressed confidence, though, that the District Development Model gives all stakeholders to start doing things differently. "One budget, one plan. That's what the District Development Model aims to achieve," says Ramaila.

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## People of Sekhukhune given a voice over the proposed changes to the Constitution.

Khomotso Ndlovu

PARLIAMENT has begun with public consultations as it seeks to hear from South Africans over the proposed amendment of Section 25 of the Constitution.

The term of the first parliamentary ad hoc committee that was established last year expired on 29 May 2020. The previous ad hoc committee's mandate expired as a result of restrictions imposed by government in order to stop the spread of the dreaded corona virus. But parliament later re-established the committee with same multi-party members and gave it same powers as the previous one. ANC MP Dr Mathole Motshega is the chairperson of the ad hoc committee. Starting from October, the newly constituted ad hoc committee embarked on countrywide consultations.

On Saturday 24 October, it was Sekhukhune District Municipality's turn. The one day public hearing was held at the Jane Furse Comprehensive School. Various stakeholders including organisations that have interest and members of the community were invited to take part in the public hearing. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the number of those who attended was controlled. After the public consultations, parliament will decide if it will proceed and change section 25 of the Constitution to allow for the expropriation of land without compensation.

### LAND DEBATE IS EMOTIVE

The expropriation of land without compensation proposal has elicited emotive debates among many South Africans, over the years.

The proposal was met with resistance by mainly land owners who argued they deserve to be compensated. However, on the other side, those who were dispossessed and displaced of their land through legislation such as the Native Land Act of 1913 and colonial encroachments, believe amending the Constitution to allow for the expropriation of land without compensation will speed up land reform. Currently, section 25 allows for the expropriation of land for public purpose or in the interest of the public. However, those

whose land is being expropriated must be compensated for the amount of money that has been agreed to or determined by the court of law.

The Constitution Eighteenth Amendment Bill seeks to amend section 25 of the constitution "so as to provide that where land and any improvements thereon are expropriated for purposes of land reform, the amount of compensation payable may be nil."

### PUBLIC VIEWS

The public hearing in Jane Furse allowed ordinary members of the community to express their opinions.

Mpho Matjomane, a community member, supported the proposal to change the constitution.

Matjomane said Africans were poor while the land still remained in the hands of the minority, an anomaly he argued needed to be corrected.

The proposed amendment was supported by almost all political parties.

Motshega, chairperson of the ad hoc committee said public hearings would be held in all districts of South Africa.

### FOOD SECURITY

While concerns were raised that the expropriation of land without compensation would threaten food security, the government has moved to assure South Africans that it would be implemented in a responsible manner.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has repeatedly said the acceleration of land redistribution programme to redress historical injustices of land dispossession and displacement will in fact avail more arable land.

The president said this would work toward cultivation for food security, rural development, and poverty reduction while it responded to equitable spatial planning and settlement. The ad hoc committee had until 31 December 2020 to give a report to parliament.

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## STOP GENDER BASED VIOLENCE!

- Don't protect abusers, report them!
- Don't become an abuser-Stop abuse!
- Denounce cultural practices that perpetuate gender inequalities!
- Be sensitive and supportive to GBV victims!
- Teach children values of gender equality!
- Act, don't look away!





# ROYAL BOPEDI TV'S ON THE CARDS!



Samuel Masha

IF EVERYTHING GOES as planned, the commercial TV station will hit the airwaves by May 2021.

The initiative is being championed by His Majesty Kgosi Kgolo Thulare Thulare III, King of the Bapedi Nation.

In October, King Thulare and Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila launched the first leg of Royal Bopedi TV auditions in Jane Furse.

King Thulare told the audience of mainly young people who came for the auditions that this was the beginning of community development projects that he will spearhead. "My desire is to develop communities and young people in particular. I want to see talent emerging from this land," said King Thulare.

The King said while Royal Bopedi TV would not suppress other cultures, its primary aim is to promote the rich cultural heritage and customs of Bapedi. Executive Mayor Ramaila lauded Royal Bopedi TV as a ground-breaking initiative

that will not only be of good benefit to the district, but to the province and the country alike.

Ramaila said: "This initiative will unearth the creative talent of youngsters who will go on to create the much needed job opportunities in line with aspirations of the National Development Plan," Ramaila said.

CEO of Royal Bopedi TV Makgwane Ratau said: "We want to go commercial, which is why our intended footprint isn't in Sekhukhune only, it actually goes beyond the province, and it goes across the country and the continent."

Talks for the station to have a dedicated channel on either DSTV or StarSat are underway. "It will be a fully-fledged television channel that will broadcast news, talk shows, documentaries, music, drama, films and many other shows," said Ratau.

Royal Bopedi TV roped in two illustrious television and theatre gurus.

Anthony Thobejane, the renowned play-writer of *Bophelo Ke Sempheko*, the famed Sepedi drama series that

enthralled millions of viewers on SABC TV in the 1990s, was appointed the creative director of the Royal Bopedi TV.

"Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal have become central in the creative space, so we want to reposition Limpopo and create the movie hub for Bapedi," said Ratau.

Thembi Nyandeni, known for her maverick acting role of Mkabayi on



Mzansi Magic channel's *Isibaya* drama series was brought in to share her lifelong experience and skills with aspirant TV stars. Ratau said through the Thembi Nyandeni Foundation, the co-founder of *UMOJA* performance group, was committed to the initiative.

Former *Muvhango* actor Lesley Musina will be content manager for Royal Bopedi TV.



Royal Bopedi TV held auditions in several parts of the district, as part of its efforts to generate content.

Ratau said: "Royal Bopedi TV will showcase the untapped cultural heritage of Bapedi."

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# MEET ACTING CHIEF WHIP

CLLR MOLOKE JOHN MAKUA



Khomotso Ndlovu

**CLLR MOLOKE** John Makua was first elected acting Chief Whip of Council on 26 March 2020.

Council appointed him to momentarily act in the position during the absence of the late Cllr Tseke Lepota due to ill health. After the passing on of Lepota days later, Council subsequently extended Makua's tenure.

As part of the political management team (PMT), along with Speaker of Council and Executive Mayor, the acting Chief Whip of Council plays a crucial role in the promotion of good governance. Although the Chief Whip is often elected from the ranks of the majority party, as is the case with Makua, however, the position is meant to serve interests of Council at large.

Among other things, the Chief Whip plays a critical role in conflict management. By its own nature, Council is a highly politically charged environment. Chief Whip of Council therefore facilitates consensus among councillors. Makua was born on the 2nd of June 1971

at Phahlamanoge village, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality. A teacher by profession, Makua holds a Development Programme certificate from the University of Witwatersrand, a Diploma in Local Government Management Programme from Belgravia Institute of Management, certificate in Political Leadership from ST Augustine College of South Africa and attendance certificates on short courses offered by CCMA and SALGA.

After he had left teaching, Makua worked as a committee clerk at Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality, and was later promoted to become Committee Officer providing secretariat Services to Council and Community Services Committees. During the 2016 local government elections Makua was elected as ANC councillor for Ward 38 in Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality.

He is a member of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee at the local council. At the Sekhukhune District Council, where he sits as a district representative for the local municipality, Cllr Makua served as a member of the Budget and

Treasury, as well as the Infrastructure and Water Services portfolio committees before his elevation to act as Chief Whip. As member of the political student movement back then, Makua was active member of South African Students Congress. Between 1993 and 1994 he was secretary of the Student Representative Council at Sekhukhune College of Education.

This former member of the ANC Youth League, was also deputy secretary of academics committee at the same college and secretary of the 1st Greater Sekhukhune District Youth Council from 2003 to 2007.

Makua was also ANC branch secretary of Phahlamanoge, between 2003 and 2004, and later became chairperson of same branch from 2004 to 2010. From 2011 to 2016, Makua was secretary of the South African Municipal Workers Union's North Region in Limpopo, and a shop steward.

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To lessen devastating effects of COVID-19 on our ratepayers,  
Water & Sanitation Tariffs will decrease by 8 percent as of 1  
July 2020 for the 2020/21 financial year.

[www.sekhukhunedistrict.gov.za](http://www.sekhukhunedistrict.gov.za)







Percy Moagi



AT A TIME when more was still expected from him, Councillor Tseke Lepota sadly breathed his last.

It was on Saturday March 28, 2020 when the Chief Whip of Sekhukhune District Municipality departed this world of the mortals. Born on New Year's Day 1971 in Mpheleng Village, Moutse area, he was the second of five children in his family.

#### THE MAN WHO LOVED EDUCATION

Lepota was the embodiment of relentless daring, especially on educational matters. Through courageous persistence, even in the face of all the odds that were stacked against him, Lepota proved that one was never too old to learn. His education journey began in Mpheleng Primary School in the mid 1970's. But he couldn't finish matric with his class.

However, that didn't damper his ambition to obtain a matric certificate.

In 2015, at the age of 44 he finally passed his matric after he had enrolled as a part-time pupil at Tembisa High School, in Guateng.

Interestingly, even before he passed matric, Lepota obtained a certificate in Sales and Marketing Management from Damelin College. In 2012 he completed a certificate of Executive Leadership Development Programme at the University of Pretoria.

Some of the certificates he received included Advanced Certificate Programme in Management Development for Municipal Finance at the University of Witwatersrand and a certificate in Municipal Financial Management from the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA). In 2019 he graduated with a Higher Certificate in Municipal Governance and Management from the University of Johannesburg.

#### NOTHING WOULD STOP LEPOTA

Without a matric certificate, his chances of studying for a major degree at university were virtually naught. But Lepota's resolve to go back to high school finally paid off when he enrolled for a Bachelor of Arts in Public Management at the University of Johannesburg.

Sadly, he died in his penultimate year of a BA Degree at UJ.

But while death robbed him off his

lifelong wish to graduate from university with a degree, one thing for sure is, his was a life story worth documenting.

His love for education was further demonstrated by the fact that he ran an educational programme that was aimed at advancing the education of rural youths. Through this programme, he had been able to assist more than 70 pupils to enrol at institutions of higher learning.

#### THE POLITICAL ANIMAL

Equally, Lepota was a widely known political animal. He was a member in good standing of the governing African National Congress (ANC).

During his youthful days, he served as member of the ANC Youth League Regional Task Team in the Nkangala Region between 2000-2003 periods. From 2000 to 2005 he was an additional member of the Moutse Youth Development Forum.

#### TSEKE LEPOTA THE COMMUNIST

For two years, 2008-2010, he was deputy chairperson of the Sparks Ramagoma District of the South African Communist Party (SACP). His entry into local government was in 2011 when he was elected as councillor of Ward 4 in the Elias Mostoaledi Local Municipality following the local government elections.

After the 2016 local government elections, he was elected as public representative at the Sekhukhune District Municipality where his political party deployed him as Chief Whip. Coincidentally, his death came just days after Minister of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma had gazetted regulations relating to the Alert Level 5, also known as hard lockdown, in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. Under the tight lockdown regulations, only 50 persons were permitted to attend funerals as government was trying to delay the spread of the dreaded virus.

While many of his comrades and colleagues had wanted to pay their last respects, only close family members and a few other people were allowed to attend his funeral.

He's survived by his three children (a son and two daughters), grandson, brother and two sisters.

Moagip@sekhukhune.gov.za

# Leadership of Sekhukhune District Municipality

## Political Management Team



**Executive Mayor**  
Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila



**Council Speaker**  
Cllr Maria Manamela



**Acting Chief Whip**  
Cllr John Makua

## Members of Mayoral Committee



**MMC: Infrastructure & Water Services**  
Cllr Mbusi Mahlangu



**MMC: IWS (Deputy)**  
Cllr Lorraine Manganeng



**MMC: Budget & Treasury**  
Cllr Yvonne Mmakola



**MMC: Corporate Services**  
Cllr Alfred Matlala



**MMC: Youth**  
Cllr Peter Mnisi



**MMC: Community Services**  
Cllr Thokozile Nchabeleng



**MMC: PED**  
Cllr Samson Nkosi



**MMC: W, C & People living with Disability**  
Cllr Orginia Mafefe

## Vision

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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