



**SEKHUKHUNE**  
District Municipality

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**Office of the Executive Mayor**

RESPONSES BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR  
HONOURABLE CLLR MINAH BAHULA ON THE ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE DEBATE ON STATE OF THE  
DISTRICT ADDRESS HELD ON TUESDAY, THE 24<sup>th</sup>  
JULY 2024 AT THE SDM COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Honourable Speaker, Cllr Kgwediebotse Chego,

The Acting Chief Whip of Council,

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Section 79 and Section 80 Committee Chairpersons

Honourable Cllr Matsetela, leader of the official  
opposition party,

Honourable leaders of other political parties represented in Council, the DA, SADA, SAMEBA and the Bolsheviks Party,

Honourable Councillors

Municipal Manager and Senior Managers,

Ladies and Gentlemen

**Honourable Speaker,**

We held a successful SODA debate last week Tuesday on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in this Municipal Chamber in line with Section 11 of the revised rules and standing order of Council, sub-section (a) which implores on the Council to debate the Executive Mayor State of The District Address within seven (7) days after the address. Sub-section (d) implores on the Executive Mayor to respond to the issues raised in a period not exceeding seven days.

Allow me Honourable Speaker to welcome constructive contributions from all the political parties in Council. We

are obliged to provide accountable, transparent and democratic government. I was personally moved by Honourable Cllr Jan Mohlala assertion that debates should make us stronger borrowing from the Leadership lesson from President Nelson Mandela (open quote) “A real leader uses every issue, no matter how serious and sensitive, to ensure that at the end of the debate, we should emerge stronger and more united than ever before.” (close quote). I hope and trust that the debate has indeed made us stronger.

In varying degrees, all the political parties agreed that today is better than yesterday. They all agree that the municipality is doing something about the perennial water problems in the district.

### **Security and Access to the SODA venue.**

Honourable Councillors, any government event is graded based on the event risk categorization report. The report informs the order of service (step by step). We will not have any complains if we religiously follow the order of service, step by step. **On a lighter note**, Yesterday I was

looking at the WhatsApp group of the Councillors and saw very beautiful pictures there, **very beautiful pictures of all the Councillors.**

### **Support to local service providers,**

Sekhukhune District Municipality utilises the services of local service providers. I can confidently confirm that local service providers are currently occupying **more than 90% of the onsite municipal constructions.** The municipality appointed a local service provider to drill and equip the Phucukane borehole to cite one example.

The municipality through the office of Planning and Economic Development is daily interacting with the SMMEs, **18 Tourism product owners under Sekhukhune District Tourism Association (SDTA) attended Africa Travel Indaba in Durban from the 14 May 2024 to 16 May 2024,** the municipality is fencing the vegetable fields of Thakadu tsa Naga Farmers Association, and Dimpho Khomotso (Pty) Ltd was appointed on the 25th August 2023 to provide SMMEs and Cooperatives with the goods and services requested

from the municipality at the tune of 2 million, **61 SMMEs benefited.**

### **Moutse Water Relief Project**

The then Minister of Water Services Honourable Senzo Mchunu together with his two deputies convened a stakeholder engagement meeting at the Philadelphia football ground on the **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**. The meeting agreed to appoint the committee to investigate how the project unfolded. **The Minister appointed Mr Michael Motsatsi, the head of internal Audit at DWS to lead the team.** Stakeholders especially community members were requested to forward any information to the committee. The Minister convened a stakeholder report back meeting on the **1<sup>st</sup> December 2023** at the same venue (Philadelphia football ground). Mr Michael Motsatsi presented the detailed final report. The meeting adopted the report and agreed with the Minister that a copy should be submitted to the SIU. The SIU will determine as whether there is need for further investigation and referrals to the NPA. I personally attended the meeting,

and it was my first interaction with the Moutse Community.

### **Relocation of District Offices,**

It is in our best interest that the sector departments be relocated back into the district. We will sharply raise this matter in the IGR forum.

### **The Criterion for the selection of 70 graduates,**

SALGA issued Circular 19/2024 on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 which was an external advert on workplace integrated program, Graduates placement on the behalf of national skills fund. The applications were sent to the municipalities, but the **South African Advanced Skills Institute (SAASI) remained responsible for the administration and the funding of the graduates.** The municipality as the direct beneficiary of the program ensured that the recruitment was in line with the training and development policy to benefit local graduates.

### **Tafelkop bridge,**

The former Limpopo MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure Ms Nkakareng Rakgoale and I together with the Mayor of Elias Motsoaedi Local Municipality conducted a site visit to monitor the state of a damaged bridge on the R574 at Tafelkop village at the end of November 2023. We received the engineering report that allayed our fears. Our position is simple as the people of Sekhukhune, **the bridge must be demolished and be build anew.** We will sharply raise the matter again through the relevant IGR forum.

### **Honourable speaker,**

I am going to propose to this august house thorough you, honourable speaker that the Council allow me to **convene quarterly political engagement meetings.** I noted that some of the issues raised will not be adequately responded with direct answers but need an engagement session. We do not have luxury of time to continue politicising service delivery issues. The political engagement meetings will be attended **by PMT and the leaders of political parties in council.** The municipal

manager will be caused to bring documents of the issues to be discussed in the meeting. We must have common understanding on pertinent issues affecting the municipality. This meeting is necessitated by some issues raised during SODA debate such as Lepelle Northern Water, Moutse Bulk Water, Bareki Mall Leasing agreement, MOU that is still under legal consideration, Skills audit, forensic audit, COIDA and other related issues. We must put our political differences aside and deal robustly with problems derailing service delivery in the district. Working together we can do more.

There are other issues that were raised and have been referred to their relevant authorities. The issues of roads, and hospitals. We will follow them up and report back to Council.

**Honourable Spekaer,**

The people of Sekhukhune deserve better services.

**Thank you.**