



SEKHUKHUNE

District Municipality

NEWSLETTER

Quarter: 02

1ST SERVICE DELIVERY MILESTONE

ONE YEAR IN OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAYOR: CLLR MINAH BAHULA

SPECIAL PUBLICATION

17 Nov 2023 – 17 Nov 2024



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Sekhukhune District Promotes
Cooperatives to Tackle Poverty
and Hunger

Mission and Vision

Vision

A leader in integrated economic development and sustainable service delivery

Mission

Providing a democratic and accountable government;

Promoting inclusive and egalitarian economic transformation;

Promoting a safe and healthy environment

Fostering community involvement and stakeholder engagements

Strengthening institutional capacity

Promotion of social cohesion

About the District

- Sekhukhune district Municipality (SDM) was established in December 2000 and is situated within the south east of Limpopo province, about 300kms north of Johannesburg.
- It is bordered by Gauteng province to the south, Mpumalanga province to the east as well as Waterberg towards the West. Sekhukhune is relatively accessible with the use of its relatively extensive road network system.
- It is characterised by scattered pattern of human settlement and contains a large number of rural villages (roughly 740) with both limited economic infrastructure opportunities and services of a reasonable standard.
- Overall, it covers approximately 13 264 KM2 with only 5% of the district's population estimated to live in urban areas.
- Sekhukhune District municipality contains four local municipalities (LM) namely; Fetakgomo Tubatse, Elias Motsoaledi, Makhuduthamaga and Ephraim Mogale. There are 121 wards in the district namely: Makhuduthamaga (31); Fetakgomo Tubatse (44); Elias Motsoaledi (30) and Ephraim Mogale (16).

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Editorial Note

Celebrating the 1st Service Delivery Milestone



LEMSON MOROPJANE
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SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

ONE YEAR IN OFFICE FOR THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, CLLR MINAH BAHULA

Welcome to the 1st Service Delivery Milestone! This special publication covers the period from November 17, 2023, to November 17, 2024, marking a full year of dedicated service. We are

excited to share this edition, which highlights one of Sekhukhune District Municipality's (SDM) most impactful initiatives—our ongoing efforts to deliver sustainable water solutions to the communities we serve.

In her inaugural year, Executive Mayor Bahula has exemplified the need for consistency and effective communication, creating a sense of stability within the District Municipality. Her tenure represents a significant milestone, not just for her leadership, but for the community as a whole.



The 1st Service Delivery Milestone serves to celebrate a workplace culture that prioritizes values and positivity in the local government sector. This recognition not only boosts morale but reinforces a company culture where employees feel valued and motivated to excel. It highlights the Executive Mayor's commitment to service delivery and her investment in the achievements that propel district-wide development—achievements that the borehole initiative has vividly illustrated.

Through this newsletter, we aim to empower you with comprehensive information about the municipality's interventions designed to combat water scarcity in our region. As we reflect on the past twelve months, it is evident that the journey toward universal access to clean water is fraught

with challenges. Yet, we remain steadfast in our mission, fueled by unwavering determination and optimism. Each borehole drilled signifies a major leap forward, dismantling barriers to progress, and every household served brings us closer to fulfilling the dreams of our residents.

We hope you find this special newsletter both informative and inspiring. Your continued support is invaluable as we work together to build a future where water scarcity no longer defines our District.

Warm regards,

Lemson Moropjane

*Editor-in-Chief and Head of Communications
Sekhukhune District Municipality*

Executive Mayor's Foreword:



**“Our Will to
Unlock Water
Access through
boreholes is
Higher Than
Drought”**

EXECUTIVE MAYOR
CLLR. MINAH BAHULA

It is with great determination and optimism that I welcome you to this special edition of the Borehole Water Interventions Newsletter. As the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, I am proud to share our commitment to ensuring that our communities have access to clean, reliable water. This newsletter reflects our journey, the challenges we have faced, and the progress we have made as we work towards resolving water shortages—one borehole at a time.

Water is a fundamental human right, yet too many residents in our district continue to struggle with accessing this essential resource. As leaders, we recognize the delays and frustrations that communities have experienced with larger-scale water projects. However, I assure our residents that my administration is actively pursuing multiple interventions, including the drilling of boreholes across the district, to provide immediate relief. This effort aligns with our broader goal of developing sustainable, long-term water solutions for the people of Sekhukhune.

During our recent visits to villages such as Ga-Seroka under the Babina Tlou Ba Seroka Traditional Authority, we were encouraged by the warm reception and partnership we experienced. Kgoshigadi Nareadi Bauba

and her community welcomed us with open arms, expressing their gratitude for the borehole initiative and acknowledging our commitment to delivering on our promises. Their words inspire us to push forward, reinforcing the notion that our communities value the progress we are making together.

Our borehole flagship program is just one element of a larger strategy to tackle water shortages. In partnership with traditional leaders, contractors, and community members, we are working tirelessly to restore and maintain essential water services. This program is also supported by key national initiatives, such as the Olifants Management Model (OMM) Programme—a R27 billion public-private infrastructure project designed to address the water needs of Sekhukhune and surrounding municipalities. This initiative aims to provide access to potable water for over 250,000 people across our district and the Mogalakwena Local Municipality, ensuring sustainable water access for generations to come.

The Moutse Water Supply Scheme is another critical project nearing completion that will address long-standing water challenges in the Elias Motsoaledi Municipality. We are actively working to finalize all

remaining sections as swiftly as possible. The scheme will be further strengthened by the Loskop Regional Bulk Water Supply Project, which will draw water from Loskop Dam in Mpumalanga to supply multiple villages, including those in Moutse-East.

We understand that, in the interim, communities rely heavily on water tankers and boreholes to meet their daily needs. While we continue to monitor and improve the efficiency of water deliveries by tankers, boreholes offer a more immediate and reliable solution, especially in areas where water infrastructure development has been delayed. We are also addressing challenges such as the theft of water tanks and irregularities in water distribution with urgency.

Transparency and accountability remain central to our operations. We have ensured that service providers for our borehole and water projects were appointed through fair and open procurement processes. Lepelle Northern Water (LNW) has played a crucial role in developing and refurbishing boreholes across the district and in installing water tanks in strategic locations. We are committed to monitoring these interventions to ensure they align with our goal of providing consistent, equitable water access.

While the road ahead may still be challenging, we are resolute in our mission. As a district, we are not only responding to immediate water needs but also laying the foundation for a future where every household has access to clean, drinkable water. I want to thank our traditional leaders, communities, and partners for their ongoing support and collaboration. Together, we are proving that, no matter how severe the drought, our collective will to unlock access to water is stronger.

Let us remain united and vigilant as we continue to build a Sekhukhune where water scarcity is a relic of the past. With every borehole we drill and every infrastructure project we complete, we are one step closer to achieving this vision.

Yours in service,

CLlr Minah Bahula

Executive Mayor, Sekhukhune District Municipality



Overview of a Year of Leadership



CLLR MINAH BAHULA'S FIRST YEAR AS EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT

MUNICIPAL MANAGER
MR MESHACK KGWALE

As we mark the conclusion of Cllr Minah Bahula's first year as Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District, I feel a profound sense of pride in the transformative progress our administration has achieved. This year has been pivotal for our communities, as we have embarked on a significant journey toward the realization of sustainable water solutions—a long-held dream that is now becoming a reality.

From the outset of her tenure, Mayor Bahula has demonstrated unwavering dedication to addressing one of our region's most pressing challenges: access to clean, drinkable water. The administration of Sekhukhune District Municipality has been privileged to work alongside her, participating in groundbreaking events that symbolize hope and resilience for our communities. Each ribbon-cutting ceremony for new boreholes is not merely a formal act; it is an opportunity to witness the joy and relief these resources bring to our residents.

Our recent initiatives, particularly in areas such as Mamone, Mohlala-Majaneng, Malekutu, and Bothas, have significantly enhanced water access. Together with the Member of the Mayoral Committee for Water and Sanitation, Cllr Mabatane Mathale, and the esteemed councilors of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, we celebrated the successful

testing and immediate operation of boreholes. This accomplishment underscores our commitment to ensuring that every household in Sekhukhune can enjoy sustainable access to potable water.

The impact of these initiatives is profound. Residents like Bontle Mathume have expressed heartfelt gratitude for the political leadership that has prioritized basic services, while others like Tebatšo Phala have celebrated the return of water after many years of scarcity. Such feedback is a testament to the positive influence of the Executive Mayor's initiatives and serves as motivation for us to continue our efforts.

As we celebrate these successes, we must also acknowledge that our work is far from complete. The challenge ahead lies in delivering high-quality, sustainable potable water across every corner of our district, enhancing the livelihoods and quality of life for all residents. The Executive Mayor's commitment to identifying and developing borehole infrastructure will be essential in addressing these needs, ensuring that we remain responsive to the unique challenges faced by our communities.

Looking forward, we are excited about the strategic partnerships being forged with traditional authorities and other stakeholders. These collaborations will be critical as we work towards comprehensive water reticulation plans and ongoing infrastructure development. The commitment to equip our borehole resources fully reflects a deeper understanding that water access is not just about installing infrastructure; it is about ensuring the sustainability of these resources for generations to come.

Moreover, as we tackle challenges such as illegal water connections and aging infrastructure, we recognize the importance of community engagement. We urge our residents to take an active role in safeguarding these new resources, fostering a shared sense of responsibility toward the infrastructure that supports their daily lives.

As we reflect on this past year, I am reminded of the journey that lies ahead. Our vision is clear: to create a Sekhukhune District where water scarcity is no longer a daily reality. With the support of the Executive Mayor, traditional authorities, and all stakeholders, I am confident that we will achieve this goal.

Together, we are making this dream a reality—one borehole at a time. I extend my gratitude to our dedicated team, the Executive Mayor, and our community leaders for their tireless efforts. Let us continue to work hand in hand, ensuring that the progress we have made is not only celebrated but sustained for the benefit of all.

Mr. Meshack Kgwale

*Municipal Manager
Sekhukhune District Municipality*



Sekhukhune District Unveils Borehole Projects to Combat Water Scarcity in Tafelkop and Maakaepea

In a significant move to address the pressing issue of water scarcity in the Sekhukhune District, Executive Mayor Cllr Minah Bahula inaugurated a new borehole project on May 10 at Dipakapakeng in Tafelkop Village. This initiative promises to provide access to clean, drinkable water for over 400 households in Tafelkop and surrounding areas within Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM) Ward 28, where residents have historically endured long treks to rivers for their water supply.

The borehole project marks another milestone in the district's ongoing efforts to enhance water services, highlighting Mayor Bahula's commitment to meeting the essential needs of the community. As water shortages continue to plague many rural areas, this initiative stands as a testament to the municipality's proactive approach.

"These proactive measures cement the Executive Mayor's dedication to ensuring equitable access to essential resources, such as clean and drinkable water for all residents," said Lemson Moropjane, spokesperson for the Sekhukhune District Municipality. He emphasized that the borehole projects serve as both immediate relief for water scarcity and a foundational step toward sustainable solutions for the region's long-term water needs.

The inauguration was attended not only by local officials but also by the Mayor of EMLM, Cllr David Tladi, highlighting the collaborative nature of this initiative. Following the Tafelkop launch, Mayor Bahula also officially handed over another borehole project contractor in the nearby Maakaepea Village, located in EMLM Ward 25.





“Our district municipality is implementing various interventions to resolve water challenges, particularly in the rural parts of the municipality,” Mayor Bahula stated. “The drilling of boreholes in several wards has already started.” She underscored the importance of addressing water issues “one borehole at a time,” advocating for a systematic approach to resolving these critical challenges.

The borehole projects are seen as a vital lifeline for many residents who have struggled with limited access to potable water. The initiative is part of a broader strategy that has already resulted in the completion of four other boreholes, including three in the Moutse area and one in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality.

Local residents have expressed gratitude for Mayor Bahula’s vision and commitment to improving their quality of life. “We thank the Executive Mayor for her exemplary commitment and thoughtful initiatives,” said a resident of Tafelkop, underscoring the positive impact these projects are having on the community.

Mayor Tladi also took the opportunity to remind residents of their role in maintaining the water infrastructure, urging them to take care of the resources that have been put in place for their benefit.

With the Sekhukhune District Municipality taking significant steps to mitigate water scarcity, the success of the borehole projects represents not just a temporary fix but a promising approach to fostering resilience and sustainability in the region. As the municipality continues its work, there is a growing sense of hope among residents for a future where access to clean water is no longer a challenge but a standard.

The ongoing commitment to developing water infrastructure in Sekhukhune District demonstrates the importance of local governance in addressing basic needs and improving the lives of residents, setting a precedent for other municipalities facing similar challenges.



Equipped boreholes delivered to Moteti



In a significant stride toward resolving persistent water scarcity, the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality officially handed over two completed communal water boreholes to the communities of Moteti and Ramaphosa Section. This initiative, benefiting over 300 households in the Moutse area—specifically in Wards 01 and 02 of the Elias Motsoaledi Municipality—marks a critical step in enhancing access to clean water and improving the quality of life for local residents.

The boreholes, each reaching a depth of 100 meters, are equipped with solar-powered direct current pumps capable of delivering up to 5,200 liters of water per hour at maximum capacity. The pumped water is directed to a single 10,000-liter

elevated tank, which then distributes it to the community. This innovative infrastructure not only ensures a sustainable and reliable source of water but also empowers residents by facilitating access to this essential resource for their daily needs.

“This project represents vital interim measures initiated by our leadership to alleviate water shortages,” the Executive Mayor stated during the handover ceremony. She emphasized the government’s commitment to addressing long-standing challenges and ensuring the well-being of all residents. “Together, with the support of the community, we will continue working towards a future where every individual has access to clean and reliable water,” she affirmed.

and Ramaphosa Section Communities



In conjunction with the borehole handover, the Executive Mayor also announced the commencement of a new contract aimed at expanding water access in the nearby village of Phucukani, located in Ward 06. This initiative further cements the municipality's dedication to improving water infrastructure across the region.

Looking ahead, the Executive Mayor shared plans to hand over contracts for an additional batch of water boreholes to over 80 tribal authorities, or Magoši, within Sekhukhune. She expressed gratitude to all stakeholders involved in making these initiatives possible, underscoring the importance of ongoing collaboration in the pursuit of sustainable solutions to water scarcity.

Additionally, the municipality is set to launch a program aimed at unblocking and providing technical support to revive blocked water boreholes throughout the district, reflecting a proactive approach to ensuring water access for all residents.

As these initiatives unfold, the Sekhukhune District Municipality remains committed to addressing the critical issue of water scarcity, striving to enhance the quality of life for its communities through improved infrastructure and sustainable practices.





Sekhukhune District Municipality Maintains Open Lines of Communication Amid Water Infrastructure Repairs

In an era where efficient communication and proactive maintenance are paramount to effective public service, the Sekhukhune District Municipality has set a high standard by keeping residents informed about critical infrastructure issues affecting their water supply. This was exemplified by the recent alert regarding a leaking pipe outside the Groblersdal Water Treatment Plant, which serves as a vital water supply line for the Motetema township.

The municipality swiftly notified residents of the leak, emphasizing the importance of transparency during infrastructure challenges. "The quick response to this urgent issue is a testament to our commitment to maintaining and improving water services across the region," across the region, a municipal spokesperson Lemson Moropjane stated.

Currently, the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) team is actively on-site, diligently working to repair the leak, which has

disrupted service for many in the community. This level of attentiveness not only addresses immediate concerns but also reinforces public trust in municipal services.

The proactive approach taken by the Sekhukhune District Municipality emphasises a broader commitment to infrastructure maintenance and community engagement. By issuing timely alerts and updates, the municipality fosters a collaborative atmosphere with residents, who are kept in the loop about the status of critical services that directly impact their daily lives.

In a region where access to clean water is essential, such communication efforts are crucial. The municipality expressed appreciation for the community's patience and understanding as they navigate this urgent infrastructure challenge. By prioritizing both maintenance and communication, the Sekhukhune District Municipality is not only addressing current water supply issues but also laying the groundwork for a more reliable and responsive water service in the future.

As the community awaits the completion of repairs, across the districts and the municipality's commitment to transparency serves as a model for how local governments can effectively manage infrastructure challenges while maintaining strong ties with the communities they serve. In an environment where every drop of water counts, such diligence in communication ensures that residents feel valued and informed, enhancing their overall quality of life.

Borehole programme brings hope to Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality amid chronic water shortages



A bold initiative led by Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) has begun to make tangible progress in addressing water scarcity in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EMLM). The SDM Executive Mayor's Flagship Programme, announced during Mayor Cllr Minah Bahula's inauguration speech last November, officially launched on May 15 in Moutse West, a significant step toward providing sustainable water access to communities throughout the district.

The launch of the programme marked a significant milestone, fulfilling a key promise from Bahula's inaugural address on November 17, 2023. In her speech, she vowed to prioritize water access across the district, which has historically grappled with erratic rainfall and limited water infrastructure. The initial phase of the programme kicked off with the handover of borehole contractors to traditional leaders from four key tribal authorities: Matlala Dichoeng (Ward 14), Rahlagane (Ward 9), Matlala Ramoshebo (Ward 5), and Rathoke (Ward 2).

The borehole initiative has been lauded not only for its potential to improve water access but also for strengthening the district's relationship with traditional leaders. "Harmonizing relations with

traditional councils is pivotal to our service delivery goals," Bahula stated. The mayor underscored the value of traditional leaders in facilitating government initiatives, noting their role in community coordination and support. "I am proud to announce that my flagship programme will empower these leaders, who are the custodians of our land and culture."

By involving traditional councils in the rollout, the programme aims to ensure that the new boreholes are used effectively and maintained properly, benefiting both the leaders and the communities they serve. This participatory approach underscores Bahula's commitment to inclusive governance and collaborative problem-solving.

To actualize this vision, SDM has appointed term contractors responsible for executing the project, with the goal of completing borehole construction across all 80 tribal authorities. The programme has already seen early success with operational boreholes now servicing communities in Dennilton, Moteti, Tafelkop, and Ga-Marishane. These developments provide interim relief, showcasing the practical benefits of the programme even as work continues.



In addition to drilling new boreholes, the district is reviewing plans to refurbish existing infrastructure in villages, ensuring older boreholes are capable of reliable service. This dual strategy of new construction and refurbishment aims to create a network of functional boreholes, alleviating water shortages for thousands.

Mayor Bahula's emphasis on sustainability extends beyond the current programme. During the IDP engagement, she highlighted the importance of coordinated land use and adherence to Spatial Management Plans by traditional authorities. "Proper land allocation is essential for facilitating future development and ensuring that water and other services can be delivered effectively," she noted.

This focus on planning and development signals an understanding that while the borehole initiative is a crucial first step, it must be part of a broader

strategy to secure long-term water solutions. Discussions continue about the integration of more comprehensive water management systems that could leverage groundwater resources sustainably while balancing community and ecological needs.

The borehole programme represents a proactive response to a crisis that has strained local governments and communities alike. With the onset of construction and the engagement of traditional leaders, Moutse West and other areas within Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality are witnessing tangible progress.

As the region navigates these challenges, the importance of such initiatives cannot be overstated. For the people of EPMLM, the borehole programme is more than an interim measure; it is a beacon of hope that exemplifies how strategic partnerships and committed leadership can drive meaningful change in times of need.



Sekhukhune District Water and Infrastructure Team Tackles Water Crisis with Urgent Interventions



site inspection in Keerom and Ga-Botha village, both located in Ward 02 of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality. The team's visit aimed to assess ongoing water infrastructure challenges and to outline immediate solutions.

The inspection revealed a troubling reality: many residents are deprived of their rightful access to water due to illegal connections that siphon off resources meant for the broader community. Compounding this issue, one of the boreholes servicing the area was found to be without an electricity connection, hampering its ability to pump water effectively.

In response, the team has escalated the matter to Eskom, South Africa's primary electricity supplier, for urgent intervention. Restoring power to this critical borehole

In a concerted effort to address the persistent water shortages affecting the Sekhukhune District, local leaders from the Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) are taking decisive action to ensure that borehole interventions not only function effectively but are also rigorously maintained. This initiative comes as part of a broader strategy to restore reliable water access to communities grappling with the fallout from illegal connections and aging infrastructure.

On September 26, a team from SDM's Infrastructure and Water Services, led by Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) Mabatane Mathale, conducted a

could dramatically enhance the water supply in Ga-Botha, providing much-needed relief to local residents who have faced mounting frustrations over inadequate water access.

"Addressing these challenges is our top priority," Mathale stated during the site visit. "We are committed to ensuring that the infrastructure we put in place works effectively for the communities that rely on it."

The SDM team has pledged to return to the area regarding further technical assessments and to restore any dysfunctional infrastructure. This

proactive approach maintains the municipality's commitment to transparency and accountability in addressing water issues.

"The community deserves reliable water access, and we are here to ensure that our interim water plans are not just theoretical but are indeed working on the ground," said Executive Mayor Cllr Minah Bahula, who praised the dedication of her team during the inspection.

Alongside Mathale, other officials, including Cluster Manager Mr. Karabo Ramatje, Compliance Officer Mr. Baloi, and Regional Superintendent Mr. Ntwampe, were present to support the efforts. Their collective presence illustrates a unified front in the fight against water scarcity.

The Sekhukhune District has faced increasing scrutiny over its water management strategies, especially in light of recent reports highlighting the dire situation in several municipalities across the region. The leadership's hands-on approach aims to not only resolve immediate issues but also to build a sustainable framework for water provision in the future.

In a statement released following the inspection, SDM emphasized the importance of community engagement and collaboration with local leaders to combat illegal water connections and promote responsible usage. By fostering a sense of ownership and accountability among residents, the municipality hopes to mitigate ongoing challenges related to water access.

As the team continues its efforts, the residents of Ga-Botha and Keerom remain cautiously optimistic. The commitment shown by SDM's leadership signals a renewed focus on delivering essential services, especially in communities where access to clean water is a fundamental right.

With ongoing technical assessments and collaboration with key stakeholders, including Eskom, the Sekhukhune District Municipality is

poised to turn the tide in the battle against water shortages. As MMC Mathale remarked, "This is just the beginning of our concerted efforts to bring lasting change to our communities."

The dedication displayed by the SDM leadership is a testament to the importance of decisive action in resolving long-standing water challenges and ensuring that essential infrastructure is both effective and sustainable.



Makhuduthamaga's strategic water infrastructure investment



In a decisive move to address longstanding water shortages, Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality (MLM) has committed R20 million for the repair and maintenance of boreholes throughout its jurisdiction. The decision, endorsed during a Special Council Meeting (SCM) on May 24, underscores the municipality's pledge to improve essential services and underscores the region's drive for sustainable water solutions.

The investment comes as part of a larger initiative backed by Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), which funds the project through its grant revenue.

The rural expanse of Makhuduthamaga, like much of Sekhukhune District, has faced chronic water supply issues due to erratic rainfall, aging infrastructure, and high demand. The council's endorsement of the R20 million for borehole repairs aims to mitigate these challenges by revitalizing

existing systems to ensure a steady water supply for residents.

Alongside the borehole initiative, the MLM council approved its final draft of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and budget for the fiscal year 2024/2025. The IDP, a strategic tool that steers the municipality's developmental priorities, was revised to address shifting local needs and align with the Municipal Structures Act.

The partnership between MLM and borehole service providers in Sekhukhune has injected new life into the local economy. For over a decade, borehole drilling companies have honed their expertise in the region, providing services from water surveys to complete installation and maintenance. The recent funding allocation is expected to boost this sector, fostering job creation and supporting small-to-medium enterprises.

Sekhukhune's push for water access through borehole infrastructure



In a region where water is more precious than gold, Executive Mayor Minah Bahula of the Sekhukhune District Municipality has taken a hands-on approach to alleviate the community's persistent water challenges. Mayor Bahula led a delegation of councillors and senior officials to inspect and revitalize borehole infrastructure in three key areas of the Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM): Mareseleng Village (Ward 25), Ga-Manoke (Ward 18), and Ga-Selala. This effort forms part of a broader district-wide campaign to bolster water accessibility.

Mayor Bahula's visit followed a prior commitment to ensuring that projects aimed at providing water meet their objectives. "These boreholes are not just infrastructure; they are lifelines for our communities. We will ensure they remain functional and reliable," Bahula emphasized during her site visits. She also noted plans to augment existing borehole systems with water tankers and other storage solutions to ensure a consistent water supply.

The Sekhukhune District is no stranger to the harsh realities of water scarcity. Years of recurring droughts, coupled with delays in large-scale water projects, have left communities in dire need. While long-term infrastructure plans like the Moutse Water Supply Scheme and the Loskop Regional Bulk Water Supply Project progress, borehole initiatives provide immediate relief.

"Boreholes offer an immediate solution where traditional water infrastructure falls short. While we await the full completion of larger projects, these boreholes are essential," said Bahula. This

dual approach has been well-received by local leaders, including Kgoshigadi Nareadi Bauba of Ga-Seroka, who applauded the mayor's commitment: "The executive mayor has shown that she not only promises but delivers."

Despite these positive strides, the journey has not been without hurdles. Challenges such as theft and vandalism of water infrastructure and irregularities in water distribution persist. Mayor Bahula has urged councillors and officials to actively monitor water infrastructure and report any disruptions promptly.

"We are dealing with complex issues that require vigilance and swift responses. Our residents cannot afford delays," Bahula said, underlining the need for community involvement in safeguarding these resources.

Beyond short-term interventions, Sekhukhune's water strategy includes partnerships with national initiatives like the Olifants Management Model (OMM) Programme, a R27 billion public-private project aimed at serving over 250,000 people in Sekhukhune and neighboring areas. These collaborations signal hope for a future where water scarcity is a thing of the past.

"Every borehole we drill and every infrastructure project we complete brings us closer to our goal: a Sekhukhune where water access is a guaranteed right, not a privilege," Bahula concluded.



Efforts to Resolve the Water Crisis in Sekhukhune District Gain Momentum



The Sekhukhune District Municipality, under the leadership of Executive Mayor Cllr Minah Bahula, continues to make strides in addressing the district's long-standing water crisis. Collaborating with the then Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senzo Mchunu, and his deputies, David Mahlobo and Judith Tshabalala, the Mayor convened a critical briefing with the Lebelelo Water Users Association (LWUA). The meeting, attended by key stakeholders like the Lepelle Northern Water leadership, highlighted progress on the R27 billion Olifants Management Model Programme (OMM).

Launched in 2022, the OMM aims to improve bulk and portable water infrastructure for communities and commercial users in Sekhukhune and beyond. Minister Mchunu emphasized the need to fast-track this 50/50 public-private partnership to benefit agriculture and mining sectors by 2030, while ensuring community access to water services.

Mayor Bahula stressed the urgency of sustainable water solutions, calling for improved plans and skills audits to enhance service delivery.

This meeting was followed by community engagements at the Philadelphia Sports Grounds, where leaders provided updates to residents of Moutse and surrounding areas.

In parallel, Mayor Bahula launched the Borehole Program to empower Tribal Authorities with immediate water access solutions. The initiative started in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, with contractors deploying boreholes and water tanks

to multiple communities. These interim measures serve as a stepping stone towards long-term bulk water supply solutions.

Additionally, the district applauded Modikwa Platinum Mine for its Social Labour Plan projects, which recently delivered four water infrastructure projects to local communities. Mayor Bahula urged other mining companies to replicate this commitment, ensuring sustainable community development.

The Executive Mayor remains resolute in leading water interventions, partnering with traditional leaders, municipalities, and private entities to tackle the water scarcity challenges affecting

These initiatives reflect the district's commitment to ensuring sustainable water access for residents and economic sectors alike.

In conclusion The Sekhukhune District Municipality's efforts to address water concerns remain steadfast, as demonstrated by recent meetings held in Ga-Rakgoadi village under the leadership of Kgoshi Rakgoadi Matlala, as well as in Ga-Masemola village, encompassing Wards 27, 28, and 29, among other areas. The Executive Mayor, Cllr Minah Bahula, has shown a keen interest in resolving these issues and has mobilized a dedicated team of technicians actively working across the district to implement solutions.





Borehole Initiative Boosts Local Economy and Empowers Youth in Sekhukhune District



DITHOLONG village in the sun-scorched terrain of Fetakgomo Tubatse has long symbolized the water crises plaguing majority of communities of our District. Yet, a renewed push led by Executive Mayor Minah Bahula to rejuvenate water infrastructure is not just quenching thirst but revitalizing the local economy and offering a lifeline to unemployed youth and small businesses.

Over the past few months, a sweeping campaign to drill, refurbish, and equip boreholes has brought hope to villages from Ga-Nchabeleng to Ga-Seroka. At its core, this initiative

underscores a multi-pronged strategy combining community collaboration, supply chain reform, and opportunities for local entrepreneurs.

In a region where job prospects can seem as arid as the landscape itself, the borehole programme has become a catalyst for economic activity. Emerging contractors, local

consortiums, and joint ventures from within the district have secured contracts to participate in borehole drilling, testing, and installation work. Projects in Ditholong, Makgalane, and Makopung under the Leboeng Depot exemplify how inclusive policies can spark new entries into the market.

“Participating in the borehole project has allowed me to employ a team of young people who were previously without work,” said Thabo Lebogo, owner of Lebogo Engineering Solutions, one of the contractors engaged in drilling

and equipping new boreholes. “This project has changed not just my life, but theirs too.”

Municipal leaders have embraced fair and transparent supply chain practices, ensuring that bidding processes for borehole contracts were open to eligible local businesses. This shift toward inclusivity has been crucial in empowering contractors like Lebogo and many others who, until now, struggled to break into the water infrastructure sector.

On September 17, 2024, a pivotal moment unfolded as contractors were introduced to the Tau Mankotsana, Roka Lebea, Tau Phaahlamohlaka, and Roka Radingwana traditional authorities. These introductions signified not just formal announcements but a strengthening of the bonds between government, local leaders, and community members.

The Executive Mayor’s approach—an integration of modern governance and traditional authority engagement—was evident as local chiefs and community elders welcomed the contractors with optimism. The Tau Mankotsana Traditional Authority in Ga-Nchabeleng Village praised the district’s foresight and pledged active collaboration.

Kgoshigadi Seroka of the Babina Tlou Ba Seroka Traditional Authority in Ga-Seroka Village expressed gratitude, emphasizing the importance of government follow-through post-elections. "Mayor Bahula has shown that her promises are more than words. We are beginning to see results that matter to our people," said Kgoshigadi Seroka.

The borehole campaign is not without its challenges. Inspections of older boreholes in Mareseleng and Ga-Mashamothane revealed significant issues, such as vandalism and theft, which continue to undermine water supply efforts. Addressing these concerns, the district plans to retrofit boreholes with secure structures, reinforced concrete housings, and shorter power lines to deter vandalism.

Mabatane Mathale, Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Water and Infrastructure Services, tasked contractors with completing borehole projects within a month. The quick turnaround not only accelerates water delivery but sets an example of accountability and efficiency for future initiatives.

Beyond job creation and immediate water relief, the borehole programme is a demonstration of fair and strategic supply chain practices. By inviting tenders from local companies, including joint ventures and emerging enterprises, the district is fostering an environment where entrepreneurship thrives. These projects empower small businesses, offering them the experience and credentials to compete for larger public and private contracts in

the future.

Small-business owner Naledi Phiri, whose company handled the installation of steel casing pipes in Makgalane, highlighted the significance of the district's transparent practices. "It's rare for new businesses like mine to get opportunities at this scale. The fair processes have leveled the playing field," she said.

Executive Mayor Bahula has emphasized that these efforts are just the beginning of a broader, more sustainable approach to water provision and local empowerment. "Our commitment goes beyond drilling boreholes; it extends to ensuring that every project fosters economic growth and community stability," Bahula noted during her September address.

Her message resonates with a district long acquainted with promises but less familiar with follow-through. The success of the borehole campaign, underpinned by equitable practices and community involvement, could well serve as a blueprint for addressing other challenges in Sekhukhune and beyond.

As the dust settles from drilling rigs and the first drops of water spill forth from newly revived boreholes, Sekhukhune's youth and local businesses are finding renewed purpose. In their efforts to bring water to the parched earth, they are also building a more promising future—one contract, one community, one borehole at a time.



EM Bahula's strategic Leadership in transforming the District's Road Infrastructure

In the sun-baked hills of Limpopo's Sekhukhune District, where rural villages meet sweeping landscapes, a quiet yet significant revolution is taking place. The expansion and improvement of the province's road infrastructure are not just reshaping the geography but invigorating its

economy. At the forefront of this transformation is Cllr Minah Bahula, whose strategic leadership has enabled collaborations with the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), Road Agency Limpopo (RAL), and the Department of Public Works and Roads Infrastructure Limpopo Province.

A Vision for Connectivity

It was at the Dikgerekgere activation in Manganeng that Hon. Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba captured the essence of this mission: "With quality road infrastructure, we are in a stronger position to attract investors and encourage industry leaders to choose Limpopo." Premier Ramathuba emphasized that robust roads are the arteries through which the economic lifeblood of the province flows, offering pathways not only for vehicles but for economic progress and job creation.

Under Bahula's stewardship, these ambitions are materializing. The partnership between RAL and key governmental bodies has facilitated projects designed to boost regional connectivity and foster local economic growth. A prime example is the upgrade of the 13.8 km D4190 route from Apel/Ga-Nkwana to Mmabulela, a vital connection in Sekhukhune that promises to transform accessibility for residents and businesses alike.





The task of road construction in Limpopo is complicated by the region's rugged terrain and seasonal rainfall. This was particularly true for the D1547 road project, which required engineers to adapt an older design to current topographical conditions.

The road network's impact extends beyond the logistical; it touches on the well-being and dignity of Limpopo's people. As Hon. Premier Ramathuba noted, quality infrastructure is the backbone of socioeconomic progress. With each road completed, opportunities for commerce, education, and healthcare expand, making daily life more manageable and productive for residents.

In addition, the ancillary benefits include the installation of boreholes, aiding water accessibility in regions often strained by limited resources. By employing community members and enhancing local capacity, these projects affirm a commitment to uplifting the people of Sekhukhune.

The momentum gained through this approach is evident in RAL's ongoing endeavors, which currently include 20 construction and maintenance projects. These initiatives not only involve upgrading gravel roads to tar but also implementing rigorous maintenance programs. Notably, the upgrades of routes such as D4310 and D4328, which link Legolaneng to Monterlus, exemplify infrastructure as a catalyst for broader economic integration and development.

Such projects are not without challenges, but they are essential for realizing the potential of Limpopo's rural areas. The construction of roads in regions like Sekhukhune ensures that once-isolated villages are now just a drive away from urban centers. This connectivity supports local enterprises, such as farmers and artisans, enabling them to reach broader markets and bolster their livelihoods.

Integral to these infrastructure ventures is the emphasis on community involvement and skills development. Young engineering student technicians gained invaluable on-site experience, while local laborers were trained in essential skills. Such hands-on training fosters a pipeline of expertise, potentially turning today's laborers into tomorrow's contractors and engineers.

Cllr Minah Bahula's leadership exemplifies a vision where strategic partnerships and community-centered development converge. This model, fostering both infrastructural and human capital growth, sets a benchmark for other provinces. The result is a province poised for a brighter future, where robust roads pave the way for investment, resilience, and shared prosperity.

As these roads unfurl through the vast landscapes of Limpopo, they carry with them the hopes and aspirations of its people — and the promise of progress that lies just beyond the next curve.



Malekane Steel Bridge Project Showcases Public-Private Triumph



The construction of the Malekane Steel Bridge, a pivotal infrastructure project in Sekhukhune, is moving forward with impressive momentum. According to recent reports from the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), the project is now 45% complete, showcasing the success of a collaborative effort between RAL and eight key mining companies in the region. This initiative, which began officially on June 4, 2023, marks a crucial milestone in addressing both infrastructural needs and

community upliftment in Limpopo Province.

The steel bridge, positioned over the Steelpoort River at Ga-Malekane, represents an essential improvement to the D2219 route and includes rehabilitation work on the existing single-lane bridge. The original steel bridge, a local landmark with roots dating back to the 1920s, is steeped in history and protected under the National Heritage Act. It serves as both a reminder of the region's





rich past and a symbol of resilience. Evaluations affirm that the structure remains robust, projected to endure for at least nine more years.

The February 21, 2023, sod-turning ceremony, led by the former Limpopo MEC for Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, Nkakareng Rakgoale, stressed the lengthy negotiations that preceded this joint endeavor.

Contributions totaling R127 million from the eight mining companies—Dwarsrivier Chrome Mine, Rakhoma Mining Resources, Glencore, Rustenburg Platinum, Samancor Chrome Mine, Booyseindal Platinum, Tjate Platinum, and Two Rivers Platinum—underscore the private sector's commitment to community and economic development. Conroy van der Westhuizen, speaking on behalf of the mining partners, highlighted that the project aligns with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's vision for strategic infrastructure in Sekhukhune. He emphasized the bridge's potential to bolster local economic activity and provide seamless access for community events, work commutes, and educational purposes.

RAL spokesperson Danny Legodi affirmed that the most challenging phases of construction, particularly those involving the river's flow, have been successfully managed. "The pace of construction of the bridge is impressive," Legodi

stated, signaling accelerated progress in the months to come.

The bridge project is a testament to the belief that service delivery transcends government mandates and thrives through public-private partnerships. RAL Chairperson reiterated, "We need the private sector to contribute in this regard." Such partnerships not only strengthen infrastructure but also stimulate the local economy, creating a ripple effect of development across Sekhukhune.

Attention to the heritage value of the existing steel bridge, which features a plaque dating back to 1926, is a fundamental part of the project's framework. Preservation efforts are in place to ensure that construction does not compromise this historical structure. The project, while forging a path toward modernization, maintains a respectful nod to the past, harmonizing growth with heritage.

As Sekhukhune witnesses the evolution of its transport network, the Malekane Steel Bridge emerges as a beacon of progress. It embodies a collaborative spirit aimed at fostering accessibility, economic resilience, and sustainable development. With completion in sight, this venture paves the way for a future where infrastructure is both a means of connection and a reflection of shared community pride.

The Executive Mayor Welcomed Graduates on an Employment Journey in Sekhukhune District Municipality



The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Minah Bahula, has lauded the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the South African Advanced Skills Institute (SASI) for their collaborative efforts in introducing the Graduate Work Skill Learning initiative. This transformative program is aimed at uplifting vulnerable groups in society, particularly the youth, women, and people living with disabilities, by equipping them with critical skills for sustainable employment.

This empowering the vulnerable Through Skills Development

is a two-year initiative that seeks to address South Africa's alarmingly high unemployment rate by providing unemployed graduates with relevant work experience and practical skills that will enhance their employability.

Funded by SASI with additional support from the Department of Higher Education and Training, the program is a beacon of hope for the Sekhukhune District's most vulnerable groups.

"We commend this fundamental initiative aimed at providing our graduates from different fields with opportunities, which will, in turn, enable them to fully participate in the mainstream economy," said the Executive Mayor, Cllr Bahula.

The program focuses on integrating graduates into various professional fields such as the agricultural value chain, engineering, finance and accounting, human resources, tourism and hospitality, business administration, artificial intelligence technology and communications, and town planning. This diverse scope reflects its commitment to developing key sectors within the economy.

The Executive Mayor encouraged the new interns to embrace this opportunity with discipline and dedication. "Many would have loved to be part of this opportunity. You are the chosen few, so be humble and kind, work hard with the utmost discipline, and never look back," she urged.

This initiative is not just about providing employment; it is about empowering individuals to become active contributors to their communities. The skills and experiences gained through this

program will enable the participants to break the cycle of poverty and unemployment in their households.

Enhancing Employability with Mentorship and Development

Limpopo's Provincial Director of Operations for SALGA, Ledile Sebati, emphasized the broader developmental benefits of the program.

"In addition to providing practical work experience, the program includes mentorship and professional development workshops to further enhance the employability of the participants. The aim is to equip you not only with technical skills but also with soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving, which are critical in the modern workplace," she explained.

The program's launch marks a significant milestone in the Sekhukhune District Municipality's efforts to tackle socio-economic challenges. Over 70 graduates from diverse fields have been inducted into the program. These young professionals will not only gain employment but also contribute to the growth and development of the district.

By fostering a skilled workforce, the Graduate Work Skill Learning initiative will catalyze economic development in Sekhukhune. It supports the district's broader Integrated Development Plan (IDP) objectives by addressing skills gaps, reducing unemployment, and promoting inclusivity in the workforce.



Moreover, the program's emphasis on mentorship ensures that participants are well-prepared to transition into leadership roles, creating a ripple effect of empowerment and capacity-building.

The Executive Mayor expressed her gratitude to SALGA and SASI for their partnership in this impactful initiative, stating that it aligns with the municipality's vision of fostering sustainable development. "This program is not just about creating jobs; it's about transforming lives and building a resilient, skilled community that can drive Sekhukhune's economic growth for years to come," she said.

With this initiative, Sekhukhune District Municipality sets a precedent for leveraging strategic partnerships to address socio-economic challenges. The graduates embarking on this journey are a testament to the district's commitment to nurturing talent and building a brighter future for all its residents.



A Legacy of Leadership

EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR. MINAH BAHULA'S UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY

By Ms. Ledile Sebati, Provincial Chief Director, South African Local Government Association (SALGA)



In a world increasingly defined by its complex governance challenges, exemplary leadership stands out as a beacon of hope and progress. Within the Sekhukhune District Municipality, one such luminary figure is Executive Mayor Cllr. Minah Bahula. As a National Executive Committee (NEC) member of SALGA, Cllr. Bahula's unwavering commitment to advancing local governance has set a benchmark for leadership that resonates beyond provincial borders.

Cllr. Bahula's impactful tenure from November 2023 to November 2024 reflects a narrative of proactive

governance and visionary strategy. Her efforts to deepen the relationship between traditional leaders and municipal governance have been a testament to her belief in inclusive development. The borehole programme, launched under her stewardship, epitomizes this commitment. By addressing water scarcity—an issue deeply embedded in the fabric of rural life—she not only responded to immediate community needs but also laid the groundwork for sustainable resource management. This initiative, bolstered by engagement with traditional leaders at the December 2023 gathering at the Kgaola Mafiri Building, exemplifies a collaborative model that

acknowledges and amplifies the voices of those long involved in the stewardship of community welfare.

The accolades celebrated during the March 2024 SALGA Awards ceremony are a testament to the fruits of her leadership. Under her guidance, the district's local municipalities have showcased unprecedented performance in audit outcomes and the effective use of the Municipal Infrastructure Projects grant. This recognition underscores a broader narrative of transparency, accountability, and resilience—a clear testament to the effectiveness of her strategic priorities. By fostering robust audit action plans and nurturing a culture of corrective measures, Cllr. Bahula has charted a course toward governance that builds trust and prioritizes the well-being of Sekhukhune's residents.

It is no surprise, then, that her leadership was pivotal in propelling Sekhukhune's local municipalities to distinguished positions at the SALGA Awards. Her encouragement of mayors like Cllrs. Eddie Maila, Magetle Tladi, Merah Mahlase, and Given Moimana speaks volumes of her collaborative approach. Through her acknowledgment of their hard work, she has inspired a collective drive for excellence that permeates the governance framework of Sekhukhune. This is leadership in its most empowering form—where success is not contained but shared, creating a ripple effect that uplifts the entire region.

Beyond achievements, Cllr. Bahula's contributions as an NEC member of SALGA have amplified the district's voice on a national stage. Her dedication to nurturing municipal sustainability and fostering policies that enhance local government capacities has further aligned Sekhukhune's objectives with the broader goals of developmental governance. Her role in key conferences, such as the 2022 provincial assembly that focused on creating financially sustainable municipalities, showcases her foresight in navigating the interplay between financial prudence and service delivery.

Cllr. Bahula's focus on the empowerment of traditional leadership structures, as seen during the Mandela Month dialogue with the district's Dikgošigadi, has been a pivotal aspect of her administration. By ensuring that these crucial community leaders are equipped and supported, she has cemented her legacy as a bridge-builder

who recognizes the intrinsic value of every stakeholder in the development continuum.

Under her stewardship, Sekhukhune has not only advanced in tangible measures of performance but has also enriched the fabric of its leadership by integrating traditional wisdom with contemporary governance. Her leadership embodies the essence of SALGA's mission: strengthening local government to serve communities better.

As Sekhukhune looks ahead to a future filled with promise, the blueprint laid out by Cllr. Bahula is clear: collaborative, transparent, and strategic governance is the path forward. Her exemplary tenure, marked by resilience, innovation, and inclusivity, is a clarion call to leaders across all levels of government. It serves as a powerful reminder that with visionary leadership, the local sphere of governance can be a formidable force for meaningful and sustainable progress.

Cllr. Minah Bahula's legacy is one of unwavering service and forward-thinking leadership—an inspiration not just to Sekhukhune but to the nation at large. For that, we celebrate her and commend her contributions as a beacon of hope and progress in the pursuit of a more prosperous and unified South Africa.



A Year of Commitment and Collaboration

REFLECTING ON THE LEADERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR. MINAH BAHULA

By Kgoshi George Mathabeng Maila, Chairperson of the Sekhukhune District House of Traditional Leaders



In times of great challenge, true leadership is not just demonstrated in the promises made but in the unwavering commitment to deliver results. As Chairperson of the Sekhukhune District House of Traditional Leaders, it is both my honour and duty to commend the exceptional work undertaken by Executive Mayor Cllr. Minah Bahula over the past year. Her tenure, marked by relentless dedication and a collaborative spirit, has laid foundations that will undoubtedly shape the future of Sekhukhune for generations to come.

The Sekhukhune District is a land steeped in history, rich in cultural heritage, and resilient in the face of adversity. However, like many rural regions, it has faced acute challenges—foremost among them, water scarcity. The borehole programme initiated under the stewardship of Mayor Bahula has not only provided relief but has reinforced the district's commitment to a sustainable future. With a vision that embraces both immediate and long-term strategies, this initiative has equipped 80 traditional leaders and their communities with reliable access to water, ensuring that essential needs are met even in the most remote areas.

This borehole initiative, highlighted by her commitment at the Christmas luncheon of December 2023, is emblematic of her belief in fostering partnerships between government and traditional leadership. Such gestures do more than provide basic resources; they affirm the interconnectedness of leadership at all levels and emphasize the shared responsibility we hold toward community well-being. Mayor Bahula's insistence on capacity-building for traditional councils shows that her leadership is not only responsive but anticipatory—a leadership style that values long-term empowerment.

The Mayor's engagement with traditional structures has extended beyond infrastructure projects. The Mandela Month dialogue held in July 2024, with members from across the district, exemplified her inclusive approach. Recognizing the influential role that women play in traditional governance, she amplified voices that have historically been underrepresented. This event underscored not just her administrative acumen but her appreciation for the diversity of leadership that supports our social fabric.

At the core of Mayor Bahula's achievements lies an unwavering commitment to collaboration, showcased during the opening of the Limpopo Provincial House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders in September 2024. This milestone event, which brought together the highest echelons of political and traditional leadership, reaffirmed the enduring partnership necessary to serve our people. Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba's presence and reaffirmation of the importance of traditional leadership demonstrated that this administration understands the value of cultural custodians in local development. Mayor Bahula has been pivotal in fostering this climate of mutual respect and shared vision.

It is worth acknowledging that her leadership has garnered national attention, with the district's influence reaching into the upper tiers of government. Her expression of gratitude toward President Cyril Ramaphosa for the appointments of Dr. Namane Masemola and former Premier Stan Mathabatha reflects her keen awareness of how representation can impact local policies and opportunities. This recognition speaks to a leader who is not just reactive but strategically anticipatory, seeking alignment between national priorities and local realities.

It is with pride that I, on behalf of the traditional leaders of Sekhukhune, express deep appreciation for the strides taken under her administration. The seeds sown today through partnerships, shared dialogue, and targeted interventions will bloom into resilient growth and prosperity for our communities.

The journey ahead may still hold challenges, but with leaders who embody the spirit of service, such as Executive Mayor Cllr. Minah Bahula, we can face them with hope and determination. May we continue to walk the path of unity, committed to the progress and prosperity of our beloved Sekhukhune District.

Relations with Traditional leadership enhance at the district, with a meeting interaction with Dikgošigadi

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune strengthened the relationship with a dialogue with Dikgošigadi of the district to discuss community development and empowerment in July this year , 2024

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune, Cllr Minah Bahula, views the continued interaction with traditional leadership from across the district as a significant step aimed at understanding and enhancing their roles in community development. The event was held at Boiketlong Lodge, Mogorwane in Jane Furse.

The Executive Mayor and her collective sought to gain firsthand insights into the vital contributions of traditional leadership, particularly Dikgošigadi in different communities. Recognizing the importance of traditional leadership structures, the Executive Mayor emphasized the supportive role played by Dikgošigadi in fostering community development and cohesion.

This meet-and-greet session provided an invaluable platform for open dialogue, where they shared their experiences, concerns, and suggestions for improvement.

“The district government would also like to continue thanking you for your role in leading communities in various ways and issues .

Your leadership was instrumental in encouraging community members to engage in the democratic proces and governance.

The Executive Mayor also emphasized the need to empower Dikgošigadi and ensure they have equal access to resources and opportunities.

“This empowerment is crucial for enhancing your effectiveness in driving community development and addressing local issues.



A year of rural tourism transformation



CELEBRATING EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR. MINAH BAHULA'S IMPACT ON SEKHUKHUNE'S TOURISM SECTOR

By Mr. Mantaneng Jimmy Maboko, Chairperson of Sekhukhune District Tourism Association (SDTA)

As we mark the first anniversary of Executive Mayor Cllr. Minah Bahula's leadership in Sekhukhune District, it is fitting to reflect on the immense strides made under her administration. Her tenure has not only highlighted the district's cultural richness but has also catalyzed significant growth in the local tourism sector—a cornerstone of economic empowerment and community development.

One of the most defining moments came in May 2024 when Mayor Bahula spearheaded an unprecedented initiative by dispatching a delegation of tourism establishments and hospitality products to the Africa Travel Indaba in Durban. This marked the first time that Sekhukhune presented a unified front at this premier global trade show. It was a proud moment that reinforced our district's potential and showcased its offerings on an international stage. The outcome was remarkable, as stakeholders reported a surge in interest and partnerships that have set a foundation for long-term growth.

Mayor Bahula's leadership is rooted in inspiring local stakeholders to see beyond the limitations of rural geography. Her words, "Sekhukhune can be the best if we work as one," have been more than just rhetoric. They have been a clarion call, motivating the tourism community to innovate, collaborate, and elevate the district's profile.

The commitment to tourism was further solidified when Mayor Bahula announced the allocation of R1 million to launch the first-ever Sekhukhune Tourism Indaba, set for March 2025 at Hlako Tisane Tourism Centre in Makhuduthamaga. This flagship event promises to be a transformative platform, bringing together local and international tourism professionals, policy-makers, and entrepreneurs. It will serve not only to showcase our unique cultural and natural attractions but also to facilitate dialogues that can shape the future of tourism in rural South Africa.

The context in which these initiatives have been introduced is vital. Rural economies, both in South Africa and globally, have struggled with challenges such as inadequate economic restructuring and declining agricultural production. This has forced many communities to seek alternative avenues for economic development. Tourism has emerged as one of the most viable strategies, due to its capacity to create jobs and stimulate growth.

Mayor Bahula's vision aligns seamlessly with this approach. Her dedication to cultural preservation and community empowerment has rejuvenated the tourism narrative in Sekhukhune. By prioritizing the recognition of heritage sites such as Tšate Heritage, Lenao la Modimo, and the royal traditional leadership palaces, she has not only reinforced our district's identity but has also set the stage for sustainable tourism development.



Executive Mayor Bahula Champions Arts, Culture, and Heritage to Empower Sekhukhune



In a passionate display of leadership and cultural advocacy, Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Minah Bahula, underscored the importance of honoring struggle heroes and preserving local heritage at the district's Heritage Day celebration held at Moses Mabotha Civic Hall in Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality. The event drew a large crowd of community members, cultural performers, and prominent officials on 30 September 2024 who gathered to celebrate under the theme, "Celebrating the lives of heroes and heroines who laid down their lives for freedom."

The hall, resonating with the vibrant sounds of traditional music and dance, became a testament to the district's rich cultural tapestry. Mayor Bahula's keynote address was both a tribute to the past and a call to action, emphasizing the critical role of arts, culture, and heritage in empowering the citizens of Sekhukhune. She called upon the community to cherish and preserve their history, stating, "Every corner of Sekhukhune has a heritage story to tell, and it is our duty to ensure these stories are remembered and shared."

Highlighting landmarks such as Tšate Heritage Site, Manche Masemola's graveyard, Lenao la Modimo, and Ledingwe Cultural Village, Mayor Bahula stressed that these sites are not just symbols but anchors of cultural identity. "These heritage sites are central to who we are and must be celebrated and safeguarded for generations to come," she affirmed.

In a heartfelt tribute, Mayor Bahula honored legendary figures who played pivotal roles in the fight for freedom, focusing particularly on those from Sekhukhune whose legacies deserve renewed recognition. Among the honoured names were Kgoshi Morwamoche III, President Phakane Moretsele, Flag Boshielo, Kgwana Nkadimeng, Professor Mogapatona, Ramphelane Mampuru, Mahwibi Phala, Elias Motsoaledi, Lawrence Phokanoka, Peter Nchabeleng, Mogoramedi Sekhukhune, Uria Maleka, Ephraim Mogale, Madinoge Kgoloko, and many more. Mayor Bahula urged the audience not only to remember these heroes but to actively celebrate their contributions, ensuring that their stories inspire pride and resilience in the present.

Her speech resonated with attendees, including MEC for Health Dieketseng Mashego, local mayors, District Municipal Manager Meshack Kgwale, council speakers, chief whips, traditional leaders, and other dignitaries. The presence of such a wide array of leaders highlighted the collective commitment to upholding Sekhukhune's cultural esteem and promoting unity through heritage.

The Executive Mayor also used the platform to spotlight the economic potential that cultural heritage and the arts can unlock for the district. "Empowering our people through the arts and culture is not just about honouring the past; it's about forging a path for economic opportunity and social cohesion. When we invest in our heritage, we are investing in our future," she said.

Mayor Bahula's first year in office has been marked by such initiatives, reinforcing her reputation as a proactive leader deeply invested in cultural enrichment and the empowerment of her constituents. This commitment to promoting heritage is part of a broader strategy to cultivate pride and social unity, while positioning Sekhukhune as a district that celebrates its history while looking confidently to the future.

The Heritage Day celebration served as a reminder that Sekhukhune is not just a region of historical significance but a vibrant community capable of revitalizing its cultural roots to inspire future generations. In closing, Mayor Bahula urged attendees to take an active role in preserving their identity: "It is through preserving our culture, heritage, and identity that we can build a stronger, united society."

As the celebration ended with traditional dances and songs echoing throughout Moses Mabotha Hall, the message was clear—Sekhukhune's heritage is alive, vital, and ready to be carried forward by its proud citizens.



A year of professionalising organised sport in Sekhukhune



By Mr. Skhumbuzo Gumede, President of Sekhukhune Sports Confederation

As we reflect on the first-year milestone of Cllr Minah Bahula's tenure as the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District, it is fitting to acknowledge her unwavering support and dedication to advancing sports within our district. On behalf of the Sekhukhune Sports Confederation, I express deep gratitude for her commitment to the growth and vitality of our sporting community. This year has marked significant strides in nurturing sports tourism and enhancing community engagement, setting a strong foundation for long-term development.

The Executive Committee of the Sekhukhune Sports Confederation, elected on 25 August 2024 by a coalition of district sports federations, was met with a warm welcome and clear endorsement from Mayor Bahula. Her approach underscores a broader vision for Sekhukhune—one that integrates sport as a key pillar for community building, youth empowerment, and economic stimulation. This support is not just symbolic; it is the bedrock of practical initiatives aimed at invigorating grassroots and competitive sports in rural towns and villages across Limpopo.

One of the most tangible examples of progress under Mayor Bahula's leadership was the bold initiative led by the Limpopo Handball Federation. With her encouragement, Sekhukhune successfully hosted the National U/17 and U/19 Men's Handball Tournament from 21 to 24 March 2024. This event was held at the Peter Nchabeleng Sports Complex in Schoonoord, a rural facility within the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, and represented a major milestone in our district's sporting history.





The tournament brought together young athletes from all corners of South Africa, allowing them to experience firsthand the unique vibrancy and potential of Sekhukhune. Such events do more than showcase talent; they elevate the profile of our rural towns, enhance local capacity for hosting significant gatherings, and attract investment in sport-motivated tourism. By welcoming these athletes and their supporters, we positioned Sekhukhune as a burgeoning hub for sports and tourism—a win for both the local economy and community pride.

Mayor Bahula's commitment to optimizing available sports infrastructure has been evident in her active advocacy for rural facilities to be utilized to their fullest potential. By empowering communities with platforms to host such events, she has tackled one of the most pressing challenges—limited infrastructure and diversity in sporting activities. Her initiatives have fostered a collaborative environment where sports are not only seen as recreational activities but as critical avenues for education, employment, and social cohesion.

As we celebrate these achievements, we must also recognize that this is just the beginning. The success of the National U/17 and U/19 Handball

Tournament should serve as a call to action for stakeholders across the public and private sectors. Continued investment in sports facilities, community training programs, and partnerships with national sports bodies will be essential to sustaining the momentum that has been built.

Hosting provincial and national tournaments extends benefits beyond the immediate joy of competition. It provides athletes, coaches, and fans from all nine provinces with the chance to discover and appreciate the hidden treasures of our rural communities. This exposure drives interest, creates opportunities for talent development, and fosters a shared sense of purpose. Moreover, it raises the profile of Sekhukhune and strengthens its capacity as a host, creating a ripple effect that stimulates local economies and invests in the future of our youth.

Mayor Bahula's first year in office has set an inspiring precedent. Her support for sports has been both visionary and practical, ensuring that rural communities are not left behind but are instead recognized as vibrant participants in South Africa's sporting narrative. For this, we commend her leadership and dedication.

Sekhukhune's Pioneering Approach to safety



By Mr. Stephen Kgorutle, Chairperson of the Sekhukhune District Community Safety Forum

In the past financial year, Sekhukhune District has made significant strides in fostering a secure and resilient community through the successful establishment and operationalization of the Community Safety Forum (CSF). This initiative, aimed at empowering communities with the tools and frameworks necessary for safety and security, marks a milestone not only for Sekhukhune but for the province of Limpopo at large.

The CSF model, rooted in a multi-sectoral approach, forecasting a collective commitment to tackling

crime and its underlying causes through structured partnerships and active participation. Progress has been seen not just in Sekhukhune, but across all five districts of Limpopo—Vhembe, Mopani, Waterberg, Sekhukhune, and Capricorn—where Community Safety Forums are now functional within all 30 municipalities, comprising 25 local municipalities and five district municipalities.

Community Safety Forums serve as collaborative hubs, bringing together stakeholders from all three spheres of government, community organizations, and local leaders. By embracing an integrated approach, CSFs help coordinate safety measures that are comprehensive and community-



centered. This approach includes establishing and strengthening street and village committees that play a critical role in neighborhood watch activities, school safety programs, and initiatives targeting tourism and road safety.

The CSF model is not just an academic exercise; it actively monitors and coordinates the functioning of the local Criminal Justice System, reviewing and recommending realignments in police station locations and other logistical strategies to enhance efficiency and response times. It embodies the ethos of proactive governance—moving beyond reacting to crime to addressing its root causes.

Our approach at the CSF has been holistic and inclusive, involving a wide array of participants such as Justice, Crime Prevention, and Security Cluster departments; Social Cluster Departments; and Local Government representatives. Beyond the public sector, partnerships extend to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations, ward councillors, youth and women's groups, traditional leaders, street committee representatives, and the business community. These partnerships help strengthen the collective resolve and shared responsibility in making Sekhukhune safer.

The Executive Mayor's leadership has been pivotal in bringing these partnerships to life. Her commitment to public safety was demonstrated when she officially launched the CSF, acknowledging the appointed ten members with certificates for their dedicated five-year service. This gesture was a significant step in recognizing the value of collective community efforts toward safety and security.

Executive Mayor Cllr Minah Bahula's remarks during the launch of the CSF encapsulated a key message: to root out crime in our communities, we must address the interconnected challenges of substance abuse and poverty. The "triple scourge" is a cycle that fuels insecurity, limiting opportunities and destabilizing communities. Our efforts at the CSF have, therefore, focused not just on direct crime prevention but on supporting programs that mitigate these contributing factors.

In closing, I extend my gratitude to the Executive Mayor, Cllr Minah Bahula, for her unwavering support and leadership. Her recognition of the value of community-centric safety models sets the tone for the years to come. The CSF will continue to build on this foundation, driving forward with a spirit of collaboration, resilience, and hope.



CLLR MINAH BAHULA'S EXEMPLARY SUPPORT FOR THE SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT AIDS COUNCIL

By Chairperson of the Sekhukhune District AIDS Council

As we reflect on the impactful leadership of Executive Mayor Cllr Minah Bahula over her first year in office, it is evident that her commitment to public health, inclusivity, and collaborative governance has profoundly influenced the work of statutory bodies like the Sekhukhune District AIDS Council (DAC). This commentary serves as a tribute to Mayor Bahula's dedication to building partnerships across the health and community sectors, fostering a spirit of trust and cooperative action.

A Year of leadership and compassion

Cllr Bahula's approach to health advocacy and support has been rooted in strategic partnerships and consistent outreach. Her close collaboration with the CEOs of key district hospitals—St Ritas Regional Hospital, Jane Furse Hospital, Dilokong Hospital, and Mecklenburg Hospital—has been particularly commendable. This relationship-building has strengthened the coordination and response capabilities of healthcare facilities, ensuring that communities across Sekhukhune receive effective services in the fight against , AIDS, and TB.

Under her leadership, these partnerships were not just symbolic; they were operational and results-driven. For example, regular joint meetings facilitated by the Mayor allowed hospital administrators to align their efforts, share best practices, and discuss emerging health challenges. The establishment of an open line of communication with community clinics and health facilities has further reinforced the district's commitment to holistic healthcare. By fostering these collaborations, Cllr Bahula has laid a foundation for sustainable public health practices that prioritize both prevention and treatment.



A defining moment of Mayor Bahula's tenure was the launch of the District AIDS Council on 26 June 2024 at Boiketlong Lodge in Jane Furse. This significant event showcased her belief that health advocacy must extend beyond official spaces into the heart of the community. The launch was marked by a symbolic and impactful march from Jane Furse Hospital to the local taxi rank, where condoms and preventive materials were distributed to both motorists and pedestrians. This hands-on approach exemplified the Mayor's philosophy that awareness and resources should be accessible and visible to all.

Her support for events like these reflects her broader vision for public health: one that incorporates marginalized voices and prioritizes inclusive representation. The launch included interactions with civil society sectors, LGBTQIA+ groups, and sex workers—an effort initiated by the Mayor in her call for broader stakeholder engagement during a DAC meeting earlier in January 2024. By ensuring these groups are part of the conversation, Cllr Bahula has amplified the reach and relevance of public health initiatives, embedding them deeply within the social fabric of Sekhukhune.

One of the most progressive elements of Mayor Bahula's strategy has been her recognition of the vital role Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs)

play in community wellness. Understanding that THPs are often the first point of contact for many residents seeking health advice, Cllr Bahula proactively reached out to integrate their knowledge and practices into the district's health strategies. This inclusive approach not only bridges modern medical practices with traditional methods but also fosters a sense of respect and unity within the district.

Her engagements with THPs have led to meaningful dialogues that incorporate traditional medicine into broader health campaigns, particularly in educating communities about HIV and TB prevention. This acknowledgment of THPs as stakeholders has strengthened community trust and allowed the DAC to disseminate accurate information through culturally resonant channels, ultimately enhancing public health outreach.

Cllr Minah Bahula's first year as Executive Mayor has been marked by dedication, vision, and a profound commitment to the people of Sekhukhune. Her efforts have strengthened the district's health infrastructure, empowered statutory bodies, and elevated public discourse on health and inclusion. The DAC is proud to stand as a partner in this journey, confident that under her continued guidance, Sekhukhune's health and well-being will only flourish.



Sekhukhune District Promotes Cooperatives to Tackle Poverty and Hunger



The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Minah Bahula, continues to call on communities to establish cooperative initiatives, such as crop farming, to address poverty and hunger sustainably. Speaking during Food Drive Program initiatives, she emphasized that government alone cannot continuously provide food hampers, making community-driven solutions essential for long-term change.

"We understand our core mandate as a district municipality, but we must also address pressing challenges in our communities," said Cllr Bahula.

She encouraged residents to remain focused on the positive outcomes of these initiatives, ignoring criticism and negativity that might derail progress.

The Mayor also highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in achieving sustainable development, urging businesses to collaborate with the municipality to create socio-economic opportunities.

The food drive benefited several vulnerable groups, including the Boikgafo Old Age Centre in Matlala Ramoshebo, Ralokanang Old Age and Disability


Centre in Mabitsi, and hundreds of destitute families in Tafelkop under the Bakgaga Ba Kopa Traditional Authority. Beneficiaries received essential groceries and blankets, bringing immediate relief to child-headed families, the elderly, and people living with disabilities.

Grateful recipients, like Lesego Sekhosana, shared heartfelt thanks: “May God bless the Executive Mayor and her collective. For the next few days, we will have something to eat.” Community members praised the municipality’s leadership, with many calling it an example of impactful governance.

The initiative goes beyond addressing immediate needs, fostering a spirit of self-reliance, community cohesion, and hope. By encouraging cooperative farming and prioritizing child-headed families in development projects, Sekhukhune District is laying the groundwork for sustainable livelihoods and long-term poverty alleviation. The collaboration with local businesses also demonstrates how partnerships can amplify efforts to create meaningful socio-economic change.

Cllr Bahula urges leaders and communities to continue prioritizing vulnerable groups, ensuring no one is left behind in development initiatives.





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