

## EMPLOYEES SPOTLIGHT AND DEDICATION TO SERVE: MEET THE INFRASTRUCTURE, WATER AND SERVICES DEPARTMENT



Story by: Ratilwe Maja



Floyd Mashele - SDM Director IWS

With the start of the second quarter of the Sekhukhune District Municipality's fiscal year 2024/2025, the organisation eulogizes outstanding accomplishments

of the previous quarter and anticipates the exciting projects and challenges within the Infrastructure and Water Services department. Infrastructure and Water Services is responsible for managing, arranging, and overseeing the execution of all water and sanitation projects as well as other infrastructure related projects. Furthermore, the IWS department is obligated to monitor the maintenance and operations of the sanitation infrastructure.

The department also regulates the utilisation of the infrastructure through different policies while prioritizing access to clean drinkable water, while simultaneously maintaining existing boreholes. Ensuring prioritization and maintenance of projects, the IWS department utilise planning tools such as water Services Development, Water and Sanitation Master, Infrastructure Master as well as Operations and Maintenance. These tools are amongst other planning tools that assist in distributing resources, budget planning and implementation sequence of projects.

Prioritizing and managing infrastructure projects is the goal of IWS. The department will also handle past projects that were shelved prior to financial limitations, ensuring that they are finished on time and within budget. What the IWS department hopes to do this fiscal year is to properly define the project's scope, estimate its cost, and be acutely aware of the

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## Communications Team

1. Lemson Moropjane - Manager Communications / Editor
2. Khomotso Ndhlovu - Writer
3. Ndjadji Makhafola - Graphic Designer/ Photography
4. Motshela Sello - Intern Photographer
5. Zanele Khumalo - Intern Writer/ Photographer
6. Charlotte Malatje - Intern Writer/ Photographer
7. Lethabo Maibelo - Intern Writer/ Photographer
8. Ratilwe Maja - Intern Writer/ Photographer



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implementation time and quality to be generated in order to fulfil the triple limitations of project management.

In an effort to provide communities with clean and sustainable water supply, the department is presently working on two significant bulk water scheme projects in Moutse and Nebo. Among the issues the IWS department encounters include aging wastewater treatment facilities, vandalism, and under capacity ....

Fourteen (14) Process Controllers have been appointed permanent posts. The promotions mark a great achievement for the district as this will assist with the Water Conservation and Water Demand management. Although there is always space for improvement, the district has made progress in addressing community complaints in a timely manner. The department is always looking for innovative methods to cut down on response times and provide clean water for the Sekhukhune community.

# NEW APPOINTMENTS

Sekhukhune District Municipality

5<sup>th</sup>  
TERM

FRIDAY, 07 MARCH 2025



**Mampuru Ignatious**

**Chief of Staff**  
(Office of the Executive Mayor)



**Ludwick Maboshego**

**Manager Municipal Health Services**  
(Community Services)



**Lemson Moropjane**

**Communications Manager**  
(Office of the Executive Mayor)



**Mokwadi Mogano**

**Planning Engineer**  
(Infrastructure & Water Services)



**Nkele Marais**

**Senior PMS Officer**  
(Planning & Economic Development)



**Benny Mampane**

**Accountant Expenditure**  
(Budget & Treasury Office)



**Reneilwe Mphela**

**Logistics Officer**  
(Budget & Treasury Office)



**Gilbert Magaela**

**Credit Control Officer**  
(Budget & Treasury Office)



**Khomotso Makitla**

**Expenditure Clerk**  
(Budget & Treasury Office)



**Precious Masanabo**

**Cashier**  
(Revenue)



**Gift Maisela**

**Cashier**  
(Revenue)



**Gustav Tladi**

**Cashier**  
(Revenue)



**Lethabo Matlala**

**Reporting Clerk**  
(Budget & Treasury Office)



**Mahlatse Namane**

**Data capturer**  
(Infrastructure & Water Services)

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune



# THE MUNICIPALITIES RECENT APPOINTMENTS AND UPWARD PROMOTIONS



Nancy Rampedi - SDA Manager Finance



Ms Lebea - SDM Legal Manager

Story by: Ratilwe Maja

The recent second quarter of the fiscal year 2024/2025, Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) identified a few employees enjoying upward movement in their respective employment. Fourteen (14) Process Controllers attached to Infrastructure and Water Services (IWS) department, have been appointed for permanent posts. IWS is responsible for supplying communities, and businesses with water and sanitation services, process controllers are tasked with actively overseeing and controlling all aspects of wastewater treatment facilities and water treatment plants.

These promotions mark a great milestone for the district municipality's individuals as they were met with great excitement. These milestones convey career development and inspire hard work which augments service delivery to the communities of Sekhukhune.

Human Resources department plays a significant role in SDM, amongst others the core functions of the department are, recruitment and hiring, onboarding, employee relations, benefits, and performance management of the organisation. The

district CPS department takes pride in the creation of talent development for the employees, succession planning, diversity, equity, and inclusion, encourages employees to engage in strategic development of the organisation and workforce planning.

The following appointments include but not limited to, Ms Lebea M.I, who was appointed as Manager Legal Services under Municipal Managers Office, will be responsible for handling legal affairs of the SDM, including managing legal risks, offering advice on contracts and litigation, while making sure that laws and regulations are followed.

Amongst the fourteen process controllers are Mr S.J Sibande, Ms M. Mampoke and Mr J.M Mashabela, who were appointed permanent posts from the IWS department. Ms Rampedi N, former SDM Chief Operation Officer (COO) also has been promoted to the Finance Managerial position for the Sekhukhune Development Agency (SDA), that deals with facilitating and implementing local and regional economic development. All appointments commenced on the second quarter of the district as of the 1st of October 2024 to the 1st of December 2024 respectively.

# THE MUNICIPALITIES RECENT APPOINTMENTS AND UPWARD PROMOTIONS



The process of allocating candidates who are competent and available to fill open jobs with the district is known as recruitment, whereby the process of identifying the best candidates from a pool of

applications takes place. Thereafter, the progress of recruitment is taken step – by – step to ensure proficient candidates who are skilled are appointed.



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SEKHUKHUNE  
District Municipality

# Unlocking Potential: SAASI Program enhances Employability in Sekhukhune District Municipality



Story by: Lethabo Maibelo

Following the innovative initiative to empower unemployed youngsters in the region, the Graduate Work, Skill, learning program was formally welcomed by Cllr Minah Bahula, the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, in June 2024. Together, the South African Advanced Skills Institute (SAASI) and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) initiated this innovative program. By giving recent graduates, the abilities, information, and real-world experience they need to thrive in the contemporary workforce, SAASI aims to close that gap between education and employment.

With over 80 graduates from various fields including agricultural value chain, engineering, finance, and human resource, are now part of the program in the Sekhukhune District Municipality. As a service provider, SAASI is essential to the program's implementation in partnership with the National Skills Fund (NSF), which provides the project's funding. SAASI's mission is to empower people and communities through skill development and training, emphasizing poverty reduction and capacity building. But by collaborating with SAASI, the municipality hopes to bridge the skills gap and provide recent graduates the tools they need to succeed in the workplace.

This graduate work skills learning program has given many interns and WIL students invaluable experience and skills. Two of the program's most notable participants are Violet Makgomo Malahlela, a corporate service intern (IPMS unit) and Mahlatse Sepogwane, an intern in the office of the Executive Mayor, are notable example of the program's effectiveness. After graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours in Human Resource Management from the University of Johannesburg, Violet joined the municipality hoping to connect the theoretical information she had learned in her studies with real-world experience.

"With mentors who are very supportive and encouraging to be a better person in the coming years, I can confidently say that my expectations were met and exceeded," she said.

Furthermore, she acquired a lot of knowledge and skills that would be very useful in her future career, such as specialised technical knowledge and critical soft skills. One of the numerous projects she worked on was compiling employee performance packages, which made her realise how crucial cooperation and project completion were.



Mahlatshe Sepogwane, another participant, obtained a Bachelor of Administration in the Local Government from the University of Limpopo. His role in the Office of the Executive Mayor includes supporting the department's initiatives and projects, acquiring practical skills, and contributing to the team's efforts. Notably, he has expressed that the program went beyond his expectations as well, providing valuable

hands-on experience, mentorship, and opportunities for growth. "My experience in this department has been positive and enriching" he added. Additionally, through his participation in the municipality, he has acquired a range of essential skills with particular emphasis on policy development, project management, and public participation.






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# SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT SCOOPS SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SALGA) RECOGNITION AWARDS.



Story by: Charlotte Malatji

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Minah Bahula, congratulates the District’s Communications team for their outstanding achievement in winning top honors at the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Recognition Awards. The prestigious ceremony, held in Jeffrey’s Bay, Eastern Cape, last night, highlights excellence in municipal communication across the country.

The awards coincide with SALGA’s two-day, 8th National Municipal Communicators Forum Meeting, where communicators from various municipalities gather to exchange best practices, address challenges, and explore evolving trends in the ever-





Kubani Tolo - FTLM Communications Officer & Simon Makua EMLM Communications Manager, accepted the award on our behalf.

changing communications landscape. Commending the team, the Executive Mayor urges them to remain dedicated to their mission. "While we celebrate this achievement, let us not become complacent. Strong and effective communication is the bridge between government and the people. It is through the tireless efforts of our communications team that our communities are informed, engaged, and empowered to participate in the affairs of their municipality."

She further emphasized that this national recognition affirms Sekhukhune District Municipality's commitment to "transparent, effective, and developmental communication that truly serves our people."

This accolade is a testament to the team's dedication, and the Municipality remains confident in their ability to continue driving communication excellence for the benefit of all residents.

The team was recognised in the category of the most profile Municipality (media monitoring) presence as well as formulating and driving communications strategies on revenue collection for the District Municipality. The first category were previously won by Ngaka Modiri Molema and Cape Winelands districts respectively.

Receiving the awards on behalf of the district were Elias Motsoaledi's Manager Communications Simon Makua and Fetakgomo -Tubatse's Spokesperson Kubane Tolo.

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# ZOOMING INTO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Story by: Zanele Khumalo

Effective governance is the backbone of any thriving municipality. At the heart of Sekhukhune District Municipality, are Municipal Council and Management meetings, which play a vital role in shaping the future of the local communities.

Mr Tsoane Alpheus the Council Secretary attached to the Speaker's office takes us through the essential details and comprehension of the municipal Council and administrative meetings.

These meetings are convened under Rules and standing orders of Council, Local Government Municipal Structures Act in conjunction with Municipal Systems act, as well as Policies and Guidelines that foster collaborative decision-making and strategic planning among council members, administrators and community stakeholders. These pivotal gatherings facilitate open dialogue, transparency, and accountability, ultimately driving progress and improvement in municipal services and infrastructure.

Sekhukhune District Municipality encompasses 51 Members of council inclusive of (PMT's) Political Management Team, Members of the Mayoral Committee, directly elected councillors as well as District representatives from local Municipalities within the district. The PMT provides strategic oversight and political direction for the municipality's governance, working closely with the administrative leadership to ensure that the political vision and priorities of the community are implemented effectively.

- The Executive Mayor: Provides overall political leadership and chairs the MAYCO (Mayoral Committee).
- The Speaker: Responsible for presiding over council meetings and oversight as well as ensuring adherence to the rules of order.
- The Council Whip: Chairs the PMT and Manages party discipline and coordination within the council.
- Five of the Mayoral Committee Members

UPDATE



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(MMC): are Political heads of specific portfolios, such as Finance, Infrastructure and Water Sanitation, Corporate Services, Community Services and Planning and Economic Development.

- Leaders of Political Parties: Represent the interests of various political parties and their constituencies within the council. Political Parties actively represented in the Sekhukhune District council are ANC, EFF, DA, BOLSHEVIKS, SADA, and SAMEBA.

Municipal Council and administrative meetings also serve as a critical forum for budgeting processes and financial planning. The council reviews and approves budgets in year reports, and allocations for municipal projects and services, this ensures that the municipality's financial resources are managed effectively and efficiently, with a focus on delivering value to taxpayers.

Among the different types of Council meetings is Ordinary Council and Special Council meetings with distinct purposes in municipal governance and the items discussed in each reflect their specific functions. Ordinary Council Meetings are scheduled regularly, (Quarterly) and follow a standard agenda to address ongoing municipal matters while Special Council meetings are convened to address urgent matters that cannot

wait for the next ordinary council meeting, the agenda is typically focused and limited to the matters requiring immediate attention.

Both Ordinary and Special Council decisions informs the gathering of an Extra Special Council meeting depending on the nature of the issue. "An Extra Council sitting is influenced by prior council discussions or decisions. Meetings like the STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS and BUDGET SPEECH are a council meeting for which purpose is to receive an address by the Executive Mayor in this case Cllr Minah Bahula." reiterate Mr Tsoane

The Council Secretary is responsible for 4 Units in the Office of the Speaker namely, Council Support, Public Participation, MPAC (Municipal Public Accounts Committee) and Office of the Whip of Council particularly led by 3 managers and a supervisor, which assist in ensuring the smooth functioning of the council and committee operations. "The Speakers Office Team is responsible for managing the administrative and procedural aspects of council and committee meetings while also supporting council members, by ensuring that council meetings are well-organized, decisions are documented, and procedures are followed. The team further helps maintain transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the district's council operations to fulfil the Council's duties effectively." Concludes Mr Tsoane.





Story by: Zanele Khumalo

## SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DELEGATION TO CHINA, RETURNS HOME MORE DETERMINED AND EMPOWERED

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality has this morning welcomed back a delegation of unemployed youth and SMMEs who participated in a six-month business exchange program in the Republic of China.

Since September 2024, they have been acquiring valuable skills and experience to strengthen their businesses and contribute to local economic growth.



This initiative, a collaboration between the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA) and the Chinese Culture and International Education Exchange Centre (CCIEEC), fosters cultural and economic ties between South Africa and China. The delegation represented not only Sekhukhune District but the entire Limpopo Province.

Representing the Executive Mayor, Council Speaker Cllr Kgwediebotse Chego applauded the program,





emphasizing its potential to drive socio-economic development. "This exchange marks the beginning of a long-term collaboration, bringing valuable skills and opportunities to our communities," said Cllr Chego.

Participants shared their success stories. Bontle Mathabatha from Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality is now partnering with Chinese companies to expand her pump and steel supply business. Mosima Mahube from Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality returned as a business



whilest in China, gained certification in water reticulation and is ready to apply her skills in her municipality.

Matsedi Genesis Phasha, part of SMMEs and also from Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality in now ready to expand his Internet access and telecommunications company.

Cllr Chego was alongside the Municipal Manager, Meshack Kgwale, Chief of Staff Mampuru Ignatius and several other Managers and families of the delegates.



owner after learning about the supply of kitchen appliances and cleaning products. Bontlenyana Sekele from Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, despite personal hardships of losing her Mother

The Sekhukhune District Municipality remains committed to empowering youth and entrepreneurs through global partnerships and skills development program

## AMBITION

Story by: Charlotte Malatji



At Just 26 years old, Andrew Mabena is already a rising star in the world of art, blending creativity with ambition. A finance intern by professional at Sekhukhune District Municipality, he has a rare talent that sets him apart his extraordinary gift for art. For him, being an artwork artist it is more than just a hobby. It is a talent, a calling that he is refining with every stroke of charcoal and pencil.

Andrew's journey into the world of art began at an early age, but it was not until he pursued his studies at tertiary level in 2021 that he decided to take his gift seriously. The moment he realized that his hands could create something visible and meaningful, he knew that his talent could lead to something great." Art has always been my passion since I knew how to hold a pencil. Seeing how people fall in love with my work was motivating, and I realized that art is raw material waiting to be shaped into something extraordinary," he said.

He is currently undergoing an 18-month financial in-service training program at Sekhukhune District Municipality and has learned about the value of balance. While he is extremely dedicated to his finance work, his artistic ambition remains unaltered. He joined the municipality in August 2024, hoping to broaden his skills and further his career. In the quiet hours following his financial work, he devotes his attention to his artwork, bringing to life anything from portraits to complicated house plans and even clay sculpting.

His technique is one of patience and precision. He uses charcoal pencils, activated charcoal powder, erasers, and



brushes which bring depth and texture to his creations. Whether it is the soft shading of a portrait or the fine details of a landscape, his work captures emotion and tell a story. One of

his most person pieces was born from a period of grief, a time when art became his outlet for healing. The painting symbolized optimism and prospect of moving forward. The light in the piece represents a journey of resilience, a reminder that even in the darkest time, there's always light to be found.

Andrew's goal is not just to create art, but to build a future where his sketches become physical products, transforming into piece that can be shared and appreciated by others. The dream of seeing his art become a source of income, like many successful artists before him, keeps him motivated every day. "Witnessing artists becoming millionaires through their hard work drives me. I hope what I create will open doors for me, just like it did fort them." He added.

Andrew's professional training and passion for art is not always easy, but he simple method of setting boundaries and prioritizing what matters most. The discipline he learned in the finance sector flow into his artistic practise is ensuring that both side of his life receive the attention they deserve.

He Advices aspiring artists to stay humble, learn from others, and never underestimate the value of their own work and other artists. For Andrew Mabena, the world of art is not just a creative outlet, it is lifelong journey that is already shaping his future. As he continues to grow, there is no doubt that his art will leave a lasting impression, one masterpiece at a time.



# EMPOWERING INDEPENDENCE:

## Thembi's journey as a Municipal officer with visual disability

Thembi Kabini - Special Programme Officer

Story by: Lethabo Maibelo

In a concerted effort to promote inclusivity and accessibility, the Sekhukhune District Municipality has been at the forefront of empowering employees with disabilities. One such individual is Thembi Agnes Kabini, a remarkable woman from Marble Hall, who lives with blindness and has been an integral part of the municipality's special program officer in the Executive Mayor's office since 2009. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Diploma in Special Needs from the University of South Africa. Her qualifications have also given her a thorough understanding of the difficulties and obstacles faced by vulnerable populations, which has enabled her to develop useful solutions to support people with disabilities and ensure equal access to municipal services and opportunities.

"I am very grateful for the working tools, such as a computer with speech software and a braille printer, that the municipality has provided me. This support enables me to access information independently, including emails and WhatsApp message from my colleagues," she said, expressing her gratitude for the municipality's efforts and initiatives to create a supportive work environment. Thembi is dedicated to empowering and supporting people with disabilities as the member of the South African

National Council for the blind (SANCB) organization, which further aims to promote inclusivity, accessibility, and equal opportunities for disabled persons by cultivating a culture of acceptance and understanding. Despite the municipality's efforts to support her, she still faces significant daily challenges. Accessibility remains a major hurdle, as the municipality's office layout often limits her independence. As someone who values self-sufficiency, Thembi Kabini longs to navigate her surroundings without relying on others.

However, the municipality has tried its level best to demonstrate its commitment to accessibility by accommodating her needs in the workplace, such as being closer to the bathroom and the exit door to facilitate easy navigation. And these thoughtful gestures have made a significant difference in her daily life, enabling her to focus on her work and advocacy without unnecessary barriers.

The municipality and the community must continue to work towards breaking down barriers and providing equal opportunities for people with disabilities. "By doing this, we can help our communities reach their greatest potential and create a more equitable environment for everyone."

# ENHANCING GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION: THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATORS FORUM



Story by: Charlotte Malatji

In an era where communication/Information is essential for effective governance, the District Government Communicators Forum (DGCF) serves as a crucial platform for bridging the gap between local governments and the communities they serve. By bringing together communicators from various government sectors, the Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) hosted Sekhukhune District Government Communicators Forum at SDM Council Chamber.

This serves as a vital platform where communication professionals from various departments within the district gather to discuss, coordinate and deliberate on communication strategies, maintaining consistent messaging and effective public outreach at local level. Essentially, it's a forum for local government communicators to collaborate and address communication challenges within their district.

One of the DGCF primary goals is to guarantee that information from various governments departments is efficiently communicated to the community. This involves raising awareness of government programs, policies, and major projects that can benefit the community. Additionally, the forum plays a significant role in strengthening public relations, as effective

public relations are vital for fostering trust and cooperation between the government and the public. The communicators work together to promote a positive perception/image of the government and its activities.

The DGCF provides multiple advantages to both communication professionals and district government. One of the biggest benefits is the exchange of best practices, which allows communicators to share effective communication techniques and tactics with one another, so boosting their own communication efforts. The forum also allows communicators to explore common communication difficulties experienced by district departments and collaborate on solutions. Furthermore, it ensures that communication strategies are consistent with district-level policies and activities.

Typically, it involves regular quarterly meetings and discussions among communication professionals from different departments. These meetings provide a platform for communicators to share their experiences, discuss challenges, and identify opportunities for collaboration. By providing this platform for collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the DGCF help to enhance communication effectiveness at the district level.



# BUILDING BEATS AND NETWORKS:

## THE STORY OF TEBOGO TIMOTHY NKWIRA'S (TEBZA MASH) CREATIVE PATH

Story by: Charlotte Malatji

Meet Tebogo Timothy Nkwira, a 34-year-old Information Communication Technology (ICT) Technician at Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) by Day and a music Producer extraordinaire by night, from a small dusty village in Magakala a Maatlopo

Timothy's educational background spans Information Technology, with certifications including CompTIA A+, N+, S+, and MCSE in server and cloud infrastructure. He recently completed a Higher Certificate in Digital Marketing and plans to further his education in Financial Management.

Growing up in a music-loving Christian home, Timothy developed a deep connection to music from an early age. Influenced by gospel, hip-hop, and R&B, he began producing music in 2009. Over time, he founded TMB Beats Productionz, where he experimented with various genres like Afro, kwaito, amapiano, and house music. Timothy's Music production journey has not been without its challenges. In 2015, he received feedback from a House Duo that changed his approach to music. The Duo advised him to focus on proper engineering to make sure that his music was of high quality.

His job as an ICT technician entails maintaining the municipality's IT infrastructure. His day-to-day job requires him to be analytical, capable of addressing problem, and be able to perform effectively under pressure. However, his hobby requires him to be creative and open minded. As we learn more about Timothy's world, we discover that his love for music is not just a hobby, but a passion that drives him to create something meaningful. "I produce music because it's a way for me to connect with others, to share my emotion and experiences. Music has a way of transcending boundaries, and I hope that my music can do the same", he said.

Today, he produces music that blends Afro music, kwaito, dance hall, amapiano, and house music genres. His unique sound reflects his diverse musical influences and his ability to experiment different genres. Timothy's passion for music production is driven by his desire to connect with others and make a difference in people's lives. He hopes to see the artist he produces for become stars and his music to inspire and uplift others. He hopes to collaborate with artist, to experiment with new genres, and to push the boundaries of his creativity. His passion for music production is evident in his music and his dedication to his craft is inspiring. We are reminded that music has the power to inspire, to uplift and to connect us all.



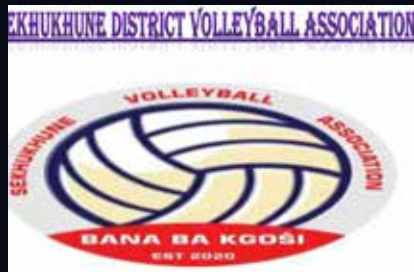
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## LIMPOPO VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 2025 OPENING GAMES

Story by: Charlotte Malatji

On the 25th of January 2025 at Ngoako Ramahlodi Sports Complex, Sekhukhune District Municipality, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Makhuduthamaga, and Sekhukhune TVET College Volleyball joined Limpopo teams which honoured the invitation and represented the people of Sekhukhune well in Capricorn District at this year's opening games.

Amongst others, the games are aimed at promoting sportsmanship within communities, deepening volleyball to grassroots levels through structured regional structures, and promoting employee and community wellness.

We wish to appreciate the role played by Limpopo Department of Sports, Arts and Culture under the leadership of MEC Jerry Maseko for turning things around and ensuring that sports take its rightful space in communities and supporting these games. We extend our words of appreciation to the Limpopo

Department of Health, the office of the MEC personnel who attended the games to observe health compliance, identify challenges, and see how to collaborate in ensuring injury free sporting events in the province.

In March the 1st, Sekhukhune District will host 2025 Limpopo Municipalities Volleyball opening wellness games in Makhuduthamaga, Peter Nchabeleng Sports Centre and we call on all Sekhukhune people to support sports in all corners of the society and introduce multiple sporting codes in an attempt to promote wellness and to move young and old from unnecessary activities.

"Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand." Nelson Mandela

30 Years of Sporting Freedom: breaking sports barriers

Zanele Khumalo

The Independent Municipal and Allied Trade Union (IMATU) is a politically independent trade union that organizes in the local government and allied sector. With 8 regional offices, IMATU represents over 70 000 members across all South African municipalities. Its purpose is to provide outstanding professional services to members through the protection and representation of their labour relation interests. IMATU comprise a committed team of well-motivated office bearers, shop stewards, and staff. This team ensures long-term membership growth and excellent service delivery. We are dedicated to serving our members and ensuring their interests are protected.

IMATU consider payment, at its discretion, of an ex-gratia or gift on the death of a member to their nominated beneficiary. We urge members to update their nominations to avoid disappointments to their loved ones. This simple step can save families from unnecessary stress and bureaucratic hurdles.

We also welcome the new appointments made by the Municipal Manager and look forward to seeing the vacant positions filled.

We condemn the recent sit-in by some workers that was not protected by unions. We also condemn the calling of media to issues that are currently being addressed through the Local Labour Forum. These actions can undermine the collective bargaining process and create unnecessary tension.

As we celebrate Human Rights month, we commemorate the sacrifices made to uphold human rights, we encourage workers to stand up for human rights, build peace, and promote social cohesion, especially in the workplace. Let us work together to create a more just and equitable society.

Our current leadership committee was elected for a period of 6 years, from 2021 to 2026. Unfortunately, we are currently without a treasurer.

NAME& SURNAME	PORTFOLIO	CONTACT	EMAIL
STEVEN NKABINDE	CHAIRPERSON	081 045 8380	kabinde@sekhukhune.gov.za
SAMUEL MORASWI	VICE CHAIR	072 047 0158	N/A
CASWELL SEREPONG	SECRETARY	073 645 0157	serepong@sekhukhune.gov.za
ZANELE VAZI	VICE SECRETARY	083 866 5477	vazin@sekhukhune.gov.za
JACOB MKHONDO	ADDITIONAL	072 015 7405	mkhondot@sekhukhune.gov.za
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JAN MAPHAKA	ADDITIONAL	079 022 3307	maphakaj@sekhukhune.gov.za



# SOLIDARITY FOREVER: SAMWU IN SEKHUKHUNE

Story by: Ratilwe Maja

The South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU) is the significant trade union that organizes and promotes the rights of workers in South African municipalities, such as those employed by water boards and associated services. Its main goal is to use collective bargaining agreements with the appropriate authorities to secure improved pay, benefits, and working conditions for these municipal employees. SAMWU was founded in 1987, as a coalition of trade unions coming together to establish the union, a militant, worker-controlled institution that is untainted by racism and sexism. All workers who are directly or indirectly engaged in the sectors are eligible to become members of the union.

SAMWU marks another chapter in Sekhukhune District as the union acknowledges every member of Sekhukhune for standing with the union through all its adversities. The Union's steadfast dedication to maintaining its relevance and influence today is marked by fighting mass terminations, unjust labour practices, and worker victimization while defending workers' rights. SAMWU has 427 members as of February 2025 within Sekhukhune District, with ongoing recruitments.

As part of SAMWU's unification and rebuilding, the union welcomed new Local Shop Stewards Council (LSSC) on November 11, 2024, from the local Labour Party. Lesiba Ramphisa, Thandi Masemula, Prince Mahlangu, Lucy Lethuba, Elvis

Mahlong, Patrick Aphane, and Kgetjepe Maredi will be representing the union at the Local Labour Forum (LLF). Essentially, the committees aim to be transparent in their operations, responsive to the demands of the members, and dedicated to furthering the interests of all employees. In addition, the union intends to make sure shop stewards are aware of their duties and accountability, which include appropriately representing workers, managing funds, providing frequent updates, and keeping members updated on the union's accomplishments.

Given that SAMWU is dedicated to helping its members both on and off the work, the union is thrilled to showcase the social benefits and resources—like SAMWUMED, SAMWU SACCO, and SAMWU Funeral Plan—that are accessible to members and their families.

The difficulties that Municipal Workers Retirement Fund (MWRF) members encounter have been observed by SAMWU with concern. Since then, members have received a notification from the provincial office advising them to write to the Pension Fund Adjudicators for mediation. Affected members may also provide their names of shop stewards so that the union committee can collaborate with them to address their issues.

The Sekhukhune Local shop Stewards Committee and Constituencies representation is as follows and in each COSATU local the union representatives as a district municipality will be those on the list below. The committee's term of office ends in 2029.



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LOCAL OFFICE BEARERS	
Chairperson	Kgetjepe Maredi
Deputy Chairperson	Bella Skosana
Secretary	Elvis Mahlong
<b>ELIAS MOTSOLEDI</b>	
Cde	Patrick Aphane
Cde	Kgetjepe Maredi
Cde	Elvis Mahlong
Cde	Lucy Lethuba
Cde	Thandi Masemula
Cde	Prince Mahlangu
<b>EPHRAIM MOGALE</b>	
Cde	Bella Skhosana
Cde	Lesiba Ramphisa
<b>MAKHUDUTHAMAGA</b>	
Cde	Semang Marishane
Cde	Mogomontlha Mogohloane
<b>FETHAKGOMO TUBATSE</b>	
Cde	Jabulani Maila
Cde	Mathale Ranta