



Private Bag X8611 Groblersdal 0470, 3 West Street Groblersdal 0470
Tel : (013) 262 7300, Fax: (013) 262 3688
E-Mail : sekinfo@sekhukhune.co.za

Office of the Executive Mayor

**STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS BY THE
EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY CLLR MINAH BAHULA HELD ON THE
9th JULY 2024 AT MASEMOLA STADIUM,
MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.**

Honourable Speaker, Cllr Kgwediebotse Chego,

Our Esteemed Maapara Nkwe,

Honourable Premier,

Honourable Members of the Executive Council,

Honourable members of the Provincial Legislature,

My Predecessors, Former Executive Mayors of
Sekhukhune District Municipality,

Honourable Mayors from the Local Municipalities,

Honourable Speakers and Chief Whips of Local Municipalities,

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Honourable Councillors,

Section 79 and Section 80 Committee Chairpersons,

The Secretary of the African National Congress in the Sekhukhune Region, Cde Tala Mathope,

Leaders of the Tripartite Alliance,

Leaders of Opposition parties,

Municipal Managers and Senior Managers,

Chairperson of Sekhukhune Development Agency Board,

Representatives of Organised Labour,

Our friends from the media fraternity,

Fellow residents of the Mighty Sekhukhune District,

Esteemed guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thobela.

Honourable speaker,

The State of the District Address is taking place Five weeks after the historic General National and Provincial Elections. The elections that culminated into the Government of National Unity (GNU) because there is no political party that got outright majority. GNU unanimously elected Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa as the State President of the Republic of South Africa. The President, last week, appointed the Cabinet (National Executive) for the 7th administration. We feel greatly honoured to be given four cabinet appointments as the District with Dr Aaron Motsoaledi and Dr Joe Phaahla appointed in the Department of Health respectively as the Minister and the Deputy Minister, Dr Dickson Masemola as the Deputy Minister of COGTA, and Mr Stan Mathabatha as the Deputy Minister of Land reform.

A month after the historic election of Dr Phophi Ramathuba as the **first Female Premier of Limpopo Province**. Ya eta ke e tshadi pele e nwa maswi. Mmago Ngwana O swara Thipa ka Bogaleng. The Premier has

also appointed two of our provincial deployees as Members of the Executive Council (MEC), **Ms Dieketseng Mashego and Mr Jerry Maseko in the Department of Health and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture respectively.**

We are optimistic that they will fly the flag of the district very high. There is nothing so **NOBLE and FULFILLING than to serve the people.** We wish them all the best in their new areas of responsibilities as the ambassadors of the district.

Honourable Speaker,

On Mandela Month

The State of the District Address is taking place during the Mandela Month. President Nelson Mandela was not only a great South African leader but an international icon. He was an inspirational leader who devoted his entire life to fight for peace, justice, and reconciliation. Madiba as he was affectionately known will be remembered for his struggle and leadership for freedom, equality, truth, love, peace and justice. **He spent 27 years in prison but did not get out a bitter man.** He

sacrificed his own life for the benefit of the country and the world, that is true leadership.

In concluding his 1964 Rivonia Trial speech, he had this to say (Open quote) “During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die” (close quote).

We need the wisdom, courage, love, resilience, reconciliation, and most of all the bravery of President Mandela to confront the service delivery challenges. We have now entered the Government of National Unity Era. It is no longer about “**all or nothing mentality**”. We are obliged to work together to build democratic and free society as prophesised by Madiba. May His Soul Continue to Rest in Peace.

Honourable Speaker,

On Electricity Intervention

Last year, when we presented the State of the District Address, the country was going through electricity crisis. Today, it is a different ball game altogether. The country is decisively dealing with the electricity crisis in line with **the commitment that the President made during the 2023 SONA**. The President established **the Ministry of Electricity** and **appointed Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa as its first Minister in March 2023**, responsible for overseeing all aspects of the government's response to the ongoing electricity crisis. We are reaping the rewards for the intervention as the country today is celebrating **104 days of uninterrupted electricity supply**. We are inspired as a district municipality experiencing water provision challenges that we will eventually overcome the challenge.

Honourable Speaker

Today, we are going to give a detailed account of the state of the district since the 2023 State of the District Address. The State President Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa presented his State of The Nation Address

on the 8th February and two weeks later on the 29th February 2024 the former Premier of Limpopo Honourable Chupu Mathabatha presented his State of the Province Address. The two addresses endeavoured to appraise the public on the work done by government since the previous addresses, inform our constituency on the challenges, mitigating plans and the successes in the implementation of our annual plans, and lastly to highlight the plans and the projects for the year ahead of us. We are constitutionally compelled to transparently account to the communities on the work of government.

Honourable speaker, Corporate Services

We committed ourselves last year that we will fill all the senior managers positions. We are reporting to this extra special council that **all senior manager's positions are filled**. The municipality appointed **Municipal Manager Mr Meshack Mahlagaume Kgwale**, who started his employment on the **1st of October 2023** and the **Director of Community Services Ms Khomotso Robinson** from the **1st May 2024**. Every department in

the municipality has got a director. We have no reason to be complacent in taking strategic decisions and providing sound, efficient, effective, transparent and accountable administration.

As the municipality we are not only providing employment but also takes skills development very much seriously. Furthermore, to lift the skills based and improve human resource capacity in the District Municipality, **about 31 bursaries were awarded to our employees.** Recognition of Prior Learning was implemented to **107 employees in plumbing and electrical works.** The same 107 employees were also taken for trade testing in plumbing and electrical works and **104 passed the competency test and were declared qualified artisans.**

Due to the excellent work implemented by the District Municipality in the arena of skills revolution, the Chinese Culture and International Education Exchange Centre (CCIEEC) in partnership with Local Government Sector

Education and Training Authority (LGSETA) has identified Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) for the implementation of the International Support Programme to address key service delivery improvements through skills development. This initiative will benefit at least **10 unemployed youth in the District, 10 SMMEs (Small Medium and Micro Enterprises) and 10 officials** of the District Municipality.

Skills development in the district received a major boost from the Department of Higher Education and Training when the former Minister Dr Blade Nzimande formerly open the **Sekhukhune Skills Development Centre in Aquaville, Groblersdal on the 3rd May 2024**. The centre is going to empower the people of Sekhukhune with requisite skills to fight the triple challenges of unemployment, inequality, and poverty through education.

The municipality collaborated with SALGA jointly with South African Skills Institute (SASI) for the Graduate

Work Still Learning which is designed to uplift the living conditions of the most vulnerable in society. The municipality **absorbed 70 graduates for the period of two years in different fields** who are going to be equipped with work experience as they improve their technical skills, and soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving in the modern workplace.

Honourable Speaker, 100 Days in Office

We had a hectic period since the 17th November 2023 Inauguration Council. We have been on the road meeting with all different sectors of the Sekhukhune community. We made commitment on the 17th November 2023 during the inauguration speech that we are going to take the office of the Executive Mayor **out of the office to the community**. We should be part of the community. We attended to the plight of the ultra-destitute families, engaged with the Disadvantaged Kids and Caretakers of their Centres, Traditional Leaders, Dikgošigadi, and Military Veterans, and met with the Older Persons in almost every corner of the district. The following are the

activities of the Executive Mayor in her first 100 days in office:-

NAME OF EVENT	DATE	VENUE/MUNICIPALITY	IMPACT/EFFECT
Executive Mayor's Inauguration	17 November 2023	Moses Mabotha Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality	The Event had an impact to the Sekhukhune Region Residents.
Support to Ward committees' workshop.	23 November 2023	Boeketlong Lodge, Conference Hall Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality	Sekhukhune Region Cllrs
Executive Mayor's Urgent Intervention within the FTLM Ward 33 and 36	23 rd November 2023	Ward 33 and 26 Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.	Two destitute families
Tafelkop Bridge inspection	27 November 2023	Tafelkop Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality	Safety of Sekhukhune Motorists
First Quarter Mayoral Performance Lekgotla	28 November 2023	The Ranch Hotel	Performance review for the SDM
Executive Mayor's engagement with the DWS Minister and His Two Deputies and the Community of Moutse	01 December 2023	SDM Municipal Chamber Philadelphia Sports Ground Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality	Ministerial intervention on Water Challenges in the District. To give an investigation report on DWS Moutse intervention
16 Days of Activism March/Walk	8 December 2023	Jane Furse Comprehensive School. Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality.	Activists and Community of Sekhukhune.

Disability Rights Celebration month	11 December 2023	Lihle Care Centre Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.	Disadvantaged Kids and Caretakers of the Centre.
IDP Representative Forum	13 th December 2023	Ga-Nkwana. Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipal Council Chamber. Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.	IDP Processes
Festive Season Road Safety Campaign	14 th December 2023	Apel Cross, Ga- Masemola ward 29 Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality	Motorists
Handover of Repairs and Maintenance Water Reticulation network.	20 th December 2023	Borderspruit, ga Tisane Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality.	Tisane and ga Marishane Communities
Executive Mayor's Introductory Meeting with Traditional Leaders and Military Veterans	21 st December 2023	Kgaola Mafiri Building. Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality	Christmas Lunch 12
Executive Mayor's Food Parcel Program	24 th December 2023	Mbuzini Agricultural Office Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality	Child Headed Families
Executive Mayor Celebrates Christmas with Bundles of Joy (Christmas Babies)	25 th December 2023	Jane Furse, Groblesrdal, Matlala & Philadelphia Hospitals	Families of the New Born Babies
Executive Mayor welcomes New year babies	01 January 2024	Dilokong and Mecklenberg Hospital	Families of the New Born Babies
Executive Mayor's Blanket Distribution Program for older persons.	05 th January 2024	Tau Kgaphola Community Hall, Mphanama. Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.	Over a thousand older persons

NSFAS Application Roadshow 2024	22 nd - 31 st January 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sehlaku Sec. School 2. Fetakgomo Sec. School 3. Kgaola Mafiri Hall 4. Mashabela Primary School 5. Motetema Youth centre 6. Abraham Serote S. School 7. Pink Hall 8. Monsterlus Stadium 9. Marble Hall Civic Hall 10. Tlhako Sec. School <p>All Local Municipalities of Sekhukhune Region.</p>	Matriculants and the Youth
Executive Mayor addresses her first District AIDS Council	25 th January 2024	<p>Sekhukhune District Municipal Chamber.</p> <p>Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality.</p>	People living with HIV and Aids and the entire Sekhukhune Community
Executive Mayor joins Minister Bheki Cele and Justice and Constitutional Minister Ronald Lamola	31 st January 2024	<p>Groblersdal Court</p> <p>Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality.</p>	Anti Racism Campaign to the entire Sekhukhune community
Executive Mayor invites All Sekhukhune Learner contractors	09 February 2024	<p>Sekhukhune Municipal Council Chamber</p> <p>Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality</p>	Sekhukhune Business community
Executive Mayor Meets with IWS employees	04 March 2024	<p>Marble Hall Town, Community Hall</p> <p>Ephriam Mogale Sekhukhune District Council Chamber</p> <p>Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Makhuduthamaga Council Chamber</p>	SDM Employees

		Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Moses Mabotha Civic Hall Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality	
--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

The Executive Mayor in her commitment to decentralise her office work has requested the locals to allocate her satellite offices in their municipalities. Makhuduthamaga local municipality has allocated her an office space at Kgaola Mafiri Municipal Building, Fetakgomo Tubatse local municipality at the Fetakgomo Tubatse Apel Satellite Offices, and on the verge of identifying and acquiring the satellite office at Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality.

Honourable Speaker,

Planning & Economic Development

We made commitments last year to resuscitate Sekhukhune Development Agency by giving it a financial and human resource support. In the same vein we committed to support the Planning and Economic Development department for effective local economic development. The department has also been mandated

to coordinate programmes that aim to capacitate entrepreneurs, SMMEs to access market and enhance the economic growth of the district and reduce unemployment. Sekhukhune District Municipality in partnership with SEDA, SDA, Sekhukhune TVET College Centre for Entrepreneurship as well as 4 local municipalities participated at the **2024 Africa Travel Indaba (ATI)** in Durban from the 14 May 2024 to 16 May 2024 to **support 18 Tourism product owners under Sekhukhune District Tourism Association (SDTA)**. African Treasures, Boeketlong Lodge, Pitsi Crafters, Lesolo Lodge, BKT Lodge, Sir Paul Guesthouse, Travel with Mvula, Baroka Fashion, Aschor Travels, Esibayeni Guesthouse, Thaba Moshate, Pretty Travels, Sekhukhune Lodge, Mohlaletse Guesthouse, Mokatani Fashion Design, Naumi, Lansi's Biltong and Neck Creations.

Africa Travel Indaba and Trade Show is an iconic African leisure trade show, owned by South African Tourism, with specific objective of creating market access for the country's vast array of African leisure tourism products.

The event gave a much-needed exposure to the local SMMEs in Tourism with various opportunities and benefit of an open conversation about the businesses market and its efficacy. The expo created and shared an interest in increasing employment and creating appropriate commitments by potential employers in the district and beyond. **Drawing the leaf from the Africa Travel Indaba, Sekhukhune District Municipality is going to host its First Annual Tourism Indaba to expose the district diversified culture and heritage to national and international market.**

The district has got a rich historical and the cultural heritage site that can be used **to boost our local tourism economy**. We have the Manche Masemola Heritage site at ga Marishane, Tjate Provincial Heritage Site and Kgoshi Mampuru Heritage Site at Mamone to name but few. We resolved to **put visible signage boards** so that the heritage sites can be easily located. The municipality has also resolved to **fence Tjate Heritage Site**. The key objective is to secure and preserve the heritage site having realised that there is encroachment of residential

sites into the heritage site and enhance a conducive environment for promotion of tourism in the district. We want to increase the total number of tourists entering the district, and the average amount of money spent by each tourist as articulated by our 2024/2025 IDP.

Honourable Speaker,

Sekhukhune District Municipality has during 2022/2023 Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) adjustment period refined Cotton farmers support through local cotton spinner project to Farmers Support Project. This was refined to accommodate a request by Thakadu Tsa Naga Farmers Association. Thakadu Tsa Naga Farmers Association has been engaging the Municipality for several years requesting support to its members. The association is one of the farmers associations in the district representing more than 500 farmers.

SDM has reviewed its Local Economic Development Strategy (LED) in 2019, Agricultural development and

Agro-processing became one of our strategic interventions. The objective of this strategic intervention is to add value to agricultural activities through establishing Agri-Park linkages, local manufacturing, and processing plants which utilise local raw materials and resources as primary inputs. To move towards implementation of the strategic intervention the district together with its social partners such as the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development support primary production to enhance capacity for secondary agriculture.

It is against the above background that the Municipality is currently **fencing the vegetable fields of Thakadu Tsa Naga Farmers Association to secure them from encroachment by goats and other animals**. Reduction or mitigation of a risk of their produce been eaten by animals will enhance their productivity. This will go a long way in making the farmers sustainable and increase the probability of job creation and sustenance.

The former Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Honourable Thoko Didiza formerly handed over **Vleeschboom Farmer Support Production Unit (Agri-Park) on the 21st April 2024**. The unit is designed to support farmers and grow rural economies. The unit will **provide production inputs support** to the local farmers in the form of fertiliser, and seeds. The unit will also provide **mechanisation support** in the form of tractors and agricultural implements. **Human Resource support**, currently the Sekhukhune District Municipality has hired eight EPWP workers and placed them at the unit to perform the general work for the FPSU.

The flagship Fetakgomo Tubatse Special Economic Zone (FTSEZ) is well on track. The FTSEZ is a key economic programme of the Limpopo Development **Plan (LDP) designed to stimulate and propel industrialization, economic growth, and job creation**. The SEZ is strategically located in the industrial hub of the Steelpoort area, in-between 2 huge mining establishments, the Samancor smelter and the Lion Ferrochrome smelter,

which are strategic landmarks for the establishment of the SEZ. Currently, **the take-off, of the SEZ is well on track as the fencing contractor has been appointed and introduced.**

We recognise mining as the main economic driver of our developing district. The collaboration between Government, Mines and the Community will change the socio-economic situation of the district for the better. The collaboration has yielded a **127 million Malekane Steelbrigde Flagship Project** which is currently under construction. R37 road is now a world-class road, and we are looking forward to the reconstruction of R555 in the near future.

The Executive Mayor is going **to establish a Mining Advisory Committee** to deal specifically with mining related issues like the establishment of Mining Academy, Social labour plans (SLP) and the empowerment of SMMEs.

Honourable Speaker,

On Finance,

We committed ourselves to improve on our financial operations, practices, planning and management. We have always been in the news for wrong reasons, but we are happy to announce that Sekhukhune District Municipality has fundamentally improved on its financial systems. We are reporting an incident free financial year.

The municipality is still on **Qualified Audit Opinion** but there is a tremendous improvement in the administration and management of the municipal finances. The municipality is currently **utilising its internal capacity to do the Annual Financial Statements** in compliance with the National Treasury Regulations.

The municipality is improving on MIG spending. We have progressed from returning the money back to Treasury to **86% spending in 2023/2024 financial year compared to the 46% in 2022/2023 financial year**. We are moving

in the right direction. This can be attributed to efficiency in our financial planning that leads to the timely appointment of the service providers.

The financial quarterly report is regularly submitted to **All Council Structures**, the Management meetings, Mayoral Committees, Section 79 Committees, Council Meetings, Provincial Treasury and COGHSTA Limpopo. We are subjecting our finances to all statutory structures because we want to improve our financial operations. We also endeavour to improve on our revenue generation.

As part of the revenue enhancement strategy the municipality resolved to **migrate from the conventional water metering system to the pre-paid smart system**. Currently, the municipality has initiated processes of conversion from the current conventional system of water metering to a smart pre-paid metering system that will address amongst other issues relating to non-payment of accounts, revenue collection and water leakages. Procurement processes already initiated with

implementation aimed to start in the second quarter of the 2024/25 financial year.

Honourable Speaker,

On Community Services

The municipality is mandated to render municipal environmental health services, emergency services and disaster management services. Environmental Health is the public health field that monitors and addresses those physical, chemical, and biological factors that we might not have direct control over but can impact our health anyway. We don't always see it, but our environment is shaping our health every moment of every day. The services that fall under municipal health includes food safety control, Surveillance and prevention of communicable diseases, environment pollution, waste management, and awareness campaign of communicable diseases. The municipality conducted the following activities: -

- Launching Section 56 Notices to ensure compliance in health and hygiene. 186 notices were issued in

four months due to non-compliance. Compliance has since then improved, especially the Spaza Shops.

- Establishing local waste fora, which assist in waste reduction, re-use and recycling. Recycled waste is collected from schools, businesses and households.
- Creating awareness on wetland management in Sehlakwane, where four children sustained burnt injuries and livestock killed, and went as far as conducting studies on burnt wetland.
- Training all National School Nutrition Program food handlers on food safety, to ensure that learners are protected from food related diseases.

The district municipality has also resuscitated the District AIDS Council. The council which is chaired by the Executive Mayor is now fully functional and takes the HIV and AIDS campaigns in the district forward. The District Aids Council was re-launched on the 26th June 2024 at Boeketlong Lodge. All civil society organisations operating in the Health sector are part of the council. We encourage every citizen of the district to know their HIV and AIDS status.

Honourable Speaker,

On Infrastructure and Water Services

Sekhukhune District Municipality is both a **Water Services Authority and a Water Services Provider** in accordance with its powers and functions in terms of the Water Services Act, Act 108 of 1997. This makes its primary function in terms of service delivery to be that of the provision of water. The municipality has got 811 villages which are supplied with water from water supply schemes in the district. The Municipality is currently providing full water services in the main towns of **Burgersfort, Marble Hall, Groblersdal, Steelpoort and Ohrigstad**. The most villages in the vast rural areas are being provided with ground water as alternative sources and water tankers where necessary.

There are two main dams in the district, Flag Boshielo Dam and De Hoop Dam with the third dam Loskop Dam bordering Mpumalanga Province and Limpopo Province. The water supply schemes in the district draws water

from the dams. The municipality is currently dealing with all identified problems in the schemes which are mainly capacity related.

- Groblersdal to Luckau Bulk Water Pipeline is currently being upgraded including the capacity of the water treatment plant.
- Moutse West & East Bulk Water Supply Scheme was delayed by the continuous legal disputes regarding the professional fees between the Municipality and the Consulting Engineers. The dispute has since been amicably resolved and the DWS will continue with the construction project.
- Lebalelo Bulk Water Supply Scheme depends on Mooihoek Water Treatment Works as the water source at current capacity of 12MI/d (12 Megalitres per day) and planned to be upgraded to 24MI/d.
- Flag Boshielo Bulk Water Supply Scheme with a capacity of 8 mega litres per day (MI/d) and it is currently being upgraded to 16MI/d.
- Nebo Plateau Bulk Water Supply Scheme, Malekana to Jane Furse Bulk Water Supply is currently under

commissioning to perform conditional assessment for the pipelines that were constructed in 2011.

The municipality has noted that most of its schemes have got problems that needs long term solutions. It has resorted to the **drilling of boreholes as a mid-term solution and the provision of water through water tinkering system as a short-term solution**. The municipality has **recently drilled and equipped 44 boreholes** for the whole Sekhukhune district.

The municipality has recently **handed over seven completed boreholes water projects**: Ga Ratau Village in Collaboration with Nkwe Platinum Mine, Borderspruit, Ramaphosa, Moteti. Phucukane, Balotjaneng in Collaboration with Modikwa Mine, and Dipakapakeng.

The municipality has completed additional boreholes that are fully operational but have not been formally handed over at Mabose, Malaeneng, Talane, Mathulastands, Nkosini, Dindela (90%), Monsterlus B (95%), Kgapamadi, Makaepa, Mgababa (Low Yield), Rathoke, Matlala

Ramoshebo, Moganyaka, Mohlalaotwane, Moeding, Mogalatsane, Dichoeung, Madibong and 4 boreholes in Stoking. Leeufontein borehole is at 70%, pipping and testing are completed and is expected to be completed this week.

The district municipality made a commitment to provide all traditional authorities with well-equipped boreholes. On the 15th May 2024, the municipality launched the programme by handing over service providers **to the Four Traditional Authorities**, Kgoshi Matlala-Dichoueng, Kgoshi Matlala-Rahlagane, Kgoshi Kekana-Rathoke, and Kgoshi Matlala-Ramoshebo. Kgoshi Matlala-Rakgwadi and Inkosi Mahlangu-Mphezulu were also awarded. This week the municipality is going to hand over to Kgoshi Phaahla, Kgoshi Tisane, Kgoshigadi Kgoloko Morwamoche, Kgoshigadi Seopela, Kgoshi Nchabeleng (Marumo 'a Kanyane), Kgoshi Masha, Kgoshi Malekana, Kgoshigadi Phasha, Kgoshigadi Masemola, and Kgoshigadi Mashabela. All 81 traditional authorities are going to be given the boreholes.

The Executive Mayor made a bold commitment to change the water shortage dynamics of the district on the 17th November 2024. The office initiated **four engagements sessions** with the office of the Minister of the Department of Water services (DWS) to find a lasting water solution in the district.

We undertook to allocate some operation and maintenance functions to the local municipalities. We signed the first **Memorandum of understanding** with Makhuduthamaga local municipality. The MOU benefitted Makhuduthamaga communities as captured in the following table below.

No.	Project Description	Progress	Challenges	Beneficiaries
1	Repair and maintenance of water reticulation at Mamone.	The project has reached 95% completion.	Relations between Contractor and Pedi Mamone traditional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Matsoke section- Mamone centre section

		<p>NB. The work is 100% complete at Matsoke, Mamone centre, Manyaka section and Tanzania section and taps have running water already.</p>	<p>council are not in a good condition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tanzania section - Mohlala Majaneng section - Kgomogoroga section - Mogodumo section
2	<p>Repair and maintenance of water reticulation at Masemola Village.</p>	<p>The project has reached the practical completion.</p>	<p>The water is class 3 and need purification plant which will be completed</p>	<p>Mamplolo section.</p>

			by 30 September 2024.	
3	Repair and maintenance of water reticulation Ga-Marishane	The Project is complete and handed over to the community in December 2023.	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maweseleng Section. - Seruleng section - Makorobishane section. - Ntswaneng section. - Bothaspruit section.
4	Repair and maintenance of water reticulation at Ntoane	The project is at practical completion stage awaiting Eskom to	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Malaka village - Ntwane village - Molepane village.

		install transformer. Application has been made and invoice paid.		
--	--	------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

All these projects can be handed over to the respective communities by end of the first quarter ending 30 September 2024.

The MOU with the remaining three local municipalities is still under legal consideration.

On Sanitation the municipality managed to **build 7858 VIP toilets for the 2022/23 financial year**, and for the **2024/25 financial year we are going to build 1250 VIP toilets** distributed as follows: In **Ephraim Mogale 250** units to be constructed, while in **Makhuduthamaga 350** units to be constructed, **Fetakgomo-Tubatse 400** units to be constructed and in **Elias Motsoaledi 350** units to

be constructed. The procurement processes is at an a

No.	Project Number	Project Description.	Scope of works
1.	LIM473/ Repair- Mamone/ 23/24/03 2	Repair and Maintenance of the water reticulation network at Mamone village(Turn key)	<p>The scope of work entails but not limited to the implementation of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Re-drilling and equipping of 1 x borehole (from 100m to 150m and supply and installation of 11kw submersible pump). ✓ Conduct a 24-hour Pump Test on all boreholes(Capacity) ✓ Construction of an approximately 2.5km reticulation line from the reservoir. ✓ Supply and Installation on 70kl elevated steel stand

advanced level and the service provider will be handed

			✓ Refurbishment of 3.5km of existing reticulation network.
2.	LIM473/ Repair and Main- Masemol a/23/24/0 27	Repair and Maintenance of the water reticulation network at Ga- Masemola(Mampholo (Turnkey)	<p>The scope of work entails but not limited to the implementation of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Equipping of borehole ✓ Construction of a concrete pump house ✓ Construction of 4.5km reticulation ✓ Construction of 3m elevated steel stand ✓ Supply and install 6x10kl storage tanks ✓ Supply and installation of a 7,5kw diesel generator

			<p>Challenges: Additional costs for Water Purification Plant at Mampholo Village</p> <p>The borehole was drilled and found to have sufficient water and the water quality was tested not to be suitable for human consumption. The water need to be treated before distributed for consumption. Since the Water treatment plant was not part of the Original scope, additional funds are required to build and equip the water treatment plant on the project.</p>
3	LIM473/ Repair and Main- Marishan e/23/24/0 28	Repair and Maintenanc e of the water reticulation network at Ga-	<p>The scope of work entails but is not limited to the implementation of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintenance of 120 Kl steel tank ✓ Refurbishment of pump and reticulation lines: 2960m 63mm uPVC pipeline.

		Marishane (Turnkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Refurbishment of 13 communal stand pipes ✓ Borehole maintenance ✓ Maintenance of manholes and other ancillaries
4	Lim473/R Main- Ntoane/2 3/24/035 Ph1	Repair and Maintenance of the water reticulation network at Ntoane village (Turnkey) Phase 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The scope of work entails the implementation of the following: ✓ Re-drilling, testing, and equipping of an existing borehole(150m) ✓ Refurbishment of existing pump house x 1 ✓ Installation of 1x transformers (including application to Eskom). The transformer must be aligned with the pump requirements. ✓ Construction of 3.5km rising main from Ntoane to Ga Malaka

			✓ Installation of water truck fill point x 1.
--	--	--	--------------------------------------------------

over to the local municipalities. Community cemeteries should be accommodated

Honourable Speaker,

SALGA Awards

All four local municipalities in the district got unqualified audit opinions. SALGA recognised their good audit performance with awards during the 19th March 2024 Provincial SALGA Awards in Polokwane.

Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality.

- ❖ Achieving Unqualified Audit Opinion.
- ❖ 100% Spending on Municipal Infrastructure Grant.
- ❖ Receiving Additional MIG Allocation.

Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality.

- ❖ Sustaining Unqualified Audit Opinion.
- ❖ 100% Spending on Municipal Infrastructure Grant.
- ❖ Receiving Additional MIG Allocation.

Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality.

- ❖ Sustaining Unqualified Audit Opinion.
- ❖ 100% Spending on Municipal Infrastructure Grant.
- ❖ Receiving Additional MIG Allocation.

Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality.

- ❖ Sustaining Unqualified Audit Opinion.
- ❖ 100% Spending on Municipal Infrastructure Grant.
- ❖ Receiving Additional MIG Allocation.

Honourable Speaker,

We made a commitment on the 17th November 2023 to change the negative narrative of the municipality. We are now reporting that today is better than yesterday. There is a political and administrative stability in the municipality that resulted in the following achievements: -

- ✚ The appointment of the Municipal Manager is a greater achievement to the municipality as the post has been advertised and re-advertised many times. Administratively the municipality became stable, and the appointment of service providers unfolded unabated.
- ✚ Appointment of the contractors for the key projects. The contractors for Luckau Phase 1 and Moutse Phase 1 are on site while the contractor of Luckau Phase 2 have just been appointed.
- ✚ The contractors for Moutse Phase 2 are on the verge of being appointed.
- ✚ The Loskop Bulk Pipeline is progressing well to deliver water to the area of Moutse East and anticipates completion by December 2024.
- ✚ Appointment of panel of consultants has been done.
- ✚ Appointment of term contracts for the chemicals.
- ✚ Maintenance of the sewer system at Marble-Hall, Ephraim Mogale. There was a permanent complain from Marble-Hall residents about the stench coming out of the sewer. The matter is being attended to. We must refrain from the tendency of rendering

municipal services on the instruction of the court order.

- + Appointment of Contractors for Brooklyn Water Supply. The project will benefit number of villages in Phokwane.

- + There is general compliance on the turnaround time for minor repairs and maintenance. Damaged pipes are timely replaced, and water spillage has minimised.

Honourable Speaker

In Closing, allow me to pay tribute to sons and daughters of the district who lost their lives during the period under review, from the 2023 State of the District Address to date:

1. Mme Lydia Komape-Ngwenya who departed this world on the 11th October 2023. Mam Lydia as she was affectionately known dedicated her entire life in the service of the people. She served the people of South Africa as a Member of Parliament from 1994 to 2009 and as a Member of Limpopo Provincial

Legislature from 2009 to 2019. Her selfless contribution was recognized in March 2009, when the then President Kgalema Motlanthe awarded her with the Order of Luthuli in Bronze for her commitment to workers' rights, the empowerment of rural women and the liberation of our people.

2. Kgoshigadi Mogashoa of the Mogashoa Traditional Authority who was laid to rest on the 19th August 2023.
3. Kgoshi Maphopha of the Maphopha Traditional Authority was laid to rest on the 2nd December 2023.
4. Kgoshi Komane from ga Motshana was laid to rest on the 16th December 2023.
5. The victims of the Strydom Tunnel car accident, three from the Mokwana Family and one from the Tshehla family in Ramogwerane who were buried on the 29th March 2024 and the other one in Tafelkop who was buried on the 28th March 2024.
6. The Makunyane and Mosotho from Maserumule Park and Riverside villages respectively in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality. The Makunyane Family lost both parents, and the

Mosotho family lost the two brothers on the 31st March 2024 in a tragic car collision around Nebo area. They were all laid to rest on the 6th April 2024.

7. The 8 victims of the R555 road accident that happened on the 18th April 2024 in the Steelpoort area.

8. Mma Bishop Mankwele Nancy Lekwatsipa of the St John church at Masanteng village, from Matlala Ramoshebo who was laid to rest on the 19th May 2024.

9. Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality has unfortunately lost three Councillors during the period:-

9.1. EFF PR Councillor J Mpe who departed this world on the 29th June 2023.

9.2. Cllr M F Mello of Ward 1 who departed this world on the 15th August 2023.

9.3. EFF PR Councillor J M Moela who departed this world on the 3rd December 2023.

May Their Soul Continue to Rest in Peace.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker,

Executive Mayor's Word of Appreciation

- The African National Congress, My Political Party, for giving me an opportunity to lead the District Municipality.
- Honourable Speaker of the Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Kgwediyebotse Chego, you are doing a great job as the chairperson of Council.
- Former Chief Whip of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Honourable Member of Limpopo Provincial Legislature Honourable Choris Phokane, you did a great job as the leader of the multiparty caucus with distinction. The District Whipery under your leadership prevailed over all challenging issues and never collapsed because of diverging political positions.
- Mayoral Committee members for providing necessary departmental support. The actual work of the Mayor is vested in your hands.
- The Municipal Manager Ntate Mahlagaume Meshack "Dimo" Kgware. When the municipality employed you last year in October the situation was

very bleak. The situation is better today because of your professional and transformative leadership.

- The former Executive Mayors, Dr Dickson Namane Masemola, Mr David Mogobo Magabe, Mr Keamotseng Stan Ramaila, Ms Lata Julia Mathebe, and Ms Maleke Mokganyetji. You laid a solid foundation in the municipality.
- The Erstwhile Mayors of the Local Municipalities, Posthumously, Kgaola Mafiri, Kwaito Leope, and Lekola Fanny. Mr Ralepane Mammekwa, Mr Colman Marota, Mr Mahlake Nkosi, Mr Choris Phokane, Ms Kukie Sefala, Ms Naomi Phala, Ms Queen Mkhabela, Mr Alfred Matlala, Mr Lionel Seloane, Ms Wendy Matemane, Ms Yvonne Makola, Ms Bella Kupa, Mr Molaodi Mothogoane, and Ms Rebecca Lentsoane.
- The Staff in the Office of the Executive Mayor as led by the Chief of Staff, Mr Sekokobale Ignitius Mampuru.
- The Traditional Leaders, Spiritual Leaders, and Traditional Healers for their respective contributions.

I want to personally thank the people of Sekhukhune for their unwavering support. Government programmes and services belong to you.

Community Weeee!!!

I thank you.