



LEPHALALE  
MUNICIPALITY

*A vibrant City and the Energy Hub*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: January - March 2025

# NEWS

## JANUARY

# MAYOR JOINS SEARCH PARTY FOR MISSING CHILD

05 JANUARY 2025

The Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, participated in the search effort for the missing child who was swept away by the Phalala River on January 1, 2025, in Ga-Seleka village on January 5.

The Mayor gathered with numerous community members from Seleka at the banks of the Phalala River, accompanied by Kgosi Seleka, Ward 12 Cllr Abel Mothoni, and Archbishops Abraham Mabula and Issac Motsuki.

The Mayor and his entourage began the day by visiting the Maropola family in Ga-Seleka village, where a young boy has went missing after being swept away with a friend by the Phalala River on January 1, 2025.

In a message of support to the two families, Archbishop Abraham Mabula referenced 1 Thessalonians 5v15-17, stating, "Ensure that no one retaliates with harm, but constantly aim to do good for one another and for all people."

The entourage also met with the Lefawane family in Ga-Seleka, where a young boy tragically drowned after being carried off by the Phalala river earlier this year.

The Mayor stated that "we come to express our condolences to the family and to extend the municipality's deepest respect and sympathy."

He also assured the family that the municipality would help them in any way possible during their time of need.





# MAYOR PAYS VISIT TO MONARE FAMILY

06 JANUARY 2025

The Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle on 6 January visited the Monare family in Shongoane 2 village where a young boy lost his life after being swept away by the Phalala River earlier this year.

The visit by the Mayor who was accompanied by Ward 6, Cllr Marcus Makgae, Ward 7, Cllr Linda Mosupye and Cllr Eksina Seepe and Kgosi Seleka together with Kgosi Shongoane was to offer condolences and deepest sympathy to the family.

The family appreciated with gratitude the efforts by the Municipality in their time of need.

Jan Monare who was a learner at Ditheko Primary School and his friend Thapelo Maropola were swept away by the Phalala River on 1 January 2025.

The body of 11 year old Jan, was retrieved from the river while the search for Thapelo continues.

The entourage began with a courtesy visit to Kgosi Shongoane Royal House.



## MAYOR MEETS WITH DISASTER MANAGEMENT TEAM

14 JANUARY 2025

The Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality met with the disaster management team at Thabo Mbeki Hall, one of the evacuation centres, on 14 January

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain a clear and concise evaluation from the team regarding the ongoing floods caused by the persistent rainfall affecting different areas of Lephalale. The Local Municipality has set up evacuation centres to provide shelter for residents affected by the floods.

At least 136 families from Thabo Mbeki township have been impacted. The evacuation centres designated for the affected families are Shongoane Community Hall, Mokuruanyane Multipurpose Center, and Thabo Mbeki Hall

The Disaster Management team includes officials from the Municipality, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Social

Development Department, and Ward 5 Councillor Louisa Shongwe. Disaster Management Officials are actively monitoring the situation. The community will be updated about Evacuation Centers in case of flooding in other regions.

After the assessment meeting with the Disaster Management team, the Mayor took the opportunity to address the families affected by the floods, assuring them of the Municipality's dedication to support and assist them

He emphasized the municipality's commitment to making certain that the evacuation centers housing the displaced individuals provide adequate security and a higher quality of living, guaranteeing sufficient food supplies, sanitation facilities, water, and beds with blankets.

He also paid a visit to Mrs. Kgabo Senona's family in Tshelammake, who are also impacted by the flooding.





# MONITORING OF RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS AND HANDOVER OF PROJECTS CONTRACTORS TO COMMUNITIES



15 JANUARY 2025

The Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, alongside the Chief Whip of Council, Cllr Joseph Machaba, and Cllrs JD Nel and Sybil Nieuwoudt, visited Ditheku Primary School in the Marapong Township to oversee the reopening of schools, on 15 January 2025.

The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the preparedness of the primary school and to identify solutions to the issues that schools

typically encounter at the beginning of the academic year.

During their visit, the group took the opportunity to introduce the contractor appointed for Marapong bulk water supply project.

The contractor's introduction has been received positively by the Marapong community. The project is expected to be completed within a ten months period, with the actual construction starting in early February.

# NELSONSKOP PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECT HANDOVER

17 JANUARY 2025

Deputy Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Ms Phumzile McGina together with the Limpopo MEC for Education, Ms. Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, officially opened a modern school hall and four fully equipped classrooms at Nelsonskop Primary School on January 17, 2025.

This initiative, undertaken by Grootegeluk Coal Mine and managed by Exxaro, is in line with Exxaro's strategy for sustainable development and positive impact, as it helps create an environment that supports effective teaching and learning in early education, thus ensuring a brighter future for our children.

The distinguished gathering included the executive Mayor of the Waterberg District Municipality, Cllr Jack Maeko, the Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr Aaron Mokgethe, municipal councillors, EXXARO General Manager, officials, representatives

from the Mineral and Energy Department, and district and circuit officials from the Department of Education.

During the ceremony, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, the Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, stated that initiatives like these should always be embraced, particularly when they reflect the District Development Model aimed at speeding up, aligning, and integrating service delivery under a unified development strategy.

The newly constructed school hall, which includes 320 chairs and classrooms, will create a supportive learning atmosphere for the pupils of Nelsonskop Primary School.

EXXARO is a major entity in South Africa's mining sector, generating approximately 26 million tons of coal annually. The mine has been operational since 1980 and stands as one of the largest coal mines in the nation.





# PROVINCIAL OVERSIGHT VISIT TO FLOOD-AFFECTED AREAS IN LEPHALALE



**21 JANUARY 2025**

The Limpopo MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Mr. Basikopo Makamu, along with Health MEC, Ms. Dieketseng Mashego, the Acting Executive Mayor of Waterberg District Municipality, Cllr Dipuo Moatshe, and Lephalale Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, together with the Disaster Management Team, have on 21 January 2025, embarked on a day-long Provincial Oversight Visit to areas affected by the recent disastrous flooding in Lephalale.

The group began their day with a briefing at the Municipality, which was followed by an on-site evaluation at the D1836 in Witkop to assess the damage inflicted by the heavy rainfall.

The team then moved on to the Tambotie River Bridge and Witpoort Hospital, where they carried out a walkabout to assess the extent of the destruction caused by the recent severe rains and flooding.

They wrapped up their activities at Thabo Mbeki Township, where they

toured the residential area and held individual sessions with members of the impacted communities.

In his comments, MEC Makamu stated that the Waterberg District has been severely impacted by the floods, which resulted in infrastructure damage and displaced families. He mentioned that his office, along with the Lephalale Local Municipality, will formulate a plan to permanently relocate families whose homes are situated near the banks of the Palala River to prevent future flood-related damage.

He expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Local Disaster Management Team, Gift of the Givers, SAPS, Red Cross, and all relevant departments for their dedication and contributions, which included food parcels, toiletries, and other essential items.

Included in the group were the Speaker of Council, Cllr Grace Marakalala, Chief Whip, Cllr Joseph Machaba, EXCO Member, Cllr Ratah Modiba, as well as Municipal Councillors and representatives from different sector departments.

# LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

**21 JANUARY 2025**

The service delivery team of Lephalale Local Municipality has launched a three-day clean-up initiative targeting Onverwacht and Lephalale Town starting on 21 January 2025.

The team from the Municipal Waste Management division cleaned streets and public areas in Onverwacht and Town. Streets included are Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela Road, Chris Hani, the industrial zone, the front section of Mahlakung informal settlement, Jan Lee, Ring Road, Shoprite Rank, OR Tambo Road, and the CBD.

The Parks Division mowed grass and cleared the overgrown vegetation at

Herman and Wells Streets, as well as sections along Nelson Mandela road.

The initiative persisted on 22 January 2025, as the Municipal waste and parks teams carried on with their cleaning efforts, which were focused on, among other objectives, addressing littering and the unlawful disposal of waste in Onverwacht and Lephalale Town.

Municipal officials, along with participants from the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), initiated litter collection and grass trimming along OR Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Wells, Herman, Emco and Magnolia shopping complex, Fox Odendaal, Ring road, Troupant, and Palala Streets.





# PROVINCIAL OVERSIGHT VISIT TO GROBLERSBRIDGE AND MARTIN'S DRIFT BORDER POSTS FOLLOWING THE RECENT DISASTROUS FLOODS

23 JANUARY 2025

Limpopo MEC for Treasury, Mr. Kgabo Mahoi, and the Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr. Aaron Mokgetle, along with the Local Disaster Management Team, have carried out an oversight visit to the Groblersbridge Border Post on the 23rd January 2025. This visit is part of the Limpopo Provincial Government's Oversight Visits to areas affected by floods in the province.

The entourage conducted inspection at the Groblersbridge Port of Entry to evaluate the extent of the damage caused by the recent heavy rains and flooding.

The Port of Entry has been shut down since January 14, 2025. The team was accompanied by the Speaker of Council, Cllr. Grace Marakalala, EXCO Member, Cllr. Ratah Modiba, Limpopo Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) Disaster Team, Border Management Authority (BMA), and SAPS.

The group wrapped up the program by visiting the Martin's Drift Border Post which links South Africa and Botswana.



## COMMUNITY WELCOMES CONTRACTOR FOR STADIUM REFURBISHMENT

23 JANUARY 2025

The community of Thabo Mbeki Township on the 23rd of January 2025, expressed gratitude for the announcement and introduction of a contractor for the refurbishment of the Thabo Mbeki Stadium.

In his comments, the Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, stated that this initiative forms part of government's objective to hasten service delivery. He additionally stressed that once finished, the stadium will encourage children to engage in recreational activities away from the streets.

The Mayor additionally mentioned that the community should help the municipality by caring for the government's infrastructure. The project which is anticipated to be completed within a period of six months, will assist in providing local residents with temporary jobs and business opportunities throughout its duration.





# LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**30 JANUARY 2025**

The Speaker of Council, Cllr Grace Marakalala today (30 January) presided over the proceedings of the ordinary Council meeting held at the Civic Centre.

As part of procedure, Council had various reports noted, recommended and approved as and when they were presented by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee (EXCO), The Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality Cllr Aaron Mokgetle.



## FEBRUARY

# WARD COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

**02 FEBRUARY 2025**

Lephalale Local Municipality Speaker, Cllr Grace Marakalala, hosted a refresher workshop for members of the Ward Committees.

The workshop was aimed at uniting ward committee members from throughout the municipality to participate in conversations focused on improving local governance and fostering community development.

In her introductory comments, Cllr Marakalala emphasized the significance of the workshop, noting that ward committees are vital for empowering local communities by reinforcing connections and improving services between residents and the municipality.

She further highlighted that within local government, ward committees play a vital role in fostering community engagement, enhancing service delivery, and advancing sustainable development efforts.

The workshop further offered members an opportunity to swap enhanced methods for their monthly reporting by sharing insights and collaborating on strategies to tackle challenges.





# SECOND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN REPRESENTATIVE FORUM FOR THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR



04 FEBRUARY 2025

The Municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP) representative forum for 2025/2026 was held on February 4, 2025, at the Mokuruanyane Thusong Centre.

The representative's forum serves as an open conversation platform that includes community stakeholders like Councillors, Traditional Leaders, Ward Committees, and Community Development Workers, to provide input in aiding the municipality to identify solutions for sustainable development, especially in service delivery.

In his opening speech, Lephalale Local Municipality Mayor Cllr Aaron Mokgetle stated that community interactions provide the Municipality a chance to update on completed projects and present progress reports on concerns highlighted by the community.

Present were Councillors, Traditional Leaders, Ward Communities, and Community Development Workers at the Mokuruanyane Thusong Centre.

# MEC ASSESS COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL UNIT PROJECT PROGRESS

13 FEBRUARY 2025

Limpopo MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Mr. Basikopo Makamu, is resolute and accepting no excuses to guarantee that the residents of Marapong obtain dignified housing.

MEC Makamu visited the Marapong Community Residential Units in the Lephalale Local Municipality on 13 February 2025 to evaluate and oversee the advancement of the 514-unit project, which has faced construction issues since it started in 2016.

"I will not accept any excuses for why this project won't be finished by 30 April 2025," stated Makamu.

The Executive Mayor of the Waterberg District Municipality, Cllr. Jack Maeko and the Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr. Aaron Mokgetle accompanied the MEC on site for the inspection of the construction progress made so far.





# MUNICIPAL AND TRADITIONAL COUNCILS WELCOMES PRESENTATION ON RENEWABLE ENERGY



18 FEBRUARY 2025

Three local traditional authorities, expressed their appreciation for the presentation on renewable energy by investors. The presentation conducted at the Municipal council chamber on 18 February was aimed to establish new collaborative relationships within the municipal boundaries.

The innovative solar power facility will support the municipality by decreasing the demand on the electricity grid, supplying residents of Lephalale with adequate power. This initiative is considered a vital move forward in addressing energy issues for future generations, formulating strategies and linking sustainable efforts by enhancing development aimed at tackling these challenges.

In his statements, Lephalale Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, strongly highlighted the importance of transformative projects that tackle challenges facing the municipality, emphasizing that all initiatives aimed at resolving these issues and improving service delivery will be warmly received.

The solar power facility which will be located between Lephalale town and Marapong and will have a capacity of 315 MW.

A consensus among the municipal council and the traditional authorities was that the project's implementation would contribute towards alleviating the unemployment problems currently faced in Lephalale.

# INTRODUCTION OF CONTRACTORS FOR WATER PROJECTS AND THE ASSESSMENT AND COMPILATION OF THE TECHNICAL REPORT FOR VIP TOILETS AT VARIOUS VILLAGES

21 FEBRUARY 2025

In order to expedite service delivery, Lephalale Local Municipality Speaker Cllr Grace Marakalala, along with other Councillors and officials, initiated project handover meetings with the three traditional authorities at Ga-Seleka, Mokuruanyane, and Shongoane villages on 20 February 2025.

The meetings sought to introduce different service providers assigned to assess and create a technical report, along with planning, design, project management, and commissioning for the Ga-seleka Water Scheme, to evaluate and compile a technical report for the Shongoane Water Scheme, to perform an assessment and prepare a technical report for VIP Toilets and Backlog Verification in rural areas, and to construct the Mokuruanyane and Shongoane Regional Water Scheme Project Phase 5, which aims to revive a stalled project dating back to the 2015/2016 financial year.

The VIP sanitation initiative will be carried out in every rural village to eliminate the backlog. The community will receive ventilated improved pit latrines that can be maintained, and a fecal sludge treatment facility will be built at a central location to collect all the fecal sludge produced by different villages.

The Technical reports for the Ga-Seleka and Shongoane Water Schemes will include the work scope for ensuring sufficient water supply to rural communities.

Communities will gain advantages as field workers will be assigned to the VIP project to gather backlog verification data. The Mokuruanyane and Shongoane Regional Water Scheme initiatives will generate roughly 50 employment opportunities for the local community in the villages where the projects are set to be carried out.

The evaluation report for the VIP restrooms will include the technical solutions for a secure.





# MPAC PRESENTATION ON THE 2023/24 ANNUAL REPORT

26 FEBRUARY 2025

Lephalale Local Municipality conducted the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) public participation on 26 February 2025 at the Roman Catholic Church in Lephalale town.

The aim of this session was to outline the Municipality's activities for the financial year 2023/24, present a report on performance concerning the Municipality's budget, and encourage accountability to local communities for the decisions made by the Municipality during the year.

In her introductory comments, the acting Mayor, Cllr Grace Marakalala, mentioned that the session enables the Municipality to update the community about its financial outcomes, project statuses, assess achievements and challenges faced, and foster accountability and good governance.

She also seized the chance to provide input on the Municipality's financial status, stating that in the 2023/24 period, the Municipality was awarded an unqualified audit opinion by the auditor general.

Every input and suggestion will be taken into account to ensure the municipality delivers services that satisfy the community's needs.

The Annual Report for the financial year 2023/2024 can be found on the website, in libraries, and tribal offices.





# MARCH

## LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

# STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION



**03 MARCH 2025**

The first day of the Lephalale Local Municipality Strategic planning session was held on Monday, 03 March 2025, at the Palala Boutique Game Lodge.

The session, governed by the Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000, as amended, which oversees the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), mandates that the municipality engage in developmentally focused planning to ensure it works towards the local government objectives outlined in Section 152 and 153 of the Constitution. This involves establishing goals and creating strategies for the upcoming year that correspond with the municipality's objectives and current situation.

In his introductory comments, the Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle stated that this session aims to discuss and consider significant issues that will influence the municipality's future by offering a definitive strategy to help deliver services to the residents of Lephalale.

He further implored the managers for service delivery to work hard to fast track service delivery.

The two-day session featured presentations by Acting Municipal Manager Ms. Feziwe Nogilana-Raphela, along with Directors and Managers from different departments, on performance and strategies to ensure effective planning for the year ahead.

Speaking at the Municipal Strategic Planning session which took place on Monday 03 March 2025 at the Palala Boutique Game Lodge, the

Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, highlighted several pressing challenges faced by the Municipality, which includes water issues, sanitation, infrastructure, vandalism, and electricity illegal connections which need priority.

He also mentioned the importance of addressing service delivery issues promptly and swiftly.

"We need to help improve the lives of our people and the state of the municipality, and by doing so we need to act fast when we respond to matters of service delivery".

The Chief Financial Officer, Ms Lesego Matlwa in her presentation mentioned that the Municipality received an unqualified audit opinion report from the Auditor General (AG) by providing insights into the municipal audit outcomes, commending the improvements made by the municipality.

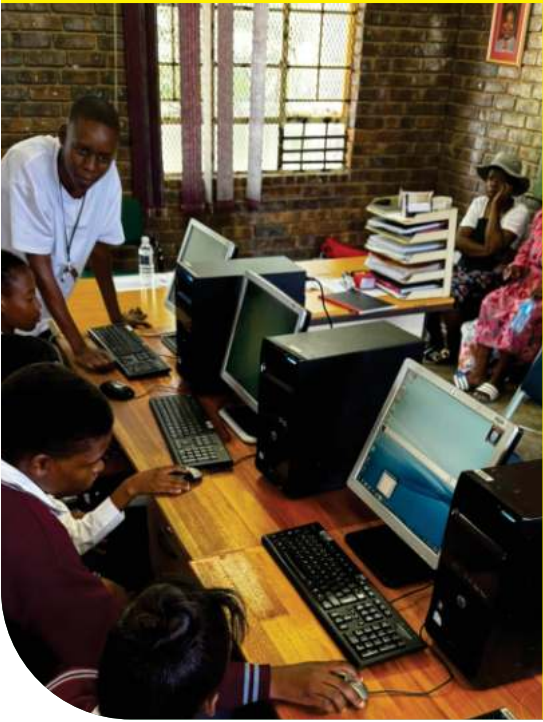
The Chief Whip, Cllr Joseph Machaba said that proactive, innovative and fresh approach is needed to assist in serving the people of Lephalale with dignity, adding that the administrators need to provide and develop strategies that will accelerate the development, economy and service delivery.

The Acting Municipal Manager, Ms Feziwe Nogilana-Raphela highlighted the improvement of performance on the Service Delivery Budget and Implementation Plan at midyear, she further emphasised the importance of staff members to be nonpartisan as they are civil servants.





# HANDING OVER OF ICT EQUIPMENT AT MATHULASERA SECONDARY SCHOOL



13 MARCH 2025

On 13 March, the Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, accompanied by EXCO Member Cllr Ratah Modiba and Cllr Linda Mosupye, along with stakeholders and traditional leaders, donated Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipments to the School Management Team and School Governing Body of Mathulasera Secondary School in Tlapaleborethe/Senoelo village.

In his remarks, the mayor mentioned that the computers will aid the school in enhancing their research, data collection, and fundamental administration.

He also mentioned that the tools will improve education by encouraging teamwork and helping to equip students for the digital age.

During the visit to the school, the group seized the chance to provide school shoes to learners at Makhurumula Primary School in the same area.

# SALGA MUNICIPAL AWARDS



13 MARCH 2025

Lephalale Local Municipality recently earned 5 esteemed awards at the Limpopo South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Moses "Big Moss" Maluleke Municipal Awards event held on March 13, 2024, at Sasavona Game Lodge in Bela Bela.

The awards honor the municipality's dedication to effective governance and responsibility in local administration.

The municipality received acknowledgment in these categories:

- In Appreciation for 100% spending of water infrastructure grant.
- In Appreciation for 100% Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) spending on initial allocation and receiving additional MIG allocation.
- In Appreciation for spending over 95% of their additional MIG allocation
- In Appreciation for sustaining Unqualified audit opinion.
- In-house preparation of Annual Financial Statement.

The Council's speaker, Cllr Grace Marakalla, along with Acting Municipal Manager, Ms Feziwe Nogilana-Rapela, proudly received the awards for the municipality.

This accomplishment highlights Lephalale Local Municipality's commitment to transparency and accountable governance.

In recent years, the Lephalale Local Municipality has continuously shown its dedication to effective governance, having earned accolades at the SALGA Municipal Audit Awards ceremony in the past. The leadership of the municipality, led by Mayor Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, has stressed the significance of attaining improved audit results and fostering community growth.





# THE MUNICIPALITY PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR AM CHAUKE

14 MARCH 2025

The Lephalale Local Municipality paid tribute to the late Mr. Alpheus Mphahlele Chauke, a devoted public servant who embodied commitment, leadership, and a passion for service delivery.

Mr. Thapelo Seboya, the delegated Acting Municipal Manager, paid a heartfelt tribute to the late Mr. Chauke at his memorial service held at his home in Tlapaleborethe/ Senoelo on Thursday, 13 March, 2025. Seboya acknowledged the lasting impact of Chauke's dedication to the community, highlighting the municipality's recognition of his contributions as a testament to his enduring influence and legacy.

Mr. Chauke was a highly respected figure in the Lephalale Local Municipality, serving with distinction in the Social Service Directorate, Licensing Department, as a Senior Registration Clerk at the Thusong Center in Mokuruanyane. He was praised on his tireless work ethic, wisdom, and calm demeanour which earned him admiration from his

colleagues and community members alike.

The Mayor, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle said that the municipality has lost a well-respected figure, known for his depth of knowledge and engaging personality, leaving a lasting impact on the municipality and the community.

The Lephalale Local Municipality offered its sincerest condolences to the Chauke family, friends, and colleagues as they mourn the loss of an extraordinary individual. May Mr. Chauke's soul rest in eternal peace, and may his legacy of dedication, wisdom, and compassion continue to inspire us all.

Mr. Chauke's legacy serves as an inspiration to future generations of public servants and political leaders, demonstrating the power of dedication, wisdom, and compassion in making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

He was be buried on Saturday, 15 March 2025 in Tlapaleborethe/ Senoelo.





# ENGAGEMENT SESSION WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERS

19 MARCH 2025

The Lephalale Local Municipality hosted an extended strategic planning session, where several key strategic partners made presentations to the Municipal Council and administration on 19 March 2025.

The partners consisted of Lephalale Coal Concession, Exxaro, Enel, Mokolo Crocodile Water Augmentation Project (MCWAP-2), and Economic Development Solutions.

These presentations played a vital role in enhancing collaborations and coordinating objectives to promote economic growth and service provision in Lephalale.

The Mayor, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle's final remarks highlighted the significance of teamwork in meeting community demands, fostering economic development, and enhancing good governance.

"Through collaboration, the municipality and its partners can utilize their combined resources and knowledge to achieve significant results, and these joint efforts can help realize the municipality's economic potential while guaranteeing that the advantages are distributed fairly within the community."



HONOURABLE MAYOR: CLLR AARON MOKGETLE

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Lephalale Local Municipality salutes the heroes of our liberation struggle and honors their legacy by promoting and protecting human rights for all.

Today, 21 March 2025, we honor the brave men and women who fought tirelessly for our liberation and the rights we enjoy today.

As we reflect on our collective history, we recommit ourselves to upholding the values of democracy, equality, and human dignity. Let us continue to strive for a world where every individual can live freely, without fear of persecution or discrimination.





# MUNICIPAL THIRD IDP REPRESENTATIVE FORUM

24 MARCH 2025

On 24 March 2025, the Lephalale Local Municipality hosted its third Integrated Development Forum (IDP) at the Mogol Function Hall, representing an important advancement in planning the municipality's future.

Acting Mayor Cllr Ratah Modiba graciously greeted stakeholders, highlighting the significance of involvement in steering the municipality toward a more promising future.

In the session, newly appointed manager Integrated Development Plan (IDP), Mr. William Mawela, provided a detailed overview of the municipality, emphasizing its main priorities, decisions from the strategic planning meeting, and critical performance areas (KPA) along with action plans for execution.

The meeting acts as an essential platform for community members to be updated on proposed projects and initiatives in their respective areas. This ensures that residents are aware of upcoming developments and can provide valuable input, fostering a sense of ownership and inclusivity.





# MEET AND GREET SESSIONS WITH EXXARO GENERAL MANAGER

25 MARCH 2025

The Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Councillor Aron Mokgetle, and Exxaro's General Manager, Mr. Lazarus Ramashilabele, held a productive introductory meeting at three local royal houses: Seleka Royal House, Kgosi Shongoane Royal House, and Kgosi Langa Royal House, signifying an important advancement in enhancing community partnerships. The meeting served as an opportunity for the Mayor to introduce the newly appointed General Manager to all three local traditional authorities. This introduction is essential for promoting collaboration and teamwork among the municipality, traditional leaders, and important stakeholders such as Exxaro.

In his introductory remarks, the Mayor told to the royal councils that working together is vital for supporting communities. He added that a constructive collaboration among municipal officials and stakeholders can improve service delivery and resource allocation.



The favourable feedback and gratitude from the three royal councils after the visit underscore the significance of visible leadership in proactive stakeholder involvement.

The municipality seeks to enhance partnerships by establishing trust and collaboration among traditional leaders, stakeholders, and itself by interacting with traditional authorities and connecting important parties to them.

In pursuit of this goal, Exxaro Grootegeluk continues to acknowledge and understand that sustainable development and beneficial social impact in the Lephalale area depend on building and sustaining robust relationships, particularly with the local traditional leadership.

The delegation comprised of EXCO Member Cllr Ratah Modiba, Ward Cllr Thapelo Langa, Cllr Linda Mosupye, Cllr Sello Moselane, and Exxaro Stakeholder Manager Mr Dan Madibana, along with officials from both the Municipality and Exxaro.





# MAYOR JOINS EXXARO ROAD RACE

29 MARCH 2025

The Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, participated with Exxaro's General Manager, Mr. Lazarus Ramashilabela, and Lephalale residents on Saturday, 29 March 2025, at the Mogol Sports Ground for the thrilling Exxaro Road Race.

This event, organized by the Municipal Strategic Partner, brought together sports enthusiasts from Lephalale who participated in the challenging 5KM, 10KM, and 21KM races.

The event was a platform to encourage physical wellness, as frequent involvement in sports can lower the chances of chronic illnesses, enhance mental health, and elevate general well-being. This activity was also an excellent chance for the municipality and its collaborators to encourage healthy living, community involvement, and sports advancement in Lephalale.





# MAYORAL IMBIZO

30 MARCH 2025

The Lephalale Local Municipality held the Mayoral Imbizo at the Steenbokpan Sports Ground in Leseding on 30 March 2025. The imbizo united the municipality and community members to address significant matters, express concerns, and interact with local leaders and officials.

In his introductory comments, the Mayor, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle expressed that community engagements aim to help boost social cohesion and enhance service delivery.

He further said that through these engagements, problems can be resolved by addressing community issues, resolving disputes, and discovering solutions to local challenges.

The Mayoral Imbizo offered an important opportunity for residents to express their issues and interact with the Mayor and Council.

Key concerns that arose included the necessity for equitable payment rates at

the Solar plant, the critical demand for enhanced educational institutions in Leseding, unemployment issues, electricity connections, clinics and satellite police stations, water supply, high-mast lights, and access roads.

The concerns raised by the residents highlighted the significance of community involvement and participatory governance in tackling local challenges and fostering inclusive growth.

Present at the gathering were delegates from the three traditional authorities, Chief Whip, Cllr Joseph Machaba, Speaker, Cllr Grace Marakalala, and EXCO member, Cllr Ratah Modiba. Ward Councillor Noah Magwai, Councillor Abel Mothoni, Councillor Thapelo Langa, Councillor Linda Mosupye, Acting Municipal Manager Ms. Feziwe Nogilana-Raphela, and Executive Managers, together with municipal officials, are present as well.



## MAYOR WELCOMES AND GIFTS NEW YEAR BABY

01 JANUARY 2025

The Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, spent his morning welcoming baby Happy at Elliras Hospital on January 1st, 2025.

Baby Happy, who made his debut on New Year's Day, along with his mother, received a range of welcoming gifts from the Mayor, who was accompanied by Ward 4 Cllr Sybil Nieuwoudt and Ward 3 Cllr JD Nel.

The Mayor encouraged the mother to love, nurture, and care for Baby Happy to ensure he grows up strong and healthy. He also expressed gratitude for the efforts of the nursing staff during the festive season.





# MAYORAL TOURNAMENT



### 25 JANUARY 2025

The first half of the 2025 Mayoral Tournament (Mayors' Cup) took place on Saturday, 25 January at the Moses Monanyane Stadium in Shongoane 3.

The Saturday fixture saw the favourites to make it to the finals Flamingo (Mmaletswai) taking on Wanderus FC (Seleka) were won 6-1.

In the second match it was the charges from Ditlough, Barcelona FC taking on Botshabelo United from Botshabelo village. Barcelona won 2-1.

The third fixture was out between Turf City FC from Mmaletswai taking on Seleka Black Stars and the latter thrashed Turf City 6-5 on penalties.

And wrapping up the first part of match day of the Mayoral Tournament was Manchester (Spahlo) from Shongoane taking on Seleka Callies, and Manchester showed Callies no mercy by winning 6-0 on penalties.

Flamingo, Barcelona, Black Stars

and Manchester were the first teams to advance to the round of 16.

Day two of the first half of the 2025 Mayoral Tournament (Mayors' Cup) took place on 26 January 2025 at the Moses Monanyane Stadium, were Fighters FC from Shongoane took on the Elite, Sunrise FC from Mmaletswai.

The Elite were victorious after winning 4-1.

Impala FC from Mokuruanyane and Arsenal FC from Dipompong were drawn in the second match were by Impala won 9-8 on penalties.

Young Chiefs from Botsalanong reigned supreme over Peace Hospital from Lephalale after winning 1-0 in the third match.

And to end the day and the last 32 kick-off Arsenal FC from Botsalanong showed no mercy to Exxaro Mine team by advancing to the round of 16 after winning 2-1.

Sunrise FC, Impala FC, Young Chiefs and Arsenal FC advanced to the round of 16.

### 01 FEBRUARY 2025

The Second Half of the 2025 Mayoral Top 32 Tournament got underway at the Moses Monanyane Stadium in Shongoane 3, on Saturday 1 February, with Dribblers from Ditlough in taking on the charges from Marapong Dortmund were Dortmund won 5-4 on penalties.

In the second match, Italy from Shongoane 2 took to task the charges from Lephalale Hospital whom are returning for another round but unfortunately they were unlucky after losing 2-1.

Match three of the day was Wanderous from Seleka trying their luck for the second time taking on Arsenal from Maeteletja, fortunately Wanderous was lucky after winning 5-1.

And in the last match was Shinning Starts from Mokuruanyane taking on Kauletsi Eagles, were Shinning Stars were Successful in advancing to the round of 16.

Dortmond, Italy, Wanderous, and

Shinning Stars advanced to the round of 16.

Kick starting the last day of the Top 32 of the Second Half of the 2025 Mayoral Tournament (Mayors' Cup) was a Shongoane Derby as Kubu Sundowns took on Samoosa and Samoosa fell short after losing 0-2.

In the second match was the charges from Seleka, Callies trying their luck for the second time taking on Ocean Birds from Sefitlhogo, and lady luck was with Callies as they won 1-0.

Match three was Fighters from Shongoane also trying their luck for the second time unfortunately it was not their day as Lucky Kings from Sefitlhogo showed no mercy by winning 3-1. The last match of the top 32 of the Mayoral Tournament (Mayors Cup) came to an end as Steenbopan Team took on Lebu Amsterdam, with Lebu Amsterdam being victorious.

Kubu Sundowns, Callies, Lucky Kings, and Lebu Amsterdam going through to Round of 16.





**15 FEBRUARY 2025 - DAY 1**

The first day of the round of Top 16 of the Lephalale Local Municipality 2025 Top 32 Mayoral tournament (Mayors Cup) started on a high note as Flamingo from Mmaletswai took on Kubu Sundowns from Shongoane village, unfortunately Flamingo crashed out after losing on penalties.

Flamingo were the hopefuls to make it to the finals but Kubu Sundowns from Shongoane didn't want to hear any of that and they were the only team to score more than 6 goals to make it to the round of 16.

In the second match it was Young Chiefs of Botsalanong playing against Lucky Kings from Sefitlhogo with Lucky Kings winning 4-2 on penalties.

Match 3 was Sphahlo Manchester from Shongoane taking on the charges from Seleka, Wanderus, the heavy rains did not stop Sphahlo from winning 4-2 on penalties.

And in the last match was Shining Stars of Mokuruanyane taking on Dortmund from Marapong. Fun Fact, since participating in this tournament Shinning Stars has never played during the day, it was always fixtured to play at night. Maybe the night skies were part of their luck as they won to advance to the quarter finals.

**16 FEBRUARY 2025 - DAY 2**

Day two of the round of Top 16 of the Lephalale Local Municipality 2025 Top 32 Mayoral tournament (Mayors Cup) was held on Sunday, 16 February at the Moses Monanyane Stadium in Ga-Monyeki Village.

This day saw three times (Mayors cup) Champions Impala from Mokuruanyane taking on Italy from Shongoane in the first match and as expected the charged from Mokuruanyane were victorious by 2-1.

Match two was the Seleka outfitter, Blac Stars taking on the Elite as they call themselves Sunrise FC from Mmaletswai, they fell short after losing 2-1.

In another exciting match was Barcelona from Ditloug taking on Arsenal of Botsalanong, with Barcelona being victorious.

And the last teams who were hoping to make it to the quarterfinals was Callies of Seleka taking on Amsterdam from Lebu. And Callies did not give the Lebu charges a chance as they were victorious to advance to the next round.





**01 MARCH 2025 - QUARTER FINALS**

It was game on at the Moses Monanyane Stadium on 1 March 2025 as the quarterfinals of the Lephalale Local Municipality 2025 Top 32 Mayoral tournament (Mayors Cup) got underway.

In the first match was Barcelona FC from Ditloulung taking on Sefitlhogo Lucky Kings which won on penalties after a stalemate of 1 all draw.

The second match saw Black Stars from Seleka battling it out with Mokuruanyane Impala with the charges from Mokuruanyane winning 3-1 on penalties making it into the Semi-finals.

Kubu Sundowns showed dominance as they took on the

charges from Seleka (Callies) as they were looking for bragging rights to make it to the Semi-finals in the third match.

The younglings from Shongoane won 6-4 as to stamp their place in the Semi-Finals.

The last match to determine which team makes it to the Semi Finals, was between Shinning Stars from Mokuruanyane and Manchester Spahlo from Shongoane village, with Spahlo winning.

The teams that made it to the Semi-finals are, Sefitlhogo Lucky Kings, Mokuruanyane Impala, Kubu Sundowns form Shongoane and Manchester Spahlo Shongoane.



**02 MARCH 2025 - SEMIS AND FINAL**

Manchester Spahlo and Lucky Kings plays it out for 3rd place in the semi finals of the Lephalale Local Municipality 2025 Top 32 Mayoral tournament (Mayors Cup).

The winner of the which was Manchester Spahlo pocketed R20 000 and Soccer Kit while the losing team took home R15 000 and Soccer Kiti. The teams were given the soccer kits which they paid in in the semi finals.

In curtain raiser match that took place before the finals Lephalale Hospital which was wearing Green took on Peace Masters which was wearing Red. The Mayor of Lephalale

Local Municipality, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle was playing for Peace Masters while Cllr Esrom Setho was playing for Lephalale Hospital, both players were wearing jersey number 10 Of their respective teams. The teams at the end of 60 minutes played to an 0-0 draw.

The final we witnessed Impala of Mokuruanyane taking on first timers of the (Mayors Cup) Kubu Sundowns of Shongoane.

For a fun fact Impala won the Lephalale Local Municipality Mayoral tournament (Mayors Cup) three times since its existence.

The charges of Mokuruanyane were lucky the fourth time and they took home the grand price of R45 000 and a Soccer Kit.