



MSUKALIGWA
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

MSUKALIGWA



ISSUE 12 **JANUARY - MARCH 2025**



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ACTING EM CLLR SPHIWE ERNEST NGOVENE TAKES THE HELM

A BEACON OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE



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DESIGN & LAYOUT: NDUDUZO VILAKAZI



MR. M.A.J ZWANE

SALGA NATIONAL COMMUNICATORS FORUM (NCF) PLEDGE

We, the delegates at the SALGA National Communicators Forum (NCF), met from February 10–11, 2025, at the Mentors Country Estate in Jeffreys Bay, Eastern Cape, for professional development and the exchange of best practices and case studies that capture the current realities of public sector communication.

Since public sector communicators, at all levels of government, serve as a conduit between the public and the government, it is imperative that we implement effective communication practices in order to advance the vision, mission, and policy goals of our respective public service institutions.

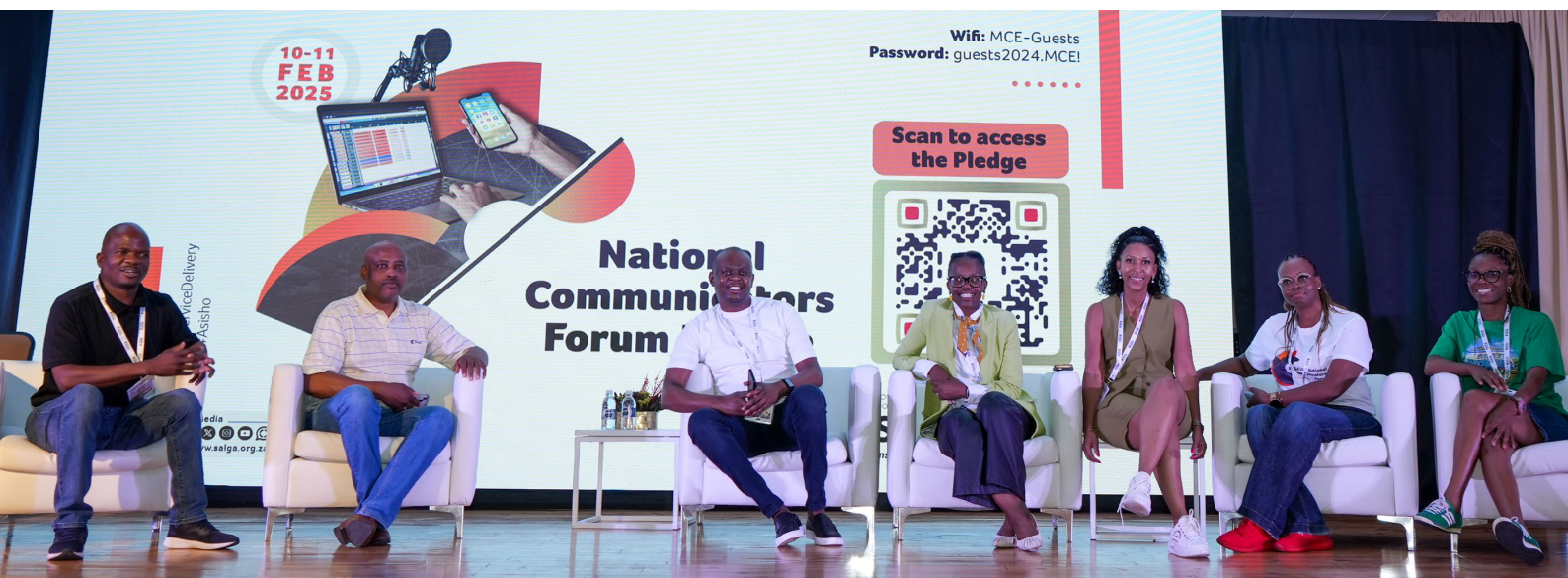
As public sector media professionals, we therefore pledge to build and maintain public trust in government and better engage our communities in public policy decision-making processes. Through open and responsive communication, we pledge to contribute to the development and stability of our communities, cities, provinces and the nation at large.

In order to improve government openness and transparency, foster public trust, and advance the government's policy goals, we commit to developing and engaging in communication best practices. When carrying out our duties, we will uphold the values of honesty, accessibility, accountability, and the public interest.

As communicators from municipalities, government departments, and entities all over our beloved nation, united in our diversity, we undersign this oath to encourage the change, inventiveness, and bold action that our people and communities expect and deserve.

We pledge to strategically incorporate emerging technologies into our communication toolkits to improve the communication process and the way government interacts with citizens.

As communicators from municipalities, government departments, and entities all over our beloved nation, united in our diversity, we undersign this oath to encourage the change, inventiveness, and bold action that our people and communities expect and deserve.



As we move forward in this financial year, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the municipal management for their dedication and commitment during the Strategic Planning Session held on the 6th and 7th of February 2025. This session played a crucial role in refining the municipality's strategic direction, ensuring that all municipal departments work towards enhanced efficiency and improved service delivery.

A number of important resolutions were made during the session, focusing on strengthening governance, financial management, and operational performance. One of our key objectives is to achieve unqualified audit outcomes, which requires consistent monitoring and implementation of our action plan by management. Additionally, we remain steadfast in adhering to our recovery plan, ensuring that we stay on track to achieve our financial and operational goals.

Another critical area of focus is revenue collection, which is essential for the sustainability of the Municipality. Implementing a structured approach to revenue generation will enable us to enhance service delivery and move towards financial self-sufficiency. Moreover, we are prioritizing the fulfillment of our financial commitments to Eskom and the Department of Water and Sanitation(DWS) to ensure uninterrupted services for our residents.

We also acknowledge the significance of President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address, delivered on the 6th of February 2025, particularly the announcement regarding the creation of a national entity to oversee water management in municipalities. This initiative promises to provide municipalities with vital technical support, ultimately improving water service provision. Additionally, the proposed review of the municipal funding model is expected to secure more financial resources, addressing longstanding fiscal challenges and enhancing municipal service delivery.

At this point, I must appeal to our communities to refrain from illegal electricity and water connections. These unlawful activities continue to undermine our revenue collection efforts, leading to substantial losses that impact our ability to provide essential services. I urge residents to report such incidents to the Municipality or the South African Police Service so that appropriate actions can be taken. Cable theft remains a major obstacle in our efforts to provide uninterrupted services. This criminal act disrupts operations and imposes significant costs on the Municipality. We call upon all stakeholders to work together in addressing this issue and ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice.

As we prepare to pass the adjustment budget, management must intensify efforts to enhance revenue generation, ensuring that all necessary financial adjustments are made to support effective service delivery. The Council remains committed to fulfilling its responsibilities under the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) Section 54(1) by diligently reviewing monthly reports, assessing budget implementation, and making necessary adjustments to the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) as required.

In this newsletter, you will find updates on key municipal projects, progress reports on service delivery, and insights into municipal operational performance. As you delve into its contents, I encourage you to stay informed and engaged with our efforts to build a more efficient and accountable Municipality and live up to the slogan "A beacon of service excellence".

Together, we will continue striving for the betterment of Msukaligwa Local Municipality, ensuring that our residents receive the quality services they deserve.

The proposed review of the municipal funding model is expected to secure more financial resources, addressing longstanding fiscal challenges and enhancing municipal service delivery.



ALDERWOMAN MP NKOSI
EXECUTIVE MAYOR



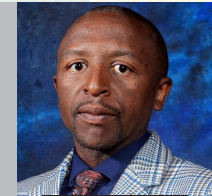
**ALDERWOMAN
M.P NKOSI**
EXECUTIVE MAYOR



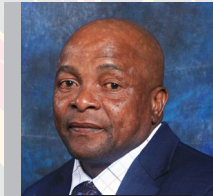
**ALDERWOMAN
C.E MSEZANE**
MMC FINANCE



**ALDERWOMAN
T.C MOTH**
MMC TECHNICAL SERVICES



CLLR T.J MADLALA
MMC
CORPORATE SERVICES



CLLR B.G MOTH
MMC PLANNING &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



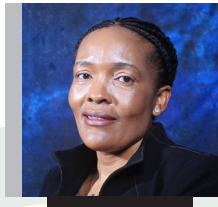
CLLR S.E NGOVENE
COMMUNITY & SOCIAL
SERVICES

EXECUTIVE MAYOR

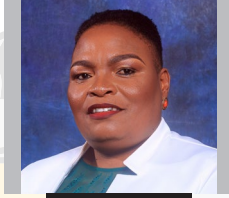
The primary functions of the Executive Mayor among others is to promote the image of the municipality, Preside over Mayoral Committee meetings, leads and promote social and economic development in the municipality, Promote intergovernmental and inter-institutional relations.

MAYORAL COMMITTEE

The primary functions of the Mayoral Committee, are to render assistance to the Executive Mayor in exercising of his/her authority. To identify the needs of the Municipality; review and evaluate those needs in order or priority. To recommend to the Municipal Council strategies, programmes and services to address priority needs through the Integrated Development Plan and estimated revenue and expenditure taking into account any applicable National and Provincial development plan; and recommend or determine the best methods including partnership and other approaches to deliver those strategies, programmes and services to the maximum benefit of the Community. Mayoral committee is appointed by the Executive Mayor and dissolve if the Executive Mayor ceases to hold.



CLLR N.S XABA
SPEAKER



**ALDERWOMAN
P.T SIBEKO**
WHIP OF COUNCIL



CLLR M.A NZIMANDE
MPAC CHAIRPERSON

SPEAKER

In terms of Section 37 of the Municipal Structure Act as amended the functions.

The speaker of a municipal council:

- presides at meetings of the council;
- performs the duties and exercises the powers delegated to the speaker in terms of section 32;
- must ensure that the council meets at least quarterly.
- must maintain order during meetings;
- must ensure compliance in the council and Council committees with the Code of Conduct set out in Schedule 5: and
- must ensure that council meetings are conducted in accordance with the rules and orders of the council.

WHIP

In terms of Section 41B of the Municipal Structure Act as amended the functions of the Whip of a municipal council:

- liaises with the different political parties to ensure representation in council and council committees;
- maintains sound relations between the various political parties;
- informs the whips of all parties on important matters on the council agenda;
- assists the speaker to count votes in the council meeting;
- facilitates the interaction between the executive and legislative oversight structures in the municipality; and
- resolves disputes between the speaker, mayor or executive mayor, or members of the mayoral committee.

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (MPAC)

In terms of Section 79A Subsection (3) of the Municipal Structure Act. The municipal council must determine the functions of the municipal public accounts committee, which must include the following:

- review the Auditor-General's reports and comments of the management committee and the audit committee and make recommendations to the municipal council.
- review internal audit reports together with comments from the management committee and the audit committee and make recommendations to the municipal council;
- initiate and develop the oversight report on annual reports contemplated in section 129 of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act;
- attend to and make recommendations to the municipal council on any matter referred to it by the municipal council, executive committee, a committee of the council, a member of this committee, a councillor and the municipal manager; and
- on its own initiative, subject to the direction of the municipal council, investigate and report to the municipal council on any matter affecting the municipality.

(4) Reports of the municipal public accounts committee must be submitted to the speaker who must table such reports in the next meeting of the municipal council.



MR M KUNENE
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

It is with a sense of both urgency and determination that I present this foreword, reflecting on the challenges, progress, and ongoing efforts of Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM). Over the past few years, MLM has faced significant financial, governance, and institutional challenges that have severely impacted service delivery. These challenges necessitated decisive intervention by the Mpumalanga Provincial Executive Council, which invoked Section 139(5) of the Constitution on November 9, 2022. This intervention introduced a mandatory Financial Recovery Plan (FRP), which was recently reviewed in December 2024.

While progress has been made in addressing some of these issues, critical challenges persist. Among these are the municipality's escalating debt obligations: R697 million owed to Eskom, R1.2 billion to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), and a growing debt book of R1.4 billion. These financial burdens, coupled with operational inefficiencies such as non-revenue water losses at 68% and electricity losses at 63%, continue to strain our resources.

The implementation of the FRP has yielded improvements in governance structures, compliance with conditional grant conditions, and council stability. However, persistent issues such as non-filling of critical positions, lack of service delivery, and non-sitting of BID committees remain barriers to achieving sustainable progress. The municipality has also been approving unfunded budgets for the past five years, with the current unfunded position standing at R864 million for the 2024/2025 budget. This precarious financial state puts us at risk of losing Eskom debt relief due to shortfalls in payment.

In addition to financial challenges, MLM has faced legal pressures. In 2023, Afriforum filed a legal challenge against the municipality over service delivery failures related to constitutional obligations. While some issues have been addressed through targeted projects—such as electricity pole upgrades on Laffnie Street and sewer pipeline

improvements in Extension 33—much work remains to ensure compliance with court orders and environmental standards.

The implementation of the FRP has yielded improvements in governance structures, compliance with conditional grant conditions, and council stability

Community consultations conducted during the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) process highlighted pressing social needs such as job creation, clinics, and community halls. Infrastructure priorities include road maintenance, sanitation, water supply, electricity provision, waste management, and public lighting. These needs underline the importance of mobilizing resources to address service delivery gaps effectively.

Despite these challenges, MLM remains committed to improving its financial health and operational efficiency while ensuring that service delivery meets the expectations of our communities. We will continue implementing strategies to enhance revenue collection, reduce distribution losses, and strengthen governance structures. Our focus remains steadfast on fulfilling our constitutional mandate to provide sustainable services and improve the quality of life for all residents.

In conclusion, I call upon all stakeholders—council members, employees, community leaders, and residents—to join hands in navigating this difficult yet necessary journey toward recovery and sustainable development. Together, we can build a resilient municipality that delivers on its promises.



MR M KUNENE
MUNICIPAL MANAGER



MR MS DLAMINI
DIRECTOR:
CORPORATE SERVICES



MS H MAGANYA
DIRECTOR: PLANNING &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



MR K NHLABATHI
DIRECTOR: FINANCE / CFO



MS PZ DUMA
DIRECTOR:
TECHNICAL SERVICES



MR MS LUKHELE
DIRECTOR: COMMUNITY
& SOCIAL SERVICES

MUNICIPAL MANAGER: OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

The purpose of the Office of the Municipal Manager is “To coordinate and manage the provision of service delivery in accordance with the legislation governing local government.” and the functions are as follows:

- Manage technical services;
- Coordinate the provision of community services;
- Coordinate municipal planning and economic development;
- Manage financial matters;
- Manage corporate services;
- Manage communication, IGR and contact centre services
- Render internal audit services;
- Render risk management services;
- Manage integrated development plan and organisational performance management system; and
- Manage and coordinate the provision of municipal services in the service delivery units.

DIRECTOR: COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The purpose of the Department is “To coordinate the provision of community services” and the functions are as follows:

- Render disaster, security management and law enforcement services;
- Coordinate waste management and environmental services;
- Coordinate the maintenance of parks, sports and cemeteries;
- Render traffic management services;
- Render fire management services; and
- Render library and information services.

DIRECTOR: CORPORATE SERVICES

The purpose of the department is “To manage corporate services” and the functions are as follows:

- Render human resource management and development services;
- Render legal services;
- Render secretariat and records management services;
- Manage information and communication technology services;
- Provide maintenance to municipal buildings;

DIRECTOR (CFO): FINANCE

The purpose of the department is “To manage financial matters” and the functions are as follows:

- Manage municipal budget and financial reporting;
- Manage municipal assets, insurance and fleet management services;
- Manage expenditure services;
- Render supply chain management services; and
- Render revenue, credit control and cash management services

DIRECTOR: PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of the department is “To coordinate municipal planning and economic development” and the functions are as follows:

- Render spatial planning and land use management services;
- Render sustainable and integrated human settlements planning and property management; and
- Promote local economic development services.

DIRECTOR: TECHNICAL SERVICES

The purpose of the department is “To manage technical services” and the functions are as follows:

- Render vehicle and plant mechanical services;
- Manage municipal infrastructure development programmes;
- Manage roads and storm water services;
- Manage water and sanitation services; and
- Render electricity services.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS: A SPECIAL VISIT TO REGGIE MASUKU AND LINDILE SECONDARY SCHOOLS



In a heartfelt and motivating gesture, the Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM), Alderwoman MP Nkosi, alongside Mr. T Thomo, Member of Executive Council (MEC) of Public Works, Roads, and Transport, on the 15th of January 2025 visited Reggie Masuku Secondary and Lindile Secondary Schools. The purpose of the visit was twofold: to honour the hard work and achievements of the Class of 2024, and to inspire the Class of 2025 to remain dedicated to their studies as they work toward their dreams. The Executive Mayor commended the Class of 2024 for their stellar results and determination.

"I want to congratulate the Class of 2024 on their exceptional performances," said Mayor Nkosi, beaming with pride. "Their hard work, focus, and commitment have brought them to this remarkable moment, and they should be very proud of what they have achieved".

They are an inspiration to their peers, and their success is a testament to the power of perseverance." Turning her attention to the Class of 2025, she encouraged them to stay focused and determined in their studies. "To the Class of 2025, your future starts now. education is your tool to unlock all the opportunities life has to offer," she said. "I urge you to study hard, stay committed, and believe in yourselves. Hard work pays off, and with determination, you can achieve all that you desire."

T Thomo, MEC of Public Works, Roads, and Transport, also shared his excitement about the new academic year. "It is always a pleasure to visit schools and witness the passion and dedication of our young learners," Thomo said. "I cannot wait to return at the end of this year and see the great results from the Class of 2025. This is your time to rise and shine, and I have no doubt that you will make us all proud."

"Their hard work, focus, and commitment have brought them to this remarkable moment, and they should be very proud of what they have achieved. They are an inspiration to their peers, and their success is a testament to the power of perseverance."

The visit filled the assemblies of both schools with excitement, joy, and a renewed sense of purpose. The students were not only inspired by the words of the Mayor and MEC but were also reminded of the importance of striving for excellence and the impact that their efforts can have on their futures.

As the Class of 2024 moves forward, having set a high standard of achievement, the Class of 2025 has now been given the encouragement and motivation they need to approach the year with enthusiasm and dedication. The visit, full of positive energy, was a powerful reminder that hard work leads to success, and that every learner has the potential to achieve greatness.

With the renewed encouragement from the Executive Mayor and MEC, the learners left feeling inspired and ready to tackle the year ahead with confidence and determination. The visit has undoubtedly set the tone for a successful academic year, filled with hard work, excellence, and great results.



FLTR: AN EDUCATOR OF REGGIE MASUKU WITH MR. T THOMO (MEC OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT), EXECUTIVE MAYOR, ALDERWOMAN MP NKOSI AND CLLR. KJ MAKHUBU



FLTR: STAKEHOLDERS WHO WERE PART OF THE CAMPAIGN AT LINDILE SECONDARY SCHOOL, WITH EXECUTIVE MAYOR, ALDERWOMAN MP NKOSI, MEC OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT MR. T THOMO, AND CLLR KJ

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE TAKES CENTER STAGE IN MSUKALIGWA

On 29 January 2025, the Office of the Mayor at Msukaligwa Local Municipality hosted the Annual Mayoral Academic Excellence Awards, an event dedicated to recognizing the academic achievements of the Class of 2024. This prestigious ceremony, held at the Msukaligwa Hall, honored hardworking students from the three education circuits within the municipality: Msukaligwa 1, Msukaligwa 2, and Breyten Circuit.

This initiative, established in 2022 under the leadership of the Executive Mayor, Alderwoman MP Nkosi, has become a significant event in the municipality. Drawing from her background as a teacher, Alderwoman MP Nkosi recognized the need to celebrate the dedication and success of students. Since its inception, the awards have received widespread support from various stakeholders, including the Department of Education, the Gert Sibande District Municipality, and various stakeholders.

The Mayoral Academic Excellence Awards reaffirm Msukaligwa Local Municipality's commitment to fostering a culture of academic excellence and supporting youth development

The event highlighted exceptional academic performances across various categories, including the Overall Best Learners and Top Achievers in Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Sciences, and Accounting. Schools were also acknowledged and rewarded for their contributions. Winners were presented with valuable gifts to support their transition into higher education institutions. These included essential items such as laptops, travel bags, and kettles.

One of the most notable moments of the event was the announcement of recipients for the Freshmen Financial Assistance Program, which provides funding for students to cover their registration fees as they embark on their tertiary education journey in 2025. This initiative aims to ease the financial burden on students and empower them to take the next step in their academic pursuits.

"Education is the cornerstone of development. As a former teacher, I understand the challenges and triumphs of pursuing education. Today, we are not only celebrating these students' achievements but also the hope they bring to our community," said Mayor Alderwoman MP Nkosi. She further emphasized the importance of continuous support, highlighting the municipality's involvement in school interventions throughout 2024. These interventions, which included collaborative engagements with government departments, contributed to the improvement of education and student well-being.

Alderwoman Nkosi also extended her gratitude to parents and teachers for their dedication, which played a vital role in the impressive provincial pass rate of 84.99% for the Class of 2024. She highlighted the school reopening visits alongside MEC Thulasizwe Thomo as an example of the ongoing government support for schools. A special note of appreciation was given to sponsors, stakeholders, and sister departments for their contributions in making this event a success.

The Mayoral Academic Excellence Awards reaffirm Msukaligwa Local Municipality's commitment to fostering a culture of academic excellence and supporting youth development. As the program continues to grow, it remains a source of motivation and encouragement for students to strive for success.

Congratulations to all award recipients, and best wishes to those who have benefitted from the Financial Assistance Program as they embark on their higher education journey.



FLTR: MS. S MTHETHWA, MGAGA LUCKY (AWARD RECIPIENT), ALDERWOMAN MP NKOSI AND WHIP OF COUNCIL PT SIBEKO IN A CELEBRATORY MOMENT AT THE AWARD CEREMONY.

[IN PHOTOS]



MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WELCOMES THREE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE COUNCILLORS



NEWLY ELLECTED COUNCILLORS. FLTR: CLLR HL PEACHEY, CLLR A VAN DER WALT, MAGISTRATE HUGO AND CLLR A FERREIRA

Ermelo, 19 February 2025 – Msukaligwa Local Municipality welcomed three new Democratic Alliance (DA) Proportional Representative (PR) councillors, following the expulsion of (PR) Councillors BI Mabuza, Ms Malaza and SC Mathebula earlier this year (2025).

The new PR councillors, HL Peachey, A Ferreira, and A Van Der Walt, took their oath of office before Magistrate Hugo, that they will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and they will obey, respect and uphold the Constitution and all other laws of the Republic of South Africa, and they solemnly promise to perform their functions and duties as the Councillors for Msukaligwa Local Municipality to the best of their ability.

In terms of section 27 Local Government: Municipal Structures ACT 117 OF 1998 Vacation of office. A councillor vacates office during a term of office if that councillor- (a) resigns in writing; (b) is no longer

qualified to be a councillor; (c) was elected from a party list referred to in Schedule 1 or 2 and ceases to be a member of the relevant party and (d) contravenes a provision of the Code of Conduct for Councillors set out in Schedule 1 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 and is removed from office in terms of the Code.

they solemnly promise to perform their functions and duties as the Councillors for Msukaligwa Local Municipality to the best of their ability.

COUNCILLORS THAT WERE REPLACED



Alderman BI Mabuza



Cllr SC Mathebula



Cllr MS Malaza

ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR SPHIWE ERNEST NGOVENE TAKES THE HELM

In a significant move to ensure continuity and stability within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, Cllr Sphiwe Ernest Ngovene has been appointed as the acting Executive Mayor. This decision follows a car accident involving the incumbent Executive Mayor, Mapulane Precious Nkosi, which left her temporarily unable to fulfill her duties. The appointment was made during a recent ordinary council meeting, where members unanimously nominated in favour of Ngovene's interim leadership role.

In his acceptance speech, Cllr Ngovene extended warm greetings to all stakeholders and expressed gratitude to the council for entrusting him with this responsibility. He praised the solid foundation laid by Mayor Nkosi, acknowledging her capable leadership in maintaining political stability and administrative stability within the municipality. Ngovene emphasized the importance of their political home granting them the authority to lead such an important institution, stressing their role as custodians of the people's interests.

Ngovene highlighted the municipality's commitment to serving the people with diligence and humility, emphasizing the need to close the gap between the government and the community. He reiterated the importance of prioritizing quality service delivery as per their manifesto, ensuring that no acts of wrongdoing compromise these efforts.

The acting Executive Mayor identified several pressing challenges that require immediate attention:

- Cumulative Eskom Debt: A significant financial burden that affects the municipality's ability to provide essential services.
- Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Debt: Outstanding debts to the Department of Water and Sanitation, which impact water service delivery.
- Low Revenue Collection: A challenge that hampers the municipality's financial stability and capacity to invest in community development projects.

Ngovene called for collective action to address these challenges, expressing optimism that through collaboration, the municipality can overcome these obstacles and move forward. He acknowledged the capable management team that complements political efforts, ensuring the municipality achieves its objectives.

As Ngovene takes the reins, he is committed to building on the existing solid foundation, ensuring a sound political environment prevails. His leadership is poised to navigate the municipality through its current challenges while maintaining the stability and progress initiated by Mayor Nkosi. The council's unanimous support for Ngovene's appointment reflects their confidence in his ability to steer the municipality effectively during this transitional period.

The community and stakeholders alike are hopeful that under Ngovene's interim leadership, Msukaligwa Municipality will continue to thrive and address its pressing issues, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for its residents. As the municipality moves forward, the focus remains on service delivery, community engagement, and economic development, all while wishing Mayor Nkosi a speedy recovery to resume her duties.

Ngovene highlighted the municipality's commitment to serving the people with diligence and humility, emphasizing the need to close the gap between the government and the community.



STRATEGIC PLANNING IN THE CONTEXT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Strategic planning in local government refers to a structured process aimed at defining the long-term goals, priorities, and objectives of a municipality to ensure effective governance and service delivery. It involves assessing current challenges, reviewing progress on existing plans, and setting actionable strategies to address community needs. This process aligns with the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), budgetary frameworks, and constitutional mandates, such as Section 152 of the Constitution of South Africa, which outlines the objects of local government. Strategic planning enables municipalities to allocate resources efficiently, monitor performance, and foster collaboration among stakeholders.

Overview of the Strategic Planning Session

Msukaligwa Local Municipality held its Annual Strategic Planning session on 6–7 February 2025 at Forever Resort, Manzana. The session was attended by Councillors, Senior Management, representatives from various Government Departments, and members of SAMWU (Union). The event was conducted under the theme: “Let’s Grow Msukaligwa Local Municipality Together.”

The session served as a platform to:

- Review the Five-Year IDP targets.
- Provide feedback on the status quo and progress in implementing resolutions from previous strategic planning sessions.
- Reflect on current challenges and propose recommendations for addressing them.

Facilitation and Leadership

The session was facilitated by Mrs. Samukelisiwe Khanyile, a member of the Audit Committee for Msukaligwa Local Municipality. Her expertise in Performance Management and Strategic Planning ensured that discussions were structured and productive.

The Executive Mayor, Alderwoman MP. Nkosi, set the tone for the session with an address that emphasized:

- Achievements since the 2021 Local Government Elections.
- Successes and areas for improvement since the 2024 Strategic Planning session.
- The constitutional objects of local government aimed at accelerating service delivery.

The Municipal Manager, Mr. M. Kunene, presented a detailed report highlighting:

- The status of the municipality with a focus on IDP and budget-related issues.

- Revenue enhancement strategies.
- Challenges posed by distribution losses.
- Financial constraints due to unfunded budgets over five consecutive years.
- The impact of ESKOM and DWS accounts.

Both leaders urged Directors to report on:

- Progress in implementing resolutions from previous sessions.
- Achievements related to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Reasons for non-achievement and mitigation strategies.

Structure of the Session

Presentations were made by various Government Departments and Msukaligwa Directors. These were divided into Commissions aligned with the Five Local Government Strategic Areas. Key highlights included:

- 1. IDP Review Presentation:** Delivered by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.
- 2. Guidance on Methodology:** The Office of the Premier provided direction on conducting SWOT/PESTEL analyses within all Commissions.

Reports from Commissions were presented back to plenary for further engagement. However, resolutions were not approved during the session but referred to Management and the Executive for processing before final recommendations are made to Council for adoption.

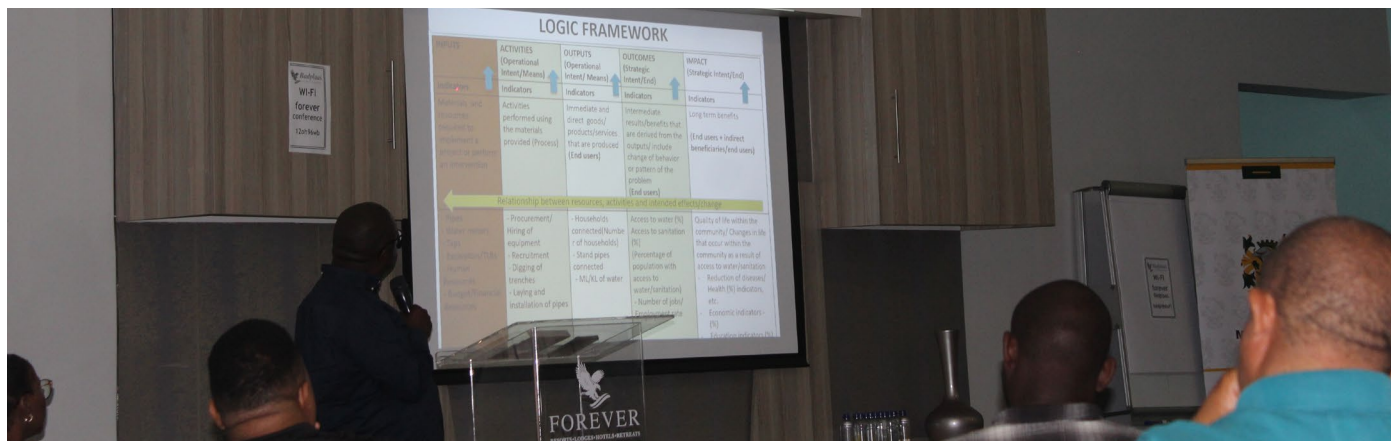
Key Outcomes

The session identified critical areas requiring attention:

- 1. Revenue Enhancement:** Strategies to address financial sustainability challenges.
- 2. Distribution Losses:** Mitigation measures to reduce losses impacting municipal finances.
- 3. Unfunded Budgets:** Solutions to address recurring financial deficits over five years.
- 4. Service Delivery Acceleration:** Recommendations aligned with constitutional mandates.

Next Steps

The resolutions from this Strategic Planning session will undergo further review by Management and the Executive before being submitted to Council for adoption and implementation during the current financial year. This collaborative effort highlights Msukaligwa Local Municipality’s commitment to fostering growth through inclusive planning processes while addressing pressing challenges effectively under its guiding theme: “Let’s Grow Msukaligwa Local Municipality Together.”



[IN PHOTOS]



FAREWELL SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

On the 27 of March 2025, The Director of Planning and Economic Development (PED), Ms Maganya delivered a heartfelt farewell speech, marking the end of a significant chapter in her professional journey in Msukaligwa Local Municipality.

In an emotional address, the Director began by expressing deep gratitude to everyone present, acknowledging the moment as bittersweet. Maganya reflected on her time with the municipality, emphasizing the profound impact that colleagues and leadership had on her growth and experiences. The Director extended sincere thanks to key figures within the municipality, Municipal Manager (MM) and Executive Committee (EXCO) members for their guidance which she described as a "compass" that steered her through challenges and successes.

She also extended sincere thanks to the Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) and Political Leadership at large for the support and direction provided by these leaders were acknowledged as instrumental in shaping departmental achievements. Special recognition was given to the Director's team, highlighting the collaborative spirit, shared learning, and collective accomplishments that defined their tenure. "The memories we've created together, the challenges we've overcome, and the successes we've celebrated will always hold a special place in my heart," she remarked.

Maganya fondly recalled moments that transcended professional boundaries, such as laughter-filled social gatherings, year-end parties, and trips. These experiences fostered a sense of amity that made the

workplace feel like a second family. A particularly lighthearted mention was made of her "work husband," a supportive colleague whose presence added joy to daily work life.

She voiced confidence in the team's ability to continue achieving great things, describing them as an "exceptional group of individuals."

As she prepares for new challenges, the Director expressed excitement about future opportunities while carrying forward valuable lessons and cherished relationships from her time at Msukaligwa. She voiced confidence in the team's ability to continue achieving great things, describing them as an "exceptional group of individuals."

She concluded with an inspiring quote: "If it scares you, it might be a good thing to try." The Director encouraged colleagues to embrace challenges with courage and optimism. The acting Municipal Manager Mr. M Lukhele, Member of Mayoral Committee Cllr B Motha and Managers in the Department, all bid farewell with heartfelt wishes for continued success, joy, and fulfilment in her new chapter.



FLTR: MANAGER IDP, MR. K NHLABATI, MANAGER HUMAN SETTLEMENT, MR. BC THUSI, FORMER DIRECTOR MS. H MAGANYA OF PED, MANAGER OF LED, MR. MN MOLELEKI, MANAGER SPLUMA, MR. FC MATHEBULA, AND CLLR. BG MOTHA



FLTR: DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES, MR. MS DLAMINI, CLLR BG MOTHA, FORMER DIRECTOR MS. H MAGANYA OF PED, ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER, MR. LUKHELE, AND CFO, MR. PJ NHLABATHI



THE PRESIDENTIAL HOTLINE

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

WHY THE PRESIDENTIAL HOTLINE?

In the State of the Nation address in June 2009, the President emphasised the need to promote government that is responsive, interactive and effective. The Presidential Hotline was established as a service for members of the public to raise their concerns about poor service delivery from government departments and agencies.

WHO DECIDES WHEN A COMPLAINT IS RESOLVED?

Each department uses the reporting system to record how it has addressed the complaint and whether it has been closed. The DPME in the Presidency conducts satisfaction surveys asking citizens if they are satisfied with the resolution. If there is reasonable cause the complaint may be reopened for further attention. After a department has recorded that they have resolved the complaint, the DPME-Presidency conducts sample satisfaction surveys via telephone to assess the experience of the citizen in using the Hotline.

WHO SHOULD CONTACT THE PRESIDENTIAL HOTLINE?

Any member of the public who has a query, complaint or compliment about the public service can use the Presidential Hotline. Members of the public are encouraged to first use the complaints systems of a department or municipality and to use the Hotline when this experience is not satisfactory.

HOW DOES THE PRESIDENCY ENSURE THAT DEPARTMENTS ATTEND TO THE COMPLAINTS AND QUERIES?

The Department of Planning Monitoring & Evaluation (DPME) in the Presidency conducts regular monitoring to ensure that departments are investigating and resolving complaints. For complaints that remain unresolved or are urgent, the DPME in the Presidency will escalate the complaint to the senior managers in the department.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREPARE BEFORE I CALL OR SEND MY EMAIL?

Prepare notes of all key dates, names, your contact details and reference numbers of previous complaints as this will assist with quick and clear capturing of your complaint.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE COMPLAINT ONCE IT IS RECEIVED?

If it is an enquiry, information may be provided immediately. If the complaint or query is related to the government service delivery and government business, it will be logged on an automated information system and a reference number will be provided to you. Each complaint is assigned to a specific government department or agency (national and provincial) to investigate and resolve. Every department and province is expected to review its Hotline cases daily and to record the outcome of the investigation for each case.

I CHANGED MY CONTACT DETAILS AFTER I RECEIVED MY REFERENCE NUMBER, WHAT DO I DO?

You must call the call centre with your reference number and ask for your details to be updated on the system so that we are able to contact you for more information or to update you on progress.

HOW CAN PROGRESS BE TRACKED?

Members of the public can contact the call centre to ask about progress with investigating their complaint. Departments that assigned cases are expected to communicate with the complainant regularly to provide updates on progress.

CONTACT THE PRESIDENTIAL HOTLINE WITH YOUR COMPLAINTS, ENQUIRIES, COMPLIMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

CALL CENTRE

Free call to 17737 (or 1Pres).
Thirty Call Agents are on duty between 06h00 and 22h00 from Mondays to Fridays, and callers are able to communicate in a South African language of their choice.

POST

The Presidency, Private Bag X 1000
Pretoria, 0001

EMAIL

President@presidency.gov.za

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

www.thepresidency.gov.za | www.thedpme.gov.za





QUALITY OF OUR DRINKING WATER

This report indicates an overview of water quality status for the past 3 months (i.e. January 2025 to March 2025) across Msukaligwa local municipality jurisdiction area. The report is generated from the monthly water results received from Gert Sibande District Municipality water quality laboratory.

Msukaligwa local municipality serves as the water service authority (WSA) as well as water service provider (WSP). The municipality provides access to clean water for the communities within its jurisdiction in accordance with the Constitution of the republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996, the municipal structures (Act 117 Of 1998).

Approximately 35% of the population of Msukaligwa local Municipality reside in rural areas (farms or villages). The municipality uses both the internal and external expertise and capacity to provide water services to the communities within the six supply schemes, namely Ermelo/Wesselton scheme, Davel/kwaDela scheme, Breyten/kwaZanele & Chrissiesmeer/kwaChibikhulu scheme, Lothair scheme, Sheepmoor scheme and rural scheme.

ERMELO/WESSELTON SCHEME

The Ermelo water supply scheme abstract raw water from Jericho, Douglas and Brummer Dams for the treatment in two water treatment works namely Southern treatment plant (Jericho Dam) at 13 Mega litres per day and Northern treatment plant (Douglas Dam & Brummer Dam) at 14 Mega litres per day with a combined capacity of 27 Mega litres per day and distributed to 155 351 of the populations which covers areas like the whole of Ermelo.

BREYTEN/KWAZANELE & CHRISSIESMEER/KWACHIBIKHULU SCHEME

The Breyten/kwaZanele & Chrissiesmeer/kwaChibikhulu scheme water supply scheme abstracts raw water from the Torbanite dam and Usutu – transfer pipeline via the upper Komati pipeline for treatment in Breyten treatment work with a design capacity of 3 Mega litres per day and distributed to a population of over 26 177 in Breyten / kwaZanele and Chrissiesmeer / KwaChibikhulu.

DAVEL/KWADELA SCHEME

The Jericho scheme/Usutu pipeline water supply scheme abstracts raw water from the Jericho dam for treatment in Davel water treatment plant with a design capacity of 1 Mega litres per day and distributed to a population of 5 711 in Davel and kwaDela.

LOTHAIR SCHEME

The Lothair water supply scheme abstracts raw water from Impuluzi River for the treatment in capacity of 1 Mega litre per day and distributed to over 8 435 population in Slindile and Lothair.

SHEEPMOOR SCHEME

The Sheepmoor scheme abstracts raw water from Jericho dam for the treatment in Sheepmoor water treatment works with the capacity of 1 Mega litre per day distributed a population of 3 886. RURAL SCHEME Drinking water is provided to farms and villages through the maintenance and operation of over 100 boreholes and 8 water tankers for fifty-two farms and villages.

RURAL SCHEME

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WATER LABORATORY IN USE

Water samples are collected by Gert Sibande District laboratory samplers for analysis once a month at all our water treatment plants to be tested at their accredited laboratory. The results are then sent to the municipality to be analysed by the technician & water quality supervisor for compliance SANS 241: 2015.

WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS

The following Water quality parameters are taken into consideration when analysing the quality of drinking water: Microbiological properties (presence of bacteria, viruses and pathogens); Physical properties (conductivity, PH and turbidity) Chemical properties (fluoride, chloride, nitrate, sulphate, iron, manganese, dissolves salts, metals etc.)

WATER QUALITY OVERVIEW

During the 3 months period from January - March 2025, 210 water samples were taken. The samples were taken from different locations of water supply schemes which include the treatment works, reservoirs, household's taps, schools and boreholes, etc. 210 analyses were done from those samples to determine physical, chemical and microbiological compliance of final water.

Month	No. of samples	Chemical failures	Percentage chemical compliance	Microbial failures	Percentage microbial compliance
January	70	3	96%	20	72%
February	70	4	94%	25	64%
March	70	5	93%	21	70%

No. of samples	210 samples and/or represent
Microbial failures	66
Chemical failures	12

- 66 (Sixty six) samples (Microbial) points failed to comply with class 1 SANS 241: 2015 and thus equated to 69% compliant.
- 12 (Twelve) samples (Chemical) points failed to comply with class 1 SANS 241: 2015 and thus equated to 94% compliant.

CONCLUSION

The municipality remains committed in safeguarding public health through continuously and consistently monitoring of drinking water quality.

The municipality is confident about the quality of drinking water supply at each and every tap. Clean and drinkable water in line with SANS 241:2015 the municipality will ensure the following:

- That all unacceptable sample result at various points will be monitored weekly until they improve.
- Gert Sibande District Municipality will take samples once every month for all water treatment plants to be analysed at their accredited laboratory.



THE PHOENIX

The rebuilding of Ermelo after the destruction of almost all buildings during the 1899 to 1902 war.



THE UNIFORMED BLACK AND WHITE TRIANGLES

The mining and coal industry in the immediately vicinity of Greater Ermelo and the integration of the two towns.



THE CROSSED SHOVEL AND SHEEP SHEARS

Representing the two most important farming operations - horticulture and sheep farming.



THE MOTTO

"Stabiliter Progrediens" which means stable progress.