



NEWSLETTER

# MSUKALIGWA

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**A BEACON OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE**

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Mr. MAJ Zwane

## BATHO PELE IN ACTION: MSUKALIGWA MUNICIPALITY SETS THE STANDARD FOR PEOPLE-FIRST SERVICE

The Msukaligwa Local Municipality has taken bold and commendable steps to institutionalise the Batho Pele principles, ensuring that the ethos of "People First" is not just a slogan, but a lived reality for its citizens. Through a series of targeted initiatives, the municipality is transforming public service delivery, making it more responsive, transparent, and citizen-centric. Key highlights of Institutionalisation of Batho pele

### CONSULTATION: LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE

The innovative Livi Lemphakayhi App is set to revolutionise community engagement, enabling quarterly customer surveys and real-time feedback from residents.

Regular Izimbizo (public meetings) are conducted every quarter, providing a direct platform for community voices to shape municipal priorities.

### SERVICE CHARTER: CLEAR COMMITMENTS TO EXCELLENCE

The municipality has approved and prominently displayed Service Charters and Service Standards, ensuring citizens know what level of service to expect. These standards are visible and accessible, reinforcing accountability and transparency.

### INFORMATION: KEEPING CITIZENS INFORMED

Strategic signage across Ermelo and at municipal offices makes the municipality's presence and services unmistakable.

A dedicated help/information desk at the Civic Centre is now partial operational, it will be staffed by knowledgeable personnel, and equipped with brochures, posters, and essential forms.

Regular internal (monthly) and external (quarterly) newsletters keep both staff and the public updated on key developments. Regular updates on the municipal social media platforms like Facebook, X and livi lemphakatsi app

The Msukaligwa Local Municipality ensures that the ethos of "People First" is not just a slogan, but a lived reality for its citizens.

### COURTESY: RESPECT AT EVERY INTERACTION

All staff wear name tags and are encouraged to treat every citizen with courtesy and respect, fostering a welcoming and professional environment.

### REDRESS: MECHANISMS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

Multiple channels for public feedback and complaints are in place, including a toll-free number, suggestion/complaint, and compliments boxes, as well as customer satisfaction questionnaires.

The 24-hour contact centre and the Livi Lenphakatsi mobile app provide around-the-clock access for citizens to raise concerns or seek assistance. This also plays a crucial role in the information principle.

Msukaligwa Municipality's proactive approach to embedding Batho Pele principles is not just policy—it's practice. By prioritising consultation, transparency, courtesy, and accountability, the municipality is building trust and setting a benchmark for service excellence. This is the kind of people-first governance that inspires confidence and delivers real change at the grassroots level.



It is with a profound sense of reflection and responsibility that I share this foreword at the close of the fourth quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year. The past few months have been filled with moments of sorrow and hope, challenge and progress, and I wish to begin by honoring those who have touched our community deeply.

I would like us to pause for a moment of silence in remembrance of three (3) of our valued colleagues who passed away during May and June 2025. They will be sorely missed, and on behalf of the entire municipality I express heartfelt condolences to their families and colleagues. We honor their memories by continuing the work to which they were so devoted. On a personal note, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the residents of Msukaligwa and all our partners for your incredible support and best wishes following my recovery from the accident earlier this year. Your kindness, prayers, and words of encouragement were a source of great strength for me and my family during a difficult time. It is a privilege to serve a community that stands together in times of need.

In April and May of 2025, we embarked on our annual budget public consultation program, reaching all 19 wards of our municipality. From April 22 through May 9, officials, councillors, and community leaders held meetings and workshops in every ward, inviting residents to participate in the budget-making process. We ensured that our planning and budgeting are aligned with the real needs and priorities of our communities. During these consultations, a key theme emerged: the need to review certain policies to better serve the less fortunate and to adapt to our local economic realities. The policies were considered carefully with the aim of easing the financial burden on households that are struggling. The voices of our people guided us to propose adjustments that will make these policies more responsive and equitable, ensuring that essential services remain affordable to all.

The proposed annual budget underscores Msukaligwa Local Municipality's dedication to improving infrastructure and service delivery, with a strong emphasis on water, sanitation, and electricity. Challenges such as illegal electricity connections, aging infrastructure, and the growth of informal settlements have led to service disruptions and revenue losses. To address this, the municipality has implemented reforms, including cost-

reflective tariffs, indigent support, and measures to reduce non-technical losses like improved billing and meter audits. These efforts are part of a broader turnaround strategy guided by a Financial Recovery Plan and supported by National Treasury.

Encouragingly, revenue collection has improved from 70% to 74%, reflecting increased cooperation from residents and businesses. The 2025/2026 Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) outlines key projects aimed at addressing infrastructure backlogs and stimulating local employment. These include upgrades to the Ermelo Wastewater Treatment Works, new bulk sewer pipelines, road paving in Weselton, sewer system improvements in Wards 32–34, and the continued construction of Mandela Bridge. The municipality remains committed to transparency, prioritizing local labor and ensuring every cent of the budget benefits the community. Councillors and staff are commended for their dedication to oversight, service delivery, and meaningful community engagement.

The people of Msukaligwa deserve to see value in every project and service, and they deserve to be kept informed. To the residents of Msukaligwa, I say thank you for the trust you place in us. Together, we are building a municipality that responds to the aspirations of our Constitution. Let us move forward with confidence and unity. The road ahead may be challenging, but I am hopeful that by working together, we will overcome the obstacles and seize the opportunities that lie before us. May the memories of those we have lost inspire us to serve the community with even greater dedication.

The need to  
review certain  
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realities.

**ALDERWOMAN MP NKOSI**  
EXECUTIVE MAYOR





**ALDERWOMAN M.P NKOSI**  
EXECUTIVE MAYOR



**ALDERWOMAN C.E MSEZANE**  
MMC FINANCE



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



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





## Municipal Manager Mr. M Kunene

As we end the 2024/2025 financial year, I am proud to reflect on the meaningful progress achieved through our Integrated Development Plan (IDP). More than a compliance requirement, the IDP remains a dynamic tool that guides how Msukaligwa Local Municipality delivers services, adapts to challenges, and plans for a better future.

Revised in line with Section 34 of the Municipal Systems Act, the IDP reflects both our strategic direction and the input of our communities. This quarter's work highlights the milestones we have reached, the pressures we continue to manage, and the collaborative spirit that moves us forward.

Our infrastructure programmes gained traction, particularly with the upgrade of the Cluster 2 regional bulk water scheme benefiting Breyten, KwaZanele, Chrissiesmeer, Lothair, and Warburton. Road rehabilitation efforts also advanced — restoring vital corridors that support mobility and economic activity.

**This quarter's work highlights the milestones we have reached, the pressures we continue to manage, and the collaborative spirit that moves us forward.**

To improve service efficiency, 4 614 electricity metres and 1 000 water metres were installed, helping curb losses and improve revenue accuracy. Load management technologies are also being piloted in Breyten and KwaZanele to improve safety and stabilise supply. Nonetheless, challenges persist. Ageing infrastructure, frequent pipe bursts, and energy supply issues remain concerns. In response, we have launched

a Water Conservation and Demand Management Programme and are drafting an Electricity Master Plan. Our teams continue to deliver under resource constraints, with job grading reviews underway to better support and retain key technical staff.

In sanitation, wastewater facilities in Ermelo and KwaZanele remain under pressure due to rising demand. Ermelo's plant is currently in the procurement phase for an upgrade, while KwaZanele's proposal has received technical approval but is not yet funded.

Water quality continues to receive focused attention. Manganese levels have been reduced in affected areas, and sulphate treatment trials are in progress. Looking ahead, the Nooitgedacht Dam water supply project is being scoped to support the Ermelo Cluster, pending registration and funding.

Meanwhile, five of nine new boreholes have been connected to supply systems. Although KwaZanele Extension 6 faces delay due to leaks, remedial work is ongoing. Across most clusters, reservoir levels have stabilised above 70% — an encouraging sign, although aquifer pressure in Warburton remains fragile.

On the financial front, by April 2025, 63% of grant allocations had been spent. While the Municipal Infrastructure Grant and Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) performed well, Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and Municipal Disaster Recovery Grant (MDRG) implementation lagged due to procurement delays and project readiness issues.

Despite the complexities, our commitment to responsive and resilient governance remains firm. Through the continued efforts of our Communications team, we ensure that residents are informed, engaged, and connected to the work being done in their communities.

With ongoing support from residents, government partners, and civil society, we move forward with focus and determination. The IDP is our collective map — and together, we walk it.



**MR. M KUNENE**  
MUNICIPAL MANAGER



**MR. MS DLAMINI**  
DIRECTOR:  
CORPORATE SERVICES



**MR. FC MATHEBULA**  
ACT. 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 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;
- Render vehicle and plant mechanical services;
- Manage information and communication technology services;
- Manage fleet 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 and insurance;
- 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.
- Manage integrated development planning

## DIRECTOR: TECHNICAL SERVICES

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

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



# Youth Step into the Future Through Learnership Drive

It is not every day that hope fills a hall the way it did on 15 May 2025 at the 1948 Community Hall in Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM). You could feel it from the moment you walked through the doors a quiet buzz, a nervous excitement, the kind of energy that says, "This might just be my chance."

The occasion was a recruitment drive led by Public Employment Services (PES), an entity of the Department of Employment and Labour, rolled out across the Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM). This was not just another administrative event. It was something different.

The drive brought with it real opportunities for unemployed youth, a 12-month learnership programme offered through the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) Labour Activation Programme (LAP), in partnership with Yenzo IT Solutions. Young people could apply to be trained as Fibre Optics Technicians or AWS Data Analytics Practitioners, skills that are not only relevant, but in demand.

GSDM Mayor, Cllr M Mngomezulu, alongside MLM Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr SE Ngovene, spoke directly to the youth in attendance. Not in lofty political jargon, but in language that landed exactly to the hearts of those eager to start a new chapter.

"You are not just numbers in a database," Cllr Ngovene said, pausing with intention. "You are the future professionals who will drive this district. We are here to open the door, and it is up to you to walk through it."

The success of the MLM leg of the recruitment drive became evident when, weeks later, it was announced that 55 local applicants had been accepted into the learnership. The joy was unmistakable. On 6 June, the 55 young people were honoured at a send-off ceremony at the Civic Centre. The return of MLM Executive Mayor, Alderwoman MP Nkosi, made the moment even more symbolic.

**"You are the future professionals who will drive this district. We are here to open the door, and it is up to you to walk through it."**

"Let this opportunity change the course of your life," she said, standing alongside Municipal Manager Mr. M Kunene and Director of Corporate Services, Mr. MS Dlamini. "We believe in you. Now it is your turn to believe in yourselves."

Across GSDM, similar drives took place in Dipaleseng, Govan Mbeki, and Lekwa Local Municipalities. But for those of us here in MLM, this one hit home. We saw our own youth finally get the opportunity they had been waiting for.



THE YOUTH OF MSUKALIGWA TURNED OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS FOR THE RECRUITMENT DRIVE AT 1948 COMMUNITY HALL, EAGERLY ENGAGING WITH PRESENTERS IN EXCITEMENT OVER THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED TO THEM.



ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MLM, CLLR SE NGOVENE (LEFT), PICTURED ALONGSIDE THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF GSDM, CLLR WM MNGOMEZULU (RIGHT)



THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MLM, ALDERWOMAN MP NKOSI, CONGRATULATES THE 55 SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WHO MADE IT INTO THE PROGRAMME.



SMILES ALL AROUND AS MSUKALIGWA MANAGEMENT AND YENZO IT SOLUTIONS OFFICIALS CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL SEND-OFF FOR THE NEW RECRUITS.



# National Freedom Day Commemorations in Ermelo



All eyes turned to Ermelo as the AJ Swanepoel Stadium became the venue for South Africa's official 2025 National Freedom Day commemoration. This significant national event brought together citizens from across the country to reflect on the country's democratic journey since 1994 and to honour the sacrifices that made freedom possible.

**“It reminds us that local municipalities are key agents in driving transformation, delivering services, and ensuring that the promises of freedom are felt by every household”**

Held under the theme “United in Resilience for the Defence of Our Freedom and Democracy,” the day served as a reminder of the strength and unity that has carried South Africa through periods of change and adversity. The theme also called on South Africans to recommit to the founding principles of democracy, equality, and social justice. Citizens gathered for the occasion, including cultural performers, military veterans, learners, faith-based organisations, civil society, and dignitaries from all spheres of government. The programme featured performances, tributes, and symbolic displays of national pride.

“This is not just a commemoration of our democratic breakthrough. It reminds us that local municipalities are key agents in driving transformation, delivering services, and ensuring that the promises of freedom are felt by every household,” said Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr Ernest Ngoveni. The keynote address was delivered by Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Hon. Gwede Mantashe, on behalf of President Cyril Ramaphosa. In his speech, Minister Mantashe acknowledged the

hard-fought journey toward freedom and outlined the many challenges that still confront the nation, including poverty, youth unemployment, and service delivery constraints. However, he emphasised the enduring spirit of unity and resilience that defines the South African people.

“Freedom is not an endpoint,” Mantashe said. “It is a continuous process of empowerment, accountability, and justice. This commemoration reminds us that we must protect and strengthen the democratic institutions that give meaning to our Constitution.”

President Ramaphosa's message paid tribute to the heroes and heroines of the liberation struggle and encouraged today's youth to honour their legacy through active citizenship and education. He stressed that democracy can only be sustained when citizens participate fully, and when institutions — especially local municipalities — remain responsive and transparent.

The commemoration took place within Msukaligwa Local Municipality placed the municipality on the national stage and highlighted the region's place in the broader national narrative of development and democracy.



PREMIER OF MPUMALANGA, MANDLA NDLOVU AND MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ACTING MAYOR, ERNEST NGOVENE UNITE IN CELEBRATION AS THE PROVINCE AND REGION HOSTS NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY COMMEMORATIONS AT THE AJ SWANEPOEL STADIUM IN ERMELO.



[IN PHOTOS]



# Wesselton Road Rehabilitation Project Gains Momentum

The Wesselton Road Rehabilitation Project, officially launched on 22 April 2025, has entered an exciting phase of visible progress. Following the ceremonial sod-turning on 6 May 2025 at the Mpumalanga Stadium, work is now fully underway bringing hope, mobility, and opportunity to the people of Wesselton.

On 25 June 2025, an oversight visit was led by the Executive Mayor, Alderwoman. MP Nkosi, accompanied by the Chief Whip, the MMC of Technical Services, the MMC of Finance, Ward Councillors from Wards 4, 9, and 17, the Community Liaison Officer (CLO), administrative officials, and representatives from the appointed contractor. The visit aimed to monitor progress, strengthen accountability, and maintain transparent communication with stakeholders.

Welcoming officials to the site, Mayor Nkosi commended the progress made so far and reiterated the municipality's commitment to service delivery.

Visible progress observed during the oversight included excavation and site preparation, marking the transition into the core construction phase.

"This project is more than just construction, it's a declaration of commitment to restoring dignity, improving daily lives, and opening doors for future growth," said Mayor Nkosi. "We are building infrastructure that connects people not only to places, but to opportunity."

Local stakeholders also expressed their appreciation for the visible improvements taking place.

"It's encouraging to see that the promises made are now turning into real action," said Ntombikayishelwe Zwane. "We are grateful that progress is being made and that the community is seeing real change." Prudence Ngwenya added: "This project gives us hope. Better roads mean safer transport, better access to services, and a better future for our families."

The project entails the rehabilitation of approximately 2.6 kilometres of road, beginning at the Cemetery Street and Oosthuizen Street intersection and continuing through to the Mabuza and Nsibande Street intersection. This route includes a key taxi collector road that had been heavily damaged over time, resulting in transport delays, vehicle damage, and increased safety risks. Additionally, inadequate stormwater drainage had led to uncontrolled surface runoff that further deteriorated the road surface.

Visible progress observed during the oversight included excavation and site preparation, marking the transition into the core construction phase. Technical upgrades underway are extensive and include a full geometric redesign to improve traffic flow, as well as the construction of a new subsoil and stormwater system featuring kerb inlets and junction boxes to manage water runoff. To protect structural integrity, major culverts are being reinforced with gabions. The project also includes the installation of pedestrian walkways and curbs, enhancing safety and accessibility for non-motorised road users. Improvements to the public transport hub are also underway to ease congestion and improve daily commuting.

The project is also contributing significantly to local economic development. To date, 12 individuals have been employed, comprising 1(One) adult female, 4(Four) youth females, and 7 (Seven) youth males, as part of the labour force. Five local SMMEs have received work through the 30% subcontracting allocation, ensuring that the benefits of the project circulate within the local economy. This employment drive reflects a people-first approach and a meaningful step toward youth empowerment and poverty relief.

Awarded to Makey Building Construction, the project is on track for completion by 19 December 2025. It reflects not only a long-awaited road upgrade, but a broader vision of inclusive, sustainable development, where infrastructure meets dignity, safety, and opportunity.



ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS UNDERWAY ALONG THE MAIN TAXI ROUTE AS PART OF ONGOING UPGRADES IN WARDS 3, 4 AND 6. THE PROJECT AIMS TO IMPROVE MOBILITY AND SAFETY FOR DAILY COMMUTERS.



EXECUTIVE MAYOR ALDERWOMAN, MP. NKOSI, CHIEF WHIP ALDERWOMAN PT SIBEKO, MMC FOR FINANCE ALDERWOMAN CE MSEZANE, WARD 3 COUNCILLOR CLLR. TJ MADUNA, MMC FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES ALDERWOMAN TC MOTHA, AND A LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBER DURING A SITE VISIT TO THE ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECT ALONG THE MAIN TAXI ROUTE IN WARD 3.



# Executive Mayor Nkosi Leads Oversight Visits to Mandela Drive and Mabuza Access Bridge Projects

## Restoring safe passage, rebuilding trust, and reconnecting communities

On 25 June 2025, Executive Mayor Alderwoman MP Nkosi visited two important infrastructure sites under rehabilitation: Mandela Drive and the Mabuza Access Bridge. These visits form part of the Municipality's commitment to restoring mobility, improving safety, and delivering infrastructure that meets the needs of residents. Joined by councillors, officials, engineers, and community members, the mayor walked through the sites, listened to local concerns, and witnessed progress firsthand.

“These projects are about more than construction, they’re about restoring access, dignity, safety, and connection”

### MANDELA DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION

Mandela Drive is a well-travelled two-point-one kilometre (2.1 km) route that links neighbourhoods to the N17 interchange. Over time, the road had severely deteriorated, and damaged by years of wear, underground water leaks, and the collapse of a critical culvert. Situated near Lindile Secondary School, the poor road conditions made travel risky for learners, public transport, and emergency vehicles. In response, the Municipality appointed LPS Consulting Engineers to lead a full-scale reconstruction. Work began on 11 April 2025 and is set to be completed by 17 November 2025. The scope includes culvert replacement, road resurfacing, and stormwater upgrades designed to make the road safer and more durable for years to come.

This project is also boosting the local economy. So far, twenty-two (22) jobs have been created, employing five (5) adult males, five (5) adult females, seven (7) youth males, and four (4) youth females from Wards

Three (3) and Seventeen (17). Additionally, five (5) local SMMEs have been brought on board through the Municipality's 30% subcontracting policy, ensuring that small businesses benefit directly from the work being done in their communities.

### MABUZA ACCESS BRIDGE REHABILITATION

In a different part of the Municipality, near Mthonjeni Clinic, the Mabuza Access Bridge is finally receiving the attention it needs. For many residents, this narrow route had become unreliable and unsafe, especially for school children, pedestrians, and vehicles. With the road surface weakening and crossings becoming hazardous, the Municipality acted to restore the structure before further risks developed. Makey Building Construction began work on 09 June 2025, with completion planned for 31 July 2025. The rehabilitation includes rebuilding the bridge, stabilising embankments, improving drainage, and adding safer pedestrian features.

The project has already created eleven (11) jobs, offering work to five (5) adult males, three (3) adult females, two (2) youth males, and one (1) youth female, and has subcontracted one (1) local SMME to assist with key elements of the build. Like Mandela Drive, these projects are supported by dedicated Community Liaison Officers (CLOs), who are making sure that local voices are heard and that communication flows clearly between the contractor, the community, and the Municipality.

“These projects are about more than construction, they’re about restoring access, dignity, safety, and connection,” said Mayor Nkosi during her site visits. “We know residents have faced real frustration, especially children trying to reach school and families needing basic access. For that, we sincerely apologise. But today we’re not just saying sorry, we’re showing what it means to rebuild, together.” Local resident Nokuthula Mabuza shared, “It was hard to get our children to school safely. Now we see real changes every day. We’re grateful something is finally being done.”

These two projects, different in location but united in purpose, show what's possible when leadership and community come together. Through urgent action, job creation, and local inclusion, Msukaligwa is not only restoring infrastructure, but also renewing hope, one road and one bridge at a time.



OFFICIALS FROM MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND ENGINEERS ASSESSING THE COLLAPSED CULVERT BRIDGE NEAR MANDELA DRIVE.



REHABILITATION OF MABUZA ACCESS BRIDGE UNDERWAY, A KEY ARTERIAL ROUTE CONNECTING WARDS 3, 4 AND 6.



LOCAL WORKERS INSTALLING UNDERGROUND SERVICES AS PART OF ONGOING INFRASTRUCTURE WORK ON THE MABUZA ACCESS BRIDGE PROJECT.



# SANRAL Takes Road Development Dialogue to Msukaligwa

On 5 May 2025, the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) brought its road development vision directly to the people of Msukaligwa through a vibrant community engagement session at the Civic Centre Hall. The session focused on the planned upgrade of National Route N2 Section 34—from Leiden to Camden—an essential 28.4km corridor that will soon benefit from improved safety, efficiency, and economic connectivity.

The event, held under the banner “Taking SANRAL to the People of Msukaligwa Local Municipality,” created an inclusive space for residents to understand the scope of the R-project and interact with key stakeholders. Opening the session, Acting Executive Mayor Cllr S.E. Ngovene described the initiative as a bridge between national infrastructure development and local empowerment. “This isn’t just about building a road,” he said. “It’s about creating opportunities and ensuring our people help, shape and benefit from the journey.”

**Transformation and inclusion were central themes, SANRAL reiterated its Horizon 2030 commitment to empowering local SMMEs, women, youth, and people with disabilities.**

Residents, SMMEs, youth representatives, and community leaders filled the hall alongside local councillors, administrative staff, and officials including Mr. M Kunene, the Municipal Manager. Mr. BM Buthelezi, MMC of Planning and Economic Development in Gert Sibande District Municipality, welcomed attendees, while SANRAL officials outlined the technical details of the upgrade, which includes road widening, resurfacing, drainage upgrades, and improved signage and safety features.

Facilitating the day’s programme was SANRAL’s Stakeholder Coordinator, Melba Geqa, who ensured that community voices were heard throughout. “When people understand the process, they become part of the solution,” she said.

The engagement also introduced the appointed contractors and Public Liaison Officers (PLOs), who will remain the primary link between SANRAL and the public throughout the project. “The PLOs are here to answer your questions, listen to your concerns, and make sure no one is left behind,” a SANRAL representative explained.

Transformation and inclusion were central themes. SANRAL reiterated its Horizon 2030 commitment to empowering local SMMEs, women, youth,

and people with disabilities. Local contractors will be subcontracted to ensure economic benefits remain in the community. “We’ve seen projects come and go without touching the lives of residents,” said Ward 8 resident Ntombikayise Nkabinde. “But this time, we’re part of the process from day one. That gives us hope.”

Ayanda Kunene, a youth from Ward 10, added: “It was powerful to meet the people behind the project. Now we understand how to get involved and who to speak to.”

Municipal Manager Mr. M Kunene, echoed these sentiments, calling the project a milestone for local economic growth. “This is a game-changer for our local economy,” he said. “We’re working with SANRAL to ensure that our residents and businesses gain real, lasting benefits.”

The event closed with a strong call to action from SANRAL Mpumalanga Provincial head, Ms Mabuyi Mhlanga: “This road belongs to the people of Msukaligwa. Let’s build it together, with transparency, trust, and teamwork.”

The community left the session informed, engaged, and optimistic—ready to play their part in what promises to be a landmark project for the region.



MS MELBA GEQA, PROJECT COORDINATOR, AT SANRAL, ENGAGING WITH RESIDENTS DURING A PUBLIC BRIEFING ON LOCAL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

[IN PHOTOS]



# Ukwakha Imisebenzi Nokusebenzisa Amakhono Ngokuqokwa Kwama-Process Controller

UMasipala uMsukaligwa uthuthukisa intuthuko yentsha ngokunikeza amathuba omsebenzi oqinile kubantu abasha abangu-25, asebevele banesitifiketi sokusebenza njengezikhulu zokulawula inqubo yamanzi (Water Process Controllers).

Sebeqalile ukusebenza eziteshini zokuhlaza amanzi, bedlala indima enkulu ekuqinisekiseni ukuthi imiphakathi ithola amanzi ahlanzekile. Imisebenzi yabo ihlanganisa ukuqapha izinqubo zokwelashwa kwamanzi, ukulungisa imishini, kanye nokuqoqwa kwamasampula okuhlola ikhwalithi yamanzi. Ngokuqashwa kwabo umasipala ukhombisa

ukuzibophezela ekwakheni ikhono langaphakathi kanye nasekuqiniseni isevisi yezamanzi ngesikhathi izinselelo ezifana nengqalasizinda egugile kanye nemithelela yokuguquka kwesimo sezulu ziba sobala.

Laba basebenzi abasha bafakazela ukuthi ulwazi lwezemfundo lungasetshenziswa ngempumelelo ekwenzeni umehluko emphakathini. Bangamalungu abalulekile ekuqinisekiseni ukuhlinzekwa kwamanzi okuthembekile, okukhombisa ukuthi ukudalwa kwemisebenzi kungahambisana nokuthuthukiswa kwekhwalithi yezinsiza zomphakathi.



Laba basebenzi abasha bafakazela ukuthi ulwazi lwezemfundo lungasetshenziswa ngempumelelo ekwenzeni umehluko emphakathini.

ABANTU ABASHA ABANGU-25 SEBEQALILE UKUSEBENZA EZITESHINI ZOKUHLANZA AMANZI. BADLALA INDIMA ENKULU EKUQINISEKISENI UKUTHI IMIPHAKATHI ITHOLA AMANZI AHLANZEKILE.

# YOUR VOICE MATTERS

## Livi Lemphakatsi is how it gets heard

Let us face it - we all notice things that are not working as they should. A pothole that is getting bigger by the day. Rubbish that has not been collected. A leaking pipe wasting water. These issues affect us all, but many people do not know where to report them, or whether anyone will respond. You shake your head, wonder if anyone is going to do something about it... then life carries on. But what if you did not have to just hope for change? What if you could make it happen - right from your phone?

Good news because you already can.

This is where the Livi Lemphakatsi Citizen Engagement Application comes in - and it is already in your hands. No queues. No guesswork. Just real action.

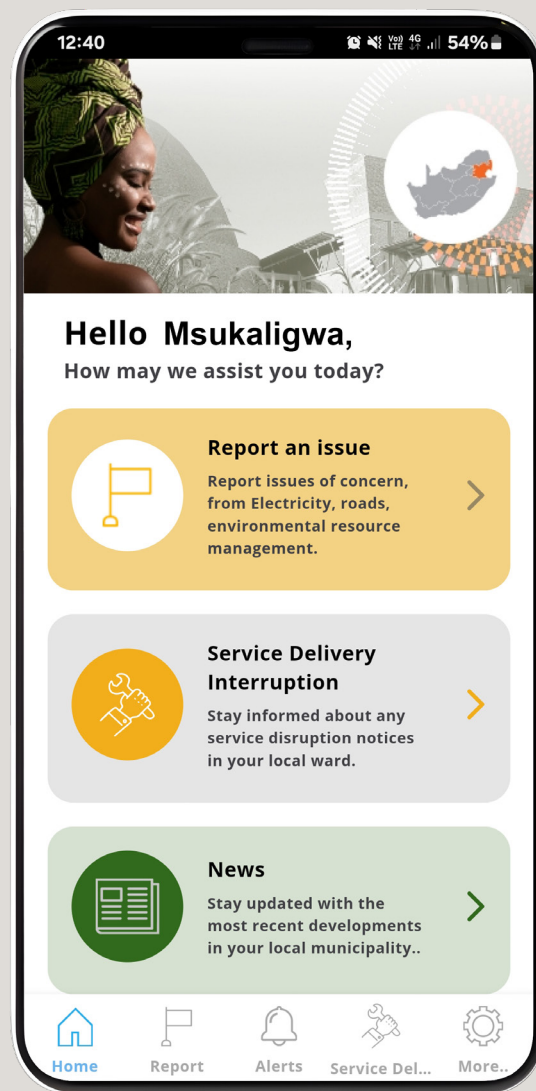
If you have not used it yet, here is how it works. Download the app from the Google Play Store or App Store. Once installed, register with your name, number, location and municipality. Then, whenever you spot a problem - maybe it is a leaking sewer, an uncollected bin, or a dangerous pothole - open the app and report your issue, snap a photo, add a short description, and let it use your location. Hit send, and Msukaligwa Local Municipality gets your report instantly.

The Livi Lemphakatsi app lets you track your complaint. No more wondering if someone saw it. You will see its status move from received, to in progress, and finally resolved once it is sorted. The app also sends important updates straight to your phone. Whether there is a planned power outage, road closure, or service disruption in your area, Livi Lemphakatsi keeps you in the loop. You can also read local government news and notices and take part in quick surveys to give your feedback.

This is not new technology - it is one of the most effective tools for making sure your voice is heard. As residents of Msukaligwa Local Municipality, it is up to all of us to speak up and hold our systems accountable. The app makes it simple, fast and accessible to everyone.

This is your reminder - Livi Lemphakatsi is still here. It is working. It is waiting for you to use it. Whether you have used it once or never, let this be the nudge to get involved again. You do not have to wait for someone else to act - you can be part of the solution.

Let us keep Msukaligwa Local Municipality clean, safe and responsive. Download the app. Report what matters. Help your municipality serve you better.



Whether there is a planned power outage, road closure, or service disruption in your area, Livi Lemphakatsi keeps you in the loop.





## Quality of our drinking water

This report indicates an overview of water quality status for the past 3 months (i.e. April to June 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 abstracts 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 April - June 2025, 256 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. 256 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
April	107	8	93%	22	79%
May	74	8	89%	10	86%
June	75	3	96%	8	89%

No. of samples	256 samples and/or represent
Microbial failures	40
Chemical failures	19

40 (Forty) samples (Microbial) points failed to comply with class 1 SANS 241: 2015 and thus equated to 84% compliant.

19 (Nineteen) samples (Chemical) points failed to comply with class 1 SANS 241: 2015 and thus equated to 93% 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 TRIAGLES

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 Progreiens" which means stable progress.