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## WARD 18 STANDS UNITED AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE



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TITLE DEED HANDOVERS



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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CLLR MTHUNZI RODERICK YENDE

### A BEACON OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE



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Mr. MAJ Zwane

## RENEWING OUR MORAL COMPASS IN 2026

The 2026 will shape who we are as a nation. It is a year that will test our leadership, our values, and our commitment to the people we serve. As an election year, it presents both challenges and opportunities for South Africa to reaffirm its dedication to accountable leadership, ethical governance, and the well-being of its citizens. For local governments like Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM), this national context makes it even more important to act with integrity, transparency, and a clear moral compass, guided by the Batho Pele principles, which put people first and focus on fairness, responsibility, and service.

During the recent festive season, South Africans reportedly spent around R1 billion per day on alcohol, while images of children consuming alcohol circulated widely on social media. Beyond the numbers, these events call for reflection on the values that shape our communities. A moral compass calls for promoting responsible behaviour, encouraging accountability, and supporting choices that protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

**Service delivery remains the municipality's top priority. From water and sanitation to roads and public safety, our focus remains on delivering tangible improvements that benefit residents directly.**

These lessons are closely connected to the support structures we maintain locally. Lighthouse-Ermelo, a centre supporting individuals affected by homelessness, substance abuse, and other forms of harm, faces the threat of closure due to funding constraints. It provides counselling, life-skills training, and a safe space for people to rebuild their lives. Its work reflects the Batho Pele principles treating people with dignity, promoting fairness, and providing access to support and reminds us that good governance goes beyond services and infrastructure. It is also about care, opportunity, and restoring hope. The question we must all ask ourselves is: what will you do to help keep hope alive in your community?

Even events far from home can offer lessons for us. The capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro shows that leaders everywhere are observed and held accountable. While this event occurs far from MLM, it is a reminder that trust, transparency, and responsible leadership are universal expectations. At the municipal level, following the Batho Pele principles strengthens our moral compass and ensures residents can have confidence in the decisions and actions of their local government.

At home, service delivery remains the municipality's top priority. From water and sanitation to roads and public safety, our focus remains on delivering tangible improvements that benefit residents directly. Strengthening staff skills and providing support through debt relief programmes further show how values-driven governance translates into practical action, reflecting fairness, accountability, and service to the community.

As the election year unfolds, residents are encouraged to engage actively, vote, and take part in shaping the future of our nation and municipality. The municipality's moral compass is strongest when leaders and communities work together, guided by shared values and the Batho Pele principles.

Progress is measured not just by infrastructure or services, but by the ethical standards we uphold, the dignity we restore, and the trust we earn. May 2026 be a year in which our moral compass, guided by Batho Pele, shapes every decision, strengthens our communities, and builds a municipality that delivers both services and hope. As we face the choices ahead, the question remains: will you make the right choice?



Local government is closest to the daily lives of our people. The work done during this period reflects our ongoing effort to respond to community needs while managing the realities we face as a municipality. Progress has been made in key areas, even as challenges continue to demand difficult decisions and collective effort.

The financial position of the municipality remains under pressure due to unpaid municipal accounts from households and businesses. This affects our ability to maintain infrastructure and provide reliable services. To assist residents while protecting the municipality, Council approved a debt relief program that allows qualifying account holders to receive partial debt reduction. This program gives households an opportunity to regularise their accounts and start afresh. Residents are encouraged to pay what they can, engage the municipality early when challenges arise, and make use of the support available. Paying for services remains essential to keeping the municipality functioning.

Support for vulnerable residents continues to be a priority. Households that qualify are encouraged to register on the indigent register to access relief and basic support. Through social development programs, the municipality continues to support the elderly, youth, women, and persons with disabilities. These programs aim to ensure that assistance reaches those who need it most and that no community is left behind.

Illegal electricity connections remain a serious concern across the municipality. These connections cause power interruptions, damage infrastructure, and increase costs for everyone. The municipality has increased efforts to disconnect illegal connections and urges residents to use electricity legally. While challenges such as load reduction and aging infrastructure remain, work continues to improve the reliability of electricity and water services.

Important infrastructure projects are underway and making a visible difference in communities. Road rehabilitation in Wesselton, including Mabilisa, Magwaza, and Mabuza Streets and the taxi collector route, is improving access, safety, and movement for residents and businesses. These projects also create short-term job opportunities and support local contractors and Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME's). Additional work includes new stormwater channels to reduce flooding and road resurfacing projects that improve travel and road safety.

The municipality has also made progress in restoring dignity through housing-related initiatives. Title deed handovers in Wesselton and Breyten

provided hundreds of families with proof of ownership and greater security. Owning a home gives families peace of mind and opens opportunities for the future. In Lothair, households are benefiting from the electrification project, while water supply challenges in Ermelo East were resolved through the installation of new valves.

As the festive season approaches, residents are encouraged to celebrate responsibly and take care of one another. Road safety, crime prevention, and respect for public property are especially important during this time. We also extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of colleagues who passed on during the year. It has been an honour to have worked alongside them, and their dedication and service were valued and cherished by all their fellow colleagues. Let us work together to ensure a peaceful season for families, visitors, and our communities.

Looking ahead, the coming year will include an important national and local democratic process. Residents are encouraged to take part in voter education activities and to ensure they are registered to vote. Participation in elections strengthens democracy and allows communities to influence the future of their municipality.

As the year draws to a close, I thank residents, municipal workers, and community partners for their cooperation and resilience. Despite the challenges, progress continues through shared effort. May this festive season bring rest, safety, and hope to all, and may the new year find us ready to continue building a better Msukaligwa together.

Participation  
in elections  
strengthens  
democracy  
and allows  
communities  
to influence  
the future  
of their  
municipality.

**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.





Municipal Manager Mr. M Kunene

As we close the final quarter of the year, I am reminded that the work of local government is, at its heart, about care, dignity, and steady progress. The months of October to December have been shaped by moments of compassion, development, remembrance, and renewed leadership, all reflected in this edition.

**Let us look out for one another, protect our communities, and carry forward the spirit of unity that has guided us through this quarter.**

During this period, we witnessed meaningful acts of kindness that speak to the spirit of ubuntu within our municipality. Community support initiatives and donation programmes brought comfort and hope to many, particularly during the colder months. These stories reflect the everyday realities of our residents and the municipality's continued effort to respond with care and action.

At the same time, we continued to advance service delivery in ways that improve daily living and restore dignity. Progress in electrification, sanitation initiatives such as the handover of pour flush toilets,

strengthened waste management efforts, and our ongoing commitment to providing safe, standard-quality drinking water demonstrate our focus on sustainable and people-centred development.

This quarter also called us to stand together in moments of reflection and action. The march against gender-based violence and femicide reaffirmed our shared responsibility to protect the most vulnerable, while the memorial service provided space to honour lives, history, and shared values. These moments strengthen our resolve to build communities rooted in respect, safety, and social cohesion.

We also marked an important step in strengthening our institution through the appointment of a new Director in the Planning and Economic Development portfolio. Strong leadership and capable administration remain essential as we plan responsibly and position our municipality for inclusive growth.

As we enter the festive season, I encourage all residents to celebrate with care, compassion, and responsibility. Let us look out for one another, protect our communities, and carry forward the spirit of unity that has guided us through this quarter.

I invite you to read through this edition of the newsletter, reflect on the progress made, and take pride in the role we all play in shaping our municipality. I extend my sincere appreciation to our municipal staff, councillors, community partners, and residents whose dedication and participation continue to drive our work forward.

As we look ahead to the new year, let us move forward together with renewed hope and determination. By working hand in hand, we can continue building a municipality that delivers with integrity, serves with compassion, and grows with its people.



**MR. M KUNENE**  
MUNICIPAL MANAGER



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



**MR. LT MOTLOUNG**  
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.



# Industrious Director for Planning & Economic Development

On 2nd December 2025, the Executive Mayor, Alderwoman MP Nkosi, and Municipal Manager, Mr M. Kunene, welcomed the newly appointed Director of Planning and Economic Development on behalf of the Council and administration, respectively, after a meticulous selection process.

Mr Motloug Lerato Thabo is the newly appointed Director of Planning and Economic Development with a comprehensive background in urban and regional planning complemented by extensive professional and academic achievements. He holds a Matric National Senior Certificate from Ligbron Academy for Technology and advanced degrees, including a BSc in Urban & Regional Planning and a BSc (Hons) in Urban & Regional Planning, from the University of the Witwatersrand. He further enhanced his qualifications with certificates in GIS, financial management, and senior leadership programs, and is currently completing an MSc in Real Estate at the University of Pretoria.

With vast experience spanning from an internship in engineering services at Mpumalanga Provincial Government to leadership roles such as General Manager for Planning and Development at Mkhondo Local Municipality, and most recently Director at Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, Mr Motloug has managed diverse municipal

planning functions. His responsibilities have included overseeing town planning, building control, GIS, human settlements, local economic development, tourism, and community rural development programs. He has demonstrated his competency in strategic planning, budgeting, policy formulation, and intergovernmental coordination.

His notable achievements include awards from the South African Planning Institute and Govan Mbeki Human Settlements for excellence in integrated planning and development applications. As a registered professional planner and corporate member of the South African Planning Institute, he remains actively engaged in municipal planning committees and conferences, contributing valuable insights such as his presentation on parallel land use procedures in semi-urban contexts.

Mr Motloug's career reflects a strong commitment to advancing municipal planning and economic development through innovative, inclusive, and legislation-compliant approaches, aligning spatial development frameworks with community needs and economic growth imperatives. This blend of academic rigour, professional expertise, and leadership capacity positions him as a pivotal figure in driving sustainable development within his jurisdiction



# Ward 18 Stands United Against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide



*A Day Before the National Women's Shutdown, Msukaligwa Leads Local Action*

Enyibe, 20 November 2025 — Msukaligwa Local Municipality, led by Executive Mayor Alderwoman Mapulane Precious Nkosi, brought the Ward 18 community together at Enyibe Sports Ground for a Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) and Social Cohesion Awareness Campaign. Held a day before the National Women's Shutdown, the initiative forms part of the nationwide movement to unite communities against GBVF.

Community members, youth, families, and officials joined in a march across the sports ground, dressed in black with purple and green ribbons. Their coordinated chants and movements reflected a collective commitment to end GBVF and support survivors, showing that Msukaligwa is taking proactive local action in solidarity with the national campaign.

**We are showing that local communities like Msukaligwa can lead the way and support survivor**

During the campaign, stakeholders shared insights and highlighted ongoing initiatives to protect survivors. Ms. Nomsa Mthembu from the

Ermelo Thuthuzela Care Centre said: "These conversations are crucial. When communities, government, and service providers come together, we create real support systems that survivors can rely on. Awareness is the first step toward prevention."

A Ward 18 community member, Mrs. Thandiwe Mokoena, added: "Seeing everyone here today gives me hope. Together, we are sending a message that GBVF will not be tolerated in our community."

The municipality also highlighted alarming statistics: South Africa loses an estimated 15 women to femicide every day, underscoring the urgency for action at both local and national levels.

The campaign concluded with a candlelight ceremony on the sports ground, honouring survivors, remembering victims, and reaffirming the community's commitment to change. Executive Mayor Nkosi said: "By taking action here in Ward 18 and marching in solidarity, ahead of the National Women's Shutdown, we are showing that local communities like Msukaligwa can lead the way and support survivors. Together, we stand against GBVF."

Through this campaign, Msukaligwa Local Municipality, together with Ward 18 residents, leaders, and officials, sent a clear message: we support survivors, **we stand united against GBVF, and we commit to building a safer, united Msukaligwa — in solidarity with the National Women's Shutdown and the nation's fight against gender-based violence and femicide.**



# Driving Electrification in Silindile Extension 3



**M**sukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM) initiated an electrification project in Silindile Extension 3, Lothair, marking a significant step towards providing the community with access to electricity for the first time. Through careful planning, funding, and coordination, the municipality is ensuring that residents will soon benefit from improved safety, better home lighting, and new opportunities for learning and business.

**The project reflects not only infrastructural progress but also the municipality's dedication to transforming lives and enabling opportunities.**

For years, households in Silindile Extension 3 relied on candles and paraffin lamps, creating safety hazards and limiting evening activities. Children struggled to study after dark, and families faced daily challenges carrying out household tasks. Home-based businesses were restricted by the lack of reliable electricity, preventing residents from earning additional

income. With the municipality driving this project, the community can look forward to a safer, brighter, and more productive environment.

Electrification in Silindile Extension 3 is funded under the Integrated National Electrification Programme (INEP). Under this programme, MLM identifies unelectrified areas through its Integrated Development Plan, applies for grants, and oversees project execution - whether through municipal teams or contracted third-party service providers. Engaging the community throughout the process ensured that the project met local needs while laying the groundwork for long-term development.

"This project is a milestone in our commitment to service excellence," said Executive Mayor Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi. "By initiating electrification in Silindile Extension 3, we are improving the quality of life for residents, creating safer streets, and opening opportunities for education and small businesses. Msukaligwa remains dedicated to delivering essential services that empower our communities."

The Silindile Extension 3 electrification project exemplifies MLM's commitment to its motto as a "Beacon of Service Excellence." Prioritising essential infrastructure, coordinating resources efficiently, and involving residents in planning demonstrate how strategic service delivery can improve the quality of life for communities.

As Silindile Extension 3 anticipates the benefits of electricity, the project reflects not only infrastructural progress but also the municipality's dedication to transforming lives and enabling opportunities.



# Supporting Government's 2028 Sanitation Target Through Rural Infrastructure Delivery

On 18 and 19 December 2025, the Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa Local Municipality, Alderwoman MP Nkosi, together with Members of the Mayoral Committee and Ward Councillors, formally handed over newly installed pour flush toilets to residents of Nooitgedacht Farm and Zandspruit Farm. The handover programme provided an opportunity for the municipal leadership to inspect the functionality of the sanitation facilities on site and to engage directly with beneficiary households, who expressed their appreciation for the intervention and the improved living conditions it has brought to their communities.

**the Municipality seeks to promote public health, protect the environment and restore dignity by providing safe, reliable and sustainable sanitation solutions**

The handover formalised the completion of a targeted rural sanitation project implemented by Msukaligwa Local Municipality as part of its ongoing efforts to eradicate sanitation backlogs within its area of jurisdiction. The initiative aligns with government's national commitment to ensure that all households have access to a basic level of sanitation by

2028. Through this programme, the Municipality seeks to promote public health, protect the environment and restore dignity by providing safe, reliable and sustainable sanitation solutions to farming communities.

The project was implemented over a two-month period, commencing on 20 October 2025, and resulted in the installation of 150 pour flush toilets for 150 households in Wards 8, 10, 11 and 18. The beneficiary areas included Winkelhaak, De Wet Kroomdraai, Nooitgedacht Farm, Ka Gorge, De Magrate and Zandspruit. Each toilet unit is equipped with a 40-litre water tank, a 10-litre handwash reservoir, gutters for rainwater harvesting and an EasyFlush toilet system, ensuring water efficiency, improved hygiene standards and ease of use for households.

In addition to infrastructure delivery, the project placed strong emphasis on community participation and education. Through stakeholder engagement and community consultations, the initiative was aligned with local needs and conditions, while health and hygiene education was provided within the project footprint to encourage responsible usage and long-term sustainability of the facilities. The implementation of the project also contributed to local economic development by creating 62 work opportunities, supporting livelihoods and skills development within the affected communities.

The successful implementation of this project is a reflection of the Municipality's continued commitment to responsive governance and inclusive service delivery. By prioritising rural and farming communities, Msukaligwa remains focused on improving quality of life, safeguarding public health and ensuring that no community is left behind in the provision of basic services



# Strengthening Care for Senior Citizens through Community Partnerships

The Ermelo Muslim Community, in collaboration with the Al-Imdaad Foundation, donated 200 blankets to senior citizens across Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM) on 12 November 2025. The handover took place at the main hall at the Civic Centre in Ermelo and was attended by the Executive Mayor, Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi, and Members of the Mayoral Committee. The blankets were distributed to senior citizens from eight wards, bringing warmth and comfort to the elderly.

This initiative reflects the municipality's ongoing commitment to supporting vulnerable groups, particularly senior citizens, who often face social and economic challenges. MLM prioritises the well-being of vulnerable residents through various programmes and community engagement events that provide both practical aid and a sense of inclusion.

The Al-Imdaad Foundation, a charitable organisation with a strong track record in South Africa and internationally, has been active for many years in providing support to vulnerable communities. Its programmes range from seasonal blanket drives to food distribution, educational support, and humanitarian relief. This recent donation in MLM is not the first of its kind; the Foundation has previously partnered with local communities and government structures to deliver essential items to senior citizens and other groups in need. Its continued involvement highlights the value of sustained collaboration between civil society and local government in improving the lives of residents.

During the handover, Mr Hashim Jassat and Mr Mohammed Ismail Mogalia, representing the Ermelo Muslim Community and Al-Imdaad Foundation, respectively, thanked residents for their continued support and emphasised their commitment to giving back to the communities of Ermelo and the surrounding areas.

In her remarks, Executive Mayor Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi highlighted the importance of partnerships in advancing social development goals. "The warmth these blankets provide goes beyond physical comfort; it represents care, hope, and the collective responsibility we share in building a compassionate Msukaligwa. Working together can ensure that our senior citizens are valued, protected, and empowered," she said.

Through events such as this, the municipality demonstrates its dedication to creating a caring, inclusive, and responsive community, ensuring that vulnerable groups - particularly the elderly - are supported and that public and private sectors continue to collaborate for social good.



## MLM prioritises the well-being of vulnerable residents through various programmes and community engagement



# Restoring Dignity Through Home Ownership in Title Deed Handovers in Wesselton and KwaZanele

On 9 October and 23 October 2025, the Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM) advanced its service-delivery programme with the successful handover of 529 title deeds to beneficiaries in Wesselton (Ermelo) and KwaZanele (Breyten). The first event took place in Ward 9, followed by a second in Extensions 3, 4, and 6 in Wards 13 and 14. These handovers reflect the municipality's commitment to strengthening housing administration, improving governance systems, and ensuring that long-standing occupants receive full legal ownership of their homes.

In Wesselton, many families had occupied their homes for years without the formal documentation confirming them as owners. The title deed handover provides these households with the legal certainty needed to participate fully in municipal processes such as building approvals, property updates, and development planning. By formalising ownership in Ward 9, the municipality enhances the accuracy of its property records and supports more coordinated and responsive service-delivery initiatives.

In KwaZanele, residents in Extensions 3, 4, and 6 received their title deeds as part of the municipality's ongoing effort to ensure that property information across the area is complete, verified, and aligned with municipal systems. Formalising ownership supports service-delivery planning by confirming the status of each household and ensuring that municipal records are up to date. This enables the municipality to coordinate development initiatives effectively, prioritise community needs, and strengthen the overall efficiency of service rollout.

Across both communities, the title deed handovers demonstrate how secure legal ownership contributes to improved service delivery. When

ownership is formalised, municipal departments can plan infrastructure upgrades, settlement improvements, and resource allocation with greater precision. Clear property information supports better coordination between departments and fosters a more structured approach to community development.

These handovers also highlight MLM's commitment to fulfilling its service-delivery mandate. Completing the transfer of over 529 title deeds reflects tangible progress in addressing long-standing administrative processes and honouring commitments made to residents. It reinforces the municipality's promise to deliver services in a transparent and accountable manner, strengthening public confidence in local governance.

For beneficiaries, receiving a title deed brings immediate and long-term advantages. It provides legal recognition, protects families' rights, and offers the assurance that their homes are officially secured. Ownership also empowers residents to plan improvements, engage with municipal development programmes, and make decisions about their properties with certainty. This stability contributes to stronger, more resilient communities and supports local socio-economic development.

The title deed handovers in Wesselton and KwaZanele demonstrate that effective service delivery begins with solid administrative foundations. By finalising ownership for 529 households, the Msukaligwa Local Municipality has strengthened its property-management systems, enhanced planning accuracy, and reinforced its commitment to delivering responsive, community-centred services. These events mark another step towards building well-planned, dignified, and sustainable communities across Msukaligwa.



# Residents and Reclaimers Unite for Sustainable Recycling

On 6 November 2025, residents, community reclaimers, and stakeholders gathered at the Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM) Main Hall at the Civic Centre for the launch of the Resident Reclaimer Recycling Programme. This initiative promoting recycling, supporting livelihoods, and strengthening partnerships between municipalities and community organisations.

At the heart of the programme are community reclaimers, who collect and sort recyclables, reducing waste sent to landfill while contributing to local livelihoods. By encouraging residents to separate recyclables at source, the initiative creates a structured system that benefits both households and reclaimers, ensuring efficiency, recognition, and safer working conditions.

Representatives from MLM, Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, and programme partners African Reclaimers Organisation (ARO), Transform (Unilever), and Fibre Circle (PRO) attended to show their support and commitment.

In his address, Mr. TJ Zwane, Waste Manager at MLM, emphasised the municipality's dedication to sustainable waste management and inclusive environmental practices, noting that collaboration between residents, reclaimers, and partners is key to long-term success.

Ms. Nolu Tutani, Programme Manager at ARO, highlighted how the programme recognises reclaimers as important players in the recycling system while engaging households directly. "Reclaimers are central to South Africa's recycling system," she said, "and this programme ensures their work is valued and supported."

Partner organisations Transform (Unilever) and Fibre Circle (PRO) shared insights into community-based recycling initiatives, showing how collaboration across sectors can drive lasting environmental impact.

**Reclaimers are central to South Africa's recycling system, and this programme ensures their work is valued and supported.**

A Reclaimer Representative expressed gratitude for the recognition given to reclaimers, noting that the programme not only dignifies their work but also strengthens local recycling outcomes.

The launch of the Resident Reclaimer Recycling Programme demonstrates how residents, municipalities, and reclaimers can work together to create a cleaner, greener, and more inclusive community, where environmental responsibility and livelihoods go hand in hand.



# Msukaligwa Local Municipality Holds Memorial Service for Cllr Mthunzi Roderick Yende

Family, colleagues, councillors, and community members gathered at the Civic Centre Main Hall on 27 November 2025 to honour the life and service of Cllr Mthunzi Roderick Yende, fondly known as Cllr Yende, who passed away on 22 November 2025. Born on 26 September 1975, Cllr Yende served as a proportional representative councillor for the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) from 2018, dedicating his life to justice, service, and the betterment of the Msukaligwa community.

The memorial commenced at 14:00 with the Msukaligwa Local Municipality Choir opening the ceremony with a stirring hymn. The programme director coordinated the proceedings, overseeing prayers, reflections, and tributes throughout the gathering. Floral arrangements and photographs of Cllr Yende adorned the venue, creating a space of remembrance and respect.

As the choir's hymn ended, Acting Executive Mayor and MMC for Technical Services, Alderwoman TC Motha, reflected on Cllr Yende's unwavering dedication. "Cllr Yende was not a man who sat on the sidelines," she said. "He spoke boldly, he worked honestly, and he stood firmly for the people he served. His passing is a loss not only to his organisation but to the entire Msukaligwa community."

A representative from Gert Sibande District Municipality also addressed the audience, highlighting Cllr Yende's principled approach and tireless advocacy. "He championed the rights of his constituents across the district, leaving a legacy that will continue to inspire public servants and local leaders," the speaker said, emphasizing the lasting impact of his work beyond the municipality.

Cllr TJ Madlala, MMC for Corporate Services representing the ANC, spoke of Cllr Yende's dedication to service that transcended political differences. "We may have differed in ideology, but never in purpose," he said. "Cllr Yende believed deeply in justice. He believed in accountability. He believed in a better Msukaligwa."

**Mthunzi dedicated his life to the community. He worked for people. He cared about people. That is how we will remember him**

A deeply personal tribute came from his father, who expressed pride in his son's life and accomplishments. "Mthunzi dedicated his life to the community. He worked for people. He cared about people. That is how we will remember him," he said, as those gathered reflected on the difference, he made in the lives of many.

The memorial concluded with a final hymn from the choir, followed by a moment of silence. Everyone present stood together in honour of a councillor who served with conviction and whose voice, presence, and principles will be missed in the Council Chambers.

Cllr Mthunzi Roderick Yende will be remembered as a man of steadfast beliefs, passionate about justice, and committed to the wellbeing of the people he served, a legacy that will continue to guide and inspire those who serve and live in Msukaligwa.





# Quality of our drinking water

This report indicates an overview of water quality status for the past 3 months (i.e. September to November 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.

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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 September – November 2025, 216 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. 216 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
September	82	5	94%	19	77%
October	82	3	96%	26	68%
November	52	7	87%	11	79%

No. of samples	216 samples and/or represent
Microbial failures	60
Chemical failures	15

60 (Sixty) samples (Microbial) points failed to comply with class 1 SANS 241: 2015 and thus equated to 72% compliant.

15 (fifteen) 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 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 Progredivens" which means stable progress.