NEWSLETTER

MSUKALIGWA

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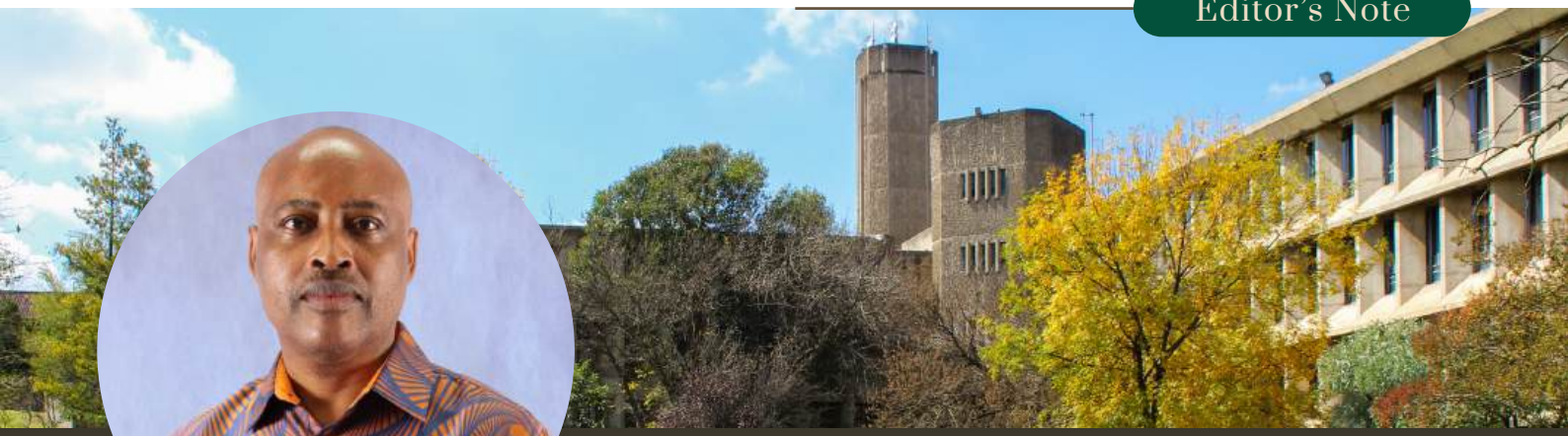
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CONTRIBUTORS: AMANDA MTHEMBU, MANDISA ZWANE
DESIGN & LAYOUT: NDUDUZO VILAKAZI

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Mr. MAJ Zwane

As we reflect to the financial year (2025/2026), that was, we do so with gratitude on progress achieved and with renewed commitment to the work ahead. This year tested our systems and called on every sector of the community to take part in shaping the services and priorities that affect daily life. Strengthening community engagement has been central to the year's programmes — but these results are meaningful only when citizens participate actively and hold us accountable.

The Unit wrote a total of 138 articles for internal and external newsletters, designed more than 87 promotional and informational posters, captured over 1 100 photographs, and produced more than 30 videos.

Active citizenry is not a passive expectation; it is a practice. We urge residents to continue attending ward meetings, submitting service requests through official channels, and making use of local platforms to raise concerns and propose solutions. When communities engage constructively, municipal planning and service delivery become more responsive and effective.

Media monitoring during the reporting period shows a relatively balanced local media landscape. A total of 124 local print media articles relating to Msukaligwa Local Municipality were monitored: 45 (36.3%) were classified as negative, 42 (33.9%) as positive, and 37 (29.8%) as balanced (neutral). While negative coverage was the largest single category, the margin between negative and positive reporting was small, indicating a near-equilibrium in how local media covered municipal affairs.

Our Communications Unit continued active public engagement and information production. During the year under review, the Unit wrote a total of 138 articles for internal and external newsletters, designed more than 87 promotional and informational posters, captured over 1 100 photographs, and produced more than 30 videos. To further strengthen digital communication and community engagement, the Municipality published 834 posts and shared 149 additional posts across its official Facebook platform. These communication outputs supported transparency, kept residents informed about municipal programmes and service delivery initiatives, and enhanced the Municipality's digital presence and public access to information.

The Contact Centre remains on the frontline for service reporting and response. During the reporting period, the Centre logged a total of 15 220 complaints: 7 955 electricity disruptions, 3 705 sanitation issues, 123 road and stormwater complaints, 2 907 water supply interruptions, and 530 other service concerns. Our response rate stands at 92.04%, reflecting sustained operational commitment to attend to residents' needs; nevertheless, we will continue improving response times and resolution quality.

With national and local elections on the horizon, voter registration and youth participation are priorities. Young people are the future custodians of our democratic institutions. We encourage all eligible voters, especially first-time and young voters, to register and to check their registration details before the cut-off dates. Municipal offices, community centres, and online portals will host targeted drives to make registration accessible and to answer questions about what to bring and where to go.

As we move into the new financial year, the municipality recommits to transparency, and inclusive governance. Accountability is a shared responsibility: municipal officials will act, but sustained progress requires an engaged public.

We thank everyone for their contributions during 2025/2026. Let us enter the new year with a renewed spirit of partnership — registering to vote, using our Contact Centre to report service needs, and exercising our civic duties — so that together we build safer, more prosperous, and better-served communities.

Foreword

It is my pleasure to present the 2026/2027 Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF), which outlines our municipality's financial priorities and development plans for the next three financial years. This budget reflects our continued commitment to strengthening service delivery, investing in infrastructure, promoting sound financial management, and improving the quality of life of all residents of Msukaligwa.

The preparation of this budget was guided by meaningful public participation conducted across all 19 wards of our municipality. I extend my sincere appreciation to every resident, community organisation, traditional leaders, business representatives, government departments, and stakeholders who participated in the consultation process. Your valuable input has helped shape a budget that responds to the needs and aspirations of our communities while reinforcing the principles of transparent, accountable, and participatory local governance.

Recognising the financial pressures faced by many households, the municipality has reviewed key policies, including the Indigent Policy, Tariff Policy, and Property Rates Policy. These policies seek to provide appropriate relief to qualifying households while ensuring that the municipality remains financially sustainable and able to continue delivering essential services.

We remain committed to upgrading municipal infrastructure and improving the delivery of basic services. At the same time, we acknowledge the challenges that continue to affect our municipality. Ageing infrastructure, illegal electricity and water connections, the growth of informal settlements, and the non-payment of municipal services continue to place significant pressure on our infrastructure and financial resources. These challenges contribute to increased water and electricity losses, reduced revenue, and growing financial commitments to Eskom and the Department of Water and Sanitation.

In response, the municipality continues to implement measures aimed at strengthening financial sustainability through improved revenue collection, enhanced cost recovery, reduced non-technical losses, and greater transparency in the management of public resources. The implementation of our approved Financial Recovery Plan and Funding Plan, together with our participation in the Eskom Debt Relief and Water Debt Relief programmes, reflects our commitment to restoring financial stability and ensuring the long-term sustainability of essential municipal services.

Encouragingly, the municipality has recorded an improvement in revenue collection, increasing from 70% to 74%. This improvement is an encouraging sign of the growing partnership between the municipality and its residents. I sincerely thank those who continue to honour their municipal accounts and encourage others to do the same, as every contribution enables us to maintain essential services, invest in infrastructure, and improve service delivery for all.

The municipality has secured significant funding from National Treasury to support critical infrastructure projects that will strengthen service delivery and improve the quality of life of our communities. During the 2026/2027 financial year, investment will continue in water and sanitation services, road infrastructure, electricity networks, and other essential municipal services. Key projects include the upgrade of the Ermelo Wastewater Treatment Works, the construction of paved roads in Wesselton, the upgrading of sewer reticulation networks in Ermelo, and the construction of the Mandela Bridge. These projects will not only improve service delivery but will also create employment opportunities and contribute to local economic development.

Our work continues to be guided by the constitutional principles of democratic and accountable governance, sustainable service delivery, social and economic development, the promotion of a safe and healthy environment, and meaningful community participation. These principles remain at the heart of every decision we take and every investment we make.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Speaker of Council, Members of the Mayoral Committee, councillors, the Municipal Manager, directors, municipal officials, and all stakeholders who continue to work tirelessly in advancing the development of Msukaligwa Local Municipality.

As we embark on the 2026/2027 financial year, let us continue working together to strengthen our municipality, improve service delivery, and ensure that every rand entrusted to us delivers value to our communities. I remain confident that, through the collective efforts of residents, businesses, government, and community stakeholders, we will continue to build a financially sustainable municipality that delivers on its constitutional mandate and creates opportunities for growth and development. Together, we can build a stronger, more resilient, and prosperous Msukaligwa for present and future generations.



ALDERWOMAN MP NKOSI
EXECUTIVE MAYOR



ALDERWOMAN M.P NKOSI
EXECUTIVE MAYOR



ALDERWOMAN C.E MSEZANE
MMC FINANCE



ALDERWOMAN T.C MOTHA
MMC TECHNICAL SERVICES



CLLR TJ MADLALA
MMC CORPORATE SERVICES



CLLR B.G MOTHA
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 2025/26 financial year, I wish to recognise the hard work and dedication of municipal staff, councillors and our service partners who kept essential services running under challenging conditions. The past year required careful financial stewardship, focused project delivery and continued attention to public safety and compliance across our jurisdiction. As Municipal Manager, I remain committed to ensuring that our administration uses public resources responsibly, delivers on council priorities and protects the wellbeing of residents and legitimate businesses.

Recent concerns about businesses operating in areas that are not appropriately zoned have highlighted the need to strengthen enforcement of municipal by-laws and planning regulations. Operating outside the correct land-use framework can present risks to public safety, create nuisance for neighbouring properties and undermine orderly local economic development.

To address these concerns, the municipality will establish a multidisciplinary inspection team made up of representatives from Planning and Development, Environmental Health, Building Control, Fire and Rescue Services, By-laws Enforcement and the Municipal Legal Section. The team will work together with affected stakeholders to conduct targeted site inspections.

Where non-compliance is found, the municipality will apply the applicable legislative remedies proportionately and transparently — from notices to comply and time-bound remedial plans, through to fines or prosecutions where necessary. Our approach is to protect both the community and legitimate enterprises by ensuring a level playing field and safeguarding public safety in line with the Municipal Systems Act, Municipal Planning By-laws and relevant national legislation.

The President has officially announced that the National Elections will take place on 4 November 2026. The final voter registration will be held on 01 and 02 August 2026 as part of the preparations. To support the integrity and smooth running of the election, the Municipal Electoral Officer (MEO) will collaborate closely with our Technical Services Department to assess and confirm the readiness of municipal facilities designated as voting stations.

Where issues are identified, Technical Services will prioritise repairs or temporary solutions to ensure voting stations meet minimum operational and safety standards. The municipality is committed to working with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), community leaders and security agencies to facilitate accessible, safe and credible voting for all eligible residents.

Clear, timely and accurate communication remains essential for maintaining public confidence, promoting accountability and managing community expectations. Our Communication Unit must continue strengthening public awareness by proactively disseminating information about municipal programmes, project timelines, service delivery initiatives and compliance actions related to business operations and electoral readiness.

We encourage residents, community groups and business owners to use official municipal channels to obtain verified information and to report concerns. Transparent communication supports collaboration between the municipality and citizens, reduces misinformation and helps manage expectations during busy operational periods.

As we enter the new financial and municipal planning cycle, we will continue to prioritise lawful, safe and sustainable local economic activity; preparedness for national events such as elections; and open, timely communication with our communities. I thank our teams and residents for their partnership and urge all stakeholders to work with the municipality as we implement inspections, remedial actions and service readiness measures.



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.

International Denim Day Calls for Action Against GBVF

Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM) hosted an International Denim Day awareness session near the front entrance of the municipal main gate on Wednesday, 29 April 2026. The initiative brought together employees and stakeholders to engage on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), with a focus on strengthening awareness and promoting informed dialogue in the workplace.

The programme began with employees singing songs appealing for an end to the scourge of GBVF, calling for collective responsibility and urging men to take an active stand against violence towards women and children. The singing created a reflective and emotionally grounded atmosphere for the engagement.

Creating platforms forengagement and reflection contributes to a culture of accountability and collective action

For many employees, this was their first introduction to International Denim Day. While participation through wearing denim was visible, the deeper significance of the campaign was not widely understood beforehand. International Denim Day originated as a global response to victim-blaming in cases of sexual violence and continues to challenge harmful narratives that shift responsibility from perpetrators to victims.

The session contextualised GBVF within South Africa, where it remains a national crisis. Discussions focused on how GBVF manifests in everyday environments, including workplaces and communities, and highlighted how silence, stigma, and misinformation continue to prevent victims from speaking out and accessing support. The engagement reinforced that GBVF is not only a criminal justice issue, but a societal challenge requiring collective responsibility.

Prayer and support from the Moral Regeneration Movement began proceedings, which also included a symbolic walk around the front entrance and car park, where attendees held hands as a gesture of unity. The walk served as a visible expression of solidarity and a shared resolve to confront GBVF collectively.

The programme concluded with the keynote address delivered by the Executive Mayor, Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi. In her remarks, she challenged persistent societal attitudes that contribute to victim-blaming, emphasising that clothing can never be used to justify or excuse violence. “What a woman wears does not determine her consent or invite violation,” she said. She further stressed that accountability rests solely with perpetrators and not victims. The mayor also thanked employees for their participation and commitment to raising awareness and confronting GBVF.

A key outcome of the session was encouraging personal reflection. Employees were urged to examine how everyday language, attitudes, and behaviours may reinforce harmful norms. Addressing GBVF begins with recognising these patterns and making deliberate efforts to change them. The session also highlighted the importance of understanding reporting mechanisms and supporting survivors with dignity and respect.

While the visible participation through denim and the walk demonstrated solidarity, the real impact of the initiative lay in the conversations it sparked. Awareness is not a once-off activity but requires sustained engagement, consistent messaging, and continued education.

MLM continues to prioritise awareness and education as part of its response to GBVF. Creating platforms for engagement and reflection contributes to a culture of accountability and collective action. Ending GBVF requires more than symbolic gestures; it demands informed awareness, sustained commitment, and decisive action from individuals and institutions alike.



Youth Indaba Inspires the Next Generation of Leaders

Young people from across Msukaligwa gathered at the Civic Centre in Ermelo on Friday, 26 June 2026, for the Msukaligwa Youth Indaba, held under the theme: "Empowering Youth for Sustainable Development, Economic Participation, and Community Transformation."

Hosted as part of the municipality's Youth Month programme, the Indaba brought together government departments, public entities and development partners to connect young people with opportunities, services and programmes that support their personal and professional development.

A highlight of the programme was a series of motivational testimonies from accomplished young professionals, including PhD students, engineers and agriculture graduates, who shared their personal journeys to success. Their message was clear: education remains one of the most powerful tools for unlocking opportunities, overcoming challenges and building a brighter future. Former beneficiaries of the municipality's bursary programme also reflected on how educational support had helped shape their careers, inspiring learners and students to pursue their goals with determination.

The programme also featured entertainment by local artists, showcasing the talent and creativity of young people while fostering a spirit of celebration and unity.

To encourage meaningful participation, delegates were divided into three discussion forums where they engaged on issues affecting young people in the municipality. The sessions provided an opportunity for participants to identify challenges, propose practical solutions and discuss how the municipality and its partners could respond to the needs and aspirations of the youth. The resolutions adopted during these discussions will be consolidated and tabled before Council for consideration.

The Indaba concluded with the establishment of an interim Youth Council structure, marking an important milestone towards strengthening youth representation and ensuring that young people have a meaningful voice in local governance and community development.

Delegates were divided into three discussion forums where they engaged on issues affecting young people in the municipality.

Held during Youth Month, the event also commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto Youth Uprising, honouring the courage and sacrifice of the young people whose actions helped shape South Africa's democratic future. It also reaffirmed the important role that today's youth continue to play in building resilient, inclusive and prosperous communities.

Honouring the Youth of 1976. Empowering the Youth of Today.




MSUKALIGWA


MSUKALIGWA


IGWA










FOR OUR YOUTH





Inclusion Takes Shape with Launch of Disability Forum

MLM took a huge stride towards inclusion with the launch of its Disability Forum at the Civic Centre Main Hall on Tuesday, 5 May 2026. The forum forms part of a broader national and local government approach to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in planning processes and service delivery, rather than being excluded from decision-making structures that affect their daily lives.

Attendees included persons with disabilities in the Msukaligwa region, sector departments and organisations working in disability and social development. Cllr S.E. Ngoveni led the municipal delegation on behalf of the Executive Mayor, with coordination and support from the Transversal Unit. Gert Sibande District Municipality was also represented by Ms C. Mkhwanazi, who oversaw the election of forum members.

The forum will be represented with members from towns across Msukaligwa, with Cllr Ngoveni appealing that the forum leads to real change in people's lives, especially in improving access and service delivery.

Members were elected through a show of hands in an open process. Elected members are Nomgqibelo Madonsela (Chairperson), Melusi Maseko (Deputy Chairperson), Vuyile Tshabalala (Secretary), Thulani Nkosi (Deputy Secretary), and Nelly Mthiyane (Treasurer).

Additional members are Nompumelelo Santo, Kenneth Vilakazi, John'son Mnisi, Thulani Nkosi, Jesucca Makhanye, Hlengiwe Khumalo, Poppy Nkosi, and Mandlankosi Mamba.

The establishment of Disability Forums is supported by South Africa's local government policy framework, which requires municipalities to mainstream disability across planning, budgeting, and service delivery. It also requires municipalities to ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in development processes such as Integrated Development Planning and community engagement structures.

> The forum is expected to help identify gaps and support the development of practical solutions in collaboration with relevant stakeholders

This means moving beyond consultation to active participation, where persons with disabilities are involved in identifying priorities, shaping programmes, and monitoring service delivery outcomes.

The launch of the Msukaligwa Disability Forum gives effect to this approach by creating a structured platform for ongoing engagement between the municipality and representatives of the vulnerable persons sector. It is intended to strengthen coordination, improve communication, and ensure that disability-related issues are consistently raised and addressed within municipal processes.

The forum is expected to help identify gaps and support the development of practical solutions in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. It will also contribute to ongoing efforts to strengthen community participation structures within the Municipality, ensuring that governance processes reflect the needs and realities of all residents.

Msukaligwa Local Municipality remains committed to building a community that is inclusive, accessible, and creates opportunities for all. This aligns with the national government's vision to ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in planning and service delivery. We remain a local government that works for all.







Pothole Repairs Strengthen Ongoing Road Maintenance Programme

Msukaligwa Local Municipality intensified its road maintenance programme with a targeted pothole repair intervention in Cassim Park on 10 April 2026. This Letsema Programme operation, led by Executive Mayor Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi, also forms part of the municipality's broader infrastructure maintenance efforts aimed at improving road safety, accessibility, and mobility for residents and road users.







Through ongoing targeted interventions, the municipality continues to stabilise road conditions while advancing longer-term rehabilitation plans







Municipal Roads and Stormwater teams carried out the repairs, addressing potholes caused by weather conditions, continuous traffic flow, and general wear and tear. These challenges continue to place pressure on the local road network, making regular maintenance essential to prevent further deterioration and ensure safer travel conditions.

Pothole repairs remain a key component of preventative infrastructure maintenance. If left unattended, minor road surface damage can escalate quickly, leading to higher repair costs, shorter road lifespan, and increased safety risks for motorists, pedestrians, and public transport operators. Through ongoing targeted interventions, the municipality continues to stabilise road conditions while advancing longer-term rehabilitation plans.

Executive Mayor Nkosi reaffirmed MLM's commitment to visible and responsive service delivery, noting that road maintenance efforts are being implemented across multiple areas within Msukaligwa as part of a coordinated programme.

"The intervention in Cassim Park forms part of ongoing road maintenance and rehabilitation taking place across Msukaligwa, including work on roads such as Nelson Mandela Drive, Mabuza and Magwaza Street. These projects reflect our continued efforts to address deteriorating infrastructure in a structured and sustainable manner. We remain committed to ensuring that our road network is safe, accessible, and able to support the daily needs of our communities and the local economy," said Executive Mayor Nkosi.

Residents are encouraged to report road defects through official municipal channels to enable timely interventions and prevent further damage to infrastructure. The Cassim Park intervention reflects continued progress in the municipality's road maintenance programme and reinforces ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure reliability across Msukaligwa Local Municipality.

Recognition for Significant Progress in Water Management

Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM) was recognised by the Department of Water and Sanitation as one of the most improved municipalities under the Green Drop Programme, achieving second place for Best Progress in wastewater management. This recognition forms part of the 2025 Green Drop Report release and highlights measurable progress in strengthening municipal wastewater services.

The announcement was made on 31 March 2026 at a provincial event hosted in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, where water services authorities from across Mpumalanga were assessed on their performance in managing wastewater treatment systems. The Green Drop Programme is a national initiative used by the Department of Water and Sanitation to evaluate the operational performance, compliance, and risk management of wastewater treatment works across South Africa.

> Msukaligwa Local Municipality remains committed to building on this progress through continued investment in infrastructure, improved operational management, and strengthened compliance with national standards.

This recognition of MLM reflects a significant improvement in performance over time. The municipality's Green Drop score increased from 17% in 2021 to 66.7% in 2025, demonstrating a clear upward trajectory in compliance and operational management. This improvement indicates strengthened systems for wastewater treatment, enhanced monitoring and reporting processes, and a more structured approach to addressing infrastructure and operational challenges.

According to the assessment framework used by the Department of Water and Sanitation, municipalities are evaluated on several key criteria, including the functionality of wastewater treatment works, compliance with effluent quality standards, maintenance of infrastructure, availability of skilled personnel, and the effectiveness of risk management systems. The improvement achieved by Msukaligwa Local Municipality reflects progress across these areas and signals ongoing efforts to stabilise and strengthen essential service delivery systems.

A contributing factor to this progress is the municipality's ongoing infrastructure programme, which includes the refurbishment of the Ermelo Wastewater Treatment Works. This project is aimed at upgrading ageing infrastructure, improving treatment capacity, and ensuring compliance with environmental and health standards. The municipality previously provided public updates on this project in March, reinforcing its commitment to transparency and accountability in infrastructure development.
While the recognition marks an important milestone, the municipality acknowledges that continued effort is required to sustain and further improve service delivery outcomes. Water and sanitation services remain a critical function of local government, directly impacting public health, environmental protection, and economic development.

Msukaligwa Local Municipality remains committed to building on this progress through continued investment in infrastructure, improved operational management, and strengthened compliance with national standards. The municipality further recognises that sustainable water and sanitation services require collaboration between technical teams, leadership, and the communities they serve.





Justiceflames Turns Waste into Opportunity

Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM) congratulates Justiceflames Pty Ltd on securing first place in the Dragon's Den Pitch Competition at the Nkomazi Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) MSME Manufacturing and Industrialist Summit, held in Malelane on 19 May 2026. The achievement marks a milestone for the Ermelo-based enterprise, which is transforming waste into valuable products while advancing the green economy.

Founded in October 2023 in Suncity Extension 32, Ermelo, Justiceflames Pty Ltd has grown from a backyard start-up into an emerging green manufacturing enterprise specialising in sustainable waste management and the production of eco-friendly coal and charcoal briquettes made from coal dust, biomass waste and other waste streams.

> The company is preparing to become fully operational on a planned 500-square-metre production site.

A key milestone in its development was participation in the Indalopreneur Just Transition Enterprise Programme (JTEP) Upscale, facilitated by Indalo Inclusive South Africa. Selected as one of 16 enterprises after applying in January 2024, the company completed intensive training and pitching sessions and emerged as first runner-up, securing R50 000 in prize funding.

It later participated in the International Forum for Coal Regions in Transition, where it was named one of the top eight enterprises in Mpumalanga and received additional funding.

Justiceflames has recorded several notable achievements since its establishment. It produced its first eco-briquettes from biomass waste in April 2024. The company was also a finalist in the 2024 South African Youth Awards in the Young Innovator of the Year category through the NYDA, and in 2025 secured second place in the Mpumalanga Green Innovation Challenge. It also exhibited at the G20 Tourism Outreach Programme in Msukaligwa and participated in our Mayoral Imbizo, where it showcased its waste-to-energy solutions. These milestones culminated in its first-place victory at the 2026 Dragon's Den Pitch Competition.

As part of its waste beneficiation strategy, Justiceflames is developing pilot fly ash products to convert industrial waste into valuable materials, supporting environmental sustainability, economic development, and job creation within the green economy.

With the support of MLM and its focus on green economy and Just Energy Transition (JET) initiatives, the company is preparing to become fully operational on a planned 500-square-metre production site. The facility is expected to increase production capacity and create employment opportunities for local youth and women.

Justiceflames stands as a testament to innovation, resilience and collaboration. Through the support of partners such as Indalo Inclusive South Africa, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, the Mpumalanga Green Cluster, Dziphathu Green Tech and MLM, the company continues to turn waste into opportunity while contributing to South Africa's Just Energy Transition and sustainable economic development.

Communities Shape Municipal IDP and Budget Through Public Consultations

Residents across MLM actively participated in the 2026 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Multi-Year Budget consultative meetings held across various wards. The engagements formed part of the municipality's annual public participation programme aimed at strengthening transparent governance, accountability, and community-driven development planning.

> A key issue raised by residents was the need for greater transparency in municipal operations.

The consultative process provided residents with an opportunity to engage directly with municipal leadership on service delivery priorities, infrastructure challenges, and the draft Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) for the 2026/27 to 2028/29 financial years. Communities were encouraged to raise concerns, make recommendations, and influence planning decisions that shape local development.

One of the engagements took place on 16 April 2026, where Ward 8 residents participated in a virtual budget consultation session chaired by Ward Councillor and MMC for Planning and Economic Development, Bongani Motha. The session was also addressed by Executive Mayor Mapulane Nkosi, who presented the draft budget and responded to questions raised by residents.

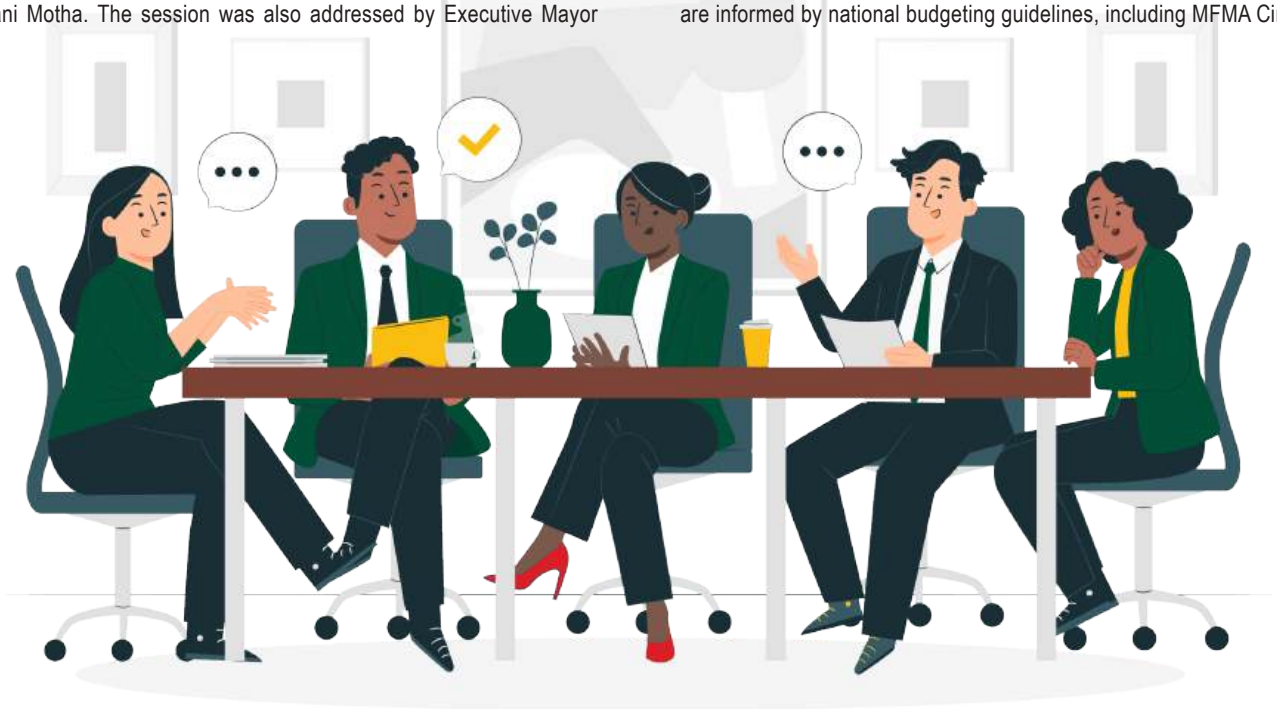
During the engagement, community members raised concerns relating to service delivery inefficiencies, infrastructure backlogs, road maintenance, and municipal responsiveness. A key issue raised by residents was the need for greater transparency in municipal operations.

Community members specifically called for improved communication between departments and ward structures, suggesting that officials should inform ward councillors when residents within their wards are defaulting on municipal accounts. This, they argued, would strengthen early intervention, improve accountability, and support more coordinated community engagement.

Municipal leadership acknowledged the concerns raised and reaffirmed the importance of improving communication channels between residents, councillors, and administration to enhance service delivery outcomes.

The municipality also presented key financial highlights of the draft 2026/27 budget, which is projected at R1.277 billion. Revenue is mainly derived from equitable share allocations, property rates, electricity, water, wastewater, and refuse services. These income streams remain essential in sustaining day-to-day operations and funding infrastructure development across the municipality.

To ensure long-term financial sustainability, the municipality proposed tariff adjustments effective from 1 July 2026, subject to regulatory approval. The draft budget includes proposed increases of 3.7% for property rates, water, sanitation, and refuse services, while electricity tariffs are proposed to increase by 9.01%, pending approval by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). These adjustments are informed by national budgeting guidelines, including MFMA Circular





2026/27 Budget Set to Drive Infrastructure Spending Amid Rising Service Costs

Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM) tabled its draft multi-year budget for the 2026/27 financial year, with projections up to 2028/29. The budget outlines planned spending on service delivery, infrastructure, and day-to-day operations. The draft budget was made available for public participation in line with the Batho Pele principles, allowing residents to contribute input on the municipality's financial plans.

For 2026/27, the municipality expects to generate R1.313 billion in revenue, while planned expenditure is R1.740 billion. The difference reflects rising costs, especially bulk electricity and water supply, which remain the main cost drivers.

Most of the municipality's income comes from basic services. Electricity remains the largest contributor at R360 million, followed by property rates at R269 million. Water services bring in about R127 million, wastewater R68 million, and refuse collection R59 million. The municipality also receives about R299 million through the equitable share from the national government. Smaller income streams such as fines, interest, and service charges make up the balance of the total revenue.

On the spending side, bulk electricity purchases from Eskom remain the highest cost at R599 million. Employee-related costs account for about R366 million, with the remainder allocated to operations, maintenance, and contracted services that keep municipal services running.

From 1 July 2026, tariffs will be adjusted in line with the draft budget. Proposed increases are 3.7 percent for property rates, water, sanitation, and refuse services. Electricity is proposed to increase by 9.01 percent, subject to approval by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). These adjustments reflect rising input costs, particularly in bulk supply.

Despite financial pressure, MLM will continue with infrastructure investment supported by conditional grants totalling R428 million. These funds will be directed towards water and sanitation upgrades, electrification projects, bulk water expansion, and improvements to roads and stormwater systems. The projects also support short-term job opportunities in local communities.

> The draft budget reflects the need to balance service delivery demands with rising operational costs.

The municipality continues to face a significant debt challenge. Residents and businesses owe approximately R1.69 billion in unpaid accounts. At the same time, the municipality owes Eskom about R1.174 billion and the Department of Water and Sanitation about R1.307 billion. These balances remain a key pressure point on service delivery and financial stability.

Support for low-income households continues through the indigent programme. Households earning less than R7,100 per month receive free basic services, including limited water and electricity, as well as subsidies on selected municipal services. The draft budget reflects the need to balance service delivery demands with rising operational costs.

BUDGET SNAPSHOT

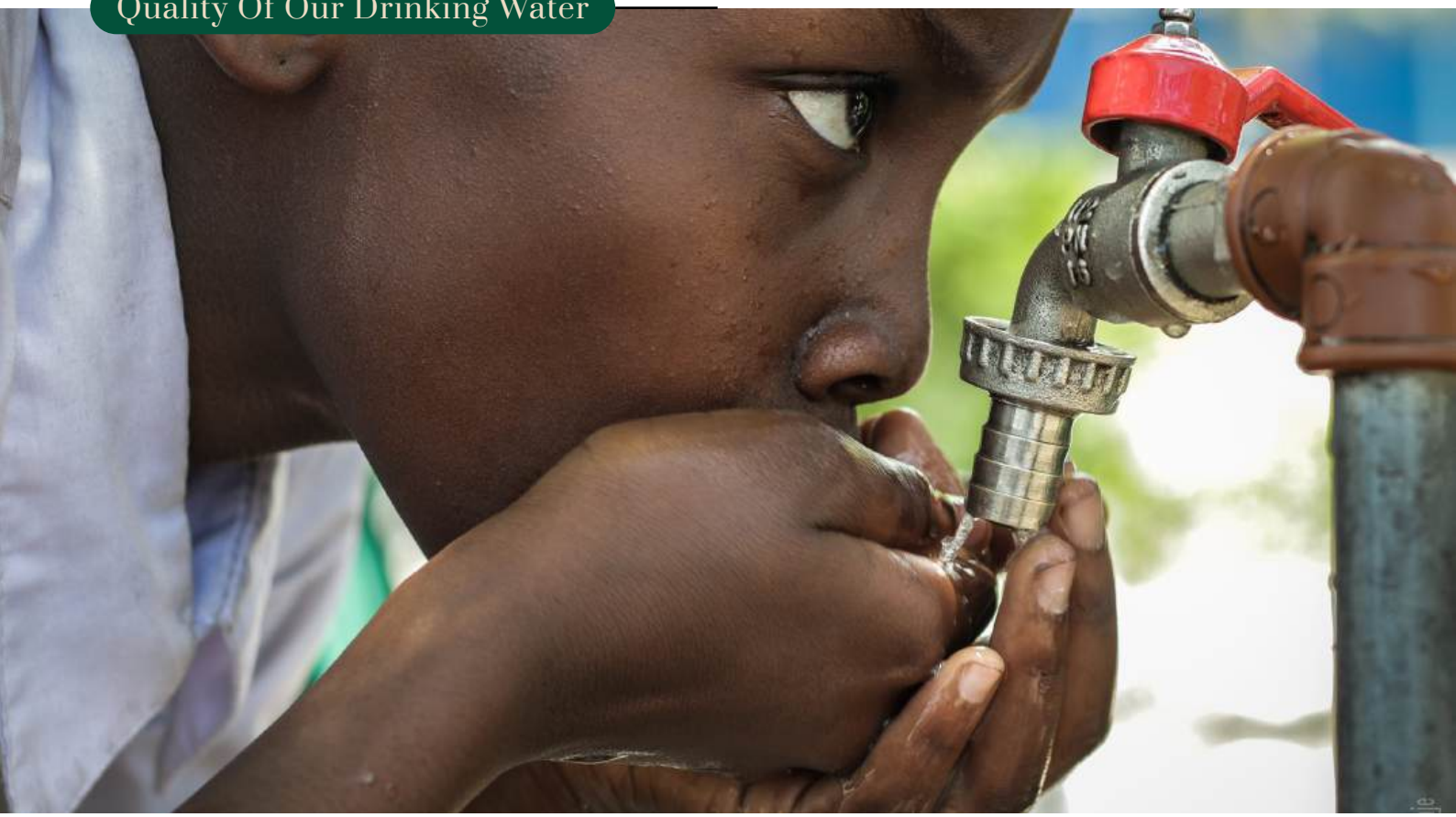
REVENUE
- Total: R1.313 billion
- Electricity: R360 million
- Property rates: R269 million
- Water: R127 million
- Wastewater: R68 million
- Refuse: R59 million
- Equitable share: R299 million

EXPENDITURE
- Total: R1.740 billion
- Bulk electricity (Eskom): R599 million
- Employee costs: R366 million

DEBT POSITION
- Owed to municipality: R1.69 billion
- Owed to Eskom: R1.174 billion
- Owed to DWS: R1.307 billion

TARIFF CHANGES (FROM 1 JULY 2026)
- Property rates, water, sanitation, refuse: 3.7%
- Electricity: 9.01% (subject to NERSA approval)

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT
- Conditional grants: R428 million



Quality of our drinking water

This report indicates an overview of water quality status for the past 3 months (i.e. March 2026 to May 2026) 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 0f 1998).

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

ERMELO/WESSELTON SCHEME

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

BREYTEN/KWAZANELE & CHRISSIESMEER/KWACHIBIKHULU SCHEME

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

DAVEL/KWADELA SCHEME

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

LOTHAIR SCHEME

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

SHEEPMOOR SCHEME

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

RURAL SCHEME

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.

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 March 2026 – May 2026, 386 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. 386 analyses were done from those samples to determine physical, chemical and microbiological compliance of final water.

Month	No. of samples	Chemical failures	Percentage chemical compliaince	Microbial failures	Percentage microbial compliance
March	94	2	98%	36	68%
April	135	3	98%	20	85%
May	157	3	98%	27	82%

No. of samples	386 samples and/or represent
Microbial failures	83
Chemical failures	8

83 (Eighty-three) samples (Microbial) points failed to comply with class 1 SANS 241: 2015 and thus equated to 79% compliant.

8 (Eight) samples (Chemical) points failed to comply with class 1 SANS 241: 2015 and thus equated to 98% 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.

LOGO SYMBOL & MEANING



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 Progrediens" which means stable progress.