NEWSLETTER

MSUKALIGWA

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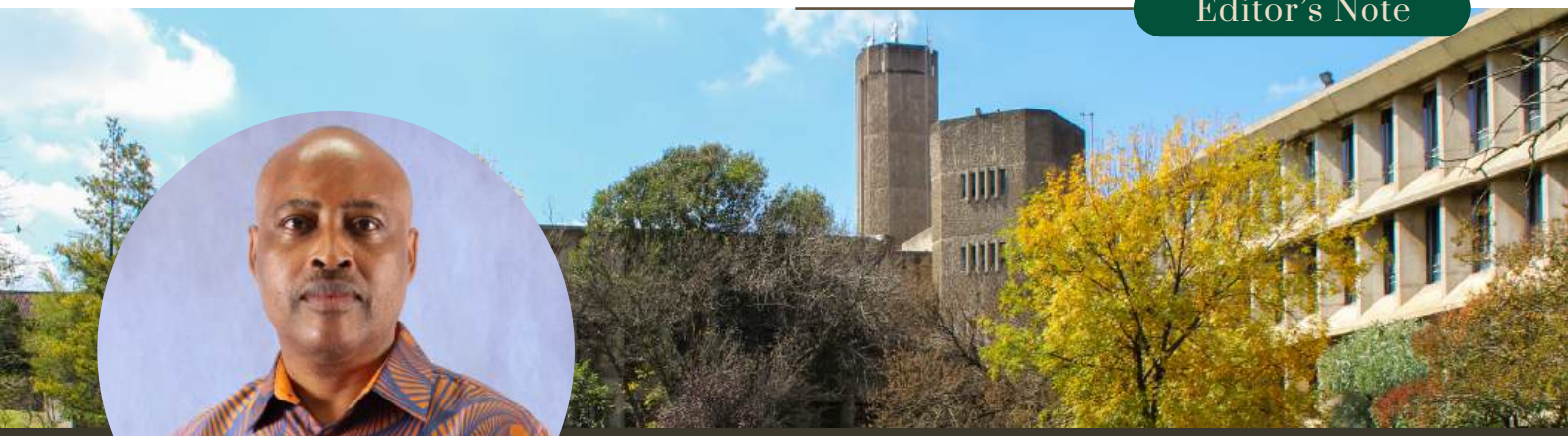
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Mr. MAJ Zwane

Strengthening Local Government through Legislative Reform

South Africa's local government system is facing complex challenges, including political instability, weak coordination between spheres of government, operational inefficiencies, and increasing demands for reliable service delivery. The proposed legislative reforms in local government therefore represent an important opportunity to strengthen municipal governance, improve accountability, and ensure that municipalities remain responsive to the needs of communities.

Among the key proposed reforms is the Local Government: Municipal Structures Amendment Bill, commonly referred to as the Coalitions Bill. The Bill seeks to establish a clearer legislative framework for coalition governments at municipal level. It proposes, among other measures, the formalization of written coalition agreements, clearer timeframes for constituting municipal structures, and procedures relating to the election and removal of municipal office-bearers. These measures are intended to promote political stability, transparency, and continuity in municipal administration. The Bill was submitted to Parliament in 2026 and is currently subject to parliamentary processing.

> Collectively, these proposed reforms demonstrate the importance of building capable, accountable, and stable municipalities.

The Intergovernmental Relations Framework Amendment Bill is another significant reform. Its purpose is to improve coordination between national, provincial, and local government. The proposed amendments include strengthening intergovernmental structures, establishing minimum meeting requirements, improving coordination in planning, budgeting and the assignment of powers and functions, and introducing clearer timeframes for addressing intergovernmental disputes. Effective implementation of these provisions could support more coherent planning and reduce delays in the delivery of services across government spheres.

The proposed Fire Services Bill seeks to modernize the governance and regulation of fire services. Fire and rescue services are essential for municipal functions, particularly in communities affected by veld fires, building fires, hazardous iincidents, and other emergencies. Legislative reform in this area should clarify responsibilities, strengthen institutional coordination, improve standards,s and support municipalities in developing the capacity required to respond effectively to disasters and emergencies. The reform is therefore closely linked to public safety, disaster preparedness and the protection of lives and property.

The Local Government: General Laws Amendment Bill proposes amendments to various laws affecting local government. Its stated objective is to review and improve the legislative framework governing municipalities, entrench good governance practices and address challenges experienced in municipal operations. The Bill has the potential to improve administrative efficiency, strengthen institutional accountability, and promote more consistent application of local government legislation.

Collectively, these proposed reforms demonstrate the importance of building capable, accountable, and stable municipalities. However, legislation alone will not resolve all the challenges facing local government. The success of the reforms will depend on effective implementation, adequate resources, political maturity, capable municipal administration and meaningful oversight by councils, provincial government, Parliament and communities.

It is equally important that residents, civil society organizations, organized local government, and other stakeholders participate actively in the legislative process. Public participation can help ensure that the reforms respond to the practical realities experienced by municipalities and communities. Local government legislation must ultimately support the constitutional objectives of democratic and accountable government, sustainable service delivery, and development-oriented administration.

The proposed reforms should therefore be viewed not only as technical amendments to legislation, but as part of a broader effort to restore public confidence in local government. Stronger coalition governance improved intergovernmental coordination, modernized fire services and more effective municipal laws can contribute to municipalities that are stable, responsive and better equipped to serve their communities.

Moving Forward Through Service, Accountability and Partnership

The past three months have been a period of continued work across our municipality as we focus on improving services, upgrading infrastructure and responding to the needs of our communities. August also allowed us to recognise Women's Month and reflect on the important role women continue to play in our families, workplaces and communities. Their contribution remains an important part of building and developing Msukaligwa.

This work can be seen in the range of projects taking place across our municipality. During this quarter, we continued with projects aimed at improving the daily lives of our residents, including work on water and sanitation, roads, stormwater systems, community facilities, sport and recreation, and waste management. These include the drilling of boreholes in our farm areas, the installation of water infrastructure at Everest Park, the refurbishment of Mahlobo Street, sanitation projects and the upgrading of the Lothair-Silindile Sport Field.

> Council, the administration and our communities must continue to work together to build a municipality that serves its people well

We know that service delivery is not just about announcing projects. It is about making sure that projects are done properly, monitored and completed on time. We will continue to keep a close eye on this work and make sure that these projects make a real difference in the lives of our residents.

We also have a responsibility to manage public money properly. The municipality is focused on finalising its Annual Financial Statements and improving the systems we use to manage our finances, assets, revenue, supply chain processes and performance.

Our development work must also open doors for our people. We will continue supporting local SMMEs, cooperatives, entrepreneurs and agricultural initiatives, while creating opportunities for women and young people to take part in the local economy.

Another issue that needs all of us to play our part is the protection of municipal infrastructure. The vandalism and theft of electricity infrastructure, including cables, transformers and other equipment, affects households, businesses, schools and other community facilities. It also costs the municipality money that could be used to provide services elsewhere. I therefore appeal to residents and other stakeholders to help protect our infrastructure and report suspicious activities to the relevant authorities.

There is still much work to do, and we know that we cannot do it alone. We need our communities, Councillors, officials, traditional leaders, businesses, civil society and government partners to work with us to address the challenges facing Msukaligwa.

The progress we make as a municipality depends on all of us working together. Council, the administration and our communities must continue to work together to build a municipality that serves its people well, uses public resources responsibly and listens to the needs of its residents.

I thank our residents for their continued participation, support and commitment to the development of Msukaligwa.

Let us continue to serve our communities with dignity, accountability and excellence.



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 the municipality prepares for the upcoming Local Government Elections, our primary responsibility is to ensure that municipal operations continue effectively, lawfully and without interruption. The municipality remains committed to supporting a credible, peaceful and well-coordinated electoral process while continuing to provide essential services to residents.

Residents are encouraged to obtain election information directly from the IEC and to report service-delivery emergencies through the municipality's official channels

The Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) is responsible for conducting the elections. The municipality's role is to cooperate with the IEC and other relevant stakeholders by providing the necessary administrative, logistical and public-information support.

Residents are encouraged to confirm their registration details, ward information and voting district before Election Day. Voters should take note that voting is linked to the voting district in which they are registered. The municipality will use its communication platforms, including the municipal website, social media, public notices, community structures and customer-service channels, to share verified information issued by the IEC and to discourage misinformation.

The municipality is also engaging with the IEC and relevant stakeholders on matters relating to voting venues, access roads, public facilities, safety, traffic management, electricity supply, water provision, waste management and emergency response.

The election period does not suspend the municipality's responsibility to deliver services. Essential services such as water, sanitation, electricity, refuse removal, roads, emergency services and customer care will continue in accordance with approved operational plans.

All municipal officials are reminded to remain professional, impartial and respectful of the electoral process. Municipal resources must be used only for authorised municipal purposes, and officials must comply with applicable legislation, policies and codes of conduct. The municipality will continue to distinguish clearly between official municipal communication and political-party campaigning.

The success of the election preparations depends on cooperation among the municipality, the IEC, political parties, law-enforcement agencies, community organisations, traditional and civic structures, businesses and residents. We therefore call on all stakeholders to support a peaceful and orderly electoral environment.

Residents are encouraged to obtain election information directly from the IEC and to report service-delivery emergencies through the municipality's official channels. The municipality will continue providing timely, accurate and accessible information throughout the election period.

As we approach the elections, let us work together to protect the integrity of our democratic institutions, maintain uninterrupted delivery service and ensure that our municipality remains ready, stable and accountable.



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.

Mahlobo Street Completed as Road Works Continue Across Msukaligwa

The rehabilitation of Mahlobo Street in Wesselton, Ward 4, is officially complete, marking another key milestone in Msukaligwa Local Municipality's ongoing drive to restore and maintain vital transport infrastructure across its communities.

The project formally commenced when the 470-metre stretch of road was handed over to the contractor by Executive Mayor Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi on Tuesday, 28 July 2026. The Executive Mayor was accompanied by Municipal Manager Maqhawe Kunene alongside directors from key municipal departments. Following the swift completion of engineering works, the upgraded thoroughfare has been handed back to the municipality and reopened to motorists and pedestrians.

The engineering works focused primarily on correcting severely distressed asphalt along the designated section. To ensure long-term durability and safety, contractors executed precision milling of the damaged surface before laying a new layer of asphalt to restore structural integrity and smooth traffic flow.

Valued at R2,465,021.55 (VAT inclusive), the project was funded under the municipality's targeted Road Maintenance Programme. This initiative prioritises extending the operational lifespan of existing municipal infrastructure rather than allocating limited capital towards brand-new construction.

"Restoring Mahlobo Street is about more than just asphalt—it is about restoring dignity, ensuring road safety, and providing our communities with reliable access to homes, businesses, and essential services," said Executive Mayor Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi. "We remain steadfast in directing public funds into practical projects that deliver immediate, measurable benefits to our residents."

> Restoring Mahlobo Street is about more than just asphalt—it is about restoring dignity, ensuring road safety, and providing our communities with reliable access to homes, businesses, and essential services

In line with municipal procurement guidelines, the contract delivered direct socio-economic benefits within Ward 4. Residents were recruited throughout the construction phase, whilst two local Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) were contracted to supply 10m³ tipper trucks. This strategy ensured that capital expenditure actively supported local livelihoods and small business development alongside physical infrastructure gains.

The completion of Mahlobo Street forms part of a larger, coordinated effort by Msukaligwa Local Municipality to address historical road maintenance backlogs across various wards. By systematically rehabilitating critical transport links, the municipality continues to facilitate safer transit, boost local commerce, and improve overall service delivery for all residents.










Executive Mayor Accounts for Five Years of Service Delivery and Progress

The Executive Mayor, Alderwoman M.P Nkosi, delivered the 2026 State of the Municipal Address (SOMA) on Wednesday, 29 July 2026, providing an account of the municipality's work, progress and challenges during the 2021-2026 political term.

The Address, which marked the final State of the Municipal Address of the current political term, reflected on the municipality's efforts to strengthen institutional capacity, expand basic services, improve infrastructure and create opportunities for residents.

> Five years ago, we accepted the mandate to lead. Today, we account for the work done. Tomorrow, the work continues

Over the five years, the Municipality increased the number of filled positions from 463 to 721, including the filling of 258 critical posts. Investments were also made in operational equipment and machinery to strengthen the Municipality's internal capacity to maintain roads, respond to emergencies, clear sewer blockages and provide essential services.

Progress was recorded in basic service delivery. By the end of the term, approximately 95.5 per cent of the Municipality's population had access to basic water services, while 92 per cent had access to basic sanitation. Major water and sanitation infrastructure projects were implemented across communities, while 999 households in Wesselton Extension 11, Breyten Extensions 2 and 4, and Warburton were connected to dignified sanitation services.

Wastewater management was highlighted as a significant area of progress, with the Municipality's Green Drop score increasing from 17 per cent in 2021 to 66.7 per cent in 2025.

The Municipality also upgraded more than 10 kilometres of gravel roads to paved roads, maintained over 400 kilometres of roads and resurfaced more than 100,000 square metres of asphalt. Electricity access increased to over 87 per cent of households, supported by network strengthening and electrification projects.

The Address further highlighted efforts to expand economic and social opportunities. EPWP work opportunities increased from 241 in 2021/22 to 399 in 2025/26, while youth benefited from workplace-based learning and skills development initiatives. The Municipality also continued supporting local SMMEs, vulnerable learners and community awareness programmes.

At the same time, the Executive Mayor acknowledged the challenges facing the Municipality and its communities. These include financial pressures, municipal debt, infrastructure backlogs, ageing infrastructure, unemployment, crime, illegal dumping, substance abuse, infrastructure vandalism and concerns relating to undocumented immigration and compliance with the country's laws.

The Address emphasised that these challenges require coordinated action between government, law enforcement agencies, community structures and residents.

Looking ahead, the Municipality identified five key priorities. That of strengthening financial sustainability; maintaining and expanding infrastructure; building institutional capacity; promoting economic growth and youth inclusion; and deepening community engagement.

Five years ago, we accepted the mandate to lead. Today, we account for the work done. Tomorrow, the work continues," Alderwoman M.P Nkosi said.

The 2026 SOMA served as both an account of the work undertaken during the 2021–2026 term and a reflection on the work that remains to build a stronger and more sustainable Msukaligwa.



















Uniting to Honour Madiba Through Service



The spirit of Nelson Mandela came to life in Ermelo on Friday, 17 July 2026, as the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, led by MEC Thulasizwe Thomo, partnered with Msukaligwa Local Municipality, led by Executive Mayor Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi, to deliver meaningful service to local communities.

Combining resources and working together across all spheres of government delivered practical improvements that will continue to benefit the community long after the day's activities concluded

Government departments, stakeholders and community members worked side by side to improve public facilities, support vulnerable residents and promote cleaner public spaces.

The programme began at the Sibanesihle Stimulation Centre in Wesselton, where volunteers carried out refurbishment work to improve the facility for the children and beneficiaries it serves. As part of its contribution, Msukaligwa Local Municipality donated 54 blankets and a new kitchen unit to support the centre and enhance the comfort and well-being of those who rely on its services. The donations complemented the refurbishment efforts and reflected the government's commitment to restoring dignity through practical support.

Activities also extended and cocnluded at the Ermelo Long Distance Taxi Rank, where participants undertook a clean-up campaign aimed at creating a safer and healthier environment for commuters, taxi operators and businesses. To support the initiative beyond the day's activities, the Municipality donated road maintenance tools to assist with pothole repairs around the taxi rank, reinforcing its commitment to improving public infrastructure and road safety.

The programme included the handover of operating licences to qualifying beneficiaries, creating opportunities for lawful economic participation while encouraging compliance with the relevant legislative requirements. The initiative highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to support local economic development while ensuring that businesses operate within the prescribed regulatory framework.

Addressing participants, MEC Thulasizwe Thomo encouraged residents to embrace Nelson Mandela's legacy by making service to others a way of life rather than limiting it to the annual 67 minutes of community service. Executive Mayor Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi echoed this message, calling on communities to work hand in hand with government in building cleaner neighbourhoods, supporting vulnerable groups and strengthening the spirit of active citizenship.

The Nelson Mandela Day programme demonstrated that meaningful change is achieved through partnership, compassion and collective action. Combining resources and working together across all spheres of government delivered practical improvements that will continue to benefit the community long after the day's activities concluded, reaffirming a shared commitment to people-centred service delivery and community development.










Government Hands Over Houses to Lothair Beneficiaries

A total of 140 government-subsidised houses were handed over to beneficiaries in Silindile Township, Lothair, on Thursday, 23 July 2026, as government continued efforts to improve housing conditions and address the challenges associated with informal settlements.

The programme brought together provincial, district and local government leadership, with Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) MEC Mr Speedy Mashilo joined by Gert Sibande District Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr Walter Mngomezulu and Msukaligwa Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Alderwoman Mapulane Nkosi.

The houses were delivered through the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP), which seeks to improve living conditions in informal settlements and support the formalisation of residents' tenure rights.

> This intervention will contribute to improved living conditions for beneficiaries and demonstrates the value of cooperation between provincial, district and local government.

As part of the programme, two beneficiaries were symbolically welcomed into their new homes. Ms Fikile Xulu, who was accompanied by her two sons, and Mr Samson Mhlanga were presented with their houses, together with food packages, furniture and blankets.

For the families receiving homes, the intervention represents an important step towards more secure living conditions. The programme also included a visit to Sukumani Care Centre, where blankets were distributed to elderly residents as part of the day's community support activities.

The handover formed part of Mpumalanga's Mandela Month programme, held under the theme, "It is still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity." The programme reflected the broader call for practical action to support vulnerable communities while addressing challenges that affect residents' daily lives.

The day's programme concluded with a community engagement, during which residents raised issues relating to title deeds and the allocation of houses. Concerns were also raised about the beneficiary selection process and whether housing lists are always compiled and implemented in a manner that is transparent and fair to those who qualify.

"The handover of these homes is an important milestone for the families who have received them and for the broader Lothair community. We welcome this intervention, which will contribute to improved living conditions for beneficiaries and demonstrates the value of cooperation between provincial, district and local government. We have also heard the concerns raised by residents during the community engagement, and as Msukaligwa Local Municipality, we remain committed to working with our government partners to support initiatives that respond to the needs of our communities and improve the quality of life of our residents," said Executive Mayor, Alderwoman Mapulane Nkosi.

The engagement provided an opportunity for government representatives to respond to concerns raised by residents and reinforced the importance of continued dialogue between government and communities as housing interventions are implemented.
















Lucky Dube Secondary School of Performing Arts Officially Handed Over

The Lucky Dube Secondary School of Performing Arts was officially handed over on 3 August 2026, bringing a major new educational facility to Msukaligwa.

The handover ceremony, held at the school in Extension 34, was led by Mpumalanga MEC for Education Lindi Masina and MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Thulasizwe Thomo. The event was attended by our Executive Mayor, Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi, Gert Sibande District Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr Walter Mngomezulu, provincial and local government representatives, traditional leaders, officials, community members and members of the late Lucky Dube's family.

Mayor Nkosi formally welcomed guests and delegates to Msukaligwa during the programme, with the handover taking place on what would have been Lucky Dube's 62nd birthday. The school is named after the Ermelo-born reggae musician and has been operating since 15 January 2025, when it opened its doors to learners.

The school is the province's first public, no-fee secondary school specialising in performing arts and is designated as a School of Specialisation focused on creative and performing arts. Its facilities include 32 classrooms, two Grade R classrooms, ablution facilities, a soccer field and two multi-purpose courts.

For Msukaligwa, the school adds a specialised public education facility to Ermelo and provides local learners with access to structured training and education in the performing arts without having to leave the municipality. It also places a major provincial education facility within the municipality, named in honour of one of Ermelo's most internationally recognised sons.

The school adds a specialised public education facility to Ermelo and provides local learners with access to structured training and education in the performing arts












Water and sanitation projects reach communities across Msukaligwa

Water and sanitation projects are underway in communities across Msukaligwa, from a R27.7 million water upgrade in Everest Park to new sewer connections in Warburton and a borehole and toilets for residents of Daviddale.

The projects respond to different infrastructure needs in Ward 1 and Ward 12 and include both large-scale network improvements and basic services for households in rural communities.

Warburton sewer project to connect 630 households

In Warburton, Ward 12, a sewer reticulation project officially moved into implementation on Monday, 24 August 2026, when Executive Mayor Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi handed over the project to the appointed contractor.

The project will be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 has a six-month duration and is expected to be completed by March 2027, while Phase 2 will run for a further 12 months and include additional work within the project scope.

Once completed, the project will provide 630 households with sewer connections, with 630 water-borne toilet top structures also to be constructed. The work includes installing sewer pipelines, constructing manholes, testing the network and connecting the new system to the existing sewer network.

The first phase is expected to create 20 work opportunities, comprising four adult men, five adult women, four young men and seven young women. A further 30% of the project has been allocated to local SMMEs, with opportunities including security, plant and equipment hire, toilet construction, ERF connections, tipper trucks and water tanks.

Following the handover, Mayor Nkosi and municipal representatives met with residents at the Warburton Sports Ground to explain the project, its phases and the opportunities available to the community.













R27.7 million water upgrade underway in Everest Park

In Everest Park, Wesselton (Ward 1), work is underway on a R27.7 million water infrastructure upgrade aimed at improving water supply in the area.

The project started on 4 August 2026 and is scheduled for completion on 31 March 2027. The work includes the installation of a 1-megalitre elevated steel water tank, a booster pump station, new pipelines, valves and valve chambers, as well as upgrades to existing pump and electrical infrastructure.

The completed system will then be tested and commissioned.

The project is also expected to create approximately 20 work opportunities during construction, including positions for a Community Liaison Officer and general workers. A R3 million Contract Participation Goal has also been set for the project.



Daviddale receives a new borehole and toilets

In Daviddale, Ward 12, near Lothair, residents received improved access to water and sanitation services when Mayor Nkosi led the handover of two borehole projects on Friday, 7 August 2026.

The boreholes provide an additional water source for the community, while the VIP toilets provide residents with improved sanitation facilities.

The handover brought together the mayor, councillors, municipal officials and community members.

Speaking at the event, Mayor Nkosi said the facilities were important because they addressed everyday needs faced by residents.

“A borehole and sanitation facilities may seem like simple infrastructure, but for the community they represent improved access, convenience and dignity.”

From a new water source in Daviddale and a major water system upgrade in Everest Park to the expansion of sewer services in Warburton, the projects show the different infrastructure needs being addressed in communities across Msukaligwa.



Solar Energy Project Brings Power Alternative to 500 Households

Msukaligwa Local Municipality (MLM) handed over a solar energy project to the appointed contractor in Thembelihle Informal Settlement in Davel, Ward 10, on Tuesday, 1 September 2026. The project will provide approved solar home systems to 500 households while the settlement progresses through the formalisation process.

Executive Mayor Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi led the handover and was joined by Ward Councillor S.E. Ngovene and members of the Mayoral Committee. Municipal Manager Maqhawe Kunene was joined by directors from the municipal administration.









> The solar project provides an interim energy solution during this process and is not a replacement for the future provision of formal electricity infrastructure

The solar home systems will comprise solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, battery storage and internal lighting, providing households with an alternative energy source while formal electricity infrastructure is not yet available.

Thembelihle is currently undergoing formalisation as the municipality works towards establishing the settlement as a formally planned area. The solar project provides an interim energy solution during this process and is not a replacement for the future provision of formal electricity infrastructure.

The project will also create local economic opportunities during implementation, enabling community members to benefit from work and related activities associated with the project.

With the contractor now appointed and the project handed over for implementation, work can proceed towards providing the 500 households with access to basic energy services.







Improved Sanitation Facilities to Farm Communities

MLM handed over 33 pour-flush toilets to residents of KaMgega Farm in Ward 12 on Tuesday, 15 September 2026. This is a part of an ongoing sanitation project aimed at improving access to basic sanitation services across farm communities.

The project is being implemented across 16 farm areas in Wards 9, 12, 13 and 19. A total of 110 units have been completed to date, bringing improved sanitation facilities to households in these communities.

The newly installed facilities include double-pit trench structures, waterborne top structures, 40-litre grey-water storage tanks and pour-flush mechanisms. The infrastructure provides households with a more suitable sanitation solution while supporting improved hygiene and living conditions.

The project has also created opportunities for residents to participate directly in its implementation. A total of 32 local people have been employed across the participating farm areas, including eight (8) people from KaMgega in Ward 12.

The handover at KaMgega was led by the Executive Mayor, Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi, who visited the farm to mark the completion of the facilities and engage with the community. She was accompanied by Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs), Directors of the administration and municipal officials.

With work continuing across the participating farm areas, the project forms part of the MLM's ongoing efforts to extend basic services to rural communities while creating local employment opportunities through infrastructure development.









Wesselton Beneficiaries Receive Their Title Deeds



A total of 51 beneficiaries from Extension 5 in Wesselton now have registered ownership of their properties following the completion of the title deed process. The achievement was marked during a handover held at the Vivian Mangaliso Malinga Hall (1948) on Friday, 11 September 2026.

The beneficiaries comprise 39 from Ward 3 and 12 from Ward 6. The handover was led by Executive Mayor Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi, accompanied by Members of the Mayoral Committee, Municipal Manager Mr M. Kunene and municipal officials.

The municipality's Human Settlements and Property Management section is the custodian of the title deed process and facilitated the process through to the handover. Before the proceedings at the hall, the delegation visited beneficiaries in Extension 5 as part of a door-to-door exercise, delivering registered title deeds to those who were available to receive them.

A title deed is a legal document that records and confirms ownership of a property. Once registered, it provides the property owner with formal proof that the property is registered in their name. The document should therefore be kept in a safe place as an important property record.

For residents who have been allocated government-subsidised properties but have not yet received their title deeds, the municipality encourages them to visit the municipal offices to enquire about the status of their documents and whether they are available for collection. Residents should bring their identity documents and any relevant housing documentation when making enquiries.

> Beneficiaries were also encouraged to consider what happens to their property in the future.

With the title deed confirming ownership, beneficiaries were also encouraged to consider what happens to their property in the future. Making a will allows a person to state how their property and other assets should be dealt with after their death and can help families when an estate is administered.

The advice comes ahead of National Wills Week, from 14 to 18 September 2026, during which participating legal practitioners offer basic will-drafting services at no cost, subject to the services provided by participating practitioners.

As the handover takes place during Heritage Month, the municipality also reminds homeowners that maintaining proper property records and making plans for the future are important parts of responsible homeownership.










MSUKALIGWA


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Completion of Enyibe Electrification Project
Expands Access to Electricity

Government's commitment to expanding access to basic services was reaffirmed on Tuesday, 7 July 2026, during the official commissioning of the Enyibe Electrification Project, where households in the area were connected to the electricity network through a collaborative effort led by Eskom.

Msukaligwa Local Municipality joined Gert Sibande District Municipality, Eskom, traditional leaders and community members to celebrate the completion of the project, which represents another step towards improving infrastructure and extending essential services to communities within the district.

Addressing residents, Executive Mayor of Gert Sibande District Municipality, Cllr Walter Mngomezulu, described the electrification project as an important investment in community development. He emphasised that access to electricity must be accompanied by responsible use of the infrastructure, urging residents to protect the network from vandalism and illegal connections.

Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa Local Municipality, Alderwoman M.P. Nkosi, echoed this message, encouraging residents to become custodians of the newly installed infrastructure. She cautioned against illegal electricity connections, noting that they pose serious safety risks, compromise the reliability of the electricity network and place additional financial pressure on public resources.

Both mayors stressed that the protection of public infrastructure is a shared responsibility between the government and communities. They called on residents to report acts of vandalism, infrastructure theft and unauthorised electricity connections to help preserve the investment for current and future generations.

The project forms part of broader government efforts to improve access to reliable electricity while addressing historical service delivery backlogs. Through partnerships between Eskom and the three spheres of government, infrastructure programmes continue to support inclusive development and improve access to essential services across communities.

The commissioning ceremony also provided an opportunity for government leaders to engage directly with residents on matters affecting service delivery and to reinforce the importance of compliance with electricity regulations. Responsible use of the network, coupled with community ownership of public infrastructure, remains essential to ensuring the long-term sustainability of electrification projects.

The successful completion of the Enyibe Electrification Project demonstrates the value of coordinated planning and implementation in delivering infrastructure that improves the lives of residents. As the government continues investing in service delivery programmes, partnerships with communities will remain central to protecting these investments and ensuring that they continue to benefit households for years to come.











Trade Right. Thrive Together.

By-law enforcement is not only about ensuring compliance with municipal regulations, but also about educating, supporting and empowering informal traders to operate safely and successfully.

Msukaligwa Local Municipality's (MLM) Public Safety Department conducted a by-law enforcement operation in Ermelo to monitor compliance with informal trading by-laws and hawkers' permit requirements on Tuesday, 14 July 2026. The operation formed part of the MLM's ongoing efforts to promote orderly trading, protect public spaces and create a fair environment for all traders.

During the operation, municipal officials engaged directly with informal traders to raise awareness about the importance of obtaining a valid hawker's permit and complying with the conditions attached to it. These engagements also provided traders with an opportunity to ask questions and receive guidance on municipal requirements.

Informal trading continues to play a significant role in the local economy by creating employment opportunities, supporting household incomes and providing convenient access to goods and services. Recognising this contribution, MLM encourages aspiring entrepreneurs to formalise their businesses by applying for a hawker's permit before commencing trade. A valid permit authorises traders to operate from approved trading areas while ensuring that business activities are conducted in accordance with municipal by-laws.

Compliance extends beyond obtaining a permit. Traders are expected to operate responsibly by keeping their trading areas clean, avoiding obstruction of pedestrian walkways and adhering to all health and safety requirements. This is particularly important for businesses that prepare or sell food using gas cylinders or other cooking equipment. Safe handling, storage and use of gas cylinders help reduce the risk of fires, injuries and damage to surrounding businesses and public infrastructure.

Municipal officials also encouraged existing permit holders to familiarise themselves with the conditions of their permits and seek clarification whenever they are uncertain about compliance requirements. "Understanding and following these requirements contributes to a safer trading environment and helps prevent unnecessary enforcement action," said Solethu Nkambule, Senior Law Enforcement Officer.

MLM is committed to supporting the growth of the informal economy while maintaining safe, clean and well-managed public spaces for residents, visitors and businesses alike. Working in partnership with traders aims to create an environment where entrepreneurship can flourish within the framework of municipal by-laws.

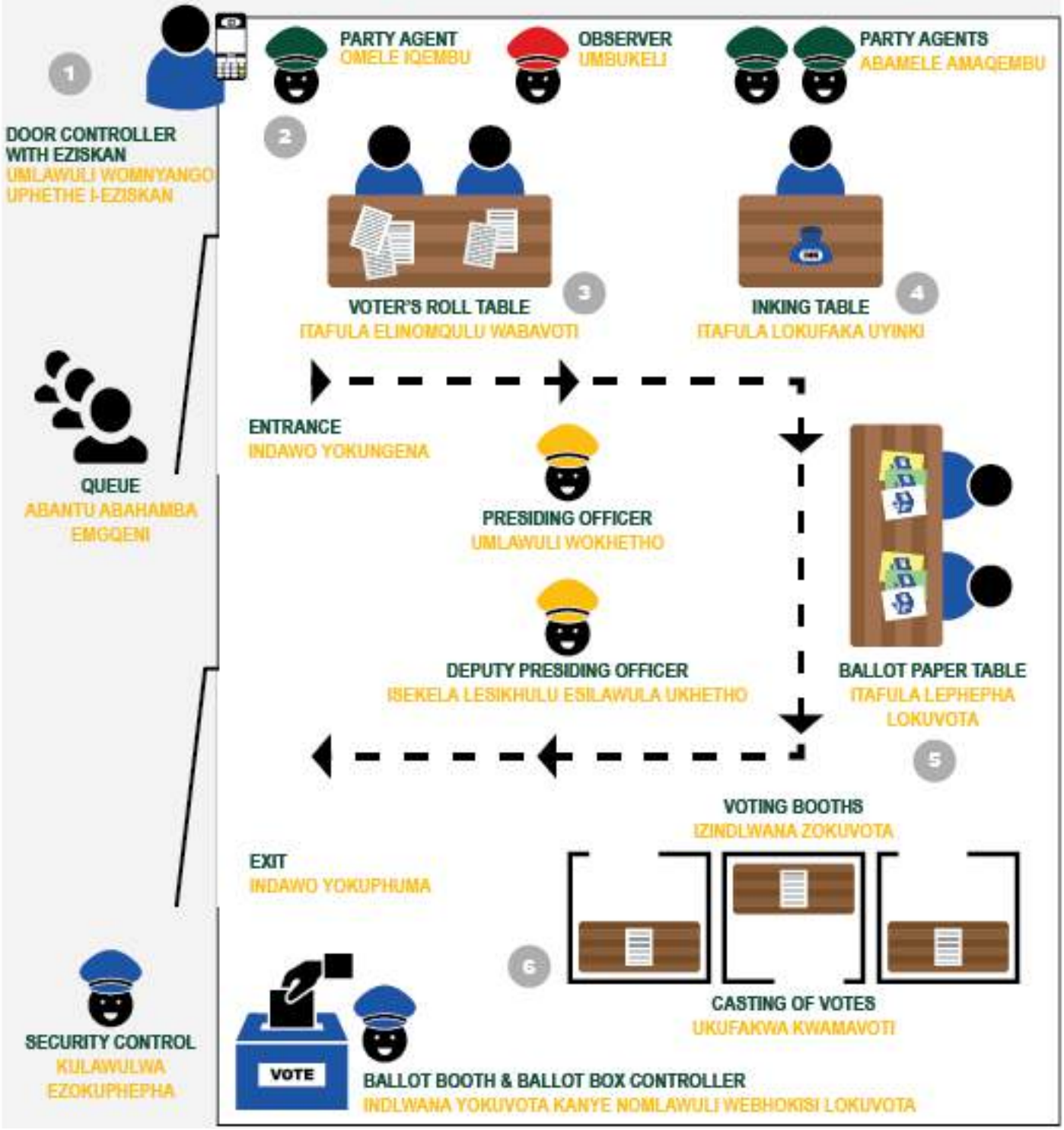
> Working in partnership with traders aims to create an environment where entrepreneurship can flourish within the framework of municipal by-laws.

Aspiring entrepreneurs and existing informal traders who require information about hawker permits, designated trading areas or compliance requirements are encouraged to visit the relevant municipal offices during business hours. Municipal officials are available to provide guidance on the application process and explain the responsibilities associated with informal trading.

Trading legally, operating safely and complying with municipal by-laws contribute to a vibrant local economy and helps build a cleaner, safer and more organised Msukaligwa for everyone.



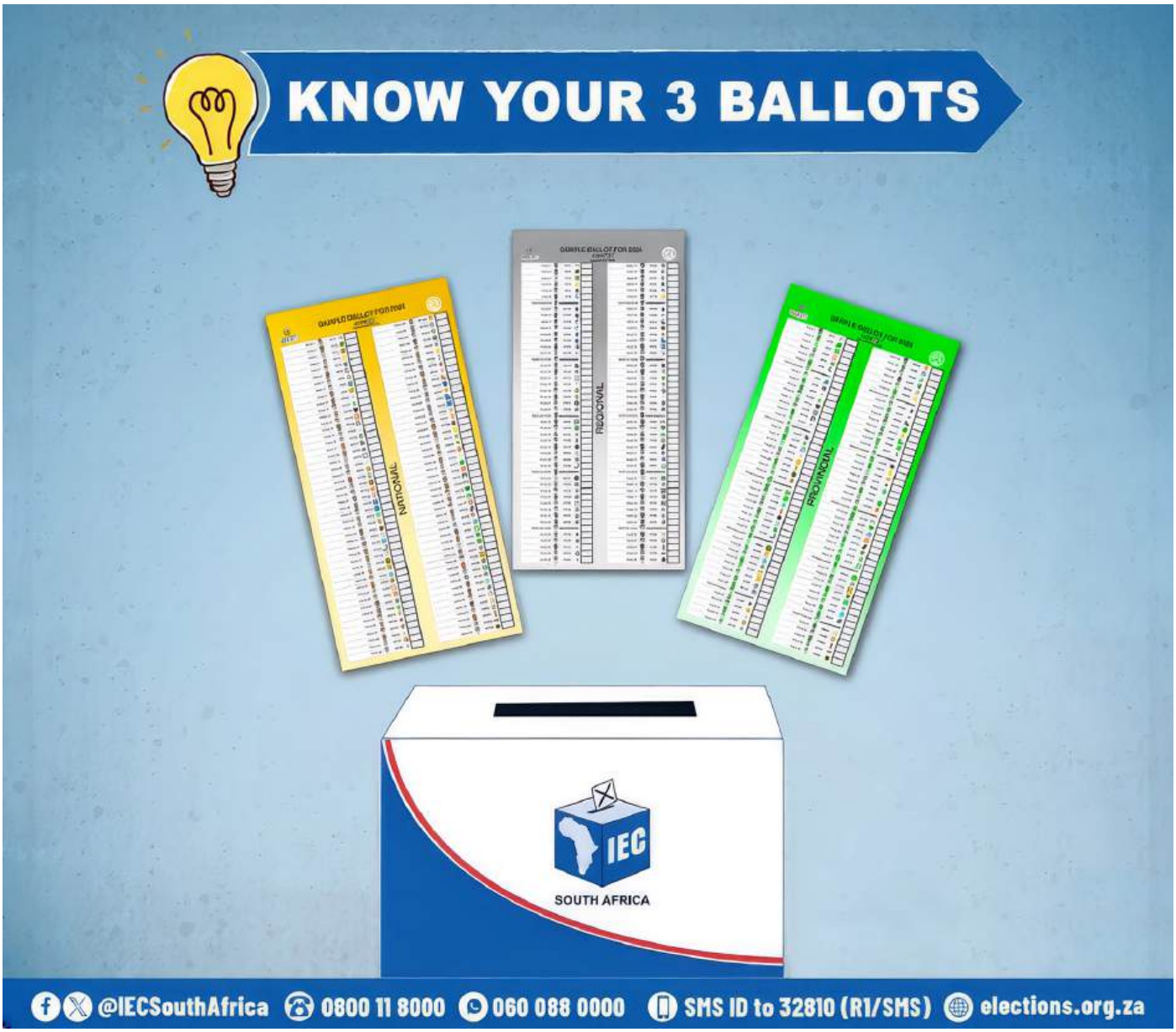
THE VOTING PROCESS
UHLELO LOKUVOTA



1. In the queue: An election official will check your ID to make sure you are registered
   Emgqeni: Isikhulu sokhetho siyohlola umazisi wakho ukuze siqiniseke ukuthi ubhalisile.
2. At the door: An election official will scan your ID with the zip-zip machine (eZiskan).
   Emnyango: Isikhulu sokhetho siyoskena umazisi wakho sisebenzisa umshini we-zip-zip (okuyi-eZiskan).
3. At the voters' roll table: You will give your slip to the voters' roll officer.
   Etafuleni elinomquu wabavoti: Uyonika isikhulu esibheke umqulu wabavoti sakho isiliphu sephepha.
4. At the inking table: An election official will make a small mark on the nail of your left thumb with ink.
   Kwithebula lokufaka uyinki: Isikhulu sokhetho siyokwenza umaki omncane ozipheni lwesithupha sakho sangokwesinxele ngoyinki.
5. At the ballot paper table: You will be given three ballot papers.
   Kwitafula lephepha lokuvota: Uyobe usunikwa amaphepha amathathu okuvota.
6. At the voting booth: You are now ready to vote.
   Kwindlwana yokuvota: Njengamanje usukulungele ukuthi ungavota.

THE VOTING PROCESS
UHLELO LOKUVOTA

On the 4th of November 2026, South Africa is voting. If you live in a local municipality, you will have three ballot papers:



YELLOW you vote for a political party to represent you on the Local Council.

GREY/WHITE you vote for a person who is either from a political party or is an independent candidate to represent your ward on the Local Council.

GREEN you vote for a political party to represent you on the District Council.

#SAELECTIONS26

Building Stronger Men Through Dialogue

Addressing the social challenges facing communities requires meaningful engagement, shared responsibility and collaboration across sectors. In support of this objective, the Office of the Speaker hosted a Men's Dialogue at the Civic Centre Main Hall on 16 July 2026, bringing together government departments, law enforcement agencies, faith-based organisations and community stakeholders for an open discussion on issues affecting men, families and society.

The dialogue served as a platform to encourage honest conversations on the role men play in shaping safe, healthy and resilient communities. Through constructive engagement, participants explored practical approaches to addressing social challenges while promoting positive values, responsible leadership and community accountability.

A range of critical issues affecting communities formed part of the discussions, including gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), anger management, substance abuse, prostitution, responsible fatherhood and the contribution of faith leaders in promoting ethical conduct and social cohesion. Speakers emphasised that these challenges cannot be addressed in isolation but require coordinated efforts from government, community organisations, families and individuals.

The dialogue highlighted the importance of responsible fatherhood in strengthening families and creating supportive environments where children can thrive. Participants also reflected on the need for men to lead by example through respect, integrity and accountability, recognising that positive role models contribute significantly to reducing social ills and fostering stronger communities.

The role of faith-based organisations was recognised as an important component of community development. Faith leaders were encouraged to continue providing guidance, moral leadership and support to individuals and families while working alongside government and other stakeholders to address the underlying causes of social challenges.

Discussions on anger management and substance abuse underscored the importance of early intervention and access to appropriate support services. Participants were encouraged to seek assistance when experiencing emotional distress or personal challenges, recognising that timely support can prevent conflict, strengthen relationships and improve overall community wellbeing.

The engagement reinforced that building safer communities is a shared responsibility. Lasting change depends on partnerships between government institutions, law enforcement agencies, civil society, faith-based organisations and residents who are committed to promoting respect, accountability and ethical conduct.

The dialogue highlighted the importance of responsible fatherhood in strengthening families and creating supportive environments where children can thrive

Creating opportunities for dialogue continues to support initiatives that encourage active citizen participation and collaborative problem-solving. Community engagements of this nature provide an important platform for identifying local challenges, strengthening partnerships and promoting solutions that respond to the needs of residents.

The Men's Dialogue concluded with a shared commitment from stakeholders to continue working together to address social challenges and promote positive behavioural change. Through sustained collaboration and community participation, the municipality remains committed to supporting initiatives that contribute to stronger families, safer neighbourhoods and a more resilient society.



Active Ageing Programme Promotes Healthy Living and Participation





The importance of active participation and healthy living among senior citizens took centre stage at the AJ Swanepoel Stadium on Tuesday, 21 July 2026, where senior citizens from across Msukaligwa Local Municipality gathered for the regional Active Ageing Programme.

> The sporting activities provided a platform for senior citizens to remain physically active, interact with their peers and participate in organised activities.

Co-hosted with the Department of Social Development, the event provided an opportunity for participants to compete in various sporting activities and contribute to the selection of the team that would represent Msukaligwa at the district and provincial games.

Participants took part in activities such as jukskei and track running, demonstrating their skills and competitive spirit throughout the day's programme. The sporting activities provided a platform for senior citizens to remain physically active, interact with their peers and participate in organised activities.

Representing the Executive Mayor, Member of the Mayoral Committee for Community and Social Services, Cllr S.E. Ngovene, attended the event and delivered words of encouragement to the participants. He acknowledged their participation and extended well wishes to those selected to represent Msukaligwa at the next level.

The programme also brought together government departments and other stakeholders, providing participants with access to various services and information. The Department of Health mobile unit was present at the stadium, providing free health checks and screening to senior citizens, while other stakeholders offered relevant services and information to older persons.

The Active Ageing Programme forms part of broader efforts to encourage older persons to maintain healthy lifestyles, remain physically active and participate in social and community activities. It also creates opportunities for senior citizens to engage with one another and remain connected to their communities.

Relevant stakeholders, including MLM, created opportunities for older persons to participate in sport and recreation while accessing services that support their overall well-being. The importance of collaboration between government and other stakeholders in delivering programmes that respond to the needs of senior citizens was also evident.

Following the selection process, successful participants went on to represent Msukaligwa Local Municipality, taking the next step in the Active Ageing Programme. The Office of the Executive Mayor had also donated T-shirts to the Msukaligwa team in May in support of their participation in the programme.








Helping Lindile learners take steps towards higher education

For 90 Grade 12 learners at Lindile Secondary School, applying for higher education became a little less daunting on Thursday, 20 August 2026, when our Youth Office brought practical application support directly to the school.

The programme, led by MLM Youth Officer Nhlanhla Slabbert, assisted learners with the process of applying for further education and training, including identifying suitable study options, understanding admission requirements, completing online applications and submitting supporting documentation.

For learners preparing to leave Grade 12, the application process can be an unfamiliar one. Questions around what to study, where to apply, how to meet institutional requirements and how to navigate online platforms can make an already important transition more challenging.

The intervention sought to address some of these challenges by allowing learners to work through their applications with guidance available to them. The municipality also contributed R250 per learner towards application fees, helping to reduce the financial barrier associated with submitting applications.

For the learners, the programme represented an opportunity to begin turning their plans for life after school into concrete possibilities.

The challenge is not a lack of ambition, but not knowing where to start. By bringing the application process directly to the school enables us to guide learners through each step, answer their questions and help them make informed choices about their next chapter. We want them to leave Grade 12 knowing that further education is within their reach and that there are opportunities available to them," said Slabbert.

The applications were submitted through the Central Applications Office (CAO), giving learners access to participating higher education institutions and colleges through a centralised application process.

The initiative also formed part of the municipality's broader efforts to support young people in accessing opportunities beyond secondary school. Building on the intervention at Lindile Secondary School, the municipality is looking to extend similar support to other schools across Msukaligwa.

By bringing the application process directly to the school enables us to guide learners through each step, answer their questions and help them make informed choices about their next chapter

The programme was not simply about completing application forms. It was about opening possibilities and giving young people the tools to take ownership of what comes next.

For the 90 learners at Lindile Secondary School, the journey beyond Grade 12 has already begun. The next destination is theirs to choose.




Youth Development, empowerment, training and workplace readiness

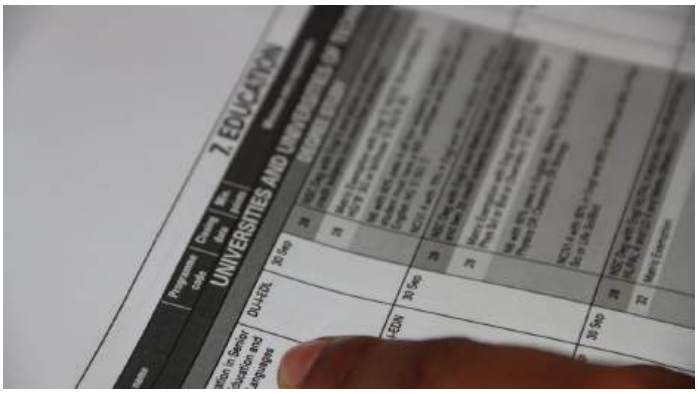

MSUKALIGWA


YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
MSUKALIGWA





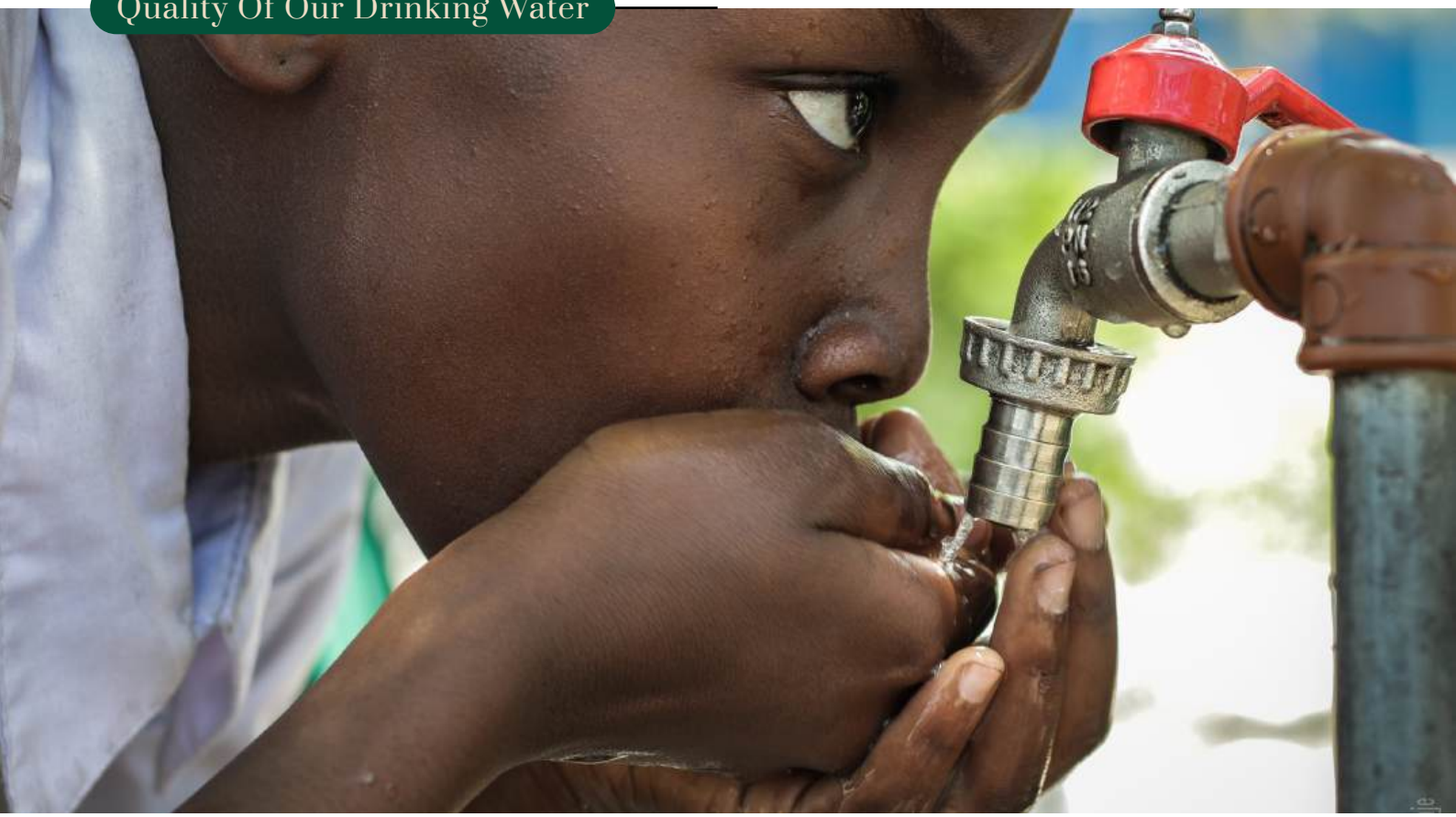





Youth Development, empowerment, training and workplace readiness


MSUKALIGWA
EMPOWERING YOUTH, ERADICATING UNEMPLOMENT





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 April 2026 to June 2026, 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. Analyses were done from those samples to determine physical, chemical and microbiological compliance of final water.

Month	No of samples	Chemical failure	Percentage chemical compliance	Microbiological failures	Percentage microbial compliance
April	60	5	91.67	8	86.67
May	52	11	78.85	3	94.23
June	59	12	79.66	4	93.22

Samples (Microbial) points failed to comply with class 1 SANS 241: 2015 and thus equated to compliant.
Samples (Chemical) points failed to comply with class 1 SANS 241: 2015 and thus equated to 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.