

HONOURABLE MAYOR OF MOHOKARE

**Matriculants put Mohokare
Number one in the district**

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The honourable Mayor Irene Mehlomakulu was one of the pioneers who started the NGO (Aids Council) in Zastron. She was the secretary of the Albert Nzula Branch when she was then elevated to secretary of the Xhariep region making her a REC(ANC) member of the ANCYL as well as the PEC member of the youth league in the province. The Mayor was part of the first group of people when the Community development workers programme (CDW) was launched by the office of Premier. Her career continued to progress as she was then appointed as the youth development officer of Xhariep District Municipality. In 2011 she became the PR (proportional representative) councillor of Mohokare Local Municipality and served at the Xhariep district as a Member of the mayoral committee (MMC) for social development. She also served as



the member of Corporate services and Local economic development committee in Mohokare Municipality. She is now the Honourable Mayor/Speaker of Mohokare Municipality.

**MEC Mashini grieves
with
The bereaved.**

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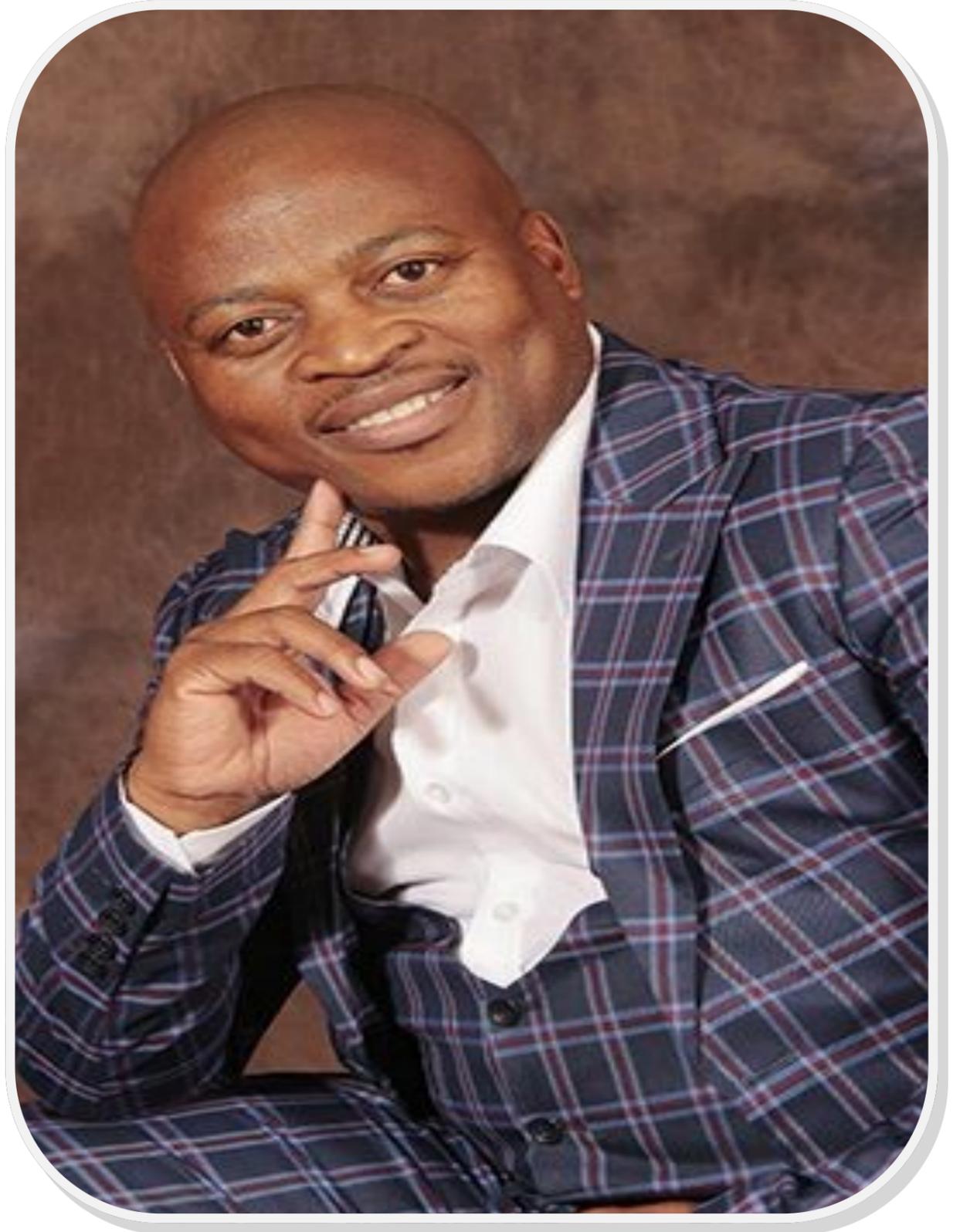


2 WORD FROM MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Firstly I would like to congratulate the incoming council that will be leading Mohokare Local Municipality for the term of 5 years commencing on the year 2016 – 2021. It is with my utmost pleasure that I would like to also bid farewell to the outgoing council of the Mohokare Local Municipality, commending them on the good work done during their term as a council with the pivotal role they played by managing to take the municipality from the status it was in prior to 2011.

The municipality was faced with the challenge of instability in terms of facing a continuous Disclaimer Audit Opinion due to insufficient financial administration in place. The Municipality was faced with the challenge of a prolonged availability of unfilled posts due to the financial constraints it was under. However in light of the few mentioned challenges amongst many others, the outgoing council managed to re-structure the organization by ensuring the occupation and filling of the necessary posts within the institution. And this was achieved through the assistance that was availed for three years from COGTA and the Free State Provincial Government which assisted with addressing a number of challenges the Municipality had been faced with.

It is equally important to note with recognition the achievements that were obtained under the leadership and management of the Mohokare Local Municipalities former council.



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The success was achieved in terms of retaining stability by implementing the necessary service delivery and control measures within the organization, upon the restructuring the organizations administration operations improved tremendously.

The Municipality managed to achieve a positive audit opinion moving from disclaimer audit opinion to a qualified audit opinion then further progressed to an unqualified audit opinion for two consecutive years. Some of the other few achievements that were obtained are the:

- ⇒ Zastron/Matlakeng construction of 2,9 km pavement access collector internal streets and related.
- ⇒ Zastron/Matlakeng installation of 16 high mast lights in Refeng Khotso.
- ⇒ Smithfield/Mofulatshepe installation of 14 high mast lights.
- ⇒ Matlakeng upgrading of sports grounds.

Despite the mentioned achievements there are still a number of challenges that the Municipality is still faced with such as working towards obtaining a Clean Audit Opinion, working towards gaining Financial Viability and improving the Economic Development and Stability of the Municipality as well as ensuring the quality of service delivery.

The new council together with management and the Municipality personnel need to work tirelessly in trying to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves as an institution. Although the Municipality is solely dependent on Government grants for sustainable funding given the slight revenue base of the Municipality the municipality has worked tirelessly in utilizing sufficiently the grants to maximize service delivery for the benefit of the community at large even though efforts to collect revenue have not been left behind.

As previously mentioned the municipality is solely dependent on grants which are provided and availed specifically to attend to certain issues, leaving little room for the rendering of services using these grants. The Municipality ensures to work harder in order to render quality service delivery.

T.C PANYANI

MUNICIPAL MANAGER

COUNCIL OF MOHOKARE



CLLR I. MEHLOMAKU-LU (HON. MAYOR)



CLLR T. KHASAKE
WARD 1



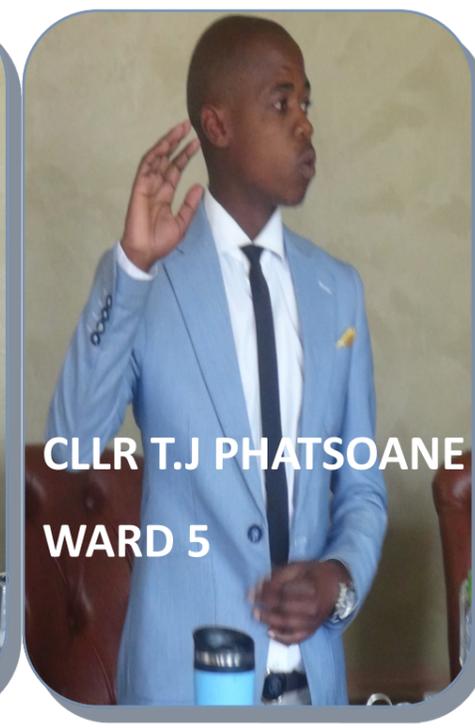
CLLR T. MO-CHECHEPA WARD 2



CLLR L. LEKHULA
WARD 3



CLLR B.M VALASHIYA
WARD 4



CLLR T.J PHATSOANE
WARD 5



CLLR M.I MORAPELA
WARD 6



CLLR I.S. RIDDLE



CLLR L. LEPHUTHING



CLLR L. LIPHOOLO



CLLR B.J LOBI

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KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS

It is of utmost importance that as south Africans we should know our councillors as they are the link between the municipality and the community they serve. People can also take their problems to the ward councillor and he/she is responsible of to deal with these in an appropriate way.

WHAT IS A COUNCILLOR?

- A councillor is a person who provides political leadership in a ward of a Municipality. It can be a Metropolitan Municipality, District municipality or Local municipality.
- A local councillor can be elected as an independent candidate or represent a political party. They occupy an office for a period of five years in line with the local government elections. The ward councillor is elected by citizens living in the ward where he/she is standing for elections.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A COUNCILLOR?

- A ward councillor is expected to make sure that the concerns raised by people in his/her ward are represented in council. He/she must also ensure that the ward committee exists and that people in the ward participate in local government. The councillor must report back regularly through ward meetings and help the community in identifying needs and priority areas of development , which will help the municipality's planning processes.

TYPES OF COUNCILLORS:

- A ward councillor ensures that the interests of the people in a specific ward are represented in council. He/she reports on council activities on a regular basis to strengthen the relationship with the community.
- A proportional representative councillor is a member of a political party and is elected through the party lists. He/ she accounts to the party.
- An independent councillor does not belong to a political party and is accountable to the people who elected him/her.

6 INAUGURATION OF THE MOHOKARE MAYOR AND THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF XHARIEP DISTRICT.



The new Mayor of Mohokare Irene Mehlomakulu said in her inaugural speech on the 30th of September that the Municipality was committed to promote and strengthen the participation and partnership throughout their term. “Firstly I would like to thank the residents of our three towns including farms for their participation on the 3rd of August 2016 elections and the confidence the electorate has placed on us. She then thanked the IEC for its sterling work in organising and running the local government elections in an effective and professional manner and she urged that now that the votes have been cast and counted it is time to unite and service the residents of Mohokare. The Mayor concluded that “I believe that in-depth assessment of our achievements as a government over the past term will reveal remarkable record of success.” The Mayor said she looked forward to challenging the status quo of women in leadership in the country with the hope that she can inspire young women like herself to push the boundaries and achieve all that they set out for themselves. The Inauguration took place on the 30th of September where family members, stakeholders, community members were invited to witness the inauguration of Executive Mayor as well as the Mayor of Mohokare.

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INAUGURATION



HONOURABLE MAYOR OF MOHOKARE
IRENE MEHLOMAKULU



From Right: Julia Sehanka (Executive Mayor), Oupa khasake (Chief Whip), Thabo Panyani (Municipal Manager), Irene Mehlokulu (Mayor Of Mohokare)



From left: Soloki Mngqungquthu (Speaker of Xhariep District), Julia Sehanka (Executive Mayor of Xhariep District), Martin Kubeka (Municipal Manager of Xhariep District)



Bra Lebza the poet from Smithfield



Audience at the Mayoral Inauguration gala dinner.

8 104 MAYORAL PROGRAMME

On the 28th of October the honourable Mayor of Mophokare launched her 104 mayoral programme. The 104 Mayoral programme is a programme from the office of the Premier intended to address the problems that were raised by the community during the door-to-door's. This initiative is aimed at addressing service delivery issues and is also a way to instil the culture of keeping our communities clean. Starting with the cleaning campaign which focused on addressing cleanliness and illegal dumping site challenges in the three towns. The cleaning campaign which commenced in Zastron was driven through mass participation by municipal employees alongside Epwp and CPW this same initiative was taken to Rouxville and Smithfield. This will be an on-going programme that aims to ensure that the community understands the dangers of living in an unhealthy environment as well as the importance of establishing participation between the Municipality and the community in order for there to be common ground. The programme will include the maintenance and cleaning of sports grounds, the fixing of roads to informal settlements as ambulances are faced with problems of accessing roads in order to fetch patients. This programme includes road shows that will encourage eligible community members to come and register their names on the indigent register, **continued on pg10**



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Improving of the billing system, re-gravelling of the roads, renewal of barrier lines. As shown on the pictures below municipal workers went out in numbers to clean the streets of Zastron, Smithfield and Rouxville. With the current national drought problem the resuscitation of boreholes is also prioritised this will bring relief to the current shortage of water the Municipality is putting their best foot forward in their quest to mitigate the drought and it must not be lost to people especially those that are to benefit from the drought interventions that the responsibility to save water is still there. People should continue using this scarce resource quite sparingly. The 104 Mayoral programme will pave the way for service delivery to have a more significant impact and can reach all community members.



10 **MATRICULANTS PRAYER SESSION**

The Mayor alongside Councillors and Municipal officials as part of the 104 mayoral programme visited schools to conduct prayer sessions for grade 12 pupils who were about to commence with their final exams. The Mayor being a proud product of Mohokare felt it was important to encourage these learners about the opportunities at their disposal, she went on to explain about bursary opportunities and that learners should never allow their background to hold them back. The learners then took a pledge to conduct the exams in a dignified manner. After the anticipation of the final Matric results it is indeed a proud moment as Free State province produced the highest number of pupils who passed their 2016 Grade 12 examinations. The Free State being number one nationally, Xhariep District as number one in all districts with a 93% pass rate. Mohokare is the number one circuit in the district with Lere-la-Thuto having obtained 96% pass rate with 41 that qualified for a Bachelors degree, 30 Diplomas and 2 Certificates.

These learners proved that they may be from a small town but their minds, strengths and futures are definitely not small. Mohokare is extremely proud of these exemplary learners who have produced extraordinary results



Thabo Vuyo high School grade 12 pupils



Grade 12 pupils Lere-la-Thuto being addressed by the honourable Mayor



Grade 12 pupils

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THE MAYOR AND MANAGEMENT VISITS SECTOR DEPARTMENTS



Office of the Mayor visited Lere-la-thuto from left: Thabo Panyani (Municipal Manager), Irene Mehlomakulu (Hon. Mayor), Ntswaki Mokati

It is imperative to know the challenges that Schools and sector departments are faced with part so as to be aware where to begin working as the office. The Mayor visited different sector departments namely schools like Lere-la-thuto, Zama Primary School, Matlakeng clinic and others that are currently being affected by the national water crisis. The office of the Mayor took resolutions with these sector departments and schools on how they can be of assistance. The Municipality has a great vision for her office as well as Mohokare and she believes in order to achieve all the goals set for the institution it is of utmost importance to reach out to the sector departments as well as the community to meet each other half way to ensure better service delivery and a better community.



Mayor visited Embekweni Hospital



Mayor visited Zama Primary School

MORAL REGENERATION BY PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE



The Moral Regeneration Movement is a networking platform that facilitates and coordinates all processes and initiatives aimed at combating moral degeneration. As a civil society-driven initiative that is supported by the government, the MRM provides the opportunity to redouble our efforts as a full partnership of the people, and pay special attention to the issues of development, social cohesion, and nation building. The MRM also supports traditional and cultural programmes. The provincial legislature in partnership with Mohokare local Municipality conducted a meeting and invited traditional healers, Priests, gays and lesbians, sector departments and other different people from the community the aim was to discuss issues and challenges that people are faced with. The unavoidable fact is that moral seem to be decaying in our communities unspeakable and devastating crimes take place and the only solution seems to be to regenerate the morals.

MEC OF POLICE, ROADS AND TRANSPORT GRIEVES WITH THE BEREAVED IN MOHOKARE.

A tragic accident that happened on the road to Zastron from Sterkspruit where a taxi collided with a van which resulted in claiming the lives of 17 passengers of which 6 were from Zastron. The Honourable MEC of Police, Roads and transport Sam Mashinini graced the event with his presence which was a roadblock where the family members of the victims were invited for a prayer session and memorial service it was held where the accident had occurred. This particular location has claimed the lives of many other victims and Mohokare Municipality saw it fit to have a prayer session which was done by priests and traditional healers as a way to cleanse this area. The MEC encouraged the family members who had lost their loved ones that they were in our prayers and thoughts, furthermore he emphasized the fact that people need to always be careful on the road to avoid further incidences from occurring.

On the 30th of December funerals of the victims were conducted in a dignified manner. The Mayor of Mohokare and Executive Mayor of Xhariep district attended the funeral to offer their most sincere condolences may the families find peace and their loved ones rest in peace.



14 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE ACCI-



HON. MEC SAM MASHININI GIVING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE BE-REAVED.



CANDLE LIGHT CEREMONY BY THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE VICTIMS.



HON. MEC SAM MASHININI, MAYOR OF MOHOKARE IRENE MEHLO MAKULU, EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF XHARIEP WITH FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE VICTIMS.



FUNERAL OF THE VICTIMS HELD AT LERE-LA-THUTO

WOMEN, ELDERLY AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Municipality upholds the vision of proper service delivery for all and as part of the 104 mayoral programme the office of the Mayor visited the centre of women and children living with disabilities to find out which challenges they are faced with and how the office can assist. The honourable Mayor sat down with the people at the centre to also explain that she uses an open door policy and that they were welcome to ask for any assistance whenever they needed it.



SENIOR MANAGEMENT



**MR T.C PANYANI
MUNICIPAL MANAGER OF
MOHOKARE MUNICIPALITY**



**Mr. M. Tsoamotse
Director: Technical Service
Department**



**Mrs. L. Nqoko-Rametse
Director: Corporate Service
Department**



**Mr. P. Dyonase
CFO: Finance Department**

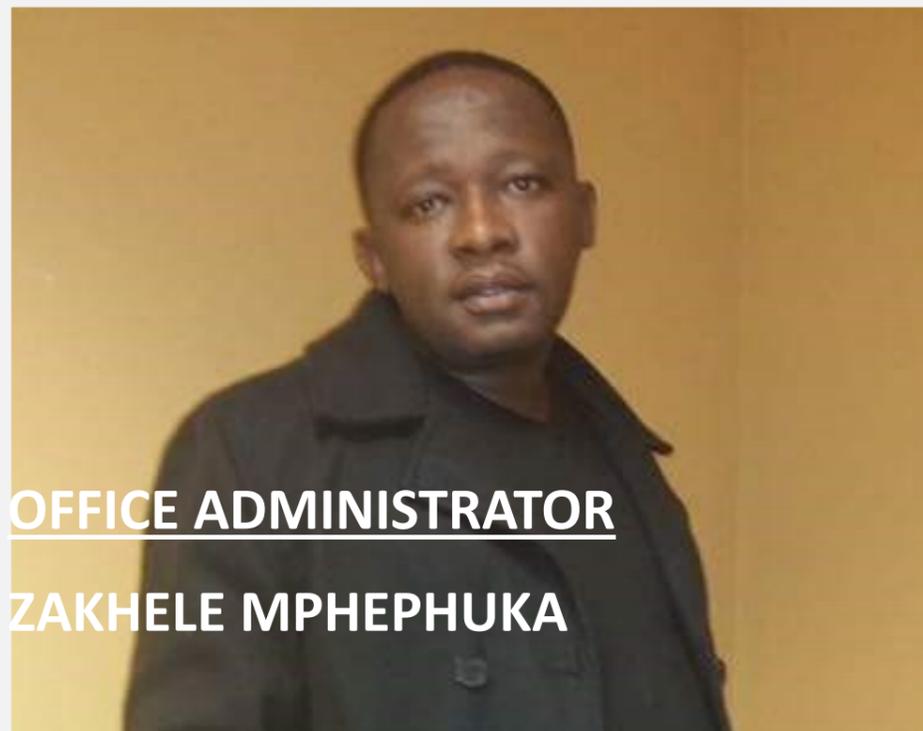


**Mr. D. Marais
Director: Community Service
Department**

STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE
MAYOR**
BUKELWA MNWEBA



OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
ZAKHELE MPHEPHUKA



PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
ISAAC MOERANE



ZINGISA MGAWULI
**INTERN:OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR**