

GTM BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, May - July 2021

Municipal Manager resigns



Mr. Thapelo Matlala) resigned as the Municipal Manager of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality with immediate effect. Mr. Matlala joined the Greater Tzaneen Municipality on 3 April 2018 from SALGA where he held the position of Limpopo PEO. [Page 03](#)

Nkuna appointed Acting MM



The Council of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality has appointed Mr. Aleck Nkuna as the Acting Municipal Manager with immediate effect for a period not exceeding three months. Mr. Nkuna is the current Director of Community Services. The appointment of Mr. Nkuna comes after Mr. Thapelo Matlala resigned as Municipal Manager on 20 August 2021. [Page 03](#)



Mayor delivers a house to the Letsoalos



A New grader to help improve road upkeep

The GTM faces a huge road maintenance backlog mainly caused by heavy rainfall and limited resources. With a growing demand to service gravel roads especially in rural areas, the municipality struggles to meet the demand but with a new grader to add to the existing fleet of graders the service will improve. [Page 07](#)

On 6 September 2021, the Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality officially handed over keys to a new house to the Letsoalo family of Dipatjeng Village in ward 33. The Mayor had promised to build the family a house on the 1st of September 2021 during a sod-turning ceremony. At the time the Mayor indicated that it will take two months to complete the house, however, the house was completed in just a month. Speaking at the handover, Mayor Mangena said "We are so much happy to be coming here to improve the living conditions of the Letsoalo family, we are very much proud that their dignity is restored. The mayor also supplied the family with two double beds, a fridge, and a stove. The Mayor also applauded members of the community who intervened to assist the family with a shelter before the Mayor's intervention. The community has already started with the construction of a three-room house but couldn't finish due to financial constraints. The beneficiary, Khutjo Letsoalo was overwhelmed with joy and excitement. She expressed her gratitude to the Mayor for coming to her aid as she narrated her hardship in the aftermath of



Councillor Sophy Raganya, Mayor Maripe Mangena and Khutjo Letsoalo in front of the new house

the storm that damaged her mud houses, which became inhabitable. The family of six has been living in very harsh conditions since their three mud houses collapsed due to heavy rainfall in January 2021. The family was supplied with a tent which was later damaged by a storm. Khutjo Letsoalo lives with her

three children and two grandchildren. She survives on R700 a month which she gets from her job at Kwanda, a local programme providing labour-intensive work for locals. The house was built by Meopeng Trading owned by Church Mushwana, a local businessman.



GTM gets new waste truck

A new waste compactor truck arrived at the Greater Tzaneen Municipality this week (22 June 2021) to add to the four waste trucks already in the municipality's fleet. The new acquisition will improve waste collection services in the municipality. Councillor Edney Ntimbani, the Head of Infrastructure in the GTM says the new truck will assist in addressing service delivery backlogs and reduce outsourcing. [Page 09](#)



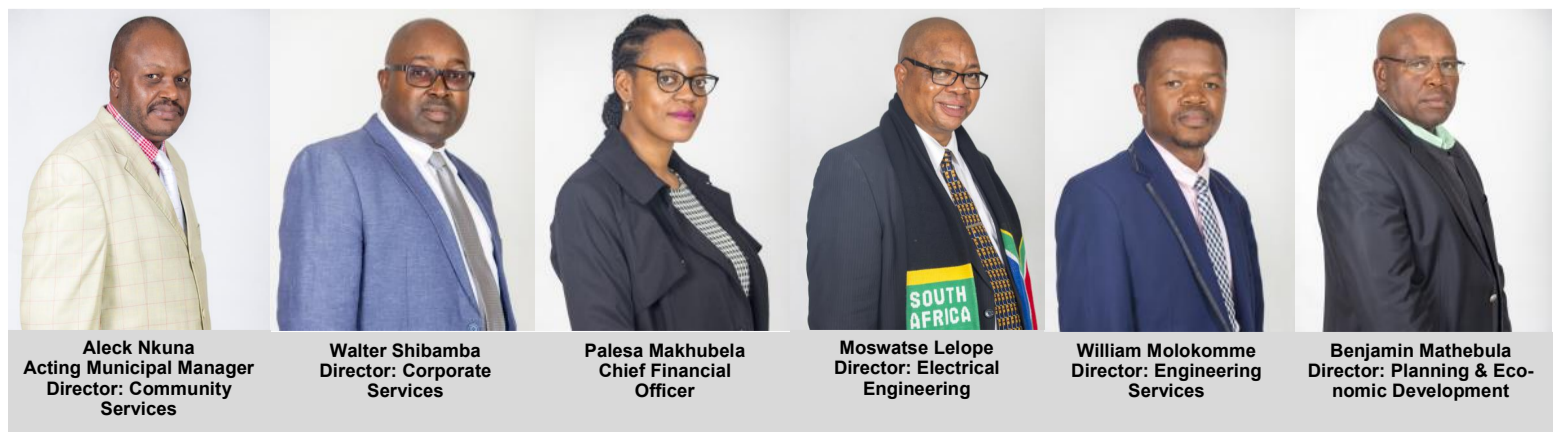
#SALGA2019/20 MUNICIPAL AWARDS GALA DINNER: On 28 September 2021, the GTM received two awards during the SALGA Municipal Awards Gala Dinner held at Meropa Casino. The first award was for 100% expenditure on the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) and the second award was for the attainment of an Unqualified Audit Opinion from the Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA). Team GTM is led by Mayor Maripe Mangena (in traditional attire), Head of Finance Cllr. Thabo Maunatlala (far right) and the Acting Municipal Manager, Aleck Nkuna (holding the certificate)

GTM Heads of departments



Mayor secures 50 bicycles for learners

Walking long distances to school will be a thing of the past for 50 learners at the Masopha High School at Matipane Village. The Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena handed over 50 bicycles to learners at a ceremony held at the school on 23 April 2021. [Page 02](#)



Aleck Nkuna
Acting Municipal Manager
Director: Community Services

Walter Shibamba
Director: Corporate Services

Palesa Makhubela
Chief Financial Officer

Moswatse Lelope
Director: Electrical Engineering

William Molokomme
Director: Engineering Services

Benjamin Mathebula
Director: Planning & Economic Development

Editorial Team

Publisher: Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

Editor: Neville Ndlala

Deputy Editor: Vutivi Makhubele,

Reporters: Patricia Muchabi ,Tiny Ramatseba

Graphic Design & Layout: Neville Ndlala

Physical Address: No 38 Agatha Street,

Civic Centre Tzaneen, 0850,

Tel: +27 (0)15 307 8045

Fax: +27 (0)86 759 6454,

E-mail: Neville.ndlala@tzaneen.gov.za

Facebook: Greater Tzaneen Municipality

Website: www.greatertzaneen.gov.za

Instagram: greatertzaneenmunicipality

Twitter: @greater_tzaneen

YouTube: Greater Tzaneen Municipality



Neville Ndlala
Editor



Vutivi Makhubele
Deputy Editor



Patricia Muchabi
Reporter



Tiny Ramatseba
Reporter

Contact Directory

Switchboard:

015 307 8000

Office of the Mayor

015 307 8007

Office of the Speaker

015 307 8025

Office of the Chief Whip

015 307 8040

Office of the Municipal Manager

015 307 8002

Account Enquiries

015 307 8120/8121

Accounts Billing:

015 307 8139/8117

Report electricity disruptions on our 24-hour line -

082 679 0720

Report Water Problems

Tzaneen - Leo Dorfling 0793085608 and Calvin Mpai 0848601402

Haenertsburg - Bishop Shai - 0725810956

Nkowankowa/Letsitele - Lawrence Nkohana 0832665780

WhatsApp Line

066 019 4801

Eskom Call-Centre

0860 037 566

MAYOR'S FOREWORD

Its been five years since 69 of councillors congregated at Lenyenye Community Hall to take an oath before Magistrate Mabuza, who has unfortunately passed on, May her soul rest in Eternal Peace. On that day, we vowed to serve the people of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality with integrity and diligence. The road we traversed since that memorable day has been filled with great victories for ourselves and the people we lead. It has however been met with serious challenges which we collectively overcame. As we bow out as the current generation of councillors, patting ourselves in the back will not be classified as self-grandeur, it is a justifiable reward and recognition for the sterling work that we undertook and achieved.

In a political ship, there will always be storms, how we weather the storms determine the quality of leadership in us. To us, leadership is not the red carpets and praise singers glorifying us like we are mini gods, it is the satisfaction that our actions have transformed our people and their communities. It is not only the big roads and sports facilities that we build that count, it's also assisting

young black children with access to quality education or giving school uniforms or shoes to poor children whose confidence has been battered by their poverty. It's the gratification of seeing a poor family move from a dilapidated mud house to a decent house with furniture inside. Our job is to bring hope to the masses, that even if it takes a while, things will work out in the end.

I must express my gratitude to both my political colleagues and the administration for steering the GTM ship not only in moments of jubilation but also in times of heavy storms. Working with most of you was a pleasure, even though we disagreed at times. A robust debate strengthens leaders, it shapes us to become better leaders.

I am content that we have built roads, bridges, sports facilities, electrify houses, provided water, sanitation, and electricity to the people we lead consistently in the past five years. Although we are content with what we have delivered, there is still more that our people need and we shall keep pushing the pro-poor agenda in our pursuit for the total liberation of South Africans and blacks in particular. 'We wish the incoming 69 GTM council-



lors the best and progressive, compliant work.'

One unavoidable piece of advice from me and my experience:

"Do not agree to do anything illegal because the consequences are devastating. Stand for what is right against all pressures and you will not regret it. Yours in life long struggle to improve the conditions of the people we lead.

Cllr Mangena Maripe
Mayor:GTM

Mayor Mangena celebrates birthday with new borns

On 7 April 2021, Mayor Maripe Mangena celebrated his birthday at Dr. CN Phatudi Hospital (His actual birthday is 04 April 2021).

Mangena said he had a birthday party for the first time in his life this year and could not think of a more special way to celebrate part of his birthday than to celebrate with the newborn babies. "We decided to distribute the gifts today to all three public hospitals in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality(Letaba, DR CN Phatudi, and Van Velden) to celebrate my birthday ".

The gifts were handed to the mothers of the six babies at DR CN Phatudi, three will be distributed at Van Velden, and six at Letaba Hospitals. CEO of Dr. CN Phatudi William Sape appreciated the gifts on behalf of the three hospitals and commended the Mayor for the good gesture.



Top: Councillor Cassius Machimana (Head of Special Programmes) and Mayor Mangena hand-over hampers to one of the mothers at Dr. CN Phatudi.

Top left: Councillor Cassius Machimana help the Mayor cuts his birthday cake at Dr. CN Phatudi Boardroom

Bottom Left: Some of the baby hampers that the Mayor Mangena bought for the new babies.



Mayor hands over 50 bicycles to learners at Masopha



Mayor Mangena tries on one of the 50 bicycles donated by the MTN Foundation, on the right is Councillor Margeret Letsoalo

Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena handed over 50 bicycles to learners at Masopha High School at Matipane Village in ward 01 on Friday, 23 April 2021.

The bicycles have been donated by the MTN South Africa Foundation NPC. The bicycles are meant to improve access to education and school attendance by beneficiaries hailing from disadvantaged



communities. The foundation believes that by reducing the long traveling journey to school, learners' lives will be brighter. According to the foundation, each bicycle costs R3650 and the total cost of all the bicycles is R182, 500.00. Each bicycle comes with none wrench, bicycle lock, pump, and spanner.

The Mayor was joined by representatives from the MTN Foundation, Councillors, members of the School Governing Body, and officials from the Department of Basic Education.

Statement From Mayor Maripe Mangena On GTM's Unqualified Audit Opinion From The Auditor General Of South Africa

It is our heart-felt joy to announce to the people of Greater Tzaneen Municipality and the country that the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) has given the Greater Tzaneen Municipality an Unqualified Audit Opinion for the financial year 2019/2020.

What this means is that we were able to account for, take good care and correctly use the public purse according to the acceptable accounting standards. I thank all the political leaders, the administrative components which spent sleepless nights in order to achieve this, the Budget Steering Committee, the Audit Committee, the Municipal Public Committee (MPAC), and everyone else who has contributed to this achievement. There is no benefit better than the benefit of a united Greater Tzaneen Municipality collaborating on all fronts. Let us remain united and achieve more because by working together we can achieve (do) more.

I would also want to announce to the public that the Greater Tzaneen Municipality has received a bonus of R9,5 Million as a token of appreciation for the hard work and commitment in terms of implementing and spending the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) that we received from the National Treasury, therefore National Treasury has acknowledged and given us this additional amount of R9,5 million to say keep it up. I would like to extend a word of gratitude to the relevant portfolio committee, the relevant department, and everyone else and the communities for not disturbing the implementation of our projects so that we are able to spend accordingly and get a bonus which is very rare.



Mr. Thapelo Matlala resigns as Municipal Manager



Former GTM Municipal Manager Thapelo Matlala

On 20 August 2021, Mr. Thapelo Matlala resigned as the Municipal Manager of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality with immediate effect. Matlala did not indicate his reasons for the resignation. In his brief resignation letter Mr. Matlala thanked the Greater Tzaneen Municipality for the opportunity to serve".

Mr. Matlala joined the Greater Tzaneen Municipality on 3 April 2018 from SALGA where he held the position of Limpopo Provincial Executive Officer.

The Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen

Municipality wished Mr. Matlala the "best" in his future endeavours.

Mayor Mangena said "We would like to take this opportunity to and thank him for all the efforts that he put in developing this municipality to where it is today and we would like to wish him well in his future endeavours." On 24 August 2021, a special sitting of the Council of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality appointed Mr. Aleck Nkuna as Acting Municipal Manager for period not exceeding three months.

Council appoints Aleck Nkuna as acting Municipal Manager for three months



Acting GTM Municipal Manager Aleck Nkuna

On 24 August 2021, a special Council of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality has appointed Mr. Aleck Nkuna as the Acting Municipal Manager with immediate effect for a period not exceeding three months. Mr. Nkuna is the current Director of Community Services. The appointment of Mr. Nkuna comes after Mr. Thapelo Matlala resigned as Municipal Manager on 20 August 2021.

Nkuna boasts several tertiary qualifications which include an Honours Degree in Public Management (2019), a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Limpopo (1994). He is now finalizing his Masters' degree in Public Management (passed all subjects, finalizing his dissertation).

He has acquired numerous certifi-

cates from (NQF level 5) in Public Management, Certificate Programme in Management Development for Municipal Finance Additional (NQF level 6 and 7), and Project Management (NQF level 5) and Executive Management Programme (NQF level 8) from 2006 to 2015.

Nkuna previously served as the Director for Community Services in the Greater Letaba Municipality and as Project Manager for Back to Basics at the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA).

Nkuna also worked in National Intelligence Agency (NIA) as an Information Editor, Agent Handler, and Unit Manager. Nkuna joined the Greater Tzaneen Municipality in April 2018. At the end of the three months-acting period Council will determine the way forward.

All illegal advertising boards in the GTM to be removed

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality on 22 July 2021 removed illegal advertising boards in Tzaneen after most advertisers with boards ignored a public notice inviting them to apply or reapply for approval in order to comply with bylaws.

In a notice published on local newspapers, the municipality's Facebook page, and website on 9 October 2020, the Greater Tzaneen Municipality invited businesses/agencies which have erected advertising boards in the GTM to apply/reply in order to comply with the municipality's "Control of Outdoor Advertising and Signage By-law which was gazetted in the Limpopo Provincial Gazette 3036 on 27 September 2019.

There are however a handful of businesses that have complied with the notice, some of the boards that

have not been accounted for were removed and more will be removed as per the programme of the GTM.

Every advertising board must have written permission from the municipality in line with the By-law or the board will be removed and the cost of such removal will be at the account of the advertiser.

Applications must be submitted to the Local Economic Development (LED) office in person. The application form for outdoor advertising as well as the by-law are available on the GTM website (www.greatertzaneen.gov.za) and in the LED office No 15B Peace Street.

For further enquiries contact Maureen Ramabulana 015 307 8081 or Freddy Rammalo at 015 307 8290/082 809 0454 or Freddy.rammalo@tzaneen.gov.za.



The area opposite the main entrance to Tzaneen Lifestyle Center before the clean-up and the area after the clean-up (below)



Vision

"A Green, Prosperous and United Municipality that Provides Quality Services to All".

Mission

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality is committed to provide quality services to its community by:

- Promoting social and economic development - Providing and maintaining sustainable services;
- Ensuring efficient and effective utilization of all available resources - Ensuring Promoting Environmental sustainability - • Promoting effective stakeholder and community participation."

Mayor Mangena unveils the 2021/2022 budget of the GTM

During the State of the Municipal Address held at Lenyenye Community Hall on 28 July, the Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena unveiled a R1.6 billion budget for the 2021/2022 .



From Left to right: Walter Shibamba (Director of Corporate Services), Councillor Dikeledi Mmetle (Speaker of council), Winnie Baloyi (Manager: Council Support) and Beauty Maake (Committee Clerk)

Mayor Maripe Mangena delivered the final State of the Municipal Address (SOMA) for the current Council at Lenyenye Community Hall on 28 May 2021. In a detailed speech, the mayor reflected on the achievements and challenges since the new council came into office in 2016. Mangena said that the municipality has upgraded 16 roads from gravel to either tar or interlocked paving bricks surface. He also said that the municipality has connected electricity to all its more than 130 villages. He however said that there are still areas that require electricity. "electrification is a moving target, when you are busy connecting electricity to one village extension more houses are being built and they need electricity: said Mangena. The GTM's 2021 SOMA was broadcast live on local radio station Vision FM as well as the municipality's Facebook page and YouTube. There were live crossings to Limpopo's biggest commercial radio station Capricorn FM.

Mayor Maripe Mangena says that the total projected revenue for the 2021/2022 financial year "amounts" to R1,610 billion. Mangena said that the increase is mainly due to the increase in property rates, service charges, and external grants from Government. The total revenue budget includes an amount of R432 million which represents the equitable share allocation to the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. He said that R137 million will be levied through property tax and R773 million will be sourced from user charges. National allocations to fund operational activities amount to R26,4 million which includes the Finance Management Grant of R2 million, the EPWP grant of R8,4 million, and the INEP allocation of R16 million. An amount of R1, 449 Billion has been made available on the operational budget for expenditure. This substantial increase is largely due to the increase in salaries and bulk purchases. The Expenditure amount includes R393 million for salaries, R77 million for other materials excluding labour costs, and R 463 million for the purchase of bulk electricity and water. An amount of R131 million has been allocated for capital expenditure for the

2021/2022 financial year. This amount includes the MIG allocation of R94,7 million which will be spent on roads and stormwater drainage systems. Council has also approved tariff Increases for property rates and consumptive services. The tariff will increase as follows:

Property Rates	3.9%
Electricity	14.59%
Refuse	9.66%
Water (Haenertsburg)	3.9%
Water (Other users)	3.9%
Sewerage	3.9%

INEP Projects
 -R3.8 million will be allocated for the electrification of 213 households in Mavele (Phase5).
 -R522 thousand has been allocated for the electrification of 29 households in New Phepene.
 -R 540 thousand for the electrification of 30 households in New Rita
 -R11.1 million for the electrification of 618 households in Winnie Mandela.
 All these projects will cost R 16 million.

Major projects undertaken in the past 5 years

Bulamahlo Cluster

1. Tickeyline to Makhubidung road.
2. The Tickeyline, Myakayaka, Burgersdorp, Gavaza to Mafarana road upgrade project (Length: 11km,
3. Mulati Access road project (Length: 5.8 km)
4. Maseanoke to Cell C Street upgrading project in Pharare Village.
5. Rita, Khopo, Lefara, Zanghoma, Uhuru, Xipungu to Mariveni tar road (not complete due to opposition from the community in Zanghoma).
6. Paving the Nelson Ramodike High Access Road (Length: 4.8km)

Lesedi Cluster

1. Nkowankowa Section D Street upgrade from gravel to paving.
2. Khujwana to Lenyenye Access road project
3. Codesa to Hani Street
4. Matapa to Leseka road project (5.5km)

Runnymede Cluster

1. Paving of Risaba, Mnisi, Shando, to Driving School Internal Street in Ward 5(Length: 6.1 km, Budget : R40 million)
2. Paving of Nwamitwa Bridge via Nhlengeleti School to Taxi Rank, Clinic via Lwandlamuni School to Nwamitwa/ Mandlakazi Road The N'wamitwa (Length: 4.9 km. Budget R34.5 million)
3. Paving of Main road from Ndhuna Mandlakazi, Efrika, Zangoma, Mpenyisi to Jamba Cross Internal Street (Length: 5.6km - Budget: R41.7 million)

Relela Cluster

1. Tarring of Morutji to Kheshokole road (11km).
2. Paving of Relela Access Road (3.5km)
3. Paving of Mopye Access Road project (2Km)
4. Relela Community Hall

The GTM has allocated funds for road infrastructure development for the 2021/2022 , see the list below.

The GTM will spend R95 million in the 2021/2022 financial year, the funding is an allocation to the municipality through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).

The Mayor announced projects to be funded in the 2021/2022 financial year. The projects include among others projects that have already started. The projects will be rolled out over three years.

Here is a list of approved projects and the funds allocated to them.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. R1 million - Lenyenye Street paving | 4. R1 million - Nkowankowa Section D street paving | 9. R14 million - Paving of Risaba, Mnisi, Shando, to Driving School Internal Street in Ward 5 |
| 2. R4 .7 million - Matapa to Leseka Access Road to School | 5. R14 million - Paving of Main road from Ndhuna Mandlakazi, Efrika, Zangoma, Mpenyisi to Jamba Cross Internal Street (in Ward 13, Mandlakazi) | 10. 10.R1 million - Paving of Thapane Street |
| 3. R13.9 million - Mulati Access road Paving | 6. R14 million - Paving of Nwamitwa Bridge via Nhlengeleti School to Taxi Rank, Clinic via Lwandlamuni School to Nwamitwa/Mandlakazi Road (in Ward 12) | 11. 11.R1 million - Paving of Topanama Access Road to Serurubele School |
| | 7. R5 million Paving of Marirone to Motupa Street R5 million | 12. 12.R5 6 million - Tarring Nkowankowa A Codesa and Hani Street |
| | 8. R14 million - Paving of Moseanoka to Cell C Pharare Internal Streets in Ward 28 | 13. 13.R1 million - Tarring of Nkowankowa B Streets |
| | | 14. 14.R3 5 million - Tickyline to Makhwibudung Construction of storm water drainage systems. |
| | | 15. R1 million - Upgrading of Zanghoma to Mariveni |



GTM State of the Municipal Address in pictures



The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Pule Shayi and Mayor Maripe Mangena at GTM SOMA.



GTM Mayor Maripe Mangena flanked by GTM Councillors at the State of the Municipal Address



.. Rendering a poem in praise of the mayor before delivering SOMA



GTM Chief Whip Cllr Cromwell Nhembo responding to the Mayor's speech.



Dressed to kill are GTM Cllrs for the State of the Municipal Address from left, Mikateko Mbhalati, Harold Mofokwane, Rachel Kgatla, Connie Ramothwala, Sannie Tiba and Samuel Rapitsi



In good spirits at the SOMA Cllr Gezani Makhubele and Cllr Martha Makwela



In their traditional attires at the SOMA Cllr Maggy Makwala and Cllr Margeret Letsoalo



Councillor Thabo Maunatlala and Former Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Mr. OJ Mushwana during the State of the Municipal Address.



-All smiles for the camera are GTM Cllrs attending the SOMA from left Rachel Kgatla, Martha Makwela, Mavis Mapitja, Roniel Rikhotso, Pessyna Masetla, and Emma Ngobeni



GTM Councillors dressed for the State of the Municipal Address from left Margeret Letsoalo, Kedi-bone Rapatsa, Rachel Kgatla, Harold Mofokwane and Given Maunatlala

Q & A with the Director of Electrical Engineering



GTM Director for Electrical Services Mr. Sam Lelo

to areas around Haenertsburg, Georgesvalley, Makgobaskloof, Politsi, Campsies Glen, Agatha, Tzaneen, Letsitele Valley, Yamorna/ Ledzee, Broederstroomdrift, Deerpark, Riverside, Letsitele, Gravelotte, Waterbok, Letaba Ranch. The larger part of the distribution network supplies farming areas through overhead power lines. There are in excess of 12000 connections on the network. All villages in the municipality are supplied by Eskom.

What is the age and life expectancy of the network as it is now?

Answer: The age and life expectancy of the network depends on various components in the network. There are conductors, electrical machinery, support structures and various electrical equipment with varying life expectancy. For example, wooden poles on the network have life expectancy of 30 to 50 years depending on the operating environment. Parts of the network needs urgent replacement whilst some of the network has recently been replaced. The expected life expectancy of various parts of the network are Transformers – 45 years; Outdoor switchgear – 45 years; Indoor switchgear – 45 years; Miniature substations and ring main units – 45 years; Electrical cables – 50 years; Overhead power lines – 50 years

What is the maintenance budget for electricity and is it sufficient to rehabilitate and upgrade?

R11,636,430.00. The budget is not sufficient to rehabilitate and upgrade the network.

What is the funding needed to rehabilitate the network?

R313,964,646.00

Is there a maintenance and rehabilitation programme in place and where is it being carried out?

Answer: Yes, although the funding is not sufficient. The IDP has all the projects for rebuilding of overhead power lines and replacement of transformers in Tzaneen Main Substation through loan funding from DBSA.

How many electricians do GTM have to assist with outages?

Answer: 13 Electricians

Are electricians equipped with the necessary tools to do their job such as 4x4 vehicles and crane trucks?

Answer: Yes, each electrician has a suitable vehicle for their job and there are also 3 crane trucks.

Does GTM comply to all the necessary statutory compliance problems such as OHS and have all renewed their ORHVS certificates?

Answer: Yes, GTM complies to OHS including General Machinery Regulations and all electricians have valid ORHVS certificates.

How does the poor electricity provision impact to attract developers and thus job creation?

Answer: The sweeping statement about poor electricity provision is not correct. Most developers require electricity within the urban underground network. The underground network is stable and readily available for developers. The rural network is experiencing challenges of aging infrastructure and vegetation. These issues are being addressed through the DBSA loan and own funding to eliminate vegetation control backlogs. It should also be noted that we are still operating under the National Disaster Act and this has been ongoing for a year. The municipality recently appointed 8 service providers for the elimination of vegetation control backlogs.

What is the size of the GTM network in terms of area, population size, villages etc?

Answer: Greater Tzaneen Municipality (GTM) distributes power to an area of approximately 3200 km². The distribution area is not the same as the municipal jurisdiction area. The distribution area encroaches into neighbouring municipalities of BaPhalaborwa, Greater Giyani, Greater Letaba and Lepelle Nkumpi at Iron Crown (Haenertsburg). The municipality has a license to distribute power

Mayor applauds humanity in Mandela month

Communities around Greater Tzaneen Municipality have been lauded by Mayor Maripe Mangena for their humane deeds, this is after residents in three villages donated money, building material, and labour to build houses for the less fortunate.

On 20 July 2021 Mayor Mangena visited families in Mmaphala Village and Mphame Village both in Ward 33 and Dan Village in Ward 18. The Mayor,

who was accompanied by Ward Councillors and other local leaders vowed to assist in the completion of the houses in Mphame and Dan Village.

The house in Mmaphala was built by a local businessman and is complete and will soon be handed over officially to the beneficiaries.

In Mphame, community members have contributed money, labour, and building material to build a two-

room house for the Makwela family, where a 37-year-old mother of two shares a single room with her two teenagers.

In the case of Dan Village, another 37-year-old single mother stays in a one-room shack with her five children including her 18-year-old son.

Letaba VW Crew, a local social club for VW drivers is building a five-room house for the family. The social club wishes to complete the

house before the end of this month in honour of Nelson Mandela. The Mayor is working on assisting with the completion of the house and finally, get the family the dignity that they deserve.

Mangena said he was impressed by the efforts of communities and wished this could spread to other areas. The Mayor was appalled by the living conditions in the three families. "There is no privacy, no dignity



GTM Mayor Maripe Mangena surrounded by GTM Councillors and community members who extended a helping hand to build houses Mphame Village.

at all".

"The last allocation of low-cost houses for the Greater Tzaneen Municipality was 150 which is too little for a municipality our size." Said Mangena.

He said good Samaritans are supplementing what the government is providing.



Mayor for GTM Maripe Mangena helping to build a house.

Eighty informal traders get cash and training



Cllr Sannie Tiba handing a certificate to one of the 80 beneficiary

Eighty (80) informal business owners from across the Greater Tzaneen Municipality each received R3000 cash injection into their businesses on 23 March 2021. The money comes from the Wholesale and Retail SETA (WRSETA) 's Informal Traders and Micro Enterprise Development Programme. The programme is aimed at addressing the challenges faced

by informal traders and micro enterprises through skills development. It assists local traders and micro-enterprises to position their businesses and compete with big retailers that are entering the township market as well as foreign traders. The group, made mostly of young people underwent a full-day training offered by the Wholesale and Retail SETA at Nkowankowa Community Hall. The informal traders were trained in marketing, financial management, customer service, and entrepreneurship. Councillor Sannie Tiba, the Head of the Economic Development portfolio in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, urged the beneficiaries to use their R3000 vouchers to strengthen their businesses. She said, "Please don't use this money to buy clothes, or food, use it to make a profit". Tiba also encouraged the beneficiaries to put into practice lessons they gained from

WRSETA training. Nthabiseng Selowa from Kgwekgwe Village and one of the beneficiaries sells cleaning chemicals such as dishwashing liquid and polish. Nthabiseng said that the training was an "eye-opener", especially on stocktaking. She said that she will use her voucher to improve her small business.

Another beneficiary, Nelly Rakgabale from Mokwakwaila Village said that training on merchandising was of great interest to her as she runs a spaza shop in her village. She said that at least she now knows what to do to attract customers through merchandising. Mathoka Mahlo, a senior citizen who sells cooked food in Mogoboya Village where she lives said the money will be helpful.

The training was conducted by Thuto Lore Academy. The beneficiaries received Absa cards preloaded with their R3000 vouchers.

MEC Mokone and Mayor Mangena visit Nkowankowa Industrial Park

On 12 April 2021, the MEC for Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism, Thabo Mokone, and the Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena visited Nkowankowa Industrial Park to engage with businesses and to identify challenges faced by businesses currently utilizing the park. During the visit, unstable electricity supply and water disruptions were raised as major issues affecting productivity in the park. Electricity outages and load-shedding adversely affect sustainability and growth. The park employs 3600 workers both permanent and seasonal. Botma Grobler, the owner of BS Dried Fruit which employs over 150 workers says that an unstable water supply forces him to buy water from private water providers which costs him more. He pleaded with MEC Mokone and Mayor Mangena to intervene. Mokone also raised concerns about the state of roads leading to the industrial park as well as the condition of some of the streets within the industrial park. He promised to engage with all relevant stakeholders to address the problem. The entourage also visited Papperdew International which employs over 1000 workers, Akani Paint, Group T mining, and Nkowankowa Training Center. The industrial was upgraded in 2019 at the value of R40 million by the Department of Trade and Industry as part of the government's industrial Park Revitalization Programme. Upgrades of the first phase of Nkowankowa Industrial Park included the renovation of some warehouses; installation of a CCTV system, fence, pedestrian and vehicular gates, as well high mast lights.



MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Thabo Mokone and Mayor for Greater Tzaneen Municipality Mayor Maripe Mangena



Minister Didiza meets SAAGA in Tzaneen



Minister for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza with GTM Cllr Sannie Tiba and Cllr Leon Matita, SAAGA associates and Business stakeholders during a meeting in Magoebaskloof

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development, Thoko Didiza today met with the South African Avocado Growers Association (SAAGA) at Magoebaskloof Hotel. Minister Didiza discussed a range of issues with the representative of SAAGA led by its Chief Executive Officer, Derik Donkin. The minister was interested in the transformation within the farming community, the

export markets, and the transfer of skills to farmworkers. The minister was joined by the Greater Tzaneen Municipality's Executive Committee member responsible for economic development, Cllr Sannie Tiba and Cllr. Leon Matita of Ward 07. After the meeting, the minister, and her entourage visited Mangeke Estate, a 275-hectare Avocado farm in Magoebaskloof owned by Peter Malungani of PEU Group. SAAGA said that

Limpopo Province currently produces 48 % of all avocados in South Africa. South Africa produces between 80 000 to 120 000 tons of avocado every year.

Between 45 and 50% of South Africa's avocados are exported and 10 - 15% is processed into oil and pulp. The rest is sold locally. The main importing countries of South African avocados are Europe - particularly the Netherlands, France and Spain, the UK, and the Baltic states at 95%. Small volumes are exported to Africa, the Middle East, and Hong Kong. South African industries and the South African government are negotiating market access to the USA, mainland China, and Japan. Currently, strict phytosanitary requirements limit access to these markets. Peru, as another southern hemisphere producer, is South Africa's most serious competitor, both in volume and timing, for the supply of avocados into northern hemisphere markets.

New grader to improve roads



The GTM faces a huge road maintenance backlog mainly caused by heavy rainfall and limited resources. With a growing demand to service

gravel roads especially in rural areas, the municipality struggles to meet the demand but with a new grader to add to the existing fleet of graders the service is more likely to improve. The municipality currently has four graders. During the handover on 21 April 2021, Mayor Maripe Mangena said "As the GTM we decided to buy this grader which must be able to assist our rural communities". Our municipality is largely rural and when you go there to conduct imbizos or public participation people complain

about the state of our roads, it is against that understanding that we decided to have this grader". As he handed over the key to the grader operator, the Mayor said "There is an outcry out there, people are saying that as a government we are not serious about working, we are delaying, we spend a lot of time on the road and we play games, that thing must not happen here in Tzaneen." In his conclusion, the Mayor said "People must know that we are hard at work and that we are committed to the work"



Mayor Mangena gets Covid-19 Jab

On 19 July 2021, the Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena received his covid-19 vaccine jab at Dr. CN Phatudi Hospital. Mangena was vaccinated with a single shot of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which only requires a single jab.

"I'm inviting everyone who is 50-years-old or above to ensure that they get vaccinated before the end of the month." Said Mangena. Government first opened vaccination for people over 60 years, followed by people over 50 years. It has also vaccinated health workers, police officers, and teachers. "I also want to urge those who are aged 35 years and above to register for the vaccine because vaccination for people above 35 years is expected to start from 1 August 2021." continued the Mayor

Mayor Mangena said that the government is taking the vaccination programme to the people in line with Batho Pele principles. He said that the Limpopo Department of Health has started with its vaccine outreach programme which has seen thousands getting the jab in their villages and towns instead of traveling to hospitals.

Mangena also called on the residents of Greater Tzaneen to spread the message and share information on vaccination dates as distributed by the department.

Mayor Mangena hands over house to a family of five

On 29 July 2021, Mayor Maripe Mangena handed over keys to a fully furnished house to Anna Selepe (53), her husband Lassy Selepe, and three children Kho-motso, Pontso, and Sean. Anna and her family lived in a one-room house in Mopye Village but through the intervention of the Mayor, the family now has a reliable roof over their heads. In addition, the family was gifted with two double beds, a kitchen unit, a stove, a fridge, and a sleeper couch. The donation to build the house was secured from Eternity Star (a construction company). The furniture was secured from two other donors.



Councillor Martha Mohale and Mayor Maripe Mangena handing over keys to Anna Selepe during the official handover.

Top Left: the newly built house for the Selepes. The house has a two bedroom, a living room and a kitchen.



Bottom Left: Some of the furniture bought for the Selepe family, the furniture includes two double beds, a fridge, a kitchen unit and stove with an oven.

Executive Mayor Shayi hands over fully furnished house

On 30 August 2021, the Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Councillor Pule Shai handed over a new house to a family of five who previously lived in a dilapidated shack.

The house was built by Motsoalo Maketi of Maketi Civils over a period of only two months said the Executive Mayor, "this should be a model of dedication even for municipalities to do and complete work in record time"

Motsoalo Maketi said "When we heard the plea from the family we decided to do what we could as quickly as we possibly could given the circumstances".

The house boasts five spacious, already furnished rooms that also include an outside toilet. The furniture includes beds, sofas, a fridge, a kitchen unit, and a stove.

The Ramatladi family was over the

moon to receive the house which happens to be a big upgrade to what they're used to.

Mother of three and recipient of the house Joyce Ramatladi said she's very grateful for the house. "It was tough during rainy days and when it was too hot, the house could not accommodate all of us nor keep us warm when it became too cold"



The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Councillor Pule Shai with the members of the Ramatladi household



The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Councillor Pule Shai cuts the ribbon to signal the official handover of the House to Joyce Ramatladi



MDM EM hands over new house to the Mangenas

On 26 July, the Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Pule Shai, and Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena handed over a new house to the Mangena Family of Mmaphala Village. The family of five lived in a rat-infested shack.

The house was built by Peter Shai, a local businessman who says he was deeply hurt by the family's living conditions and felt he had to act quickly. "I didn't have time to consult my wife, I felt that I had to act immediately and when I got home I told her, and she supported the idea"

Mopani District Executive Mayor, Councillor Pule Shai said that most of the people building houses for the poor are people getting tenders from



The MDM Executive Mayor and GTM Mayor watch TV with Sophie Mangena in his newly built house.

the government but with Shayi it was a different story. He applauded Shai for his selflessness and generosity.

The Executive Mayor also praised the Ward Councillor Sophy Raganya for



The Mangenas' new house next to their rat-infested shack they use to call home.

her work in the ward. The work of a Councillor is to solve community problems and challenges faced by residents" that's the work of a ward councillor.

Mayor Mangena gifts house to family of nine

16 September 2021 - Mayor Maripe Mangena has successfully intervened to assist a family of nine from Fobeni (Thapane) Village with a decent house. The Mayor secured a donation from the International Cathedral Church to build a house for 69-year-old Modjadji Mbhalati who lives with eight other family members. The family lost one of their one-room structures to a mysterious fire. This

happened after her daughter was splashed with acid, killed, and burnt on her way home from work. She left three young children who are still under the care of her Gogo Mbhalati. Pictures of the little children using cardboard boxes to cover themselves caused an outcry on social media, prompting the Mayor to seek permanent intervention. on 16 August, Mangena conducted a sod-turning at the Mbhalatis promising the family

that the house will be completed in 30 days and on 16 September Mayor Mangena handed over keys to the new house in a ceremony attended by community stakeholders, councillors, and municipal officials. At the sod-turning Pastor TD, Ramoshaba said that his church was touched by the living conditions of the Mbhalati family, which made it easy for the board of the church to approve the donation.



Gogo Modjadji Mbhalati and her daughter Patricia in front of the new house

New waste truck to improve service delivery

A new waste compactor truck arrived at the Greater Tzaneen Municipality on 22 June 2021 to add to the four waste trucks already in the municipality's fleet. The new acquisition will improve waste collection services in the municipality. Councillor Edney Ntimbani, the Head of Infrastructure in the GTM says the new truck will assist in addressing service delivery backlogs and reduce outsourcing.

Hobson Ndlovu, the mechanical workshop superintendent said that the new truck will reduce pressure on his mechanics. "When we are busy fixing the old trucks at least this new truck will be busy collecting waste". Some of the municipal trucks are as old as 15 years, this means a frequent visit to the workshop and less time on the streets. Greater Tzaneen Municipal Manager, Thapelo Matlala said "We want to buy another truck before the end of the year to supplement trucks al-

ready in our fleet". Matlala pleaded with the drivers to properly look after the truck and ensure that they are properly maintained to prolong their lifespan.

Chris Zastron, a Senior Application Engineer from TFM Industries where the municipality bought the R1.6 million compactor truck says that the new truck has a lifespan of 15 years depending on how it is maintained. He said that the truck needs to be greased daily to stay in optimum condition. Zastron says that the oldest truck that he sold is a 1975 Hino which is still running today. According to Zastron, the new truck unlike the old models comes with safety catches that are used to secure skip bins when loaded into the truck. The Greater Tzaneen Municipality provides household waste collection in Tzaneen, Letsitele, Nkowankowa, Lenyenye, and Heanertzburg and in addition rural waste minimization and litter-picking in over 120 villages.



Chairperson of Infrastructure Councillor Edney Ntimbani testing the new compactor truck with Mr Simon Selepe

Frequently Asked Questions about municipal accounts answered

When is the deadline for me to pay my account?

25th of each month

Will I be charged interest if I don't pay my account?

Yes

Where can I pay my account if I cannot make it to the municipality?

Third-party outlets- Shoprite, Checkers, Boxer, Woolworths, Post office, Pep, etc. Absa Bank, Account no: 405 1444 332. You can also make use of EFT.

What options are available for me if I cannot afford to pay my balance before the deadline?

Deadlines are not to be skipped, but in case you are failing to pay, visit our credit control office to make payment arrangements which must be honoured.

At what stage does the municipality cut its services due to non-payment?

We send a statement to alert you about the account, we then send an SMS, final reminders and after 60 days we disconnect you for non-payment or non-arrangement.

My electricity is cut, what do I do to get reconnected?

Make payment and alert the credit control office about the payment made.

I get calls from debt collectors, where should I go?

Visit our Debt collection office at number 24 in the Civic Center. We will assist you with settlement arrangements or payment arrangements.

Mayor hands over grass-cutting tools



GTM Mayor Maripe Mangena handing over grass cutting and bush clearing equipment to Dr CN Phatudi Hospital

On Tuesday, 9 March 2021, The Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena handed over grass cutting and bush clearing equipment to a clean

-up programme at Dr. CN Phatudi Hospital. The programme will see parolees help cut overgrown grass and do general cleaning of the hospital. The municipality has part-

nered with the Department of Correctional Service and Dr. CN Phatudi Hospital.

The tools handed over by the Mayor include brush cutters, spades, rakes, and chemicals for clearing the bush.

"Dr. C.N. Phatudi Hospital will never be the same again," said the Mayor. The Mayor said that the programme was announced by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola during the official opening of the refurbished Tzaneen Correctional Service Centre last year.

Annah Shobane, the Senior Correctional Officer from Correctional Service said that the department has allocated 21 male parolees and 2 women parolees on the Dr. CN Phatudi programme.

The Acting CEO of the hospital, "I will make sure that the hospital is safe and clean. "Having the right tools of trade to do the job was important for the hospital", he concluded.

Cllr Machimana hands over school uniform

On 23 July 2021, Councillor Cassius Machimana, the Head of Special Programmes in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality alongside Philippine Modika, the Department of Education's District Director for Mopani East received school uniforms from Adventure Shop based in Tzaneen. The shop handed over 870 tunics, 515 golf shirts, and 76 Shirts for Mopani West. They also handed over 175 golf shirts and 181 shirts for Mopani East. The uniform was handed

over to circuit managers who will take them to various schools to be given to "needy" learners. Also present at the event was Machumele Makondeleli, the newly appointed district Director for Mopani-West. Several circuit managers attended the handover ceremony and collected their packages. "We would like to take this opportunity and extend our gratitude to GTM and Adventure Shop for the massive donation of uniform to our needy schools in Mopani East and West District" Said Machimana



Cllr. Cassius Machimana and Philippine Modika engage with the owner of Adventure Shop at the offices of the Department of Education

Mayor officially open Lenyenyene Taxi Rank



Mayor Maripe Mangena unveils the plaque during the official opening of the Lenyenyene Taxi Rank on 27 July 2021. (Right) Mayor cuts a ribbon at the gate of the taxi rank (right bottom) stakeholders attending the official opening of Lenyenyene Taxing Rank.



On Tuesday 27 July, The Mayor of Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena officially handed over a newly built taxi rank to the community of Lenyenyene. In his address, Mayor Mangena said that the community has agreed to rename the facility to Solomon Disco

Letsoalo taxi rank. The Mayor said "we are here to say to the taxi operators that we know that for many years you were suffering. Mayor Mangena said that commuters will no longer have to stand in the rain or burn in the sun. Mangena said that the taxi industry is critical for growth and development and the municipali-

ty will continue to contribute to the growth of the industry. The taxi rank boasts five hawker stalls, 180m palisade fencing, holding bays, loading bays, parking bays, a drop of zone, and ablution facilities. The taxi rank is the first in Lenyenyene Township. The local taxi association raised a number of concerns about the state of the taxi rank which was vandalised due to delays in handing it over to the taxi association.

Executive Mayor gets Bontle a specialised wheelchair



Martha Maswanganyi, Executive Mayor Pule Shayi, Bontle's Mother and Mayor Mangena with Bontle at Mogapeng.

On 20 April 2021, the Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Councillor Pule Shayi in the company of Mayor Maripe Mangena handed a specialized wheelchair to Bontle Monyela of Mogapeng Village. The 11-year-old suffers from Hydrocephalus.

Hydrocephalus is a build-up of fluid in the cavities deep within the brain. The extra fluid puts pressure on the brain and can cause brain damage. It's most common in infants and older adults. The family now needs assistance to get Bontle operated on to remove the fluid in her brain.

In Pictures: Mopani launches district development model



Premier Stan Mathabatha arrives at Muhlava Royal House for courtesy house.



Mayor Maripe Mangena welcoming guests to the launch of the Mopani DDM at Nkowankowa Stadium.

Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha launched the Mopani District Development Model on Friday, 16 April 2021 at Nkowankowa Stadium. The District Development Model (DDM) is an approach aimed at achieving cooperative governance through the strengthening of inter-governmental coordination in the planning, budgeting, and implementation of government programmes.

At the launch, Mathabatha was joined by Members of the Executive Council (MECs), Mayors, and

traditional leaders. Mopani District's vision is "to be the food basket of Southern Africa and the tourism destination of choice". The Mopani District Municipality carries some key pillars of the province for the growth of the economy like agriculture, mining, rich tourism destinations (Kruger National Park), and is home to the nutritious Mopani worm.

Before launching the DDM the Premier and his entourage visited Muhlava Royal House and Mogo-boya Royal House before visiting a water project that is aimed at securing reliable water provision for Lenyenyene Township.

Mopani District Municipality is made of five local municipalities (Tzaneen, Ba-Phalaborwa, Letaba, Maruleng, and Giyani)

Royal Leadership



Hosi Nwamitwa

Hosi Muhlava

The Premier & MECs



Premier Stan Mathabatha

Polly Boshielo Education

Thabo Mokone DEDET



Nkakareng Rakgoale Social Development

Dr. Phophi Ramathuba Health

Basikopo Makamu COGHSTA

Thandi Moraka Sport, Arts & Culture

The Mayors



Pule Shayi MDM Executive Mayor

Peter Matlou Greater Letaba Mayor

Dipuo Thobejane Maruleng Mayor

Basani Shibambu Greater Giyani Mayor

New transformers to improve and stabilize electricity supply



For many years development in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality was hindered due to energy demand that exceeded the available supply. The situation delayed the development of both commercial and residential properties and repelled investors but with an injection of just over R50 million to upgrade the electricity network, that sad reality is slowly dissipating and a breath of newfound hope is hovering in the sky. With the purchase of transformers valued at over R18 million

residents and businesspeople can breathe a sigh of relief. The two transformers imported from the People's Republic of China with a combined capacity of 40 megavolts replace the old and outdated 15 megavolts transformers. The old transformers made in 1975 lacked the latest technology. The Manager for Electrical Projects in the GTM, Bonginkosi Sengwayo said "The old transformers were old and no longer complied with NERSA requirements". Sengwayo says that

according to NERSA's 2016 findings, the old transformers were no longer reliable in terms of providing quality electricity as they were prone to failures. Sengwayo said that due to their age the transformers were constantly out of service leading to power outages. The R54 million project also included the replacement of protection and control panels in the substation with the latest intelligent electronic devices. The Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena said that the investment in the refurbishment of the municipality's electricity network will unlock investment opportunities and grow the local economy. Mangena said that in addition to the municipality's investment in its electricity infrastructure, all the 130 villages under the GTM's territory have been connected to the national grid. Mayor Mangena however pointed out that rural electrification is a moving target as the new settlements are developed at a rapid speed. The GTM has a Notified Maximum Demand (NMD) of 90 megavolts with Eskom and the municipality is currently using 87 MVs. The new transformers have a lifespan of between 45 years and 50 years depending on maintenance.

Minister and Mayor launch technology hub in Lenyenye



Mayor Maripe Mangena with former Minister of Communications Stella Ndabeni Abrahams and Acting Mayor for Mopani District Municipality Christianah Mohale



Communications and Digital Technology Minister, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams has officially opened a digital institution, Vexospark Tzaneen Digital College, in Lenyenye township in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality on the 14th of April 2021. The college will offer courses including amongst others robotics and coding for learners from Pre-school to Grade 9, Design Thinking for learners from Grade 5 to Grade 12, and a digital library for all school learners.

Vexospark Digital College will provide the latest training on computer programming, using the internet for business marketing and robotics.

According to Dr. Geraldine Reymenants of the Belgium Embassy in South Africa, says South African economic challenges can also be solved by supporting small business enterprises investing in the digital economy.

The government of Flanders (Flemish Region of Belgium) has funded the newly-opened digital college in Lenyenye to the tune of R1.5 million. "When the government of Flanders started its small development program with South Africa, on SMEE development and social entrepreneurship, it wanted to support people and to grow enterprises, because we believe, at the potential, and the need for social entrepreneurship that combines economic, social and environmental goals to contribute to South Africa's economic growth, while also addressing developmental challenges in a sustainable manner." Speaking during the opening of the Vexospark Tzaneen Digital College, Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams says the country needs to invest in the digital economy for its economic standing in the global world.

Ndabeni Abrahams said that the initiative will assist in bridging the existing technological gap found in rural areas "this is a transformational project that will develop the entire township and provide learners with an opportunity to attain computer and business skills and attend to their studies.

Mayor Mangena donates laptops to seven young people



The Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena with councillors, officials and beneficiaries at Tzaneen Country Lodge on 23 June 2021

On 23 June 2021 seven young people from disadvantaged backgrounds celebrated the youth month in style after receiving laptops from Mayor Maripe Mangena. The seven youths drawn from across the four clusters of the GTM received their laptops during a breakfast event held at Tzaneen Country Lodge. During his short address to the learners, the mayor said he was constantly getting requests for financial assistance from

students or their parents who are struggling with educational expenses. He said a mother of a girl who is in university called him to seek assistance because her daughter has gone four days without food. Mangena who gave the student R1000 said that circumstances usually lead young people to engage in "ungodly" things. Speaking on behalf of the recipients, Thabang from Mogapeng Village said "This is a great moment of my life, most of my

life will change. Thabang said that he used his phone to study, write CVs, and applied for jobs. He said " when I have this I will be more advanced, I will be able to write a CV for my self rather than paying someone to write it for me. The laptops were donated to the Mayor by CMH Vhuwani, an Information Technology company selling laptops, printers, and many other services.

Tzaneen Dam open for fishing and boats

The Tzaneen Dam Jetty 3 is now open to any member of the public who wishes to use it to launch their boat/s and/or for fishing. Access will only be granted to individuals in possession of a permit issued by the municipality.

Jetty 3 will however remain closed for picnics to prevent the spread of covid-19. The municipality is also in a process of procuring management services for the facility on a long-term basis.

The permit can be obtained at Planning and Economic Development Department (Land and Human Settlement Division). Application/s for permission must be done in writing stating the particulars of the applicant and purpose. This permit is free and must be produced at the gate. No one will be allowed into the premises without a valid permit. Applicants must either have a skipper license or a fishing permit. Please note that those who use Jetty 3 do so at their own risk and that the GTM will not be liable for any loss, damage, or injury.

The Planning and Economic Development office is located at no 15B Peace Street next to the Blood Bank.

You can contact Wiseman Mabunda at 0153078350/8106 or 072 433 2840 for more information.

Applications must be sent to: Wiseman.Mabunda@tzaneen.gov.za

Mayor lauds Kenny Shivambu & Go-Explo for great things in music



Mayor Maripe Mangena with Award Winning Gospel Artist Kenny Shibambu

The Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality Councillor Maripe Mangena today recognized and lauded the contribution of Pastor

Kenny Shivambu of Go-Explo in the music industry during a virtual council sitting of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

Go-Explo, a local gospel music group led by Pastor Shivambu won the 2020 SABC Crown Gospel Award in the "Best Gospel Album" category.

Speaking in Council, Mayor Mangena said " Upon hearing the news Madam Speaker, we decided that we must be closer to him and talk to him." He said that Go-Explo has been achieving great things under their noses and they never had a chance to congratulate them.

"We are taking this opportunity to

congratulate him on behalf of all of us and further wish him good luck because they have been nominated for the CLIMA Africa awards to be held in September." Said Mayor Mangena. Go-Explo has been nominated for the "Best choir of the Year " Category for CLIMA Africa Awards 2021.

Mayor Mangena said that he hoped that Go-Explo will be able to fly the GTM flag in Nigeria where the awards will be held. Kenny Shibambu who hails from Nkowankowa has been mentoring musicians for years and continues to unearth musical talent.

Award Winning Journalist Glacier Nkhwashu laid to Rest

Today, the Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena attended the funeral of award-winning journalist, Glacier Nkhwashu at Mulati Village. The funeral was also attended by Congress of the People President and MP, Terror Lekota, Dennis Bloem. Glacier won several awards in her career which include among others the Standard Bank Sikuville Journalism Award and Media24 Legends Award winner.

Glacier who was born and raised in Mulati worked for three national newspapers. She was also the national media liaison officer of COPE. When she met her untimely



Deceased Award-winning journalist Glacier Nkhwashu

death, Glacier was working as a freelance journalist for the Daily Sun. Glacier was also trained as a traditional healer, the 42-year-old leaves behind two children, her parents and



Cope President Mosiua Lekota and Mayor Maripe Mangena attending Glacier's Funeral

three brothers. Also present at the funeral was Dennis Bloem, Capricorn FM Station Manager, James Shikwambana(also Glaciers'Neighbour).

Drivers' licences validity extended again

Transport Minister, Fikile Mbalula, has announced that the renewal grace period for learners' and drivers' licenses has been extended to the 31st of March 2022. According to a government gazette issued by the Minister of Transport all learners licences, driving licence cards, temporary driving licences, and professional driving permits

that expired during the period from 26 March 2020 up to and including 31 August 2021 are deemed to be valid and extended for a further grace period ending 31 March 2022. The Greater Tzaneen encourages motorists to use the extension to renew their licenses in time and to avoid procrastination. To renew bring along your old driver's li-

cence, ID, and application fee of R216.00. Professional Driving Permit (PDP) is R452.00 and the learners' license is R132.00 and R72.00 to issue. Motorists are urged to use the Nkowankowa Testing Station and Tzaneen Testing Station.

Doing right by legal fees

During his acceptance speech in August 2016 AT Lenyenye Community Hall, Mayor Maripe Mangena asked that GTM fix its legal mess. Just weeks into the office the Mayoral vehicle was attached due to unpaid legal fees. (contrary to media reports the vehicle was not repossessed but attached and removed). The incident attracted national media coverage and embarrassed the newly installed leadership. These events have been a common occurrence in Limpopo's second biggest Municipality and the leadership vowed never to allow a repeat of similar such embarrassing events. The GTM has completely eradicated execution attachment by the Sherriff.

Since the new administration took over in 2016, the GTM has not lost a single court case in court. Cases were either settled out of court or adjudicated by the court and GTM always came out trumps.

The municipality was once labeled the land of honey and milk due to the high legal costs it incurred over the years. The introduction of legal tariffs now prevents legal firms from inflating their rates and milking the coffers of the municipality in the process. Compliance has been made a top priority for the GTM in its efforts to prevent unnecessary litigation. In ensuring everyone is one board, all finance personnel, senior and middle management were taken

to MFMA training and supply chain management. Those efforts are now bearing fruits with less unauthorized, irregular, and fruitless expenditure recorded. The GTM has various measures and structures in place to protect and assist officials to comply with legislation.

"This achievement is an example of good governance and a glimpse of what collective efforts can do. People must be held to account for their actions and taxpayers must get value for money. we have set a good foundation for the next council to built upon." Said Mayor Maripe Mangena



Newly installed fence to improve security

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality has installed a palisade fence around its main office to improve security and manage access control. The civic center is still accessible to any member of the public during working hours. With the new fencing access to the premises after hours and weekends is restricted to those with prior approval. The installation of the fence has improved security. People used to wander around he premises and a number of break-ins have been reported in recent months.