

Greater Tzaneen Municipality

May 28 at 11:28 AM ·

State of The Municipal Address delivered by the Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality at Lenyenye Community Hall on 28 May 2021

Madam Speaker, Councillor Dikeledi Mmetle

Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Cllr. Pule Shayi

Chief Whip of the Ruling Party, Councillor Cromwell Nhemo

Fellow executive Committee members

Chairperson of Chairpersons, Cllr Justice Ramodipa

Chairperson of Portfolio Committees

Leaders of the opposition parties

Fellow councillors

Traditional leaders

Secretaries of ward committees

Municipal manager, Mr. Thapelo Matlala

Directors and Managers

All the stakeholders of the municipality

Members of the fourth estate

Fellow residents

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thobela

Dumelang

Avuxeni

Goie more

Good morning

Ndi masiari

Habari

Bonjour

Sawubona

Ola

On 25 May 1963, Africa made history with the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) the predecessor to the African Union (AU). In this Africa month, we celebrate and acknowledge the successes of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU now the AU) from its creation on May 25, 1963, in the fight against colonialism and apartheid, as well as the progress that Africa has made while reflecting upon the common challenges that the continent faces in a global environment. This year's Africa Month is celebrated under the theme: "The year of Arts, Culture, and Heritage: in the year of Charlotte Maxeke".

We must celebrate our people in the arts and culture sphere who have set the music scene on fire:

King Monada

Kenny Shivambu and Go Explo

Master KG

Makhadzi

During this Africa month, we must embrace our culture, traditions, and customs.

We must do so to preserve our Heritage for children and our grandchildren and great-grandchildren Africa month is time for us to embrace our African brothers and sisters. To understand and appreciate the circumstances and to welcome them in our communities and live side by side with them. Let us take this Africa month to learn about the cultures and traditions of other African countries from our brothers and sisters who live here in South Africa. The Somalis, Ghanaians, Nigerians, Egyptians, Cameroonians, Zimbabweans, Mozambicans, Ethiopians, Zambians Swazis, and Sothos

We Are One Africa when Africa must Unite.

Condolences

Let me take this opportunity and pay homage to the late Moses Mahasha, who was our chairperson of chairpersons and long-serving councillor of the GTM, May his soul rest in eternal peace. We also lost an ally, and leader of the Bankuna Tribe, Hosi Muhlava II. He was a leader that promoted education in the areas that he ruled. This year we lost our former Chief whip, Comrade Joyce Nkwini, May her soul rest in peace. We have also lost members of the ward committees, may the souls of the following people rest in eternal peace.

Moyana Elsie ward 19,
Tselane Mampe of ward 16
Malesa Alphius all from ward 16,
Mmola Peter of ward 31
Shokane Rachel of ward 34.
Tinyiko Joyce Maholovela of ward 25
George Makhubele of ward 6
Masilu Pilusa of ward 9

Traditional Leadership

When we assumed office one of the immediate tasks was to engage and consult our traditional leaders. That is an assignment that we as leadership undertook successfully. We begin consulting traditional leaders in September 2016. In 2019 we welcomed Kgosi Jack Mogoboya as the new leader of Bathlabine. Kgosi Jack Mogoboya replaced Mr. Lebia Mogoboya. We have installed High-Mast lights in all traditional authorities located within our physical boundaries.

We are lobbying for the establishment of a local house of traditional leadership which we believe will handle challenges in the local sphere. We must also state that the numerous land disputes in our municipality are of grave concern to the leadership and we must find amicable solutions urgently. One of the immediate tasks of the local house of traditional leaders will be to find common ground on addressing these critical issues which risk stability in our locality. We are prepared and Eveready to work with our traditional leaders to pursue the developmental agenda on behalf of our people. Gender-based violence. We cannot call ourselves a nation if our women and children are still not safe. Violence perpetrated against women and children is widespread and impacts almost all aspects.

GBV is systematic, and it is deeply entrenched in cultures, traditions, and institutions. We must embark on 365 days campaign on no violence against women and children by supporting victims, creating awareness, and whistleblowing.

We have lost so many women and children to violence, I want us to remember the following victims of GBV: 35-year-old Lindiwe Mgale was burnt by her boyfriend two weeks ago and was buried this past Saturday

Dikeledi Sebobetsa, an educator has been missing on 22 September 2020. 11 years old Grade 3 girl from Pelana village raped by a man who accompanied her mother to the Bus Stop to Work.

Kgaogelo Shai was murdered in September 2020 and her body was found two weeks after she went missing, she was killed by her boyfriend who was just released from prison for another murder of another girlfriend

In July 2020 in Shipungu village, 8-year-old California Molamudi was raped and murdered by a close family member.

In Nkowankowa, a 51-year-old man killed himself along with his 9-year-old and 13-year old daughters. One of the daughters was burnt beyond recognition.

In August 2020, a 65-year old man raped his granddaughter aged 14 in Mokgwathi village, the man has been doing this since 2018 and silenced her by giving her money

In Lephepane, Maite Mavuso was murdered, also by a boyfriend.

Let us unite to put an end to gender-based violence.

Fighting corruption

We promised to fight against crime, corruption, and fraud. We also declared that municipal officials and councilors and their families will be barred from doing business with the municipality.

As part of our party's local government election manifesto, we promised that corrupt municipal officials and councilors will be liable for losses incurred due to their actions.

In response, we established the financial misconduct board to deal with Unauthorised, Irregular, and

Fruitless expenditure.

In June 2018 we launched the Anti-fraud and corruption hotline in our endeavour to combat malfeasance and the abuse of municipal resources. This was aimed at assisting the municipality in dealing with rogue employees who compromise the work of the council by engaging in activities that reduce the effectiveness of the municipality in executing its constitutional mandates.

Several officials were arrested by the HAWKS at the Nkowankowa testing station on allegations of corruption, this was made possible through the cooperation of the leadership of the GTM. We immediately took disciplinary action against those who were arrested. Others were dismissed while others chose to resign.

Today, the practice of paying a bribe to get either a driver's license or learners is no longer a norm. we have redeemed the dignity of our people who suffered due to these ruthless arrangements which meant that those who came from poor family backgrounds suffered at the hands of the government that is supposed to help them. We urge our people to use our anti-fraud and corruption hotline to expose those who exploit our communities for their selfish benefits.

We have established a very strong Community safety forum, which has been working with SAPS to establish and strengthen street committees to fight crime. In December 2017 we won the best team category during Premier Service Excellence Awards held at the Ranch Hotel for the Community Safety Forum (CSF).

Our Community Safety Forum was instrumental in dealing with gangsterism in places such as Dan Village and Xihoko Village where gangstas terrorized communities.

I must also commend and appreciate the role played by patrollers in curbing criminal activities especially in Dan Village which was known as a crime hotspot.

Covid-19

The year 2020 was very difficult.

Covid-19 hit our country very badly.

Since coronavirus was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization in December 2019, our normal way of life has dramatically changed. The virus has been running havoc globally and has since killed 3.5 million people all over the world. South Africa has lost over 55 000 people since the start of the pandemic. 1.617 840 people were infected and 1 527 968 have since recovered.

Limpopo Province has recorded 64836 cases with 2415 deaths, 61977 recoveries and only 444 cases are active.

The GTM has recorded 4994 cumulative cases, of which 4733 have recovered with 236 COVID-19 related deaths and only 23 cases remain active.

Madam Speaker

With the majority of our people involved in the informal sector and the private sector, the pandemic has had a devastating impact on the local economy and the livelihood of our people in general.

To protect food security, we established a local food bank to avert hunger and deprivation and to supplement the provision of food parcels by the South African Social Security Agency(SASSA). We distributed over 5000 food parcels to deserving families, most of these families depend on the informal sector with was shut down during the hard lockdown.

Special thanks must go to the following

Bathabine foundation 700

Mr. Build R200 000

Maduna Construction and plant hire 150

Letaba Milling 2400
Selby Construction 150
Bukuta construction 350
Shimusa 50
Solidarity fund 750
District food bank 299

Special thanks must also go to BPS Tzaneen, a Hindu religious organization that volunteered to feed our people at the homeless shelter by providing them with three hot meals a day. Working in cooperation with the various government which included Traffic, SAPS, SA Defence Force, and municipal officials we managed to enforce disaster regulations. We also monitored compliance and created awareness in places of worship, shopping centers, and funerals.

Maake Plaza shopping center was at some stage a challenge because thousands stood in long queues to buy food due to fears of food shortages. We also experienced challenges with post offices as people flocked to get their covid-19 relief grant of R350. Our people worked day and sometimes at night to guarantee that food parcels were delivered to the people.

With allegations of nepotism, patronage, and theft of food parcels throughout the country, we excluded our councillors from the distribution programme and worked through a list vetted by SASSA. We finished our programme without any scandals.

I would like to express the word of gratitude to those who were involved in the distribution of food parcels. Madam Speaker. We also establish a homeless Centre that had initially housed 48 homeless people. Various stakeholders were involved in ensuring that the 48 people that we accommodated at the shelter were fed.

With the help of social workers and medical practitioners, we guaranteed that the safety and health of all inmates were prioritized.

Considering the inmates' history of drug usage, the department of health was on call and at times on site for emergencies.

Vaccination Programme

The program to vaccinate people has already begun and more and more people will get the vaccine in the coming weeks.

The vaccination of the elderly has already started in our municipality, as we speak now, the elderly are getting vaccinated at Lenyenye Stadium.

The department of health will announce sites in addition to the current sites which include Letaba Hospital, Dr. CN Phatudi, Van Velden, and Tzaneen Medi-Clinic.

Good Governance
Cost-cutting

Legal cases have placed a spotlight on the municipality for years, and during my acceptance speech here in I urged administrators to do right on legal fees. I am proud to announce that during our time in office as a group of councillors from 2016 to 2021, there is no single court case that we lost that came in our tenure.

Retention of top management

Local government is often besieged with challenges of instability and continuity. These challenges affect the productivity of municipalities and the attainment of their goals.

I am pleased to announce that we have retained the top administrative leadership that we appointed in 2017 and 2018.

This has brought it stability and helped us reach a majority of objectives that we set out to achieve.

Review of the organogram

We have reviewed our organogram to effectively respond to our strategic objectives.

Our organizational structure was not aligned to our strategic objectives and made it difficult to respond to the needs of our people.

Improving Performance and Accountability

The Auditor-General has consistently raised the issue of lack of performance monitoring in government.

I am pleased to announce that for the first time after a long time, the municipality will start cascading the performance management system to other levels of employees in the 2020/2021 financial year.

This will ensure that performance is improved at all levels and each employee takes responsibility for their area of work

Appointing people who qualify

It is said that 80% of success is linked to recruitment, and failure to recruit the right caliber of public servants is failure to plan.

From the onset, we took a resolution to appoint highly qualified and skilled public servants who are up to the challenge.

Ward Committees

We have strengthened our Ward Committees through training and capacity building.

We have also increased the monthly stipend from R500 to R1500 for all 350 ward Committee members

Review of policies

Bylaws

In this current council, we have managed to get 18 by-laws gazetted, through the gazetting these by-laws become the law, and our law-enforcement officers, the SAPS, and the NPA can now take action.

Councillor Thabo Maunatlala

Amongst our people there are those who cannot afford to pay for basic services such as water and electricity. As the government, this category of residents is catered through the Indigent programme which provides for free basic electricity and water.

Through this programme 26 626 households, each receive 50 kilowatts of electricity and 6kl of water per month.

A majority of these households are found in rural communities with our towns and townships accounting for only 2600 households.

These residents in urban areas receive 100% rebates on refuse removal and property rates.
Billing Challenges and migration

We have migrated to a new financial system in line with government regulations and requirements for financial reporting and accounting known as the Municipal Standard Chart of Accounts (Mscoa). With this migration which is part of the government's regulatory reforms, we have encountered billing challenges.

We have resolved a bulk for those challenges and as things stand 90% of the work has been done and only 10% is outstanding.
The remaining challenges will be dealt with within the next month.
Councillor Edney Ntimbani

CIVIL ENGINEERING

Building plans turnaround

We have improved our turnaround time for the approval of building plans and this will reduce the frustration faced by our residents and developers who play a critical role in the sustainable growth of our municipality. All plans which meet the requirements are approved within 30 days.
Potholes patched maintenance of infrastructure is at the heart of service delivery; poor maintenance of roads is costly.

Our road infrastructure is ageing and requires an overhaul as it is becoming more expensive to maintain. However, due to the limited resources and competing needs of our people, a complete overhaul is not possible in the foreseeable future.
We continue to maintain our streets through regular patching of potholes and refurbishments of critical streets which are central to economic activities.
in the past 4 years, we spent approximately R40 million rands to maintained our tarred streets.
Grading services

Although we have upgraded most of the major routes leading in and out of our rural communities, internal streets are largely gravel and these roads are flooded during rainy seasons and require grading and graveling.
We have just purchased a new grader to supplement the three graders that we have in our fleet and we are g to buy more graders to deal with the road maintenance backlog in the rural communities.
These graders also assist in the maintenance of sports grounds across all 35 wards.

Water purification and distribution

Water is not just a basic human need, it is a basic human right and failure to provide water is a violation of human rights, that is why we have intensified our efforts to supplement the work of the district municipality in providing water in our rural communities through water tankers.
We dispatch just under 800 water tankers or loads to areas with chronic water shortages, to schools, funerals, and other gatherings at a monthly cost of just under half a million.

We operate three water treatment plants that produce a combined 16 mega liters of water a day supplying Tzaneen and Letsitele.

The MDM is also resolving the Lenyenyé water problem which has been with us for many years, sustainable water provision remains a major challenge in both rural and urban communities. With Mopani District Municipality, we have also resolved the sewage problem in Lenyenyé which we promised to deal with at the beginning of our term.

We called on our communities not to engage in protest action but to rather engage with the relevant leaders to address their challenges.

This chronic water challenge is compounded by illegal connections, vandalism, theft, non-payment of services, and lack of water sources.

We must therefore jointly warn our people about the importance of water preservation and protection of water infrastructure.

On that note, I want to call on each one of you to play your part in reducing water leaks by reporting pipe bursts and the illegal use of municipal fire hydrants. Each drop of water matters. We will publish on various platforms who you can reports leaks to the municipality.

Mopani District Municipality

In the current financial year, working with Mopani District Municipality we have built 1584 VIP toilets in communities around Greater Tzaneen Municipality. In the next financial year, Mopani is committing an amount of R22, 5 million through the MIG fund for us to continue with work in providing rural household sanitation.

We are recording 74% progress in the upgrading of Nkowankowa Sewage Works in Nkowankowa Township where we are constructing a trickling filter, constructing a secondary settling tank, construction of kitchen facilities and ablution block, Provision of automated screens and rehabilitation of inlet works platform, and also the construction of sludge. But we must also point out that the project has exhausted the previous MIG budget. A Revised technical report has been submitted to DWS to source for approval for additional MIG funding.

We have completed Phase 1 of Ritavi 2 Water Scheme (Sub-Scheme), the work that entailed equipping and electrification of two boreholes, construction of 80kl elevated steel tank, refurbishment of Muhlava head kraal reservoir, construction of 2.7km of HDPE ranging from 125mm-160mm pumping main, construction of 1km of HDPE ranging from 315mm-400mm gravity main. We are awaiting a connection from Eskom. We will be proceeding with Phase 2 of this project where we will be constructing water reticulation in the Muhlava area (Muhlava, Muhlava-Cross, Sasekani, JB, Petanenge, and Zanghoma). For this project, we have set aside an amount of R40 million from the MIG and will budget a R50 million during the 2022/23 financial year.

We have set aside R40 million for Thabina to Lenyenye Bulk Water Supply and a further R60 million for the last phase of this project to be completed in the 2022/23 financial year.

We are aware of the stoppage of the project that must provide water to the people of Lenyenye who are ratepayers so that they can continue to pay rates even better. The matter will be attended to by the executive mayor who will soon meet with stakeholders.

The sewage challenges in Dan Village is being addressed, Mopani District Municipality has appointed a service provider to do maintenance on the sewage system. The service provide will soon start with the work.

Thapane Bulk Water Scheme Phase 2B which covers the villages of Moleketa, Semarela, Buhlodi, Morutji and Marironi is at 85%. The contractor is currently on site and busy with pipe laying and 11 262m has been laid out of 14200m which the rest has become a saving to MDM the contractor is done with pipe laying which now the remaining works is dependent on additional funding. Equipping of 5 booster pumps with electrical works and testing has been done.

Thapane Bulk Water Scheme Phase 2A which covers the villages of Madumane, Pjapjamela, Leokwe, Mothomeni is currently at 36%. Construction of 10Megalitre concrete reservoir, construction of 11792metres of bulk pipelines, drilling and equipping of five (5) boreholes, construction of booster pump stations.

The Thapane Regional Water Scheme, the Upgrading & Extension Phase 1 (Thapane, Mohlakoni, Thapane) is at 85%. The work is around the construction of a 5,9km bulk line, construction of simarela office block, Refurbishment of Simarela package plant, refurbishment of 2 pump stations, refurbishment of Thapane Treatment Plant, installation of a fence around Simarela plant, construction of a septic tank at Simarela, Construction of a settling tank at Simarela, construction of manholes, borehole refurbishment, installation of valves along the pipeline, and the installation of pipe bends and thrusts. We can report to our people that pressure testing was done on the 5.9km Mohlakong line. The 2.9km pipeline line from the Plant to Marirone Reservoir is still outstanding.

We have completed the Tours Water Scheme project (Bulk Lines refurbishment and Reticulation). Our work there was around bulk lines, pressure reducing valve 1, a Booster pump station, and a 40kl elevated tank. We can also report to the Jopie to Mawa Ramotshinyadi Phase 2C (Morapalala, Maunatlala, and Block 5) is also completed. The work was around the Construction of a 9,7km reticulation pipeline, installation of 772 households taps, and construction of a 464kL elevated steel tank.

In Bolebedu South, we have the Thapane Regional Water Scheme project with a budget of R18,2 million, and the Thapane Regional Water Scheme and Extension project with a budget of R23,7 million.

In the Bulamahlo cluster, we have the Tours Water Reticulation project with an amount of R44 million, but we also have Tours Water Scheme-Bulk lines refurbishment and reticulation with a budget of R3,2 million. We have a budget of R30,1 million for Lephephane Bulk Water Project and a further R50 million for the 2022/23 financial year.

Through the Water Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), we are going to be implementing the following projects: Refurbishment, rehabilitation, and upgrading of internal water network and development of boreholes at Makhubidung: R5,2 million.

Phase 2 of Mariveni project where we will be doing refurbishment, rehabilitation, upgrading of internal water reticulation, and borehole development at Mariveni in ward 23.
Infrastructure development

Infrastructure development a key that can unlock economic growth and general development. Without proper reliable infrastructure investors seldom consider setting up businesses as it's normally costly to do business in the absence of infrastructures such as roads, water, and electricity. The Greater Tzaneen Municipality has in the past decade engaged in rapid rolled out of infrastructure through the financial injection of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). The past 10 years have seen an acceleration in the upgrading of critical roads across the municipality, however, my focus will be on the projects implemented in the past 5 years.
Madam Speaker

A total of 12 road upgrading projects have been completed or ongoing in the past 5 years. In its implementation, the municipality has considered roads that's have an economic impact, as well roads in critical conditions.

In the promotion of fairness, projects have been spread across the municipality. We decided to balance the allocation of infrastructure development projects. The decision was taken to address the accusation that municipal leadership was biased towards certain areas and that projects were channeled to specific areas while excluding others

RELELA CLUSTER

In the Relela Cluster, we built the Morutji to Kheshokole road. The project was completed in early 2020. The road covers 11km a cost over R100 million.

The Relela Access Road covers 3.5km of street paving from D1350 stretching into Relela Village Mopye Access Road project has also been upgraded from gravel to interlocked paving bricks. The length of the road is 2km, the road was completed this year.

Relela Community Hall was completed in 2017, the hall now serves as Thusong Service Centre, a venue for government events, funerals, weddings, parties, and community meetings.

BULAMAHLO CLUSTER

Tickeyline to Makhubidung road.

In the Bulamahlo Cluster, the Tickeyline, Myakayaka, Burgersdorp, Gavaza to Mafarana road upgrade project has also been completed. The project covers 11km, Mulati Access road project which covers 5.8 km was halted due to a contractual dispute which was resolved by the High Court. The project has since resumed under a new contractor.

On 9 February 2021, we launched the Maseanoke to Cell C Street upgrading project in Pharare Village. The project will see internal streets in Pharare Village upgraded from gravel to interlocked paving surface. The project will cover a length of 8.9 km with two lanes at 3.1 meters in width. The scope of work also includes speed humps, road signs, road markings. The R54 million project will employ no less than 134 workers.

Rita, Khopo, Lefara, Zanghoma, Uhuru, Xipungu to Mariveni tar road. The project only progressed from Rita to Zanghoma due to a protest from the Community of Zanghoma which prevented the project from moving forward.

We are also Paving the Nelson Ramodike High Access road which covers 4.8km. The road will serve the communities of Tickeyline, Thabeng, Nelson Ramodike, Marumofase and Lenyenye.

LESEDI CLUSTER

In the Lesedi Cluster, there is the Nkowankowa Section D street upgrade from gravel to paving. The project was completed in 2019 and covers ...

The second project is Khujwana to Lenyenye Access road project has also been completed. The project covers 5.8 km. it connects the two villages and passes through the recently upgraded Lenyenye Cemetery. The third project is Codesa to Hani street project which was also halted due to a contractual dispute between the GTM and the contractor, a new contractor has been appointed after the High Court ruled that the contract was unlawful, and therefore declared it null and void.

The fourth project is Matapa to Leseka road project in ward 34 covered a length of 5.5km, the project is still ongoing and will be completed soon.

Runnymede CLUSTER

In the Runnymede cluster, we are implementing three major projects

On 5 February 2021, we launched a project to pave internal streets in Nkambako Village. The 6.1 km street paving project will cost R40 million. At its completion, the project would have employed 116 workers who will be paid R170 a day and that will change to R180 a day from July 2021.

On 8 February 2021, we launched two road infrastructure projects worth a combined R76 million at Mbekwana Village. The two projects are for the paving of internal streets, one at N'wamitwa Village and another at Mandlakazi Village.

The N'wamitwa project will see the upgrading of 4.9 km of internal streets from gravel to interlocked paving surface in N'wamitwa and Nwajaheni. The appointment amount for the project is R34. 5 million.

The Mandlakazi project which is worth R41. 7 million entails the upgrading of 5.6km of internal streets from gravel to interlocked paving surface.

The Mandlakazi project will employ 120 labours and the N'wamitwa project will employ 100 workers.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Licensing

We have in the past five years successfully issued 250 000 vehicle license renewals or license disks which is an average of 50 000 renewals a year. In the same period, we registered just over 50 000 vehicles. We have issued 74 793 driver's licenses and 28 626 learner licenses.

Disaster Management

Although disaster management falls under the jurisdiction of the district municipality, as a local municipality we complement and supplement the work of the District Municipality.

Our local office has distributed 753 blankets, 614 mattresses, and 76 tents to disaster-struck families.

These are families who have lost their homes to storms, winds, and fire.

Houses built along flood lines are most likely to be flooded during heavy rainfall, mud houses are unable to withstand the pressure and in case of fire, it takes time for fire trucks to arrive due to distance.

Cemeteries

We are upgrading cemeteries in Nkowankowa and Lenyenye

The first phase of the project to improve the cemeteries has been completed with the installation of palisade fencing in both cemeteries.

The first phase, however, did not cover the entire length of the parameter of the cemeteries.

The outstanding will be covered in the next phases of the project.

The palisade will however not cover the entire length of the parameter in both cemeteries, which will be covered in the third phase.

The old ablution facilities in Nkowankowa have been revamped after they were vandalized. The entrance to Lenyenye Cemeteries has also been paved with bricks and ventilated pit latrines have been built inside the cemetery. The Nkowankowa cemetery has been extended by 16 hectares after the old cemetery reached its capacity. The original site of the Lenyenye Cemetery also reached its capacity and the new cemetery was built just about 3km away. There is also a new tar road from Lenyenye to the cemetery and through to Khujwana Village.

Libraries

A new library has been added to the five existing libraries in the municipality, the state-of-the-art Runnymede Library has just been completed and we expect it to start operating very soon. The library is an addition to our Libraries in Tzaneen, Haenertzburg, Letsitele, Mulati, and Shiluvane.

Tzaneen Correctional Services

This year we opened the newly built Tzaneen Correctional Centre alongside the minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola.

Sports Facilities

Councillor Letsoalo

Historically, decent sporting facilities were reserved for the townships, cities, and suburbs. Our people who live in rural communities had to settle for dusty sports fields with no hope of getting proper facilities.

Although much has not changed, there is some progress. With competing needs and resource limitations, the Greater Tzaneen Municipality has to balance the need for roads, bridges, and sports facilities.

Fellow Councilors

We have completed the construction of a new sports facility built from scratch between Musiphani Village and Mavele Village. The Runnymede Sports Centre boasts a soccer field with a grandstand to accommodate 2000 people, a huge Hall with the capacity to accommodate 1000 people. Also available in the precinct is a combo court for Netball and basked ball.

In addition to the Runnymede Sports Centre, we have upgraded two sports facilities in Burgersdorp and Julesburg. The upgrades in both facilities are almost identical with both getting a new grandstand to accommodate 500 spectators, ablution facilities, paving, two soccer fields, and combo courts.

Taxi Ranks

On 12 July 2017, we officially opened a newly revamped taxi rank in Nkowankowa. The R11.7-million-rand project was funded through the NDPG. We installed steel palisade fencing, paved the surface, and built a covered taxi parking bay. In supporting SMMEs we built 22 hawkers stalls which accommodates 44 hawkers.

This year we completed the Lenyenye Taxi rank which unlike Nkowankowa Taxi Rank was built from scratch. The R9.9 million taxi rank boasts five hawkers' stalls, holding and loading bays as well as parking bays. The taxi rank also has ablution facilities and a water storage tank due to water shortage in Lenyenye. We also paved the surface.

Low-Level Bridges

We have in the past 5 years built seven (7) low-level bridges which link communities and allow residents access to critical public facilities such as schools, hospitals, and clinics. With some communities sharing either a school or a health facility bridges play a vital role in connecting these communities.

Marumofase to Nabane Low-level bridge linking Marumofase and Nabane.
Agatha Cemetery bridge links the old burial site to the new one built across the stream.
Mawa low-level bridge was completed in 2020.

Khubu to Lwandlamuni low-level bridge project was implemented in the 2017/2018 financial year.
Rikhotso low-level bridge links Rikhotso Village to Mokonyane low-level bridge.

There is also the Kgwekgwe low-level bridge and Mokonyane Low-Level Bridge.

Electrical Engineering

Electrical Distribution

We distribute electricity 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 Ba-Phalaborwa, Greater Giyani, Greater Letaba, and Lepelle Nkumpi at Iron Crown (Haenertsburg). We have a license to distribute power 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 more than 12000 connections on the network. All villages in the municipality are supplied by Eskom. Our network is ageing and requires upgrading. We need in excess just over R300 million to refurbish our electricity infrastructure.

To improve electrical services, we have purchased 9 new vehicles for our electricians to ensure that our customers provide reliable service to our people.

We have installed diesel generators in the civic center and our water treatment plants to prevent service interruption due to load shedding and power failure.

We bought new transformers to replace the old transformers at our main substation in Tzaneen. These transformers will increase our capacity to distribute electricity for the next 45 years. We have in the past 5 years replaced 35km of overhead lines as part of the refurbishment project. We have also installed auto-reclosers at the value of R6 million. In the R36 entrance to Tzaneen, we installed 50 street lights. In the R71 entrance, we installed 10 street lights.

Rural Electrification projects

As a municipality we are leading in terms of rural electrification, we have connected electricity in all our villages, all that is remaining are extensions. Which is a moving target. Through funding from INEPT and our funds we have connected electricity to 1181 households in the past four years. Apollo Lights/High Mast Strategic lighting has proven to be a deterrent to criminals, it has been found that where there are high mast light crime drops.

By the instruction of Premier of the Province Stanley Mathabatha, we have installed High Mast/Apollo lights in all the five traditional authority offices under the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

Offices of Traditional Authority have been identified as strategic as they house key leaders. High mast lights were installed at Maake, Mogoboya, Muhlava, Nwamitwa, and Xihoko Traditional Authority offices. Apollo lights have also been installed in Dan Village, Tarentaalrand crossing, and R36 cross.

Civic Centre lift

When the main GTM office building was built in 1974 it didn't accommodate people with physical disabilities such as wheelchair-bound.

The only access to the first and second floors was only through the stairs which excluded those with mobility challenges.

I am proud to announce that 46 years later, that sad reality has changed. We now have a conventional lift, Our disabled people for many years have not been able to access the office of the Mayor, the office of the speaker and the office of the municipal manager, civil engineering and planning and economic development”.

it was a contradiction that we expected them to be economically empowered even though they could not access offices where empowerment is discussed, and resolutions are taken.

The lift is a constitutional obligation for the municipality which was long overdue. Although it took time, it is better late than never.

Councillor Machimana

We created the Mayor's Student Financial Aid Scheme (MSFAS) to assist academically deserving learners from poor backgrounds to register at tertiary institutions with a view that the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and other interested funders will finance them further.

The MSFAS has assisted 479 students since 2017.

It must be noted however that since the introduction of free tertiary education the number of applications have dropped significantly.

We continue to receive applications from students who have debts and can get results or continue with their studies.

National Youth Development Agency

Young in Mopani used to travel to long distances to Thulamela and Polokwane to access NYDA services, money they did not have.

In June 2017 we met with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to lobby for the establishment of an NYDA branch in Tzaneen.

I am pleased to announce that in June 2018 the NYDA for the first time opened an office just a stone throw away for civic centre in Tzaneen.

The Tzaneen Branch serves the entire Mopani District

The NYDA has a grant programme that funds businesses of young people for start-up, growth and expansion.

The NYDA also has a mentorship programme where young people in business mentor young people who want to start businesses.

The NYDA also offers training and funding to cooperatives.
More than 25 young people from Tzaneen have received funding from the NYDA.

Councillor Mikateko Mbhalati

Excellence Awards

Up until the declaration of coronavirus as a pandemic, we hosted the Mayor's excellence awards to recognize outstanding achievements by learners, educators, and administrators.

In these awards, we rewarded winners with laptops, vouchers, certificates, and trophies.

Sanitary Towels

Research shows that lack of sanitary towels results in young women from poorer backgrounds missing school at least four days a month.

These women lose their human dignity because they often use old newspapers and clothes in the place of sanitary pads.

Through this initiative, dignity was restored to our people.

The First Lady has distributed over 8000 sanitary to various schools. (Magoza, Letaba Special School, Progress, Mokwane, Mark Shope, Motlhathego Machaba) with the help of Standard Bank

Wheelchairs

This year we donated 8 wheelchairs through the assistance of good Samaritans in all four clusters.
Donation of school uniform School uniform donated at Maale

In march 2017 we donated uniforms to 101 learners, 61 learners from Fofeza primary school in Nwamitwa, 29 from Khujwana Primary and one learner from Seboye High School. 5

In July 2019, the uniform was donated to \

We donated 30 mattresses/sponges to Itireleng Creche in Tickeyline as part of Mandela Day Celebration/67 minutes for Mandela.
Donation of 50 bicycles through MTN
Planning and Economic Development

In 2016 we promised to grow the local economy and strengthen local economic development. During our acceptance speech, I spoke about the need for the revitalization of the Nkowankowa Industrial Park and our plan to develop an incentive policy to attract domestic and international investors. I'm pleased to announce that through the Department of Trade and Industry phase one of the revitalizations of the industrial park has been completed with the installation of palisade fencing, installation of high mast light, and security gates.

During many of our visits there, we have seen how important the park is in the uplifting of the local economy.

That Industrial Park employees over 3,500 permanent and temporary workers.
Municipal planning tribunal

In November 2017 we launched the municipal planning tribunal which considers and determines land use and development applications within the municipality.

Since the establishment of the tribunal 112 applications were approved by the Tribunal so far. We promulgated The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management By-Law on 25 August 2017.
Incentive policy

In 2016 one of our main objectives was to develop an incentive policy aimed at attracting both domestic and international investors into the municipality. I can now announce that the incentive policy has been finalized and is awaiting final council approval, I am confident that the policy will be ready for implementation in a few weeks to come.

Agricultural Expo

The Tzaneen Agricultural Expo, which is an annual event aimed at promoting Agriculture in our municipality by providing a platform for interaction and networking by role players in the agricultural value chain has been a success throughout the years. However, we were unable to host it last year due to the pandemic and we might not have it this year for the same reason.

The expo has brought around 200 farmers, large established farmers, emerging farmers, aspiring farmers, manufacturers, financial institutions and investors together.

Business Registration Centre,

The GTM is now a business registration center, this means that all businesses must now register with the municipality and not the Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism. 878 received and captured. 320 applications are currently approved and certificates issued. The adjudication committee is currently meeting monthly to finalize the adjudication
Extended Public Works Programme

Through the Extended Public Works Programme we have unlocked a number of job opportunities for the unskilled labour force in our municipality.

This was done in waste management and collection, all infrastructure development projects, and maintenance

We managed to employ 6985 of which 5871 were employed by the municipality and 1114 were employed as per requests by departments and MDM.

Spaza-shop covid-19 relief

We facilitated and coordinated applications for spaza-shop covid-19 relief in which qualifying spaza-shop received R3000 vouchers as part of government covid-19 relief programme. We received over 1000 applications and assisted by providing letters of support.

Our concern with Spaza shops is whether our people are running these spazashops or they are rented to foreign nationals and therefore denying our people the capacity for real economic empowerment

Digital Centre at Lenyenye

GTEDA facilitated an investment of R 1 453 750.00 (One Million Four Hundred and Fifty-three Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Rands) from the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) for the construction of a fully-fledged and functional Digital College at Lenyenye, the center is operating and was successfully launched on 15 April 2021.

Hawkers R3000 and training

In March this year, 80 of the SMME`s were trained in marketing and financial management under the programme informal traders and micro enterprises development which was sponsored through Wholesale & Retail SETA. Each participant received an R3,500 voucher after the training.

Low-Cost Houses – RDPs

1358 houses have been completed since 2016 and we have been allocated 165 units for 2019/20 which are not yet completed. The department of cooperative governance, human settlement, and Traditional affairs has allocated us 330 units for 2020/2021 and these units are still to be completed. We currently have a backlog of 11 580 low-cost houses.

We are in the process of establishing a township at Dan extension 3 to build low-cost houses which will benefit the people of Nkowankowa, Dan village, and surrounding areas.

Coghsta has appointed a service provider to do township establishment at Novengila Portion 2 which will be called Letsitele Ext 8 for integrated sustainable human settlement (gap market included).

Dan and Dan ext. 1 gap market project is doing well and people are buying houses, the occupancy rate is at 45% as we speak.

There are plans to build rental stock to accommodate those who do not want to buy houses but work in the surrounding areas.

Talana upgrading CRU

Talana put our municipality and the province in the national spotlight for all the wrong reasons.

Talana Hostel will soon benefit from the Provincial Department of Coghsta through the Community Residential Units.

Coghsta has appointed AES to conduct a feasibility study, project design, and project packaging. The process is in the final stages.

Coghsta will budget for 420 units which will help upgrade the standard of living for the people of Talana. Most of the people in Talana are housing beneficiaries in Dan ext. 2 and in their home villages, however, they come to Talana to be near to economic opportunities in Tzaneen.

Priority Human Settlement, and Housing Development Areas (PHSHDAs)

The Minister of Human Settlements, Water, And Sanitation has declared 136 areas as Priority Human Settlement, and Housing Development Areas (PHSHDAs).

The areas declared as Priority Human Settlement, and Housing Development Areas (PHSHDAs) in the GTM are:

Nkowankowa Node (Dan, Dan C, Mokgolobotho, Nkomanini, Nkowankowa A, Nkowankowa D, Tzaneen Core (Pompagalana Agricultural Holdings).

From now on "a significant portion of public funding" is due to go to these areas, to attract private investment too.

This includes various subsidies and support schemes, and projects to upgrade informal settlements.

Housing Donations

We have in partnership with business people and other government institutions assisted people outside the government's low-cost housing programme.

Two houses in Tickeyline donated by Selby Construction and Eternity Star

A house in Mopye by Eternity Star

A house in Julesburg (Rhulani) donated by Hoxan C

A house in Leolo for the Lemao Family

Through Standard bank, we built seven houses, three houses in ward 1, two in Petanenge, 1 in Mariveni, and 1 in Nkowankowa

Residential Sites

We have facilitated the development of 291 sites, 60 sites in Tzaneen Extension 60, 50 sites in Dan Extension 2, 28 sites in Nkowankowa-A, 13 sites in Nkowankowa Band 140 sites in Tzaneen Extension 78.
Title deeds

In 2018 we gave title deeds for 42 houses in Lenyenye in the process of restoring their dignity by giving them legal ownership of their properties.

Land ownership is still in the hands of the minority, a majority of South Africans, most blacks are still without title deeds to the properties that they reside in or do business in.

The ANC, which is the party I represent in government is committed to addressing the historical injustice of land dispossession and shall pursue land expropriation without compensation as a matter of policy. We shall give effect to this resolution in a manner that strengthens the agricultural sector, improves economic growth, and meaningfully addresses inequality and unemployment

The land expropriation bill roadshow was here in Lenyenye on two occasions to solicit input from citizens which is a requirement for amending the constitution.

GTEDA Projects

Over R85 million investment was attracted through various projects implemented in the GTM area with over 398 jobs created.

181 members from 20 Co-operatives have been trained on an accredited New Venture Creation course funded by the Services SETA.

Facilitated learner ships for 50 learners funded by MICT SETA, on Film and Television and Sound Technology, 30 and 20 respectively.

35 SMMEs were trained on Agro-processing (Mango Achar)

Conducted Financial Management training for 110 SMMEs and Co-operatives across all 4 clusters of Greater Tzaneen.

The Leather Making Business based in Nkowankowa participated in a Training Course in China on Footwear Design and Manufacturing for South Africa, through a partnership between GTEDA and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

In line with the new District Development Model, we are proposing that there must be thorough engagements with Mopani District Municipality with a view to hand over the development agency to the district so that it becomes beneficial to all the local municipalities within the district.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Unqualified audit

We received an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-general for the 2019/2020 financial year. This means that we were able to adequately account for every cent that we used.

Goven Mbeki Award

We won the provincial Goven Mbeki Award – Housing for our administration and coordination of housing
Greenest Municipality Award

In 2018 we clinched second place in the Greenest Municipality Competition along with R3 million prize money.

We have been consistent in this competition winning it on several occasions. We have been dominating the province and the country for a long time.

Housing level 1 accreditation

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs has approved the accreditation of the GTM to perform level 1 housing functions.

These functions include Beneficiary Management, Subsidy budget planning, and allocation as well as priority programme management and administration.

If we perform well, which I am confident of, we might have an opportunity to move to the next level which will come with more responsibilities.