

# GTM BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, January - March 2019



**Mayor rewards the class of 2018**

**Over a 1000 employed in EPWP**

**More roads getting upgrades**

**Runnymede gets a library**

# Editorial Team

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# EDITORIAL

2019 seems to be a year of change, not only are we electing our fifth democratic government and celebrating 25 years of freedom, some communities will see real change that impacts their day to day living. The community of Mulati which has suffered years of inaccessibility will finally breathe a sigh of relief; the main route into the village is getting an upgrade.

There will also be change in Lenyenye and Khujwana, the road connecting the two areas in being upgraded from gravel to tar. Still, in Lenyenye, the municipality has a plan to build a taxi rank (yes I can confirm the tender is out already).

In Nkowankowa two streets prone to flooding are getting an upgrade from gravel to pavement (interlocking paving bricks). This is much relief to some residents who have either struggled to access their homes during rainy seasons or had their homes flooded.

The construction of a library is currently underway in Runnymede Village. This will be the third library built in far-flung rural communities in the GTM. We are currently operating five libraries and two of those libraries are in the rural communities (Mulati & Shiluvane). There is also a fourth library (Motupa library) in the pipeline.

Inside this edition, we bring you a story on EPWP, which I believe is a success. We have reached the 1000 milestone. Over 1000 people are currently employed through EPWP in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

In 2019, we also welcomed a group of young people who have joined the GTM family as trainees. These young people, about 17 will undergo on-the-job training in Information Technology, Finance, Marketing and general administration. Still, on youth empowerment, the Mayor's Student Financial Aid Scheme has funded 49 students for 2019.

We also hosted the Mayor's Excellence Awards in January at Karibu Leisure Resort, the Mayor honoured educators and learners for their outstanding performance in 2018.

In March we took to awards during the Speaker's Forum held at Karibu Leisure Resort the awards were for "Leading municipality in the provision of tools of trade/councilor welfare and support". And the "Most functional Rules and Ethics Committee in Mopani District Municipality".

We started the year with visits to all GTM public hospital, there we welcomed new-borns and pampered them with gifts. We then embarked on a back to school campaign, where officials and councillors visited schools across the 35 wards.

Read more about these stories inside.

# OVER 1000 EMPLOYED IN EPWP



Miyelani Shandlale (EPWP Officer)



EPWP workers picking litter in Mothomeng Village in Ward 07

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality has rescued over 1000 of its residents from unemployment through its Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP).

According to GTM's EPWP Officer Miyelani Shandlale, 1101 people are currently employed in various projects in the GTM. Miyelani said that 480 people out of 1101 have been employed internally to do litter picking across most wards. The workers are remunerated through the conditional incentive grant and the municipality's own funds. In addition, there are 266 EPWP workers employed through a service provider. Shandlale also stated that every infrastruc-

ture project of the municipality has an EPWP component. She indicated that the municipality was currently upgrading two roads which have employed 65 EPWP workers.

"We have 47 EPWP workers in the Matswi/ Keshokolwe access road project and 18 in the Lenyenye to Khujwana road." Said Shandlale. She said four more road projects have just been handed over to contractors and that more EPWP workers will be employed in the coming weeks.

Miyelani said that the municipality's plan for the 2019/2020 financial year is to increase the number of beneficiaries based on the

funds to be allocated by the Department of Public Works as well as the GTM council. Miyelani said that during the recruitment they target group the youth (55%), women (55%) and people living with disability (2%)

Simon Machete, an EPWP worker employed in Ward 7 said that the job helps him feed his family. Machete said that he also has something to do instead of loafing. In October 2018, StatsSA reported that 6.2 million South Africans were unemployed, in fact, South Africa's unemployment rate has climbed to 27.5%.

## MPAC PUBLIC HEARING IN PICTURES

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality held a Municipal Public Accounts Committee Public Hearing at Hotel@tzaneen on Thursday 14 March 2019. The Public Hearing was held in respect of the 2017/18 Draft Annual Municipal Report. Members of the Public and Community Stakeholders, Sector Departments, Traditional Leaders were invited to observe the hearing where the Mayor and Board of Directors for GTEDA where held accountable on the 2017/18 Draft Annual Report of the Municipality and Entity.

### CAPTIONS

1. Cllr Ngwako Maunatlala (MPAC Member), Cllr Thomas Mushwana and Raymond Hlangwane (MPAC Researcher)
2. Cllr. Margeret Letsoalo, Cllr Star Mbhalati and Cllr Thabo Maunatlala.
3. Raymond Hlangwane (MPAC Researcher)
4. Director Aleck Nkuna, Director Walter Shibamba, Mikateko Makhubela (CFO), Bheki Tshawe (Electrical) and Director Benjamin Mathebula.



# GTM SCOOPS TWO SALGA AWARDS



**Councilor Justice Ramodipa (Chairperson of the Ethics Committee) Walter Shibamba (Director Corporate Services) Speaker of Council Dikeledi Mmetle and Winnie Baloyi (Manager Records and Administration)**

## By Neville Ndlala

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality scooped two awards during the SALGA Speakers Forum held from 7 to 9 March 2019 at Karibu Leisure Resort.

The municipality won the award for “Leading municipality in the provision of tools of trade/councilor welfare and support”. The second award was for the “Most functional Rules and Ethics Committee in Mopani District Municipality”.

Council Speaker, Councillor Dikeledi Mmetle said that the awards are a testimony that the municipality is serious about good governance.

Winnie Baloyi, Manager for Records and Administration, a division that is responsible for council support says that a well-functioning council is critical in every municipality. Winnie said that all 67 councilors of the municipality

have either a laptop or tablet with access to the internet. “All councilors and the seven traditional representatives in council get 5 gigabytes of internet data every month,” said Baloyi.

Justice Ramodipa who is a ward councilor in Ward 31 and the Chairperson of the Rules and Ethics Committee in the municipality said the award was as a result of hard work and teamwork. “As the leader of the committee, I encourage my fellow committee members to continue with the hard work and to attend meetings regularly”

He said the secretarial staff is very “supportive” and urged them to continue with their support and advice. The Rules and Ethics Committee deals with councilor conduct as well as the conduct of members of all the municipality’s 35 ward committees.

Amongst other reasons for the win was the municipality’s provision of effective secretarial support to its council and council committees. Other notable tools of trade include the municipality’s two 15 seater minibuses that are used to transport councilors to oversight visits and other business of the municipality.



# GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES PROJECTS IN XIHOKO

By Neville Ndlala

On the 8th of March 2019, the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) launched five community upliftment projects at Gwambeni Secondary School in Xihoko Village.

According to the Department of Public Service and Administration, the projects are aimed at enhancing community development in Limpopo province.

The MEC for the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs, and Tourism (DEDET), Seaparo Sekoati said the projects are being implemented through the Limpopo Provincial Government and the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA).

One of the projects under implementation is Offline Content for schools without Internet connectivity. The project involves the provision of access to offline content such as basic mathematics, dictionary, periodic table, workbooks and most or all previous years exam papers to improve learning and teaching in schools without Internet connectivity.

Another project is a public works programme focusing on research on alternative building materials.

Sekoati who spoke on behalf of Premier Stan Mathabatha said the agricultural sector would benefit from the third project, which is the "Emerging Farmers Portal and Mobile Application" for farmers to interact with buyers.

The Biodiversity Information Management System was also announced as one of the five projects and it is implemented by DEDET.

The Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture and its stakeholders and of course the general public will benefit from the Limpopo Public Access Heritage Portal and Mobile Application.

All five projects are initiatives of the Tirelo Boshia Public Service Improvement Facility, a programme that is facilitated by Department of Public Service and Administration as part of the cooperation agreement between the governments of South Africa and the Kingdom of Belgium to improve community development in the country.

Professor Richard Levin, the director-general for the DPSA delivered a speech on behalf of the Minister Ayanda Dlodlo who had to attend urgent government business elsewhere.

The launch was also graced by the presence of Belgium Ambassador to South Africa, Didier Vanderhasselt, and the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Basikopo Makamu, who was also the programme director for the day. Hosi N'wamitwa II was also present so was the Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Maripe Mangena.

The five projects will benefit the arts and culture sector, the education sector, the agricultural sector, the construction sector, and the environmental sector.



The delegation led by the Acting Premier Seaparo Sekoati visiting the project on the Offline Content to schools without Internet connectivity. With him MEC Biskopo Makamu (Agriculture and Rural Development), Mayor Mangena, Belgian Ambassador to South Africa, Didier Vanderhasselt and government officials.



Residents and Stakeholders came in numbers to witness the unveiling of the projects.



Ward Councillor for Ward 04, Councillor Mavis Mapijta and



From Left to Right: Councillor Japisa Mathonsi (Member of Mayoral Committee: Mopani District Municipality) Seaparo Sekoati (Acting Premier), Didier Vanderhasselt (Belgian Ambassador to South Africa), Hosi N'wamitwa II and Councillor Maripe Mangena (Mayor: Greater Tzaneen Municipality)

# GTM UPGRADES CODESA STREET



Codesa Street in Nkowankowa Section B is getting an upgrade

By Neville Ndlala

A project to upgrade Codesa Street to Hani Street in Nkowankowa Section B is currently underway. The project which will see approximately 1.7 km of

the street paved with interlocking bricks is expected to improve access to various public amenities such as schools, the stadium, testing grounds, and the clinic. PMU Manager, John Matlala confirmed the commencement of work on site. He said the project handover was done on 22nd of January 2019 and when asked about specifications for the project, Matlala said that the municipality will pave an area of 1.73km in length and 5m in width. Residents in the vicinity of the street have often complained about flooding, others are reported to have lost their furniture and other valuables due to water flooding their houses.

Matlala said that in response to the

flooding problem, the municipality will build stormwater concrete culverts (small bridges). The project is estimated to cost R13.2 million and its completion is planned for the end of October 2019. According to the ward councilor of Ward 19, Homegirl Zandamela, the project is a welcome relief for residents. She said despite the long-term benefits of the project, there were short term benefits such as short term employment. "There are 10 labourers and a community liaison employed until the completion of the project" Said Zandamela

# MULATI ROAD UPGRADE FINALLY UNDERWAY



Work is underway to upgrade Mulati Access Road

By Neville Ndlala

Mulati is a community of almost 2000 people living in 701 households, this is according to Statistics South Africa's household survey. The vehicle population in Mulati is way below average and public transport ratio is one mini-bus per 900 people.

According to sources, only two mini-bus taxis operate in Mulati. These mini-busses transport residents to and from the village to the R529 or Letsitele.

"The people of Mulati literally struggle" this is according to Josta Banyini, the ward councilor for Ward 25, which Mulati falls under along with Sedan, Mafarana, Ntsako, and Bonn Village.

Banyini says whenever it rains the road is slippery and unusable. "It is the only road into the village, and when it rains everything stops, you cannot go to the clinic, you cannot go to the library and there is no school" Said Banyini

In 2018, the GTM approved a multimil-

lion-rand budget for the upgrading of the road from gravel to paving. The project is estimated to cost R37.2 million over a three year period.

"This is a multi-year project funded by the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)." Said John Matlala, the Project Management Unit Manager in the GTM. Matlala said the Mulati project entails the paving of a 5.8 km road with two lanes. "Each lane will be 3.6m wide and there will be a 600mm shoulder on each side," said Matlala.

Alfred Ramaano, a resident of Mulati said that the road will improve access to the three schools in the area. He said access to Jack Mashamba Primary, Mlunglisi Primary and Scotch Maboko High School will improve. The Mulati Library will also be more accessible to locals and surrounding villages.

Matlala said that the scope of work also includes road signs, markings, and road-side furniture. Matlala added that adjoining roads will be given access and surface bellmouths.

In January 2019, the municipality handed over the road to a contractor, who has already started with the work.

# WARD 25 WINS R10 000 AWARD

On the 29th of March 2019, the Speaker of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Dikeledi Mmetle handed over a cheque of R10 000 to Ward 25 Ward Committee Members at the Lenyenye municipal satellite office.

The cash prize was a reward for securing the most physical addresses for voters in preparations for the general elections. All 35 wards of the GTM participated in the Address Harvesting Programme. The aim of the programme was to secure physical addresses of voters whose addresses are not registered with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

Topisa Muhlari, the ward committee Secretary for Ward 25 said she was excited about the recognition. She also thanked Gift Tshuketana, a Community Development Facilitator in the GTM. She said without her support they wouldn't have achieved what they have achieved. Josta Banyini, the Ward Councilor of Ward 25 says "It was not easy working on this programme but



Gift Tshuketana , Topisa Muhlari and Speaker Dikeledi Mmetle at Lenyenye municipal offices.

my ward committee members were very committed and their hard work has finally paid off". During the District Ward Committee Conference held in Karibu Leisure Resort in 2018, Mmetle promised the R10 000 cash prize to any ward which secures the most addresses. The

Speaker kept her promise when she delivered the R10 000 cash prize to Ward 6 in October 2018, the prize money was eventually shared by all wards in the Runnymede Cluster.

# LENYENYE TO KHUJWANA ROAD GETS AN UPGRADE



This road from Lenyenye to Khujwana will soon have tar

By Vutivi Makhubele

The communities of Lenyenye and Khujwani including adjacent villages will soon benefit from the upgrading the Lenyenye to Khujwani road.

The road is one of several infrastructure projects approved by Council for implementation in the 2019/2020 financial year. The road which is 5.8-kilometer long will be upgraded from

gravel to tar is aimed at improving access between Lenyenye Township and Khujwani Village. The scope of work also includes paved access to the graveyard.

Lenyenye resident, Alice Modiba said that "The new road comes as a relief". She said that residents of Lenyenye will now have faster and better access to Khujwana. According to John Matlala, the PMU manager, the scope of work for

the project includes the repairing and construction of stormwater concrete channels and culverts, construction of guard rails along the road and gabion retaining walls as well as road marking and road signs.

GTM has set aside R31.5 million for the project. According to EPWP Officer in the GTM, Miyelani Shandlale 18 people from nearby communities are employed in the project and an additional 16 people will be employed before the project is completed in 2022.

The Mayor of GTM Maripe Mangena believes that the multimillion-rand project will make a noticeable difference to the lives of about 3145 households residing in both communities.

Councillor Roniel Rikhotso, ward Councillor of for Ward 18 says the community is ecstatic about the project. "The road will also provide an alternative shortcut to the two places and the local complex in Maake plaza." Said Rikhotso.

# RUNNYMEDE GETS A LIBRARY

By Patricia Muchabi

On the 6th of February 2019, the MEC for Sports, Arts, and Culture, Thandy Moraka officially handed over a project to build a library in Runnymede Thusing Service Centre.

The construction of the library began on the 14th of February 2019 and will be completed in August 2020.

The library will cost R18 million and is expected to improve literacy levels in Runnymede Village and surrounding areas.

Moraka said, "The project was long overdue". She said that her department will build a state of the art library.

Moraka said that learners will no longer have to travel to Tzaneen to access library services. The MEC promised the community that the library will have all the necessary resources.

She said that the library will have free internet access, daily and weekly newspapers".

Moraka also urged residents to make use of the library. "We do not want to hear that the library has turned into a white elephant and is used as a hiding place for criminals." She said.

The MEC also called on the local municipality, Nwamitwa Traditional Authority, and other stakeholders to "hold hands" with the department and ensure



Acting executive Mayor Cllr Matshidiso Mokgobi, Hosi Nwamitwa II, MEC Thandy Moraka, the project contractor Moage construction, Acting GTM Mayor Cllr Sannie Tiba and Cllr Emma Ngobeni

that the project is a success.

Hlayisani Nukeri from Runnymede Village said, "I am a Grade 9 learner and I'm happy that by the time I do my matric the library will be complete and I will be able to do my assignments here".

Christine Nel, Manager responsible for libraries in GTM said "The Runnymede Library will offer access to balanced book collections, lending services, information services with the emphasis on school project assistance.

Nel said that the library will host holiday programmes and book-related arts and

craft events. She also confirmed that the library will obviously have a study room, free public access to the Internet and free Wi-Fi".

The department appointed Moage Construction to build the library. The project will benefit several villages in the Runnymede cluster.

Hosi Nwamitwa II graced the event with her presence. Other guests included the GTM Acting Mayor Councilor Sannie Tiba and Acting Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Councilor Matshidiso Mokgobi.

# MORUTJI TO KHESHOKHOLWE PROGRESSING



The 12 km road from Manswi to Kheshokolwe

The project to upgrade the D1350 between the village of Moruji and Maswi from gravel to tar is nearing its completion.

The new road will which will make places such as Kgapane and Mokwakwaila more accessible to local residents is at 88% as of January 2019. Just over 11 km of the 12km is tarred.

The section of road D1350 under construction starts at Moruji and traverses in the north-easterly direction towards Mthomeng village. It ends (chainage 12.0km) at the intersection with road D3180 with Kgapane to the left and Mokwakwaila to the right. The road is expected to improve access to other areas in the Bolobedu South.



# MBAMBAMENCISI ROAD GETS AN UPGRADE

By Patricia Muchabi

The street that serves as a boundary between Nkowankowa Section B and Nkowankowa Section D, commonly known as Mbambamencisi has been a source of pain for road users and local residents. This is soon to change as the Greater Tzaneen Municipality is currently implementing a project to upgrade the street from gravel to paving. An area measuring 1.5km in length will be paved with interlocking paving bricks. Said The Ward Councillor for Ward 21, Thandy Mpenyana said “People have been complaining about the street before I even became a ward councillor and finally we have a solution”

“The construction began in October 2018 and should be completed towards the end of 2019,” said John Matlala, the Project Management Unit Manager. After the completion of the project, the community of Nkowankowa will no longer have to wait for a long time to access taxis and buses to work, schools, shopping centers, and other service centers.

According to Nyasha Malunda, a resident of Nkowankowa D during rainy seasons the situation is worse, the road would be full of water because the drainage system installed previously was poor.

Malunda says taxis do not come to “our side” so it is a struggle for us as com-



Construction work underway on the street that serves as boundary between Nkowankowa B and Nkowankowa D (Mbambamencisi)

muters”. Malunda again said he hopes that the municipality will install proper drainage system as the place is low lying.

“The project entails the paving of the 1.5km street with 80mm grey interlocking paving blocks as well as stormwater drainage”.

The project has not benefited the community of ward 21 with the road only but it has also created jobs for many people in the area. “I have been without a job for 5 years and I’m glad this project

brought change in my life. With the salary I get monthly I am able to provide for my two children who are in tertiary institutions” said Beauty Mabena, the Community Liaison Officer of the project.

According to John Matlala, the Manager of the Project management Unit in the municipality, the municipality appointed Makasana Construction to do the R 8.7 million project.

# A NEW TAXI RANK FOR LENYENYE

By Neville Ndlala

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality will inject an estimated R16 million into the construction of a taxi rank in Lenyenye Township. GTM PMU manager, John Matlala said that the taxi rank will consist of a 240m2 holding bays and 240m2 of parking bays. The rank will also comprise a drop-off zone and ablution facilities. Matlala said that the rank will be surrounded by a 180 meter of

palisade fencing. Also included in the specifications are five hawkers’ stalls measuring 80m2, this is expected to boost small businesses in the township.

A tender to build the taxi rank has already been issued for construction companies to bid. Lenyenye Township has in recent times benefited from various projects such as the upgrading of the Lenyenye Stadium and currently the

construction of Khujwana to Lenyenye Road. The township is also the only township in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality to have benefited from a project which installed solar geysers. About 500 households have solar geysers installed free of charge. In 2018 about 38 families received title deeds for their properties.

# MPAC STRATEGIC SESSION

## EILAND SPA RESORT



**Programme Director  
Speaker, Cllr. Dikeledi Mmetle**



**Main Speaker  
Mayor, Cllr. Maripe Mangena**



**MPAC Chairperson  
Cllr. George Mkhabele**



**Cllr. City Modjadji  
MDM MPAC Chairperson**

MPAC Strategic Session under the theme “Sustaining accountability and transparency through effective oversight” supported by local Chair Persons within the district, Auditor General, Risk Committee Chairperson, representatives from COGSTA and SALGA. The session provided a platform for the oversight committee to share key issues with the executive and management.



**MPAC Member  
Cllr. Ngwako Maunatlala**



**Evanse Seshoeni  
Mopani District Municipality  
Manager: Internal Audit**



**Helen Manyike  
Manager: Internal Audit**



**PMS Officer  
Frieda Human**



# **IDP STRATEGIC SESSION**

**COACH HOUSE HOTEL - 7 & 8 FEBRUARY 2019**



**Councillors and Employees of the GTM attended a two day IDP Strategic Session at Orion Coach House Hotel**



**Acting Mayor Cllr Sannie Tiba**



**The programme facilitator Tim Maake**



**Ntebatse Maake, Aluwani Gangashe, Zebel Modjadji and Shibu Rabothata**



**Cllr Edney Ntimbana, Cllr Thabo Maunatlala**



**Simon Sebobetsa, Kenneth Makhubele, Bheki Tshawe, Olga Tshiseve, Ntebatse Maake**

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality held a two-day IDP Strategic Session at the Orion Coach House Hotel on Thursday, 7 February 2019 and Friday, 8 February 2019. The Strategic session was PMT, EXCO, Chairpersons of Committees, Directors and Managers. During plenary delegates discussed short and long term strategies to address service delivery challenges in the municipality. Issue ranged from infrastructure to human resources and basic service delivery such as water, electricity, waste collection and roads.



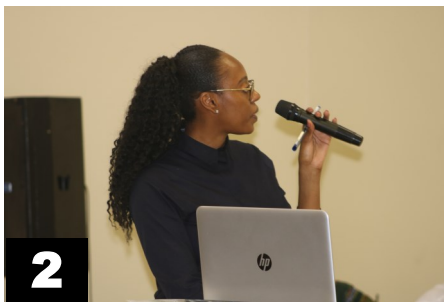
**Aleck Nkuna, Benjamin Mathebula**

# IDP LEKGOTLA

## KARIBU LEISURE RESORT - 7 & 8 MARCH 2019



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The Greater Tzaneen Municipality held a two-day IDP Lekgotla at Karibu Leisure Resort on Thursday, 7 March 2019 and Friday, 8 March 2019.

The Lekgotla was attended by most 69 Councillors currently serving in the municipality, the municipal manager, directors, and managers.

There was also representation from traditional authorities, various government departments, and agencies.

All departments of the municipality made a presentation on the progress made in the past three years as well as future plans of the municipality.

Mayor Maripe Mangena earlier gave opening remarks urging the delegation to find solutions to the municipality's challenges in order to speed up service delivery.



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### CAPTIONS:

1. Ntebatse Maake ( Manager: Human Resources, Annie Mailula (Database Administrator), Manager Zabel Modjaji (Manager: Supply Chain Management)
2. Palesa Makhubela (CFO)
3. Bonginkosi Sengwayo (Manager: Electrical Projects , Bheki Tshawe (Manager: Electrical Customer and Retail Services) , and Xoliswa Gala (Manager: Parks and Recreation)
4. Councillor Malesela Mafokwane (Ward 02) and Councillor Given Malatji (Ward 23)
5. Benjamin Mathebula (Director :Planning and Economic Development )
6. Walter Shibamba (Director :Corporate Services)
7. Mayor for Greater Tzaneen Municipality Maripe Mangena and Council Speaker Dikeledi Mmetle
8. Andre Liversage (Manager :Licensing) and Thabo Ramokgano (Manager: Assets )
9. Councilor Sophy Rakganya (Ward 33) and Councillor Martha Makwala (Ward 09)
10. Councillor Mokgadi Mathekga(Ward 08) and Councillor Moore Baloyi (Ward 10)
11. Aluwani Gangashe (Manager: Water and Sanitation and Freddy Rammalo for Economic Development
12. Councillor Jonas Maake (PR) and Faith Mohlaba(PR)



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# MORE HOUSEHOLDS ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS

## By Vutivi Makhubele

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality Mayor literally started the New Year on a bright note with the launch of several rural electrification projects across the municipality. On the 16th of January 2019, a delegation led by Cllr Edney Ntimbane launched the first project of the year at Nkambako (Mackery) Village.

The electricity project at Nkamboko will benefit 88 households. Isaac Kutama, one of the beneficiaries from Mackery Village expressed his gratitude and compliments to the municipality for what he calls "visible progress in the village". The total cost of the project is

budgeted for R1, 4 million. The contractor for the Nkambako project is Phomelo Industrial Power Supply and the consultant is Uranus Consulting Engineers.

Ntimbane and his delegation proceeded to Mariveni village to launch the second electrification project which will see 95 households connected in Mariveni C. the project is estimated to cost R1.5 million. Madz Electrical are the contractors in the project and Uranus Consulting Engineers are the project consultants.

Madz Electrical will also connect 23 households in the Zanghoma village at the cost of R 361 000.

Another electrification project was

launched on Friday 18 January 2019 at Mandlakazi Village (Marikana Extension) where 238 households will be to electricity. The Mandlakazi project will cost R3, 8 million.

The final launch was in Relela Village where 24 households will be connected at a cost of R379 000.

The municipality has in the past successfully managed to connect electricity to all its 35 wards including some new extensions. Councillor Edney Ntimbane, the head of the infrastructure portfolio in the municipality's executive committee said "The need for electricity, however, emanates from the development of new extensions"

# GTM ON THE BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

As thousands of school children return to school on 9 January 2019, councillors and officials of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality descended on various schools across the municipality's 35 wards as part of the Back to School Campaign.

Mayor Maripe Mangena joined the MEC for Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs, Jerry Ndou at Merensky High School. The delegation later visited DZJ Mthebule secondary School in Nkawkowa.

On the 10th of January, Councillor Cassius Machimana joined the MEC for Education, Ishmael Kgetsepe on a visit to Hudson N'tsanwisi High School. The MEC met with the school's leadership before addressing learners. Cllr Dikeledi Mmetle, the speaker of the council of the municipality visited Mola-bisane High School while the Chief Whip, Councillor Cromwell Nhemo visited Masopha High School.

Members of the Executive Committee led delegations to various schools alongside ward councillors. The Mayor said, "The back to school campaign is aimed at ascertaining school readiness for the academic year



From left : Anna Sono (Mopani MMC ), GTM Mayor Maripe Mangena , Peter Nomvele (Tzaneen Circuit Manager), MEC for Coghsta Jerry Ndou, Philippine Modike (District Director for Department of Education) ,Magnus Steyn (Principal for Merensky High School), Matshidiso Mokgobi (Mopani MMC).

ahead". The back to school campaign is also used by the municipality to motivate both best performing schools and underperforming ones.

Various councillors delivered congratulatory messages to schools which have

either improved their performance or have registered outstanding performances.

# GTM TAKE IN INTERNS AND LEARNERS



**Mduduzi Mkhabele, Ethel Nkhwashu, Leshoto Kgatla, Masedi Ntabiseng, Louise Makwakwa, Katekani Mhlarhi, and Zeblon Ndzovela**

**By Mduduzi Mkhabela**

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality has taken in 19 young people to undergo internship programme ranging between 8 Months and 24 months. According to Glacia Hlangwane, a Training Officer in the GTM, the programme is aimed at equipping graduates with much needed on-the-job training and experience. Amongst the 13 trainees, there are three under the Services SETA programme. "The Services Seta takes care of the

allowances for the three trainees and the municipality just provides workspace and mentorship," Said Hlangwane

The 19 comprises of 9 interns to be trained in the Corporate Service department amongst them five at Information Technology, one at Marketing and Communications division and three at Records and Administration division. Hlangwane said that there are eight young people are undergoing training in the Finance Department, while the other two are in the Legal

Services division and the Office of the Municipal Manager.

Katekani Mhlarhi who started her internship at the beginning of March 2019 said, "I am here for eight months". Mhlarhi studied Information Technology (IT) in Mopani South East TVET and has an N4 qualification. She also boasts several international certificates in IT. Mhlarhi said she was grateful for the opportunity. She says she has since learnt a lot of lessons, things she had no clue about.

Another intern, Zeblon Ndzovela joined the municipality towards the end of February 2019. Ndzovela has a BA Degree in Developmental Studies from the University of Venda. He is currently placed at Records and Administration. Ndzovela told GTM Bulletin that he was thankful for the opportunity as it will expose him to his field of work. He said in university they learnt theory and that as an intern he has a chance to do more practical work. Hlangwane said those doing 12 Months internship Programme will be paid a monthly stipend of R4000 for the duration of the training, the internship programme is funded by Service's SETA whilst the others will be paid a monthly stipend of R 1500-00 by the municipality.

# MAYOR'S FUND ASSIST NEEDY STUDENTS

**By Patricia Muchabi**

More than a decade ago, the Greater Tzaneen Municipality initiated the Mayor's Bursary Scheme. Over the years the scheme moved from a full bursary to a financial aid scheme assisting underprivileged youth with registration fees in tertiary institutions.

Since its inception, the Mayor's Students Financial Aid Scheme (MSFAS) has assisted over 700 students. This year (2019) 49 students benefited from MSFAS. The municipality allocated R1 million for educational programmes which include the Mayor's Excellence Awards and MSFAS.

The MSFAS, according to Councilor Casius Machimana, the head of special programmes in the municipality is aimed at assisting academically deserving learners from poor backgrounds to register in tertiary institutions. According to Tsietsi

Manyama, the Mayor's Secretary, fewer people applied this year. He attributed the decline in the number of applications to the introduction of free tertiary education by the government from 2018.

One of the 49 beneficiaries, Jabulani Nukeri, a Pharmacy student at Sefako Makgato HS University says his parents did not have money to take him to school. He said that he was happy that his dream of becoming a Pharmacist will soon come true. "After completing my four-year degree I would like to study further up to a PhD level because I would one day want to be called a professor". Said Nukeri. Almost all the successful applicants registered with universities across the country. Nine (9) are registered with Wits University, five(5) with the University of South Africa, seven (7) with the University of Limpopo, six (6) with the University of Johannesburg, four (4) in University of Pretoria, four(4) in Tshwane University of Technology, two(2)



**Jabulani Nukeri is a Pharmacy Student at Sefako Makgato University**

with Nelson Mandela University and another two(2) with Sefako Makgato HS University . The universities of Cape Town, Venda, Stellenbosch, North West and Vaal each got one (1) student benefiting from the scheme. Two (2) students from Letaba TVET and one from Mopani South East TVET also benefited.

# MAYOR REWARDS THE CLASS OF 2018

The 2018 Grade 12 class in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality (GTM) produced shining stars in the 2018 matric examinations, this was revealed during the GTM Grade 12 Excellence Awards which were held at Karibu Leisure Resort on Friday, January 25.

An ordinary public school, DZJ Mtebule Secondary School was the big winner at awards, the school from Nkowankowa Township produced the Overall Best Performing Learner in GTM and in the Mopani District Municipality, Gill Homu with a 91, 4% pass rate.

The school also produced the highest number of bachelors from a public school with 108 bachelors from 203 learners and Shipalana F was named Best Educator in Maths with an 84% pass rate.

Meanwhile, in the former Model C and Independent schools, it was a battle between Merensky High School, Ben Vorster High School, and St George College. Merensky produced the Second Best Performing Learner Venter Caming, the highest number of bachelors with 142 bachelors from 181 learners and the mathematics educator Hatt Stander.

Ben Vorster had the second highest number of bachelors with 111 bachelors from 164 learners, educator, Dayne Atkins produced a 100% pass rate in Life Sciences. St Georges College awards include producing a 100 % pass rate in mathematics, the Best Learner from Independent School in Hlulani Gala with an 85, 7% pass rate and the best educator in Chikhavanga K who produced 100% pass rate in mathematics, 100% in Life Sciences. St George came third in producing the highest number of bachelors from an independent school with 78 bachelors from 88 learners.

The Tzaneen Circuit was Overall Best Circuit with a 90% pass rate followed by Nkowankowa Circuit with a 77,9% pass rate. N'wanedzi Circuit was named Most Improved Circuit from 43% in 2017 to 51, 2% in 2018.

The top three most improved schools were are Mawhawa High School ( 51% to 93, 13%), followed by Xibukulwana High school (32,4% to 68,77%) and Tzaneng Combined Farm School (33,3% to 69,5%.

The event was honoured by the presence of the Deputy Minister of Small Business Development Cassel Mathale and Member of Parliament, Emma Ndlovu. GTM Mayor Maripe Mangena applauded the class of 2018 and wished them well with their studies in conclusion.



Cllr Cassius Machimana, Philip Dambuza (DZJ Mtebule High School) and Mayoress Precious Mangena during the Mayor's Excellence Awards



Circuit Managers from left: Magwaza Ngomana (Xihoko Circuit), Dr. Timothy Mbhalati (Shiluvane Circuit), Dr. Peter Mabunda (N'wanedzi Circuit), Philip Nomvula (Tzaneen Circuit), Thomas Thobela (Mafaran Circuit) and Doreen Manzini. (Nkowankowa Circuit)



Deputy Minister of Small Business Development, Cassel Mathale, Gill Homu and Greater Tzaneen Mayor, Maripe Mangena

# MEET BHEKI TSHAWE



**Bheki Tshawe is the Manager for Operations and Maintenance in the Electrical Engineering Department**

Bheki Tshawe is a well-spoken technocrat, self-described as a naturally friendly person. Born and bred in Kat-

lehong Township in Ekurhuleni, his career started in 1990 at the erstwhile Germiston City Council as a Learner Engineering Technician. Subsequently moving to Alberton Town Council, he was promoted to Engineering Technician in 1995. In 2000 he was promoted to Senior Engineering Technician and later Engineer while Ekurhuleni transitioned into a Metropolitan Municipality.

He has a National Diploma in Electrical Engineering obtained from the Vaal University of Technology, under his belt he also has a few management courses and electrical certificates. From 2008 he has served several municipalities in different provinces as Head of Electricity Departments. The last municipality he served prior to joining the GTM was Greater Letaba Municipality as Head of Electrical departments. He is currently Limpopo Branch Deputy Chairperson of the Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities (AMEU).

Bheki says his appointment in GTM made him feel like an integral part of a team that is contributing positively to the economy of Limpopo Province, leading the biggest Electrical Utility in Limpopo after the City of Polokwane. Funds permitting, he plans to change all streetlights to LEDs to save on consumption and also save council a lot of money with regard to maintenance related to lamp replacements.

As the manager responsible for customers amongst others Bheki admits that satisfying every customer with quality electricity supply can be challenging, however, his love for light particularly street and area lighting keeps him focused. When asked about the best lesson he has learnt in his career, this is what he had to say "Human capital is the most important resource to invest in, to realize meaningful results.

# MEET THE MANAGER FOR ELECTRICAL PROJECTS



**Bonginkosi Sengwayo is the Manager for Electrical Projects in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality**

Bonginkosi Sengwayo was appointed as the manager for electrical projects in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality effective from 2019. The 34-year-old holds a B-Tech in Electrical Engineering (2012)

from the Tshwane University of technology. Prior to joining the municipality, Sengwayo worked at Eskom for twelve years. He joined Eskom in 2006 as Learner Technician and was promoted

to Technician in January 2007.

Sengwayo was again promoted to Senior Technician Protection in October 2008. Sengwayo stayed in the same position until the end of March 2013. In April 2013, Sengwayo left Eskom in Mpumalanga to join Eskom Distribution in Limpopo as Senior Supervisor Protection. Sengwayo, who describes himself as reserved and humble is currently enrolled for a government certificate of competency with Better Best College in Tzaneen.

Sengwayo promises "commitment, with lots of energy, coupled with experience." He says his plan is to collaborate with high performing teams in developing processes that will ensure GTM's delivers quality service to the local communities. Sengwayo says the most important lesson he has learnt is "Never assume you know everything, as it prevents opportunities to develop and grow."

To relax, the Mpumalanga born engineer drinks a cup of tea with sugar.



# OLGA WINS LITERACY AWARD



Olga Tshesevhe with her Awards

Olga Tshisevhe scooped the first prize in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture Literary Competition award ceremony held at Hayani Lodge in Polokwane on the 28th of February 2019. Olga who is the Manager for Roads and Stormwater in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality won the Tshiven-  
cash prize of R12 000 and additional R3000 for the use of indigenous language.

cash prize of R12 000 and additional R3000 for the use of indigenous language.

Olga has written for both print and broadcast. In 2015 she wrote her first radio drama called "Zwi a kuludzana" which played on Phalaphala FM, this was followed by "Tshimomo a si tsha muthih" in 2016, "Na zwone ndi madondo" in 2018 and "Ri ponya ro tala" in 2019. All the dramas were written and broadcast on Phalaphala FM. Olga has written children picture story book called "The most beautiful animal" in 2018, and a drama book called "Tshimonemone" which just won the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture literary award. Olga has a screenwriting certificate from the University of Cape Town and a Writers certificate from Room to Read South Africa.

Olga also shares her skills and talent by helping with the development of people who are interested in writing. Olga's passion for writing can be traced back to

her high school days. "My writing interest started while I was in high school," she says.

"I started by writing stage dramas which were played during school farewell functions for matric students" continues Olga. After matric, she studied civil engineering, which is unrelated to creative writing but it did not take away her interest and passion for writing. Olga continues to write dramas and novels in her spare time.

"First of all, I would like to thank God. I feel very honoured to have won this award. It serves as an encouragement to propel me forward in writing. I am currently busy with children picture storybooks." Said Olga

Olga holds a National Diploma in Civil Engineering from Technikon Witwatersrand and a B-Tech in Civil Engineering from UNISA.

# MAYOR MEETS NEW YEAR BABIES



By Patricia Muchabi

Every year, representatives of Greater Tzaneen Municipality visit public hospitals to welcome new babies born on new year's day. This year (2019) the municipality's delegation was led Councillor Cassius Machimana. Machimana and his entourage visited Van Velden hospital wherein two babies were born on 1 January 2019. The two babies, a boy, and a girl were welcomed with packages of clothes and baby toiletries.

Amukelani Maluleke of Moleketla Village named her baby girl Bohlale and said she was very happy to have delivered her baby on a special day. "I really appreciate the gifts from our municipality, this shows how much you care about your people," she said.

The team proceeded to Letaba Hospital to join the Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Nkareng Rakgoale.

Rakgoale welcomed the first two babies born at Letaba Hospital. Hlayisani Nkhwashu from Mafarana village delivered her firstborn baby at exactly 00:00.

She named her baby Mbuyelo Nhlavute-lo. "This is my first born child and I still can't believe she is mine. The feeling of having a baby is so special and non-measurable" Said Hlayisani.

The second baby born was delivered at

00:19 by Lerato Mawila from Dan village. She named her baby boy Happy. Rakgoale showered the two babies with gifts which included basics needed for a new baby such as baby toiletries, clothes and baby blankets.

Rakgoale encouraged the mothers to take care of their children and give them the best. She said "make sure that your children receive all the necessary healthcare they need. Always check the baby's body temperature and take them to the clinic if you are not happy with it.

Rakgoale said the government is doing so much for the people. If you are unemployed SASSA is available to help you register your child to receive a social grant and please use the money to buy necessary goods for your children".

# MAYOR KEEPS PROMISE TO DONATE SEEDLINGS



Mayor Maripe Mangena with fellow councillors and beneficiaries.

## By Vutivi Makhubele

Greater Tzaneen Mayor Maripe Mangena proved that he is a man of his word when he donated seedlings worth R100 thousand to emerging farmers following a commitment he made during the Tzaneen Agricultural Expo Gala Dinner held on the 20th of August 2018 at Sima Silver Lodge.

On 15 March 2019, Mangena invited 32 farmers to WD Seedlings in Tzaneen to present them with the seedlings. "I hope that this contribution

will assist you to grow as farmers". Mangena said that the donation was a gesture by the municipality to support and encourage farming. He said that he believed that agriculture will help grow the economy of GTM and create employment for residents.

Nontokozi Zwane, the Manager for the Department of Agriculture's Tzaneen Office said "In partnership with GTM we provide training and resources to ensure that our emerging farmers are well catered for, and this is partly the support we give them."

Director for Planning and Economic Development in the GTM Benjamin Mathebula says "Funding for the seedlings was raised during the Agricultural Expo Golf tournament which is part of the Agricultural Expo held in October 2018."

Mangena donated 259 000 seedlings to the group of beneficiaries which is made of 14 women and 10 youths. Amongst the seedlings donated are sweet pepper, hot paper, tomato, beetroot spinach, and cabbage.

Mangena said he would love to visit the beneficiaries to check progress. "We will be happy to be invited or to be directed to go to maybe 5, 6, 7 farms to see the seedlings that we have donated here on the 15th of March". According to Zwane the seedlings donated will cover 6.3 hectares of land. The 32 beneficiaries were identified by the municipality in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture.

# TZANEEN DAM LEVEL DROPPING

## Vutivi Makhubele

The recent water level drop at the Tzaneen Dam has sent scare waves to the residents of Tzaneen who depend on the Dam for running water.

Residents are afraid that soon the Dam will not have sufficient water for consumption.

According to the Department of Water and Sanitation, Tzaneen Dam level is sitting at 16.4%. This can be interpreted as 25.7 million cubic liters which are adequate to 16.4 percent water currently available at the Tzaneen Dam, which has the capacity reservoir of 156.6 million cubic liters if it is 100 percent full.

"The increasing demand of water for both agricultural and domestic activities has immensely contributed to the water level dropping", says Aluwani Gangahe, Manager of Water and Sanitation in the GTM.

"The drop in dam levels was worsened by the recent drought experienced in Limpopo Province in which Mopani District was severely affected", she adds.

Unfortunately, the recent rainfall has not improved the dam levels, and could not rescue the situation, and if the challenge persists, there will be a serious impact on the supply of water in town and areas that rely on the municipality for water tankers.

A number of public institutions, such as schools and hospitals in town could be dysfunctional if they do not have water, the whole economy of Greater Tzaneen will be affected.

Although GTM is not the water authority and not responsible for managing water resources, according to Aluwani they have engaged the Department of Water and Sanitation and made recommendations, which include among others the temporary abstraction of water directly



A view of Tzaneen Dam

from the river downstream of the dam and the release water from Ebenezer dam to boost Tzaneen dam.

In the meantime, residents are advised to adhere to the Water restriction notice that was issued in November 2018. The notice is available on the GTM website [www.greatertzaneen.gov.za](http://www.greatertzaneen.gov.za)

To conserve water, watering of gardens and hose-pipe car washing are two major issues restricted by the municipality.

# WETLAND DAY IN LEPHEPHANE

By Patricia Muchabi

In February of every year, the World celebrates Wetland Day. This year, the Greater Tzaneen municipality also joined in the celebrations with an event at Lephepane Village on the 21st of February 2019.

Wetland day is meant to create awareness of wetland values and its benefits and also to promote the conversation and wise use of wetlands.

“Wetlands are very important and contribute massively to our economy, as stakeholders let’s stop water, land and air pollution”. Said Daniel Mathole from Limpopo economic development, environment and tourism.

Lephepane was selected to host the event due to the size of its wetland area. Pupils from nearby schools and stakeholders were taken on a tour to inspect the wetlands.

Makhawani Nthlemo said, “Wetlands must be taken care of, alien plants like Lantana, morning glory plants, guava tree, and paraffin tree are not good for wetlands, some are poisons and some consume a lot of water and should be removed”. Pupils from schools such as Mathlane high, Lephepane primary, Mogobe primary, Craigheid, and Lese-ka formed part of the celebration.



A representative from DEDET addressing people during a visit to a wetland

Tinyiko Chabalala from LEDET taught the learners about the dangers of cutting trees and burning of things. “Burning of clothes and trees causes climate change and that is one of the reasons our seasons are no longer consistent. Chabalala said that wetlands can also play an important role in the approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation. He said that wetlands can help in climate

change through capturing and storing carbon to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases. He said this can provide resilience to hazards such as flooding, storm surge, and sea level rise.

Smanga Maponya a grade 10 learner from Mathlane High School said: “I have learnt the importance of wetlands and the methods of preserving them”.

# GTM SPORTS TO COMPETE IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality’ Sports Club (GTMSC) will this year take its athletes to Lusaka in Zambia to compete in the annual Southern Africa Inter-Municipal Games (SAIMG). The municipality will take about 115 of its members to the games which are expected to attract 100 municipalities from the SADC region.

Municipalities from South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana, and Zambia will compete in various sporting codes including among others, soccer, netball, volleyball, darts, golf, fishing, table tennis, and pool.

The games which are held annually under the auspices of the Southern

Africa Inter-Municipal Sports Association (SAIMSA) will be held in Zambia for the very first time.

Somisa Mathebula, the secretary of GTMSC and Simon Sebopetsa, the chairperson have already visited Lusaka to prepare for the team. “We have been to Lusaka and we have already secured accommodation.” Said Somisa.

According to Somisa a 40% deposit has already been paid. The games will take place from 22 to 27 September 2019. The GTM team will leave on 20 September and will travel the 1800 km for two days.

The last edition of the games was hosted by Manzini, Swaziland where the



Somisa Mathebula is the Secretary of the GTM Sports Club.

municipality won gold in golf. GTMSC has competed in Windhoek, Maseru, Maputo, Mafikeng, Middleburg, and East London. SAIMSA is led by Sam Rameetse as its President. Rameetse is an employee of the GTM.



# **GREATER TZANEEN MUNICIPALITY**

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