

LENTŠU NEWS

Edition 1

MAYOR'S 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM MESSAGE **P.21**

Her Worship Mayor, Clr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase

From Dreams to Harvest: Municipality Cultivates Youth Enterprise in Ward 26 and Ga-Moretsele

PAGE

8

Queen Botsetse Kgaphola: From Mamone Village to Miss South Africa Disability 2025

PAGE

22

PAGE

6

TOP STORY

Makhuduthamaga Launches Registering Authority as Service Delivery Gains Momentum



**Unqualified
Audit Opinion**
2024/2025



MAKHUDUTHAMAGA
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Mmogo re Šomela diphetogo



UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION ACHIEVED



The Auditor-General of South Africa issued Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality with an **Unqualified Audit Opinion** for the 2024–2025 financial year.

A Strong and Reliable Indicator of Future Success

7 years of Consistent Audit Outcomes

Cllr. Merah Mahlase

Mayor of Makhuduthamaga
Local Municipality



VISION

A catalyst of integrated community driven service delivery.

MISSION

To strive towards service excellence.

To enhance robust community based planning.

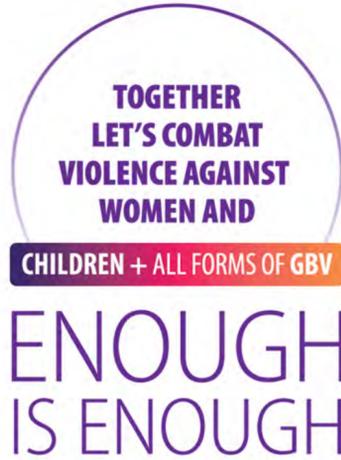
To ensure efficient and effective consultation and communication with all municipal stakeholders.

Mmogo re šomela diphetogo



Editors' Note

Thomas J Mashabela
Communications Officer



The Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality received multiple recognition awards at the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Municipal Awards 2023-2024 held in Bela-Bela on 13 March 2025.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor

Thomas J Mashabela

Writers

Thomas J Mashabela
Tlhologelo Masemola (Intern)

Photographers

Vivian Thamaga
Dimpho Makgwale (Intern)
Lotanang Mogoba (Intern)
Given Phaahla (Intern)
Tlhologelo Masemola (Intern)

Marketing and Distribution

Vivian Thamaga
Given Phaahla (Intern)
Dimpho Makgwale (Intern)

CONTACTS

Tel : 013 265 8600
Fax : 013 265 1975

Physical Address

1 Groblersdal Road
Jane Furse
1085

Postal Address

Private Bag X434
Jane Furse
1085

LENTSU NEWSLETTER is produced by the Communications, Marketing and Events Unit & published by Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality

www.makhuduthamaga.gov.za

Happy New Year to our LENTSU readers, and welcome to another thrilling edition of our quarterly newsletter, which keeps you up to date on the municipality's developments from the first and second quarters of the financial year 2025-2026.

Top among the developments is the official activation of the Jane Furse Registering Authority (RA) satellite office, which is a great step toward enhancing the accessibility and efficiency of vehicle and motorcycle registration services (*Page 6*). Youth and sports development initiatives sparked focus in the previous two quarters.

From stimulating young potential through Career EXPO, taking action against drug use through sport to showcasing and visiting municipality-funded local SMMEs through Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality funding and support programmes. The support visits to Makhuduthamaga Youth Fund beneficiaries marked substantial efforts and a commitment made by the fund's steering committee to project monitoring and evaluation processes.

Mayor Merah Mahlase and her Executive Committee continued to provide leadership over the implementation of Council programs and the IDP during the previous financial year 2024-2025, resulting in the Municipality maintaining an Unqualified Audit Opinion for the 7th season consecutively. These achievements distinguish Makhuduthamaga as a reputable and trustworthy institution on public resources.

Dive into it.

WHAT'S MORE INSIDE

Mayor Spearheads Transport Month Awareness Campaign **PAGE 16**

Mayor Mahlase Leads Hands-On Road Rehabilitation **PAGE 18**

Makhuduthamaga Runners Shine at Comrades Marathon 2025 **PAGE 25**

Makhuduthamaga Mayor's Marathon 2025: A Rising Force **PAGE 26**

Municipality, SAPS Takes Action Against Drug Use Through Sport **PAGE 28**



Maišane Ronald Moganedi, Municipal Manager

DRIVING PERFORMANCE TO NEW HEIGHTS

It is my honour to present the 2025/2026 Second Quarter Overview, reflecting a period in which Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality demonstrated operational excellence and a renewed sense of purpose. This quarter stands out as a defining moment in our journey toward modern, people-centred governance — where strategic decisions translated into visible progress and long-term development goals began taking shape.

The second quarter was marked by disciplined performance, strengthened coordination, and major advancements on high-impact projects that will shape the municipality's development for years to come. Central to these achievements is progress on the Sekhukhune Government Offices Precinct, following its Township Establishment approval by the Sekhukhune Joint District Municipal Planning Tribunal (SJDMP). This remains one of the most transformative developments in recent years, paving the way for a centralised hub of government services designed to improve accessibility, enhance efficiency, and stimulate local economic activity.

Building on the strong foundation established in the first quarter, the municipality continued implementing its priorities in alignment with the IDP and SDBIP. Early groundwork done in the first quarter enabled several initiatives to gain momentum and record notable achievements during this period, reaffirming our commitment to structured service delivery and transparent governance.

During the second quarter, major progress was made on the Sekhukhune Government Offices Precinct, with technical, spatial, and preparatory processes now underway. Institutional systems were strengthened through the rollout of the municipal digital management platform, improving efficiency and coordination. Waste management planning expanded following the mapping of Marishane Gardens, improving operational coverage across more areas. Engagements through the Transport Forum continued to support implementation of the Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) and enhanced mobility planning.



Mr. Sekokobale Mampuru, Senior Manager for Executive Support



Ms. Nozipho Lubisi, Senior Manager for Infrastructure Development



Mr. Pakeng Matsetse, Senior Manager for Corporate Services



Mr. Kole Mthapo, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Budget and Treasury



Ms. Audrey Mashao, Senior Manager for Community Services



Ms. Kutullo Tong, Senior Manager for Economic Development & Planning



Mr. Collen Mathabatha, Deputy Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Budget and Treasury



Her Worship Mayor Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahalse presiding over the first quarter EXCO Lekgotla Performance Meeting held at the Council Chamber in Jane Furse.



Municipal Manager Mr. Ronald Moganedi presenting an overview at the first quarter EXCO Lekgotla

Community participation was further strengthened through the Dikgerekgere Tuesday Programme, which remains a vital platform for inclusive engagement.

Institutional structures and infrastructure development also advanced significantly. The MOU with the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) moved into its operational phase, improving building compliance and public safety. Traffic and law enforcement services continued to support revenue enhancement through follow-ups on warrants, summonses, and impoundments. Steady movement on the municipality's three multi-year MIG road projects ensured that infrastructure timelines remain on track, supported by progress already achieved in the first quarter.

These achievements reflect a municipality that is not only performing — but transforming. The momentum built across the first and second quarters stands as evidence of our commitment to delivering a capable, responsive, and forward-looking local government that places the needs of our communities at the centre of development.

Furthermore, as a caring and people-centred institution, the Municipality continued to prioritise the wellbeing of all employees through its ongoing Employee Wellness Programme. This quarter, staff participated in a series of wellness activities, including the recent International Men's Day engagement, which promoted men's physical and mental health, positive behaviour, and strengthened awareness around Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

These efforts follow the Women's Month wellness programme held earlier in the year, which focused on empowering women, fostering dialogue, and supporting their overall health and wellbeing. Alongside these flagship activities, employees continue to benefit from regular recreational, educational, and wellness initiatives designed to build unity, boost morale, and cultivate a healthy, supported, and motivated workforce that remains committed to delivering quality services to our communities. "Our focus is clear: building a municipality that delivers efficiently, inclusively, and sustainably for every resident."



MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LAUNCHES REGISTERING AUTHORITY AS SERVICE DELIVERY GAINS MOMENTUM

Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality has marked a major leap forward in service delivery with the activation and official launch of the new Registering Authority (RA) located at the municipal headquarters in Jane Furse. This development brings essential vehicle registration and licensing services directly to the community, eliminating the need for residents to travel long distances to Sekhukhune or Nebo licensing centres.

Municipal Manager Mr. Moganedi underscored the developmental impact of the RA, describing it as a tool that accelerates service delivery, boosts local economic activity, and opens pathways for future job creation. “This is not just a convenience — it’s a game-changer,” he said. “If we support and use it, we can expand it — and with expansion comes more jobs for our people.”



The RA, established in partnership with the Department of Transport, forms part of the municipality’s broader plan to improve convenience, strengthen revenue streams, and enhance the efficiency of public service delivery. The Satellite RA office is fully linked to the Sekhukhune Registering Authority and now provides a wide range of services, including:

- Motor vehicle and motorcycle registration
- Annual licence renewals
- Duplicate certificates
- Change-of-address services and number plate updates

The launch was attended by Mayor Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase, Speaker of Council Cllr. Judy Mphelane Nkgadima, the Chief Whip, councillors, the Municipal Manager Mr. Ronald Moganedi, and officials from the Department of Transport and the municipal transport forum.



Her Worship Mayor, Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase



Political Management Team: Municipal Manager Mr. Ronald Moganedi, Mayor Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase, Chief Whip Cllr. Mosedi Thamaga at the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Headquarters in Jane Furse.

Mayor Mahlase encouraged the community to fully utilise the new RA services to stay compliant and help strengthen municipal revenue, which is essential for sustaining basic services and expanding development. “We asked for services to become accessible. Now that they are here, we must take full advantage,” she said. “Our communities expect impactful development, and we can only meet those expectations by enhancing revenue collection and accelerating service delivery.”



Municipal Manager Mr. Ronal Moganedi



Cllr. Eric Makatsho Mosoane, Mayor Cllr. Merah Mahlase and Cllr. Tabane Peter Rankoe



Council Speaker Cllr. Judy Mphelane



Chief Whip Cllr. Mosedi Thamaga



Senior Manager for Community Services Ms. Audry Mashao



The PMT, EXCO and Senior Management led by Her Worship Mayor, Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase during the activation of Jane Furse RA satellite office

FROM DREAMS TO HARVEST:

MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY CULTIVATES YOUTH ENTERPRISE IN WARD 26 AND GA-MORETSELE



Toka Lentsoane, young farmer from Ga-Moretsele Village



Lefa Mashiloane, young farmer from Ga-Mampana Thabeng Village

In a shining example of responsive governance and youth empowerment, the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality is transforming local ambition into economic progress—one farm at a time. This vision is embodied by the stories of young entrepreneurs Lefa Mashiloane and Toka Lentsoane, both 26, whose

agricultural enterprises have flourished thanks to the Municipality's unwavering support. **Lefa Mashiloane – Diatla ga di bewe, Ga-Mampana Thabeng Village:** What began in 2020 as an informal initiative to address food insecurity and unemployment has, through the intervention of the Municipality's



SMME support and funding initiative, grown into a registered and thriving agri-business. Mashiloane's determination met its turning point when the Municipality stepped in, offering more than encouragement—they provided the essential tools to succeed.

Through the Economic Development and Planning Department (LED Unit), the Municipality helped Mashiloane formalise his operations, registering his business in May 2021. Support continued into the 2024-2025 financial year with the provision of:

- **A borehole and water reservoir for reliable irrigation**
- **Full drip irrigation system and hose pipes**
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for safe farm work**
- **Agricultural tools and essential chemicals**

This package of support transformed Diatla ga di bewe from a survival-based garden into a scalable enterprise, supplying fresh produce to local supermarkets and contributing meaningfully to the local economy. Today, the farm employs four permanent staff and several seasonal workers, all recruited from the local community.

Mayor Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase praised Mashiloane's achievements: "This is a testament to the power of intentional municipal intervention. By investing in youth-led ventures and unlocking access to resources, Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality continues to demonstrate how government can play a direct and positive role in transforming communities."

Toka Lentsoane – Strong Origins, Moretsele Village: At just 26, Toka Lentsoane is proving that with determination and support, dreams can grow into success. After approaching the Municipality's Economic Development and Planning Department (LED Office) for assistance, Lentsoane received critical support through the SMME Support and Funding programme. His farm, Strong Origins, benefited from a borehole, irrigation system, water reservoir, PPE, and farming tools, transforming a

system, water reservoir, PPE, and farming tools, transforming a small project into a productive and growing enterprise. Before receiving funding, rising production costs and water expenses hindered growth. With the Municipality's support, Lentsoane was able to reduce costs, reinvest in operations, and expand production. Strong Origins now operates a nursery for seedlings, alongside productive cabbage, spinach, and tomato plots, supplying local retail stores. The farm employs six permanent staff, with additional temporary workers during planting and harvest seasons.

Lentsoane emphasizes the broader community impact:

"We're trying by all means to close the gap of unemployment in our community. As the farm expands, we see ourselves creating even more jobs for local people. I'm grateful to the Municipality for believing in me and other young farmers."

Other Beneficiaries of 2024-2025 SMME Funding Programme. Three additional local businesses received financial assistance, expanding trade and reducing operational costs:

1. Lwale Upholstery PTY (Ltd) –

Printing and Branding, Jane Furse

2. Maphelo Farmers Primary Co-operation –

Agricultural Farming, Mathibeng Village

3. Diatla Gadi Bewe Enterprise PTY (Ltd) –

Agricultural Farming, Ga-Mampana Thabeng Village

Mayor Mahlase congratulated all four SMME beneficiaries and reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to supporting and monitoring these businesses, highlighting the importance of empowering youth-led enterprises to drive local economic growth, food security, and sustainable rural development.



MAKHUDUTHAMAGA YOUTH FUND: EMPOWERING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ACROSS THE MUNICIPALITY

The Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, under the leadership of Mayor Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase, in partnership with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), continues to empower young entrepreneurs through the

Makhuduthamaga Youth Fund (MYF). This initiative provides financial support, mentorship, and guidance to youth-owned businesses, enabling sustainable growth, job creation, and local economic development. On the 18th August 2025, MLM and

and NYDA officials launched on-site review visits to MYF beneficiaries across multiple wards. The visits continued on the 21 August 2025, providing an opportunity to verify funding distribution, assess progress, and offer mentorship to youth entrepreneurs. These engagements reflect the Municipality's ongoing commitment to ensuring that no young entrepreneur is left behind.



MAYOR MAHLASE'S MESSAGE

"The youth of Makhuduthamaga are a driving force for change. Through the MYF and our partnership with NYDA, we are creating opportunities for young people to turn innovative ideas into sustainable businesses. These initiatives empower youth, generate employment, and strengthen our local economy. With continuous support, mentorship, and funding, our young entrepreneurs will continue to inspire and uplift our communities."

SOME OF THE BENEFICIARIES



Rolious Mokiri – Wajarat Holdings (Pty) Ltd

Location: Madibong Village, Jane Furse, Funding: MYF Threshold 2 Funding

Business: Pig farming – hormone-free pork

Impact: Rolious started at a young age and has grown his business into a sustainable agribusiness. His enterprise creates jobs and supports community development. He also mentors other aspiring agripreneurs.



Pretty Hunadi Phetla – Pretty Poultry Farm (Pty) Ltd

Location: Dihlabaneng Village, Funding: R20,328.00

Business: Broiler poultry production

Impact: Pretty Poultry began with a single 400-bird house in 2023 and now supplies local consumers, street vendors, and resellers. The business employs youth, has expanded production, and demonstrates the power of women-led enterprises in economic development.



Manaswe Sebutswa Makola – SBU the Decor Expert (Pty) Ltd

Location: Ga-Mashabela Village, Funding: MYF Threshold 2 Funding,

Business: Event and cleaning services

Impact: Support from the MYF enabled Makola to purchase equipment and supplies, improve service quality, expand operations, and hire an additional employee, showing the ripple effect of youth funding.



Nonetse Makena – Shakushaku Trading (Pty) Ltd

Location: Phokwane Village, Funding: R40,532.66,

Business: Cleaning products and services

Impact: Nonetse's business now provides cleaning services to schools, lodges, and private institutions. Funding allowed him to expand stock and strengthen market presence, creating more jobs and local economic activity.



Gladwin Moroba – Moroba Investments (Pty) Ltd

Location: Manganeng Village, Funding: R35,447.45, Business: Broiler chickens and manure production

Impact: Gladwin completes a full six-week production cycle. His business contributes to food security, generates income, and provides skills development opportunities within the community.

The Makhuduthamaga Youth Fund continues to demonstrate that investing in young people is investing in the future of the municipality. The success stories of Rolious, Pretty, Manaswe, Nonetse, and Gladwin show that with the right support, dedication, and vision, young people can transform their ideas into thriving businesses that benefit entire communities.



Mayor Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase, Senior Manager for Economic Development and Planning Ms. Kutullo Tong and council members on a walkabout around Business EXPO stalls

MAKHUDUTHAMAGA BUSINESS EXPO 2025: A DAY OF OPPORTUNITIES AND COLLABORATION

Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality hosted a dynamic Business EXPO in December at Boeketlong, outside Jane Furse, bringing together local entrepreneurs, development institutions, and community stakeholders to learn, network, and grow.

Her Worship Mayor Councillor Merah Mahlase led the event, delivering a powerful keynote address that highlighted the municipality's economic development prospects in line with the IDP strategic goals under the theme "Revitalizing the Local Economy through Inclusivity, Partnerships, and Innovation."

The Mayor was accompanied by Speaker of Council Cllr. Judy Mphelane-Nkgadima, EXCO Member and Portfolio Head of Economic Development and Planning (EDP) Cllr. Eric Makatishe Mosoane, Municipal Manager Mr. Ronald Moganedi, Senior Manager for EDP Ms Kutullo Tong, Portfolio Chairpersons Cllr. Howard Piltjo and Cllr. Zachariah Thokwane, as well as other senior managers and councillors.

The Mayor was accompanied by Speaker of Council Cllr. Judy Mphelane-Nkgadima, EXCO Member and Portfolio Head of Economic Development and Planning (EDP) Cllr. Eric Makatishe Mosoane, Municipal Manager Mr. Ronald Moganedi, Senior Manager for EDP Ms Kutullo Tong, Portfolio Chairpersons Cllr. Howard Piltjo and Cllr. Zachariah Thokwane, as well as other senior managers and councillors.

Presentations from the Fetakgomo Tubatse Special Economic Zone, Sekhukhune District Municipality, NYDA, SEDFA, Limpopo Provincial Treasury, and the Limpopo Economic Development Agency provided entrepreneurs with practical guidance on funding, training, and business development.

Mayor Mahlase encouraged participants to see the municipality as a partner in growth, emphasizing that local businesses are key to Makhuduthamaga's prosperity. Her words set a motivating tone for the day, reminding entrepreneurs of the opportunities available when they engage with the municipality and its partners.

Entrepreneurs, energized by the Mayor's address and interactions, expressed gratitude for the EXPO. Many said it was an invaluable opportunity to connect, network, and gain new insights, highlighting how rare it is to be in a space where so many resources and experts are available in one place.

The EXPO also included interactive commission discussions, allowing entrepreneurs to explore challenges, opportunities, and collaborations. The event reinforced that small businesses are the backbone of the local economy, leaving attendees motivated, informed, and ready to grow. Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality: Turning local potential into local power.

FUTURE STARTS HERE: MAKHUDUTHAMAGA CAREER EXPO IGNITES YOUTH POTENTIAL



In a bold and inspiring move to light the path for the next generation, the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality officially hosted its inaugural Career Exhibition 2025, an event dedicated to unlocking doors for youth development and career readiness. The EXPO, held across Masemola High School in Ga-Masemola and Bopedi Bapedi High School in Ga-Marishane, brought together learners, educators, and institutions under one roof to ignite dreams and spark a future filled with possibilities.

Organised in partnership with the Departments of Higher Education, Basic Education, and key government agencies, the event was designed to bridge the gap between ambition and access. Institutions including NSFAS, University of Limpopo, Tompi Seleka Agricultural College, Tshwane South TVET College, Eskom, Jane Furse College, Jane Furse Hospital, and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) provided learners with vital information on funding, study opportunities, and career pathways. One of the most memorable moments of the

EXPO was the motivational address by Dr. Phogole Maphosa, a proud product of Makhuduthamaga's bursary programme and native of Ga-Malaka village.

Her personal story of perseverance moved the audience as she urged learners to take advantage of available opportunities, apply for funding, and stay true to their goals. The exhibition was also enriched by messages of encouragement from Masemola Young Professionals (MYP) and Nebo Career Expo, who emphasised the importance of seeking help and using every resource to navigate the future successfully.

Cllr. Mochidi Horwad Pitjo, Chairperson for the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio, closed the Masemola leg of the EXPO on behalf of Mayor Cllr. Merah Mahlase, offering an empowering speech to the youth. "Today is more than a career exhibition — it's a declaration that we are investing in your future. Use the information you've received, take initiative, and never be afraid to dream beyond your circumstances."

The second edition of the EXPO, hosted at Bopedi Bapedi High School in Ga-Marishane, echoed the same energy and purpose. There, learners received career insights from organisations such as CATHSSETA, presented by Violet Machaka, and Eskom Jane Furse Hub, represented by Kholofelo Maboko, who showcased various Eskom career paths.

Ward 26 Councillor Paul Lethuba, who addressed the learners on behalf of the Mayor at the Ga-Marishane event, applauded the municipality's forward-thinking approach to youth development.

"This is how we grow a generation that is informed, empowered, and ready to shape the future." The Makhuduthamaga Career EXPO 2025 is more than an event — it's a movement. A movement to educate, to empower, and to uplift. With each edition, the municipality reaffirms its commitment to opening pathways and ensuring that every young person has the chance to succeed.

As the sun set on this landmark occasion, one thing was clear: the future has arrived, and it begins here — in the classrooms, minds, and dreams of Makhuduthamaga's youth.



Mmaphasoane Elsina Njana, an engineer at the Municipality and a former beneficiary of the Municipal Bursary





Cllr. Papan Ezekiel Morodi providing support at the registrations roadshow



MAKHUDUTHAMAGA SUPPORTS LEARNERS THROUGH TERTIARY APPLICATIONS ROADSHOW 2025

The Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, under the leadership of Mayor Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase and with support from the Youth Office, successfully rolled out the Tertiary Applications Roadshow 2025 to assist Grade 12 learners with applying to universities and colleges.

The programme began at Sebase Secondary School in Mashite Village, where learners received hands-on guidance with completing tertiary applications, as well as information on bursaries, funding opportunities, and career advice. A number of young people who had previously missed application deadlines were also supported, ensuring that no learner was left behind. The response from learners was overwhelmingly positive. "We appreciate this help because we know how difficult it

is for us to get such assistance," said one participant. Following the launch, the roadshow was extended from 4 to 8 August 2025, reaching additional schools and providing application support to over 180 learners and former learners during the first five days. The Youth Office will continue visits to more schools, including Mangolwane, Malekutu, Maphadime, Molebedi, and Lekoko Secondary Schools, ensuring broader access to guidance for all students in the municipality. Mayor Mahlase reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to empowering youth: "Supporting our learners in accessing tertiary education is an investment in the future of our communities. Initiatives like this ensure that young people have the tools and guidance they need to succeed."



MAYOR SPEARHEADS TRANSPORT MONTH CAMPAIGN, REITERATES COMMITMENT TO LAW AND ORDER ON THE ROADS



On the 29th of October 2025, the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Mayor, Councillor Masekwele Merah Mahlase spearheaded the Transport Month Awareness Campaign at the Moratiwa Shopping Centre's Fourways in Monsterlus, which aimed to ensure vehicle roadworthiness, raise public awareness, and promote a safe transportation system. The campaign proceeded with a roadblock operation involving Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality traffic police, which was overseen by Superintendent Sydney Masemola, provincial traffic police department, Hlogotlou SAPS officers supervised by

Station Commander Lt. Colonel Masimene MR and other law enforcement agencies. Over 15 motorists were issued penalties for violating traffic laws during the roadblock. Makhuduthamaga traffic officers have issued 117 tickets since the start of the October Transport Month operations, and 5 vehicles were impounded across the municipal area for various violations, including operating for reward without valid operating licenses, obstructing traffic flow, failing to comply with traffic officer instructions, and crossing red traffic lights, among others. The Municipal Council is investing resources to improve law and

order in all nodal areas, with a strong focus on Jane Furse town. The Municipality previously acquired the K78 traffic system and has lately added a vehicle impoundment truck to strengthen law enforcement efforts and expand municipal revenue streams.

Interacting with motorists, Mayor Merah Mahlase reminded them that transportation safety begins with everyone obeying the laws, cooperating with officers, and behaving responsibly. She urged road users to commit themselves to safer roads, responsible driving, and protecting every life on roadways.

The Mayor was accompanied by members of her Executive Committee (EXCO), including Portfolio Head of Community Services Cllr. Tabane Peter Rankoe, Deputy Portfolio of Infrastructure Development (ID) Cllr. Makanyoge Morwamakoti, Chair of Chairs Cllr. Thabitha Selala, Ward Cllr. Samokobe Vilakazi, Municipal Manager Mr. Ronald Moganedi, Senior Manager for Community Services Ms. Audrey Mashao, Senior Manager for Executive Support Mr. Sekokobale Mampuru, and other councillors and officials.





Deputy Portfolio Head of Infrastructure Development Cllr. Morwamakoti Makanyoge, Mayor, Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase, Chief Whip Cllr. Mosedi Thamaga together with EPWP workers.



MAYOR MAHLASE LEADS HANDS-ON ROAD REHABILITATION ACROSS MAKHUDUTHAMAGA

Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, under the direct leadership of Mayor Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase, continues to deliver on its commitment to improving rural infrastructure through the ongoing Dikgerekgere Tuesdays Programme. The initiative brings the Mayor and municipal teams directly into communities to rehabilitate critical roads and restore safe access for residents.

Mayor Mahlase has led interventions across several key areas:

- Vleeschboom (Ward 04 – Katlegong and Witbank sections): Roads were regavelled, reshaped, and compacted, focusing on streets near the supermarket and petrol station to ensure daily access for residents.
- Ga-Mokadi (Ward 15 – Ga-Maila Mapitsane community):

Maintenance teams graded, bladed, and compacted 3.5 km of road to enhance mobility and access to public services.

- Ward 23 (Maila Segolo, Dinotši, and Mathibeng villages): Regravelling and stabilisation addressed severe erosion and weather damage, improving safety and service delivery along this important rural route.
- Dichoeung Village (Ward 18): Roads leading to the local clinic, Matsebong Secondary School, Eskom Substation, and cemetery received upgrades to support health, education, and essential services.

The Mayor was supported by EXCO Members Cllr. Makatishe Eric Mosoane and Cllr. Makanyoge Morwamakoti, Speaker Cllr. Judy Mphelane-Nkgadima, Chief Whip Cllr. Mosedi Thamaga, ward councillors, EPWP workers, plant operators, and ward

committee members. Their collaboration reflects a strong commitment to transparent and community-driven service delivery.

Speaking on-site, Mayor Mahlase said: "Good roads are the veins of development. Dikgerekgere Tuesdays is about restoring dignity, ensuring safe access, and bringing services closer to our people. We are moving ward by ward, making sure no community is left behind."

Residents across all four wards welcomed the Mayor's hands-on leadership, expressing gratitude for the visible improvements and improved access to essential services. Work will continue weekly as the Municipality prioritises the most critical and damaged internal roads. Dikgerekgere Tuesdays — rebuilding roads, restoring access, and strengthening communities under the leadership of Mayor Mahlase.



Mayor, Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase





MAKHUDUTHAMAGA MUNICIPALITY BRINGS ID SERVICES CLOSER TO RESIDENTS



The Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, in partnership with the Department of Home Affairs, has successfully concluded a community outreach programme that made Smart ID card applications and collections easily accessible to residents across several wards.

Led by the Speaker of Council, Cllr. Judy Nkgadima, the initiative focused on reaching youth, older persons, and communities in remote areas. Multiple venues, including community halls, schools, sports grounds and tribal offices—were used to ensure maximum convenience for residents.

Hundreds of people attended the sessions, with strong turnouts recorded in Wards 30 and 31. Many residents welcomed the effort, noting how the programme reduced travel costs and brought essential services right to their doorstep.

“This outreach ensured that no one was left behind,” said Cllr. Nkgadima. “We are proud to have assisted so many residents who can now access education, employment, and government services through valid identification.”

The municipality reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening service delivery through partnerships that prioritise community needs. The programme was a resounding success, with a strong turnout from both young people and older citizens. Youth arrived enthusiastically to apply for their first Smart ID cards, embracing their role as active and empowered citizens. Older residents also made their way to the venue, many of them updating their traditional green ID books to the modern Smart Card system, grateful for the opportunity to do so without travelling far.

The outreach brought essential services closer to the people, especially for those who often face challenges accessing government offices. What stood out most was the spirit of cooperation and the shared understanding that these services matter deeply in people’s everyday lives. With the programme set to continue in other villages in the coming months, residents are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this golden opportunity. Whether you need a new ID, a replacement, or want to register to vote—this programme is for everyone.



MAKHUDUTHAMAGA
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

MAKHUDUTHAMAGA STANDS UNITED IN SAYING 'NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN'

Let us protect, speak out, report abuse, and support survivors. Together, we can build a safer, caring community for all.

Mayor Cllr. Merah Mahlase



Letsema: Men, Women, Boys and Girls working together to end Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF)



QUEEN BOTSEETSE KGAPHOLA: FROM MAMONE VILLAGE TO MISS SOUTH AFRICA DISABILITY 2025

Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality proudly celebrates one of its brightest stars, Queen Botsetse Kgaphola, affectionately known as Queen B, who has made history as a finalist and winner of Miss South Africa Disability 2025. Botsetse, 29, hails from Mamone Village, Jane Furse, and has overcome tremendous challenges with courage and resilience. Six years ago, she was diagnosed with epilepsy, which affected her mobility, but she refused to let her condition define her future. Instead, she rose above adversity, embracing her passions for singing opera, cooking, and dancing, while also participating in a poultry farming learnership, building skills for economic independence.

Her journey to national recognition began in earnest when she entered the Miss South Africa Disability 2025 Pageant, a platform that celebrates the talents, confidence, and leadership of women with disabilities. The pageant was not just about beauty, but also about inspiring others and breaking barriers for inclusivity.

Support from her community played a pivotal role. On 28 August 2025, during the last day of the Ward Committee Conference, the Political Management Team (PMT), led by Speaker of Council Cllr. Judy Mphelane-Nkgadima, Chief Whip Cllr. Mosedi Thamaga, ward councillors, and committee members joined hands to support Botsetse by contributing toward her votes. In a single day, she received approximately 4,000 votes, a remarkable demonstration of belief and solidarity from her community.

Mayor Cllr. Merah Mahlase described Queen B as a phenomenal young woman and a modern embodiment of the spirit of the 1956 women's awakening, emphasizing that her victory is not only personal but symbolic for the wider community: "She has faced her fears and broken barriers; let us celebrate her success, which connects and inspires other members of the disability population."

Through sheer determination, talent, and community backing, Botsetse rose through the competition, ultimately winning Miss South Africa Disability 2025. Her achievement is a testament to the power of perseverance, hope, and support networks, showing that challenges can be transformed into triumphs.

Botsetse continues to inspire as a role model for young people, women, and persons with disabilities across Makhuduthamaga and South Africa. Her message is clear: "Disability is not inability. Let us rise, let us unite, and let our voices be heard!" The Municipality salutes Queen Botsetse Kgaphola for her remarkable achievement and celebrates her as a beacon of hope, resilience, and pride for Makhuduthamaga. Her journey reminds us that with determination, community support, and vision, dreams can indeed become reality.



BONNIE CRYSTAL SHINES BRIGHT: MAKHUDUTHAMAGA'S GOSPEL STAR WINS BIG AT INGOMA AWARDS



Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality proudly celebrates Bonnie Mogale, better known as Bonnie Crystal, an Assistant Librarian at Ga-Phaahla Library and a rising gospel artist. Bonnie recently won the Best Upcoming Gospel Artist Award at the 6th Annual Mzansi Arts and Media Awards, where she stood out as the only Limpopo nominee in her category.

This national recognition follows her earlier win as Best Gospel Artist at the Sekhukhune Recognition Awards. Her growing success reflects her dedication both as a public servant and as an inspirational vocalist. Mayor Cllr. Merah Mahlase congratulated Bonnie, saying her achievements bring pride to the entire municipality and showcase the power of passion, talent, and service.

A true example of community-rooted excellence, Bonnie continues to uplift others—whether through books or through song. Congratulations, Bonnie Crystal!

MAKHUDUTHAMAGA RUNNERS SHINE AT COMRADES MARATHON 2025 – JOHANNES MOSEHLA (83) BREAKS RECORD



Athletes from across Makhuduthamaga proudly showcased their endurance at the Comrades Marathon 2025, with unforgettable performances by veteran Johannes Maros Mosehla and the flying finisher Mpho Gift Madihlaba. In a historic and awe-inspiring moment for the nation, running icon Johannes Maros Mosehla of Ga-Mogashoa village, Sekhukhune, Limpopo, cemented his legendary status by completing the 2025 Comrades Marathon at the remarkable age of 83. He extends his reign as the oldest

Marathon finisher — a title he claimed in 2023 when he broke Wally Hayward's long-standing 1989 record (set at age 80). A proud product of the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Mosehla has now completed the Comrades Marathon 12 times, having started his journey at age 63.

His story continues to inspire generations of runners across Limpopo and beyond. Also raising the Makhuduthamaga flag high was Mpho Gift Madihlaba from Ga-Moloi village, who finished as the first athlete from our municipality to cross the line. Gift is affiliated with one of the area's registered athletics clubs, showcasing the competitive spirit and discipline found in the Makhuduthamaga Athletics Club (MAC) and MASA Athletics Club.

These clubs continue to develop runners who represent our municipality at the national level. "On behalf of the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our athletes who participated in the 2025 Comrades Marathon. Your determination and discipline have made us proud. Special honour goes to Ntate Johannes Maros Mosehla, whose strength and spirit continue to inspire South Africa and the world. You are all champions in our eyes, and your achievements speak volumes about the talent and resilience found in our communities," said Mayor Merah Mahlase.

Their efforts highlight the depth of athletic talent within our local municipality. This year's race was more than a competition — it was a celebration of the resilience, determination, and excellence of Makhuduthamaga's people. From the youngest first-timers to a legendary 83-year-old veteran, our athletes once again showed that greatness is not defined by age or geography, but by heart.



MAKHUDUTHAMAGA MAYOR'S MARATHON 2025: A RISING FORCE IN ROAD RUNNING

A full story is on the next page.





The 2025 Makhuduthamaga Mayor’s Marathon, hosted by Makhuduthamaga Athletics Club (MAC) in partnership with the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, took place on 15 November at the Jane Furse Artificial Pitch. With thousands of athletes participating in the 5km, 10km, 21km, and 42km races, the event continues its impressive growth, boosted by its status as an official Comrades Marathon qualifier and an increased presence of international runners.

The event received strong support from leadership, with the MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture Hon Jerry Maseko and visiting Maruleng Local Municipality Mayor Cllrs. Musolwa Tshoko Calais—including his municipal senior officials—joining the festivities. The Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Cllr. Merah Mahlase, presented the race results and applauded MAC for its commitment to developing athletics in the region. She further encouraged the continuation and expansion of sporting activities to empower youth, build community cohesion, and stimulate economic growth within the municipality.

RACE HIGHLIGHTS AND AGES

- **10km Men:**
 - 1st: Given Makgoba (25) – 00:36:05
 - 2nd: Paseka Mohlesa (24) – 00:36:39
 - 3rd: Adam Thobejane (17) – 00:36:51 (youngest in the men’s

- **10km Women:**
 - 1st: Evidence Mudzamiri (28) – 00:49:27
 - 2nd: Makoma Batji (32) – 00:52:06
 - 3rd: Phemelo Evidence Madigage (15) – 00:54:50 (youngest overall in the 10km race)
- **21km Men:**
 - 1st: Thabang Masihleho (35) – 01:07:39
 - 2nd: Jackson Ole Koisenge (34) – 01:07:59
 - 3rd: Silvester Kipkemboi (26) – 01:12:30
- **21km Women:**
 - 1st: Rosaline Magagane (32) – 01:33:21
 - 2nd: Thul Mbatlha (51) – 01:44:05 (oldest podium finisher in this category)
 - 3rd: Mmatlou Phokungwana (38) – 01:50:03
- **42km Men:**
 - 1st: Katlego Motseta (21) – 02:32:56 (youngest podium finisher in the 42km)
 - 2nd: Peter Muthubi (44) – 02:32:59
 - 3rd: Kgotlelelo Lekalakala (36) – 02:34:08
- **42km Women:**
 - 1st: Gladys Jepchirchir (45) – 03:04:37
 - 2nd: Elizabeth Jeruiyot Chemweno (47) – 03:11:33
 - 3rd: Annie Chirisa (39) – 03:32:50

The marathon also celebrated the inspiring participation of senior athletes aged 60 to 75, whose determination and perseverance earned heartfelt applause from the crowd, showing that athletic excellence transcends age.

Following the races, participants and spectators enjoyed community-focused activities, including aerobics sessions to stretch and recover, and a vibrant space for local businesses to showcase products. These post-marathon activities promoted healthy living, social connection, and local enterprise.

Acknowledging Challenges: The marathon experienced higher-than-expected participation, which led to temporary shortages of medals and t-shirts. Organizers have acknowledged this and committed to ensuring sufficient supplies for future editions.

Appreciation is extended to the race organisers, traffic officers, SAPS officers, EMS, including security cluster stakeholders, volunteers, sponsors, running clubs, and all community members whose contribution ensured the safety and success of the marathon. The 2025 edition highlighted the strength of the partnership between MAC and the Municipality and confirmed that the Mayor’s Marathon is becoming one of Limpopo’s most promising annual sporting highlights.



MAKHUDUTHAMAGA MUNICIPALITY AND SAPS TAKES ACTION AGAINST DRUG USE THROUGH SPORT



In a strong community-centered initiative to combat drug abuse, the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, in collaboration with the South African Police Service (SAPS), hosted an exciting Top 10 Tournament Against Drug Abuse at Kgahlana-morulana Secondary School in Ward 4 yesterday. The program brought together ten local school teams from all five SAPS policing areas across the Municipality in a friendly but competitive environment, all united by a common goal: raising awareness and taking a stand against drug abuse. The tournament featured both soccer and netball matches, giving learners an opportunity to showcase their sporting talent while promoting healthy, drug-free lifestyles through active participation in sport. Member of the Executive Committee and Head of the

Portfolio for Community Services, Councillor Tabane Peter Rankoe, officiated over the challenge's opening and shared a message of support on behalf of Mayor Merah Mahlase. Councillor Rankoe who was joined by Ward Councillor Thembi Belina Malatjie, SAPS officials and other councillors, emphasized the importance of community partnerships in combating the prevalent issue of drug abuse among young people and commended the ongoing collaboration between the Municipality, SAPS, and the Department of Education in the district.

SOCCKER Participating Teams:

- SAPS Sekhukhune with Sefogole Sepeke Secondary School and Tshehlwaneng Secondary School



- Nebo SAPS with Lekoko Secondary School and Molwetsi Secondary School
- Hlogotlou SAPS with Kgahlanamorulana High School and Maserumole Secondary School
- Jane Furse SAPS with Ngwanamatlang Secondary School and St. Mark's College

The tournament delivered thrilling moments and showcased great sportsmanship from all participating teams.

SEMI-FINAL RESULTS:

- 1st Ground: Kgahlanamorulana 3 – 0 Molwetsi Secondary School
- 2nd Ground: St. Mark's College 0 – 1 Modipadi Secondary School

FINAL MATCH:

After a tightly contested game, Kgahlanamorulana Secondary School and Modipadi Secondary School ended in a goalless draw (0-0). The match was decided through a penalty shootout, where Kgahlanamorulana emerged victorious with an 8-7 win.

NETBALL MATCH RESULTS:

First Round

- Modipadi 11 – 14 Molwetsi
- St. Mark's 17 – 5 Phoroane

- Kgahlanamorulana 3 – 14 Sefogole
- Tshehlwaneng 25 – 1 Ngwanamatlang
- Lekoko 0 – 11 Maserumole

Second Round

- Molwetsi 6 – 13 Sefogole
- St. Mark's 3 – 5 Tshehlwaneng
- Maserumole 8 – 6 Modipadi Semi-Final Results:
- Sefogole 5 – 3 Tshehlwaneng
- Maserumole 2 – 4 Molwetsi

FINAL MATCH:

- Sefogole 15 – 4 Molwetsi

The initiative not only promoted sportsmanship and unity but also served as a platform to raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse within the community. Local authorities emphasized that continuous partnerships like these help strengthen community ties and inspire young people to pursue positive lifestyles. Partnerships like this reaffirm Makhuduth-amaga's commitment to youth development and a drug-free community, proving that through teamwork and education, the fight against drug abuse can be won.



MAKHUDUTHAMAGA HOSTS THE 3RD STAGE OF THE MUNICIPAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS, HONORING LONG-SERVING OFFICIALS



Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality (MLM) recognised long-serving employees, good performing individuals and departments on 12th December 2025, at the 3rd Annual Employee Performance Awards Ceremony, which took place today at the Peter Nchabeleng Community Hall in the Schoonoord Cluster.

The awards are part of the Employee Wellness Program and align with the municipality's performance management and rewards system, as well as departmental and individual performance targets outlined in the Service Delivery Basic Implementation Plan (SDBIP). The ceremony was graced by Her Worship, Mayor Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase, EXCO members, Portfolio Head of Corporate Services Cllr. Namudi Matjomane, Portfolio Head for Budget and Treasury Cllr. Malebo Phala, Municipal

Manager Mr. Ronald Moganedi, and the senior management team. In his remarks to employees, the Municipal Manager reflected on various service delivery milestones achieved during the financial year 2024-2025 and previous years, including development of roads, municipal infrastructure expansion, and efforts to professionalize and digitalize the local government.

LONG-SERVING EMPLOYEES AWARD:

15 Years of Consistent Service:

- Lelope LL
- Phogole MJ
- Sekwati MG
- Tsoana MI



20 Years of Consistent Service:

- Kgwale TG
- Leshaba DM
- Mphela LB
- Nobeng KS
- Sedibeng NR
- Mathibe ML
- Moblala ML

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS:

- Infrastructure Development Department (100% AGSA Action Plan Resolved)
- Infrastructure Development Department. (100% SDBIP Target Achieved in 2024-2025 Financial Year)
- Economic Development and Planning Department (100% SDBIP Target Achieved in 2024-2025 Financial Year)
- Economic Development and Planning Department (Best Performing KPA During 2024/2025 Audit Period)
- Community Services Department (Best Responsive Risk Management Register)
- Community Services Department (100% SDBIP Target Achieved)
- Corporate Services Department (Best Responsive Department in Internal Audit Findings)
- Corporate Services Department (100% SDBIP Target Achieved)

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

The best performing officials:

- Kubjane P • HIV and AIDS (Executive Support Department)
- Phogole MJ • Internal Audit (Executive Support Dept)
- Matlala PT • Risk Management (Executive Support Dept)
- Moblala LM • Supply Chain Management (Budget and Treasury Office)
- Sekwati MG • Expenditure (Budget and Treasury Office)
- Mphahlele LLK • Budget and Reporting (Budget and Treasury Office)
- Makgetlaneng MJ • CFO's Office (Budget and Treasury Office)
- Mphele TM • Revenue (Budget and Treasury Office)

- Mahlase PM • LED (Economic Development and Planning Department)
- Senong PA • Roads and Stormwater (Infrastructure Development Department)
- Lethuba MT • PMU (Infrastructure Development Department)
- Mathibe ML • Community and Social Services (Community Services Department)
- Moshabane MF • Waste Management (Community Services Department)
- Mohlala V • Traffic and Licensing (Community Services Department)
- Letshedi LR • Human Resource Management (Corporate Services Department)
- Matsimela MJ • Information Technologies (Corporate Services Department)
- Mpogeng TM • Human Resource Development (Corporate Services Department)

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S SPECIAL AWARDS:

The most resilient employees of the year:

- Maja M
- Masemola S
- Mtomboti M
- Mathabattie C
- Makgalemane TM

The most improved division of the year:

- Traffic Management Unit

The awards are part of the Employee Wellness Program and align with the municipality's performance management and rewards system, as well as departmental and individual performance targets outlined in the Service Delivery Basic Implementation Plan (SDBIP).

The ceremony was graced by Her Worship, Mayor Cllr. Masekwele Merah Mahlase, EXCO members, Portfolio Head of Corporate Services Cllr. Namudi Matjomane, Portfolio Head for Budget and Treasury Cllr. Malebo Phala, Municipal Manager Mr. Ronald Moganedi, and the senior management team.

The Municipality is working with the district, provincial government, national government, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to enhance disaster management capabilities.



WEBSITE
www.makhuduthamaga.gov.za

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Facebook - @Makhuduthamaga.gov

LinkedIn - @Makhuduthamaga.gov

YouTube - Makhuduthamaga.gov

TikTok - @Makhuduthamaga.gov

X - @Makhuduthamaga1

Mmogo re šomela diphetogo