



**2026 STATE OF THE MUNICIPAL ADDRESS (SOMA)
SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE EXECUTIVE MAYOR
CLLR NOMSA SANNY MTSWENI.**



VENUE: Ga-Morwe Community Hall

DATE : 26th August 2026

TIME : 13h00pm

Hon.Speaker

All Honourable Executive Mayors

All Honourable Speakers

All Honourable Chiefwhip

Nkangala House of traditional leaders and khoisans

All Traditional leadership (Amakhosi, Dikgosigadi and Amakhosana)

Members of the mayoral committee

Chairperson of MPAC

ANC Leadership,

All Councillor's,

Ward committee members

Our Icons Gogo noSinky, Gogo noSthokana, Gogo noSibunjwa , Nothembi Mkwebane.

All Municipal Managers present

Executive Managers

Divisional Managers

Union Rep's (IMATU & SAMWU)

All stakeholders (SAPS ,Fire and Rescue ,Traffic ,SANDF, Business forum ,Women in business forum ,IEC ,SAYC ,Public protector ,Moral regeneration movement ,StatsSA ,COGHSTA ,Local SAFA

All private sector partners

All Members of the media

All Employees

The community of the Dr JS Moroka Municipality

All protocols observed

Good evening ,

Lotjani ,

Dumelang ,

Dimashuroni

INTRODUCTION

It is a privilege and honour to deliver this State of the Municipality Address at a significant time in our national calendar. We gather during the month of August, a month that South Africans proudly commemorate as Women's Month.

As we reflect on this historic month, we pay tribute to the courageous women who led the historic Women's March to the Union Buildings in 1956. These brave women stood firmly against injustice and demonstrated remarkable courage, resilience and unity in the pursuit of freedom, dignity and equality. Their sacrifices laid a strong foundation for the democratic South Africa we enjoy today.

As we honour their legacy, we are reminded that the struggle for a better life for all remains ongoing. The women of today continue to play a pivotal role in building families, communities and the economy. Yet many women still face the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. As a municipality, we remain committed to supporting programmes that empower women, create opportunities and promote meaningful participation in economic development.

Dr JS Moroka is rich with talent, we are rich in diversity!! We proudly recognise and congratulate the women of Dr JS Moroka who have excelled on both national and international platforms. In addition to our most known international icon Gogo Esther Mahlangu, we have Dr Hellen Mmakgabo Sebidi from Marapyane, who received a prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in 2025. Her remarkable international artistic achievements and Lifetime Achievement recognition demonstrate that women from our communities can make a lasting impact on the world.

We also have Gogo Esther Sibunjwa Mnguni of Troya Trust – ward 21 of our municipality - amongst us, she is the founder of Sibunjwa Fine Art, Pottery and Beadwork, she preserves and teaches indigenous Ndebele art forms across generations. In 2023 Gogo Sibunjwa have hand-painted various antiques including a replica of Nelson Mandela's classic blue-and-white Hi-Tec tennis shoes (known as the Freedom Sneaker), a commemorative basketball for basketball legend Michael Jordan and the painting of Superga Sneaker in January this year using traditional chicken feather brushes. In 2024 ,Gogo NoSinky Sophie Mahlangu was also honoured with the Order of Ikhamanga in Silver by the Cyril Ramaphosa for her exceptional contribution to the preservation, promotion and advancement of Ndebele culture and heritage.

Their stories serve as a powerful source of inspiration, encouraging the next generation to dream big and boldly, pursue excellence, and realise their full potential.

Honourable Speaker,

Today's State of the Municipality Address also takes place on 26 August, a day that occupies an important place in the history of our country. On this day in 1960, the apartheid government declared a State of Emergency, following increased resistance against apartheid laws and the growing demand for freedom and justice.

The State of Emergency had devastating consequences for Black South Africans. Thousands of people were arrested and detained without trial under emergency regulations. Many communities lived under fear and repression as political activities were restricted and civil liberties restrained. Prominent leaders of the liberation struggle

including Chief Albert Luthuli of the African National Congress (ANC), were among those targeted and detained as the apartheid state sought to silence the voices of the oppressed.

These actions represented an attempt to crush the aspirations of the majority of South Africans. However, rather than extinguishing the struggle for freedom, they strengthened the determination of those who believed in a democratic, non-racial and inclusive South Africa. As we reflect on this chapter of our history, we pay tribute to all those who endured imprisonment, persecution and sacrifice so that future generations could enjoy the rights and freedoms enshrined in our Constitution today.

Their struggles remind us that democracy cannot be taken for granted. It must be protected, nurtured and strengthened through active citizenship, accountable governance and meaningful public participation. As a municipality, we remain committed to ensuring that the voices of our communities continue to shape the development agenda of our municipality.

THE JOURNEY OF THIS COUNCIL

Honourable Speaker,

When this Council began its term, we inherited a municipality facing significant developmental challenges.

We knew that our people needed reliable water and sanitation services. They needed better roads, access to electricity, adequate housing and land, jobs and economic opportunities, particularly for young people and women. Above all, they needed a municipality that listens and responds to their aspirations.

We did not promise that every challenge would disappear overnight. However, we made a commitment to work tirelessly, to listen attentively, and to serve the people with dedication and integrity. Today, we stand before our communities to account for that commitment and the work we have undertaken.

The journey has not been easy. We have had to work with constrained resources while responding to growing community needs and expectations.

Despite these challenges, we have continued to implement programmes, mobilise resources, build strategic partnerships, and advance critical infrastructure projects aimed at improving the lives of our residents.

As this Council approaches the conclusion of its term, we do so with the understanding that the true measure of our leadership will not be the positions we held, but the legacy we leave behind.

We want our successors to inherit a municipality that delivers services effectively, cares for its citizens, and remains committed to good governance. We want to hand over a municipality with a clean audit, sound financial management, and a solid foundation upon which future generations can continue to build.

Ultimately, our greatest achievement will be a municipality that is stronger, more responsive, and better positioned to meet the needs of its people than the one we inherited.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Honourable Speaker,

Our people must remain at the centre of municipal planning and development. No service delivery programme can succeed without sound governance, meaningful public participation, and strong partnerships with the communities we serve.

One of the important platforms through which we have taken government closer to our people has been our community Imbizo programmes. These engagements have provided us with the opportunity to meet residents directly in their communities, listen to their concerns, and engage them on issues that affect their daily lives.

Public participation also remains central to our Integrated Development Plan (IDP) process. We have continued to engage residents through ward-based consultations, community meetings, and various public participation platforms. These engagements ensure that our planning processes remain inclusive, responsive, and informed by the needs and aspirations of our communities.

We recognise that each ward within our municipality faces its own unique challenges and developmental priorities. Our responsibility is therefore to ensure that the IDP remains responsive to these diverse needs while advancing the broader developmental objectives of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality.

Honourable Speaker,

Good governance also requires strong and sustainable partnerships. Throughout this term, we have continued to engage a broad range of stakeholders, including traditional leaders, traditional healers, ward committees, community-based structures, business representatives, civil society organisations, government departments, and other development partners.

Our engagement particularly with traditional leadership remains important, given the rural character of our municipality and the significance of traditional institutions within our communities. We deeply value the role played by traditional leaders in mobilising communities, supporting development initiatives, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting social cohesion.

We remain committed to strengthening public participation and ensuring that communities continue to influence decisions that affect their lives. We firmly believe that effective governance is achieved when citizens are actively involved in municipal planning, service delivery, and development processes.

As we move forward, we will continue to build a municipality that is transparent, accountable, and responsive, where communities are not merely recipients of services, but active partners in shaping the future of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality.

MAYORAL PROGRAMMES

The Mayoral Programmes have remained an important instrument for responding directly to the needs of our communities. These programmes have complemented the work of the municipality by providing targeted support, creating opportunities, and strengthening our presence within communities.

Through Mayoral Imbizo outreach meetings and service delivery programmes conducted across all wards, we have continued to create platforms that give residents a voice in decision-making. These engagements have strengthened communication between the municipality and our communities and reaffirmed our commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsive governance.

The Office of the Mayor has also continued to engage and work closely with traditional leaders on matters such as land allocation, sand mining, and service delivery. This collaboration remains essential, as government cannot address all community challenges alone. By working together, we can promote sustainable development, strengthen social cohesion, and ensure that the needs of our communities are addressed collectively.

Honourable Speaker,

Our objective is to restore dignity, improve livelihoods, and uplift our people. Through the Office of the Mayor, we have established partnerships with various stakeholders, including Vergenoeg Mine, aQuelle Khula Clean up and the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA). Through these partnerships, we have facilitated donations of school uniforms, blankets, paint, and food parcels to schools, non-profit organisations, old-age centres, and vulnerable members of our communities and successfully hosted a clean-up campaign.

The municipality has also continued to drive awareness and intervention programmes addressing HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), sexually transmitted infections (STIs), teenage pregnancy, Gender-based Violence, and other pressing social challenges affecting our communities.

Education remains one of the most powerful tools for breaking the cycle of poverty, creating opportunities, and driving sustainable development. For this reason, the municipality continues to invest in the future of our young people through the Mayoral Bursary Scheme.

Recognising the growing demand for educational support, the municipality will continue to prioritise the Mayoral Bursary Scheme as a key investment in the future of our youth. We therefore encourage all qualifying learners to take advantage of this opportunity, as the doors of the municipality remain open to support deserving students in pursuing their academic aspirations.

The Mayoral Sports Tournament has also continued to make a positive difference in the lives of many young people and aspiring athletes across our municipality. Through sport, we aim to create opportunities, nurture talent, promote healthy lifestyles, and keep young people away from drugs, substance abuse, crime, and other social ills.

We believe that sport has the power to unite communities, build discipline and character, and provide a pathway for our future stars to realise their full potential. We will therefore continue to support sporting development as part of our broader commitment to youth empowerment and social development.

LAND ALLOCATION AND TITTLE DEEDS

Honourable Speaker,

The Freedom Charter, adopted on 26 June 1955 at the Congress of the People in Kliptown, boldly declared that ***"The Land Shall be Shared Among Those Who Work It."***

This historic vision affirmed that all South Africans should have the right to occupy land, live where they choose, and enjoy equal access to one of our country's most valuable resources.

For many years under apartheid, this promise remained unfulfilled as black South Africans were systematically denied the right to own land and property. The dispossession of land stripped millions of their dignity, economic opportunities, and the ability to build wealth for future generations.

Today, democratic South Africa continues to give practical effect to the vision of the Freedom Charter by restoring land rights and expanding property ownership. The issuing of title deeds is more than an administrative process; it is the restoration of dignity, security, and economic empowerment.

Owning land is owning wealth. Land remains a primary driver of economic development and provides families with an asset that can be transferred from one generation to the next. When families possess title deeds, they gain access to opportunities that were previously unavailable to them. Property ownership provides security of tenure, enables investment in homes and businesses, creates

opportunities for access to finance, and allows families to build generational wealth that can be passed on to their children and grandchildren.

In partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality continues to work tirelessly to realise this vision. We are pleased to report that, to date, 1,149 title deeds have been distributed to beneficiaries in Siyabuswa A, B and C, bringing us closer to fulfilling the promise that the land shall indeed be shared among those who live on it and call it home. Each title deed handed over represents a family whose constitutional right to property ownership has been realised, whose dignity has been restored, and whose future has been made more secure.

We will continue to work tirelessly to accelerate the distribution of outstanding title deeds and ensure that more residents are afforded the opportunity to become legal property owners.

Honourable Speaker,

Over the years, the municipality has worked diligently to respond to the growing demands of our communities. One of the critical areas of progress has been the provision of land for human settlements and the formalisation of communities into registered townships.

In support of this objective, the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) signed Deeds of Donation for a number of land portions that have enabled the municipality to advance township establishment and development. These include:

- Portion 13: Allemansdrift 162 JR - Allemansdrift-D Township
- Portion 9: Kameelrivier 160 JR - Kameelrivier-D
- Portion 8: Leeuwfontein 188 JR - Leeuwfontein-A
- Remaining Extent of Leeuwfontein 669 JR - Leeuwfontein-B
- Portion 9: Leeuwfontein 188 JR - Leeuwfontein-C
- Portion 3: Zandfontein 31 JR - Phake Extension 1

- Portions 50 and 52: Valschfontein 33 JS - Siyabuswa-D
- Portion 53: Valschfontein 33 JS - Siyabuswa-IA
- Portions 54 and 55: Valschfontein 33 JS - Siyabuswa-F
- Portion 56: Valschfontein 33 JS - Siyabuswa-C
- Portion 58: Valschfontein 33 JS - Siyabuswa-A

The municipality has also made significant progress in the formalisation of villages into registered townships, thereby creating opportunities for orderly development, secure tenure, and improved service delivery. Key projects include:

- The formalisation of Ramokgeletsane Extension, situated on Matjesgoedkuil 3 JS, providing approximately 850 residential stands.
- The formalisation of Makopanong, situated on Portions 30 and 32 of Valschfontein 33 JS, providing approximately 350 residential stands.
- The formalisation of Ga-Phaahla, situated on Portion 48 of Valschfontein 33 JS.

Honourable Speaker,

We are currently advancing the formalisation of several additional settlements to meet the increasing demand for residential land and secure tenure. These projects include:

- Moripe Gardens, situated on Portion 7 of Kameelrivier 160 JR, providing approximately 1,500 stands.
- Tooitskraal Village, situated on Portion 23 of Valschfontein 33 JS, providing approximately 1,000 stands.
- Maganagobuswa Village, situated on Portion 48 of Valschfontein 33 JS, providing approximately 1,000 stands.
- Thabana Village, situated on Vrieskraal 4 JS, providing approximately 850 stands.
- Mogononong Village, situated on Portion 2 of Weltevreden 158 JS, providing approximately 1,500 stands.

- Ga-Morwe Village, situated on Portion 4 of Kameelrivier 160 JR, providing approximately 2,500 stands.
- Allemansdrift-C, situated on Portion 12 of Allemansdrift 162 JR, providing approximately 1,500 stands.
- Borolo Extension, situated on Portion 1 of Wolvenkraal 192 JR, providing approximately 1,500 stands.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Honourable Speaker,

We recognise that municipal development is not solely measured by roads, water, electricity alone. True development is ultimately about improving the lives, wellbeing, and dignity of our people. It is about building healthy, safe, inclusive, and caring communities where every resident has an opportunity to thrive.

In advancing this vision, the municipality continues to invest in community services and social development initiatives that enhance the quality of life of our residents.

We are immensely proud of the recently opened Troya Clinic in Ward 21, which is expected to serve approximately 4,960 residents in the surrounding communities. The construction of Lefiswane Clinic and Molapomogale Clinic also represents an important investment in bringing primary healthcare service closer to our people who travelled more than 15km to neighbouring villages, this facilities signifies a milestone in improving access to healthcare services and reducing the distance travelled by residents to receive essential medical care.

We also welcome the ongoing upgrading of the Siyabuswa Clinic into a Health Centre, which demonstrates government's continued commitment to expanding healthcare infrastructure and strengthening the delivery of quality healthcare services within our municipality.

In the education sector, we welcome the construction of Mokebe Secondary school in Senotlelo ward 20. The development of this school is an investment in the future of our young people and responds to the need for quality and appropriate educational infrastructure.

Through the work of our Traffic Services, Law Enforcement, Environmental Health, and Community Development Programmes, we continue to contribute towards creating safer, healthier, and more resilient communities. These programmes play a critical role in promoting public safety, improving environmental health standards, enhancing road safety awareness, and supporting community wellbeing.

As part of our efforts to address substance abuse and its impact on families and communities, the municipality partnered with various stakeholders to host the Siyabalanda Roadshow at Marapyane Katale Square. This initiative brought essential services closer to the people, provided support and information to affected individuals and families, and promoted awareness about the importance of ending the stigma associated with substance use disorders.

WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Honourable Speaker,

Waste management remains one of the municipality's key priorities as we strive to create cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable communities. While progress has been made, one of the major constraints is the limited availability of waste collection vehicles. The municipality currently has one operational compactor truck, which places significant pressure on our waste collection programme. Given the size of our municipality and the number of communities we serve, one compactor cannot adequately meet the demand for regular and reliable refuse collection and we continue to face the problem of

illegal dumping, which negatively affects the environment, public health, and the overall appearance of our communities.

The municipality continues to implement regular waste collection services, community clean-up campaigns, the management of illegal dumping hotspots, and the enforcement of municipal by-laws. These efforts are aimed at promoting cleaner neighbourhoods, protecting the environment, and fostering a culture of responsible waste disposal among residents.

We are strengthening the municipality's approach to waste management through the development and approval of an Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP). This strategic initiative will provide clear direction for waste management services and support the long-term sustainability of our environmental programmes.

In addition, the municipality is setting targets for improved weekly waste collection services in identified villages and is advancing the establishment and servicing of waste collection points in Ga-Phaahla. These interventions are critical as we work towards a waste management system that is well-planned, efficient, environmentally responsible, and responsive to the needs of our communities.

To enhance our capacity and broaden participation in environmental programmes, the municipality has entered into service agreements with key government departments:

- The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has provided support for 213 participants to take part in a waste management programme for a period of one year.
- The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) has supported the participation of 50 youth beneficiaries in a four-year waste management programme aimed at developing skills, creating employment opportunities, and strengthening environmental stewardship.

These partnerships not only contribute to cleaner communities but also create opportunities for skills development, youth empowerment, and economic participation.

INDIGENT SUPPORT

Honourable Speaker,

The municipality remains committed to supporting vulnerable households through the implementation of its Free Basic Services and Indigent Support Policy, which provides a framework for assisting qualifying indigent households and ensuring that no deserving resident is left behind.

To improve access to these benefits, the indigent registration process has been widely communicated through public notices, community outreach programmes, and various stakeholder engagement platforms. These initiatives are intended to ensure that all qualifying residents are aware of the assistance available to them and understand the process required to access municipal support.

Our 2026/27 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) places particular emphasis on strengthening and reviewing the municipality's indigent support programme. As part of this commitment, the municipality has set a target to complete a comprehensive review of the indigent register by 30 June 2027, while also aiming to register 4,000 new indigent households per quarter.

Achieving this target will require intensified community outreach, effective ward-level communication, stakeholder engagement, and continued collaboration with ward committees, traditional leaders, and other community structures.

Our people must know that assistance is available, where and how to apply, what documentation is required, and what rights and responsibilities accompany participation in the indigent support programme. Through these efforts, we seek to ensure that social

assistance reaches those who need it most while promoting transparency, fairness, and accountability.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Honourable Speaker,

The municipality has a responsibility to create an enabling environment in which the local economy can grow, businesses can prosper, and employment opportunities can be expanded for our people.

Our informal traders, small businesses, cooperatives, farmers, and emerging entrepreneurs are important contributors to the economy of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality. Their success is vital to economic growth, poverty reduction, and community development. We therefore remain committed to supporting the formalisation, development, and sustainability of local enterprises.

We also recognise the national call for tuckshops and other businesses to comply with municipal by-laws and applicable regulations. However, compliance should not be viewed solely as an enforcement exercise. It must also involve support, education, capacity building, and creating opportunities for businesses to operate successfully within the regulatory framework.

Local Economic Development (LED) encompasses a range of initiatives aimed at improving local competitiveness, promoting sustainable growth, fostering inclusivity, and creating employment opportunities. During the previous financial year, the municipality achieved several important milestones, including:

- Approval of the Local Economic Development Strategy 2026-2031, which provides a clear framework for guiding economic development initiatives and investment opportunities within the municipality.

- Community Business Capacitation Programme, successfully implemented in partnership with the Provincial Treasury, benefiting more than 95 local businesses through training and capacity-building workshops.

Job Creation Initiatives, which created employment opportunities for local residents through:

- The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), benefiting 1,778 participants; and
- The Community Work Programme (CWP), benefiting 1,147 participants.

The municipality continues to engage stakeholders through LED Forum platforms, strengthen partnerships with the business community, and promote investment opportunities within the local economy. We have also updated tourism information and made it available through the municipal website to improve the visibility of local tourism attractions and services.

Furthermore, the municipality has developed a Tourism Brochure aimed at promoting local tourism products, enhancing accessibility to tourism information, and positioning Dr JS Moroka as an attractive tourism and investment destination.

As part of our commitment to local Economic Development and the empowerment of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME's) the municipality has established an SMME Online Database, which provides a structured platform for local businesses to register their details and area of operation. We therefore encourage all qualifying SMME's operating within DR JS Moroka to ensure that their businesses are properly registered and their information on the municipal database remains accurate and up to date.

Honourable Speaker,

I am pleased to announce that the municipality has set aside an amount of R2 million towards an Economic Development and Cultural Show, scheduled to take place in March 2027.

The event is intended to stimulate economic activity within the municipality while creating opportunities for the empowerment and participation of local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), cooperatives, informal traders, and tourism product owners.

The Economic Development and Cultural Show will provide a platform for local businesses and tourism stakeholders to showcase their products and services, access potential markets, attract investment opportunities, and establish valuable business networks.

In addition, the event will celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of our communities while promoting economic inclusion and local entrepreneurship.

Importantly, the event is expected to create approximately 100 temporary employment opportunities, thereby contributing to job creation and providing short-term income opportunities for members of the local community.

Through these initiatives, we reaffirm our commitment to building a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient local economy that creates jobs, empowers entrepreneurs, supports small businesses, and improves the livelihoods of all residents of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality.

FINANCIAL HEALTH AND AUDIT OUTCOMES

Honourable Speaker,

The Finance Department made significant progress during the 2025/26 financial year in strengthening financial governance, improving budget management, enhancing revenue administration,

and ensuring compliance with the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA).

Key achievements during the year included the successful preparation, adoption, and monitoring of the 2025/26 Municipal Budget and Adjustments Budget, the implementation of revenue enhancement initiatives, the strengthening of Supply Chain Management (SCM) processes and financial controls, as well as ongoing support for audit, accountability, and oversight processes.

These efforts reflect our commitment to building a financially sustainable municipality capable of delivering quality services to our communities while maintaining sound governance practices.

Honourable Speaker,

While we are encouraged by the progress made, we must also acknowledge that our audit journey has not yet reached the standard to which we aspire. The municipality received a qualified audit opinion, and as the leadership of this municipality, we accept that an audit outcome is not merely a technical matter that concerns the Finance Department alone.

An audit outcome reflects the effectiveness of the municipality's systems, internal controls, record-keeping practices, compliance levels, oversight mechanisms, and overall accountability. It therefore requires collective responsibility from all departments, management, and leadership structures.

We take the findings and concerns raised by the Auditor-General seriously and remain committed to implementing corrective measures to address the identified shortcomings. Our responsibility is clear: we must leave behind a stronger financial management system, supported by improved controls and enhanced accountability, than the one we inherited.

In pursuit of this objective, the municipality embarked on a Data Cleansing Project during the 2025/26 financial year. The project was aimed at updating consumer and billing information, improving the accuracy of municipal records, and ensuring that residents receive their municipal statements through modern communication platforms such as email and electronic messaging services.

As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen revenue management and customer communication, the introduction of a bulk SMS notification system will be incorporated into the municipal billing process during the 2026/27 financial year. This initiative is expected to improve account delivery, strengthen customer engagement, and encourage a culture of payment and accountability among consumers.

Honourable Speaker,

The Finance Department continues to prioritise the preparation of quality annual financial statements and the compilation of supporting documentation required for audit and oversight processes. This work is particularly important as the municipality seeks to improve its audit outcomes, strengthen financial governance, and resolve outstanding audit findings.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to clean administration, sound financial management, and responsible stewardship of public resources. Through disciplined financial controls, strengthened accountability mechanisms, and continuous improvement of our systems and processes, we are laying a solid foundation for improved audit outcomes and a financially sustainable municipality.

Our ultimate goal is not only to achieve a clean audit, but to build a municipality that manages public funds with integrity, delivers value for money, and earns the confidence and trust of its residents.

BUDGET AND SERVICE DELIVERY

Honourable Speaker,

As a Grade 4 municipality, our financial sustainability remains largely dependent on transfers from the national fiscus. This is primarily due to the rural nature of our municipality, where high levels of unemployment and limited economic activity continue to constrain our ability to generate own revenue.

Despite these challenges, we remain committed to ensuring that every cent entrusted to this municipality delivers value to our communities through improved infrastructure, quality services and sustainable development.

For the 2026/2027 financial year, the municipality has approved a total budget of R1.072 billion, comprising mainly of grants and subsidies from national government. We welcome the fact that our overall allocation of grants and subsidies has increased by approximately 4 per cent when compared to the 2025/2026 financial year.

The key grant allocations are as follows:

- ❖ Equitable Share: R535.672 million
- ❖ Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG): R158.449 million
- ❖ Financial Management Grant: R2.5 million
- ❖ Integrated National Electrification Programme (INEP): R10.355 million
- ❖ Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP): R2.492 million
- ❖ Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG): R20 million

While these allocations are welcomed, they also serve as a reminder that our municipality remains largely dependent on government grants to fund service delivery and infrastructure development initiatives.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

In 2026/2027 financial year we will focus on the following capital projects

Water Infrastructure

Honourable Speaker,

The provision of reliable and sustainable water services remains one of the municipality's foremost priorities.

We continue to invest in the rehabilitation, maintenance and expansion of water infrastructure to ensure that our communities have access to clean and safe drinking water.

One of our major interventions is the replacement of ageing asbestos pipelines that have reached the end of their useful lifespan. Significant progress has been made in the replacement of the asbestos bulk water line from Pieterskraal to the Wolvekraal Reservoir and bulkline from WWTW (Waltervrede Water Treatment Works) to kuilen reservoir projects that will enhance reliability and reduce water losses within the network.

In addition, our capital programme recognises the urgent need to strengthen bulk water infrastructure and improve treatment capacity throughout the municipality.

To support these objectives, the municipality has allocated R81.4 million towards water infrastructure projects during the 2026/2027 financial year.

This investment demonstrates our commitment to ensuring water security for our residents while supporting future growth and development.

Sanitation

Access to adequate sanitation is fundamental to human dignity, public health and environmental sustainability.

We are fully aware of the concerns raised by communities where sanitation infrastructure has not kept pace with population growth and development demands. As a municipality, we remain committed to addressing these challenges through targeted investment and infrastructure expansion.

For the 2026/2027 financial year, an amount of R44.8 million has been allocated towards sanitation infrastructure projects across the municipality.

These investments will contribute significantly towards improving sanitation services, protecting public health and enhancing the quality of life of our residents.

Roads and Storm Water Infrastructure

Honourable Speaker,

Roads are more than just physical infrastructure. They connect communities to opportunities, schools, healthcare facilities and economic activities.

Our Roads Maintenance Team continues to undertake critical interventions including pothole patching, road blading and re-gravelling across various communities.

Among the most recent interventions were maintenance works undertaken in:

Phake Ward 30

Seabe Ward 25

Troya Ward 21

Mthambothini Ward 8

Maphotla Ward 14

These projects are intended to improve road accessibility, enhance road safety and strengthen storm water management systems.

For the 2026/2027 financial year, the municipality has allocated R32 million through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant for the implementation of key roads and storm water projects.

We remain committed to maintaining and improving our road network to support economic growth and improve mobility for all residents.

Electrification Programme

Honourable Speaker,

Access to electricity remains a critical enabler of development, economic participation and improved quality of life. Our electrification programme continues to target communities and households that remain without access to adequate electricity connections.

For the 2026/2027 financial year, the Integrated National Electrification Programme provides R10.355 million for electrification projects.

This allocation will support:

- Electrification of 213 households in Phake Phase 2
- Electrification of 170 households in Madubaduba
- Pre-engineering studies for 70 households in Skimming
- Pre-engineering studies for 250 households in Masobye/Diphalane

These projects represent more than the installation of electrical infrastructure. They represent hope, dignity and opportunity. They mean that children will be able to study under proper lighting, entrepreneurs will be able to operate businesses more effectively, and families will enjoy an improved standard of living.

Community Facilities

Honourable Speaker,

Building vibrant communities requires investment not only in basic services but also in facilities that promote social cohesion, recreation and community development.

In this regard, the municipality continues to invest in public facilities that serve as important centres for sports, youth development and community activities.

The 2026/2027 Capital Programme provides R12.5 million for the upgrading of Nokaneng Stadium, with a further R14.5 million projected in the subsequent financial year to complete the project.

Once completed, this facility will provide our young people and sporting communities with improved infrastructure that supports talent development, healthy lifestyles and community pride.

Honourable Speaker,

These investments in water, sanitation, roads, electrification and community facilities demonstrate our unwavering commitment to building a municipality that is responsive to the needs of its people. Through prudent financial management and strategic infrastructure investment, we are laying a foundation for inclusive growth, sustainable development and improved quality of life for all our residents.

CONCLUSION

Ladies and Gentlemen

As I conclude, it is important to note that the Local Government Elections are scheduled for 4 November 2026. As of today, there are approximately 71 days remaining before South Africans exercise their democratic right at the ballot box.

These elections provide citizens with an important opportunity to participate in shaping the future of local government. For many South Africans, particularly those who were denied democratic rights under apartheid, the right to vote remains one of the most significant gains of our democracy and if you do not vote, you are giving others powers to decide on your future. Voting day is where every person share the exact same power, no voice is bigger than the another and every vote counts.

We therefore encourage all eligible citizens to participate in the electoral process and make their voices heard through democratic means. Equally important, we will continue to provide platforms for residents to raise concerns, share ideas and contribute to the development of our municipality. Our Government, the Government of the African National Congress, remain the only Government of the People by the People.... **(Shout)** All Power!! X 2

Through ongoing engagement and collaboration, we can build stronger communities and a better future for all.

Let us continue working together in the spirit of partnership, accountability and service excellence as we strive to improve the lives of our people.

Together, we can build a municipality that is responsive, inclusive and developmental. As we approach the Local Government Elections, we must protect the democratic character of our communities.

We call upon all residents to participate peacefully and responsibly while respecting the independence of the electoral process.

And may the next chapter of Dr JS Moroka be defined by great unity, stronger governance, accelerated service delivery and improved quality of life for all our people.

I thank you.

AMANDLA! X3

ALL POWER! X3

WATHINTHA BAFAZI!!

WATHINT IMBOKODO!

LONG LIVE THE WOMEN OF DR JS MOROKA!

LONG LIVE THE PEOPLE OF DR JS MOROKA!