



NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR FLORENCE DZHOMBEBE ADDRESSES COUNCIL



The Executive Mayor Cllr Fulufhelo Florence Dzhombere takes an oath of office

The fourth Municipal Elections were held on the 18 May this year. The African National Congress in the Vhembe District as in the previous three encounters emerged as the biggest winner - even in the whole of the Limpopo Province. On the 7 June a new Council for Vhembe District Municipality was reconstituted with Cllr Fulufhelo Florence Dzhombere elected unopposed as the new Executive Mayor entrusted with the huge responsibility of leading a team of men and women who collectively are to implement the programme of the ruling party, the African National Congress. In accepting these responsibilities this is what the new Executive Mayor had to say:

It is most beneficial that before I discharge my responsibility I express a message of sincere condolences to the Sisulu Family on the passing on of our much loved leader and mother, Mama Comrade Albertina Sisulu.

Vhembe District Municipality joins the rest of the people of South Africa, government and indeed the rest of democratic loving world in saluting the passing on of one of our gallant fighters for democracy, an icon, a highly committed revolutionary, a tried and tested leader of our glorious movement, the ANC and indeed the loving wife of our late leader Comrade Walter Sisulu.

The illustrious leader Mama Sisulu was the glue that held the democratic formations from the dark days of the liberation, organizing the women through (FEDSAW), African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL), United Democratic Front (UDF) and indeed through the African National Congress (ANC). This stalwart is remembered for leading the women Pass Campaign in the historic 1956. Even her participation as National Parliament Member (MP) she continued to be an embodiment of strength, integrity and dignity. A role model and a source of strength, support and indeed a mother of the nation.

As the family and the country prepares a beneficial send off, our sympathy goes to her immediate family as they finalise the preparations for the laying down of this great leader and mother.

Madam Speaker, the establishment of the Vhembe District Municipality eleven years ago, after the first democratic local government elections, set the District on the road long envisaged by the founding fathers of democracy. It started the journey of the dream and vision long cherished by our people - of making government the responsibility of all the caliber of Charlot Maxeke, Lilian Ngoyi and Helen Joseph not to go in vain.



Vhembe District Municipality Management Team (from left to right) Executive Mayor Cllr Florence Dzhombere Chief Whip Cllr Tshifhiwa Dali and the Speaker Cllr Caroline Mahasela

We are gathered here determined to renew and reaffirm the democratic commitment made by our people as they endured the long queue of the voting lines that a better life is a dream that can be realized and practically lived.

We are gathered here determined that the struggles and sacrifices that our people continue to make for democratic governance shall not be in vain.

We are gathered here determined to confirm that indeed as we said in our campaign slogan together (with you the people) we can make our communities a better place to live in.

We are gathered here to make developmental local government a success sphere of government.

Madam Speaker and Fellow Councillors.

I accept this responsibility knowing very well its magnitude and size, knowing very well that this responsibility is equally entrusted on all of us as a collective of Councillors in the District Municipality.

I accept this responsibility with much confidence knowing very well the confidence and support of the people of the Vhembe District Municipality.

I accept this responsibility, to quote the founding President of our democratic country 'as a humble servant of you the people of Vhembe District', one who will greatly learn and benefit

from constructive inputs as we put all our efforts in to continuing the developmental path during my term of office.

Madam Speaker, Fellow Councillors and Communities of Vhembe District Municipality, I am accepting this responsibility clearly understanding the political mandate of government and the developmental local government role we are expected to play.

This brings the challenge and role we have to play in the nation building project as we focus on our core functions of service delivery provision to the force.

There are national and global developmental priorities and we have a role in ensuring that those set targets are realized. Fortunately, for Vhembe District Municipality, we have a credible IDP which makes us contribute from an informed plan. These include the country meeting

the Global Millennium Development goals in the areas of water, sanitation, housing, electricity and other services that contribute to economic and social development, sustainable human settlement and dignity. As Vhembe District Municipality these also happen to be our top most priorities.

As we contribute to the realization of national priorities key, our focus will also be in the area of job creation and growing the economy of the district. We have to contribute to job creation initiatives as we address our IDP which also speaks to those of national, which are:

- Infrastructure Development
- Agriculture
- Mining and Beneficiation
- Manufacturing
- Tourism

Through labour intensive methods our implementation of the service



Mutale Municipality Political Management Team (from left to right) Speaker Cllr Livhuwani Netshipise, Cllr Mayor Tshitereke Matibe, Cllr Chief Whip Eunice Nekhunguni



Musina Municipality Political Management Team (from left to right) Mayor Cllr Carol Phiri, Chief Whip Cllr Simon Ndlovu

delivery projects should be creating employment as well as skilling our communities for self sustainability. In this manner we will be fighting poverty, creating and supporting communities in agriculture, manufacturing and tourism.

Madam Speaker together we can do more. Government practices what it preaches. Growing the economy and addressing priorities indicated is a collective effort. Roles of labor, business and community stake holders cannot be over emphasized. Partnership guarantees what we committed ourselves to years ago namely that ‘the people shall govern’. The extent of the District Municipality succeeding in meeting its key priorities will be greatly enhanced by the support and partnerships we develop. Government’s commitment in this regard is unquestionable.

For the challenges and commitments we have made to stand the best chance

of success, I have assembled a team of comrades in the leadership, collective in the Council governance matters as follows:

Members of the Mayoral Committee

1. Cllr Chauke Faith
2. Cllr Mdaka Philemon
3. Cllr Mboyi Dorcus
4. Cllr Manyuwa Lucas
5. Cllr Ramoyada Mihloti
6. Cllr Muditambi Dick

7. Cllr Sibiya Suzan
8. Cllr Mathavha Humbulani
9. Cllr Mphaphuli Constance

Allocation of portfolios to members of the Mayoral Committee will be as follows:

1. Corporate Services: Cllr Manyuwa L
 2. Finance : Cllr Mdaka P
 3. Technical Services: Cllr Mboyi D
 4. Development Planning: Cllr Ramoyada M
 5. Community Services: Cllr Chauke F
- Elections are over and the people have spoken
 - The Service plan which is guided by our IDP and Budget is in place
 - Let us roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty as we strive to realize the commitments we have made during our elections campaigns as political parties.

Together we can indeed do more!



Thulamela Municipality Political Management Team



Makhado Municipality Political Management Team (from left to right) Chief Whip Cllr Rudzani Ludere, Mayor Cllr Mavhungu Luruli, Speaker Cllr David Mutavhatshindi

EDITORIAL



The editor
MR Razwiedani S.S

Local municipality democratic elections came and are gone. The hive of activities have been replaced by yet another hive of activities. Municipal councils have been fully re-established and with it new political faces. We welcome Cllr Florence Dzhombere as the Executive Mayor of the District, Cllr Mahosi of Thulamela, Cllr Luruli of Makhado, Cllr Matibe of Mutale and Cllr Phiri as Mayors of our four local municipalities in the Vhembe District. The newly democratically elected municipal councils have hit the ground running as service delivery challenges in their manifestos demand their immediate attention. We wish them well in their term of office as they strive to take the people of the District to a higher level.

This edition covers activities of the youth month. Youth activities undertaken were aimed at highlighting the critical role the youth of the District has to play in the society. For a balance youth attention has to be channelled to the political, social, economic, moral and aesthetic components. Awareness and events took place which includes the celebrations, youth parliament and memorial lecture, together achievements awards aimed at motivating active youth participation in growing the District economy.

Also in the edition is the visit by the president of the country Cde Jacob Zuma who visited the District as

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015 960 2000

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

015 960 2008

MUNICIPAL MANAGER

015 960 2009

CORPORATE SERVICES

015 960 2034

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

015 960 2006/2016

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

015 960 2017

SPEAKER'S OFFICE

015 960 2050

COMMUNITY SERVICES

015 960 2032

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

015 960 2090

FIRE SERVICES

015 960 2090

TECHNICAL SERVICES

015 960 3542

FINANCIAL SERVICES

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VISION

The legendary cultural hub in the Southern hemisphere and a catalyst for agro and tourism development

MISSION

To be an accountable and community driven municipality in addressing poverty and unemployment through sustainable socio-economic development and service delivery.

part of monitoring and evaluation. The District became the beneficiary as R250 million was committed to rebuilding Siloam Hospital. This project will greatly contribute to the improvement of the health state of the District. The edition also covers programmes and activities of other spheres of Government.

Sport in the District and province also became winners when the District scored a double. Vhembe District won the overall Limpopo O.R. Tambo Games as Black Leopards FC also

make a comeback to the country's elite Premier Soccer League (PSL). As the saying goes 'Sport Unite', the people of the District are looking forward to enjoying best soccer through watching the country's top teams. We say Halala Black Leopard Halala. Be true ambassadors of the people of Vhembe District.

From the editor's desk I say this edition like others is yours, engage us. Your inputs are always welcome. We look forward to you the people benefiting from this communication.

PRESIDENT ZUMA PLEDGES R250 MILLION TO RE-BUILD SILOAM HOSPITAL

President Jacob Zuma, Premier Cassel Mathale, Minister in the Presidency Mr Collins Chabane, Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, MEC of Health and Social Development in the Limpopo Province Manana Dikeledi Magadzi and many dignitaries visited Siloam Hospital recently as part of the monitoring and evaluation processes of government.

The entourage led by the President toured the hospital on a see for yourself exercise. The tour was followed by an imbizo chaired by the President himself.

At the imbizo, the President allowed members of the community to speak about the hospital. The people of Nzhelele complained to President Jacob Zuma about the state of their hospital, Siloam which they said was in a state of decay.

Local traditional healer Mbulaheni Neluvhola, who is the chairman of the Vhembe Traditional Healers Practitioners, and also stays close to the hospital said the hospital was dirty and there are also poor services rendered by the hospital to the community.

“When you look at the buildings you can easily see that they have been painted but this has been done three days ago because of the Presidential visit,” said Neluvhola.

He went on to say “the premises are bushy and some patients get lost in the premises, nurses’ residences are dilapidated, there is no theatre equipment and when one goes to the dispensary, one is dispensed with expired drugs and that the hospital also needs people from different organisations coming



President listening to the acting CEO of Siloam Hospital Mr Mpho Mufamadi whilst the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality Cllr Dzombere is busy translating the speech to the masses

together to help oversee the workings of the management.”

Other speakers included Rudzani Ludere who spoke on behalf of the nursing staff. Mr. Ludere also confirmed the lack of facilities at the hospital.

MEC of Health Limpopo and Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi also spoke and said they were aware of the challenges faced by the hospital and there were interventions that they had made. Re-stating that his administration had said it would do things differently, he said had he not come and only read the compiled report about the hospital, he would have believed that things were normal and there was no need for a new hospital.

The President commented that the tour revealed to him something that he did not like.

Re-stating that his administration had said it would do things differently, he said had he not come and only read the compiled report about the hospital, he would have believed that things were normal and he would

not have known the seriousness of the situation at the hospital.

But, after listening to the presentations by different structures he was convinced that a new hospital to the tune of R250-million should be built.

“The hospital should be built over two phases, first phase from 2011-2012, and second phase from 2012 to 2013,” said Zuma.

He said that the hospital to be built would have no challenges as is the case now.

“It will have new management, enough beds, and enough doctors,” said President Zuma.

He was made to believe that there would be enough space to build a new hospital while the old one was working.

Limpopo Premier Cassel Mathale on his part said they were happy to have a leader like President Zuma. “We are learning a lot from you and may God give you long life,” concluded Premier Mathale.

VHEMBE CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST SUBSTANCE AND ILLICIT DRUG ABUSE



MEC Dikeledi Magadzi addressing the audience during the International Day against Substance Abuse in Tshilamba

The International Day against Substance and Illicit Drug Abuse was held at Mutale Local Municipality recently under the theme “Global action for healthy communities without drugs”.

The MEC for Health and Social Development, Manana Dikeledi Magadzi in her address strongly warned parents who sends their children to shebeens and bottle stores to buy alcohol and drugs for them to stop such practices.

“Parents should be good role models to their children and any parent who send his or her children to buy alcohol for him or her are to be blamed for promoting alcohol and substance abuse among young people. We urge people to develop groups in their communities to deal with alcohol and drug abuse so that our villages could be free from such evils,” said MEC Magadzi.

According to the MEC, Vhembe’s

Mutale Local Municipality has the lowest statistical count of cases of alcohol and drug abuse as compared to the worrisome figures of Musina Local Municipality and some parts of Thohoyandou areas of Thulamela Local Municipality.

“Many cases of rape which are reported in many police stations have happened while victims and culprits were all drunk. We want to regenerate good morals in our communities by preaching the gospel against alcohol and drug abuse at many of our events,” added MEC Magadzi.

A former alcohol and drug abuser now a pastor, Lesley Mongwe from Lulekani town in Phalaborwa testified in front of the people who attended that crime does not pay because one’s future is destroyed and you finally end up rotting in jail.

A self confessed, Mongwe (34), from township thug to community leader, testified that he was only 12 years when he started the life of booze, drug abuse and crime in

his home township of Lulekani.

“I then got involved in house breaking and stealing which shattered my future as I was always arrested. I was arrested 25 times in cases ranging from housebreaking and stealing, rape and many other kinds of misdemeanor,” said Mongwe.

But now, Mr. Mongwe’s life has changed dramatically. He has transformed himself from a jail bird to a messenger of God while in prison and he is a leading example of what a responsible adult person should be in his home area and beyond.

Mongwe also advises young people to involve themselves in community activities rather than do crime.

Magadzi was joined in the celebration by the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Florence Dzhombere, Local Mayor of Mutale, Cllr Tshitereke Matibe and one of Limpopo’s senior traditional leaders, Thovhele Vho Vudzitshena Nethengwe.



Some of the delegates who attended the International Day against Substance Abuse at Mutale

MUSINA HOSPITAL PATIENTS RECEIVE MUVHANGO CELEBRITIES



Musina mayor Carol Phiri and Muvhango cast members in Musina

Patients at Musina Hospital forgot their worries and illnesses for a while when the Mayor of Musina Municipality, Carol Phiri and the celebrity actors of SABC 2 Muvhango drama series paid them a surprise visit at the weekend.

Hospital wards resembled a party planet as the Mayor and Muvhango crew exchanged greetings with

broad smiles while beaming faces of the patients lit the wards.

In her address to the visitors and patients Mayor Carol Phiri said the visit came about as a result of a good working relationships between the SABC and Musina Municipality. “We have good relationship with different media institutions and this time, we thought of using this

advantage for the benefit of our local community. People only see these celebrities on TV and never thought they would one day see them face to face” said the Mayor

For the patients, it makes them feel better when they are visited by celebrities whom they only see on television screens. “Although we know that most patients are in pain, we were happy to see them smiling and interacting with the actors happily. We wanted to bring smiles to the faces of our patients, while at the same time making sure that they interact with celebrities,” the Mayor went on.

In conclusion, she added that patients need to be treated with tender care and love. “If we do not visit them in hospital, they feel neglected and this might have a serious negative impact on their health. We will continue to lure more celebrities to visit our local hospital to make our patients feel better.”

DISABLED PENSIONER ON WHEELS

The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality Cllr Florence Dzhombere handed over a wheel chair to Mr. Jackson Hlungwani, a middle aged pensioner with a physical disability of Ka Mukhomi on Wednesday 29 June this year.

The wheel chair, according to the Executive Mayor, was donated by a local business person that does projects for the government. The case of Mr. Hlungwani came to the attention of the executive Mayor when she was investigating the water crisis in the villages of Malamulele West.



Executive Mayor Cllr Dzhombere donates a wheel chair to Mr. Jacson Hlungwani

Mr. Hlungwani worked in the mines for more than 30 years after suffering from a mysterious illness which caused

him to be hospitalized at Elim Hospital for a very long time. Since his discharged from the hospital in 1960 Mr. Hlungwani had been using a walking stick. The situation took a nasty turn in April this year when he suffered a stroke.

According to his elated wife Manana Mashau Chavalala the situation was very bad because she had to carry him to the toilet, and

sometimes when nature called he would crawl alone to the toilet when she happened not to be around.

Manana Chavalala went on to say that her husband's condition was worrisome to her, especially because he was once stabbed by a sharp object when he was crawling to the toilet alone. The stab caused him to bleed profusely and she had to pray to God to end her husband's suffering.

Little did she know that within two days God would have answered her prayers in the manner he did.

The Executive Mayor was accompanied by Thulamela Local Municipality, Mayor Cllr Grace Mahosi, Hosi Richard Mabasa of Ka Mukhomi and senior officials from Vhembe District municipality and from the Department of Water Affairs.

PHUROJEKE YA MATANDZA EKA MAHONISI



Maria Hlungwani, Sophie Gija, Johana Bila, Joseph Khosa, Nkhangweleni Makhavhu eka projeke ya matandza

Phurojeke ya matandza ya Sasekisani yi sungurile hi lembe ra 2005 hi ntlawa wa vaakatiko vaka Mahonisi vo ringana khume nharu. Mune wa vona va tshikile ntirho kambe lava va nkaye va sarile va yisa ntirho emahlweni.

Phurojeke ya Sasekisani yi kumeka eka Muganga waka Mahonisi eka Malamulele eka Masipala wa Thulamela.

Mufambisi wa projeke Tatana Khosa Joseph va kombisile leswaku phurojeke yi sunguriwile hi xikongomelo xo endla mitirho, ku hlulukisa ikhonomi ya tiko xikanwe na ku lwa ni vusweti.

“Hi sungurile ntirho lowu eka yindlu ya RDP eka Mahonisi, laha hi nga twanana ku hlengeleta mali yo ringa makume ntlhanu wa tirhandi hi nhweti ku endlela leswaku phurojeke ya hina yi va na mali.

Hi komberile ndhawa eka Ndhuna Mahonisi lahavahinyikeketihekita ta khume nhungu kambe ni kotile ku biyela ntsena tihekita ta mune.

Ndzawulo ya vurimi yi hi pfunile hi 116 wa tihuku to tshikela matandza, va LIBSA va hi pfunile hi ku hi dyondzisa mahlayisele ya tihuku, kutani va ndzawulo ya swatimali va hi pfunile hi swa timali leswaku hi kota ku aka muako wo hlayisa

tihuku, ku jaratela ni ku xava switirhisiwa swo hambana-hambana.

Hi kotile ku lomba mali yo ringana R1, 7 million eka Old mutual laha hi nga aka ndzhawu ya vumbirhi yo hlayisela tihuku hi ntsengo wo ringana R2, 3 million.

Phurojeke yi na tihuku ta nhlayo yo ringana 19 000 laha hi siku tihuku leti ti tshikeleka 16 000 wa matandza .Huku yinwe a yi fanele yi tshikelaka tandza rinwe hi siku kambe hikokwalaho ka swiphiko swo fana na maxelo, madyelo, huwa na mavabyi swi endlla leswaku hi nga kumi mandza yo ringana.”Ku hlamusela mufambisi wa Phurojeke tatana Khosa.

Tatana Khosa va kombisile leswaku mandza ya xaviwa hi mavhengele lama-kulu lawa ya katsaka Pick'n Pay ya le Thohoyandou na Malamulele, Friendly Super Market ya le Giyani ni ya nwana mavhengele lamakulu. Hi xavisela va aka tiko, va nwaswimawusa. Matandza ya hina ya laveka eka tindzhawu to hambana-hambana ku fana na Jane-furse eka Sikhukhune na le Siyabuswa eMpumalanga.

Phurojeke yi kotile ku endla mintirho eka vanhu vo ringana khume mune na swona va hakeriwa

nhweti yinwana na yinwana.

Xiphiqo lexi xi nga kona, hi leswaku nhlayo ya va nwamabindzu lava va lavaka matandza yi le henhla, Phurojeke ya tsandzeka ku phakela matandza hi ku ya hi nhlayo ya vanhu. Vanwana va ta hi timovha va ta yimelela loko tihuku tiri karhi ti tshikela kutani matandza

ya hlengeletiwa va ma yimelerile.

Hi ngenela tinhlengeletano to hambana - hambana ku endlela leswaku ntirho wa hina wu va wa xiyimo xa le hehla na leswaku ntirho wahina wutakambisiwahi vaSABS.

Phurojeke yi kotile ku xava lori na bakkie leswaku matandza ya ta kota

ku hangalasiwa eka tikhasimande ta hina. Phurojeke ya swikota ku endla mali yo ringana R320 000 hi nhweti kambehilembehiendla R2,7million.

Tatana Makhavhu, nhloko ya swavurimi va Vhembe District Municipality va kombisile leswaku va ta pfuneta hi muchini wo hlela mandza.

Dr MDAKA ADDRESSES VHEMBE DISTRICT WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY WORKSHOP IN MUSINA



Acting Executive Mayor Dr. Falaza Mdaka in a tie with a dark suite during the World Environmental Day in Musina

The Acting Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality Dr Falaza Mdaka addressed the Vhembe District Municipality World Environment Day Workshop held at the Musina Local Municipality Show Ground on the 30th June this year.

The World Environment Day is an annual event launched by the United Nations in 1973 with the intention of keeping the momentum of stimulating awareness on environment issues. This year's theme is: Save Tomorrow Today.

In his address the Acting Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality Dr Falaza Mdaka called on traditional leaders, local municipalities, sector departments, parastatals, academic institutions and community organisations to live in keeping with the theme: Save Tomorrow Today.

According to Dr Mdaka, Vhembe District has an amazing biological diversity of fauna and flora. This rich biodiversity is attributed to its bio geographical location and diverse topography; the

biodiversity of Vhembe District is a strategic resource which provides to all the District communities a potential for economic, social and health growth because it amongst other things provides for building materials, food, fuel, medical plants and other livelihood products.

“It is only when we take care of our environment with rich biosphere reserves that our environmental health will be sound and sustainable and that will enable us to pass the same on to the future generations,” said Dr Mdaka.

In conclusion, the Acting Executive Mayor called for a more balanced biodiversity when he said “human benefits will accrue from a balanced environment that include ensuring that it supports the ecosystem which includes air quality, climate, water purification, pollution and prevention of erosion”.

The workshop went into commissions on the following topics : Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, Waste Management in Vhembe District and a case study around Beit Bridge border line areas, Invasive Plants programme around Vhembe District, land care programme and programme/projects to address challenges on climate change.

MUSINA YOUNG ASPIRANT FARMERS SCOOP AWARDS



Ednah Raphunga, Eunice Nekhunguni, Executive Mayor Florence Dzhombere in a red suit, Tshitereke Matibe, Simon Ndlovu seated from left to right are the lucky winners Kedubone Khakhu, Avhurengwi Mavhetha, Ramano Tamatshimbila and Tsakani Mashimbyi

THE 9TH OF JUNE 2011 WAS A DAY OF JOY FOR THE YOUNG ASPIRANT FARMERS OF THE VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AT AN AWARD GIVING CEREMONY HELD AT THE MUTALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

According to the senior manager of the Department of Agriculture Mrs Raphunga Ednah, the competition was launched in 2005 aimed at promoting female farmers. From its inception, Mrs Raphunga continued, Vhembe District has managed to scoop few awards at the Limpopo Provincial competitions level. However, concluded Mrs Raphunga the competition has been transformed and now aims at encouraging young people to engage themselves in agricultural activities.

The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality Cllr Florence

Dzhombere and the Mayor of Mutale local municipality Cllr Thomas Matibe were guests of honour at the ceremony.

The Executive Mayor was astonished by the high level of participants from the District.

In her key note address the Executive Mayor speaking under the theme “YOUNG FARMERS CULTIVATING NEW GROUNDS, DEEPENING RURAL DEVELOPMENT” encouraged the Department to continue supporting young farmers who show keen interest in the farming industry because agriculture is important in developing a nation. The youth, the Executive Mayor continued, must be active participants in agriculture in order to ensure economic development and sustainable livelihood for South Africa.

“As Vhembe District Municipality

we are predominantly rural with a huge potential in agriculture, mining and eco-tourism” said Cllr Dzhombere.

In the colonial past and with the experience of farm labour, agriculture was looked down upon and was even regarded as some form of corporal punishment like in the case of learners who may have done something wrong at school. The Executive Mayor would like the situation to be fundamentally changed and looks to programmes like these to change the mindset. “This poor image of persons involved in agriculture and farming needs to be changed fundamentally and the youth of today are the best agents for this change given their ability and willingness to bring new ideas to the forth, easy adaptation to new technologies and their higher number in society” Cllr Dzhombere emphasised.

In conclusion, the Executive Mayor congratulated the winners and encouraged those that did not make it not to give up to produce food for the nation as that is the main priority.

The best primary school award went to Nxangu Yi Ntswa from Thulamerla Local Municipality whilst backyard garden/household use award went to the young man from Nwanedi in the Musina Local Municipality; namely Mr. Ramaano Ramatshimbila. The top informal market award went to Mr. Avhurengwi Aubrey Mabetha from Nwanedi in the Musina Local Municipality again. Finally, the top Commercial /National Market went to Bogha General Supply from Musina Local Municipality as well.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS RECEIVE WHOPPING REWARDS

Vhembe District Municipality held a workshop and an award giving ceremony from the 30 June to the 1st July this year at the Louis Trichardt Showground of the Makhado Local Municipality.

The workshop aims to empower young business men and women on business management skills and to reward young entrepreneurs who participated in the 2011 Youth in Business Competition.

The competition focused on three sectors namely Agriculture, Tourism and Enterprise Development and was sponsored by the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) and the SABC.

The first prize winners in each sector received a floating trophy and an amount of R120 000, second prize winners went away with R60 000 whilst third placed participants took home R30 000.

The competition started in 2008 with the first prize in each category



From left to right are Cllr Tshitereke Matibe Mayor of Mutale Municipality, Cllr Mavhungu Lurul;i Mayor of Makhado Municipality and Dr Gerson Rambiyane Senior Manager of Education in Vhembe District handing over a cheque of R120 000 to Mr Emmanuel Mudau the winner of the agricultural sector

being R60 000. In 2009 the first prize shot up to R100 000 and in 2010 it remained at R100 000 and shot up again to R120 000 in 2011.

In her Key note speech the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality Cllr Florence Dzhombere speaking under the

theme: Developing and promoting vibrant young entrepreneurial, local economic development solution said that Vhembe District Municipality is qualitatively improving the participation of young people in the economy as well as the allocation of resources for programmes of this kind. Everyone has a responsibility to put the young people of this country at the centre of economic development, not merely as beneficiaries, but as the future drivers of economic transformation.



From left to right are Cllr Caroline Mahasela Chief Whip and Cllr Florence Dzhombere Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality handing over a cheque of R120 000 to Portia Simango

According to the Executive Mayor Vhembe District Municipality is determined to halve youth unemployment, provide skills development for various sectors and support projects to become sustainable. The ANC 2009 National Election Manifesto, continued the Executive Mayor, reminded all South Africans that ANC Government policies such as Black Economic Empowerment and Affirmative Action have contributed to the



From left to right Mr Victor Ravhuanzwo General Manager of SABC Limpopo, Cllr Tshitereke Matibe Mayor of Mutale, Cllr Mavhungu Luruli Mayor of Makhado and Dr. Gerson Rambiyane Senior Manager of Education handing over a cheque of R120 000 to Pray Shivambu

RADOROBO MUSWA WA TSHITIRIKI O DI IMISELA U SHUMELA LUSHAKA



Mbili dza thiraka nna dze dza rengiwa nga masheleni aswikaho milioni nna u thusa u isa madi kha tshitshavha, Meyara Cllr Florence Dzhombere na Acting Municipal Manager Vho Freddy Tshivhengwa

Tshitiriki tsha Vhembe nga murahu ha dzikhetho dza mimasipala tsho vha na Mashudu vhukuma nga u rangiwa phanda nga mufumakadzi a na mafufufulu a u shumela vhadzulapo. Mufumakadzi Mukhansela Vho-Fulufhelo Florence Dzhombere vha dzangano la ANC vho hweswa vhudifhinduleli ha u rangaphanda masipala wa tshitiriki, u bva tshe vha dzhena kha itsho tshidulo vha khou shuma vha sa aweli u itela vhadzulapo vha tshitiriki.

Lushaka lu khou vha vhona mivhunduni na mitanganoni minzhi, zwipikwa zwavho ndi u fhungudza vhushai na u sika mishumo ngomu

tshitirikini tsha Vhembe. Radorobo Vho- Fulufhelo Dzhombere vha tenda kha nyambo ya dzangano lavho la ANC ya uri "Ri rothe ri nga bvededza zwinzhi", Tshifhinga tshinzhi vha enda vha tshi kwamana na zwiimiswa zwothe zwa Vhembe. Vhushaka havhudi na mahosi, Vhoramabindu na zwiimiswa zwothe zwa lushaka ndi tsumba u funa mveledziso.

Mivhundu I do dzula u vha vhona vha tshikhou dzudzanya mafhungo a tshumelo na vhadzulapo sa musi hu vhone vhane vha muvhuso. Madalo mivhunduni vho a thoma kha mivhundu ya ha Malamulele u fana na Rotovhowa, Mukhomi, Dumela

growth of South Africa's Black middle class by 2,6 million in 2007 and small business support has been streamlined and expanded.

In conclusion, Cllr Dzhombere praised achievers and encouraged those who did not make it to work harder.

na Xihosana. Afho ndi he vha pfa nga thaidzo dza madi mivhunduni. Madalo ayo a do khwinisa tshumelo ngauri vhurumelwa havho vhu do shumesa nnda ha ofisi u wana phindulo u tavhanya. Mufumakadzi Vho- Dzhombere vha humbela tshumisano khavhadzulapo vhothe vha Vhembeuri Vhutshilo ha lushaka vhu vhe khwine.

Vhakhansela vha Vhembe vhothe vha tshi khou rangwa phanda nga tshimebi Vho- Tshifhiwa Dali na tshipikara tsha khoro vho Caroline Mahasela vho diimisela u shuma vhukuma. Vhudiimiseli uvho vhu khwathisa radorobo kha tshipikwa tshawe tsha u shuma lwa mafufufulu. Tshitiriki tsha Vhembe tsho no vha na vhuo vhuunzhi. Hu na magondo a khwine, ndisedzoyamadi ikhoukhwiniswanga thandela dza madamu na u dzhenisa dziphaiphi khulwane. Tshumelo ya u khwinisa mabunga a lushaka i khou bvelaphanda Vhembe lothe.

Masipala wavho wo diimisela u disa tshumelo I takadzaho lushaka ho sedzwa thodea dza mivhundu yavho. Mulanga dorobo kha madalo avho mivhunduni vha do thetshesela na thodea dza tshumelo ho sedzwa na zwe vhadzulapo vha rumela kha mimasipala yavho. Tshumelo ya khwine ndi tshone tshipikwa tshavho radorobo vha tshitiriki.

67 minutes for Mandela Day celebration at Elim Hospital



MANDELA day celebration Politicians prepare to cut the cake

The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality Cllr Florence Dzhombere and the Mayor of Makhado Municipality Cllr. Mavhungu Luruli led a team of participants from their respective municipalities to join the Elim Hospital Board and Staff for the Mandela Day celebration that took place at Elim Hospital on the 15 July this year.

The team cleaned, removed, picked and de-bushed all unwanted litter, dirt and plants from corner to corner; on the surface and at roof tops. according to the Communication Officer of Elim Hospital Mr. Avhatakali

Marole Elim Hospital has never been as clean as is the case now. The Hospital is now very much clean and all connected to it are very happy and would like to thank the Mayors and others for the sterling work done

The Mayors rolled up their sleeves, donned protective clothes and got into all spots including

toilets to make it a point that they honour the day appropriately.

The event at Elim took place on the



MANDELA day celebration at Elim Hospital Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Cllr Florence Dzhombere in a blue overall on the right leading the cleaning campaign

15th July in order to give way for the 18th July which is the birth date for the world icon Mr. Rolihlahla Mandela simply because on the 18th the two Mayors and others had to be part of the National Celebration of the same kind at Giyani Stadium.

Mr. Mandela the first President of the democratic South Africa turned 93 years on the 18 July 2011. The United Nations took an unusual decision of honouring an individual because of his outstanding achievement in the human rights and exceptional service to humanity and declared the 18 of July a Mandela Day and a day to do good work in honour of Tata Mandela.

Tata Mandela spent 67 years making the world a better place.

DISTRICT YOUTH PARLIAMENT FOR VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AT MUTALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The Vhembe District Municipality Youth Council held its 2011 Youth Council on the 24th June this year at the Tshilamba Community Hall.

The Acting Executive Mayor Cllr Humbulani Mathavha in his welcoming address said that as young people of Vhembe District it was important that they grow up knowing what parliament is all about. Cllr Mathavha submitted that in the Vhembe District majority of councillors are young people and this is a blessing in disguise because all challenges faced by young people of Vhembe District will be a priority and as such young councillors will be in a better position to address them.

The guest of honour at the Youth Parliament was Cllr Caroline Mahasela, Speaker of Vhembe District Municipality. In her address Cllr Mahasela said that the young people of Vhembe District were fortunate to be given an opportunity to raise their challenges in their Youth Parliament. She emphasized that it is in parliament where challenges are raised and that is where people say it all. As a Speaker herself she is the one who chairs during parliamentary sessions.

Cllr Mahasela went on to inform the Young Parliamentarians that in parliament only formal clothes are allowed. The Speaker urged young people to be creative enough to start



The executive committee members of Vhembe District Youth Council pose for a photo during the launching of youth month

their own businesses and that it was high time that young girls must not think only of getting married but should utilize all their God given talents to become self sufficient.

Cllr Mahasela concluded by saying that it is time that young people stop blaming the Government for not delivering services. “What are we doing as individuals, why can’t we be creative enough and see what would be the results?” she asked.

The honorable David Ndou the Vhembe District Youth Council Chairperson presented the State of the Youth in the Vhembe District. In his presentation he outlined all the programmes which were

implemented from the first quarter of the financial year including the Youth Parliament as follows:

- 1st quarter: Youth Exhibition Seminar and Young SAWID
- 2nd quarter: District Economic Summit and HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign
- 3rd quarter: Go Back to School Campaign and election seminar and
- 4th quarter: District Youth Day celebration, District Youth Parliament and Youth Memorial Lecture

MEMORIAL LECTURE FOR VHEMBE DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL



Chief Whip of Vhembe District Municipality on the extreme left, Cllr. Tshifhiwa Dali and members of Vhembe Youth Council during Youth Month Celebration at Thohoyandou town hall

Vhembe District Youth Council held a Memorial Lecture on the 27 June this year at the Thohoyandou Town Hall to commemorate the role played by the Youth of 1976 in particular and that played by the young people of South Africa before and after June 16, 1976.

In his welcoming speech the Chairperson of SAYC Mr. David Ndou expressed his disappointment due to the low turnout and the late start of the programme. For that he offered his apology and went straight into his welcome address and thereafter requested Cllr Risenga T E, Acting Mayor of Thulamela Municipality to introduce the Guest Speaker of the event Acting Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality and Chief Whip Cllr Tshifhiwa Dali.

In her introductory talk Cllr Risenga said that the main purpose of the

Vhembe District Youth Council memorial lecture was to provide a platform for the youth of Vhembe District Municipality to engage one another in order to confront head on all issues that affect the youth of today. Cllr Risenga concluded by saying “annual lecture series of this kind are highly beneficial to the youth as they continue to contribute to a plethora of issues within the District Municipality, including building sustainable social dialogue amongst the youth”.

In his key note address the Acting Executive Mayor and Chief Whip of Vhembe District Municipality Cllr Dali spoke of the role played by the 1976 youth in the struggle against apartheid where he said that “the democratic government of South Africa deserves praise for having declared June 16 a National Youth Day in honour of the contribution

made by young people to the struggle for liberation and against all forms of discrimination”. Cllr Dali went on to state that the memorial lecture provides all delegates with an opportunity to engage on matters affecting young people and also educate young people about historical milestones of our country.

In conclusion, the guest speaker had this to say “today young people are faced with the devastating challenges of HIV and AIDS, endemic unemployment, wide spread poverty and suicidal abuse of alcohol and drugs which the memorial lecture must attempt to provide solutions to.”

At the end, the Memorial Lecture came up with resolutions to address some of the challenges identified such as:

That the National Youth Development Agency should open an NYDA office in the Vhembe District not later than September this year in order for young people to access services without delays.

The District to embark on an education campaign to educate young people about the history of South Africa, particularly the role played by young people such as youth activists like Hector Peterson, Tsietsi Mashinini and many others.

Young people should start their own businesses instead of waiting for the government to create jobs for them whereas they can create jobs for themselves and even become managers of their own businesses.

YOUNG EMERGING FARMERS TO BENEFIT FROM FARMING IMPLEMENTS



One of the implements to benefit young farmers

Vhembe District Municipality has purchased 12 tractors and farming equipment which includes amongst others mould board ploughs, disc plough riggers, rippers and a wheeldoser for road construction and de-bushing.

Since the closure of the ploughing unit which was called Agricultural Rural Development Cooperation, emerging farmers had challenges in

accessing farming implements and this led to the a fall in production. A farmer who used to farm 5 hectares dropped to 1, 5 hectares.

The aim of this initiative is to promote crop production through soil preparation, planting, weeds removal, pest control and harvesting. Furthermore, the availability of equipment will act as a catalyst to stimulate economic growth,

job creation and food security.

Farmers will be able to lease the implements based on their needs and pay a reasonable cost.

Mr. Nkhangweleni Makhavhu, head of the agricultural sector in the Vhembe District, said that “the District has an obligation to improve accessibility to farming implements to emerging farmers so that they can be able to improve their production”.

Mr Makhavhu went on to say that the programme will create 83 decent jobs which will include amongst others, workshop operators, administrators and drivers. The tractors will be able to assist farmers and cover the areas of almost 54 000 hectors throughout the District.

The project is expected to start operating during this coming summer season.

WORLD POPULATION DAY COMMEMORATED

Limpopo Province commemorated World Population Day this year in Milula Village in Makhado local Municipality under the Vhembe District Municipality under the theme “Young People: the future for Limpopo”.

World Population Day is an annual event observed on July 11. The Day seeks to raise awareness of global/national population issues. The global population is projected to reach 7 billion on 31 October 2011, according to global population prospects released by the United Nations population Division.

This major population milestone comes at a time when South



Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality Cllr Florence Dzhombere on the extreme left and Cllr Percy Mashimbye Acting Municipal Manager of Makhado Municipality on the extreme right and with Dr. Edward Kironji handing over uniforms to children at the World Environmental Day at Mailula



From left right Cllr Percy Mashimbye Acting Municipal Manager of Makhado Municipality, Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality Cllr Florence Dzhombere and Dr. Edward Kironji handing over food parcels at the world environmental day at Mailula

Africa will be conducting national housing and population census, the outcome of which will define the country's exact contribution to the 7 billion global population.

Speaking at the commemoration Ms Nonhlahla Zidela UNFPA Assistant Resident Representative urged South Africans to get counted in October this year as part of the national and global population, let every person say "I am here - I count".

According to Zidela the event reminds all of us to give young people their place and space in the campaign, and also recognize the benefits that would accrue to society at large if we do the right things to nurture and support young people to achieve their full potential. For, if we don't give young people their place in society, the demographic dividend will remain a "dream" and will not be achieved.

Going forward Ms Zidela submitted that young people however face a number of challenges that the Government and Development Partners should address collectively; important to mention being : youth unemployment, gender disparities in education and teenage pregnancies.

In conclusion, Ms Zidela said that young people are energetic, open to the possibilities afforded by new technologies and they are transforming politics and culture. Their choices will determine our common future; let us shape these choices today.

Speaking on behalf of the MEC for Health & Social Development, Manana Dikeledi Magadzi the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality Cllr Florence Dzhombere said that "we are excited that the provincial event was taking place in our backyard, shortly after the local government elections and the subsequent installation of yet another term of local governance led by the African National Congress".

According to Cllr Dzhombere, the central message this year is "to care for each other and the planet and for us to be able to do so it means we need to preserve life which can only be done when we provide our people with affordable quality health care with an objective of developing a long healthy life for all South Africans."

Cllr Dzhombere was pleased to state that the department of Health & Social Development in the

Limpopo Province has embarked on a number of initiatives that are geared towards contributing positively to the preservation of life. Some initiatives being:

Provision of anti-retroviral treatment to those among us who are HIV positive and who suffer from AIDS.

Roll-out of the HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) campaign.

Implementation of Free Medical Male Circumcision at all our hospitals.

Improvement of services at Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities through infrastructure development.

Regular visits to all clinics by Medical Officers.

Appointment of TB tracer teams to detect defaulters before they develop resistance to TB drugs and medication.

Implementation of a massive immunization campaign particularly to primary school children and candidates for early childhood development (LCD).

The executive Mayor went on to express appreciation for the fact that in the past few months the MEC for Health and Social development Manana Dikeledi Magadzi has been all over the Province to provide school children from poor families with school uniforms and food parcels.

Furthermore, Cllr Dzhombere said that she has no doubt in her mind that the celebration of World Population Day will also embrace other initiatives that are geared towards building the society we all fought and hoped for: a caring society built on the foundation and respect of human rights. Cllr Dzhombere listed some of these initiatives that needed collective support as follows:

The announcement by the Minister of Social Development to increase qualifying alcohol intake age to 21.

The pending ban of alcohol

and tobacco products in sports and public gatherings. The shutting down of Shebeens in our Communities.

The strengthening of the law to regulate operating times at Shebeens, Taverns and other related liquor outlets.

In conclusion, the Executive Mayor quoted the United Nations Secretary General who once said “Later this year, a seven billionth baby will be born into our world of complexity and contradiction. We have enough food for everyone, yet nearly a billion go hungry. We have the means to eradicate many diseases, yet they

continue to spread. We have the gift of a rich natural environment, yet it remains subjected to daily assault and exploitation. All people of conscience dream of peace, yet too much of the world is in conflict and steeped in armaments. Overcoming challenges of this magnitude will demand the best in each of us”.

VHEMBE DISTRICT OVERALL WINNER OF THE O R TAMBO GAMES

Limpopo Province held the O R Tambo Games at the University of Venda Stadium from the 25 to the 28 June this year.

The O R Tambo Games are held in the spirit of participation as free individuals and equals not only on the sport field but life in general. The games ushered in an opportunity created by our beloved struggle hero, Oliver Reginald Tambo who once said “it is our responsibility to break down the barriers of division and create a country where there will be neither whites nor blacks, just South Africa, free and united in diversity”. The Games are aimed at uniting the people of South Africa across all spectrums.

Speaking at the closing ceremony the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture in Limpopo Manana Joyce Mashamba said Vhembe District has been the most gracious host for the Provincial O R Tambo Games and thanked Cllr. Florence Dzhombere, the District staff and all the people for their hospitality. “You have once again displayed what we mean by the spirit of Ubuntu. The spirit of social cohesion is but one of the imperatives and goals of the O R Tambo Games. We believe that through participation in sport and giving our young people the opportunity to interact during various activities; we will reach



Cllr Caroline Mahasela in a pink two piece dress, Cllr Florence Dzhombere The Executive Mayor in a white two piece dress and Vho Gole Mphaphuli at the O.R Tambo celebration

our goal of uniting our nation on all levels” said MEC Mashamba.

In conclusion, the MEC announced that the host district for the 2012 Provincial O R Tambo Games will be Mopani. The MEC expressed the hope that Mopani District will follow the spirit of warm hospitality that was experienced in Thohoyandou. She urged Mopani to start with the preparations in order to serve the people of Limpopo in the same professional manner as was done by Vhembe District.

The Vhembe District Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr. Florence Dzhombere also spoke at the closing ceremony. In her speech she congratulated the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Manana Mashamba for providing excellent

leadership for the tournament. Cllr. Dzhombere pointed out that the MEC was in Thohoyandou on Saturday to officially open the tournament and came back again to see to the closing of the tournament. The MEC’s commitment to sports, continued Cllr. Dzhombere, needs our support as it is the implementation of our government programme.

The Executive Mayor concluded by wishing all athletes who participated a safe journey on their way to their respective homes and further encouraged them to nurture their talents as it could be their future. Today, the Executive Mayor Cllr Dzhombere went on, South Africa is proud to have produced athletes of the calibre of Mbulaheni Mulaudzi, the pride of Limpopo Province



The MEC for Sport, art and culture in Limpopo Province holds a trophy with the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality Cllr Florence Dzhombere on her left whilst Vho Gole Mphaphuli on the extreme left and Cllr Caroline Mahasela on the extreme right look on

Football Team, Black Leopards and many others. The fact that athletes of Vhembe District were crowned the overall winners of the tournament shows that there is a lot of talent in Vhembe which we must unearth more and more because sport today is not only about entertainment and character building but also another form of job creation.

Vhembe District won 9 gold, 12 silver and 15 bronze medals and was crowned the happy overall winner.

BLACK LEOPARDS FC GOES BACK TO WHERE IT BELONGS

The Limpopo Province will once more be represented at the elite Professional Soccer League when the football season resumes by none other than (Madidingwe) Black Leopards Football Club and team “LIDODA DUVHA”. Indeed the day came when Black Leopards was once more elevated to the elite league where they belong.

The promotion of the club was not easy going. Many rivers had to be crossed and mountains climbed. Due to the unwavering support from fans and supporters, collective efforts by all players, the capability of the coach and efficient and effective governance and management by the Directors and staff, the club indeed finally got promoted.

According to Mr. Tshifhiwa Thidiela, the Marketing Director of Black Leopards F.C, the club wants to make its supporters proud because it is because of them that the team obtained the success we are celebrating. “We were together with our supporters during difficult and hard times and we are still together as we celebrate our



Black Leopards FC trouncing Bay United FC at the Tshifulanani Sports Ground



Black Leopards FC trouncing Bay United FC at the Tshifulanani Sports Ground

successes. We promise to work hard for the team to remain in the Professional Soccer League”.

Mr. Thidiela admitted that it was very difficult and expensive to play in the National First Division because the club had to dig deep into its own pocket. Furthermore, the players were heavily challenged by the arduous play-offs and the 2010/11 seasons.

The bitter taste of the sweet win is the unfortunate fact that Thohoyandou Stadium is not in a good condition for Black Leopards to use it as its home ground. Because of that, the team is forced to temporarily relocate to Peter Mokaba stadium in Polokwane for its games and this will be very difficult for the local and loyal supporters of the club to travel long distances to see their team play.

Local businesses such as hawkers, taxi and bus operators, accommodation establishments, vendors and other sectors were supposed to be able to generate income due to the boost of the

tourists flocking to Thohoyandou to watch Black Leopards’ home games.

The club appeals for urgent renovations of the Thohoyandou stadium so that even other teams can be able to find a football destination in the Vhembe District.

In his parting words Mr. Thidiela

said “We thank all the people for their unwavering support, we promise to excel and keep the standard high in the next season. Black Leopards is the only team in the Limpopo Province and with the support of the peace loving people of our province, we will go far”.



Happy moments for Black Leopards FC after realising that they have truly gained promotion into the elite professional soccer league