



“Quality housing is about restoring dignity, building communities, and transforming the lives of families. Polokwane Municipality is indeed charting the path towards achieving its Vision 2030 Smart City goals.”

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Polokwane Municipality continues to cement its place as the hub of progress in Limpopo, with a landmark joint launch and sod-turning ceremony that signals a new chapter in community development and service delivery.

Led by the **Minister of Human Settlements, Thembi Simelane** alongside **MEC for COGHSTA, Basikop Makamu**, and the **Executive Mayor of Polokwane, Cllr Makoro John Mpe**, the event celebrated the roll-out of **Level 2 housing accreditation** and the **electrification of new households**. This stands as a living example of the **District Development Model in action**, showcasing how collaboration across the three spheres of government delivers real results for communities.

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Dear Readers,

If ever there was proof that Polokwane is truly a *City on the Rise*, this issue is it. From bricks and boreholes to books and ball games, we have packed these pages with stories that show how partnerships and purpose are driving change in our municipality.

We start with development momentum because nothing says progress louder than new homes, electrified communities, and water where once there was scarcity. In Polokwane, collaboration is no buzzword; it's the engine powering better living standards.

From there, we put on our overalls and join the Executive Mayor in honouring Madiba's legacy, swapping boardrooms for brooms, fixing potholes and reminding us all that leadership is best measured in rolled-up sleeves.

Our spotlight then turns to the wisdom of age with the Older Person's Dialogue, where candid conversations on mental health, dignity, and protection remind us that the voices of our elders are not echoes of the past, but guiding notes for the future.

For those who still believe municipalities can't manage money well, brace yourself. Our feature on the Infrastructure Skills Development Grant workshop shows Polokwane not just spending every rand, but turning it into bricks, brains and bright young engineers.

We also bring you a seat at the table with Ms. Babalwa Mosomane, our



Acting Chief Audit Executive. In this candid interview, she pulls no punches, proving that governance is not just about ticking boxes, but about influence, integrity and impact.

Safety takes centre stage in our event management feature, reminding us that behind every roar of the crowd must stand the quiet guardians of order and protection. Then, from regulations to recreation, we journey into tourism legislation workshops and youth summits, where knowledge and empowerment lay the groundwork for a resilient future.

Finally, we close on a high note — or rather, a whistle blow — as we revisit how Polokwane continues to honour Mandela by investing in youth through sport. Here, football nets and netball poles are instruments of hope, steering our youth away from the shadows of substance abuse and into fields of possibility.

In short, this issue is a patchwork of progress, stitched together with service, stitched together with care. And as the idiom goes, “*when the tide rises, all boats are lifted.*” Polokwane is rising, and together, we are sailing towards a future worth celebrating.

Enjoy the read.

Warm regards,
Thipa Selala
Editor-in-Chief



EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S REMARKS

This publication arrives at a defining moment — a moment when our municipality is on the rise. Polokwane is rising, and this rise is not by chance; it is powered by the deliberate development programmes we are driving across our communities.

We have just completed the rehabilitation of critical roads and streets that form the arteries of our city — including Nelson Mandela Drive, Oost Street in Polokwane Central, Pafuri in Penina Park, Campbell in Ivy Park, Pierre, Crescent Avenue, Neethling and Rhodesdrift, among many others. These are the foundation of mobility, growth and economic opportunity.

Importantly, our vision of development extends beyond the city centre. We are expanding road infrastructure even in the most rural parts of our municipality. Across every cluster, construction is taking place. There is no ward that has been left behind. Through ward-based planning, we are ensuring that every one of our 45 wards is allocated resources, because progress must be shared, and development must be inclusive.

On the critical issue of water — the lifeblood of

our people and our economy — we have made tangible strides. We have completed a state-of-the-art hybrid water purification plant in Seshego. This innovation has transformed production capacity from 1.5 million litres per day to an impressive 8 million litres per day, drawing from Seshego Dam and supporting boreholes.

We have stabilised supply and reduced deficits that have long challenged our communities. Beyond that, we are taking water to where it is most needed — expanding provision through regional water schemes that now reach deep into our villages. This is about restoring dignity, securing livelihoods, and building resilience for the future.

Polokwane is rising — through infrastructure, through service delivery, and through the will of a people united for progress.

Regards,

Cllr Makoro John Mpe
Executive Mayor, Polokwane Municipality



CITY MANAGER'S NOTE

The story of Polokwane is one of progress. I am proud to share that we successfully submitted our Annual Financial Statements (AFS) on time — a clear sign that our systems are working and that accountability remains at the heart of our administration.

As we step into the second quarter — a shorter one due to the December holidays — let us all put our hands to the wheel with energy and urgency. Early momentum is key to achieving our targets and delivering results that our people can see and feel.

The first quarter of this financial year has already been marked by impact to our communities. We have rolled-out **Level 2 housing accreditation** and the **electrification of new households** and completed the sport ground at Extension 78 which looks more beautiful. We planted over 500 trees at Eagles Nest School in Myngenoegen, schools in Ga-Mothapo, and even at royal offices. This is just to mentions a few.

We have also been in the spotlight of the media. While some reports have carried a negative tone, I want to assure every resident and partner: your municipality is firmly in the right hands. Guided by the strong leadership of our Executive Mayor and the tireless efforts of our teams, we continue to clarify our positions with transparency and

integrity. Our mission remains unchanged — to serve our people with dedication and purpose.

At the same time, we pause to remember those we have lost along the way. To the families, friends and colleagues of our departed employees, I extend my deepest condolences. May their memories remain a source of strength and comfort.

I must also remind my colleagues that service delivery is also about how we treat our people. I urge all employees to engage residents, businesses and visitors with respect, kindness and professionalism. Every smile, every respectful interaction and every helpful act builds confidence in our municipality.

Finally, let us not forget: local government is a school. We must keep education fashionable — for our communities and for ourselves. I encourage those who are able, to keep studying, learning and growing to strengthen the future of Polokwane and invest in our own knowledge.

Together, let us move this city forward with passion.

**From the City Manager,
Ms Thuso Nemugumoni**

POLOKWANE'S DEVELOPMENT MOMENTUM: PARTNERSHIPS DRIVING BETTER LIVING STANDARDS

Thursday, 10 July 2025



Polokwane Municipality continues to cement its place as the hub of progress in Limpopo, with a landmark joint launch and sod-turning ceremony that signals a new chapter in community development and service delivery.

Led by the **Minister of Human Settlements, Thembu Simelane** alongside **MEC for COGHSTA, Basikop Makamu**, and the **Executive Mayor of Polokwane, Cllr Makoro John Mpe**, the event celebrated the roll-out of **Level 2 housing accreditation** and the **electrification of new households**. This stands as a living example of the **District Development Model in action**, showcasing how collaboration across the three spheres of government delivers real results for communities.

Already, the initiative has lit up lives and homes in **Juju Valley, Extension 133, and Extension 126**, where **235 households have been electrified**. Work is underway to connect the remaining **419 households**, ensuring no family is left behind. To further confront the challenge of water scarcity, **five new boreholes** have been drilled, bringing much-needed relief to affected areas.

Minister Thembu Simelane applauded the initiative as more than just infrastructure, but as a renewal of dignity and hope:

“Quality housing is about restoring dignity, building communities, and transforming the lives of families. Polokwane Municipality is indeed charting the path towards achieving its Vision 2030 Smart City goals.”

MEC Basikop Makamu reinforced the provincial government's commitment to oversight and accountability, saying:

“We will continue to support and monitor the delivery of houses until they are handed over to beneficiaries. Polokwane has shown that Level 2 accreditation is not just a policy, but a promise fulfilled for our communities.”

In his remarks, **Executive Mayor Cllr Makoro John Mpe** highlighted Polokwane's central role in the province's growth trajectory:

“Polokwane is the heartbeat of development in Limpopo. We have budgeted over **R1.7 million** to improve infrastructure and basic services for our people. As a City on the Move, we value the support of our stakeholders and partners. Together, we can grow Polokwane.”

Polokwane is moving forward — together with its people.

POLOKWANE HONORS MADIBA'S LEGACY THROUGH ACTION

Friday, 18 July 2025



In a powerful tribute to the life and vision of Nelson Mandela, the Polokwane Municipality dedicated its **67 Minutes of Mandela Day** to hands-on community service in Disteneng, Ward 8.

Leading from the front, **Executive Mayor Cllr Makoro John Mpe**, together with members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs) and municipal officials, rolled up their sleeves to cut grass, patch potholes, repair streetlights and clear waste. These visible acts of service reflected the true spirit of Tata Madiba – leadership through action and commitment to the people.

During the community gathering, **Executive Mayor Mpe** highlighted the crucial role of **Ward Councillors** in tackling service delivery challenges:

“It is the duty of Ward Councillors to write reports to the Executive Mayor, detailing the needs of their communities. Councillors are in daily contact with residents and must work together to improve people's lives,” he emphasized.

The Executive Mayor also reflected on Mandela's enduring legacy:

“Today, all of us are free. South Africans are reaping the fruits of Tata Madiba's dream of nation-building. We celebrate a great man who sacrificed his life to serve. As part of honoring his legacy, we came here to serve our people with the Mandela spirit.”

The day's programme combined **service delivery interventions** with a clear message of accountability. Crews launched a “war on potholes,” restored streetlights, improved water provision and cleaned public spaces. Executive Mayor Mpe also raised awareness on critical issues like **littering and cable**



theft, warning of their consequences:

“Cable theft plunges communities into darkness, which in turn fuels crime. We must work together to stop it.”

The Mandela Day programme then moved to **Extension 74 and 44**, where the Mayoral team inspected progress on the new **sports complex project**. Briefing the officials, Community Services Director **Edward Hutamo** outlined construction milestones, while Executive Mayor Mpe stressed the importance of timely completion:

“This facility is beautiful and clean. We must complete it by **September 2025**, without delays. Once finished, we'll host a soccer match as the opening curtain-raiser.”

Initiated in 2023, the sports complex includes **grandstands, ablution facilities and a well-designed green pitch** built to withstand rainy seasons.

Closing the day's programme, the Executive Mayor reiterated the municipality's commitment to infrastructure and recreation:

“The demand for sporting facilities and other infrastructure is massive. Let's complete this project and move swiftly to the next. Ward 8 communities deserve better – and the best service delivery.”

Through service, accountability and progress, **Polokwane Municipality continues to honour Mandela's legacy in tangible actions that improve lives.**

Later in the day, the Executive Mayor hosted the elderly to lunch at the New Peter Mokaba Stadium.

OLDER PERSON'S DIALOGUE SHINES A SPOTLIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH AND DIGNITY

Tuesday, 26 August 2025

It was a gathering rich with wisdom, spirit and a quiet urgency. New Peter Mokaba Stadium became a stage where the voices of Polokwane's elderly resounded with both pain and hope. The occasion was the Older Person's Dialogue and Forum, a space created by Polokwane Municipality to honor, empower and protect those whose shoulders carry the weight of generational knowledge.

The dialogue was about polite conversations, breaking silences and speaking openly on the mental health challenges that often go unnoticed in the lives of the elderly — loneliness, neglect, abuse and the silent erosion of dignity.

“We are focusing on addressing challenges faced by our elderly people, including abuse, negligence and access to proper healthcare. Our elderly must share ideas and thoughts and be supported in communities. Another important aspect is eating healthy and exercising,” explained **Mr. Hlabaki Tleane** from the Older Person Organization, drawing nods of agreement from the crowd.

The tension deepened when **Special Focus Officer, Jeanette Rebombo** raised a chilling reality: the abuse

and at times, killing of elderly people within their own communities. Her words were a wake-up call.

“We encourage people to report any form of abuse witnessed against older people, even by family members. Our older people should live in peace and harmony with their families and loved ones,” she urged. What emerged from the dialogue was not despair, but determination. A commitment to stand as a collective shield around the elderly, with the backing of powerful stakeholders such as the **Department of Social Development, South African Police Services and the South African Social Security Agency.**

The forum was a declaration: that in Polokwane, the voices of the elderly will not fade into silence. Instead, they will echo as reminders that mental health, respect and safety are not privileges of the young, but rights for all — especially those who once built the pathways the current generation walks on.

The Older Person's Dialogue left attendees with a sense of suspenseful responsibility: how far will society go to ensure that its elderly live with dignity? The answer lies not in the speeches delivered that day, but in the daily actions of communities determined to protect their own.



POLOKWANE TEACHES ENGINEERS THAT MONEY CAN, IN FACT, BUILD BRAINS

Friday, 01 August 2025



When municipalities gather under one roof, it is usually to debate what went wrong. But this time, Polokwane Municipality, with the National Treasury in tow, chose a different script. From 30 July to 1 August 2025, The Ranch Hotel became a lecture hall where municipalities compared notes on how to spend the Infrastructure Skills Development Grant (ISDG) — and, for once, the story wasn't about money gathering dust in the Treasury's account.

Welcoming delegates, Mr. Donald Matsi, Director for Corporate Services, delivered a line that could easily headline any governance handbook: *"Building infrastructure is one thing, but doing so with accountability and empathy is the real goal."* In other words, it's not enough to pour concrete — you must also pour integrity.

And pour, Polokwane did. While other municipalities might treat grant spending as a cautious stroll, Polokwane turned it into a sprint — clocking in at 100% expenditure for 2024. Some might call it overshooting; Polokwane calls it proof of hunger, urgency and an

ability to turn every rand into a brick of progress. One thing is certain: no money is making the return trip back to Treasury.

But the real masterpiece lies not in the spreadsheets, but in the fresh blood recruited through the ISDG. Ten young graduates — civil engineers, electrical engineers, construction managers, and property valuers — now have their boots on the ground. In a sector often accused of recycling old hands, this injection of youth signals not just succession planning, but a stubborn refusal to let talent sit idle.

Matsi closed with a philosophical note, reminding the audience that the purpose of education is not only to sharpen minds but also to build character. Or, as Polokwane has shown, to transform grant funding into both infrastructure and intellectual capital.

At the end of the day, the ISDG workshop was not just about funds and formulas but a reminder — somewhat ironic in a country where underspending is the norm — that when money meets mission, even municipalities can teach a masterclass in accountability.

IN DIALOGUE WITH MS. BABALWA MOSOMANE



They say *iron sharpens iron*, and in the corridors of governance, it takes leaders of substance to strengthen the very spine of accountability. In this spirit, our Editor-in-Chief, **Thipa Selala**, recently sat down with **Ms. Babalwa Mosomane**, the Acting Chief Audit Executive of Polokwane Municipality, for a candid conversation.

With a career marked by resilience, vision, and a deep sense of duty, Ms. Mosomane has become a steady hand steering internal audit and governance structures. Known for her composure in the storm and her firm stand on principles, she has quietly but powerfully redefined what it means to lead with integrity in the public service space.

Over the course of the interview, she opened up about the highlights of her journey, her philosophy on leadership, the balancing act between career and personal life, and her hopes for the future of Polokwane Municipality. In true idiomatic fashion, she reminded us that while the road may be long, *it is walked one step at a time with conviction*.

Q: You have been serving as the Acting Chief Audit Executive, a role that demands high levels of

integrity, strategic thinking, and accountability. Could you share with us some of the highlights of your journey in this position?

A: Yooh, I have a lot to say here LOL I can actually speak for the whole day but just to mention a few highlights is having strengthened governance and accountability, embedding risk consideration into decision making within the municipality, contributing towards performance improvements through impactful audits (*yes we may not be where we want to be but the municipality's governance, risk management and control processes are far better than they were in 2023 when I joined the City of Polokwane*). Another proud moment for me is the fact that in this two years, one has been able to lead and build a strong Internal Audit team by ensuring that the team has highly skilled professionals with diverse expertise and certifications like Certified Internal Auditors (CIA), Certified Information Systems Auditors (CISA), Registered Government Auditors (RGA), Certified Ethics Officers (EO) Quality Assurers (QA), AGAs which is a mid-tier designation that is awarded by SAICA to those professionals who have cultivated and embraced a drive for high performance and strong personal, business and professional ethics. So for me to lead such a team has been both a privilege and deeply fulfilling because when you have such a team, that on its own builds credibility & independence and it also ensures that the team is respected by everyone as an objective, reliable, and trusted advisor. And maybe on a lighter note I believe that it is also due to this course that we were able to also secure an award.





Another proud moment for me is having had to serve the municipality as the Chairperson of the Operation Clean Audit Forum (OPCA) for like two years now; and you will also agree with me when I say I have led that forum and am still leading it with integrity, vision, and a strong commitment to accountability. It's also worth mentioning that it has also been during this era that the forum has been really positioned as the driver for promoting good governance and tracking the implementation of both the Internal Audit and AGSA findings by applying the combined assurance approach. It is in that very meeting we have the Executive Directors, Managers, Assistant Managers, and sister Departments like the Provincial Treasury, SALGA and CoGHSTA all in one room to engage as the relevant role players in the broader accountability ecosystem.

Maybe the last highlight is of recent, of being appointed by the Institute of Internal Auditors, South Africa as a Regional Committee member for the Limpopo Province. Also being invited as a Speaker at the CIGFARO event and SALGA/IIA event regarding the implementation of new Global Internal Audit Standards... these kind of recognitions for me are also a reflection of the trust that the Internal Audit profession has in the contributions I can make beyond Polokwane Municipality because the platforms create

opportunities for me to influence the growth of the profession at a broader level and champion initiatives that strengthen governance and accountability across Limpopo Province.

So in all honesty, my journey overall has been about impact, collaboration and upholding the values and principles that define good governance.

Q: Public service leadership comes with both opportunities and challenges. What drives your passion for serving the people of Polokwane Municipality in a senior role?

A: My passion comes from my understanding that public service is about serving and contributing to the greater good of others i.e. impact, improving lives and enabling opportunities. It is also my appreciation of the fact that every decision that I take or that we take as the municipality has a direct bearing on service delivery and the wellbeing of our communities. Yes, whilst we may sometimes face challenges such as limited resources or competing priorities but for me those are not deterrents but rather opportunities to innovate, collaborate and find solutions that work. So, that responsibility gives me purpose every day.



Q: Many colleagues admire your calm but firm leadership style. How would you describe your personal leadership philosophy?

A: LOL in the contrary, I am not always as calm as people think. What people interpret as calm is actually a deliberate choice to remain composed and solution focused even when sometimes I feel strongly about an issue. Those who know me, they know that when governance and values are undermined or when standards are compromised I am forceful and strong in expressing views and I become very clear about expectations without mincing my words. And for me, being firm does not mean one is rigid but more of being consistent and fair on how principles are applied and decisions are made.

So, coming to the issue of my leadership philosophy, I would say it is rooted mostly on integrity, collaboration and accountability. I always say leadership is not about the title but about influence, responsibility and creating an environment where people are inspired to give their best because ethical principles would then be guiding every decision.

Q: Balancing a demanding career and personal life is never easy. How do you manage to stay grounded and ensure that family, wellness, and work all find their place in your daily routine?

A: LOL ehh it is not easy especially here in Polokwane Municipality but with all my other previous employers it was always easy. But as you know Polokwane Municipality is a quite big, so balancing everything like my work, personal life and school life is indeed a constant journey. But I think also trusting the other three Assistant Managers to lead in their respective Audit disciplines helps in creating some space for balance because that way, I don't have to carry everything alone. But I must also say that I am grateful to have a very supportive and understanding family, they know majority of the time one is home very late (*either*

because of work or school) and that kind of stability keeps me centred and gives me the strength to show up fully in my professional role and student life.

Q: As a woman in leadership, what message do you have for young professionals—especially women—who aspire to break barriers and lead in government or corporate spaces?

A: It would just be to encourage them to always remember that they belong exactly in those spaces that they aspire to lead; and whenever they find themselves in those moments of doubt, they must quickly tap back and remember that the future favours the bold and that breaking barriers requires resilience.

Q: Collaboration is central to operations. How do you plan on strengthening working relationships across departments to ensure seamless service delivery to communities?

A: Look if we can first break down this silos operation mentality and understand that we are all working towards the same end result, we will go very far. So, for me the issue of working relationships can be arrested if we can create spaces where Directorates are required to work together to deliver outcomes and the understanding should be we are doing it for our municipality rather than a certain Directorate. The same way some of us are trying to assist PHA. So to answer your question I plan to continuously promote a culture of shared accountability by ensuring that everyone of us especially at the level of EXCO we understand that service delivery is not the responsibility of just the Water and Sanitation Directorate or Roads and Stormwater Directorate for an example but a collective commitment to our communities; and that if we really want to deliver services seamlessly, we need to continuously sit around the same table and with unity of one purpose which is to solve problems as a collective because this way we will be bringing complementary skills and perspectives to the struggling Directorate.

Q: Lastly, what keeps you inspired on your toughest days, and what legacy would you like to leave within Polokwane Municipality?

A: It is the understanding that tough days are part of the journey and that every challenge is an opportunity for us to make a difference.

As for the legacy, I want my tenure to be remembered for strengthening governance and I also hope to leave one day behind a municipality that is more efficient where systems work seamlessly and a community that vouches for an experience of tangible improvements in service delivery. I also hope that everyone that has ever worked with/under me would be grateful to have ever crossed paths with me because of the empowerment that would have taken place.

SAVE WATER TIPS

FOR HOUSEHOLDS

Fix Leaks Promptly

- Leaking taps, toilets, and pipes waste thousands of litres of water annually.

Use Water-Efficient Fixtures

- Install low-flow showerheads and dual-flush toilets

Turn Off Taps When Not in Use

- While brushing teeth or washing dishes, avoid letting water run unnecessarily, also to avoid flooding after water outage

Be mindful and considerate when collecting water from Tankers

- Take just enough to reserve some water for fellow residents coming after you

ENHANCING EVENT SAFETY THROUGH COLLABORATION

Tuesday, 19 August 2025



The room hummed with quiet anticipation. At first glance, it could have been mistaken for just another municipal workshop, a gathering of officials, organizers, and industry players around tables lined with notepads and water bottles. But behind the calm atmosphere lay a subject too important for small talk: **how to protect lives when thousands gather to celebrate, cheer, or dance.**

On this day, **Polokwane Municipality's Fire and Disaster Management Unit** turned the city of stars into a classroom of safety, pulling together key stakeholders from the event management and safety sector. Their mission was clear: to ensure that the next festival, concert, or sporting event in Polokwane is not remembered for tragedy, but for joy.

"We are here to share knowledge and experiences. Let's learn and share," urged **Mr. Phuti Kabe**, the Manager of the Fire and Disaster Management Unit. His words cut through the air, reminding everyone that safety is not the responsibility of a single authority, but the collective duty of all who bring people together.

The workshop carried with it the heavy memory of **Ellis Park Stadium, 2001**, when excitement turned into disaster and lives were lost in a stampede. Out of that painful chapter was born the **Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Act (SASREA), Act 2 of 2010** — legislation designed to prevent such tragedies from ever repeating themselves.

Participants were guided through the Act's principles: protect lives, prevent disasters, safeguard property and the economy, and preserve the environment. In practice,

this meant more than ticking compliance boxes. It meant thinking ahead, anticipating risks, and understanding that **the true measure of a successful event is not the roar of the crowd, but the silence of avoided disaster.**

The workshop also had a tone of empowerment. Event promoters, government officials, and organizers left with practical tools and a renewed sense of responsibility. Discussions ranged from crowd control strategies to emergency response plans, all underscored by a single truth: **when safety is neglected, celebration can turn to catastrophe in a heartbeat.**

Yet the day was not weighed down by fear. Instead, it was energized by a spirit of collaboration. The atmosphere was one of shared determination, as if every participant understood they were signing a silent pact with the people of Polokwane: *to guard their joy, to shield their lives and to make every gathering a safe space to belong.*

For Polokwane, this was a statement of intent — that safety is not optional and that through vigilance, preparation and partnership, public events can be both spectacular and secure.

As the workshop closed, one thought lingered: in Polokwane, the music will play louder, the crowds will gather larger and the applause will last longer — because safety will always stand behind the scenes, quietly ensuring that every story ends well.

EMPOWERING TOURISM: A STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON ESSENTIAL LEGISLATION

Monday, 21 July 2025

In a decisive step towards building a **robust, secure, and compliant tourism sector**, the **Polokwane Municipality**, in partnership with the **Limpopo Provincial Office**, has officially launched a **three-day Stakeholder Capacity Building Workshop**. The initiative seeks to strengthen industry-wide knowledge of critical legislation while promoting professionalism, trust, and sustainable growth in tourism.

At the heart of the workshop is a focus on three vital pieces of legislation:

- **Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA)** – ensuring transparency and accountability.
- **Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA)** – upholding fairness in administrative processes.
- **Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA)** – safeguarding personal data in an increasingly digital world.

These frameworks not only provide a strong legal foundation but also reinforce the **rights of tourists, citizens, and service providers**, enabling stakeholders to operate ethically and confidently.

The workshop specifically targets **tourism practitioners engaged in inspections, roadside awareness campaigns, and direct service delivery**. With regular interactions between officials, clients, and tourists, an in-depth understanding of these regulations ensures engagements are conducted **professionally, consistently,**

and within legal parameters—ultimately strengthening public trust in the tourism sector.

Delivering a warm welcome at the **New Peter Mokaba Stadium**, **Ms. Rhulani Baloyi** highlighted the far-reaching importance of legislative compliance: “Tourism is more than just an industry; it facilitates movement, connection, and shared experiences. This workshop ensures that government regulations and legislative requirements are met, ultimately benefiting everyone in the tourism value chain.”

The gathering has brought together a diverse mix of stakeholders, including representatives from **provincial departments, tourism associations, and the national tourism industry**. More than a workshop, it serves as a **platform for dialogue, collaboration, and idea-sharing**, addressing challenges and opportunities that shape the sector's future.

By equipping stakeholders with legislative knowledge and practical tools, this initiative will help foster a **more compliant, ethical, and efficient tourism environment in Limpopo**—and set the stage for broader growth across South Africa.

With empowered stakeholders and strengthened partnerships, **Polokwane is driving a tourism sector that is safe, transparent and sustainable for all.**



YOUTH SUMMIT: EMPOWERING POLOKWANE'S YOUNG VOICES

Thursday, 03 July 2025



A vital Youth Summit dialogue was held in the Aganang Cluster, Ward 45, offering a crucial platform for young people to voice the challenges they faced daily. This initiative emphasized the paramount importance of youth development within municipalities like Polokwane, recognizing that empowering young citizens is fundamental to local progress and stability.

Alex Sikoshule, the Special Focus Coordinator dealing with the Youth Desk in Polokwane Municipality, emphasized the summit's core objective. He stated, "We had realized that our youth were dealing with a lot of problems that needed to be given attention. We just wanted to listen to our young people voicing their frustrations and trying to deal with them jointly together with various stakeholders. Please feel free to speak out."

The importance of youth development in a municipal context extended far beyond simply listening. It was about fostering a generation that could contribute meaningfully to the local economy, social fabric, and overall governance.

Ward Councillor Desmond Moloto echoed the sentiment of empowerment, motivating the youth present to embrace determination and hard work by exploring business opportunities. In a tangible commitment to their

future, Moloto pledged to assist at least 200 young individuals from Aganang in obtaining their driving licenses, a crucial step towards increased employability and independence.

The summit's agenda was comprehensive, focusing on critical areas such as:

- **Skill revolution jobs and economic opportunities for the youth:** This involved discussions on equipping young people with relevant skills for the modern job market and identifying avenues for employment.
- **Financial and non-financial support for SMMEs:** Addressing the need for resources and guidance to help young entrepreneurs establish and grow their businesses.
- **Promoting physical and mental health by reducing risky behaviors:** Recognizing the holistic well-being of young people and implementing strategies to mitigate negative influences.

This dialogue in Polokwane Municipality was a testament to the understanding that a thriving municipality is intrinsically linked to the well-being and development of its youth.

HONOURING MANDELA'S LEGACY: INVESTING IN YOUTH THROUGH SPORT

Monday, 28 July 2025

July marks a month of giving. It is a time when communities across South Africa commemorate the birth of Nelson Mandela, a global icon whose life exemplified compassion, generosity, and the power of action. Mandela himself declared July a season of giving, inspiring a culture of selfless service that continues to resonate today.

In the spirit of Mandela's legacy, the residents of Ga Mokgohloa Extensions recently witnessed a remarkable initiative aimed at empowering youth and strengthening community bonds. Executive Mayor Cllr Makoro John Mpe officially unveiled an upgraded community sports ground, now featuring a well-graded playing surface and new soccer and netball poles, providing a safe and inspiring space for young people to grow, play, and thrive.

This project began with a heartfelt appeal from Ms Bridget Mmakgoto Raphahla, a listener of Thobela FM, who reached out to the Executive Mayor seeking support for her community. She emphasized the urgent need for a sports facility and essential gear to give young people a positive alternative to substance abuse—a challenge affecting many communities.

During the handover ceremony, Executive Mayor Mpe echoed Mandela's timeless words:

“Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does.”

Through the restoration of the sports ground and providing soccer and netball balls, the initiative goes beyond infrastructure but equips youth with tools to participate, engage, and build life skills, nurturing both mind and body.

Cllr Mpe emphasized the deeper purpose behind the project:

“We invested in this sports ground because we believe in our youth. We know it will help our young people stay away from substance abuse and embrace a path of growth, teamwork, and positive engagement.”

The community's response was one of gratitude and hope. Ms Raphahla expressed heartfelt thanks to the Executive Mayor and his team for their swift action and generous support, recognizing the profound impact this initiative will have on the lives of young people in Mokgohloa Ext.

This project is a living tribute to Mandela's vision of uplifting communities, fostering hope, and investing in the next generation. Through service, responsiveness, and care, Polokwane continues to demonstrate that the spirit of Madiba is alive, guiding leaders to create tangible change and brighter futures for all.



RISK SPOTLIGHT SERIES

At the very core of Polokwane Municipality lies an invisible shield built not of steel or stone, but of vigilance and discipline. It is held together by men and women whose commitment to risk management ensures that the pulse of our city never falters. They are the guardians of accountability, the stewards of compliance and the champions of foresight.

The Risk Spotlight Series is our way of pulling back the curtain, revealing those who carry this responsibility with quiet strength and firm resolve. These are leaders who embody a culture of resilience anticipating risks before they strike, safeguarding resources before they are lost, and protecting reputations before they are questioned.

Each quarter, one name - or sometimes a few - emerges from the shadows, standing out not because they sought recognition, but because their discipline demanded it. For this inaugural edition, the light falls on four remarkable SBU Managers, whose collective excellence in the 2024/25 financial year left no doubt about the power of leadership grounded in risk awareness. Their message is simple yet profound: risk management is not paperwork, it is protection. It is not compliance, it is credibility. It is not obligation, it is culture.

Featured Managers

1. Mr. Vheli Mthombeni

With a steady voice, Mr. Mthombeni reminds us that credible municipal performance cannot survive without risk management. His call for accurate, validated and reliable reporting is a standard of accountability to the community itself. Described by colleagues as a principled leader, he is both motivator and learner, proving that leadership thrives where discipline meets humility.



2. Mr. Alfred Mothapo

To him, risk is not a threat, it is an opportunity sharpened by discipline. He frames it as a balancing act: minimizing harm, maximizing potential and aligning every effort with strategic objectives. His colleagues speak of a man who does not waver on deadlines or ownership.

Practical, clear and firm, he embodies what it means to manage risk with precision.

3. Ms. Babalwa Mosomane

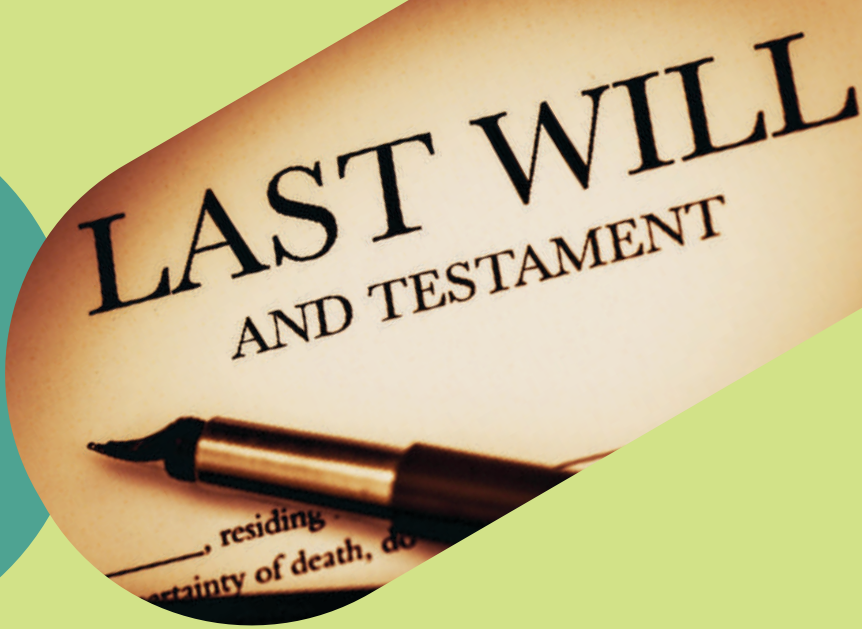
Her voice cuts through complacency: risk is everyone's responsibility. In her eyes, timely and accurate reporting is not optional but the lifeline of the municipality. Described as a passionate strategist with uncompromising integrity, she is the kind of leader who insists that compliance is not a burden but the backbone of sustainability.

4. Mr. Moshe Ramothwala

For Mr. Ramothwala, risk is not something to be managed from the sidelines, it must be embedded into the DNA of every process, every decision, every action. His colleagues call him supportive, dedicated and driven by integrity. To him, compliance is not an afterthought, it is leadership in its purest form.

As the series begins, the spotlight may rest on these four, but the message extends to all: risk is not an event, it is a culture. And those who live it daily strengthen the very foundation upon which Polokwane Municipality stands. The story continues, quarter after quarter, as more guardians of accountability step into the light.





LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

A Lasting Legacy: Why Wills Month is Your Call to Action

A Will is more than a document: it's a financial strategy

Think of a will as the final piece of your financial puzzle. It provides clarity and control, ensuring that your hard-earned assets are protected and distributed exactly as you envision.

A well-drafted Will can:

- Protect your family as it assists you to make provisions for your spouse and dependents, ensuring their financial security.
- Help you name an executor to manage your estate, streamlining the process and reducing stress for your family during a difficult time.
- Assist you to create a testamentary trust for your minor dependents who may not be ready to manage an inheritance.
- Ensure your wishes are honored
-

Wills Month: Your Opportunity

This month, take advantage of various opportunities made available for us in this month to draft Wills- **free of charge**, which will help protect our assets and wishes and build a lasting legacy for our families or dependents.

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development as well as the Law Society of South Africa has announced that the free will services are available at various law firms and financial institutions.

This is the perfect opportunity to take action and control of your legacy. Whether you are young, old, a single parent, or married, a Will is a non-negotiable part of your financial plan. It is a simple step that can prevent immense heartache and financial hardship for your family.

Use Wills Month as your motivation to get your affairs in order as that symbolizes an act of love and responsibility that will provide you and your family with invaluable peace of mind.

September is Wills Month, observed annually in South Africa to raise awareness and encourage people to draft or update their wills. This initiative exists to mitigate the widespread procrastination and misconceptions related to estate planning and to highlight the devastating consequences for families left without clear instructions.

A Will is a legal document in which a person specifies how their assets and liabilities (their estate) should be distributed and managed after their death. It plays a critical role in securing the future for your loved ones.

The dangers of dying intestate

In South Africa, a staggering number of people (as many as 70%) do not have a valid will. This means that if they were to pass away, their assets would be distributed according to the Intestate Succession Act, not according to their personal wishes. This can lead to the following unintended and often painful consequences:

- Family conflict over assets, leading to long-lasting disputes and fractured relationships.
- Uncertainty for loved ones as your assets will not automatically be given to the people you intended to benefit and can even be forfeited.
- Costly delays as the process of winding up an intestate estate can be lengthy, incurring unnecessary legal fees and leaving your dependents without financial support for a long period.
- No guardianship for your minor children, which will lead to court processes to appoint a guardian, who may not be the person you would have chosen.

SEWER CONNECTION PRACTICES TO AVOID

1. Do Not Connect Roof Gutters to Sewer Gullies

- Rainwater from roofs should go to storm water drains or soakaways, not into the sewer system.
- This causes sewer overloading especially during heavy rains, leading to blockages and overflows.

2. Avoid Yard Paving That Slopes Toward Sewer Gullies

- Water from paved surfaces should be directed to storm water systems or permeable areas.
- Sloping toward sewer gullies increases the risk of overload & overflow

3. Do Not Dispose of Solid Waste into Sewer Gullies

- Items like food scraps, oils, and sanitary products block sewer lines and cause backups.

4. Avoid Illegal Sewer Connections

- All sewer connections must be approved by the municipality to ensure proper design and capacity.

