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POLOKWANE TAKES THE KEYS TO ITS OWN HOUSING FUTURE AS NEW HOMES RISE IN WARDS 42 AND 45



The tide has turned. In a defining moment for local governance and service delivery, Polokwane Municipality has officially taken the driver's seat in the delivery of low-cost housing following its historic accreditation to independently develop and implement human settlements projects.

For years, housing delivery has often been slowed by bureaucratic hurdles and lengthy provincial processes. Today, that chapter is being rewritten. With accreditation secured, Polokwane Municipality now has the authority to plan, fund, implement and oversee its own housing projects - placing the power to deliver dignified shelter exactly where it belongs: closer to the people.

The promise of this milestone is already taking shape in brick and mortar.

Construction has commenced in Ward 42, where 20 housing units are steadily rising from the ground, while work is equally progressing in Ward 45, where 22 additional homes are under construction. Together, these 42 houses mark the beginning of a bold new journey towards reducing the municipality's housing backlog and restoring hope to deserving families.

To assess progress on the ground, the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Housing, Cllr Fikile Mashalane, conducted oversight visits to the construction sites, reaffirming the municipality's commitment to quality, accountability and accelerated delivery.

Speaking during the inspections, Cllr Mashalane described the accreditation as far more than an administrative achievement.

"This accreditation is a watershed moment for Polokwane Municipality. It is about restoring dignity, bringing government closer to the people and ensuring that promises made are promises kept," she said.

"For many families, the dream of owning a decent home has waited far too long. Today, every foundation laid and every wall erected tells a story of hope, security and opportunity. These houses are not merely structures of brick and mortar—they are foundations upon which families will build better futures."

The municipality's newly acquired accreditation provides greater flexibility to identify qualifying beneficiaries, manage project implementation efficiently, allocate resources where they are needed most and maintain stringent quality standards throughout the construction process—all without unnecessary delays associated with external approvals.

This marks a decisive shift towards a more responsive, accountable and people-centred model of governance.

As construction continues at pace, the first 42 houses represent more than the beginning of a project—they signal the dawn of a new era in which Polokwane is shaping its own development agenda with confidence and purpose.

The message is unmistakable: when local government is entrusted with the tools to deliver, communities reap the rewards. Brick by brick, street by street and ward by ward, Polokwane Municipality is building more than houses—it is building dignity, restoring hope and laying the foundation for generations to come.

POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY AND ESKOM HOLD HIGH-LEVEL TALKS TO STRENGTHEN ENERGY CAPACITY AND ACCELERATE SERVICE DELIVERY



Polokwane Municipality and Eskom have held a strategic high-level engagement aimed at resolving key electricity supply and infrastructure challenges, while laying the groundwork for future development across the city.

The meeting brought together Executive Mayor Cllr Makoro John Mpe, Member of the Mayoral Committee for Energy Services Cllr Nomonde Sivhabu, City Manager Ms Thuso Nemugumoni, and executive directors from the municipality. They met with Eskom's General Manager for the LimLanga Cluster, Mr Des Govender, who oversees operations in Limpopo and Mpumalanga, together with senior Eskom officials.

At the centre of the discussions was a shared commitment to addressing several pressing operational and infrastructure matters that require coordinated action between the municipality and Eskom. These include electricity capacity constraints in rapidly growing communities, electrification backlogs, the energising of municipal boreholes, and the identification of suitable land for Eskom's proposed consolidated operational hub in Polokwane.

The proposed development, referred to as "Eskom Park," is expected to bring together technical services, administrative functions, and a training centre within a single integrated precinct. This initiative is intended to improve operational efficiency and strengthen service responsiveness across the cluster.

During the engagement, Eskom also commended Polokwane Municipality for its strong payment record, confirming that the municipality has no outstanding debt with the utility. This financial discipline was recognised as an important contributor to the positive working relationship between the two institutions.

Executive Mayor Makoro John Mpe highlighted the urgency of addressing Eskom's capacity limitations,

particularly in fast-growing areas such as Leokama, where electricity demand is increasing more rapidly than the available infrastructure can support.

He said the municipality needs clear technical requirements from Eskom to speed up electrification projects and avoid unnecessary delays in development planning.

"The growth of our city depends on infrastructure that can respond to rising demand. Where the need for electricity is evident, planning and implementation must move with greater speed and certainty," said Mayor Mpe.

Another key issue raised during the discussions was the rationalisation and licensing of areas that are currently supplied directly by Eskom. Mayor Mpe called for a review of these arrangements, saying a more streamlined model could improve accountability, coordination, and service efficiency.

"We need to review supply arrangements in areas such as Marula Heights and Mankweng to ensure they support better coordination and more reliable service delivery. Resolving these matters will help us build a system that works more effectively for our communities," he said.

Both parties agreed that closer collaboration, clearer planning frameworks, and faster decision-making will be essential to unlocking infrastructure investment and ensuring service delivery keeps pace with Polokwane's urban and peri-urban growth.

The engagement concluded on a constructive note, with both institutions committing to further technical discussions to translate the meeting's outcomes into practical implementation plans that will support reliable electricity supply and sustained development across Polokwane.

COMMUNITY VOICES SHAPE THE FUTURE: POLOKWANE FINALIZES 2026/27 DRAFT IDP AND BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

Polokwane Municipality has successfully concluded its comprehensive public consultation process for the 2026/27 Draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget. Driven by a commitment to democratic inclusivity, the initiative ensured that community voices from all sectors directly shaped the municipality's strategic agenda.

The consultation process commenced earlier this month with traditional leaders, anchoring the discussions in heritage, local wisdom, and land custodianship. From there, engagements rolled out seamlessly across all seven municipal clusters and Spatial Development Area 1 (SDA 1), ensuring that no ward or community was left at the margins.

Each session facilitated a living, transparent conversation. While discussions were occasionally robust, they remained constructive and firmly focused on a shared aspiration: building a functional, inclusive, and responsive municipality.

The consultation journey culminated at the New Peter Mokaba Stadium, where municipal councillors gathered to consolidate public inputs, refine developmental priorities, and apply collective political stewardship to the

final planning phases.

Addressing the council chamber during this critical final session, Executive Mayor Cllr Makoro John Mpe emphasized the weight of the municipality's responsibility to its residents:

"The voices of our people are not just line items in a budget; they are a direct mandate for development. As public representatives, our duty now is to translate these consultations into tangible, visible service delivery. We must ensure every rand allocated mirrors the urgent priorities of our communities, driving sustainable growth and closing the gap of inequality across Polokwane." — Executive Mayor, Cllr Makoro John Mpe

This final session marks the transition from public consultation to actionable commitment. As the saying goes, *"A journey of a thousand miles is completed not by intention alone, but by the discipline of each deliberate step."*

Polokwane Municipality continues to chart its course guided by meaningful public participation, strengthened by community collaboration, and driven by a shared vision of progress that leaves no one behind.



A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND SERVICE: MAYOR MPE WORSHIPS WITH THOUSANDS AT MORIA



As millions of worshippers gathered in Moria for the sacred Easter pilgrimage of the **St. Engenas Zion Christian Church (ZCC)**, the Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality, **Cllr Makoro John Mpe**, stood shoulder to shoulder with congregants in a profound demonstration of faith, unity and servant leadership.

Widely regarded as one of the largest spiritual gatherings on the African continent, the Easter pilgrimage is more than a religious observance—it is a powerful reminder that faith remains the heartbeat of communities and a guiding light in the pursuit of hope, peace and nation-building.

Setting aside the demands of public office to worship alongside the faithful, Executive Mayor Mpe reaffirmed that genuine leadership begins by walking with the people and drawing strength from the values that unite society.

"True governance is not merely about exercising authority; it is fundamentally an act of service. Being present here among the multitudes of the faithful reminds us that leadership must always be anchored in humility, compassion and a shared divine purpose," said Mayor Mpe.

Throughout the Easter weekend, the Executive Mayor interacted with church leaders and congregants, witnessing firsthand the spirit of fellowship, discipline and prayer that has made the Moria pilgrimage a beacon of spiritual renewal for generations.

Recognising the significance of the gathering, Polokwane Municipality worked in close partnership with law enforcement agencies, emergency services and other stakeholders to facilitate the safe movement of pilgrims and ensure that the Easter celebrations unfolded peacefully and efficiently.

The Executive Mayor noted that the lessons drawn from the pilgrimage transcend the church grounds and resonate with the municipality's mission of building a caring, inclusive and prosperous city.

"As the faithful return to their homes spiritually renewed, we too return to our responsibilities inspired to serve with greater purpose. The values of faith, unity and compassion strengthen our resolve to accelerate service delivery, deepen social cohesion and build a Polokwane where every resident can share in the promise of a better tomorrow," he said.

Polokwane Municipality extends its sincere appreciation to the leadership of the **St. Engenas Zion Christian Church (ZCC)**, law enforcement agencies, emergency personnel and all stakeholders whose dedication ensured a safe, orderly and successful Easter pilgrimage.

For Polokwane Municipality, the Easter pilgrimage serves as a timeless reminder that when faith inspires leadership and communities stand together in unity, hope flourishes, service gains purpose and the future shines brighter for all.

POLOKWANE GOES THE EXTRA MILE AS INAUGURAL CITY ULTRA MARATHON MAKES HISTORY

Every great city has its defining moments. On **2 May 2026**, Polokwane added another landmark achievement to its growing legacy as thousands of runners transformed the city's streets into a stage of determination, endurance and triumph during the inaugural **Polokwane City Ultra Marathon**.

Hosted by **Polokwane Municipality** in partnership with the **Polokwane Athletic Club**, the historic event unfolded at the iconic **Peter Mokaba Sports Complex**, signalling the beginning of a bold new chapter in the city's sporting journey.

While 2026 marked the introduction of the demanding **50-kilometre Ultra Marathon**, the race itself has steadily evolved over the years. What began in 2021 as the **Polokwane Mayoral Race** has grown from humble beginnings into one of South Africa's most anticipated road-running events. With entries capped at **4,000 participants**, this year's race attracted elite athletes, seasoned competitors and enthusiastic running clubs from across South Africa and neighbouring countries, eager to test their limits and secure qualification for the prestigious **Comrades Marathon**.

The transformation from a mayoral race to a nationally recognised ultra-marathon reflects more than sporting ambition—it mirrors the remarkable rise of Polokwane itself.

Executive Mayor **Cllr Makoro John Mpe** hailed the event as a defining milestone in positioning the city as a destination of excellence.

"The evolution of the Polokwane Mayoral Race into the Polokwane City Ultra Marathon is a powerful statement that our city is no longer chasing greatness—we are running alongside it. Every kilometre covered today tells the story of a city that is growing in confidence, ambition and national prominence," said the Executive Mayor.

He further expressed sincere appreciation to **Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba** for her unwavering support in elevating road running across the province and helping position Limpopo as a destination for major sporting events.



Story continues on the next page



"Sport has the unique power to unite people, stimulate local economies and showcase the best of our province. Polokwane is steadily carving out its place as a city where sporting excellence, tourism and economic opportunity cross the finish line together," he added.

The race lived up to its billing, producing thrilling contests and inspiring displays of resilience as athletes battled through every kilometre in pursuit of victory. With a total prize purse of **R200 000**, the competition rewarded outstanding performances across both race categories.

In the flagship **50km Ultra Marathon**, **Remaketse Lekaka** of **Folang Mokerong Athletic Club** stormed to victory in the men's race, crossing the finish line in an impressive **2:54:50**, while **Rosaline Isaiah** of **Uniwisp Running Club** claimed the women's title with a remarkable time of **3:42:10**.

The **21-kilometre Half Marathon** also produced memorable performances, with **Given Nakgoba** of **Nedbank Running Club** taking top honours in the men's division, while **Frieda Kamogelo Mogano** secured victory in the women's race after an outstanding performance.

Beyond the medals and podium finishes, the inaugural Polokwane City Ultra Marathon demonstrated the transformative power of sport. Hotels welcomed visitors, local businesses experienced increased activity, volunteers served with pride and thousands of spectators lined the streets, creating an electric atmosphere that echoed throughout the city.

The event has firmly positioned Polokwane on South Africa's road-running calendar and strengthened its growing reputation as a hub for sports tourism, economic development and world-class events.

Polokwane Municipality extends its heartfelt appreciation to the **Polokwane Athletic Club**, sponsors, volunteers, traffic officers, emergency personnel, law enforcement agencies, athletes, residents and every stakeholder whose dedication made this historic occasion an overwhelming success.

The starter's gun may have fallen silent, but the journey has only just begun. The inaugural Polokwane City Ultra Marathon has crossed its first finish line—and in doing so, has set the pace for an even greater future.

BEYOND BORDERS: POLOKWANE AND BULAWAYO STRENGTHEN TIES TO UNLOCK TRADE, TOURISM AND SHARED PROSPERITY

There is an African proverb that says, "If you want to go far, go together." Guided by this spirit of partnership, Polokwane Municipality continues to deepen its strategic relationship with the **City of Bulawayo**, turning a longstanding twinning agreement into a catalyst for economic growth, tourism and regional integration.

At the invitation of the City of Bulawayo, a delegation from Polokwane Municipality participated in the **66th Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF)**, one of Southern Africa's premier trade and investment platforms.

The two sister cities jointly showcased their investment, tourism and business potential, demonstrating how connected cities can build connected economies and unlock opportunities that transcend national borders.

The Polokwane delegation brought together a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including representatives from the **Polokwane Chamber of Business**, the **Polokwane Tourism Association**, municipal officials and members of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), reflecting the municipality's commitment to ensuring that international partnerships translate into tangible opportunities for local businesses.

Speaking on the municipality's participation, Assistant Manager for Investment Promotion and Tourism, **Mrs Rhulani Baloyi**, said the trade fair continues to provide an invaluable platform for economic collaboration and business expansion.

"Our participation in the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair has always been anchored in the strong twinning relationship between Polokwane and the City of Bulawayo. This year, however, we deliberately broadened the scope of our delegation by bringing along members of our local business community. We wanted our MSMEs not only to showcase their products but also to explore export markets, establish new business relationships and create opportunities that extend beyond our borders," she said.

Mrs Baloyi added that the municipality's international partnerships are increasingly creating opportunities

within the tourism sector.

"Through our twinning agreement, the Polokwane Tourism Association has established valuable engagements with the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority and the Hospitality Association of Zimbabwe. These collaborations will strengthen tourism marketing efforts and position our two cities as complementary destinations within the Southern African tourism landscape."

She said the long-term vision is to develop integrated tourism routes that connect **Polokwane, Limpopo Province and Bulawayo**, enabling visitors to experience the rich cultural heritage, history and diverse attractions offered by both destinations.

"International tourists, particularly those travelling from Europe and other global markets, increasingly seek multi-destination experiences rather than visiting a single country. This presents an enormous opportunity for our cities. Polokwane and Bulawayo share a rich cultural heritage, vibrant traditions and unique tourism offerings. By working together with tour operators, we can develop attractive cross-border tourism packages that encourage visitors to experience the best of both destinations while stimulating economic growth for our local communities," she concluded.

The municipality believes that the enduring partnership between Polokwane and Bulawayo is far more than a ceremonial agreement—it is a strategic vehicle for investment promotion, enterprise development, tourism growth and people-to-people cooperation.

As Africa continues to advance the vision of regional integration through trade and collaboration, Polokwane Municipality remains committed to building bridges that connect businesses, unlock investment opportunities and create shared prosperity for communities on both sides of the border.

The friendship between Polokwane and Bulawayo continues to prove that while borders may separate nations, partnerships have the power to unite economies, connect cultures and shape a more



RISK SPOTLIGHT SERIES: LEADING WITH INTEGRITY — ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SETS THE



STANDARD FOR ETHICAL PRACTICE

In line with the City's directive to extend the **Ethical Pledge** across all employees, every Strategic Business Unit (SBU) was tasked with ensuring that the meaning, purpose and expectations of the pledge were clearly communicated before signing—transforming a compliance requirement into a moment of reflection, understanding and organisational values alignment.

In this edition of the **Risk Spotlight Series**, attention turns to **Ms Gilani Makhubela, Manager: Environmental Management**, whose approach has set a new benchmark for ethical leadership in practice.

Rather than treating the process as a procedural formality, Ms Makhubela elevated it into a meaningful

engagement process—bringing together her management team, employees and labour representatives to unpack the pledge collectively before any signatures were affixed. In doing so, she demonstrated that ethics is not merely declared; it is understood, internalised and lived.

FROM SIGNATURES TO UNDERSTANDING: A LEADERSHIP APPROACH THAT PRIORITISES DIALOGUE

Ms Makhubela convened an inclusive preparatory session with her management team, including labour representation, to ensure alignment on the intent and expectations of the Ethical Pledge. This was followed by a broader staff engagement session where the pledge was not simply read, but deliberately unpacked, explained and discussed.

This participatory approach created space for clarity, questions and reflection—turning what could have been a routine exercise into a shared organisational commitment.

Q&A WITH MS GILANI MAKHUBELA

Q: What approach did you take to ensure your team understood the Ethical Pledge?

A: I adopted an inclusive approach. Before engaging all staff, I first met with my management team, including labour representatives, to explain the purpose and expectations. We then arranged a broader training session for employees. During the session, each aspect of the pledge was explained and open discussion was encouraged. This ensured that employees understood that the pledge is not just a document, but a commitment to ethical conduct in daily practice.

Q: What key questions were raised and how were they addressed?

A:

- **Validity and frequency of signing:** The Ethical Pledge is signed once by all employees. New employees sign upon onboarding. Resigning only applies if there are substantive changes to the pledge or related policies.
- **Use of the term “leaders”:** The pledge applies to all employees. Feedback from engagements contributed to refining the wording to ensure inclusivity across all levels.
- **EPWP participation:** EPWP participants and contract workers are also required to sign, as the pledge applies to all who work within the municipality.



Q: How does the Ethical Pledge influence operations within Environmental Management?

A: It serves as a daily reminder of our responsibility to act with integrity, fairness and transparency. It

reinforces accountability in decision-making and ensures that resources are used responsibly. Over time, it strengthens trust within teams and embeds ethical conduct into our operational culture, rather than treating it as a once-off compliance requirement.

Q: What message would you share with colleagues about ethical conduct?

A: Ethical conduct is the foundation of trust and long-term success. It is reflected in daily decisions, behaviour and responsibility towards the community we serve. Ethics must be practised consistently—even when no one is watching. It is not a once-off event; it is a continuous standard of behaviour.

Q: How can employees contribute to a strong ethical culture?

A: Every employee, regardless of position, contributes through integrity, respect and accountability. Speaking up when something is not aligned with values is equally important. A strong ethical culture is built collectively through honesty, transparency and shared responsibility.

Ms Makhubela's approach demonstrates that ethical governance is not sustained by policy alone, but by leadership that engages, explains and leads from the front. Her example reinforces a simple but powerful truth: when managers invest time in understanding with their teams, compliance is strengthened, trust is deepened, and organisational culture is transformed.

In this case, ethics was not signed into existence—it was understood into practice.



BRICK BY BRICK: VISIBLE PROGRESS AT THE LIMPOPO ACADEMIC HOSPITAL MEGA-PROJECT

The future of Limpopo's healthcare landscape is steadily rising in the heart of the Peter Mokaba Precinct. On Friday, 22 May 2026, key government and development leaders conducted a joint site visit to assess the construction of the highly anticipated Limpopo Academic Hospital, showcasing significant structural progress.

The delegation included the Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality, Cllr Makoro John Mpe; the MEC for Health, Dieketseng Mashego (representing the Premier); the Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Cllr Mamedupi Teffo; and the executive leadership of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).

The site visit provided a first-hand look at the substantial advancements made since the project's historic sod-turning ceremony in July 2023. What was once a blueprint is now a bustling construction site, signalling a new era for regional healthcare and infrastructure.

Reflecting on the timeline, Polokwane Executive Mayor Cllr Makoro John Mpe noted the importance of staying the course on such a massive undertaking.

"History reminds us that we stood here on Tuesday, 18 July 2023, to turn the first sod for this project," Mayor Mpe stated. "Nearly three years later, we return to witness visible progress and tangible delivery. While projects of this magnitude take time, today's visit confirms that we are building a legacy that will serve

generations for decades to come."

Beyond its clinical significance as a tertiary medical facility, the mega-project serves as a powerful catalyst for the local economy. The construction phase alone has injected substantial vitality into the region through job creation and skills development.

The economic impact of the project includes:

- **2,400 Jobs:** Created directly during the current construction phase.
- **1,000+ Permanent Positions:** Anticipated for medical professionals, administrative staff, and support personnel once the hospital is fully operational.

"We are particularly encouraged by the massive economic spin-offs associated with this development," Mayor Mpe added. "This is precisely the kind of infrastructure-led development that changes lives, creates sustainable livelihoods, and strengthens our local economies."

Once completed, the Limpopo Academic Hospital will drastically reduce the need for local patients to travel outside the province for specialized medical care. Supported by the DBSA's development expertise, the state-of-the-art facility will also serve as a critical training hub for the next generation of South African medical professionals.



POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY DRIVES COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH JOINT DISASTER RISK AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



The Polokwane Municipality, through its Disaster Management Unit, has successfully conducted joint disaster risk awareness campaigns at Tibane Mall and the Moletji Tribal Authority within the Aganang Cluster on 14 and 21 May 2026 respectively. The campaigns were held in commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, an annual global observance dedicated to strengthening disaster preparedness and promoting community resilience. Operating under the 2026 theme, “Every Day Counts: Act for Resilience Today,” the initiative focused on enhancing public awareness of disaster prevention and encouraging proactive safety practices within communities.

The campaigns were delivered through a strong intergovernmental partnership that brought essential government services directly to the people. Participating stakeholders included the Department of Home Affairs, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), South African Police Service (SAPS), Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Department of Justice, and the Capricorn District Disaster Management Centre. Various municipal departments also formed part of the outreach, showcasing services such as Local Economic Development (LED), Environmental Management, Law Enforcement, Traffic Services, Vehicle Testing, and Emergency Fire Services, ensuring an integrated and accessible service delivery platform for residents.

Fire Services conducted live demonstrations on fire prevention, emergency response techniques, and household safety measures aimed at equipping residents with practical skills to reduce risk and respond effectively during emergencies. Divisional Officer Chris Rampya said the campaign was designed to showcase

municipal services and demonstrate their direct impact in building resilience within homes and communities, adding that Polokwane Municipality remains committed to fostering a culture of preparedness under the global campaign “Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready.” The campaign also aligned with the observance of International Firefighters’ Day, marked annually on 4 May, which honours firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty and recognises the continued service of emergency personnel.

At the Moletji Tribal Authority, the campaign further included legal awareness sessions where community members were engaged on matters such as types of marriages, maintenance, divorce processes, and the importance of drafting wills. These sessions aimed to empower residents with legal knowledge to make informed decisions affecting their households and long-term planning.

Disaster Management and Fire Services Manager, Phuti Kabe, reaffirmed the municipality’s commitment to equitable service delivery, particularly in rural and remote communities. He emphasized that while the municipality remains fully prepared to respond to emergencies, sustainable resilience begins at household level through awareness, prevention, and responsible behaviour. He further encouraged residents to integrate safety practices into their daily lives as a fundamental step toward reducing risks and protecting communities.

The municipality expressed satisfaction with the successful execution of the campaigns, noting that the initiative continues to strengthen collaboration between government, law enforcement, and communities in advancing a safer and more resilient Polokwane.

POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY LAUNCHES INAUGURAL SCHOOL GREENING AND CLEANING COMPETITION



The Polokwane Municipality's Environmental and Waste Management Unit has officially launched the first **Municipal Greening & Cleaning School Competition (MGCSC)** during a workshop held on **14 May 2026** at the **New Peter Mokaba Stadium Executive Lounge**.

The initiative brings together **36 schools from all seven municipal clusters**, marking a significant step in strengthening environmental education, sustainability awareness and youth participation in climate action across the city.

The workshop served as the official induction and adjudication launch platform, guiding participating schools on the competition framework, evaluation criteria and key focus areas. Schools were introduced to practical environmental themes aimed at embedding sustainability into daily school operations and learner behaviour.

Speaking at the event, the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Waste and Environment, **Cllr Malope**, said the competition is designed not only as a contest, but as a long-term educational platform to shape environmentally responsible citizens.

“The Municipal Greening and Cleaning Schools

Competition is not only a competition but also an educational platform designed to inspire learners to become environmental ambassadors and champions of sustainable development,” said Cllr Malope.

The competition aims to assess and improve the environmental performance of schools while promoting responsible practices in waste management, recycling, water and energy conservation, greening initiatives and broader community environmental involvement.

The programme aligns with the municipality's broader commitment to climate change awareness, environmental protection and youth empowerment, encouraging schools to adopt sustainable practices that contribute to a cleaner and greener Polokwane.

Participating schools will be supported with tools, guidance and ongoing technical assistance to implement environmental projects within their institutions and surrounding communities.

The Municipality is expected to announce further details on evaluation phases and the upcoming awards ceremony as the competition progresses.

CITY OF POLOKWANE BOOSTS PUBLIC SAFETY FLEET WITH NEW TRAFFIC AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES

In a decisive move to strengthen law enforcement and emergency response capabilities, the Executive Mayor of the City of Polokwane, Cllr. Makoro John Mpe, officially handed over a new fleet of operational vehicles to the municipality's essential services units today.

The handover includes 14 traffic sedan vehicles allocated to the Traffic and Licensing Unit, alongside two state-of-the-art firefighting vehicles designated for the Fire and Rescue Unit. This vital procurement is part of the city's ongoing commitment to upgrading municipal infrastructure and ensuring the safety of its residents.

The addition of these vehicles addresses critical resource gaps, empowering traffic officers and firefighters to execute their duties with increased efficiency, speed, and reliability.

Speaking at the official handover ceremony, Executive Mayor Cllr. Makoro John Mpe emphasized that modernizing the city's fleet is central to its service delivery mandate:

"This investment represents our unwavering

commitment to the safety and well-being of the people of Polokwane. We cannot expect our emergency personnel and law enforcement officers to safeguard our communities without providing them with the necessary tools. By equipping our teams with these reliable, modern vehicles, we are ensuring visible policing, swifter emergency response times, and safer roads. Polokwane is moving forward, and we will not allow service delivery to stall."

The newly acquired traffic sedans will significantly enhance visible law enforcement, serving as a strong deterrent to reckless driving and traffic violations across the municipality's road network. Concurrently, the new firefighting apparatuses will bolster the Fire and Rescue Unit's capacity to respond to life-threatening emergencies and contain fire outbreaks rapidly.

With this latest fleet deployment, the City of Polokwane sends a clear message: public safety remains a top priority, and the municipality is actively accelerating its efforts to create a secure, responsive, and well-governed urban environment.





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

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