



Issue:11

# QUATERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY- SEPTEMBER 2024



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## WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR: CLLR. QUEEN MOGATLE - THOANE



The first quarter of the new financial year (July-September) zoomed into the 7<sup>th</sup> administration after the general elections. This has pressed us hard to intensify service delivery as a result of the outcomes of the elections. Local government in particular was not spared as it at grass-root level of service delivery. We continue in our endeavour together with our local municipalities and stakeholders to accelerate the promises we made to our communities.

The month of September saw us hosting a two-day strategic session where we held

strategic engagements on the status quo of the municipality, financial position and future plans. The deliberations were centred on the IDP, Budget and the District Development Model (DDM). Other role players included SALGA, Provincial Treasury, COGHSTA and the Auditor General.

The 1<sup>st</sup> September marked the beginning of Heritage Month with Heritage Day celebrated on 24 September 2024 to honour our nation's diverse culture and rich heritage. The month was convened under the theme: "Celebrating the lives of our heroes and heroines who laid down their lives for our freedom". The theme pays tribute to the many struggle stalwarts who gave up their lives for our freedom.

Over the month, we remembered in particular those freedom fighters who were forced into exile by the apartheid state and died in foreign nations. The national government celebrated heritage month by also repatriating the remains of those who died while in exile. These brave men and

women are an integral part of our heritage. We also honour two of many of our brave warriors from this District, namely John Taolo Gaetsewe and Joseph 'Joe' Morolong.

As we celebrated the 68th anniversary of the historic march under the theme "Celebrating 30 Years of Democracy Towards Women's Development", we must take stock of the strides made to empower women to play a meaningful and deliberate role in building our Country. Women are involved in diverse fields of the economy, such as construction; manufacturing; automotive industry; energy; trade; and agriculture to name a few.

These were industries that historically were man-dominated and exclusionary. The achievements of women in South Africa must be celebrated as they are a testament that indeed the contribution of women's emancipation stalwarts, like Mama Sophie De Bruyn, Helen Joseph, Bertha Mashaba, Lilian Ngoyi, and each of those who marched to present their point of view to then Prime Minister JG

Strijdom in Pretoria in 1956, were not in vain.

The significance of this march when analysed, showed that the stereotype of women as politically inept was untrue. They could take the proverbial bull by the horns and confronted a difficult situation in a very direct way. They were not scared of the might and power of the apartheid regime and the consequences of their actions. Instead, they believed in their course and sought to achieve the mission of freeing women from the yoke of the repulsive laws of the then regime.

It was indeed heart-warming to see millions of South Africans, partaking in different parts of the Country, contributing to a better life and living conditions for others especially the disadvantaged in our communities.

The 2024 theme of Mandela Day theme was “It is still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity”. Working together, we have a chance to combat poverty and inequity and to ensure a better World for all human beings. As fellow South Africans and our residents in

the John Taolo Gaetsewe District, rolled up their sleeves and dedicated time towards humanity and serving others,

I was immensely proud to see the opening of hearts and wallets by individuals, organisations, and businesses to contribute to a better South Africa.

**Executive Mayor  
Queen Mogatle-Thoane**



**John Taolo Gaetsewe**



**Joseph' Joe' Morolong**



**The 1956 women march**





# JTG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY HOLDS ITS STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Strategic planning is crucial to the growth of any organisation and its work force. For an organisation to meet its vision and mission, not only requires change in its plan or direction it wants to take. It is an inclusive process aimed at making sure that everyone is on board and they understand the direction an organisation wants to take.

The John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality held its strategic planning session over two days to engage on key deliverables of the municipality, facilitated by Mr. Bangi Ngubo. The first day session covered presentations from stakeholder i.e. SALGA, COGHTA, Provincial Treasury and Department of Economic Affairs.

In her opening speech, the Executive Mayor Queen Mogatle-Thoane emphasized the importance of collaborative planning and implementing new ways of doing things. The Executive Mayor sealed her opening by quoting Morris Chang “***without strategy, execution is aimless, without execution, strategy is useless***”.

Proceeding with the second phase, the session focused on the status quo report that was presented by the Municipal Manager - Mr. Kagisho Klaas Teise, which encompassed performance plans of the municipality's respective departments. The status quo requires a comprehensive understanding of the environment and the context which we operate to ensure that the strategy is grounded on the realities on the ground, said Mr. Teise.



The district strategy recognizes the work still not done, the gaps and opportunities. It fosters collaboration and targeted planning. Mr. Teise shared progress on the catalytic planned catalytic projects, zooming on the regional hospital which has been approved for a feasibility study. Other projects include development of

alternative energy, bulk water and electricity, regional airport. The presentation highlighted the challenges within the operations of the municipality and low revenue collection experienced by the district municipality as presented by the newly appointed CFO, Ms. Cebile Sibanyoni.

The strategic planning was also honored by SALGA, Provincial Treasury, COGHTA who all presented their department's responsibilities and strategic intervention on local government.



***Mr. Mpho Mogale (COGHTA)***

The relationship between Municipal Council and Management is cited as one of the key issues that strengthens the relationship between the Political and Administration Offices. This is done to enable both offices to work effectively and efficiently in delivery of services. Support from the political office to management and vice-versa, is crucial in executing duties fully and respecting protocol/ setting boundaries, said Mr. Mpho Mogale.

The status quo report presented by Municipal Manager, Mr. Kagisho Klaas Teise which included performance plans from the municipality's respective departments. The status quo requires a comprehensive understanding of the environment and the context which we operate, to ensure that the strategy is stranded on the realities on the ground, said Mr. Teise. It helps stakeholders recognize whether the current trajectory aligns with the organization's mission and objectives.



***Municipal Manager: Mr. Klaas Teise***

Mr. Teise shared progress on the catalytic planned catalytic projects which includes development of alternative energy, bulk water & electricity, regional airport as well as zooming on the regional hospital which has been approved for a feasibility study.

Mr. Teise acknowledged the challenges of the municipality's performance in relation to its functions, namely; financial viability, basic service delivery and infrastructure, municipal transformation and institutional development, good governance and public participation, and local economic development.

The district Municipal Manager shared an overview of the municipality's goals and reflected - current performance vs. future goals helps to identify if the current path aligns with long-term objectives; that the gaps and opportunities reveals gaps between present operations and desired outcomes; uncovering opportunities for growth; and finally, that targeted planning facilitates the creation of more focused, effective strategies.

In reponse, The relationship between council and management was cited as one of the key issues that strengthens the relationship between the political and administratio offices. Also, for both offices to work effectively and efficiently.

Support from the political office to management and vise versa, is crucial in executing duties fully and respecting protocol/ setting boundaries.



In closing, he concluded by emphasizing that, for the district municipality to achieve its goals, it needs to strengthen and foster the current relations with its stakeholders.



*Programme Director: Mr. Bangi Ngubo*



*Speaker – Cllr. Ikgopoleng Aiseng*





*JTGDM Councillors*





*The Executive Mayor & Councillors*



*Municipal Officials*



## Women's Seminar Marks the End of Women's Month in John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality.

The John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality recently hosted a Women's Seminar to mark the conclusion of Women's Month, a period synonymous with the historic 1956 march where women from various racial backgrounds united to protest against oppressive laws at the Union Buildings. Women Councillors, Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality, and the JTG District Municipality participated in the program. The initiative was facilitated by Joe Morolong Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr. Dineo Leutlwetse-Tshabalala. The Seminar was graced by two phenomenal women, Messrs. Omphemetse Mogodi and Irene Mothibakeledi whom have been at the forefront of championing women's



empowerment within the District. Both Mme Mogodi and Mme Mothibakeledi serve as board members of the John Taolo Gaetsewe Developmental Trust, an organization dedicated to the upliftment and development of the local community. Their presence and contributions at the seminar underscored the ongoing efforts to support and empower women in the district. The event provided a platform for sharing insights, experiences, and strategies aimed at fostering gender equality and enhancing the socio-economic status of women. The Women's Seminar not only celebrated the achievements of women in the district but also reinforced the importance of unity and collective action in addressing the challenges faced by women today. The legacy of the 1956 March continues to inspire and drive initiatives that promote women's rights and empowerment in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District and beyond.

Cllr. Kegomoditswe Masilabele as the Executive Mayor's representative explained the goal of the Women's Seminar which was to address TB, HIV/AIDS, and gender-based violence. Participants had the opportunity to share their experiences, both successes and setbacks. Cllr. Masilabele encouraged women not to give up in life; but to start where they are, with the little that they have and to believe in their capacities. Several district-wide sector departments in attendance included the Department of Social Development, South African Police Service, Love Life,



Department of Sport, Arts & Culture, Department of Health JTG Region, Department of Correctional Services, JTG Civil Society, as well as Thuthuzela Care Centre under the National Prosecuting Authority. The Program was sponsored and supported by the John Taolo Gaetsewe Developmental Trust, Sanlam, and Metropolitans.

MMC Chairperson of Community Development Services Cllr. Hilda Kgpodithata presided over the event's conclusion by extinguishing the candles. Patricia Toli, Chair of the Children Sector offered all women message of hope: When storms come your way, remember who the master of the wind is. When sickness strikes, simply remind yourself that you know the great physician. When your heart is broken, simply say you know the porter. When the roads are close to you, remind yourself of the great ocean divider. It does not matter what we face or go through. Jesus is the only way, truth, and life. He provides for all of our needs. "Those who refresh others will be refreshed" (Proverbs 11:25).







# KATHU SOLAR PARK IN-SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMME LAUNCH



More than four thousand learners from five schools within the JTG district are now benefiting from the in-school breakfast program launched yesterday by partners Kathu Solar Park (KSP) and the Tiger Brands Foundation (TBF). Since its inception in 2011, the TBF's in-school breakfast program which complements the lunch provided by the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), has proven to be one of the most efficient nutrition programs in South Africa.

This achievement is due to the public-private partnership between TBF and the Department of Basic Education (DBE). The NSNP provides two nutritious meals to all learners in quintiles 1-3 primary and secondary schools across all provinces of South Africa. It aims to enhance learners' learning ability by ensuring they receive nutritious meals. Tiger Brands Foundation Director Eugene Absolom said, that childhood nutrition is vital to physical and cognitive development, significantly impacting an individual's lifelong health and wellbeing, as without proper nutrients, toddlers and preschoolers may struggle to develop the ability to maintain concentration, which becomes increasingly important as they grow older.

KSP CEO Zandi Nkone said she is delighted that this strategic partnership with Tiger Brands Foundation has concluded as it is deemed a solid investment in the country's future, as nourishing young growing minds should remain a priority to help develop the next generation of leaders.



# BURSARY AWARD CEREMONY PROGRAMME



*Bursary award to Northern Cape students from Kuruman, Kathu, and Kimberley*

A noteworthy bursary award ceremony took place in the prestigious John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality Council Chamber. The event was a collaborative effort between EST Sourcing, the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, and Joe Morolong Local Municipality. The ceremony was dedicated to recognizing and awarding deserving students from Kuruman, Kathu, and Kimberley in the Northern Cape with life-changing bursaries.

Ruwalda Lottering, a distinguished Auditor from MaxProf, passionately conveyed the pivotal role of education in transforming lives and shaping futures. She expressed deep gratitude for being part of this transformative initiative and fervently hoped that the bursaries would serve as a powerful motivator for students to excel and complete their tertiary education.

In a poignant keynote address, Cllr. Queen Mogatle-Thoane, the esteemed Executive Mayor of the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality lauded MaxProf for its unwavering commitment to student development. She eloquently emphasized how these bursaries would liberate students and their families from financial burden, empowering them to unleash their full academic potential and break free from economic constraints.

Cllr. Queen Mogatle-Thoane drew inspiration from the words of English philosopher Francis Bacon, proclaiming, "Knowledge is power." She passionately urged students to harness the wealth of resources available through social media and the wisdom of preceding generations in our rapidly evolving world. Furthermore, she fervently encouraged students to seek unwavering support from their lecturers to triumph in their academic pursuits.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS OUTREACH PROGRAMME IN THE GA-SEGONYANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: BATLHAROS COMMUNITY HALL



On Thursday, 08<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Njabulo Nzuza led a Services Fair on Wheels outreach program with other stakeholders in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District at Batlharos Community Hall. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by councilors within the jurisdiction of the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality as well as the House of traditional leaders.

Deputy Minister Njabulo Nzuza visited the Tshwaragano District Hospital and engaged with clients and staff, handed over birth certificates, and interacted significantly with various stakeholders and public members to address issues related to the Department of Home Affairs concerning service delivery. This engagement is part of a broader initiative aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of services the Department of Home Affairs provides.

Deputy Minister Nzuza handed Smart ID cards to learners from local schools. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to ensuring that young people have the necessary identification to access a wide range of opportunities and services. The distribution of Smart ID cards is a crucial step in empowering the youth and facilitating their participation in the country's socio-economic activities, said Nzuza.

During the engagements community members raised concerns about the long queues at Home Affairs especially when applying for IDs, they also posed clarity-seeking questions relating to staff shortages and why people living with disabilities are not accommodated in terms of work opportunities, the issue of immigration service at Joe-Morolong local municipal ability was also highlighted as a large number of immigrants continues to grow especially those running tuck-shops.

The Deputy Minister of the Department of Home Affairs appreciated traditional leaders

support. Because they would not be able to do community engagement without traditional leadership. He said they respect traditional leadership because they are at the core of meeting people and providing leadership to people daily. He also extended his greetings citing that the day aims to offer community services, to display that the mobile units that bought last year are working. Last year, throughout the country, an additional 100 mobile units were procured to extend the services of the department.

There are eight (8) mobile units in the Northern Cape, out of those, three (3) mobile units are stationed in the John Taolo Gaetsewe district. The mobile units are meant to assist communities to save transport money instead of having to go to town to get to Home Affairs, they can now access the services where they live.

He made a humble plea to the community to use mobile units well so that they can use them for a long period. The mobile units are also intended for everyone who will be applying for an identity document for the first time and will be issued for free.

Home Affairs is now operating fully right in maternity wards of all hospitals so that no one must leave the maternity ward without having registered the birth of their children.

The event was well received by the community, reflecting a positive step towards improved service delivery and stronger community relations. Home Affairs continues to work diligently to address public concerns and enhance the overall service experience for all citizens.





# District AIDS Council Meeting: A Unified

## Effort against AIDS

**T**he District AIDS Council meeting, chaired by the Executive Mayor and co-chaired by Civil Society representative Mr. Mothusi Lenoge, marked a significant step in the ongoing fight against AIDS. The Head of the Provincial HIV Secretariat, Ms. Paula Makatesi from the Office of the Premier Northern Cape, was also in attendance, underscoring the importance of this gathering.

In her opening remarks, the Executive Mayor emphasized that addressing AIDS is a collective responsibility that requires the concerted efforts of all stakeholders. She acknowledged the presence of key partners, including civil society, traditional healers, and mining houses, highlighting their crucial role in the collaborative effort to combat HIV.

The meeting saw the participation of a diverse group of stakeholders, each bringing their unique perspectives and resources to the table.

The Executive Mayor's call to action resonated with all attendees, reinforcing the message that the fight against AIDS is far from over and requires ongoing commitment and collaboration. The inclusion of various sectors, from healthcare to local government and civil society, demonstrated a unified front dedicated to addressing the challenges posed by HIV.

This meeting not only served as a platform for discussing strategies and sharing insights but also reinforced the importance of partnership and community involvement in tackling AIDS. The collective efforts of these stakeholders are vital in driving forward the initiatives that aim to reduce the impact of HIV in the Northern Cape and beyond.

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*Executive Mayor: Queen Mogatle-Thoane*



*Provincial Secretariat: Ms. Paula Makatesi*



*Executive Mayor and Members of the Civil Society*



# MEC HANDS OVER CATTLE TO TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND CLOSES THE DOOR ON FAILED FARM PROJECTS



*The MEC donated more than 30 Bonsmara cattle to five main traditional leaders in Kuruman as part of the provincial government's commitment to donate six cattle to the leadership to ensure they can be self-sustaining.*

The MEC has handed more than 39 Bonsmara cattle to five main traditional leaders in Kuruman as part of the provincial government's commitment to donate six cattle to the leadership to ensure they can be self-sustained. Premier Zamani Saul in May presented to two main traditional leaders, during the ceremony, which was attended by JTG District Executive Mayor Queen Mogatle-Thoane, the chairman of the Northern Cape House of Traditional Leaders - Kgosi Pelonomi Toto, indicated that the lack of grazing land remains a challenge. Manopole also said the department will no longer pump millions of rands into failed farming projects that have not taken hold despite government assistance, with Manopole, who is returning to the portfolio for a second term, said her office is inundated with calls for assistance from many farmers with inadequate resources. The MECs are now opening doors for newcomers to the sector.

We cannot continue to fund one entity for about 10 to 15 years “I just presented you with about 14,000, if I round it up, it's about 15,000 farmers who have registered with the department's Farmer's Register, so, if you fund one institution or one entity for about 10 to 15 years, it's unfair to Can't transform because we want them to move from small-scale to commercial farmers.



## Restoring Dignity: A Community's Commitment to Mr. Joseh Odirile

The Executive Mayor Cllr. Queen Mogatle-Thoane, accompanied by Councillor Kegomoditswe Masilabele and Reverend Disipi, visited the Bogoshwe family in Ditshipeng Village, situated within the jurisdiction of the Joe Morolong Local Municipality. The primary purpose of their visit was to address the living conditions of Mr. Joseph Odirile Bogoshwe, a 68-year-old man residing in a dilapidated two-roomed house.

Bogoshwe, a father of eleven, was an active participant in the struggle for freedom during a time dominated by oppressive regimes. He endured beatings and significant hardships in his quest for liberation; however, recognition for his contributions has largely eluded him. Financial difficulties have beset Mr. Bogoshwe, as his monthly pension grant proves insufficient, with a significant portion allocated to life insurance policies. To secure roofing materials, he cultivates straw or water reed.

in his backyard, which requires excessive water that he must fetch from a distance of 1.7 kilometers. Compounding his challenges are health issues, including lung problems and chronic back pain, which serve as constant reminders of the sacrifices he made for a better future.



*Executive Mayor Queen Mogatle-Thoane*

Nevertheless, hope has emerged through the efforts of community leaders and acts of compassion. On Mandela Day, the community united to break ground for a new house, symbolizing dignity and justice. As Nelson Mandela aptly stated, "Overcoming poverty is not merely an act of charity." The commitment demonstrated to Mr. Bogoshwe exemplifies this principle. In Ditshipeng Village, the legacy of struggle endures, not only in the annals of history but also in the hearts of those who honor the past by striving to create a better future.



*Speaker - Ikgopoleng Aiseng*



*Sod turning by Executive Mayor and Councillors*



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