

VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY | ISSUE 09 - JUNE 2025



**VHEMBE DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY**

NEWSLETTER

An accountable and community driven Municipality that strive to deliver quality in service.



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STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS

The Executive Mayor, Cllr. Freda Nkondo delivered the State of the District Address on the 27th of June 2025, at Mavambe village, ward 20 Worship Tabernacle Christian Centre, under Collins Chabane Local Municipality. The event was attended by Members of the Executive Council, Local Mayors, Chief Whips and Speakers, MECs and Community Members.

The speech delivered covered various completed water projects that have also benefited community members with job opportunities.

The entire event was streamed live on Vhembe District Municipality Facebook page. For more information, visit the Facebook page on;

<https://www.facebook.com/vhembedm>



HIGHLIGHTS



Mayoral Imbizo at Makuleke



Vhembe District Executive Mayor, Cllr Freda Nkondo, led a community engagement Imbizo at Makuleke Village, where she was joined by Members of the Mayoral Committee, the Mayor of Collins Chabane Local Municipality, Cllr Faith Chauke, and traditional leaders Ndhavezitha Makuleke and Ndhavezitha Xikundu.

The purpose of the Imbizo was to interact directly with residents, listen to their concerns, and identify service delivery challenges affecting the area. It also aimed to strengthen the relationship between the municipality and the community by bringing government services closer to the people.

During the engagement, residents raised several pressing issues, including persistent water shortages, unreliable electricity supply, deteriorating roads with potholes, poor network connectivity, and other infrastructure-related concerns.

In response, the Executive Mayor acknowledged the issues and assured the community that their concerns would be considered in the review of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and the upcoming municipal budget, whereas others will be extended to the relevant departments.

“As a Water Services Authority, it was our duty to ensure that every household had access to clean and reliable water. In response to the current challenges, boreholes would be drilled to improve water supply in the village,” said Mayor Nkondo. She emphasized the municipality’s commitment to responsive governance and inclusive development, assuring residents that their voices played a vital role in shaping municipal priorities.



DISASTER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

VHEMBE DISTRICT HOSTS DISASTER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE COMMUNITIES ON SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS



Vhembe District Municipality held a district awareness campaign on the 23rd of May 2025 at Makuya Village (Makuya sports ground) under Thulamela Local Municipality.

Mrs. Nthambeleni from the Vhembe District Municipality Disaster Management department emphasized the importance of knowing how to protect oneself from disasters. "The event aimed to educate the community on disaster preparedness and response", She said.

Maremeni Alicia from Malaria Control encouraged residents to get tested for malaria and allow spraying of their homes, as it is effective for 8-9 months. She also advised wearing protective clothing and avoiding dark colors that attract mosquitoes.

The representative from Emergency Services stressed the importance of prioritizing safety during floods, heatwaves, and fires. She advised staying hydrated during heatwaves, avoiding sun exposure, and not attempting to enter flooded areas. In case of burns, she recommended removing affected clothing and jewelry and avoiding applying substances like toothpaste to the wound as it makes it difficult for the wound to heal.

Ms. Mudavhi Khuliso from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment highlighted the National Veld and Fire Act's purpose of preventing and managing wildfires. She emphasized the need for landowners to have fire equipment and for farmers to have fire beaters.

Mrs. Mphidi discussed deforestation, urging residents not to cut down trees and to plant more trees to combat climate change. Netshidzati Tshilidzi, a firefighter, advised against overloading electrical plugs and recommended installing lightning arresters in homes. She emphasized that fire safety is crucial, and everyone should be responsible and respectful of fire.

VHEMBE DISTRICT DELIVERS TWO BOREHOLE WATER PROJECTS



In a significant step toward improving water access in rural communities, the Vhembe District Municipality officially handed over two fully operational borehole water systems to the residents of Tshikonelo Village. The handover ceremony, led by Executive Mayor Cllr Freda Nkondo, marked the fulfillment of a heartfelt promise made in honour of the late Chief Tshikonelo.

Speaking during the event, Mayor Nkondo shared the origin of the initiative, stating, “Following the passing of Chief Tshikonelo, a community member suggested that he be remembered by addressing the village’s long-standing water challenges. In response, I made a commitment to provide two boreholes to supply the community with clean and reliable water. Today, I am proud to announce that we have delivered on that promise.”

The two boreholes have been successfully drilled, tested, equipped, and connected to a stiltank reservoir with a capacity of 450 kilolitres, as well as a concrete reservoir capable of holding approximately 350 kilolitres of water. This infrastructure will help ease the burden of water shortages and ensure that households have consistent access to water.

As the designated Water Services Authority, Vhembe District Municipality continues to prioritize sustainable water solutions for communities across the district. The Mayor emphasized that the project was not just a delivery of infrastructure, but a tribute to leadership, heritage, and the enduring needs of the people.

“This project reflects our commitment to responsive governance and ensuring that no community is left behind,” said Mayor Nkondo. The handover was warmly received by villagers, who expressed gratitude for the long-awaited development and the honour bestowed upon their late leader.





VHEMBE HOSTED A SUCCESSFUL PROVINCIAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION SEMINAR

Vhembe District Municipality, in collaboration with the Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa (DMISA), SALGA, and other key partners, successfully hosted the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Seminar on 12 June 2025 at Nandoni Riverview under the theme:

"The Role of Education on Protecting and Empowering Youth for a Disaster-Free Future."

Dr. Makananisa of the Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) led the first technical session with a compelling presentation on "Managing Disasters in a Changed Climate," highlighting the urgent need for adaptive strategies in response to intensified weather patterns and emerging risks. He called for stronger integration of traditional knowledge systems and modern scientific approaches in disaster planning.

Executive Mayor Cllr. Freda Nkondo delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of education and community engagement in building climate resilience, especially among the youth. She reiterated the district's commitment to proactive disaster management and sustainable development.

"We must build a generation that understands risk, is empowered through knowledge, and equipped to act responsibly during disasters. Education is our greatest weapon in securing a safer future," said Cllr. Nkondo.

The seminar featured expert contributions from institutions including SAWS, SALGA, CSIR, and DMISA, covering key issues such as Seasonal climate outlook and early warning systems, Local government policy positions on disaster readiness, Climate-smart urban settlement planning (GreenBook) and Professionalisation of disaster risk management.

This day-long session brought together municipal officials, disaster practitioners, youth leaders, and civil society stakeholders, reinforcing the shared goal of promoting resilience, education, and cross-sector collaboration.



YOUTH IN BUSINESS COMPETITION AWARDS

"To our young entrepreneurs, you are the backbone of our future economy," said the Sitting Executive Mayor, Cllr Maria Mamedzi, during the Vhembe Youth in Business Competition Awards. The event saw dynamic presentations from various entrepreneurs under the age of 35.

This program was initiated back in 2008 with the aim to encourage and support businesses of the young people, and it has since grown into one of Vhembe's flagship event during youth month.

Participants received messages of encouragement and support from several key stakeholders, including the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDA), NYDA, Mercy Boutique Hotel, Vhembe Youth Council, University of Venda, Agricre, Baudu Photography, and MMK Funeral Undertakers.

The winners were awarded various prizes, with third place receiving R70 000, second place R100 000, and first place walking away with R130 000. In addition, all winners will enjoy a complimentary two-night stay at Mercy Boutique Hotel, inclusive of breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

First place was awarded to the following businesses:

Chosen Multi Purpose (Pty) Ltd in the Agriculture category, represented by Ndivhuwo

Affrimoty Beauty Spa in the Tourism category, presented by Motty Nemusibi

Attractive Creations (Pty) Ltd, presented by Ngangoho Muneri

All three expressed their sincere gratitude and excitement over receiving such a prestigious award. Ngangoho Muneri, who had been applying for over three years, shared heartfelt happiness, saying, "It's a great achievement for our company. We've faced many challenges, especially with load shedding. With this prize money, we plan to invest in generators to ensure uninterrupted services."

Ndivhuwo of Chosen Multi Purpose (Pty) Ltd left an inspiring message for the youth: "Let's go out there and work—don't wait to be hired by companies. Don't limit yourself. Seek out opportunities and never give up. There's a bright future ahead."

"We are looking into expanding our business and have different branches with the prize won" said Ms Motty Nemusibi, of Affrimoty Beauty Spa.

VHEMBE DISTRICT HOSTED CEREMONY TO HONOUR COMRADES MARATHON ATHLETES



The Vhembe District Municipality held a special ceremony to officially welcome and celebrate three local athletes—Nethanani Ntshavheni, Meshack Nemangaya, and Phumutso Netsianda—who successfully participated in the 2025 Comrades Marathon. The event took place following their return from Durban, where the marathon was held on 8 June 2025. This year's race covered a challenging distance of 89.98 km, starting in Pietermaritzburg and concluding in Durban.

The Sitting Executive Mayor, Cllr Mamedzi, officiated the ceremony and praised the athletes for their outstanding performance. "You've made us proud, flying the Vhembe flag high!" he declared, commending their determination and resilience. All three runners completed the race within the required time and were awarded medals for their efforts.

Nethanani Ntshavheni completed the marathon in 9 hours and 39 minutes. Reflecting on his performance, he remarked, "My goal was to finish in under 8 hours, but due to some challenges along the route, I managed a 9-hour finish. It's still a respectable time, and I'm motivated to reach my target next year."

Meshack Nemangaya finished the race in 10 hours and 45 minutes, while Phumutso Netsianda crossed the finish line in 11 hours and 13 minutes, both earning recognition for their endurance and commitment.

The General Manager for Corporate Services also congratulated the athletes, stating, "You have shown the discipline and determination that define true champions. You set your goals and followed through with passion—we are incredibly proud of all of you."

The ceremony served as a reminder of the importance of supporting local talent and celebrating community achievements on national platforms.

VHEMBE District Municipality

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