

# **MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

## **BUDGET SPEECH 2025/26**



### **MAKHADO SHOWGROUND**

**13 JUNE 2025**

**MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY 2025/26 BUDGET SPEECH PRESENTED BY  
THE HONOURABLE MAYOR OF MAKHADO MUNICIPALITY, HER WORSHIP  
CLLR MAHANDANA DORCUS MBOYI AT THE MAKHADO SHOWGROUND ON  
THE 13<sup>th</sup> OF JUNE 2025**

**Programme Directors,**

**Honourable Councillors,**

**Esteemed Guests,**

**Fellow Residents of Makhado,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

As we gather on this momentous occasion, united in vision, bound by purpose, it is my honour to recognise and warmly welcome those whose presence inspires us today:

### **Leadership of this Council:**

- The Speaker of Council, **Cllr TG Mitileni-Mukwevho**
- The Chief Whip of the Majority Party, **Cllr RS Baloyi**
- Chairpersons of Oversight and Standing Committees
- Honourable Councillors

### **Traditional Leadership:**

- **Vho Thovhele na Vho Ndabezitha vha hina vha re hone fhando namusi,**  
guardians of tradition, voices of wisdom

### **National and Provincial Government:**

- Deputy Minister of Finance, Dr David Maseko
- Members of Parliament present today,
- Members of the Provincial Legislature present today
- Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Tebogo Mammorobelo
- MEC for Education, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya
- MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Susan Violet Mathye
- MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana
- Limpopo Treasury Chief Director for Municipal Finance, Ennie Tema
- Limpopo Treasury Director for Municipal Finance, Ndiafhi Tshirado

## **Our Special Guests From Matabeleland South Province of Zimbabwe**

- **Municipality of Gwanda Delegation led by the Mayor, His Worship Alderman Cllr Thulani Moyo and the Town Clerk Priscila Nkala**

### **Local Government Leadership:**

- The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Freda Nkondo
- The Mayor of Thulamela Municipality, Cllr Sarah Rambuda
- The Mayor of Collins Chabane Municipality, Cllr Shadrack Maluleke
- The Speakers and Chief Whips of Musina, Thulamela, Collins Chabane, and Vhembe District Municipality

### **Security Services:**

- The Commanding Officer of 15 SAI Military Base, Lieutenant Colonel Tondani Radzilani
- Institute of Traffic, Licensing, and Metro Police of Southern Africa 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Tshitangoni Zachariah Nesane
- The Makhado SAPS Station Commanders, Colonel GJ Bezuidenhout
- Makhado SAPS Head of Support Services, Colonel LH Ndlhovu
- Tshilwavhusiku SAPS Station Commander, Lieutenant Colonel S Mukoma

### **Administration of Makhado Municipality:**

- The Municipal Manager, **Mr Kent Nemaname**, and his team of Directors of Makhado Municipality

**Partners in Development:**

- Officials from Sector Departments
- Guests from the University of Venda and TVET Colleges
- Leaders of Business and Civil Society Organisations

**Allies of our Movement:**

- Comrades and Leadership of the ANC, SACP, COSATU, SANCO, and other political formations present
- Stalwarts and Veterans of our struggle

**Community Representatives:**

- Ward Committee Members
- Leadership of Special Programmes Committees and Forums
- SAMWU Leadership
- IMATU Leadership
- Pastors Forum
- Makhado Youth Council

**And importantly:**

- Fellow residents of Makhado
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen from all walks of life who have joined us today

**Ndi Matsheloni.**

**Avuxeni.**

**Thobela**

**Goeie**

**Môre.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**Programme Directors,**

It is both an honour and a privilege to stand before you today and to warmly welcome you all to this important gathering, the presentation of our 2025/2026 Municipal Budget and the State of the Municipality Address.

I extend my sincere gratitude to each of you for your presence here today, as together we reaffirm our shared commitment to building a thriving, inclusive, and forward-looking Makhado.

**Programme Directors,**

In just a few days, our nation will commemorate **Youth Day**, a solemn reminder of the bravery and sacrifice of the young students of the 1976 Soweto Uprising.

June, declared **Youth Month** since 1994, calls upon us all to reflect on the unyielding spirit of our youth, then and now, whose courage paved the path to the freedom we enjoy today.

We must continue to honour their legacy by creating a municipality where our young people are empowered, their talents are nurtured, and their voices are heard.

**Programme Directors,**

As we look to the future, we are also reminded of the giants upon whose shoulders we stand.

Just days ago, our hearts were heavy as we bid farewell to one of our most cherished sons of the soil, **Dr Tshenuwani Simon Farisani**, a Freedom Fighter, an unwavering Voice of the Voiceless, and a beloved Veteran of our African National Congress.

Dr Farisani's life was a beacon of hope and justice.



As our President, Cyril Ramaphosa, so powerfully reminded us during his eulogy at the University of Venda:

***"His life bears witness to the mission of Christ,"***

a life dedicated to serving the poor and the oppressed.

We also mourn the recent loss of two of our own, **Cllr Kanukani Maphubu** of Ward 09, and **Cllr Reineth Mokgoadi** of Ward 35.

Their tireless service and commitment to their communities will not be forgotten.

**I invite all of us to rise and observe a moment of silence in their honour.**

**(PAUSE FOR MOMENT OF SILENCE)**

## Programme Directors,

Even in times of sorrow, our community continues to shine with remarkable achievements that fill us with immense pride.

Let us celebrate our local champions:

- **Sheryl James** and **Masala Makatu** whose dazzling performances at the **Dubai Fazza 2025 Para-athletics Grand Pree** earned them well-deserved gold and silver medals.
- Their triumphs embody the power of perseverance and inspire us all.
- **Maanda “Eaglet” Ramadwa**, just 15 years old and already soaring on the national stage, representing South Africa at the **Africa Schools Football Championships** in Ghana, where she led as vice-captain of the Under-15 side that secured a bronze medal.
- Maanda is proof that the future of sport, and leadership, is alive and well in Makhado.
- And **Timothy Ramadwa**, a courageous cyclist from Ramantsha village, who completed an epic **1,924km journey** from Cape Town to Musina in tribute to the lives lost during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- His dedication reminds us that remembrance and resilience must walk hand in hand.
- Makhadzi won a BET Award in 2024 for Viewer's Choice: Best New International Act. On behalf of this Council, the Executive, and the people of Makhado, we say: **Ro livhuwa Makhadzi!** You carry the torch of our people's spirit. You are an ambassador of hope, resilience, and cultural pride. We will continue to support, celebrate, and draw inspiration from your remarkable journey.

**Programme Directors,**

These stories of triumph, born from our very own streets and villages, are testaments to the enduring spirit of the people of Makhado.

They remind us that even in the face of adversity, greatness can rise from humble beginnings.

As we now turn to the business of this day, the presentation of our **2025/2026 Municipality Budget**, let us do so with purpose, vision, and a steadfast commitment to serving the people of this great municipality.

For it is through our collective efforts that we shall build a Makhado that leaves no one behind.

## **DIRECTORATE CORPORATE SERVICES**

At the heart of every thriving municipality is its people, those who serve, those who lead, and those who dream of a better tomorrow.

In Makhado, we remain steadfast in our commitment to building a responsive, capable, and future-ready local state, one that honours the aspirations of its citizens and drives the wheels of inclusive economic growth.

### **Programme Directors,**

In pursuit of this vision, we have continued to strengthen the very core of our institution: our human capital.

I am proud to report that in the 2024/2025 financial year, we successfully appointed 62 permanent officials to key positions within our administration.

This milestone follows our 2023/2024 achievement, where 78 new appointments were made, reinforcing our ongoing commitment to building a professional, ethical, and service-driven municipality.

These appointments are not mere statistics; they represent a deliberate and strategic effort to enhance our institutional capacity and deliver on the promises we make to our people.

The new recruits bring a wealth of expertise and a renewed energy to our municipality, ensuring that the machinery of government operates with precision, innovation, and accountability.

### **Programme Directors,**

We are not resting on our laurels.

As part of our continued focus on aligning our workforce with long-term developmental priorities, we have already advertised 69 additional posts, earmarked for filling in the 2025/2026 financial year.

These positions will address critical service delivery gaps and support our municipality's growth ambitions and address the much-needed jobs

We are building a capable state, one appointment at a time.

### **Programme Directors,**

An empowered youth is the cornerstone of a prosperous future.

Our investment in structured learning and skills development programmes reflects our unwavering commitment to this principle.

During the 2024/2025 financial year:

- 82 learners participated in our Learnership programmes,
- 79 students gained practical workplace experience through our Work Integrated Learning (WIL) placements,
- 14 interns were supported by the National Skills Fund (NSF), and
- 5 interns benefitted through placements funded by the National Treasury.

Beyond the numbers lie powerful stories of transformation, of young people who now walk with greater confidence, skills, and opportunities.

Looking ahead, we are scaling up these initiatives. In the 2025/2026 financial year, we intend to enrol:

- 120 learners in Learnership programmes,
- 85 students in WIL placements, and
- 25 interns in internship opportunities.

Furthermore, having trained 14 apprentices in 2024/2025, we aim to expand this to 20 apprentices in the new financial year, thus broadening the technical skills base available to both the public and private sectors.

**Programme Directors,**

In an era where connectivity is as vital as clean water and electricity, digital inclusion is no longer a luxury: it is a necessity.

To bridge the digital divide that continues to hinder opportunities in many rural communities, we will be rolling out free Wi-Fi at all community halls across the municipality during the 2025/2026 financial year.

This initiative will empower learners, students, and entrepreneurs, particularly our youth, by providing access to online learning platforms, information resources, and digital tools.

It is an investment in knowledge, innovation, and the future prosperity of Makhado.

**Programme Directors,**

The strides we are making, in recruitment, skills development, and digital inclusion, underscore our resolve to build a municipality that works for all.

A municipality that leaves no one behind.

We are laying the foundations of a prosperous Makhado, a municipality powered by skilled officials, empowered youth, and digitally connected communities.

**Programme Directors,**

I wish to express our deep gratitude to all who contribute to this collective journey, our dedicated officials, our community partners, and our stakeholders.

Together, we are shaping a future defined by progress, dignity, and shared prosperity.

## **DIRECTORATE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

### **Programme Directors,**

At the very heart of any thriving society lies its land, its farms, its businesses, its villages and towns, and the enterprising spirit of its people.

Through the work of our Department of Development Planning, we are shaping the future of our Municipality, hectare by hectare, opportunity by opportunity.

### **Nurturing Our Agricultural Cooperatives**

In the 2024/2025 financial year, our Municipality proudly extended a hand of partnership to five (5) agricultural cooperatives, empowering them with vital agricultural inputs, implements, and assets.

Two (2) of these cooperatives were provided with fully operational boreholes, unlocking the life-giving force of water.

Three (3) others received irrigation systems and essential fertilizers, laying the groundwork for abundant harvests and sustainable food security.

Through these targeted interventions, we are not merely investing in agriculture, we are cultivating livelihoods, nurturing enterprise, and sowing the seeds of a self-reliant rural economy.

### **Strengthening Our Business Ecosystem**

Our role as an enabler of economic activity is further exemplified through our business licensing function, exercised under the auspices of the Limpopo Business Registration Act (LIBRA).

Over the past year, we successfully administered 1,080 business licence applications, from spaza shops and supermarkets to a vibrant array of local enterprises.



This is a testament to the enterprising spirit of our people and to the Municipality's unwavering commitment to creating an enabling environment for entrepreneurs to thrive.

### **Unlocking the Potential of Our Land**

Land remains the platform upon which growth must unfold.

In this regard, I am pleased to report that during the past year, the Municipality approved 168 land use applications, unlocking land for future development and positioning Makhado Municipality as a driver of inclusive economic growth.

Each approval represents a future home, a future business, a future opportunity, and a future that we are determined to shape boldly and responsibly.

## Looking Ahead: 2025/2026 Priorities

### **Programme Directors,**

urban renewal remains a cornerstone of our developmental agenda, as we strive to transform our town into a vibrant, inclusive, and economically active hub.

The importance of urban renewal in Makhado Local Municipality cannot be overstated, it is about more than just infrastructure; it is about restoring dignity, improving service delivery, and creating spaces that foster safety, opportunity, and community pride.

Through targeted investments in revitalising our CBD through rehabilitation of the streets, replacement of aging electrical infrastructure, including the improvement of our public amenities, we aim to stimulate local economic growth, attract investment, and improve the quality of life for all our residents.

Urban renewal is not merely a project, it is a commitment to a shared future where Makhado thrives as a modern, sustainable, and resilient municipality.

### **Programme Directors,**

For the financial year 2024/2025, we have allocated consultants to roll out bold spatial planning interventions that not only respond to present needs but anticipate the needs of generations to come to be implemented in the 2025/2026 financial year.

The Municipality has allocated R4 million towards Township Establishment in the following areas:

- Eltivillas Extension 2: 300 sites
- Louis Trichardt Extension 16: 300 sites
- Tshikota Extension 3: 300 sites
- Tshikota Extension 4: 300 sites
- Makhado A Extension 3: 200 sites
- Makhado A Extension 4: 200 sites

These investments will catalyse sustainable urban expansion, stimulate construction activity, and importantly, expand our municipal tax base, enabling us to reinvest in critical services and infrastructure.

### **Partnering with Traditional Leaders for Village Site Demarcation**

We recognise that our villages are the lifeblood of our society.

In partnership with our esteemed traditional leaders, we are advancing the proper implementation of land use management schemes across our rural landscape.

For the financial 2024/2025, we have appointed consultants to implement demarcation of sites projects in rural areas.

An amount of R3.1 million for the demarcation of sites in the following villages:

- Tuwani: 300 sites
- Ndouvhada: 500 sites
- Mukondeni: 300 sites
- Musekwa Ngundu: 150 sites
- Songozwi: 100 sites
- Tshivhazwaulu: 350 sites

This collaborative approach honours our traditions while embracing modern planning, ensuring orderly development and facilitating access to formalised land for housing and economic activities.

### **Driving Local Economic Development**

In the coming financial year, the Municipality has earmarked R4 million for Local Economic Development (LED) projects.

Of the R4 Million, R2 Million has been allocated to assist agricultural cooperatives within Makhado Municipality.

Meanwhile the other R2 Million has been allocated to assist cooperatives that are dealing with arts and culture.

This dedicated investment will be channelled towards initiatives that foster entrepreneurship, create employment opportunities, and stimulate local value chains, further advancing our shared vision of a vibrant and inclusive economy.

The resumption of MC Mining operations at Mudimeli Village is a key economic catalyst.

The project will unlock substantial new job opportunities for residents, especially youth and women, through both direct mine employment and support roles in logistics, catering, and plant services.

The investment is expected to stimulate infrastructure improvement including but not limited to upgrading of roads infrastructure and enhanced water supply that will benefit nearby communities.

We remain committed to responsible environmental oversight and ongoing stakeholder engagement to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

Once again, our powers and functions under the Limpopo Business Registration Act will be fully leveraged to support our local businesses and unlock new avenues for growth.

### **Our commitment to access to Education: UNISA and UNIVEN Campuses**

Programme Directors, MEC for Education, ladies and gentlemen, Makhado town will be a construction site of note this coming financial year.

There are several expected benefits to be derived from the imminent development of the University of South Africa (UNISA) and University of Venda (UNIVEN) campuses in Makhado town, following the municipality's donation of land for these projects.

- **Increased access to Higher Education:** The establishment of satellite campuses by UNIVEN and UNISA in Makhado will increase access to university services for residents, making higher education more accessible within the municipality
- **Economic Opportunities:** The development of these campuses is expected to create significant economic opportunities for the town and the municipality. This

includes job creation during both the construction phase and the operational phase of the campuses

- **Youth Development and Skills Enhancement:** The municipality has a strong focus on supporting youth through bursaries, internships, and learnership programs. The campuses will complement these efforts by providing local higher education opportunities that align with municipal human resource development priorities
- **Community and Social Benefits:** The campuses are expected to foster community engagement, research, and innovation, contributing to the socio-economic development of the municipality.
- **Attraction of investments and business growth:** The presence of university campuses is likely to attract more people to live and work in Makhado, thereby boosting local businesses and creating a more vibrant and sustainable economy
- **Strategic alignment with municipal vision:** The development supports Makhado's vision to become a dynamic hub for socio-economic development by 2050, leveraging education as a key driver alongside mining, tourism, and agriculture.

University of Venda will resume with civil works during the 2025/2026 financial year whilst we are awaiting the programme of action from the University of South Africa.

## **Sale of Stands: Maximising Revenue Collection**

The municipality plans to sell a total number of 76 stands at Louis Trichardt Extension 12, 178 stands at Extension 9 and 516 stands South of Pretorius.

The total expected revenue to be generated from the sales amounts to R199 million. The sale of stands assists Makhado Municipality in revenue collection primarily by generating direct income from the transfer of land ownership.

This revenue from land sales contributes to the municipality's overall financial resources available for municipal operations and development

Additionally, the sale of stands supports the municipality's revenue base by increasing property rates income over time, as new landowners develop their properties and become liable for property taxes. Property rates are a significant revenue source and the expansion of developed land through stand sales helps grow this base.

The sale of stands provides Makhado Municipality with immediate cash inflows and supports longer-term revenue growth through increased property rates, thereby enhancing its capacity to deliver services and invest in local development.

### **Programme Directors, fellow Councillors,**

Through the lens of Development Planning, we see not only the terrain of today, but the boundless horizon of tomorrow.

As we plant new seeds in our agricultural fields, as we clear new sites for homes and enterprises, as we license and empower our local businesses, we are, brick by brick, field by field, building the Makhado of the future.

Together, with our communities, our traditional leaders, and our enterprising citizens, we march onward, toward a Municipality of opportunity, dignity, and shared prosperity.

## **DIRECTORATE COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Programme Directors,**

I stand before you today carrying not only the hopes of our citizens but also the weight of a simple truth: a community's greatness is reflected in how it cares for its environment, its spaces, and its people.

### **Environment & Waste Management**

**Programme Directors,**

the state of our environment calls out to us, urging decisive action, responsible behaviour, and visionary leadership.

For too long, the scourge of illegal dumping has marred the beauty of our villages and towns, threatening our health and dignity.

Today, we say enough is enough. The days of turning a blind eye to the litter on our streets are over. Together, we must embrace a new culture of responsibility.

Our municipality has intensified monthly environmental education and awareness campaigns across our villages, awakening consciousness and urging citizens to act.

We have strategically placed 170 skip bins in hotspots across our villages, with an additional 40 skip bins acquired this year and another 40 to be procured in the coming financial year.

We provide refuse removal services to over 9,140 households in Makhado, Dzanani, and Waterval, and more than 80 villages are already receiving services.

Yet, this is a journey we shall not abandon until every village within Makhado is covered.

The operational Makhado Landfill Site stands ready to serve our communities.

We have also established six drop-off points in Kutama/Sinthumule and encourage residents to use them.

Our Dzanani waste transfer station further eases access to responsible disposal.

But let us be clear: those who choose to ignore our by-laws and continue to dump waste illegally will face consequences.

We are strengthening our Law Enforcement capacity to tackle illegal dumping head-on.

We have allocated R4.37 million towards ensuring that waste storage, disposal, and landfill sites remain fully operational, providing skip bins, wheelie bins, and essential infrastructure.

Additionally, we are investing R2.77 million through MIG funds to purchase waste collection trucks, a bold move towards self-reliance, sustainable job creation, and revenue retention.

Our commitment is simple: The municipality will lead by example. When we clean our spaces, our people will follow.

### **The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)**

#### **Programme Directors,**

Across our land, the triple evils of poverty, unemployment, and inequality cast a long shadow. Yet, in the face of adversity, we rise.

Through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), our municipality continues to be a beacon of hope for many.

In this financial year alone, we recruited 350 beneficiaries, offering not just work, but dignity and opportunity.

We are poised to appoint another 350 beneficiaries in the 2025/2026 Financial year, creating pathways to livelihoods and transforming lives.



In partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, we recruited 250 participants to support our community-based programmes.

### **Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries**

#### **Programme Directors,**

We believe in creating spaces where communities can gather, celebrate, reflect, and heal.

The development of Potgieter Park is nearing completion, 90% complete, and will soon stand as a proud public asset.

Our Showground Hall remains well-maintained and continues to generate income while serving as a vital venue for local teams and events.

Tshikota and Louis Trichardt cemeteries are operational, with necessary extensions and refurbishments underway.

Our Hindu Crematorium has been refurbished and is being maintained to a high standard.

### **Libraries & Knowledge Centres**

Our libraries remain pillars of knowledge and empowerment.

The Makhado Main Library, Musekwa Satellite Library, and Ha-Mutsha Satellite Library, recently completed, serve our communities proudly.

We also oversee four libraries under the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture.

In a leap forward, our Newspapers and Magazine Section is now digital, bringing information to our people in innovative ways.

In March this year, we hosted a successful Library Week Launch attended by the Minister of Sport, Arts & Culture, affirming Makhado's leadership in promoting reading and lifelong learning.

## **Disaster Management**

### **Programme Directors,**

When disaster strikes, our people must know they are not alone.

Our Disaster Management Unit, in collaboration with Vhembe District Municipality and the Department of Social Development, continues to respond with urgency and compassion, proving that when we stand together, no crisis is insurmountable.

## **Recreation Facilities**

We are committed to restoring and building sporting infrastructure:

- Rabali Stadium: Maintenance of the stadium is completed.
- Sinthumule/Kutama Stadium: 94% complete.
- Waterval Stadium: Construction complete, pending water supply and pitch upgrades.
- Eltivillas Ground and Makhado Showground continue to be used by local teams and need focused renovation.

## **Protection Services**

### **Programme Directors,**

Our Protection Services Division is modernising for impact.

We have stand-alone traffic and licensing facilities in Makhado and Dzanani Region. Moreover, we deploy traffic officials to deal with law enforcement in Watervaal and Luvuvhu Region.

## **Special Programmes**

### **Programme Directors,**

The soul of Makhado lies in its people, and in the unwavering spirit of inclusion and compassion.

Our Older Persons Forum continues to thrive, organising events such as Older Persons Parliament, Active Ageing Programmes, and football competitions.

Our Prayer Days unite faith-based organisations in praying for peace, good governance, and stability.

Our Women's Forum led a powerful 16 Days of Activism campaign against GBV, urging our citizens to make the fight against gender-based violence a daily mission.

The Men's Forum hosted an impactful Men's Parliament, challenging men to be agents of positive change.

We strengthened the work of our AIDS Councils, convening four meetings and rolling out Ward-Based AIDS Councils, all chaired by ward councillors.

Our Youth Council organised critical campaigns addressing STDs and teenage pregnancy, while also hosting a Youth Day Celebration.

The Moral Regeneration Forum, Disability Forum, and Children's Forum continue to promote values of inclusion, empowerment, and social cohesion through sports, culture, and awareness campaigns.

### **Capital Projects & Future Investments**

In 2024/25, we implemented the following key projects:

- 40 Skip Bins & Cover Nets
- Heavy-Duty Lawn Mowers & Brush Cutters
- Tractor Slashers
- Trailers for Lawn Mowers

For 2025/26, we will invest in:

- Heavy-Duty Lawn Mowers & Brush Cutters – R1.6 million
- Mobile Woodchipper Machine – R300,000
- 40 Skip Bins – R1.4 million
- Expanded Carcass Decomposition Facility – R1.2 million
- 500 Large Round Concrete Refuse Bins – R470,000

- Construction of Weighbridge at Makhado Landfill Site – R1.3 million

**Programme Directors,**

The greatness of a community is measured not by what we build, but by how we care, for our environment, our public spaces, and most importantly, our people.

Let us march forward together, cleaning our streets, empowering our youth, embracing our elders, and building a Makhado that reflects the dignity, beauty, and potential of its people.

Together, we can and will create a safe, clean, and caring municipality, one where no one is left behind, and where the dream of a better tomorrow becomes the reality of today.

## **DIRECTORATE TECHNICAL SERVICES**

### **Programme Directors,**

As the sun rises over our beautiful land, from the bustling streets of Louis Trichardt to the humble homes of Xikuwani, the pulse of progress beats strong in Makhado.

Today, I rise to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to building and modernising the infrastructure that underpins the dignity of every resident.

Roads that connect families. Electricity that lights up dreams. Sports facilities that inspire our youth.

And stormwater systems that protect our communities.

Through the steadfast leadership of this Council and the dedication of the Department of Technical Services, we continue to turn the vision of a better Makhado into a tangible, daily reality.

### **2024/2025: A Year of Delivery**

In the year now closing, we invested over R105 million with additional R 20 million in critical access roads infrastructure through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).

I am proud to report the following milestones:

- The upgrading of Tsianda–Marundu Road to the Military Base Phase 1 is now 71% complete.
- The Kutama Sinthumule Sports Facility stands at an impressive 98% completion, a beacon for youth development.
- The Makatu–Tshikota Access Road, Midoroni Clinic Ring Road, and Luvhalani–Dzananwa Access Road are now practically completed and opened for traffic, bringing relief to residents and commuters alike.

Meanwhile, tenders for the next wave of roads, including the Mavhoyi FET College Access Road, Madombidzha (50/50), Ramantsha to Ravele Access Road Phase 1,

and Tshino Access Road, have been advertised and are moving through evaluation process.

### **Driving Local Economic Development**

Through income-funded projects, we advanced construction of:

- Dzanani Taxi Rank
- Waterval and Tshivhuyuni Sports Facilities

These developments are not just concrete and steel, they are opportunities for small businesses, job creation, and safer, more connected communities.

New roads and stormwater systems for 164 new stands in Tshikota and 700 stands south of Pretorius is a revenue enhancement project.

## Electricity provision

As we gather to present the budget for the upcoming financial year, one of the critical pillars of service delivery we must address is electricity provision.

Electricity is life. Reliable, safe, and accessible electricity is not only a basic human right, it is also the engine that drives Makhado's economic growth, educational development, and improved quality of life in our communities.

This budget is not just about numbers; it is about building resilience and future readiness.

Over the past year, Makhado Local Municipality has faced several challenges in electricity provision, including aging infrastructure, increasing demand, and the broader national issues around energy supply.

Despite these challenges, we have made meaningful progress. Our municipality has reduced illegal connections through community engagement and enforcement efforts.

And this year, we allocated R9.8 million to critical preventative maintenance, replacing poles, auto-reclosers across Mara, Levubu, Bandelierkop , Albasini , Timbadola, and many more.

We also invested:

- R1 million in constructing the new Mara feeder split, now in progress, to better serve the growing Madombidzha Mall and surrounding areas.
- R300,000 for 38 post connections at Tshikota and Muananzhele, bringing light and opportunity to homes.

Through the INEP Programme, initial allocations of R12.5 million and additional R9 million, enabled us to electrify hundreds of homes in Tshituni, Mpofu, Mulima, Xikuwani and other villages.

Electricity is not just a line item in our budget, it is a promise of progress.

A promise that no child should study by candlelight, no business should fail for lack of power, and no family should be left in the dark.

Together, let us light the way forward for a brighter, more inclusive Makhado Municipality's area

The lights of progress now burn brighter across our land.

### **Protecting Communities**

When disaster struck, we answered.

With R6 million in disaster relief funds, we delivered 100% completion on critical interventions, rebuilding damaged infrastructure across 14 villages and schools, from Thondoni to Chabani and beyond.

Moreover, thanks to an additional R18 million implemented from previous financial to the current year, we completed stormwater infrastructure and box culverts in a further 40 villages.

This work shields our people from floods and strengthens the resilience of our rural heartlands.

### **2025/2026: A Bold Infrastructure Agenda**

Looking ahead, the new year's capital budget, spanning MIG, INEP, DISASTER, and INCOME funding, will unleash a further wave of development:

R105 million from MIG allocation will fund five flagship roads and waste projects, which includes Upgrading of Road Tsianda Marundu to Military base Phase 1 , Upgrading of Tshino Access road, Upgrading of Madombidzha (50/50), Ramantsha to Ravele Access Road Phase 1, Upgrading of the road to Mavhoyi FET College , and acquisition of new waste removal truck.

R89 million will drive civil projects such as:

- Construction of Dzanani Taxi Rank and Market Stalls
- Construction of road networks in Tshikota and south of Pretorius



- Construction of Tshivhuyuni Sports Facility
- Installation of a new weighbridge and Refurbishment of key municipal buildings.

R6 million will enable critical low-level bridges and culverts in flood-prone areas like Donkerhoek, Mpombo, Phadzima, Ncayincayi, Vleifontein, Munzhedzi and Buysdorp, enhancing climate resilience.

R15 million from INEP will electrify 591 homes in Tsianda, Xinkuwani Xilumani Phase 1, Woyoza Phase 1, Mulima Phase 2, Tshituni Phase 2, and Mpofu Phase 2.

Electrification is not just an Electrical project; it is a human story.

It opens the door to economic activity, safer streets, longer study hours, and improved healthcare delivery. In short, it brings life.

As we reflect on our service delivery mandate, preventative maintenance is not a luxury, it is a necessity.

It is the difference between sustainability and crisis, between steady service and repeated breakdowns.

Too often in the past, we have waited until infrastructure failed before acting.

This reactive approach has cost us dearly in both finances and public trust.

That is why this administration is taking bold steps to shift from reactive maintenance to proactive investment in the infrastructure that powers Makhado Local Municipality.

R35 million will modernise our electricity infrastructure, upgrading major substations such as Emmarentia, Boom Park, Eltivillas East, and South of Pretorius; advancing main substation upgrades; and driving post-connections across the municipal area.

The truth is this: every rand spent on preventative maintenance today saves us several rands in emergency repairs tomorrow.

More importantly, it ensures that our communities do not suffer from avoidable power outages, or unsafe roads.

Through this preventative maintenance programme, we are protecting our assets, empowering our teams, and delivering more stable services to our people.

Let us build a Municipality that is not only functional today, but sustainable tomorrow.

Programme Directors, we do not merely build roads or replace poles.

We lay down the arteries of dignity.

We power the dreams of the next generation.

We protect the vulnerable.

And we prepare our municipality for a future of sustainable growth.

In every culvert poured, every pole replaced, every road graded, is the beating heart of a people who refuse to be left behind.

Through the Directorate of Technical Services, this Council affirms today: the people of Makhado will continue to rise, connected, empowered, and resilient.

Let us walk this path together, step by step, road by road, light by light, toward the Makhado we all believe in.

## **The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)**

### **Programme Directors,**

Across our land, the triple evils of poverty, unemployment, and inequality cast a long shadow. Yet, in the face of adversity, we rise.

In partnership with the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure and Through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), our municipality continues to be a beacon of hope for many.

In this financial year alone, we recruited 485 beneficiaries, offering not just work, but dignity and opportunity.

We are poised to appoint another 336 beneficiaries in the coming year, creating pathways to livelihoods and transforming lives.

## **DIRECTORATE BUDGET AND FINANCE**

### **Programme Directors,**

As we chart the course for a brighter tomorrow, it is my distinct honour to present to this House, and to the people of Makhado, the financial blueprint that will guide our collective progress, the 2025/2026 Annual Funded Budget of our municipality.

We present this budget not as a mere collection of figures, but as a living document, an embodiment of our shared aspirations, an instrument through which we will drive sustainable development, foster service excellence, and safeguard the dignity of every resident.

### **Programme Directors,**

For the 2025/2026 financial year, the final Revenue Budget stands at a formidable R 1.716 billion.

This is the financial backbone that will enable us to turn vision into action, and action into tangible improvements in the lives of our people.

### **Grants: A Partnership In Development**

Our municipality will receive a total of R 650.860 million in grants, a testament to the strategic partnerships between local, provincial, and national government.

These grants will empower us to advance key developmental programmes.

They are allocated as follows:

- Equitable Share: R 512.943 million
- Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG): R 111.407 million
- Financial Management Grant: R 2.000 million
- Integrated National Electrification Programme: R 15.181 million
- Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP): R 3.323 million
- Disaster Management Grant: R 6.006 million

## **Harnessing Local Potential**

Beyond external grants, the strength of our own economic base is critical.

We project own trading income to contribute: R 849.595 million.

This reflects our commitment to fostering a financially sustainable and self-reliant municipality.

## **Expenditure: An Investment In The Future**

Operational Expenditure for the 2025/2026 year has been budgeted at: R 1.362 billion

This operational investment will maintain and enhance day-to-day services that touch every facet of our residents' lives.

Capital Expenditure, driving infrastructural renewal and growth, is estimated at: R 272.155 million

Let me take a moment to outline the breakdown of this Capital Budget, for these are the investments that build the Makhado of tomorrow:

### **Programme Directors,**

As we look to the year ahead, our capital investment programme reaffirms our unwavering commitment to building a stronger, more resilient Makhado.

For the 2025/2026 financial year, we have allocated a total capital budget of R272 million, strategically channelled to drive inclusive development and improve the quality of life for all our residents.

The lion's share of this budget, R184 million, will go towards upgrading and expanding our road infrastructure, ensuring that our communities are better connected and that economic opportunities can flow more freely across our municipality.

In recognition of the vital role of reliable electricity in powering development and livelihoods, we have set aside R57 million to enhance and expand our electricity network.

We are also investing R12 million in municipal buildings, creating modern, functional spaces that will enable us to deliver services more efficiently and with dignity.

Recognising the accelerating importance of digital transformation, R7 million has been allocated to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and related assets - laying the digital foundations for a smarter, more connected municipality.

To ensure that our municipal fleet remains fit for purpose, we are allocating R3 million towards the procurement and maintenance of transport, including heavy machinery essential for service delivery.

In our ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and cleanliness, R4 million will be invested in waste management systems.

Finally, we are dedicating R5 million towards community services, reinforcing our drive to build inclusive, safe, and supportive spaces for our residents.

Together, this balanced and forward-looking investment plan positions Makhado to thrive in the year ahead, guided by the principles of sustainability, service excellence, and shared prosperity.

### **Combined Investment**

### **Tariffs: Balancing Service Delivery And Affordability**

#### **Programme Directors,**

in line with national legislative guidelines, the following tariff increases will be implemented:

- Electricity: 15.62%
- Property Rates: 4.3%
- Other Services: 4.3%

We have taken great care to balance the need for financial sustainability with the economic realities faced by our residents.

Full details of the tariff increases will be made publicly available to ensure transparency and informed participation.

### **Operating Expenses**

A critical component of our operating budget is General Expenses, which includes contracted services and materials.

For 2025/2026, this is provided for at: R 282.218 million.

Salaries and Wages, our most valuable asset, the human capital that powers this municipality, will see an overall increment of 6%, aligned with the Bargaining Council Agreement.

The total salary bill is projected at: R 435.458 million, representing 32% of the total operating budget.

### **Programme Directors,**

The Municipality remains steadfast in its commitment to continuously improving our audit outcomes, recognising that sound financial governance is the backbone of service delivery and public trust.

For five consecutive financial years, we have proudly achieved unqualified audit opinions, a testament to the progress we have made in strengthening our financial management systems and internal controls.

However, we are not content to rest on these laurels.

The time has now come to elevate our ambition: from consistently attaining unqualified opinions to achieving a clean audit, the gold standard of financial accountability and transparency.

We firmly believe that this goal is within our reach under the capable, astute, and homegrown leadership of our Municipal Manager, Mr Kent Mbavhalelo Nemaname, supported by his dedicated team of professionals.

With their unwavering commitment and strategic stewardship, we are confident that the Municipality will continue to chart a course towards excellence in governance, integrity in financial reporting, and service delivery that truly reflects the aspirations of our people.



## **CONCLUSION**

**Programme Directors,**

Today, we do not simply table a Budget.

We chart the next chapter of a shared story, a story of a municipality on the move.

This 2025/2026 Integrated Development Plan and Budget is not a technical document to be filed away, it is a living commitment to every household, every community, and every dream that takes root on our soil.

It is a call to action.

**To build a Makhado that works for all, leaving no one behind.**

It is a call to:

- Light every home and power every enterprise;
- Connect our youth to opportunity and skills;
- Care for our environment, our elders, and our public spaces;
- Support our farmers, our entrepreneurs, and our small businesses;
- Clean our streets and build new roads of dignity.

**Programme Directors,**

In every culvert poured, in every classroom connected, in every street cleaned, beats the heart of a people determined to rise.

This is the spirit that drives us forward, step by step, road by road, light by light.

**Our work is far from done, but our resolve is unshakable.**

Together, Councillors and communities, traditional leaders and business partners, public servants and residents, let us walk this path side by side.

Let us turn this Budget into visible progress. Let us make this Plan a reality felt in every ward, every household.

Let us build a Makhado of opportunity, dignity, and shared prosperity.

Let us build not only for ourselves, but for generations yet to come.

**The Makhado we all believe in. The Makhado we are building, together.**

**Ke a leboga.**

**Ndo livhuwa**

**I thank you.**