



**MAKHADO**  
**LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

# **BUDGET** **SPEECH** **2026/27**

BY HER WORSHIP  
**CLLR MAHANDANA**  
**DORCUS MBOYI**



**DATE:**  
**26 JUNE 2026**



**VENUE:**  
**MAKHADO**  
**SHOW GROUND**

PEACE • HARMONY • PROSPERITY

- ❖ The Speaker of Council, Cllr TG Mitileni-Mukwevho
- ❖ The Chief Whip of Council, Cllr Siphos Masuka
- ❖ Chairpersons of Audit and Performance Audit Committee: (APAC)
- ❖ Honourable Councillors
- ❖ Vho Thovhele na Vho Ndabezitha
  
- ❖ Members of Parliament
- ❖ Members of the Provincial Legislature
- ❖ Representative from Limpopo Treasury and COGHSTA
  
- ❖ The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr M Chauke
- ❖ The Mayor of Collins Chabane Municipality, Cllr Shadrack Maluleke
- ❖ The Mayor of Musina Municipality Cllr Nkanedzeni Godfrey Mawela
- ❖ Speakers and Chief Whips of Musina, Thulamela, Collins Chabane, and Vhembe District Municipality
  
- ❖ The Municipal Manager, Mr Kent Nemaname and Directors of different departments in the municipality
- ❖ Officials from Sector Departments
- ❖ Guests from the University of Venda and Vhembe TVET College
- ❖ Leaders of Business and Civil Society Organisations
- ❖ leaders of faith-based organisation
  
- ❖ Leadership of ANC Vhembe Region led by the Secretary Cde Matodzi Ralushai
- ❖ Comrades and Leadership from Alliance
- ❖ Stalwarts and Veterans of our movement
- ❖ All Community Representatives present here
- ❖ All Ward Committee Members
- ❖ leadership our biggest Union SAMWU, Led By Cde Rabakali and Cde Raduvha who is also the Regional Secretary of SAMWU
- ❖ Leadership of IMATU
  
- ❖ Leadership of Pastors Forum
- ❖ Members of Makhado Youth Council
- ❖ Fellow residents of Makhado Municipality
- ❖ Members of the Media
- ❖ Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman

**Madam Speaker**

Today, we meet here as representatives of one municipality, one community, and one shared future. While we may come from different political formations and hold different views, we are united by a common responsibility to serve the people of Makhado. I extend a warm and sincere welcome to all our guests and stakeholders. Your presence here demonstrates the importance of participatory democracy and collective leadership in shaping the future of our municipality.

**Madam Speaker**

Just yesterday, we witnessed the historic qualification of Bafana Bafana to the FIFA world Cup round of 32 which made all of us proud. Their recent success on the continental stage has elevated our national pride and showcased South Africa's sporting talent to the world. As a municipality, we draw inspiration from Bafana Bafana's determination and resilience. We wish them strength, as they pursue World Cup Glory.

**Madam Speaker**

Makhado Local Municipality stands today as an institution strengthened by a capable administration and stable political leadership. The progress we have achieved has been made possible through the collective efforts of the Political Management Team, Members of Executive, and all councillors representing different political parties. Together, we have placed the interests of our communities at the centre of our work and remained committed to the principles of good governance, accountability, and service delivery.

**Madam Speaker**

This Budget is more than a financial statement. It is a declaration of our priorities, a reflection of our commitment to development, and a roadmap towards a better future for our residents. It represents our determination to improve infrastructure, create an enabling environment for economic growth, expand access to basic services, and improve the quality of life of every resident of Makhado. As we present this Budget today, let us remain guided by a shared vision of a municipality that is inclusive, prosperous, well-governed, and responsive to the needs of its people.

**Madam Speaker**

It is an honour; in fact, it is my privilege to table the fifth and final budget of this administration. It is appropriate that i pause and reflect for a moment on the journey we travelled together for the past four years while standing on our vision of being a Dynamic Hub for Socio-Economic Development by 2050.

**Madam Speaker**

Even though it is difficult to believe that we are already at the last year of our administration, we must be proud that our Vision has always been the greater purpose that guided every single thing we have done in our council. We have steadily built towards our vision for the past four years, and the awards we received, the growth of our budget and the re-categorization of the Municipality from grade four (4) to grade five (5) shows that this was Council at work. Our continued working together with residents, has taught us that through collaboration, we can do better, we also learnt that our residents have skills and capacity to build their own town.

**Madam Speaker**

We are presenting this budget during one of the most challenging times in the recent global history. Across the world, nations have faced economic uncertainty arising from ongoing conflicts, including the Russia-Ukraine war and the recent tensions involving Iran, the United States and Israel. These conflicts have disrupted global supply chains, increased energy costs, and contributed to rising of food prices that have affected households across the globe including our own residents here in Makhado. The rising of oil prices has a direct impact on transport, fuel, food, and the cost of doing business, placing additional pressure on all of us and residents alike.

**Madam Speaker**

Despite these difficult global conditions, we remained focused on our mandate to serve the people of Makhado. When the people entrusted us with the responsibility to govern, they expected leadership, accountability and tangible improvements on their daily lives. Throughout this term, we worked tirelessly to strengthen governance, improve service delivery, and ensure prudent management of public resources. One of the achievements of which this Council can be particularly proud of is the strengthening of governance and financial management. During this term, our municipality obtained four consecutive unqualified audit opinions. These achievements did not come by chance. They are the result of discipline, commitment, sound leadership, and a collective determination to ensure that public resources are managed responsibly, transparently, and in the best interests of our communities.

### **Madam Speaker**

While we acknowledge that challenges remain and that much work still lies ahead, we are confident that we leave behind a municipality that is institutionally stronger, financially more resilient, and better governed. We have strengthened systems, improved accountability, and built a culture of responsible administration that will serve future generations. To the people of Makhado, we want to assure you that your municipality remains in good hands. The foundations for sustainable growth have been laid. Governance structures are functioning. Financial controls have been strengthened. The administration is capable and committed to serving the people with integrity and professionalism.

### **Madam Speaker**

As an African National Congress-led Council, we remain guided by the values of service, accountability, and people-centred development. We are proud of the progress made during this term and confident that future leaders will build upon a solid foundation that has been established. History will judge us not only by the challenges we faced, but by how we responded to them. Despite global economic headwinds and local constraints, we remained steadfast in our commitment to building a better Makhado. As we conclude this chapter, we do so with humility, gratitude, and confidence that the future of Makhado remains bright.

### **Madam Speaker**

Today as we table this budget, we do so at a very significant moment in the history of our country. Ten days ago, South Africans were commemorating Youth Day, marking fifty years since the heroic uprising of June 16, 1976, when courageous young people took to the streets of Soweto and other parts of our country to confront the injustices of apartheid. The sacrifices made by those young patriots should not be in vain. Many paid the ultimate price so that the future generations can enjoy freedom, dignity, equality and access to opportunities. Their struggle was not merely against an unjust education system, it was a struggle for a democratic South Africa in which every child, regardless of race, gender or social background, could realise their full potential.

### **Madam Speaker**

As the African National Congress-led municipality, we remain inspired by the courage, determination, and patriotism displayed by the youth of 1976. Their spirit continues to guide us as we work to build a better life for all our people. The responsibility that rests upon us today is to ensure that freedom translates into tangible improvements in the lives of our communities. This budget is therefore more than a financial document. It is a practical expression of our commitment to service delivery, economic development, social justice, and the creation of opportunities for our people, especially the youth. It is a budget that seeks to strengthen infrastructure, improve access to basic services, support local economic growth, and create an enabling environment for investment and job creation. As we reflect on the journey from 1976 to the present day, we are reminded that the struggle for a better life continues. Today's challenges may be different from those faced by the youth of 1976, but they are equally important. We must confront unemployment, poverty, inequality, crime, and underdevelopment with the same determination that characterised the generation of 1976.

### **Madam Speaker**

The youth of Makhado are looking to us for leadership and action. They are looking for opportunities to study, work, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to the development of their municipality. Through this budget, we seek to lay a stronger foundation for inclusive growth and sustainable development that will benefit both current and future generations. As we honour the memory of the heroes and heroines of June 16, let us recommit ourselves to the values of unity, service, accountability, and people-centred development. Let us ensure that the sacrifices of those who came before us continue to inspire practical actions that improve the lives of our communities.

### **Madam Speaker**

This Budget Speech cannot be complete without reflection on Gender Based Violence (GBV) We are deeply saddened and disturbed by the recent incidents of violence against women and children in our communities especial here in Vhembe District and Makhado Local Municipality in particular. The increase in the reported cases of rape, including those allegedly committed by individuals entrusted with positions of authority and spiritual leadership as well as the tragic killing of a woman at Ha-Mutsha, the alleged poisoning of two young children at Madabani remind us that the fight against Gender-Based Violence remains one of the greatest challenges facing our society. These acts are not only crimes against individuals; they are an assault on the values of humanity, dignity, and respect upon which our democratic

society is founded. As leaders, parents, community members, and citizens, we must work together to ensure that women and children feel safe in their homes, schools, places of worship, workplaces, and public spaces.

**Madam Speaker**

As Makhado Local Municipality, we stand in solidarity with all victims and survivors of abuse and violence. We send our heartfelt condolences to families who have lost loved ones through these senseless acts. We also wish to send a strong and unequivocal message to perpetrators that violence against women and children will not be tolerated. Those who abuse, violate, or murder women and children must know that our communities reject such behaviour and that the full might of the law must be brought to bear against them. We call upon law enforcement agencies, community leaders, faith-based organisations, and all sectors of society to intensify efforts to protect the vulnerable, expose perpetrators, and build communities founded on respect, equality, and human dignity. The safety of women and children is not negotiable; it is a collective responsibility and a moral imperative.

**Madam Speaker**

At the centre of award winning municipality, lies the foundation of good governance and human capital investment. By investing in human capital, our municipality builds a capable, ethical and professional work force, strengthening government systems, improving organisational performance and ensure that we have the right skills and resources to meet the growing needs of our communities.

**Madam Speaker**

We have strengthened the very core of our institution: our human resource. I am proud to report that in the 2025/2026 financial year; we successfully appointed 91 permanent employees to key positions within our administration. These appointments were done in line with municipal staff regulation of 2021 which demands that employees who terminates their service with municipality must be replace within six months.

**Madam Speaker**

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.

**Madam Speaker**

As part of our continued focus on aligning our workforce with long-term developmental priorities, we have already advertised 29 additional posts, earmarked for filling in the 2026/2027 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.

**Madam Speaker**

In collaboration with LGSETA, we will continue to train employees and councillors to improve their competence, professionalism and their productivity through structured learning and skills development programs. This collaboration will also benefit the out of school youth in the Municipality. In 2025/2026 we trained 49 out of school youth in different work integrated learning, this work integrated learning will enable these learners to obtain their formal qualifications. We further enrolled 17 out of school youth in internship program. This internship program will enable out of school youth to compete in open labour market

**Madam Speaker**

**In 2026/2027 financial year we anticipate to enrol:**

- 120 learners in Learnership programmes,
- 85 students in Work Integrated Learning placements
- 25 interns in internship opportunities.

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.

**Madam Speaker**

We have continued to strengthen our institutional capacity by attracting skilled professionals while also investing in our Human capital.

**Over the past four years, the municipality has made 355 new appointments.**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
2021/2022	65
2022/2023	58
2023/2024	78
2024/2025	63
2025/2026	91
<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>

These appointments have strengthened service delivery across municipal departments by filling critical vacancies, enhancing technical capacity, and ensuring compliance with legislative requirements.

**Madam Speaker**

As part of our commitment to building a digitally inclusive municipality and improving access to information and communication technology, the municipality successfully connected Wi-Fi services to the following key community facilities during the 2025/2026 financial year.

- **Makhado Showground**
- **Dzanani Community Hall**
- **Waterval Community Hall**
- **Musekwa Thusong Centre Hall**
- **Ha-Mutsha (Luvuvhu) Community Hall**

The rollout of Wi-Fi in these facilities demonstrates our commitment to improving the quality of life of our people, promoting economic participation, and advancing digital transformation across all communities within the municipality

**Madam Speaker**

The Municipality continues to drive local economic development initiatives, facilitate investment opportunities, coordinate town planning processes, manage land development applications, oversee the demarcation of sites, and support the provision of housing opportunities. During the past financial year, important strides were made in creating an enabling environment for economic growth and orderly spatial development. In the 2026/2027 financial year, we will intensify efforts aimed at attracting investment, accelerating land development projects, strengthening town planning processes, and promoting sustainable human settlements.

### Madam Speaker

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 Department of Development Planning, we are shaping the future of the Municipality

**In the 2025/2026 financial year**, our Municipality proudly extended a hand of partnership to five (5) agricultural cooperatives, empowering them with vital agricultural inputs 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.

### Strengthening Our Business Ecosystem

Our role as catalyst of economic activities is further strengthened through our business licensing function, exercised under the auspices of the Limpopo Business Registration Act of 2003 (LIBRA). We have successfully approved 267 business licences in **2025/2026 financial year**; Business licenses were issued to different businesses like spaza shops and big supermarkets to a vibrant array of local enterprises. We remain committed to a responsible environmental oversight and ongoing stakeholder engagement to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

### Driving Local Economic Development

In 2026/ 2027 the Municipality has earmarked **R4 million** for Local Economic Development (**LED**) projects. Out of 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.

### Madam Speaker

The resumption of MC Mining operations at Mudimeli Village is a key economic catalyst. This project will create more than **700** permanent jobs for our communities, especially youth and women. Opportunities will also be created through 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.

**Madam Speaker**

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 456 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.

**Madam Speaker**

**During 2025/2026 financial year** the Municipality sold a total number of 183 stands at Dzanani Township, 178 stands at Extension 9 and 482 stands South of Pretorius in Louis Trichardt Town. The total number of stands sold is 843, and the municipality has so far collected **R206 million**.

**Madam Speaker**

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. I want to thank business people in our town for the refurbishment of old building which is taking place in every corner of our town. I call on other business people with empty stands within our towns to start with construction. **Together we can do more.**

**Madam Speaker**

In order to avoid man-made disaster which can claim lives of our people, we call on our residence to comply with occupational health and safety, National building regulations and standards. The municipality embarked on a programme of demolition unsafe dilapidated structures within our towns; these buildings were mainly used by criminals to hide and commit crime. This programme has successfully eased the fears of the community and promote safety of residents within our town.

**Madam Speaker**

During the 2026/2027 financial year, the Municipality has allocated **R4 million towards Township Establishment in the following areas commonly known as the grazing Paddocks:**

- ❖ Portion 1 of Rietvlei 276 LS (R26)
- ❖ Portion 1 of Rietvlei 276 LS (R9)

- ❖ Portion 1 of Rietvlei 276 LS (R12)
- ❖ Portion 1 of Rietvlei 276 LS (R13)

These allocations are a catalyst for sustainable urban expansion and will stimulate construction activity, and most importantly, expand our municipal tax base, enabling us to reinvest in critical services and infrastructure.

**Madam Speaker**

Traditional leaders are the custodian of the land in which the majority of our people stay. 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 2025/2026, we have managed to implement demarcation of sites in the following five villages at a Cost of R3 million, Tuwani sites, Ndouvhada, Musekwa , Songozwi and Tshivhazwaulu. Songozwi is **100%** completed while the rest of villages are at about **80%** towards completion, This collaborative approach preserves our traditions while embracing modern planning, ensuring orderly and formalised housing and economic development.

**Madam Speaker**

The establishment of satellite campuses by University of Venda and University of South Africa in Makhado Municipality will increase access to tertiary Education for the residents, making higher education more accessible within the Makhado and our neighbouring Municipalities

The development of these campuses is expected to create significant economic opportunities for the municipality and its residents. This includes job creation during both the construction and the operational phase of campuses. These two campuses will complement the municipality effort of supporting young people through the provision of bursaries, internships and learnership programmes.

**Madam Speaker**

University of Venda will start with the construction of a parameter fence during the 2026/2027 financial which covers the entire **33,3 hectares** which was donated by the Makhado Local Municipality at an investment value of **R10 million** whilst we are awaiting the programme of action from the University of South Africa

**Madam Speaker**

This project is more than the construction of a perimeter fence, it is the laying of a foundation for a centre of excellence that will stimulate economic growth, create much-needed employment opportunities during the construction phase, and generate sustainable permanent jobs when the campus becomes fully operational. The development of this satellite campus will attract investment, expand access to higher education, empower our youth, support local businesses, and position Makhado as a leading educational and economic hub in the Vhembe District. ₂

**Madam Speaker**

We will continue to provide essential services that directly impact the daily lives of our residents. Through waste management programmes, law enforcement operations, environmental management initiatives, cemetery management, and the maintenance of parks and public open spaces, the Municipality has played a vital role in creating safer and cleaner Environment for the communities. In the coming financial year, efforts will be intensified to improve waste collection services, strengthen law enforcement, enhance environmental sustainability, and the maintenance of public facilities that contribute to community development

**Madam Speaker**

A clean Municipality gives hope to its resident, attract investments and foster a culture of taking responsibility. Our people are not asking for miracles but for us not turn a blind eye to a deteriorating environment and scourge of illegal dumping that has marred the beauty of our villages and towns, threatening their health, dignity, and livelihood

**Madam Speaker**

Our municipality has intensified monthly environmental education and awareness campaigns across our villages, awakening consciousness and urging citizens to act. The municipality has strategically placed 210 skip bins in hotspots across our villages with additional 40 skip bins to be procured in 2026/2027 financial year. The Municipality further provides refuse removal services to over 9,140 households in Louis Trichardt, Dzanani, and Waterval areas, and more than 80 villages are already receiving refuse removal services. As part of improving our refuse removal efforts, we have purchased a refuse removal truck worth **R2 million** using Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)

**Madam Speaker**

The Municipality has established six drop-off points in Sinthumule /Kutama and Dzanani waste transfer station. We have allocated R4 million towards ensuring that waste storage, disposal and landfill sites remain fully operational. We will further provide additional skip and wheelie bins in **2026/2027 financial year.**

**Madam Speaker**

As a country, we are still battling the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. As a Municipality, we must play our part in reducing these challenges. Through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), our municipality recruited 350 beneficiaries in 2025/2026 financial year. We are currently in a process of recruiting **429** beneficiaries for 2026/2027 financial year. This Programme does not offer only work opportunity, but creates dignity, skills and Work Experience which makes young people more employable. In partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, we are currently recruiting **60** participants for 2026/2027 financial year to support our community-based programmes

**Madam Speaker**

The Municipality has one main Library in Louis Trichardt Town and two satellite libraries at Musekwa and Ha-Mutsha. These Libraries serve as a fundamental community pillar by providing equitable access to information, educational resources and cultural heritage. They are not only book storage, but offers quite study spaces which supplement teaching and research for student and researchers alike.

**Madam Speaker**

Our disaster Management Unit in Collaboration with Vhembe District Municipality and Department of Social Development have been hard at work in response to recent Disasters caused by floods which affected the majority of our residents. Their prompt response gave our community hope that they are not alone during these difficult times.

### **Madam Speaker**

In 2026/2027 financial year, as part of strengthening law enforcement and improving road safety within our municipality, Makhado Local Municipality will introduce a new automatic number plate recognition system that will enable our law enforcement officers to detect and trace the registration details of vehicles involved in traffic violations and other offences in real time. We are also proud to announce that Makhado is among the **69** municipalities identified to pilot the implementation of the **Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO)** project as from the first 1 July 2026.

### **Madam speaker**

This landmark initiative will usher in a new era of accountability, discipline and compliance on our roads. The expected spin-offs include improved road safety, reduced traffic offences, enhanced crime prevention through faster identification of offenders, increased revenue collection from traffic-related penalties, improved public confidence in municipal law enforcement, and the creation of employment and skills development opportunities associated with the rollout and management of the system. Ultimately, this initiative will contribute towards building a safer, smarter and more efficient municipality where the rule of law is upheld, and where residents, businesses and visitors can drive in a safe and secure environment.

### **Madam Speaker**

Through our special Programs we remain committed to promoting social inclusion and protecting the rights and wellbeing of those who are vulnerable within communities. Older Persons Forum continues to thrive, organising events such as Older Persons Parliament, Active Ageing Programmes, and football competitions for the aged. 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

### **Madam Speaker .**

We continue to strengthened the work of Makhado AIDS Council, convening four meetings and rolling out Ward- Based AIDS Councils, all chaired by ward councillors. 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 campaign

### Madam Speaker

Today, I stand before you with immense pride to present the remarkable journey of transformation that the Municipality has undertaken over the past four years. These projects are not merely roads, bridges, streetlights and public facilities; they are symbols of hope, dignity, economic growth and social justice. They demonstrate our unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life of every resident in Makhado Local Municipality.

### Madam Speaker

In 2021/2022 financial year, we embarked on rebuilding infrastructure which was affected by disasters through an investment of **R26 million** to reconstruct damaged low-level culvert bridges in villages such as Tshavhalovhedzi, Tshikota, Tshiozwi, Waterval, Elim, Makushu, Mashau Bodwe, Mukondeni, Musekwa, Straightardt and Ravele. During the same period, we completed major Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) projects, including Tshedza to Vuvha Access Road Phase 3, Valdezia Xitacini to Jiweni Access Road Phase 3 and Mudimeli Stormwater and Resurfacing, amounting to **R107 million**.

### Madam Speaker

We further invested **R98 million** in the rehabilitation of Kruger Street, Kameel and Alwyn Streets, Commissioner and Main Street stormwater systems, Vlei Street and the Tshakhuma Fruit Market Phase 2. In addition, we demarcated 1,900 residential sites in Valdezia, Dovheni, Tsianda, Doli-Doli and Tshikuwi, laying a foundation for orderly human settlements and future economic development.

### Madam Speaker

**In the 2022/2023 financial year**, we continued to strengthen service delivery by installing 46 high-mast lights across numerous villages and public parks at a cost of **R10 million**, significantly improving community safety and visibility. We completed cemetery fencing projects in Muhovhoya, Rathidili, Tshikwarani, Rabali, Waterval, Mangilasi and Chavani. Major infrastructure projects included Lutanandwa Access Road and Bridge Phase1, Sane to Natalie Bridge and Rivoni to Xihlobyeni Access Road, bringing total MIG expenditure to **R72.million**. We also rehabilitated key roads and public facilities, including Kleynhans Street, Tshakhuma Ring Road, Ha Mutsha Access Road, Waterval Main Street, Djunane Street, Hlanganani Street, Kruger Street, Grobler Street, and Eltivillas Parking Areas, with an overall expenditure of **R142 million**.

### **Madam Speaker**

In the 2023/2024 financial year, we secured **R3.5 million** to reconstruct damaged infrastructure in Tshandila, Takalani Nemusumani, Luvhalani, Ludanani, Maebani, Paradise, Tshituni, Ha Matsa, Khomele, Buysdorp, Madodonga, Magau, Madabani and Tshiozwi. We further completed strategic projects such as Breda Street, Waterval Clinic Ring Road, the rehabilitation and closure of the Vondeling Landfill Site, Stubb Street, Songozwi Street, Unica Street, Bernard Street, Rissik Street, Pretorius Street, Joe Slovo Street in Vleifontein, Burger Street Market Revitalisation and Rabali Stadium refurbishment, investing **R125 million**. Furthermore, we completed Tshedza to Vuvha Access Road Phase 4, upgraded Lutanandwa Access Road Phase 2 and expanded the Makhado Landfill Site with recycling facilities, amounting to **R67 million**.

### **Madam Speaker**

**In the 2024/2025 financial year**, we delivered transformative projects that included the upgrading of Makatu to Tshikota Access Road, Midoroni Clinic Ring Road and Luvhalani to Dzananwa Access Road, with a total investment of **R160 million**. These projects continue to improve mobility, access to healthcare facilities and economic participation for our communities.

### **Madam Speaker**

Our work is far from being complete. We have allocated **R5 million** towards the repair of Road from Mbokota School to Paul Kubayi Road, Shirley Primary to Xigodini-Machume to Dombani Road and Madima to Dipeni Road. Site handovers were successfully conducted in May 2026, and construction activities are underway. These interventions will restore connectivity and ensure safer travel for our communities.

### **Madam Speaker**

The Financial Year 2026/2027 marks another important chapter in our journey of building a modern, connected and economically vibrant Makhado, we will invest **R149 million** in critical infrastructure projects that will improve access to electricity, roads, economic opportunities and environmental sustainability across our municipality.

### **Madam Speaker**

In the area of electrification, we will invest **R8.3 million** to extend electricity connection to communities of Tshituni tsha Manyadzha/Makongoza/Mapakophele, Tsianda, Xinkuwani Xilumani, Woyoza, Riverplaats and Muungamunwe. These projects will bring dignity, improve household livelihoods, support local businesses and ensure that our children can study /under proper lighting conditions.

### **Madam Speaker**

Through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG), we will invest **R112 million** to continue upgrading strategic roads that connect our communities to schools, economic centres and essential services. These include the upgrading of the road leading to Mavhoyi TVET College, Tshino Access Road, Madombidzha (50/50), Ramantsha to Ravele Road Phase 1, Rabali to Divhani Access Road, and the Ring Road connecting Nwaxinyamai, Tshivhade, Mavhina and Bungeni. These projects are a clear indication that we are a municipality that completes what it starts.

### **Madam Speaker**

Using our own municipal revenue, we will further invest **R25 million** in projects that stimulate economic growth and improve urban infrastructure. This includes the completion of the Dzanani Taxi Rank and Market Stalls, development of roads and stormwater systems in **164** New Stands at Tshikota Township, **700** stands South of Pretorius, **178** stands at Louis Trichardt Extension 9 and the construction of an additional waste management cell to ensure responsible environmental management for future generations.

### **Madam Speaker**

These projects are not merely figures on paper; every kilometre of road we build shortens the distance between poverty and opportunity. Every bridge we construct connects families to schools, clinics and economic prospects. Every streetlight installed, drives away fear and restores confidence within our communities. Every infrastructure project we deliver is an investment in the future of Makhado

### **Madam Speaker**

*"A budget is more than numbers on paper; it is a declaration of our values and a promise to our people." – Barack Obama*

Today, I am proud to present the 2026/2027 Budget, a budget that seeks not only to balance figures but to transform the lives of the people of Makhado. This budget is our collective commitment to every

household, every village, every business and every young person who dreams of a better future. It is a budget that demonstrates that Budget and Treasury remains the heartbeat of our municipality, ensuring that every cent entrusted to us delivers meaningful change to our communities.

**Madam Speaker**

Before I table the budget allocations and expenditure for **2026/2027**, let me pause and celebrate a remarkable journey of excellence over the past four years. This is a story of discipline, resilience, accountability and unwavering commitment to serving the people of Makhado. It is a story that belongs to every resident who has entrusted us with the responsibility of building a prosperous municipality.

**Madam Speaker**

**In 2021/2022 financial year**, Makhado Local Municipality laid a strong foundation for financial stability and responsible governance. We successfully spent **100%** of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG), maintained an Unqualified Audit Opinion, and ensured that no unauthorised expenditure was incurred. These achievements demonstrated that Makhado was committed to protecting public resources and ensuring that every rand is spent for the benefit of our communities.

**Madam Speaker**

**In 2022/2023 financial year**, we built upon the foundation of the previous financial year and raised the standard even higher. We again achieved **100%** expenditure of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, successfully spent the additional Municipal Infrastructure Grant allocation, maintained another Unqualified Audit Opinion, and once again avoided unauthorised expenditure. This was not merely an administrative achievement; it was a clear message that Makhado Municipality was becoming a model of sound financial governance and accountability.

**Madam Speaker**

During the 2023/2024 financial year, our municipality continued on its upward trajectory. We once again achieved **100%** expenditure of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, retained our Unqualified Audit Opinion and ensured that no unauthorised expenditure was incurred. These achievements were proof that consistency, good leadership and sound administration can transform institutions and restore public confidence in local government.

### Madam Speaker

**In 2024/2025 financial year**, Makhado Municipality reached another historic milestone. We again spent **100%** of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, successfully utilised the additional Municipal Infrastructure Grant allocation, maintained an Unqualified Audit Opinion, incurred no irregular expenditure and prepared our financial statements in-house. These accomplishments earned us prestigious recognition at the **SALGA Big Moss Maluleke Awards** and positioned Makhado Municipality amongst the municipalities that are setting the trend for excellence.

### Madam Speaker

These awards are not trophies to be displayed on shelves; they are symbols of trust. They are evidence that the people of Makhado can rely on their municipality to manage public funds responsibly, transparently and efficiently.

**As we table the 2026/2027 Budget**, let us not see it merely as a financial document. Let us see it as a promise to continue investing in our people, improving infrastructure, creating opportunities for our youth, strengthening service delivery and building a municipality that future generations will be proud to inherit. The journey is far from over. Our greatest achievement is not what we have already accomplished, but what we are still determined to achieve together.

### Madam Speaker

**For the 2026/2027 financial year**, we are presenting a total funded revenue budget of **R1,778 billion**. This is not simply a financial statement; it is a social contract between this municipality and its people. It is the instrument through which we will build roads, expand electricity networks, create opportunities and improve the quality of life for every resident.

Our municipality will receive a total of **R633.743 million** in grants, allocated as follows:

- Equitable Share: **R507.068 million**
- Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG): **R112.837 million**
- Financial Management Grant: **R2.1 million**
- Integrated National Electrification Programme: **R8.392 million**

- Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP): **R3.346 million**

These grants represent a strong partnership between local, provincial and national government and will enable us to accelerate service delivery.

### Madam Speaker

Beyond external grants, we continue to strengthen our own financial sustainability. Our municipality projected own income will contribute **R1.1 billion**. This demonstrate our determination to build a self-reliant municipality that is capable of sustaining development for generations to come.

For the 2026/2027 financial year, our operational expenditure has been budgeted at **R1,5 billion**, while our capital expenditure amounts to **R215 million**. These investments will ensure that we maintain essential services while building Makhado of tomorrow.

### Madam Speaker,

Our capital investment programme is strategically designed to improve lives. **We have allocated:**

- **R132million** towards upgrading and expanding road infrastructure.
- **R38 million** towards enhancing and expanding our electricity network.
- **R7.7million** for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to build a smart and digitally connected municipality.
- **R28.6 million** for municipal fleet procurement and maintenance.
- **R2.3 million** towards waste management systems.
- **R6 million** towards community services programmes.

These are not merely expenses; they are investments in dignity, safety and economic growth.

### Madam Speaker,

We further provide **R284 million** for general operating expenses. **Within this allocation:**

- **R25 million** is dedicated to electricity maintenance projects, including preventative maintenance at Levubu, Beaufort Central Substation, CBD streetlights, Mara line hardware replacement, Bandelierkop, Tshipise, Sinthumule-Kutama and Ring Main Unit substation replacement.

- **R20 million** is allocated for road maintenance, pothole patching, re-gravelling and improvement of road in Waterval, Dzanani, Luvuvhu and Kutama-Sinthumule.
- **R12 million** is budgeted for the rehabilitation of culverts and bridges damaged by recent floods.

### **Madam Speaker**

We recognise that our employees remain our greatest asset. Salaries and wages will increase by **4.75%** in accordance with the Bargaining Council Agreement, with the total salary bill projected at **R449 million**, representing **30%** of the total operating budget.

At the same time, we remain mindful of the economic pressures facing our residents. Therefore, tariff increases have been carefully balanced as follows:

- Electricity : **12.41%**
- Property Rates : **3.40%**
- Other Services : **3.40%**

These adjustments seek to preserve both affordability and the financial sustainability of the municipality.

### **Madam Speaker**

For five consecutive financial years, this municipality has maintained unqualified audit opinions. Yet we are not satisfied with maintaining excellence; we aspire to achieve the gold standard of governance — a clean audit. We are confident that under the capable leadership of our Municipal Manager, Mr Kent Mbavhalelo Nemaname, supported by a dedicated team of professionals, we will continue to strengthen accountability, integrity and financial governance.

### **Madam speaker**

**Today**, I call upon every resident of Makhado to become a partner in development. Let us protect municipal infrastructure, pay for services responsibly and work together to build a municipality that future generations will be proud to inherit. **“The future depends on what we do in the present.”** – **Mahatma Gandhi**

**Madam Speaker**

In conclusion, allow me to express my deepest gratitude to the people of Makhado for entrusting us with the responsibility of leading this municipality. The budget we presented here today is a declaration of our commitment to build a municipality that is inclusive, prosperous, resilient, and responsive to the needs of every community. Every achievement we celebrate today is a testament to what can be accomplished when leadership and communities work together with a common purpose. The progress we have made over the years belongs to every resident of Makhado who believed that a better future is possible.

**Madam Speaker**

I stand here today with a profound humility, mindful that the opportunity to serve as Mayor was bestowed upon me by the African National Congress, a movement that has carried the aspirations of our people for generations. The ANC did not grant me power; it entrusted me with a sacred responsibility to serve with integrity, humility, discipline and compassion. For this confidence and trust, I extend my sincere appreciation to the organisation that has continuously placed the needs of our people above all else. Every milestone we have achieved and every challenge we have overcome has been guided by the values and principles of selfless service championed by the ANC.

**Madam Speaker**

Allow me also to express my sincere appreciation to the Municipal Manager, Mr K.M. Nemaname, the Directors, Senior Management, Members of Audit and Performance Audit Committee (**APAC**), our two organised labour unions represented by IMATU and SAMWU (**the biggest labour union in our municipality**), and every municipal employee who has worked tirelessly to ensure that Makhado Local Municipality remains stable, responsive and focused on service delivery. Your professionalism, resilience and dedication have enabled us to navigate difficult circumstances while continuing to deliver services to our communities. The successes we celebrate today are a result of your unwavering commitment and collective effort.

### **Madam Speaker**

My gratitude further extends to the Speaker, Chief Whip, Members of the Executive Committee, Councillors, Traditional Leaders, provincial and national government departments, state entities, faith-based organisations, business formations, civil society organisations, youth and women's structures, and all developmental partners who have continuously partnered with us. Development is never achieved by one individual or one institution alone; it is achieved when every stakeholder contributes their wisdom, resources and energy towards a common vision. Together, we have strengthened social cohesion and laid a solid foundation for sustainable economic growth and development.

### **Madam speaker**

I also wish to acknowledge and appreciate our strategic partnership with the Municipality of Gwanda in Zimbabwe in absentia. Through this relationship, we continue to unlock opportunities for tourism, trade, investment, cultural exchange and economic development for the benefit of our communities. This partnership demonstrates that African municipalities can work together to build bridges of friendship and prosperity that transcend borders and create opportunities for future generations.

### **Madam speaker**

I would be failing in my duty if i do not express my heartfelt gratitude to my family, my children Anza Vhudziki, Andisa Khanyo, Anani Khanombuya and Masha Tshangawanga and my grandchildren Asaedza and Simesani. The responsibility of serving as Mayor demands long hours, personal sacrifices and time away from loved ones. Through it all, their support, patience and understanding have been my pillar of strength. Their contribution to this journey has been immeasurable, and I remain forever grateful for their unwavering encouragement.

### **Madam Speaker**

**As we move into the 2026/2027 financial year**, let us renew our collective commitment to work harder, dream bigger and serve better. Let us continue to build a municipality where every child can dream without limitation, every young person can find opportunities, every woman can live with dignity, every older person can live with respect, and every family can enjoy a better quality of life.

**Madam speaker**

As we celebrate our achievements, let us also pause and honour the councillors who sadly passed on during this term of office, Cllr MR Mokgoadi and Cllr K Maphubu who passed on 25 May 2024 and 09 January 2025 respectively. We also extend our deepest sympathy to the municipal officials who passed on during this term. They served our people with dedication, commitment and a deep sense of duty. Their contributions will forever remain part of the history and development of Makhado Local Municipality. Their legacy lives on through the projects they championed, the communities they served and the countless lives they touched. We remain indebted to their selfless service and sacrifice. **Let's all stand and observe moment of silent**

**It was Nelson Mandela who once said: *"It always seems impossible until it is done."***

Together, united in purpose and driven by the spirit of service, we shall continue to build a stronger, more prosperous and developmental Makhado Local Municipality.

**I thank you,**

**Khani Mambo**

**Ndia Livhuwa**

**Ngiyabonga I**

**Ndinokutendai**

















