



### Committed to quality services in 2009



*The Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu.*

The leading, innovative and award-winning local authority that is the Steve Tshwete Municipality re-commits itself at the start of 2009 to providing quality, effective and affordable municipal services to its residents, to driving development aimed at creating future prosperity and the wise utilisation of available funds to provide a conducive environment in which a better life for all can be ensured.

I wish to echo the following sentiments recently expressed by President, Kgalema Motlanthe, in his new year's message:

“Our government is aware that to attain social cohesion we must continue to improve the economic situation of all our people. This includes, among others, narrowing the income gap among all South Africans and launching an all-out assault on inequality and poverty. Accordingly, I would like to appeal to all South Africans to treat each other with respect.

This includes tolerance towards foreign nationals who, for one reason or the other, have made South Africa their home. Let us work towards building a united, democratic, non-sexist, non-racial and prosperous nation that derives strength from the diversity of its people. Importantly, all of us, including the private sector and government departments, must act together to reduce inefficient use of electricity and develop alternative sources of renewable energy.”

We, as the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, are firmly on track and are a sterling example to all other municipalities in the country as far as successful service delivery to our residents and the thriving local business sector is concerned.

Evidence of this in the past year was not only clinching the prestigious 2009 Vuna Award for Municipal Excellence in Mpumalanga, but also seeing to it that the Nkangala District Municipality, of which it is an integral part, was

eventually crowned the winner of the National Vuna Award for the year in South Africa.

Furthermore, Steve Tshwete also won the coveted 2008 Govan Mbeki Housing Award in Mpumalanga for being the local municipality that was best able to meet the targets set by the Provincial Legislature for the construction and servicing of RDP houses which they allocate, finance and monitor the progress.

Then there was another top award - the first of its kind - in the form of the 2009 MEC's Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) Award. This special award is in recognition of the unqualified audit report received by the National Treasury from the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

Added to that is winning the annual Mpumalanga Cleanest Town Award for the record third time. We were dealt a blow over the recent festive season by tragic road accidents that claimed the lives of Ward 4 Councillor Mahlodi Girly Mathebula and her mother-in-law on Christmas Day, as well as those of a former Mayor and serving Ward Committee member of Kwazamokuhle, Phillemon Lucky Gama (54), his 27-year old daughter, Phindile Faith Gama, and his grandson, Lwazi Phakathi (7). Our deepest sympathies go towards the families and friends of the deceased.

But we were, however, heartened by the incredible achievements of our star matric learner of 2008, Wynand Prinsloo, who obtained six distinctions in the subjects of Afrikaans, English, Mathematics, Information Technology, Accounting and Physical Science.

*continued on page 2*

## Cleanest town again

It's official - Middelburg/Hendrina are the cleanest towns in the province of the rising sun, Mpumalanga! Steve Tshwete Local Municipality has done it again, scooping yet another Cleanest Town Award in the province for the third time.

In 2008 the municipality was judged on keeping streets, market places, taxi ranks and parks up to satisfactory standards. Steve Tshwete Municipality was also assessed on good management of waste removal in the Central Business District (CBD), surrounding suburbs as well as in neighbouring townships.

The municipality progressed well in the competition, winning the first round at district level. The 2008 Cleanest Town Award was accompanied by a R1-million cheque and a certificate of achievement.

The Executive Mayor of Steve Tshwete Municipality, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, said that the money would be ploughed back into the local community in the form of enhanced service delivery. Masakhane News has learnt from the Mpumalanga MEC for Public Works, Madala Masuku, during his address in congratulating Steve Tshwete Municipality, that the Cleanest Town Competition has grown tremendously since its inception. In the past, overall winners of the competition would pocket only R10 000. However, today the attractive prize figure has six digits.



*The presentation of the 2008 Mpumalanga Cleanest Town Award. Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, Municipal Manager, Willie Fouché, municipal staff members, members of the Mayoral Committee are flanked by well-wishers including the MEC for Public Works, Madala Masuku (third from left) and Nkangala District Municipality Mayor, Speedy Mashilo (far right).*

# HIV/AIDS scourge *under spotlight*

**O**n the eve of the International AIDS Day, the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality joined hands with the rest of the world in confronting the burning issues of HIV and AIDS, following a peaceful march by the municipal staff and members of the Mayoral Committee, led by the Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu from Wanderers Avenue via Church Street in Middelburg.

The march ended at the municipal basement parking facility. During the emotional assembly, the management of Steve Tshwete expressed tremendous love and caring concern for the municipal staff. A platform was created at the occasion to inform employees of preventative measures that they could take to combat the deadly HIV and AIDS virus.

## Committed to **QUALITY SERVICES** in 2009

*continued from front page*

The year 2009 poses some unique challenges for us as a Local Municipality and the inhabitants of our area of jurisdiction to meet.

Not least of these are the ongoing war against HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, crime, corruption and violence against women and children, house robberies, organised crime and corruption as well as illegal firearms.

At the same time we must also strengthen the institutions for supporting democracy as well as cement social cohesion.

In this regard mention must be made of the nation's fourth democratic General Elections, which will be held sometime this year.

I wish to congratulate all those who have already registered as voters and urge those who have not done so to register as soon as possible at the outlets provided for this by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

Let us heed our President's call to deepen our democracy by exercising our choice freely in the elections and help create a peaceful climate where each and every one of us can exercise his or her choice without intimidation and fear. Let us respect the right of all parties to freely campaign peacefully within our municipal area.

On the sporting front, South Africa is set to host the FIFA Confederation Cup in June. This is a very important barometer of not only how our national team will perform during the 2010 FIFA World Cup Competition, but also, of how hospitable we are as a nation.

Let us as a leading town in Mpumalanga see how we can play our rightful part in this and also benefit from the potential opportunities that this event offers.

Lastly, I want to wish each and every resident a prosperous, progressive and booming 2009 and assure them of our ongoing commitment to service delivery and creating an environment in which they and their families can develop, thrive and prosper.

Both male and female staff members were highly encouraged to remain faithful to their partners and the practice of safe sex was promoted. In his keynote address on behalf of Executive Mayor Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, Cllr Alex Xulu told councillors, administrators, managers and the entire staff contingent of the municipality that South Africans should join hands against what he termed 'the silent killer that threatens our lives and the very fabric of our existence'.

Cllr Xulu also emphasized the need for the municipality to provide support to those already infected and affected by the disease. Chief Health Services: Magareth Skhosana was joined by municipal workers' trade union leaders during the moving candle lighting ceremony. She outlined the meanings of the different colours of the candles, which were lit to commemorate the event.

She explained in detail in a subsequent interview with Masakhane News that the red candle was lit in remembrance of those who had died of the deadly virus as well as people living with the HIV Virus. The yellow candle was dedicated to HIV pregnant women and children. In the meantime the white candle was lit to symbolise the hope that one day there would be a cure discovered for the scourge of HIV and AIDS.



*The Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, Executive Manager, Corporate Services, Thobela Mekuto, Cllr Bongani Mayaba, Cllr Nomsa Kabini and Cllr Alex Xulu led the municipal staff in an emotional march on World AIDS Day.*

## 'DON'T SUFFER ALONE' - Mayor

**T**he Executive Mayor of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, joined other caring souls at the Bamabanani Medical Centre in Middelburg on World AIDS Day in the ongoing battle against HIV and AIDS.

The World AIDS Day commemorations brought all the stakeholders within the area of jurisdiction of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality together with other parastatal organisations from across the country.

The Mayor joined this marshalling of the forces



*The Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu lights a candle in remembrance of HIV and AIDS victims.*

at Bamabanani to educate the public on effective ways and means to fight the silent killer virus. She also praised the centre for taking a number of AIDS orphans under its wing.

Mr Ebrahim Patel, Chairperson of Ezindaleni, extolled the centre for making a huge difference in the lives of those infected and affected by the deadly virus. Other prominent speakers at the function included Corrie Smit, CEO of the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority, Dr Sheynaz Bassa, Specialist Oncologist from the HIV and Cancer Organisation, as well as Dr Walter Tshabalala, Psychologist of the Bamabanani Medical Centre.

In conclusion the Executive Mayor stated, "In order for us to be able to effectively fight this scourge, we must understand the significant differences between HIV and AIDS."

She also urged those infected not to try and cope with the disease on their own, but to seek professional help and support.

*Masakhane Newshound*

Contact Prudence Leshilo  
(Communications Department)  
on (013) 249 7054 or 079 449 2461  
or email: mleshilo@stevetshwetelm.gov.za

# STEVE TSHWETE reaps awards

The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, as the leading local authority in the Nkangala District Municipality, not only clinched the prestigious 2008 Vuna Award for Municipal Excellence in Mpumalanga but also saw to it that Nkangala was eventually crowned the winner of the National Vuna Award for 2009 in South Africa.

The glamorous ceremony to hand over the coveted Provincial trophy was presented at the Nkangala District Municipality with Steve



Tshwete Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, in attendance, together with the who's who of local and provincial government officials, business leaders in the private sector and representatives of the community at large.

Steve Tshwete's victory came after they managed to impress the judges on their good management of funds, including debts, scooping the financial viability award.

The municipality was also assessed on five Key Performance Areas (KPA's), which included the criteria of Good Governance, Municipal Transformation and Institutional Development, Infrastructural Development and Service Delivery as well as Local Economic Development. Municipal officials were commended for the manner in which they handled the governance of the area under their jurisdiction.

## MIG AWARD

During the ceremony, Steve Tshwete won yet another top award - the first of its kind - namely the 2008 MEC's Special Award called the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) Award.

This special award is in recognition of service delivery like roads constructed during the 2007/08 financial year. The municipality was awarded a cheque of R750 000, a certificate and a trophy.

The Municipal Excellence Vuna Awards were made possible by SALGA (South African Local Government Association), DBSA (Development Bank of Southern Africa), DPLG (Department of Provincial and Local Government) and NPI (National Productivity Institute).

In expressing her sincerest gratitude, the Executive Mayor of Steve Tshwete said that with the Vuna Award "everybody is the winner".

In her address, MEC Candith Mashego-Dlamini said that we need to learn to celebrate our achievements every step of the way.

"The Bible reminds us that as God created the earth, He did not wait until He finished to celebrate His achievements, but He continued to celebrate the completion of every step of His project. We need to learn to do that ourselves," she commented.



Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, Municipal Manager, Willie Fouché with members of the Mayoral Committee. Executive Mayor - Nkangala District Municipality, Speedy Mashilo (left of Mayor), his colleagues and the Mpumalanga MEC for Housing, Candith Mashego-Dlamini (right of Mayor), share a moment of joy after Steve Tshwete Municipality was announced the overall winners of the 2009 Vuna Award.

## Relief for 453 new homeowners

It was a dream come true for 453 residents in the Steve Tshwete Municipality of Extensions 2, 24 and Tokologo, following the official issuing of title deeds to them for low-cost/RDP houses.

On 17 December 2008, the residents assembled at the newly built Thusong Service Centre in Extension 7, as the Mpumalanga MEC for Housing, Candith Mashego-Dlamini, and Steve Tshwete Municipality Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, handed over title deeds to the eager beneficiaries.

The event also formed part of the Provincial Department of Housing's drive to formalise townships, with the registration of title deeds at a number of municipalities in Mpumalanga. The registration of tenure is a constitutional requirement of Section 26 of the Housing Act (Number 47 of 1937), which provides for the registration of the title to the landowners.

In addressing the packed hall, MEC Mashego-Dlamini, informed beneficiaries that the title deeds could also serve as a security of tenure when applying for loans (home loans and study loans) from financial institutions.

The event was yet more concrete evidence of

successful service delivery by government.

The MEC urged the beneficiaries to look after their houses, encouraging them to transform the RDP structures into comfortable homes by planting trees and establishing gardens in their yards.

In Tokologo section, 206 title deeds were handed over by the MEC and Executive Mayor, 174 title deeds for Extension 2 and 73 title deeds for Extension 24.

It is understood that for the first eight years after a low-cost house has been issued, the ownership of the house lies between the beneficiary and the municipality. Beneficiaries can only enjoy full ownership of the houses after the eight years from the date of issue have passed.

The MEC went on to highlight some of the challenges which municipalities face soon after handing the houses over to beneficiaries. One such challenge is in the case of unmarried people living together at the time of application for the house, should they decide to separate, arguments can arise as to who is the rightful owner of the house.



MEC, Candith Mashego-Dlamini with the Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, handing over the title deeds.

# SHOCK AT GAMA'S DEATH

**A**ny loss of life - especially in an unexpected road accident over the festive season - is one too many and in the case of a former Mayor of Kwazamokuhle and Ward Committee member Phillemon Lucky Gama (54), the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality has lost out in many ways.

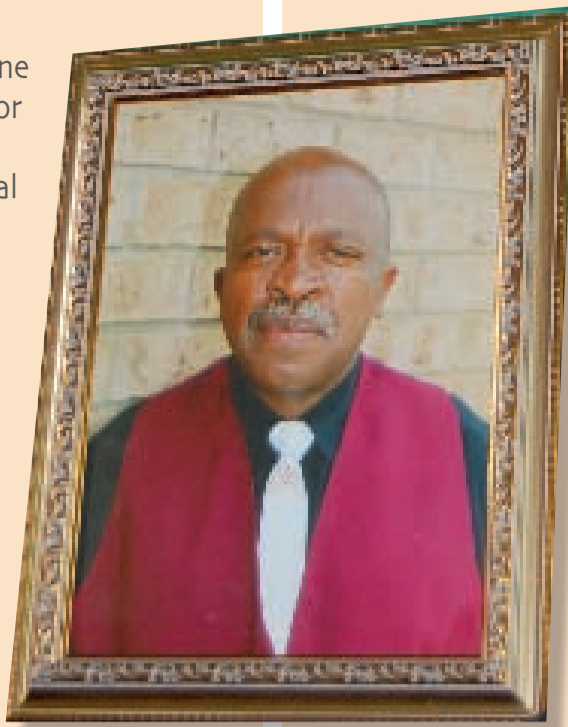
According to the SA Police Service at Blinkpan, Mr Gama's vehicle was involved in a collision with a truck at a stop sign.

His wife, Nurse Maria Gama, was the only surviving occupant of his vehicle in the tragic crash, which sent shockwaves through the community of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. Also killed was his 27-year old daughter, Phindile Faith Gama, who was allegedly pregnant at the time of her death and his grandson, Lwazi Phakathi, aged seven.

Gama, together with his co-deceased, were laid to rest in Kwazamokuhle on 3 January. Pastors, Steve Tshwete Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, ANC representatives, councillors, learners and teachers and community members as well as neighbours also bade farewell to the former Mayor of Kwazamokuhle. At the time of his death, Gama was a Ward Committee Member in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

A legend in his own town who was actively involved in the activities resulting in the development of Hendrina, Phillemon Lucky Gama was born on 16 November 1954 in Ermelo.

He was the son of the late Joel and Josephine Gama. At the tender age



*The late Ward Committee Member, Phillemon Lucky Gama.*

of seven, Phillemon started school at Peter Mabuza Primary School and later proceeded to Umsebe Higher Primary School. He completed his matric at JC Lindle Secondary School.

## LATE PIONEER A LOCAL LEGEND

He joined the many Black people already in the teaching profession, as it was one of the better careers opened for Blacks by the Nationalist government.

He received his training as an Educator at the Ndaleni Training College in KwaZulu-Natal, where he obtained his Primary Teacher's Certificate.

Between 1973 and 1974, he moved to Scotland and landed a post at the Gem Primary School. In 1976, at the time when South Africa experienced student boycotts against the usage of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction at schools, Gama returned home and joined Hendrina High School.

In 1984, Phillemon Lucky Gama tied the knot with his beloved wife, Nurse Maria Gama, and they were blessed with four children.

From 1983 onwards Gama began to fulfil his calling as a community leader, becoming the Mayor of Kwazamokuhle until 1990. He became Secretary of the Urban Councils' Association of the Highveld, as well as a member of the South African Fire Brigade Board from 1987 to 1990.

He furthermore served in the local transport industry as Secretary of the Hendrina Taxi Association.

From January 1998 until October 1999, Gama was appointed as Acting Headmaster at Hendrina Primary School. In 2004 he chaired the Hendrina Community Police Forum (CPF). In the meantime, he served as Deputy Chairperson of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU) in Hendrina as well as Deputy Chairman of Hendrina ANC Branch Executive Committee.

He was also active in church affairs, becoming Secretary of Hendrina Republican Trinity Church. Gama was a member of the South African Communist Party as well as a Member of the CPF Area Board.

*Left: The Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, Speaker, Cllr Thomas Mpye and ANC Regional Secretary, Frans Silolo pay their last respects to the late Phillemon Gama who was killed in a car accident.*

*Below: Coffins of the late Phillemon Gama, his daughter and grandchild surrounded by members of the ANC as a sign of respect.*



## Urgent warning

**T**he Department of Local Government in Mpumalanga warns all residents in the province to be on full alert and to take extra precaution as rains continue to pour. The Department sends a special appeal to people living in near low-lying areas and next to flood lines to be on alert. Weather patterns indicate that rains will continue this summer.

The following precautions should be taken:

- Move to higher ground, if possible.
- Turn off gas and electricity when it starts raining.
- Before crossing a river, check the water level.
- If trapped in a vehicle, abandon it.
- In rural areas, relocate live stock to a higher ground.
- Put home emergency kits in a safe place, e.g. identity and other important documents.

In the event of possible flooding, communities can call the Department's Disaster Relief free number 080 0202 507. The Department also warns road users to be careful as roads are wet and slippery and in some areas there have been reports of rock falls.

# Stalwart's sudden death mourned

The recent festive season robbed the closely-knit community of Mhluzi in the Steve Tshwete Municipality of a warrior, mother, teacher, community leader and political stalwart, whose untimely passing is deeply mourned.



The late Ward 4 Councillor, Girly Mathebula.

Ward 4 Councillor Mahlodi Girly Mathebula was the victim of a fatal car accident on Christmas day. Mr Enos Mathebula, Girly's husband, confirmed to Masakhane News that the accident occurred approximately 40km outside Middelburg on the Stoffberg road.

Reports further indicate that Girly's eldest son, Mlungisi Mathebula, was the driver of the white Bolero Mahindra bakkie they were travelling in. It is understood that she was returning from Glen Cowie in Limpopo Province, where she went to fetch her mother-in-law, who also died in the tragic accident.

Girly's husband told this publication in an interview that the accident happened when Mlungisi tried to avoid

a white horse that suddenly walked into the road as they were approaching. In the resulting accident, the vehicle capsized, killing Cllr Mathebula and her mother-in-law instantly. Mlungisi's two friends, who were also travelling with the Mathebulas, escaped with minor injuries.

## LAI D TO REST

A host of dignitaries - including the Mpumalanga MEC for Safety and Security, Siphosizwe Masango, the Executive Mayor of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, members of her Mayoral Committee, Ward Councillors, ANC leaders, Roman Catholic Church leaders and the congregation at large bade an emotional farewell to Cllr Girly Mathebula.

Speakers at the funeral service, which was held at the Thusong Service Centre in Mhluzi's Extension 7, profusely praised and expressed their appreciation of her and

## How Girly will be remembered

The Municipality Councillor's year-end party at the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in December 2008 was the last occasion attended by the late Ward 4 Town Councillor, Mahlodi Girly Mathebula, before her tragic death. She will indeed be sadly missed.

Right: Girly's last dance with the Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, fellow councillors and members of the community.

Below: Girly, far right at the Ward Committee Conference.



what she had achieved. The second session of the funeral proceedings was held in Phumulong Cemetery, where mourners and relatives watched sadly as the coffins were lowered into the grave on 4 January.

Cllr Mathebula is survived by her beloved husband, Enos, two daughters, Sibongile and Ntombifuthi, son, Mlungisi, and grandchild, Tumisho. Girly, as she was affectionately known, will be remembered by her family and fellow political comrades, amongst others, for her on-going struggle to provide a better life for all.

**“LALA NGOXOLO QHAWEKAZI - MAY YOUR SOULS REST IN PEACE”**



The Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, MEC for Safety and Security, Siphosizwe Masango (front), and ANC Convenor of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Monica Mathibela, at the Phumulong Cemetery.



Above: Husband Enos Mathebula (right) accompanied by his two daughters (far left) and relatives to bid farewell.

Below: The Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu and members of the Mayoral Committee pay their last respects.



## Mayor honours the aged

Every year on 1 October, elderly people are praised for contributions in their communities, their wisdom and for upholding good values in the building of communities around the world.

In the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu also sang praise songs for senior citizens at a function at the Thusong Service Centre in Extension 7 in Mhluzi. This event was held on 29 October.



*Above and right: The Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu pampers the aged by handing out gifts on International Day for Older Persons.*

International Day for Older Persons was conceptualised by the United Nations in 2007.

The Mayor emphasised that in the fast ageing world of today, older people are expected to play a critical role in society through transmission of their valuable experience and knowledge, helping their families to adopt caring responsibilities and educating the younger generation about espousing strong and good moral values.

According to research conducted by Masakhane News, it can be confirmed that currently elderly

people do in fact make a major contribution towards society.

For instance, throughout Africa - and elsewhere - millions of adult AIDS patients are being cared for at home by their parents (the elders). Upon their deaths, the orphaned children left behind are mainly looked after by their grandparents.



## IDP Forums vital for public input

Integrated Development Plan (IDP) forums serve as a vital component of the consultative process for municipalities with the public on a number of issues with regard to service delivery. This is where public participation is highly encouraged and residents can have a direct say in matters that most affect their daily lives.

The IDP Manager of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Beatrice Maleka, facilitates community meetings, which rotate from ward to ward within the municipality.

To this end, IDP meetings have been of great help to encourage community participation in compiling the budget for the financial years. The community can thus be able to regularly participate from the first consultative stage right up to the final budget stage.

The needs, concerns and views of the community of Steve Tshwete are taken into consideration and by means of these regular IDP forums, community members can voice their concerns on service delivery matters such as the maintenance of roads, waste removal, water storm drainage and low cost/RDP houses.

Members of the community, especially the youth, are urged to make full use of these regular opportunities in order to become actively part of the solution instead of part of the problem by merely complaining and criticising from the proverbial sidelines.

## Prayerful start to 2009



*SA's gospel sensation, Keke at Themba Senamela Stadium in Mhluzi during the cross-over celebration.*



*The Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu and Reverend Mtshweni dancing into 2009.*

Residents of the Steve Tshwete Municipality waited in high spirits and with much anticipation for the arrival of first class gospel artists at the New Year's Eve function, held at the Themba Senamela Stadium in Mhluzi, during which 2009 was ushered in on a fitting and prayerful note.

The waiting did nothing to dampen their enthusiasm for what has now become a fine local tradition of recent years and which also serves as a Moral Regeneration ceremony.

The colourful event, which attracts hundreds of gospel fans annually, was organised by the Mpumalanga Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in conjunction with Ikwekwezi FM.

When the midnight hour approached, Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, pastors of various church dominations, councillors, ward councillors and the excited yet contained crowd began to communicate with their Creator in prayer - giving Him the highest praise, thanks and honour for the blessings experienced in 2008.

The masses also crossed over to 2009 on a gospel note, with Keke really wowing the crowd. Other artists who blessed the audience with fine performances included Sinky Makhe and (on the local front) JJ and Lefa, as well as Mpho and the Psalmist. They all helped to bring local gospel fans closer to the Heavenly Father.

There was also a strong police presence to prevent violence and crime around the stadium. Local hawkers greatly benefited from the occasion, where they were able to sell their wares.

When the crowd eventually left for home in the wee hours of the first morning of 2009, exhausted but blessed, an atmosphere of a mission fulfilled truly prevailed at the Themba Senamela Stadium.

## Public Notice

### 2009 Council meetings

Community members are hereby invited to attend the following meetings scheduled as follows:

#### ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

29 January  
26 March  
28 May  
30 July  
22 September  
26 November

#### SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

26 February  
30 April  
25 June  
27 August  
29 October

The above meetings will be held at 17H15 in Council Chambers, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Civic Centre, Middelburg.

# Mayor praises *matric star*

**B**right Wynand Prinsloo has put Mpumalanga and the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, in particular, firmly on the South African map following his outstanding matric results, recently released.

Wynand Prinsloo, an 18-year old learner of the Middelburg Höer Teg-niese Skool achieved the best results in Mpumalanga in the 2008 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations. He obtained six distinctions in Afrikaans (home language), English (first additional language), Mathematics, Information Technology, Accounting and Physical Science.

Wynand is a very humble and respectful young lad whose demeanour attests to his spiritual-driven family, who reside in the affluent suburb of Gholfsig. Asked about how he felt about his examination results, his opening words gave all the credit to God and his supportive parents. He is one of two children. His older sister, also an academic boffin, is studying for a degree at the University of Pretoria.

The secret behind the star performance of the province's super learner he attributes to his school that creates an environment conducive for learners to excel themselves. He explained that this entailed good teaching, extra winter and summer classes and extra Science classes.

Asked about his personal plan to achieve good results, Wynand retorted, "I have an easy plan, I started studying from the first term and continue to the last, insisting that I do my homework every day. I gave it my best and worked hard."

His favourite teachers are Ms Griessel, whose teaching of Maths made the subject simple to understand, and Ms du Preez, his English teacher, who he labelled "the coolest" and who was approachable at all times.

Indeed, such positive comments from learners, once they have made their grades, are a motivation to teachers to do more for their learners.

Wynand is, however, not a nerd that never socialises. He has five close friends who say they are as hardworking as he is, namely Marco, Tiaan, Francois, Donovan and Gerrit.

He participates in karate and swimming and has achieved SA national colours in karate, which further "assisted him to develop self-discipline", according to Simon Prinsloo, Wynand's father. Mr Prinsloo said that he and his wife had invested in the development of Wynand's study habits from an early age.

He recommends that parents should be supportive of their children and assist them to develop self-discipline and instil trust and faith in God in their offspring's tender hearts.

The Department of Education in Mpumalanga has conveyed words of appreciation and encouragement to Wynand as he heads to the University of Pretoria to study for an Industrial



*The Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, congratulates Wynand Prinsloo after he was announced best performing matriculant in Mpumalanga.*

"Steve Tshwete is very proud of such a performance from Wynand Prinsloo, a feat that deserves to be emulated by other learners," she commented.

The 18-year old from Hoër Teg-niese Skool in Middelburg also spent some quality time with the Executive Mayor in Nelspruit, at the occasion for announcing the 2008 Grade 12 results.

At the function, Mpumalanga MEC for Education, Mmathulare Coleman, said, "The class of 2008 is the first cohort of learners to write the National Curriculum Statement, the first group to sit for one national examination and to be presented with a new National Senior Certificate.

It is also the first cohort of learners that has followed Outcome Based Education for the greater part of their schooling life."

All learners completing Grade 12 in the 2009 academic year need to take a cue from Mpumalanga's super learner of 2008, Wynand Prinsloo.

Masakhane News also wishes the Class of 2008 nothing but the very best for their studies and future careers.

Engineering degree.

The Executive Mayor of Steve Tshwete, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, also congratulated the super student, saying that all learners should do well to follow his sterling example of dedication, perseverance and sheer hard work.

## Community ON RED CARPET

**C**ommunity members' end-of-year party at the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality was an occasion to remember. Councillors, ward councillors, pastors and members of the community gathered at the municipal's parking area to end 2008 off in true dignity and style.

In order to dish out proper royal treatment to the guests, municipal officials served as waiters and waitresses, looking stunning in their formal, black and gold dress code.

Although the end-of-year affair was more about fun, dance and mouth-watering food and less about talk, the Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, in her short yet to-the-point speech, reminded everyone that corruption and criminal activities would never be tolerated in this municipality.



*Above and right: Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu ends the year on a happy note with friends and colleagues.*



*At your service - municipal staff happy to serve.*



*Cllrs Rama Perumall and Harry Knoesen with their partners.*



*Senior citizens have a good time at the year-end party.*



*Media representatives of Radio Kragbron.*

## New Ward Committee Members



Left: The Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu welcomes the new group of Ward Committee Members, middle: Municipal Speaker, Cllr Thomas Mpye and right : Municipal Manager, Willie Fouché.



Newly elected Ward Committee Members take note of important points concerning their tasks.

Ward Committee Members are being elected as one of the mechanisms to provide effect to public participation processes as contained in Chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act, (Act 32 of 2000). In Steve Tshwete, as in other municipalities, Ward Committee meetings are also convened for this purpose.

Ward Committee Members further conduct door-to-door campaigns in an attempt to reach the entire ward, encouraging residents to participate in the affairs of their ward. Each Ward Committee established shall be chaired by the Ward Councillor of that particular ward.

The accepted term for Ward Committee Members is two-and-half years, unlike for Ward Councillors which is in line with the Mayor's term (five years). At Steve Tshwete Municipality, Ward Committee Members' term ended in October 2008.

At a recent WCM Conference, the new Ward Committee members (WCMs) were warmly welcomed by the Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu and orientated by the Speaker, Cllr Thomas Mpye, on their tasks that lie ahead. This publication can also confirm that at the general ward meetings convened for the purpose of establishing ward committees, pertinent interests are being identified.

Sectors in the ward as well as such interests are being grouped together to a maximum of ten interests/sectors, after which representatives will be elected to represent each of these interests to the ward committee.

## Wafa wafa in the Top 4 League

They are called the Steve Tshwete Masters, however, a league game had to be played in November 2008 to determine which department at the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality is the real Steve Tshwete Masters.

In the first leg of the league, the Parks Department clashed head on with their Corporate counterparts, however, although the Parks side were familiar with the ground at Themba Senamela Stadium as it is their working speciality, they failed to take advantage of this familiar factor.

Parks suffered a 5-2 loss on penalty shootout after the two sides drew 3-3. The Fire Department was not hot enough but always in a hurry on the field, missing out on brilliant opportunities to score goals and as a result they were wrangled by the Licensing side 5-3.

In the final round of the Top Four League, the boys were separated from the men when the Corporate side punished the Licensing side 3-1.

The Corporate side, however, did not have an easy win following the tactics and manoeuvres of the Licensing team.

Corporate coach, Siphon Mthethwa, had to make a number of changes in the field to settle with a winning team.

## Municipal staff year-end bash



Steve Tshwete Local Municipality held its year-end bash for employees in December 2008. See photo posters on notice boards at the municipality.

## Another friendship game

Friendships continue to be of paramount importance and the Steve Tshwete Masters have embarked on a mission to tighten such good relations.

This comes after yet another friendly game was played between Masters and the Department of Roads and Transport (Middelburg office). The action-filled game was played at Themba Senamela Stadium in October last year, which also drew a massive turn-out from the community who 'spectated' the match from the first whistle to the last.

It would also seem that the Steve Tshwete Masters enjoyed entertaining their 'rivals', following their dribbling moves. In the meantime, the Roads and Transport team scored enough goals, giving the Masters no room to equalise. The game ended 8-4, with the Masters being walloped.

## Banquet hall on the way

Cranes are soon expected to operate on the site adjacent to the Nkangala District Municipality for the construction of an ethnic and modern looking banquet hall - the first for Steve Tshwete Municipality.

Masakhane News confirms that Steve Tshwete's Building Services Department has approved the plan for the banquet hall, estimated at R69-million.

Upon completion, the hall is expected to comprise extensive banqueting and ablution facilities, a kitchen, a kiosk and an indoor sport facility for codes such as kick-boxing, table tennis, pool, volley-ball, to name but a few.