



LENTSWE LA MAFUBE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
MAFUBE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Volume 2 | June 2025

Turning Commitments into Action

- MEC Visit Strengthens Municipal Oversight
- Interventions for Sustainable Water Supply
- Fuduwa Process Promotes Job Fairness
- Infrastructure Upgrades in Ward 02
- Tribute to MM Adv. Mothusi Lepheana



Turning Commitments into Action



EDITOR'S NOTE

Editor's Note

Lentswe La Mafube – Volume 2 | June Edition

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second edition of Lentswe La Mafube, your trusted source for news, progress, and stories that shape our municipality. As we close off the month of June, a time when the country reflects on the courage and activism of our youth, we are reminded of the importance of communication, transparency, and active citizenship in shaping a better future for all.

This month's newsletter highlights key developments across our communities, leadership updates within the municipality, ongoing service delivery efforts, and community engagements that drive accountability and trust. You'll also find uplifting stories that celebrate the spirit of Mafube and showcase the hard work of our teams on the ground.

We hope this issue informs, inspires, and encourages you to stay involved in building a thriving Mafube for generations to come.

*Warm regards,
Sekgaudi Nketle*

*Editor, Lentswe La Mafube
Communication Officer for Mafube Local
Municipality*





TLHOARE MOTSOENENG

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

As we close off the month of June 2025, I am filled with a sense of both pride and responsibility. The strides we have taken (though amid real challenges) are a clear reflection of what we can achieve when leadership, staff, and communities are aligned in purpose.

Our recent Ordinary Council Meeting reaffirmed our commitment to transparent governance and strategic planning. The adoption of key policies and performance frameworks positions Mafube on a stronger developmental path. I am especially encouraged by the adoption of the Performance Management Policy Framework, which ensures that our work is aligned with national priorities and measurable outcomes.

We also bid farewell to Advocate Mothusi Lepheana, whose short but impactful tenure as Municipal Manager brought visible improvements across various departments. His legacy of governance reform, system digitization, and infrastructure development is one we will build upon.

The completion of interconnectors in Ward 02 and the internal construction of waste removal trucks prove that we have the talent and capability within our municipality. These are not just projects; they are demonstrations of dignity, safety, and cost-effective governance.

To our residents, I thank you for your patience and resilience, especially as we work to resolve delays in service delivery such as refuse removal and water supply. Through our Task Team, we are approaching these matters with the urgency and seriousness they deserve.

Let us continue moving forward, together, delivering a municipality that is responsive, responsible, and rooted in the people's needs.



ADV. M.F LEPHEANA

Municipal Manager | Mafube Local Municipality

AS 17 1 September 2024 – 26 June 2025



Today marks the official last day in office for Advocate Mofosi Lepheana as the Municipal Manager of Mafube Local Municipality (MLM). Though his tenure spanned just nine months, his impact will be remembered for years to come. Appointed on 1 September 2024, Advocate Lepheana brought with him a deep commitment to good governance, accountability, and institutional revival.

Restoring Structure and Governance
Under his leadership, key senior management positions were filled, most notably the Directors of Corporate Services and Community Services. Recruitment processes for the Chief Financial Officer and Technical Director were successfully concluded, ensuring stability at the highest levels of administration.

Critical posts such as those in the Project Management Unit (PMU), ICT, Internal Audit, Communications, and PMU Technician roles were also filled, forming a stronger backbone for service delivery and strategic planning.

Adv. Lepheana was deeply committed to functional oversight, regularly convening sufficient management meeting, local labour forums, Section 79/80 Committees, and EXCO. This renewed focus on accountability contributed to visible institutional improvement.

From Disclaimer to Progress
A significant milestone achieved during his tenure was the improvement of the municipality's audit outcome, moving away from a disclaimer audit opinion, a testament to his focus on compliance, financial discipline, and system reform.

Additionally, the municipal billing system was revitalized and digitized, with a move from purely paper-based accounts to incorporating WhatsApp and email distribution, aligning with Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) innovations.

Infrastructure and Service Delivery Wins
Under his watch, the in-house Technical Services Team successfully built interconnectors in Ward 02, Frankfort, providing safe passage for residents affected by seasonal flooding, especially school-going children.

- Construction of refuse removal trucks using internal municipal resources.
- Progress on a 12-megalitre water reservoir project aimed at improving water supply to Cornelia.

Strengthening Communication

The municipality's website and Facebook page became fully functional during his time in office, restoring a vital link between the municipality and the public. These platforms now serve as reliable sources of information, announcements, and feedback.

A Leader Marked by Humility and Openness

Above all, Advocate Lepheana will be remembered for his humility, accessibility, and grounded leadership. His ability to listen, understand, and respond to community and staff needs made him a trusted figure in the corridors of Mafube LM.

A Sincere Thank You

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Advocate Mofosi Lepheana for his dedicated service and leadership. Though your journey at Mafube LM concludes today, your legacy of progress, reform, and humanity will live on.

We wish you every success in your next chapter. Go well, Advocate.



MEC COGTA Returns for Progress Review at Mafube Local Municipality

State of the Municipality Update & Progress on Financial Recovery Plan (FRP)

On Tuesday, 24 May 2025, the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in the Free State conducted a follow-up engagement with the Mafube Local Municipality (MLM) Council. This visit followed a series of stakeholder consultations held earlier in the day, where the MEC committed to monitoring the municipality’s progress toward financial stability and improved service delivery.

During this council meeting, then-Municipal Manager Advocate Mothusi Lepheana delivered a comprehensive update on the state of the municipality, anchored by a formal presentation titled “Implementation of FRP in Mafube Local Municipality.” The presentation outlined the strides taken by the institution in aligning with its constitutional mandate while working under financial strain.

Key Focus Areas in the Presentation::

1. Service Delivery:

Adv. Lepheana reaffirmed the municipality’s commitment to core services, ensuring a consistent supply of clean water, maintaining sewer infrastructure, and addressing roads and storm water drainage systems.

2. Local Economic Development:

The presentation explored initiatives aimed at revitalizing the local economy, particularly through small business support and fostering job creation.

3. Revenue Collection:

The MM addressed the persistent challenge of poor revenue collection, emphasizing community engagement and improved billing systems as part of the turnaround



4. Political, Management and Labour Interface:

A key success highlighted was the strengthening of relationships between political leadership, administration, and organized labour, paving the way for a more stable and focused workforce.

5. Recommendations & Way Forward:

The MM concluded by outlining recommendations to further improve operational efficiency, accountability, and long-term sustainability under the FRP.

The MEC commended the municipality for the progress made thus far and reiterated COGTA’s commitment to providing the necessary support.

As the municipality continues its recovery journey, both the provincial government and local community remain watchful yet hopeful that sustained leadership and commitment will steer Mafube toward a more stable and service-oriented future.



MLM Task Team Addresses Salary Delays, Water Outages, and Refuse Removal Challenges

Mafube Local Municipality recently convened a Task Team meeting to urgently address several critical service delivery issues affecting the community, including outstanding May salaries, ongoing water outages, and refuse removal challenges. These discussions are taking place within the broader context of the municipality operating under Section 139 intervention, which requires strengthened governance and immediate corrective action.

May Salaries Still Outstanding

The Municipality acknowledges that some employees have not yet received their salaries for May, and deeply regrets the stress this has caused. During the meeting, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) presented a detailed financial overview, including the current cash flow position and the total outstanding amounts owed to staff.



The CFO also outlined where incoming funds are expected from and emphasized that salary payments remain a top priority for the institution. The municipality is working to resolve this matter urgently and is committed to transparent communication with employees.

Refuse Removal Plan in Progress

Refuse collection remains a serious concern in several areas of the municipality, driven by limited operational capacity and a shortage of functional waste removal vehicles. At this stage, discussions are not focused on new equipment procurement, but rather on mobilizing staff and maximizing current resources.

In line with the Task Team's directive, the Director of Community Services has been tasked with developing and issuing a refuse collection schedule. This schedule will detail when and how refuse will be collected in different communities, based on available vehicles and staff. The goal is to restore consistent waste collection in a fair and organized manner.

Water Outages Impacting Daily Life

Households across Frankfort and Cornelia continue to experience water outages, disrupting access to clean water and basic sanitation.

The Municipality recognizes the seriousness of this challenge and is working closely with technical teams to stabilize supply. The top priority is to ensure that the contractor currently on site expedites the refurbishment of collapsed sand filters at the water treatment plant. Only three of six sand filters are currently operational, and this is limiting the system's ability to meet daily demand.

Restoring full filtration capacity is essential for improving overall water supply. While valve management continues as a temporary measure, the focus is on this long-term infrastructure solution to ensure reliable and sustainable water access.

Clarifying the Process for Billing Disputes

It was noted during the meeting that some residents have been lodging billing disputes through third-party agents. The Municipality would like to remind the public that this is not the correct procedure and may lead to unresolved issues.

Residents are encouraged to lodge all billing disputes and service queries directly with the municipality, either at local offices or through official communication channels. This ensures proper tracking and resolution of complaints.

Rebuilding Mafube Together

The Municipality understands the frustration of residents who are paying for services that are not being delivered consistently. However, it is important to stress that revenue from rates and taxes is essential for maintaining operations and restoring services.

Mafube Local Municipality remains committed to improving service delivery, rebuilding trust, and restoring stability. Success will depend on collaborative effort between leadership,



MAFUBE LM TECHNICAL SERVICES TEAM LEADS THE WAY IN INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES



INTERCONNECTORS BY MLM



“This is not just an infrastructure project,” said a director-technical services. “It’s a community safety and dignity project. It shows how we prioritize our residents’ needs through sustainable solutions.”



The municipality proudly acknowledges the Technical Services Team for their proactive response and practical innovation in tackling local challenges head-on. Their commitment to community-led development reflects Mafube LM’s broader vision of service delivery that transforms lives.

The Mafube Local Municipality continues to make meaningful strides in infrastructure development, with a recent project in Ward 02, Frankfort standing as a testament to what dedicated local teams can achieve.

In response to persistent flooding challenges that affected mobility, especially between two informal settlements, our in-house Technical Services Team took swift action. Their work has led to the successful construction of interconnections that not only link the communities more efficiently but also offer much-needed safety during the rainy season.

This project was conceptualized, planned, and executed entirely in-house by our capable Technical Services Team, a move that not only saved significant costs but also showcased the exceptional skills and capacity within our own municipal workforce.

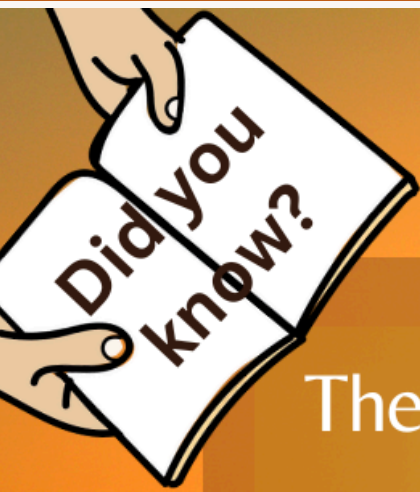
Previously, residents (including school-going children) faced dangerous conditions when trying to cross waterlogged areas during floods. With no safe passage, the simple act of commuting became a daily hazard. These newly built interconnections now ensure safer, more accessible movement for all, regardless of the weather.



This intervention forms part of Mafube LM’s ongoing efforts to:

- Improve connectivity in underserved areas,
- Reduce public risk associated with poor infrastructure,
- And strengthen local resilience to climate-related challenges.

Let us continue to recognize and support the teams working tirelessly behind the scenes to make Mafube a safer, more liveable place for all.



The name “Mafube” comes from the Sesotho word meaning “dawn” or “new beginning.” It symbolizes hope, renewal, and light after darkness, which couldn’t be more fitting as we navigate through our journey of rebuilding and progress together.



The Council of Mafube Local Municipality held its Ordinary Council Meeting today, Monday, 30 June 2025, at the Mlindo Slinga Hall in Frankfort. The session was officially opened by Speaker Cllr. Matsatsi Mofokeng, setting the tone for a constructive sitting. Mayor Cllr. Tlhoare Motsoeneng delivered key presentations, highlighting the municipality's commitment to governance, accountability, and improved service delivery.

Ordinary Council Meeting Strengthens Oversight and Planning in Mafube LM



Among the highlights:

- The Council adopted all minutes of previous meetings, with the exception of the 29 May 2025 Special Council meeting, which was adopted with corrections.
- The Performance Management Policy Framework for 2025–2027 was approved, aligning the municipality's operations with national legislative requirements.
- Reports tabled included the spatial development plans, land use amendments, and updates on technical and financial matters, including the May 2025 Section 71 report and billing performance.

The meeting demonstrated Council's continued drive toward transparent governance, development planning, and fiscal responsibility. Mafube Local Municipality reaffirms its dedication to building a municipality that works for all.





Mafube LM ward committee training at Villiers Town Hall

Strengthening Local Governance Through Ward Committee Training in Villiers

On 12 June 2025, Mafube Local Municipality, in collaboration with Fezile Dabi District Municipality and Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (FS COGTA), hosted a vital Ward Committee Training session at the Villiers Town Hall. This engagement brought together key stakeholders committed to enhancing community leadership and promoting responsible civic participation.

Empowering Ward Committees on Protest Management

Captain Molutsi of the South African Police Service, representing the Fezile Dabi District, delivered an insightful presentation to Mafube's Ward Committee members. His focus was on the pivotal role SAPS plays during protest actions and the importance of maintaining law and order.

Captain Molutsi urged Ward Committees to become ambassadors of responsible and lawful protest within their respective wards. "Our communities must know how to exercise their rights without compromising safety or public order," he emphasized. Ward Committee members were encouraged to take the knowledge shared and actively educate residents on responsible civic engagement.



COGTA Highlights Legal Frameworks and Responsibilities



Also addressing the gathering was Mr. Mahlomola Mahlaba from Free State COGTA and Human Settlements. His presentation focused on the legal protocols surrounding protest action, particularly the importance of submitting protest notices in advance.



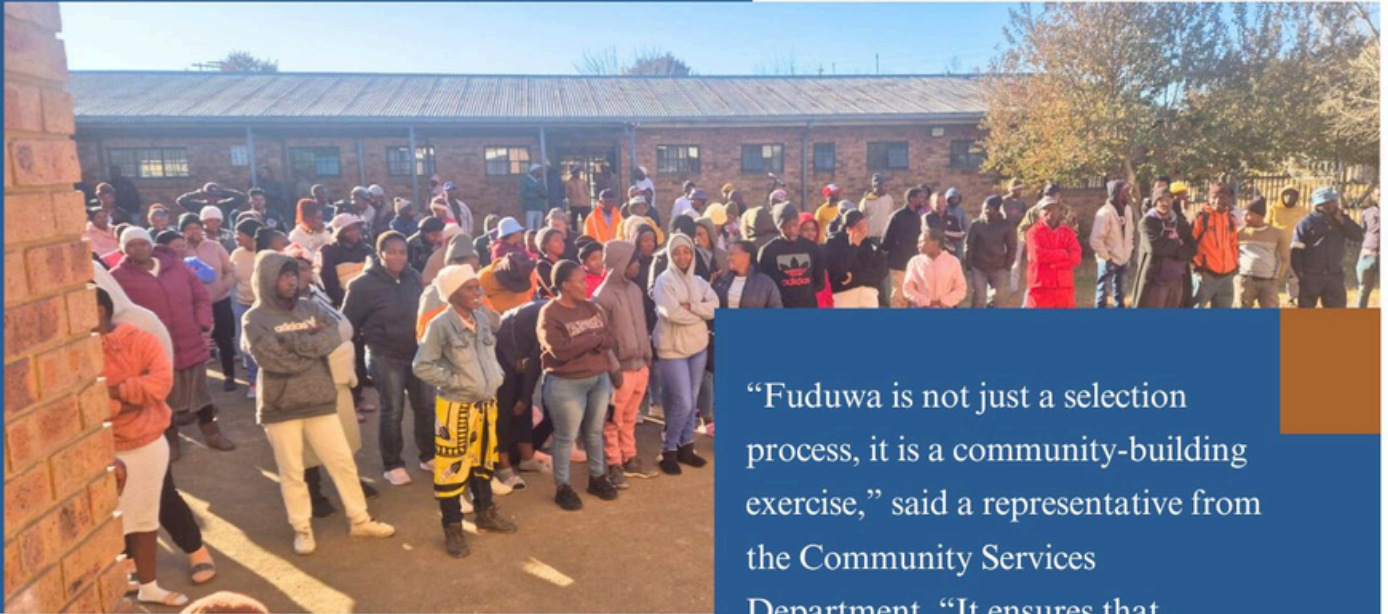
"Providing notice before a protest allows authorities to prepare adequately and prevents criminal elements from hijacking legitimate concerns," Mahlaba said. He also clarified the limitations to protest rights, stating: "You have a right to protest, but you can't stop people from moving freely on the road."

This session provided Ward Committee members with a comprehensive understanding of the balance between upholding constitutional rights and maintaining public safety.

Acknowledgment and Commitment to Community Upliftment

Mafube Local Municipality extends heartfelt thanks to Fezile Dabi District Municipality and Free State COGTA for their unwavering support. Their continued commitment to community education ensures that Ward Committee members are well-equipped to serve and uplift their communities. Together, we continue to build informed, empowered, and peaceful communities.

PROMOTING FAIR JOB ACCESS THROUGH FUDUWA



“Fuduwa is not just a selection process, it is a community-building exercise,” said a representative from the Community Services Department. “It ensures that everyone, regardless of background or connection, has a fair shot at accessing job opportunities provided by the Municipality.”

A Transparent Selection Process for Short-Term Work

Mafube Local Municipality recently conducted the Fuduwa process across four of its wards, reaffirming its commitment to fairness, transparency, and inclusive job creation. This community-based initiative allows residents to be selected for short-term general work opportunities in an open and unbiased manner.

The process took place on 11 June 2025, with the support of ward councillors, municipal officials, and enthusiastic participation from community members. Fuduwa is rooted in the principle of equal opportunity, every eligible individual who registers stands a fair chance of being chosen through a random name-draw system, commonly referred to as a “basket draw.”





Why Fuduwa Matters

In a municipality like Mafube, where unemployment remains a key challenge, short-term work opportunities (even if limited in scope) can make a significant difference in the lives of many. Fuduwa provides not just temporary income, but also hope and dignity.

This initiative supports the broader developmental goals of Mafube Local Municipality, including:

- Enhancing transparency in job selection.
- Promoting social cohesion and fairness.
- Providing critical support to households in need.

How Fuduwa Works

The word “Fuduwa” refers to a random draw system where all qualifying names are placed into a basket, and selections are made in the presence of the community and officials. This transparent method is designed to eliminate bias and promote accountability in local recruitment processes.

Each ward is responsible for managing its own draw, ensuring that the process is tailored to the needs and availability of its residents. Attendance on the designated day is crucial, as only present and registered individuals are considered.

Resident and Councillor Collaboration

The success of the recent Fuduwa events is largely owed to the cooperation of ward councillors and residents. Their presence and involvement ensured that the process was free from disruptions and perceived bias.

“We appreciate the unity and discipline shown by our community during this process,” said one ward councillor. “It was heartening to see residents support one another and engage respectfully.”

Looking Ahead

The Municipality is committed to expanding this initiative and refining the process where necessary. All future Fuduwa dates will be communicated through ward councillors, community meetings, and the official Mafube LM platforms.

Residents are encouraged to participate, not only for the opportunity to work, but to uphold and strengthen a culture of fairness and community collaboration.

For more information about upcoming Fuduwa dates and how to register, please contact your Ward Councillor or reach out to the Community Services Department.

Together, we build a fairer Mafube.



ATTENTION!

Important Notice to All Residents!


Mafube Local Municipality is now making it easier for you to receive your municipal account!

You can now get your account via:

 Email

 SMS

 WhatsApp


 Make sure your contact details are up to date so you never miss an account!

Visit your nearest municipal office to update your information.

Mafube Local Municipality – Bringing Services Closer to You.

Dear Colleagues,

We've launched a public notice campaign encouraging residents to update their contact details with the municipality. This is part of our effort to improve communication and service delivery.

 Attached is the official poster for the campaign.

We kindly ask you to share it with your networks, community groups, or anyone who might benefit. Your support in spreading the word is highly appreciated!

Thank you for being an ambassador of service excellence!





Lentswe la Mafube

The Voice of the People | Back Page Edition

Mafube Local Municipality
 *In Our Community*


Celebrating moments that matter — from community service to youth empowerment.

 **Follow our Facebook page for full schedules and updates.**

 **Spotlight on Service Delivery**

 **Roads & Infrastructure**


Pothole repairs are underway in Frankfort and Namahadi.


 **Water Access**

Maintenance teams are addressing reported leaks and improving supply consistency.


 **Waste Collection**


Services have resumed regular schedules in Mafahlaneng and Qalabotjha. Missed collections can be reported via email or Facebook.


 **We acknowledge challenges, but progress is being made — step by step, service by service.**

 **We Want to Hear from You!**
Let's keep the conversation going.

 **Email: communicationofficer@mafubelm.co.za**

 **Website: www.mafubelm.co.za**

 **Facebook: Mafube Local Municipality**

 ***Your voice matters. Your participation builds Mafube.***

 ***From the Communications Desk***

***"Lentswe la Mafube is your space — to reflect, connect, and rise together."
— Communications Unit, Mafube LM***