



Vol. 1 | May 2025

Batho Pele – Putting People First

Lentswe la Mafube

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MAFUBE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 05

COGTA MEC Hon T.Z. Mokoena Holds Strategic Oversight Session with Mafube LM Leadership

Auditor-General Visits Mafube Local Municipality: A Call for Accountability and Urgent Reform



STORY ON PAGE 07

Lentswe la Mafube

Table of Contents

03

Mayor's column

04

Municipal Manager's column

05

FS COGTA MEC convenes urgent oversight meeting

06

MDB engages Mafube

07

AGSA visits Mafube LM

10

Staff demand answers over delayed salary payments

11

Word puzzle (fun game)

12

Mafube LM meets with schools

13

Mafube LM Task Team Gathers to Prioritize Service Delivery and Salaries

14

Public announcement





TLHOARE MOTSHWENENG

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

Reflecting on a Month of Oversight, Challenges, and Collaboration

Colleagues,

As we come to the end of a demanding yet constructive month, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the work each of you continues to do in service of Mafube. It has been a period filled with critical engagements and also a fair share of challenges that required our collective focus and resilience.

This month, we hosted several oversight visits—from the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) to the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA), and the MEC for COGTA. These were not just routine check-ins; they were important opportunities for reflection, learning, and recommitment to our mandate. AGSA's emphasis on shifting from a culture of "doing harm" to "doing good" reminds us of the vital role we all play in rebuilding public trust and driving ethical, efficient governance.

At the same time, we faced the reality of delayed salary payments—a serious concern that we are actively addressing. I want to thank each one of you for your patience and understanding during this time. We are working hard behind the scenes to stabilize our finances and prevent such disruptions going forward. Your continued dedication in spite of these difficulties is noted and deeply appreciated.

We also held a Council Meeting this month where key resolutions were taken to guide our path forward. These include strengthening administrative stability, enhancing service delivery mechanisms, and reinforcing a culture of accountability at all levels.

I encourage all of us to continue engaging constructively, holding one another accountable, and upholding the values that will help Mafube rise to its full potential. Real transformation starts internally—with each department, each team, and each one of us.

Let's keep working together to make Mafube a municipality that delivers with integrity and purpose.

Warm regards,
Tlhoare Motshweneng
Executive Mayor
Mafube Local Municipality



MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S COLUMN

Operational Focus, Staff Resilience & Moving Forward Together

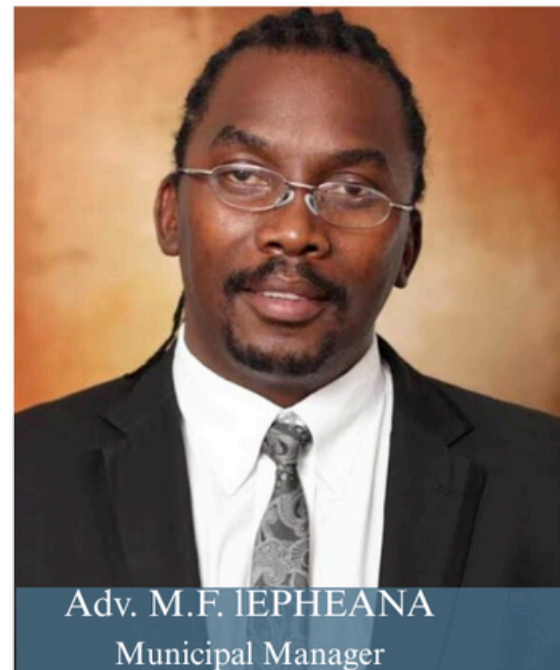
Dear Team Mafube,

As we reflect on the past month, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the continued dedication and hard work shown across all departments during what has been a high-pressure period for the municipality. This month brought several oversight engagements, including visits from the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB), the MEC for COGTA, and the Auditor-General (AGSA). These sessions have challenged us to critically assess how we function—not just in compliance with governance standards, but in how we serve our communities and each other as a team. We have heard tough but necessary truths about where we need to improve. From AGSA's feedback to COGTA's concerns, one thing is clear: transformation begins with internal systems,

staff morale, and functional service delivery. I want to assure you that management is committed to strengthening support, enforcing accountability, and improving the tools and processes you rely on to do your work.

I also want to acknowledge the strain caused by the delay in salary payments this month. We understand the impact this has had on staff morale and personal well-being. Please know that addressing this issue remains a top priority, and we are exploring both short-term and long-term solutions to ensure financial stability going forward. Through it all, I have seen incredible resilience from our teams. Many of you continue to go above and beyond to keep essential services running—often under difficult circumstances. That is the spirit that gives me hope.

As we implement the outcomes of this month's Council Meeting, I call on all staff to recommit to a culture



of teamwork, professionalism, and accountability. Let us communicate better, plan smarter, and support one another in doing the work that matters.

Thank you for staying the course. Our success as an institution depends on each one of us showing up, doing the work, and believing in the purpose behind it.

In service,
Adv. M.F. Lepheana
Municipal Manager
Mafube Local Municipality



FS COGTA MEC HON T. MOKOEMA CONVENES URGENT OVERSIGHT MEETING WITH MAFUBE LM

On 22 May 2025, the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs convened an urgent oversight meeting with the Council and management of Mafube Local Municipality. The engagement, held at the Mafube Council Chambers, sought to address pressing governance and service delivery challenges facing the municipality.

Ahead of the meeting, a formal request was made for a detailed report on governance and service delivery issues.

The Municipal Manager responded by delivering a comprehensive presentation outlining the current state of the municipality. The presentation highlighted critical challenges while also shedding light on some of the strategic interventions being developed to steer Mafube out of its current difficulties.

The MEC expressed appreciation for the efforts being made and emphasized the importance of strong leadership, accountability, and urgency in implementing turnaround strategies. The session marked a pivotal step towards restoring stability and improving service delivery for the communities of Mafube.



MAFUBE LM HOSTS MDB*STAKEHOLDER GIVING INPUT*

On 13 May 2025, the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) presented its draft ward delimitation proposal to stakeholders and residents of Mafube Local Municipality. The engagement session was chaired by Hon. Speaker M. Mofokeng and attended by two representatives from the MDB, who guided the discussions and clarified key elements of the proposal. The MDB made it clear that the draft does not constitute a final decision regarding the retention or movement of existing wards. Rather, it is a preliminary framework intended to gather feedback from the public and relevant stakeholders

MUNICIPAL DEMARCACTION BOARD ENGAGES MAFUBE COMMUNITY ON WARD DELIMITATION PROPOSAL

According to the MDB, the norm number for a ward in Mafube is 3,363 registered voters, with the legislation allowing a 15% variation either above or below that figure. This is to ensure equitable representation across all wards while allowing for local demographic differences. During the session, stakeholders voiced their suggestions and concerns, particularly highlighting the challenges caused by the splitting of wards across voting stations, which have historically affected election logistics and community representation.

The MDB has called on Mafube residents to study the proposal and provide input. The cut-off date for public submissions is 30 June 2025. Following this period, once the final ward boundaries are published, the public will have a further 14 days to submit formal objections if necessary.

Community members are encouraged to take part in this important process to help shape fair and effective representation in local governance. For more information or to access the proposal, visit the official Municipal Demarcation Board website or contact your local municipal office.

*MDB REPRESENTATIVES SEATED ON BOTH ENDS OF THE TABLE AS HON. SPEAKER M. MOFOKENG DELIVERS THE WELCOME ADDRESS**STAKEHOLDER IN ATTENDANCE*



Auditor-General Visits Mafube Local Municipality: A Call for Accountability and Urgent Reform

The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) paid a critical visit to Mafube Local Municipality as part of its constitutional mandate to promote accountability, transparency, and good governance in public institutions. The engagement highlighted deep-rooted financial and administrative challenges within the municipality and reinforced the call for immediate action by all stakeholders in the accountability ecosystem.



The visit, underpinned by AGSA's #CultureShift2030 initiative, aimed at transforming the public sector into a model of ethical governance and service delivery, exposed a dire picture of operational instability, poor financial health, and lack of consequence management at Mafube.

A Troubled Financial Landscape

The municipality received a qualified audit opinion for the 2022/23 financial year. This was attributed to material misstatements in service charges, trade receivables, property, plant and equipment, and cash flow statements. Furthermore, the municipality paid R9.6 million to financial reporting consultants, yet significant deficiencies remain in record-keeping and reporting.

Key findings included:

- Non-submission of annual performance reports (APR) and financial statements on time.
- Failure to recover revenue and poor billing systems.
- Contracting out electricity sales in exchange for royalties that were never realized.
- Ballooning fruitless, irregular, and unauthorised expenditure totaling over R2.1 billion.
- SARS attachment of the municipal bank account due to unpaid third-party liabilities.
- A culture of non-compliance and inaction, with vacant senior management posts and inactive oversight structures such as the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) and Audit Committee.



Material Irregularities and Lack of Oversight

The AG’s team identified three material irregularities, including delayed pension fund contributions, lack of investigations into UIFW (unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure), and persistent non-compliance with procurement legislation. Despite having a municipal manager appointed in August 2024, the Chief Financial Officer position remains vacant in an acting capacity. The absence of consequence management and the failure to implement prior audit recommendations have significantly eroded public trust. AGSA noted that while support mechanisms such as the Financial Recovery Plan (FRP) were approved, their implementation was ineffective.

Call to Action: Time for Leadership and Commitment



In its forward-looking recommendations, AGSA called on Mafube’s leadership to:

- Ensure timely investigations and implementation of consequence management.
- Fully operationalize the disciplinary board and appoint a functioning Audit Committee.
- Implement quality record-keeping systems and internal controls.
- Empower MPAC to conduct effective oversight and recommend corrective measures.
- Monitor and enforce action plans, especially those tied to service delivery and financial reporting.



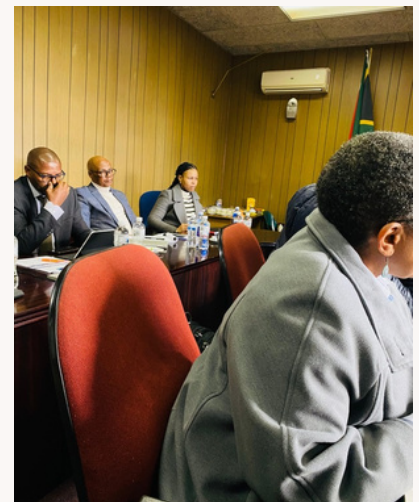
AGSA also urged national and provincial stakeholders—including COGTA, Provincial Treasury, and SALGA—to intensify support and capacity building efforts, particularly in enhancing the quality of financial submissions and enabling professional, ethical public service.

Towards a Culture of Accountability

AGSA's visit serves as a pivotal reminder that local government is the closest tier to communities, tasked with the responsibility of improving the lived experiences of citizens through sustainable service delivery. The transformation of Mafube into a well-functioning municipality hinges on collective accountability, ethical leadership, and decisive action from all levels of governance.

"From doing harm to doing good, accountability is how local government truly serves its people."

As part of its 2030 vision, AGSA remains committed to enabling institutions like Mafube to move from a culture of "doing harm" to "doing good"—ensuring that democracy is not only preserved through oversight but felt through improved lives.



STAFF DEMAND ANSWERS OVER DELAYED SALARY PAYMENTS



On Monday, 26 May 2025, staff at Mafube Local Municipality raised serious concerns over delayed salary payments and called on management to provide clear answers regarding the situation.

In a meeting with employees, Municipal Manager Adv. Lepheana offered a sincere apology for the inconvenience caused and assured staff that the matter was receiving urgent attention. “Management is working tirelessly to ensure that no month goes by without salaries being paid,” he said.

Employees expressed their understanding of the decision to prioritise lower-level salary payments in the face of financial strain. However, the news that councillors were paid before all municipal workers sparked frustration and disappointment. South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) representative Mr. Fani Mazibuko announced that employees would adopt a temporary working schedule — from 09:00 to 12:00- until

all outstanding salaries are paid. “Our members are committed to serving the community, but they also deserve to be paid on time for the work they do,” Mazibuko said.

In response, Adv. Lepheana appealed to all employees to return to full working hours to help boost revenue collection, which is essential for stabilising the municipality’s financial situation. “Service delivery and revenue collection are key to resolving this crisis. We need your support and commitment,” he said.

Management has committed to improving communication and providing regular updates on the progress being made.

DISCOVER MAFUBE

Find hidden words related to our towns & local pride! 10 hidden words, can you find them? Tag us on our official Facebook page if you do. Have fun!

C	M	A	F	U	B	E	D	A	W	N
U	F	R	A	N	K	F	O	R	T	X
U	U	B	U	N	T	U	T	T	R	M
N	I	Y	I	L	L	I	E	R	S	M
I	N	I	T	Y	Z	Q	M	J	I	U
T	E	W	E	L	I	N	G	K	C	N
Y	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	A
R	I	V	E	R	A	B	N	N	L	K
K	O	R	N	E	L	I	A	G	E	B
S	B	X	C	O	A	C	H	E	S	O

Strengthening Partnerships Through Communication: Mafube LM Meets with Local Schools



On Wednesday, 28 May 2025, Mafube Local Municipality hosted an important meeting with school principals and School Governing Bodies (SGBs) from across the municipality. The meeting focused on the issue of non-payment by schools for municipal services and aimed to find constructive solutions through dialogue and collaboration.



The Mayor of Mafube opened the session by warmly welcoming attendees and acknowledging the presence of Mr. Moetsela, Deputy Director from the Fezile Dabi District Department of Education, as well as all schools that accepted the municipality's invitation. Representing the COGTA intervention team, Ms. Radebe delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the importance of all government institutions



schools included—paying their municipal bills. She also explained the support COGTA continues to provide to Mafube LM and the range of services offered by the municipality to public facilities. During his address, the Mayor spoke candidly about the financial pressures facing the municipality, including various court orders resulting from unpaid bills. He noted that several local schools under the Department of Education owe significant amounts to the municipality, and stressed that communication—rather than court battles—is the best tool to solve these intergovernmental challenges.



The municipality's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) shared a breakdown of the outstanding debts and encouraged schools to work with the municipality toward settling their accounts to avoid service disruptions and ensure continued delivery. In response, Mr. Moetsela acknowledged the difficulties faced by the Department, particularly the impact of frequent management changes, which have often disrupted lines of communication. He cited an

example where a school submitted their contact details for billing, but never received an account from the municipality. He emphasized the need for consistent and reliable billing systems. Responding to this concern, the Mayor reassured the Department that the municipality's billing system is fully compliant and urged for regular engagement between all stakeholders to address any administrative issues. The meeting ended on a positive note, with both the municipality and Department of Education agreeing on the need for better coordination and a shared commitment to financial responsibility.

Mafube Local Municipality Task Team Gathers to Prioritize Service Delivery and Salaries

Let us keep holding hands, keep showing up, and keep moving forward — together.



On 30 May 2025, a pivotal Task Team meeting was held at the Mafube Local Municipality Chambers, focused on one urgent and unified goal — ensuring the continued provision of essential services to our residents and the financial well-being of our employees. The meeting, chaired by the Speaker of Council, Ms. Matsatsi Mofokeng, brought together key leaders including the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Tlhoare Motshweneng, Member of Parliament Sonto Motaung, and the Municipal Manager, Mr. Mothusi Lepheane. A central point of the meeting was the engagement with union representatives to foster cooperation and shared responsibility.

In a collaborative and solution-driven spirit, the municipality appealed to unions to encourage their members to return to normal working hours. This step is critical in sustaining service delivery and collecting much-needed revenue. Union representatives responded positively, acknowledging the importance of teamwork in helping Mafube LM meet its obligations, particularly the timely payment of employee salaries.

As a result of this renewed cooperation:

- Both water pumps in Frankfort were restored to operate for the majority of the day, a development warmly received by our residents.
- Salaries for staff members from levels 16 to 6 were processed within a week, thanks to the aggressive revenue collection drive initiated shortly after the meeting.

While challenges remain, the progress made over the past few days is a testament to what can be achieved when all stakeholders pull together. Mafube LM is on a path to recovery — and it begins with every one of us showing up, committing to our roles, and believing in the shared vision of a municipality that rises stronger than ever before.

We may not yet be where we want to be, but with unity, hard work, and consistent effort, we will get there.





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***