

## LEPELLE-NKUMPI MUNICIPALITY HOSTS A MAKGOSHI FORUM TO STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE

From 04 - 05 September 2025, Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality Mayor, Dr. Meriam Molala, hosted a two-day Makgoshi Forum at Bela-Bela's Forever Resort. She was accompanied by Speaker of Council, Cllr. Joyce Nkoabela, Chief Whip, Cllr Given Sello, Executive Committee Members, and municipal officials led by the Acting Municipal Manager, Dr Chauke.

The forum's goal was to bring together traditional leaders to discuss how they can collaborate on service delivery and community development. This platform is a critical way for the municipality and traditional authorities to build a strong working relationship for the benefit of local residents.

The forum provided an opportunity for these leaders to raise concerns, share insights, and contribute to the municipality's strategic planning.

Key topics addressed during the meeting included:

- **Improving Basic Services:** Discussions focused on accelerating the provision of essential services such as roads and storm water drainage systems and electricity to rural communities and building a smart town in Lebowakgomo.
- **Land Administration:** The forum highlighted the importance of a streamlined process for land allocation and management, recognising the authority of traditional leaders in these matters.
- **Combating Social Ills:** Traditional leaders and municipal officials explored joint initiatives to tackle pressing issues like crime, substance abuse, and gender-based violence.

Mayor Molala in her opening address emphasised the administration's commitment to respecting and empowering traditional leadership. "Our traditional leaders are the custodians of our culture and the pillars of our communities," the mayor stated. "By working hand-in-hand, we can ensure that our development plans are inclusive and truly responsive to the needs of all our people."

In response, Kgoshi Dimo Thobejane and Kgoshi Ledwaba pledged the traditional leaders' full support to the Mayor and her team. They emphasised their commitment to working with the municipality to improve the lives of their communities.

The forum was attended by the following traditional leaders: Kgoshi Dimo Thobejane, Kgoshi Setlamorao Thobejane, Kgoshi Malesela Ledwaba, Representatives of Kgoshi Mphahlele, Representatives of Kgoshi Seloane, Representatives of Kgoshi Chuene and Representatives of Kgoshi Mathabatha

The successful hosting of the Makgoshi Forum underscores the municipality's dedication to a participatory governance model, where all stakeholders including traditional authorities have a voice in shaping the future of Lepelle-Nkumpi. The collaboration is expected to lead to more effective and community-driven projects, ultimately improving the quality of life for all residents.

"Motho ke motho ka batho"