



SENQU
MUNICIPALITY

UPDATE



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One on one with the Mayor

Name: Velile Stokhwe

Date of Birth: 8 January

Place of Birth: Lady Grey



EDUCATION BACKGROUND

He matriculated at Rex Mdebuka High School in Lady Grey. The Honourable Stokhwe took up a Bachelor degree in Public Administration and graduated from the University of Fort Hare in 2021. He has also attained a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Sector Management and evaluation from the University of in 2022. He is now embarking on a journey toward achieving his Honours Degree.

PREVIOUS POSITION

Speaker of Senqu Local Municipality (2019-2021) Chief Whip of Senqu Local Municipality (2016-2019)

CURRENT POSITION

Mayor of Senqu Local Municipality

CAREER IN BRIEF: POLITICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Honourable Mayor has participated on various levels of the ANC :

- ANC Branch Chairperson (Sinethemba Branch)
- ANC Branch Chairperson (Sinethemba Branch)
- ANC Sub-regional treasurer
- South African Youth Council-Joe Gqabi (Chairperson)
- ANC REC member: 2015-2018
- ANC RTT : 2018-2018
- ANC RTT : 2018-2021
- ANC Member 2021 to date

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Eskom Electrification

Day in and day out there is population growth in South Africa and the constitution states that government/municipalities has a responsibility to make sure that all citizens are provided with services to satisfy their basic needs.

In efforts to fulfill that mandate, the Mayor of Senqu Cllr V. Stokhwe introduced Oxior Civil Enterprises (Pty) Ltd, project contractor to the community of ward 10, for electrification. The electrification will be carried out in the following villages: Tapoleng — 153 Households, Mqokweni — 47 Households and 21 Households in Mountain View.

The project will employ 15 community members, 10 will be males and 5 females. In addressing and introducing the contractor, the Mayor mentioned that the aim of this project is to increase access to electricity for communities and decrease the backlog within Senqu LM and he further encouraged the community to work together with the contractor in order for the project to be successful.

"An increase of cable theft that was known to be a trend in urban areas, has now become a trend even in our small towns. Cable theft is not just a petty crime, it has significant impact on the economy and communities. I call upon everyone to make it their business to report any unlawfulness behavior in our communities" says the mayor

Mr Vuyisa from Eskom also pleaded with the community to take care of materials (wires, electric poles and cables) so that the project can be completed on time.



CONSTRUCTION OF HERSCHEL SOLID WASTE PROJECT

Solid Waste Management is one of the functions that Senqu Local Municipality is rendering as per the powers and devolution given to it and this is a cross-cutting function between the Departments of Technical and Community Services. The primary is responsible for the capital aspect and the latter for operation and maintenance services.

Solid Waste Management is quite a complex function as it inculcates management of various outputs ranging amongst others from paper, plastic, cardboard boxes, bottles, wood material etc. The traditional way that is used to be implemented by various municipalities even post the new dispensation, was the development of solid waste dumping pits that did not comply with legislation where waste was just disposed without following necessary processes of ensuring that surrounding environment is protected as waste material in most municipalities. Once disposed, it is not covered and as a result of this, it is scattered all over and this has a detrimental effect on the environment as it has to be preserved whilst at the same time rendering this imperative service.

Senqu Local Municipality did observe this unfortunate practice over a period and Council resolved that going forward, properly constructed Solid Waste Landfill sites should be developed to mitigate the abovementioned practice. The Municipality then made an application for a Landfill Site permit to the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT). Various consultation sessions took place with the affected Stakeholders. The project location was key to ensure that there is a community project buy in.

The Municipality undertook to learn best practices from the sister Municipalities that are managing solid waste properly and this led to the trip that was undertaken to Cape Town at Swartland Local Municipality. The Municipality was represented by officials of both Community and Technical Services Departments and various components were learned from this trip and the Municipality developed a model of the Landfill Sites that are to be constructed going forward. This led to the Construction of Herschel Solid Waste Site Project.

The scope of the project entailed the following deliverables:

- Access road to the Landfill site with the associated drainage system,
- Installation of razor wire parameter fence (with smart coil wire),
- Construction of various structures i.e. Guard house, sanitation facilities, weigh bridge, sorting and storage facilities,
- Installation of conveyor belt between sorting and storage facility
- Construction of solid waste disposal cells and leachate pond linings,
- Laying of drainage pipes and certification and
- Certification and Commissioning

The planned design life-span of this project is a period of no less than between 15 – 20 years which is dependent on how solid waste is managed both from the source and at the landfill site. An ideal situation is that waste should be sorted from the source i.e. residential, business and commercial properties. The sorting part means that various forms of solid waste should be separated. This will make processes easier when it is further processed. The Municipality will however have a phase in approach where businesses and commercial properties will be piloted first and later the residential properties will follow.

Once waste is separated and sorted from the source. This will make it easier for it to be recycled. In the general waste that is disposed to the landfill sites, about eighty-five to ninety percent (85% - 90%) is recyclable. This therefore means that if proper processes of waste recycling can be put in place, then a percentage of only between ten and fifteen percent (10% - 15%) will be disposed to the landfill site and this process will further elongate the life span of the Landfill Site. Storage, sorting facilities and conveyor belt are therefore key components of this project as they will assist in waste recycling subsequent processes.

Waste recycling will therefore promote and affirm one of the components of Objects of Local Government which is to promote Local Economic Development. The Municipality will therefore facilitate the transparent process of engaging relevant Corporatives and assist in forming new ones where feasible and this process will be spearheaded by the Local Economic Development (LED) desk which falls within the auspices of the Department of Town Planning Services (DTPS).

The Municipality did implement this project from the last financial year to the current and the details are the following:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Project Name: | Construction of Herschel Solid Waste Site |
| Contractor's Name: | Masiqhame Trading 787 Joint Venture |
| Project Start Date | 15 May 2021 |
| Contractual End Date: | 30 May 2022 |
| Actual Practical Completion Date: | 05 July 2022 (This was due to inclement weather) |
| Project Appointment Value: | R 13 533 595.01 |
| No. of Variation Orders Submitted: | None |

The local Small Micro Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) were engaged for the following services in order to promote local economic development:

- Supply and installation of paving and kerbing channels,
- Supply of various construction material,
- Facilitating of accredited training and
- Employment of local labour

The amount spent is R1 908 822.50 (SMMEs). Municipality has introduced a hybrid energy system in a form of solar and conventional electricity. This is aimed at promoting green energy. The Municipality is in a process of procuring the necessary operation and maintenance plant and equipment as the lifespan of this landfill site is dependent on how it is operated and maintained.

The unrecyclable waste will be disposed at the landfill site in layers and be covered with natural soil material and be compacted. This process will ensure that waste is not scattered all over and thus properly managed.



Cells and leachate pond, complete



*Right:
Access Road, fence
and gate complete.*



Sorting facility, storage facility, Weigh Bridge, guard house and internal road paving complete

JUICE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In June 2022 Banyana Banyana made South Africans proud, by beating the AFCON tournaments hosts Morocco by two goals. Among the South African players, there was Bambanani "Juice" Mbane from the dusty village of Qhoboshane (Ward 2) in Sterkspruit.

Bambanani's love for football got noticed by her Uncle Lisolomzi Mbane, who saw potential in her and began molding it by enrolling her in a school football club where she played for boy's u12. After matric she joined the Bloemfontein Celtic ladies after undergoing a trial period in 2010. Nine years later she represented South Africa at their FIFA women's world cup.

Juice also played for Dinamo Minsk in the Belarus women's football league in Europe. In 2021 The South African football journalists Association have announced Bambanani as their Women's Footballer of the year.

After winning the AFCON tournaments, the community of Sterkspruit celebrated the victory of their home girl by welcoming her at the OR Tambo international airport with a flag written "Sterkspruit" in bold.

"The moment I spotted the flag, I knew home is waiting for me. I knew the whole Sterkspruit is waiting for me. I then showed my teammates the flag and told them that's my hometown and the name "Nolali" was derived from that name" says Bambanani.

Upon her arrival in Sterkspruit, Senqu Municipality in conjunction with Department of Sports, arts and culture (DSRAC), Sterkspruit DJ's and Joe Gqabi District Municipality (JGDM) organized a homecoming event which started with a motorcade from Thaba Lesoba to Sterkspruit plaza, where the event took place. The Mayor of Senqu Cllr V.Stokhwe welcomed Bambanani and said it is a great honor to have her in our midst. She has placed Senqu on the map and unleashed and validated the dreams of fellow rural young people by showing them that it's possible.

The welcoming at Sterkspruit plaza was then followed by a gala lunch at Bunga Hall attended by her family, the community of Qhoboshiyane and various stakeholders. The mayor handed her an A1 framed photos as a token of congratulations.

Bambanani presented both the CAFWCL and the WAFCON which is a big achievement and she has now been selected to be part of the Banyana Banyana team that will be playing against Brazil.

We wish them the best.





NO!

TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE!!!!

Senqu Mayor Cllr V. Stokhwe condemns ruthless killings inflicted on women and children. Yearly around Women's month (August) there is a surge of this horrible behavior. The two recent incidents happened within a short period where two elderly women were brutally killed in Sterkspruit and a man allegedly stabbed his girlfriend to death and thereafter committed suicide in Entsimekweni Village.

The cases cited above are but a few example of a genocide that is being visited by men to women. Many terrible cases go unreported

Senqu is rated among top crime areas in the province with Gender Based Violence, yet it is the smallest region. More needs to be done to change

mindsets and culture that drives men to commit such crimes.

In the midst of these occurrence, on the 20 September 2022 at the Sterkspruit Regional Court justice was served to the community of Ward 13 and Sterkspruit as a whole, when Molefe **Kosie**, 42 years old, was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of his 60 year old mother and an additional 29 years for house robbery, defeating the end of justice and fraud.

"It is disheartening for women to continue to be victims of gender based violence. I commend the investigation officer of the **Kosie** case as it gives hope to many other cases that were reported and are still being investigated that one day justice will be administered for them too" said Cllr V. Stokhwe.

67 minutes clean-up campaign

The 18th of July is internationally renowned as Mandela day, this day was dubbed in memory of the late statesman due to his selflessness in pursuit of equality. In light of the mandate of Mandela day this year which is "do what you can with what you have and where you are," the Senqu Municipality through its Department of Community Services led by the Honourable Mayor Velile Stokhwe and the Municipal Manager Mr M. Yawa along with Senqu officials embarked on a cleaning campaign to maintain their recognition as one of greenest municipalities.

The campaign was aimed at rigorously cleaning the Senqu Municipality, this was achieved by the thorough sweeping of streets, unblocking and cleaning stormwater drains as well as verification of business compliance regarding waste management in the Barkly East area. In Lady Grey, the Police Station was thoroughly cleaned and the grass was cut on Mandela Day. In the same vain on the 22nd of July the Sterkspruit Police Station was cleaned in honour of the 67 minutes of Mandela day as Community service officials and CWP cleaned the charge office, holding sells as well scrubbed the floors and toilets.

This initiative is not only to uplift the face of the municipality but also to instil a sense of pride in maintaining a clean community. The municipality aims to improve the confidence of the people in the efforts of government as they are the recipients of service delivery but also inspire society to take up the call to "do what you can with what you have and where you are," this Mandela day and going forward.

Women's Month 2022

Women's Month highlights the strength and importance of women, especially when they unite. The commemoration of this month can be credited to the women of 1956, where over 20 000 women marched to the union buildings on the 9th of August to fight against the passed law that proposed even further restrictions on women. The current generation of women are plagued with a different struggle called Gender Based Violence. The scourge of this pervasive act of inhumanity has wreaked havoc on the plight of safety and inequality for those affected which is largely women and children.

Financial dependency has proven to be a major contributing factor in women continuing to fester in these toxic relations. In order to help curb and end this pandemic, women must be capacitated to be able to be financially independent.

Therefore to wrap up women's month the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC) an agency of the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) in partnership with Senqu Local Municipality, Joe Gqabi District Municipality, as well as Elundini Local

Municipality hosted a women in business seminar in Sterkspruit.

The women were provided with information about the various avenues to seek assistance from within government. Emphasis was placed on the compliance that is required in order to access the opportunities available. This is to steer clear of bias and inappropriate distribution of resources.

Several businesswomen including Mrs Matooane from Aligeo hotel as well as Mrs Campher from Kaizen primary co-operative were in attendance and encouraged the up and coming businesswomen as they are products of a successful rapport with ECDC and various government entities that are willing to assist in equip aspiring entrepreneurs as this is an opportunity to help create jobs and elevate the economy. The main speaker Mrs. Sonyoni emphasized this when she said "the assistance is available, it's about starting."

Therefore, the strides made by women throughout the decades are commendable and as such the pursuit for justice and equality will be attained through the same unity displayed in 1956.







Our Vision

*"A Leading Rural Municipality
with a Viable and Modern
Economy"*

Mission Statement

"Create decent living conditions
by providing high quality
services, ensuring equal access,
developing and maintaining
sustainable infrastructure and
encouraging innovation to
support local economic growth
while protecting the
environment".

Our Location & Contact

Details

Senqu Local Municipality
19 Murray Street
Lady Grey
9755
Phone: 051 603 1301
Web: [http://
www.senqu.gov.za/](http://www.senqu.gov.za/)

REPORT NOW!!!

**HELP SENQU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ROOT OUT FRAUD & CORRUPTION
REPORT THEFT, BRIBES AND ANY UNLAWFUL ACTS INVOLVING ABUSE OF
MUNICIPAL ASSETS.**

ANTI-FRAUD & CORRUPTION



What is "Fraud"?

Everyone should familiarise themselves with the types of improprieties ("fraud") that might occur within their areas of responsibility and be alert to any indication of irregularity. The following definitions are provided to clarify terminology relating to common law crimes:

- Theft is the unlawful removal of property. Receipt of stolen property is also a criminal offence.
- Fraud is intentional misrepresentation which causes prejudice to another.
- Forgery is committed by making a false document, or altering something on a document, with the intent to defraud.
- Extortion is when one person intentionally pressurises another to perform a task or part with assets which they would not have otherwise intended.
- Malicious injury to property is the intentional damage to the property of another.

In the Municipality, more specific fraudulent or corrupt acts may include:

- Systems issues where a process or system is prone to abuse by employees, the public or other stakeholders, e.g., the award of tenders or orders for goods and services; the collection of revenue and claims for travel and subsistence compensation;
- Financial issues where individuals or companies fraudulently obtain funds from the Municipality, e.g., interception of warrant vouchers; invalid invoices or invoices for work not performed; "ghost employees"; theft of funds;
- Equipment and resource issues where Municipal equipment is utilised for personal benefit or stolen, e.g., theft of assets; personal use of resources; irregular destruction, removal or abuse of records;

Fraud indicators



- Weak ethical practices
- Inadequate review process
- Approval fails to meet standard or normal approval processes
- Non-compliance with authorities
- Conflicting evidence
- Internal controls that are not enforced or are overridden by management
- Information is provided to the auditor unwillingly or following unreasonable delays
- Only photocopies, faxes or scanned documents are available
- Alterations and discrepancies in documentation
- Bogus documents or fictitious invoices
- Hand-written documents are provided instead of computerized documents
- Incorrect or revised versions of key documents
- Fictitious contractor or supplier

Help Senqu Local Municipality root out fraud and corruption!!!



What should be done if you suspect fraud and corruption?

It is the responsibility of all Community members, employees of the municipality and Stakeholders to immediately report all allegations or incidents of fraud and corruption to the municipality/National hotline of fraud and corruption.

In a case of employees within the municipality should he/she be concerned that his/her manager is involved; the report can be made to any other member of management, Municipal Manager and/or the Chairperson of the Audit Committee or even National Hotline.

How will allegations of fraud and corruption be dealt with?

- For issues raised by employees, ratepayers, members of the public or providers of goods and/or services, the action taken will depend on the nature of the concern.
- The matters raised will be screened and evaluated and may subsequently be investigated internally or be referred to another law enforcement agency (SAPS).
- Any fraud and corruption committed by an employee or any other person will be pursued by thorough investigation and to the full extent of the law, including (where appropriate) consideration of:
 - In case of employees, taking disciplinary action within a reasonable period of time after the incident;
 - Instituting civil action to recover losses;
 - Initiating criminal prosecution by reporting the matter to the SAPS or any other relevant law enforcement agency, and any other appropriate and legal remedy available.



Report fraud and corruption at:

The Municipal Manager or Mayor:

051 603 1301

The Chairperson of the Audit Committee:

076 379 7300

The National Hotline on:

0800 701 701



SENQU MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL



Barkly East

Town Hall in Barkly East
Cnr Molteno & De Villiers Street
P/Bag X15
Barkly East | 9706
Tel: 051 603 1401
Fax: 045 971 0350

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19 Murray Street / Private Bag X03
Lady Grey | 9735
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