



DIPALESENG

Newsletter



A NEW CHAPTER FOR DIPALESENG: COUNCIL ELECTS NEW SPEAKER AND CHIEF WHIP

Dipaleseng Local Municipality has elected Cllr Tryphina Tshabalala as the new Speaker of Council and Cllr Mafunda Makhubu as Chief Whip, following a Special Council Meeting held on 21 September 2026 at the Dipaleseng Council Chamber in Balfour.

The meeting drew significant public interest, with community members filling the Council Chamber as councillors considered matters relating to recent changes in the composition and political leadership of the Municipal Council.

The Special Council Meeting followed the cessation of Mr Xolani Shoji's membership of the African National Congress (ANC), which resulted in vacancies relating to his position as Ward 1 Councillor and Speaker of Council. During the meeting, the Municipal

Manager formally informed Council of the vacancies and presided over the election of a new Speaker in accordance with the applicable legislative processes.

Following the election process, Cllr Tryphina Tshabalala was elected Speaker of the Dipaleseng Municipal Council for the remainder of the current Council term.

Cllr Tshabalala had served as the Whip of Council prior to her election as Speaker.

Her appointment therefore created a vacancy in that office, prompting council to proceed with the election of a new Chief Whip. With the newly elected Speaker presiding over the process, Cllr Mafunda Makhubu was elected Chief Whip of Council for the remainder of the current





term. Councillors congratulated the two newly elected office-bearers and extended their well wishes as they took on their new responsibilities.

Following the Ward 1 vacancy, the Municipality notified the Mpumalanga MEC responsible for Local Government and the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), in line with the applicable requirements.

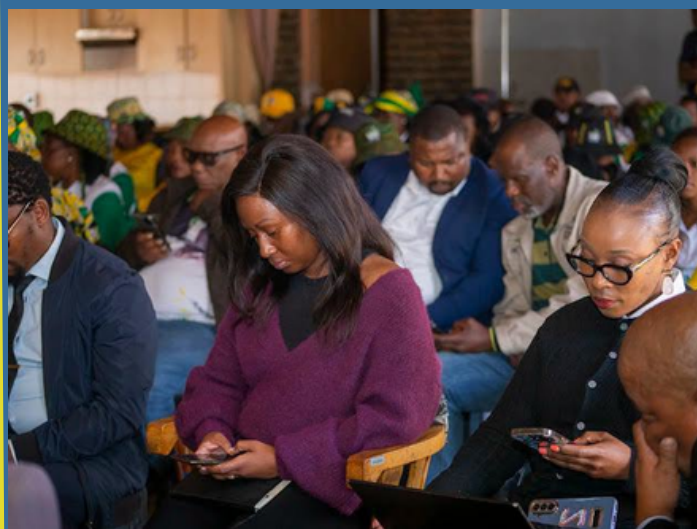
Council was advised that, due to the applicable electoral timeframes and the proximity of the forthcoming local government elections, a separate by-election would not be held in Ward 1. The vacancy will instead be dealt with in accordance with the relevant electoral legislation and directives of the competent electoral authorities.

The meeting also formally recorded apologies from councillors representing the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), who were unable to attend because of prior political party commitments.

Leadership structures in place

The completion of the electoral processes means that the Municipality's political leadership structures, comprising the Executive Mayor, Speaker and Chief Whip of Council, are now in place for the remainder of the current Council term.

The Municipality welcomed the orderly conclusion of the processes as an important contribution to governance and institutional stability and reaffirmed its commitment to good governance,



The Municipality welcomed the orderly conclusion of the processes as an important contribution to governance and institutional stability and reaffirmed its commitment to good governance, accountability, transparency and uninterrupted delivery of basic municipal services to communities across Dipaleseng.

The Municipality congratulates Cllr Tshabalala and Cllr Makhubu on their elections and wishes them well as they carry out their respective responsibilities.

The strong community attendance at the Special Council Meeting also reflected the level of public interest in the affairs of Council. Dipaleseng Local Municipality remains committed to conducting Council business transparently and in accordance with the Constitution and applicable local government legislation.





HAPPY HERITAGE DAY

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Today, as South Africa celebrates Heritage Day, I join the entire nation in celebrating the rich, diverse and beautiful heritage that makes us who we are today.



DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



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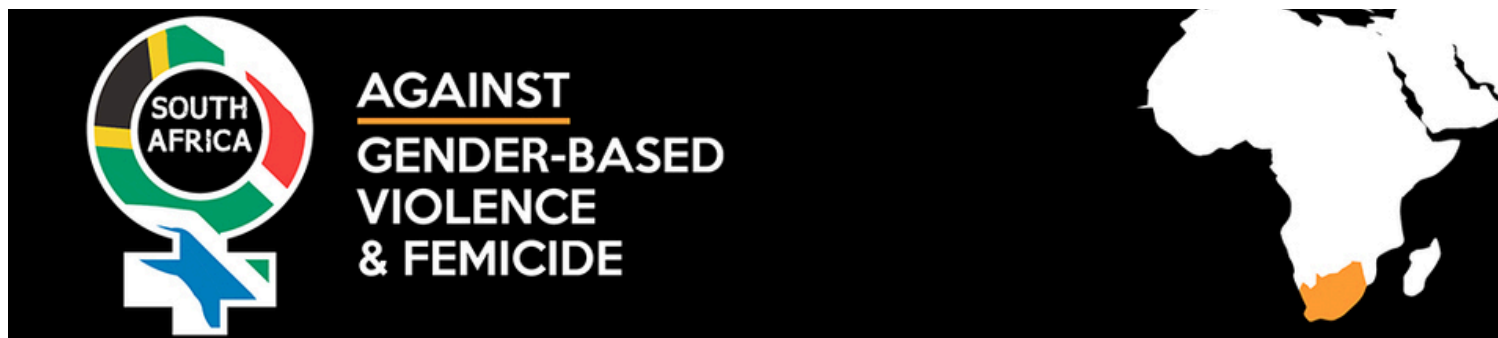
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Dipaleseng Municipality



MUNICIPALITY REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO A SAFE AND ACCOUNTABLE WORKPLACE



MUNICIPALITY REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO A SAFE AND ACCOUNTABLE WORKPLACE

Dipaleseng Local Municipality has reaffirmed its commitment to accountability, workplace safety and due process following the arrest and court appearance of a suspended municipal employee.

The employee appeared before the Balfour Magistrate's Court in connection with allegations arising from an incident on 31 August 2026, when members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) reportedly responded to a domestic-violence complaint.

The allegations currently before the criminal justice system reportedly include attempted murder. The employee was subsequently granted bail by the court.

The Municipality has emphasised that the allegations remain subject to the criminal justice process and that the employee is entitled to the presumption of innocence. It will therefore not comment on the merits of the case or make any determination regarding the employee's guilt or innocence while the matter is before the courts.

Separate disciplinary process underway

At the time of the arrest, the employee was already on suspension from the Municipality pending the conclusion of an internal disciplinary process relating to separate allegations of gross misconduct.

The workplace matter relates to an incident on 2 March 2026 and includes allegations concerning the disruption of an official municipal meeting and alleged conduct involving a firearm at the workplace.

These allegations have not yet been determined and remain subject to the Municipality's disciplinary process, which must be concluded through a procedurally fair hearing.

The Municipality has stressed that the criminal proceedings and its internal disciplinary process are two separate matters, each governed by its own legal and procedural requirements.

Dipaleseng remains committed to finalising the disciplinary proceedings without unreasonable delay. Employees who may be required to participate in the process are expected to cooperate with lawful investigations and disciplinary proceedings.

Should any evidence of witness interference, the withholding of relevant information or obstruction of an authorised municipal process emerge, such matters will be addressed in accordance with applicable municipal policies and labour legislation.

Beyond the individual matters under consideration, the Municipality has reiterated its broader commitment to maintaining a professional, safe and violence-free workplace.

Dipaleseng Local Municipality condemns violence in all its forms, including gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), and maintains that violence against women, children and other vulnerable people has no place in workplaces, homes or communities.

The Municipality continues to work with SAPS, relevant government institutions, civil society and community structures to promote safer workplaces and communities. Residents are also encouraged to use appropriate law-enforcement and support structures when they become aware of violence, abuse or intimidation. Accountability must follow due process.



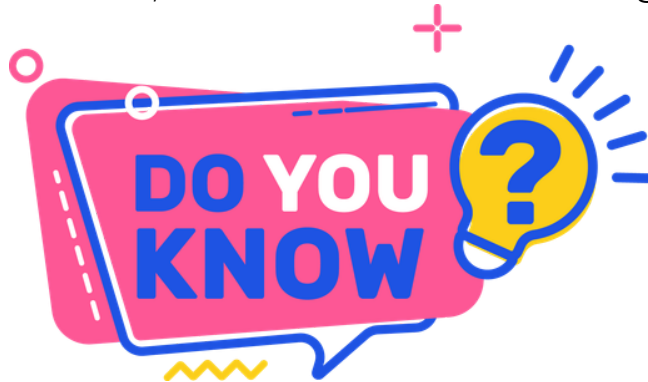


The Municipality has assured employees, residents and stakeholders that allegations of serious misconduct involving municipal employees will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate processes.

At the same time, consequences management must be lawful, evidence-based and procedurally fair. The internal disciplinary process will therefore be allowed to run its course and, should the allegations be proven, appropriate action will be considered in accordance with the applicable disciplinary framework and labour legislation.

The Municipality also respects the independence of SAPS, the National Prosecuting Authority and the courts and will avoid public commentary that could improperly interfere with the criminal proceedings.

Dipaleseng Local Municipality remains committed to accountability, good governance and maintaining a professional, safe and violence-free working environment for all employees.



Dipaleseng Local Municipality (DLM) is one of the seven local municipalities that make up Gert Sibande District. It is located on the northwest corner of Mpumalanga, and borders onto Gauteng and Free State Provinces to the west and south respectively. Lekwa and Govan Mbeki local municipalities are located along the Eastern and Southern boundary. It covers an area of approximately 2616.5km².

It is located south east of the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve, just off the R23 that leaves the N3 north of Heidelberg and heads into the province of Mpumalanga. Balfour nestles in a region given over mostly to farms, game farms and bushveld. It is a small coal mining and mostly maize farming town.

The Municipal boundaries were delineated in terms of the Municipal Demarcation Act, (Act No. 27 of 1998) and takes into account population movement trends, regional economic patterns and current land use pattern. As such, the boundaries are not just administrative, but are also intended to promote social and economic development while also strengthening regional economic and functional linkages.

The growth in mining economic activities in Johannesburg and farming in the area resulted in massive population growth of natives in the area which resulted in the birth of Siyathemba in Balfour, in which the population of Dipaleseng is highly dense.

The official government figures reflected in the 2011 census data estimates the total population of the DLM to 42 390 people. This marks a net population increase of 0.87% per annum between 2001 and 2011.

Dipaleseng accounts for 12% of the district population. 20% of the district population resides in Siyathemba while only 7% is found in Nthoroane.

Dipaleseng Municipality has a generally low income population with a large number of people (R15 196) living in abject income poverty as they do not have a reliable source of income. Those who earn some income earn less than R38 200 per annum or R3 183.33 per month. Dependence on grants funding such as welfare grants and pension is also relatively high.