

Better service promised

New mayor strives towards no corruption

Madli Grobbelaar

The newly elected executive mayor of the Moqhaka Municipality, Lucky Phooko, was inaugurated on 24 May.

His election as the executive mayor comes as a result of the resignation of the former mayor, Tshidi Koloi, who has since been elected as the Free State's MEC for Public Works and Human Settlement.

"It is my aim as the executive mayor of Moqhaka to ensure that the community gets better services.

"Where we do not have the necessary capacity, we will seek assistance from other departments in ensuring that our community's conditions are improved, and will do this in consultation with fellow ward councillors on the immediate priorities and engage with management on their state of readiness," says Phooko, who was born and bred in Viljoenskroon.

Phooko emphasised that the Moqhaka Municipality will strive towards a corrupt free municipality and clean good governance, serving the community.

He said he will accept the responsibility he faces with his councillors and will give priority to the needs of the Moqhaka community.

After his election as the mayor, he immediately announced his mayoral



Lucky Phooko, mayor of the Moqhaka Municipality. Photo: Supplied

committee members.

They are:

- Technical and Infrastructure Development: Billy Kokami;
- Integrated Development Plan: Zenzile Magadla;
- Finance: Rachere Moletsane;
- Community Services: Mangaka Green;
- Local Economic

Development: Brenten Rooskrans;

■ Corporate Services: Selake Tladi

■ Human Settlement: Makatisi Mokoena;

■ Policy Development: Ria Mannefelt; and

■ Public Safety: Makge Mpondo

Phooko said he is aware of surmountable service delivery challenges in the municipality, like bulk infrastructural development, residential sites and local economic development for the advancement of the small, medium and micro-sized enterprises.

It was a challenging first week for the new mayor.

Phooko said the arrest of Municipal Manager Simon Mqwathi shocked them as the leadership.

He said the municipality would like to afford the law enforcement agencies and the court of law space to deal with this matter. The municipality condemns any form of corruption and criminal activities and believes

anyone who is involved or implicated must be dealt with accordingly.

Mthunzi Mthwalo, current Corporate Services director, was appointed as the acting municipal manager.

Phooko has started his 100 Days Mayoral Programme. This consists of meeting the senior management team, all employees, stakeholders, the community, non-governmental organisations, youth formations, aggrieved community members, the business community – including religious and traditional formations – and the media in the area.

Phooko said the Moqhaka Municipality, together with the community, will grow together and the municipality will do everything in its power to deal with service delivery challenges.

In 1989 Phooko participated in the formation of the Rammolutsi Youth Organisation, later called the Rammolutsi Youth Congress and also participated in Umkhonto we Sizwe's internal underground structures.

He was also involved with many political formations, like Sayco and the ANCYL, and in the establishment of labour movements, like Fawu, Saccawu, Sadtu and Numsa in Viljoenskroon.

Phooko served in many structures of the ANC and Sanco, was part of the delegation that attended a political school in Cuba, is the former chief whip of the ANC and former council whip of Moqhaka and is the Free State chairperson of Sanco.