

Rustenburg
Local Municipality



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NEWSLETTER

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New Year Message to the Residents of Rustenburg

As we enter the New Year, I extend my warmest greetings to all residents of Rustenburg. The beginning of a new year offers us a moment to reflect on how far we have come as a community, to acknowledge our challenges with honesty, and to renew our collective commitment to building a better city for all who live, work, and invest here. The year behind us tested our resilience in many ways. We confronted persistent service delivery pressures, infrastructure backlogs, economic uncertainty, and the social impact of unemployment and inequality. Yet, despite these challenges, the people of Rustenburg continued to demonstrate unity, patience, and a deep love for this city. Your voices, concerns, and active participation continue to guide the work of the municipality.

As the leadership of Rustenburg Local Municipality, we reaffirm our commitment to transparent, accountable, and responsive governance. The new year strengthens our resolve to accelerate service delivery, stabilise municipal finances, and ensure that every ward experiences visible progress. Our focus remains firmly on improving access to clean water, reliable electricity, quality roads, effective waste management, and safe, functional public spaces. Infrastructure development will remain a priority. Working with national departments, state-owned entities, and strategic partners, we will continue investing in water security projects, upgrading ageing infrastructure, and protecting critical municipal assets from vandalism and theft. These efforts are essential to sustaining growth and restoring confidence in the municipality. Economic development and job creation remain central to our agenda. Rustenburg's position as a mining, industrial, tourism, and agricultural hub presents opportunities that must translate into real benefits for our people. In the year ahead, we will intensify support for small businesses, township and rural enterprises, youth-owned initiatives, and women-led enterprises, while strengthening partnerships with the private sector and investors.

We remain deeply committed to people-centred development. This means placing communities at the heart of planning and decision-making, expanding social support programmes, strengthening community safety initiatives, and ensuring that no one is left behind. Our youth, women, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities will continue to receive focused attention through targeted municipal programmes. I also wish to emphasise the importance of civic responsibility. The progress we seek requires a partnership between the municipality and residents. We call on all residents to pay for municipal services, to safeguard public infrastructure, and to work with us in reporting crime, vandalism, and illegal activities that undermine service delivery.

The new year brings renewed hope and opportunity. Together, let us choose cooperation over division, accountability over complacency, and progress over stagnation. Let us build a Rustenburg that is inclusive, economically vibrant, and resilient—one that future generations will be proud to inherit. On behalf of the Council and administration of Rustenburg Local Municipality, I wish you and your families a year filled with health, peace, and shared prosperity.

Together, we move Rustenburg forward.

Cllr Shiela Mabale-Huma
Executive Mayor | Rustenburg Local Municipality





Rustenburg Positions Local Government at the Centre of South Africa's Global Development Agenda

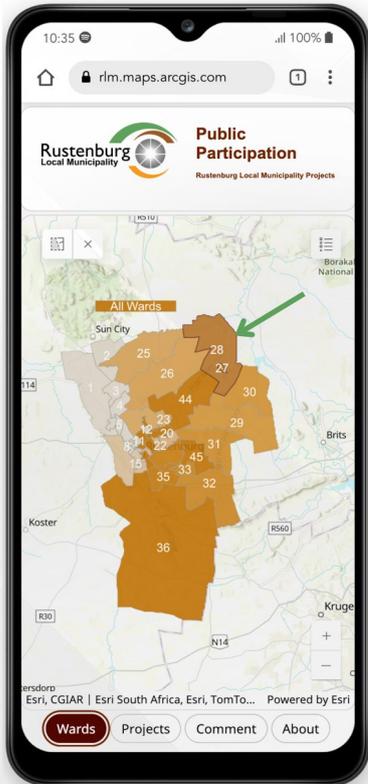
Rustenburg Rustenburg Local Municipality, working in partnership with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), successfully hosted a high-level Working Brunch focused on strengthening South Africa's international relations in support of inclusive local development. The engagement was held under the theme "2026 Foreign Policy Outlook: Advancing People-Centred Development." The Working Brunch was led by the Honourable Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Honourable Ronald Lamola, supported by Deputy Minister Botes. The presence of senior political leadership and international representatives underscored the growing recognition of municipalities as critical drivers of South Africa's development agenda and global engagement.

The engagement was attended by Members of the Diplomatic Corps representing 46 countries, including India and China, as well as representatives affiliated with the African Union. Welcoming the distinguished guests, the Executive Mayor of Rustenburg Local Municipality, Cllr Shiela Mabale-Huma, reaffirmed the municipality's commitment to developmental local government. She emphasised that international relations and foreign policy must deliver concrete socio-economic outcomes for communities on the ground. The Executive Mayor highlighted Rustenburg's strategic economic significance and called for global partnerships that actively support job creation, skills development, infrastructure investment, and sustainable service delivery. Discussions during the Working Brunch centred on aligning South Africa's 2026 foreign policy outlook with local and grassroots development imperatives. Emphasis was placed on strengthening coordination across the national, provincial, and local spheres of government, and on utilising diplomatic platforms to unlock investment, trade, and development opportunities that place people at the heart of economic growth.

The engagement further reinforced the role of diplomacy as a strategic instrument for addressing structural socio-economic challenges, advancing inclusive growth, and ensuring that international cooperation contributes meaningfully to improved service delivery and enhanced livelihoods at community level. The Working Brunch reaffirmed Rustenburg Local Municipality's resolve to position local government as an active participant in South Africa's global engagements, ensuring that international partnerships directly support development priorities, advance social and economic transformation, and improve the quality of life for all residents.



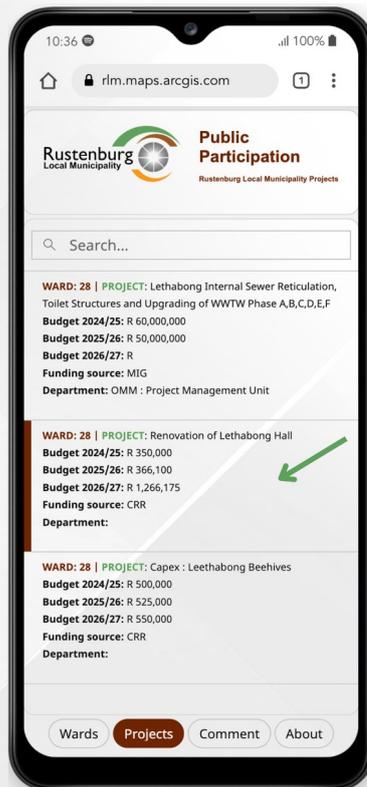
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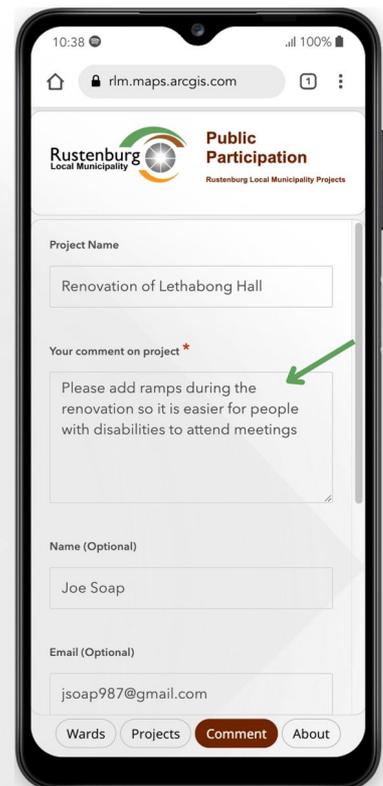
RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Public Participation | Projects

STEP 2: SELECT PROJ



STEP 3: COMMENT



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Online Public Participation: Digital Engagement for Community Involvement

Public participation is an important part of democratic local government. It ensures that communities are informed, consulted, and involved in decisions that affect their daily lives. In South Africa, municipalities are required to create opportunities for residents to take part in planning, policy-making, and service delivery processes. As communication continues to change, municipalities are making greater use of digital platforms to reach and engage communities. This form of engagement is known as online public participation. It provides additional ways for residents to connect with the municipality and to take part in local government processes.

What Is Online Public Participation?

Online public participation refers to the use of digital platforms to involve members of the public in municipal matters. These platforms allow residents to access information, share their views, and provide feedback using tools such as municipal websites, social media platforms, online surveys, and virtual public meetings. Online participation does not replace traditional methods such as ward meetings and community consultations. Instead, it works alongside them by increasing access to participation opportunities and allowing ongoing engagement beyond physical meetings.

The Purpose of Online Public Participation

The purpose of online public participation is to improve communication between the municipality and the community. Digital platforms make it easier for the municipality to share information and for residents to respond to municipal plans, policies, and programmes.

Online engagement helps the municipality to collect community input that supports better decision-making. It also strengthens transparency and accountability by ensuring that residents are informed and have opportunities to be heard.

Why Online Public Participation Is Important

Online public participation helps make participation more inclusive. It allows residents to take part regardless of where they live, their work commitments, or other challenges that may prevent them from attending in-person meetings.

Digital participation also provides clear and organised ways for residents to give feedback. This helps the municipality to understand community needs, concerns, and priorities, which supports better planning and service delivery.

In addition, online participation promotes open governance by improving access to information and encouraging regular interaction between the municipality and the public.

Why the Public Is Encouraged to Participate

Public participation is a shared responsibility between the municipality and the community. When residents participate, they help shape decisions related to development, policies, and service delivery in their area.

Online participation platforms make it easier for residents to engage at a time that suits them. Participation also helps residents to better understand municipal processes and to play an active role in decisions that affect their lives.

Establishment and Development of Online Public Participation in South Africa

Online public participation in South Africa developed as part of efforts to modernise government and improve public involvement through digital technology. Its development gained momentum during the late 2010s, in line with national priorities focused on innovation, transparency, and participatory governance.

The establishment of online participation has been supported through collaboration between the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, the Human Sciences Research Council, and local government partners. Through initiatives such as the e-Participation and Policy Modelling Platform for South Africa (ePPMOSA) project, these stakeholders have worked together to pilot and promote digital participation methods that strengthen public involvement in municipal planning and policymaking.

Online public participation continues to play an important role in improving communication, increasing transparency, and supporting inclusive governance. When combined with traditional participation methods, digital engagement helps ensure that decisions are informed by community input and that municipal processes are more responsive to the needs of residents. Members of the public are encouraged to make use of available online participation platforms to stay informed and to actively participate in matters that affect their communities.



Rustenburg Local Municipality Welcomes the Ministerial Handover & Commissioning of Key Water Infrastructure Projects

Rustenburg Local Municipality joined the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and Magalies Water for the Ministerial Official Handover and Commissioning of Key Water Infrastructure Projects, held on 6 and 7 January 2026. These events highlighted government's commitment to strengthening water security, improving service delivery, and ensuring reliable access to water for communities.

The Municipality was officially represented by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Sheila Mabale-Huma, together with the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) responsible for Technical and Infrastructure Services, Cllr Karabo Phutu. The proceedings were led by the Honourable Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Pemmy Majodina, and attended by Deputy Minister David Mahlobo, demonstrating strong partnership and oversight at national and local level.



Strengthening Bulk Water Supply Through Infrastructure Investment

Magalies Water remains committed to supplying reliable, quality water to the communities it serves while supporting socio-economic development and upholding the Constitutional right to water. As part of this commitment, two major projects were formally handed over and commissioned:

Vaalkop Raw Water Upgrade Project (Phase 1)

This project forms part of the broader upgrade of the Vaalkop Water Treatment Works and included:

- **Increasing raw water pumping capacity from 270 MI/day to 360 MI/day**
- **Upgrading the delivery pipeline to the common inlet works**
- **Improving the overall reliability and efficiency of the plant**

The project was completed in November 2025 and supports raw water supply to Rustenburg, Thabazimbi and Moses Kotane Local Municipalities, as well as regional mining operations. It also contributed to local economic development by supporting two SMMEs and creating 24 local labour opportunities. Bethanie / Modikwe Pipeline Upgrade Project (Phase 1). This project, located within Bojanala District Municipality, involved the extension and upgrade of 23km of pipeline from the Kortbegrip Reservoir. The pipeline runs through:

- **Lethabong (Wards 27 & 28)**
- **Modikwe (Ward 30)**
- **Bareseba (Ward 29)**

The upgraded system will improve water access for approximately 144 133 residents, reinforcing Magalies Water's commitment to sustainable service delivery, improved distribution, and community engagement.

Commitment to Communities and Partnerships

Executive Mayor Cllr Sheila Mabale-Huma welcomed the commissioning of the projects and reaffirmed Rustenburg Local Municipality's commitment to safeguarding water infrastructure and ensuring that the benefits reach communities in a meaningful and sustainable way. She further emphasised that access to water is a basic human right and a key enabler of dignity, public health and economic growth.

The Municipality acknowledges the strong collaboration between DWS, Magalies Water, municipalities, traditional authorities and communities, which has made these developments possible. Rustenburg Local Municipality extends its appreciation to Magalies Water, the Department of Water and Sanitation and all stakeholders for their continued investment in water infrastructure. Together, we remain committed to building a resilient water system that supports development and improves the quality of life for all residents.



Rustenburg Local Municipality Advances Community Safety Through Strategic Partnership with Sibanye Stillwater

On 02 December 2025, Rustenburg Local Municipality, under the leadership of Executive Mayor Cllr Shiela Mabale-Huma, officially handed over high mast lights to the Ikemeleng community in partnership with Sibanye Stillwater Mine. The handover marked a decisive intervention by the Municipality to respond to community safety concerns and reinforce its commitment to improved service delivery. The ceremony was attended by Executive Mayor Cllr Shiela Mabale-Huma, Members of the Mayoral Committee, senior municipal officials, community leadership, and representatives from Sibanye Stillwater. The engagement reaffirmed the Municipality's political commitment to collaborative governance and the strategic use of partnerships to accelerate development at local level.

The installation of high mast lighting in key areas formed part of the Municipality's broader programme to enhance public safety, combat crime, and improve visibility in historically under-served communities. Adequate lighting remains a critical municipal service that enables safer movement, supports economic activity, and restores dignity within communities. Addressing residents at the handover, Executive Mayor Cllr Shiela Mabale-Huma emphasised the administration's resolve to deliver tangible outcomes. "This project reflects our administration's commitment to decisive, people-centred governance. Through our partnership with Sibanye Stillwater, we are responding directly to the needs of the Ikemeleng community and ensuring safer, well-lit streets. This is about restoring safety, dignity, and public confidence in local government," said Cllr Mabale-Huma. Sibanye Stillwater reaffirmed its support for municipal development priorities, highlighting the importance of aligning private sector contributions with government-led initiatives that have a direct impact on community well-being.

The completed high mast lights have significantly improved visibility across critical public spaces and transport routes, contributing to safer night-time movement and increased community confidence. This intervention continues to support the Municipality's commitment to building safe, inclusive, and functional communities. Rustenburg Local Municipality remains steadfast in leveraging strategic partnerships to accelerate service delivery, strengthen governance, and ensure that development reaches all communities, in line with its mandate to improve the quality of life for residents and uphold accountable leadership.





CoGTA Engagement with Royal Bafokeng Traditional Authority

Rustenburg Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Shiela Mabale-Huma, attended a high-level engagement between the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Dr Namane Dickson Masemola, and the Phokeng Traditional Authority on Tuesday, 27 January 2026. The engagement, held at Tlaseng Primary School, brought together traditional leaders, municipal representatives and government officials, including Makgosana from Ward 26 and Bojanala District Municipality Member of the Mayoral Committee, Cllr Ignatious Mosoki. The meeting formed part of government's ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperative governance and improve coordination between the different spheres of government, particularly in addressing service delivery challenges affecting communities under the Phokeng Traditional Authority. According to the municipality, the engagement followed earlier discussions held in January and focused on finding sustainable, people-centred solutions through collaboration between national, provincial and local government, as well as traditional leadership.

Speaking at the engagement, Cllr Mabale-Huma highlighted the importance of cooperation between government and traditional authorities in resolving service delivery challenges and advancing local development. "This engagement was critical in strengthening partnerships that place communities at the centre of governance. Traditional leadership remains a key stakeholder in development, and through ongoing dialogue we can collectively address service delivery and governance challenges," she said. Key issues discussed during the meeting included the alignment of development priorities, improving communication between the spheres of government, and addressing service delivery backlogs in a coordinated and sustainable manner. The engagement also reaffirmed CoGTA's principle that every municipality must work.

The Executive Mayor reiterated Rustenburg Local Municipality's commitment to working closely with the Phokeng Traditional Authority and CoGTA to ensure that agreed interventions are implemented effectively and that residents receive reliable and quality basic services. The meeting concluded with a shared understanding on the need for continued engagement, clear implementation plans and strengthened coordination to ensure that resolutions taken translate into tangible improvements for the Phokeng community.



Welcome Back and Setting the Pace for 2026

As the new quarter begins, Yarona extends a warm welcome to all employees, partners and valued commuters. The start of a new quarter represents more than a change in the calendar; it provides an opportunity to reflect, reset and refocus on Yarona's shared purpose of delivering safe, reliable and accessible public transport services to the people of Rustenburg. Over the past months, Yarona has continued to grow from strength to strength. This progress has been made possible through the dedication and commitment of drivers, operational teams, administrative staff and all personnel working behind the scenes to keep the system moving. Their contribution to service excellence remains valued and appreciated.

Focus Areas for 2026

As Yarona looks ahead to 2026, its priorities remain people-centred and aligned with the evolving transport needs of the city. Key focus areas include:

Service Expansion and Accessibility

Extending routes and improving connectivity to ensure that more communities benefit from safe, affordable and accessible public transport.

Reliability and Efficiency

Strengthening operations through improved scheduling and enhanced maintenance practices to deliver dependable and punctual services.

Customer Experience

Enhancing the commuter journey through continued activations, commuter education initiatives and improved systems such as the Yarona Travel Card.

Skills Development and Inclusion

Investing in people through training initiatives and programmes that promote inclusivity, accessibility and empowerment within the public transport sector.

Innovation and Sustainability

Adopting smarter, environmentally responsible practices that support long-term growth and contribute to a modern and sustainable transport network aligned with Rustenburg's future as a developing metro.

Moving Forward Together

Yarona is more than a bus service; it is a vital link that connects people to opportunities, education, healthcare and economic activity. Every trip operated contributes to building a stronger and more connected city. As the new quarter unfolds, all stakeholders are encouraged to continue working together with integrity, teamwork and pride. Through a shared commitment to excellence and service delivery, Yarona will continue to serve communities with professionalism and purpose.

Together, 2026 will be a year of progress, innovation and meaningful impact for public transport in Rustenburg.

Rustenburg Local Municipality



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