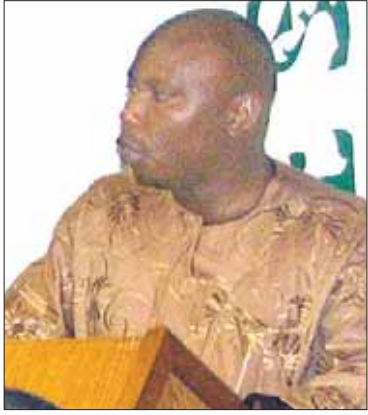


# Young urged to make mark

## Youth leader and Speaker come out strongly: Get involved and be inspired



**SPITTING FIRE:** Youth co-ordinator Shimmy Ramafikeng was unhappy with the turnout.

BY KEOTSHEPILE WA MOGOTSI

The Mogale City Youth Co-ordinator at the mayor's office Shimmy Ramafikeng was up in arms as he lashed out at minority youth groups for not participating in youth programmes.

Ramafikeng's statements, directed particularly at youth from the suburbs, came out at the launch of the new structure of the Mogale City Local Youth Forum (MCLYF) recently held at Magaliesburg Conference Centre, on the outskirts of Mogale City.

Evidently, the auditorium at the venue was dominantly graced by a resolute youth from the townships, with the exclusion of whites and Indian youth.

And, the absence of other racial groups infuriated the youth leader who emphasised that councillors from minority parties are not co-operative in mobilising youth in their wards.

"There are no white or Indian youths who attended, only black youth.

"Ward councillors of minority parties are not co-operative in mobilising our youth and I want to say to them that this youth are our brothers and sisters and must also participate in our youth programmes," said Ramafikeng.

In his welcoming address, Ramafikeng urged youth to unite against HIV/Aids, unemployment, teenage pregnancy, crime and talk



**LEADERS OF TOMORROW:** Mogale City youth chant slogans at the launch of a new structure of the Mogale City Local Youth Forum.

about issues relating to youth development including the effective participation of youth in governmental departments.

The third conference was launched after the youth task team launched 22 ward-based forums out of 32 wards.

In the 2005 elected structure of MCLYF, Ramafikeng by then chairperson, with David Tlhapane as his deputy, Crosby Dingizweni as secretary and Charmain Ntlanlane as treasurer.

However, other racial groups did not attend the conference and after Ramafikeng was elected, he spat fire on youth who did not attend.

The new structure came into the spotlight after some key members of the old structure heightened their

position in the political circle.

Amid to that, Ramafikeng later on became youth co-ordinator in the mayor's office, which also saw Dingizweni and Nhlanhlan joining the councillors' payroll which ultimately opened a huge gap in the MCLYF's top structure.

The new changes in the old structure saw a need for a third conference.

In essence, a conference of this nature is one of the municipality's strategies to lure young people of all races to participate in the city's youth programmes.

It is developing a framework and programmes for youngsters to participate in governance in areas that affect them.

In support of Ramafikeng's

sentiments was Council Speaker Councillor Noluthando Mangole who also saw the absence of other groups as a matter of thinking behind. "I remind you that those who are not here are still behind.

"And if DA youth members were here, we would also sing their slogans, as long as they won't take us back, and sing with them for growth and development for the youth of our city," said Mangole.

However, Mangole egged on youth to think about where South Africans come from when they go to the polls. Although her strong utterance on issue of voting where warmly received by the youth, majority of youth admitted they never voted in the past election.

One gutsy youth member, who



**GET INVOLVED:** Speaker Councillor Noluthando Mangole urges youth to vote.

cannot be named for fear of reprisal, stood up and informed the Speaker that he never saw it important to vote. In her response, Mangole reiterated that youth should think about the struggle heroes who died for the freedom of this country and that they should not think for their own but for the majority of the people of South Africa.

At the launch youth raised a number of concerns which included education, work opportunities, economy, etc.

At the time of going to press, DA youth leader Lebo More was unavailable at the DA office and his cellphone was off.

However, in a past interview with *Dikgang tsa Mogale*, More said DA youth will defend the dignity of every young individual in the municipality without classifying them according to family background or economic status.

"DA youth wish the forum a successful and prosperous term and hopes the forum deals with challenges facing youth in general/

"Further, as young residents of Krugersdorp we are willing to advice the Mogale City Local Youth Forum on the kind of challenges the youth is facing and also to propose alternative ways of dealing with these kind of challenges.

"We are prepared to extend and share our knowledge and various skills in making a positive difference in the lives of other young people within the greater Mogale City", said More at the time.

## Ward committee wrap-up will now see active community participation

BY SIPHO NONE

Zigi Nxumalo, the public participation administration officer in the office of the Speaker Noluthando Mangole, is a happy man after completing a tedious round of launching ward committees in the minority wards.

Nxumalo's joy and happiness was written all over his face when he spoke about the hectic round of launching the ward committees in the wards under the political leadership of the Democratic Alliance (DA).

Nxumalo said the completion of the launch of ward committees signalled co-operation from the DA and that the residents of Mogale City will now begin to be serviced and receiving the necessary information.

"There is now full participation of the minority wards in the local governance of the city. That would mean that we have achieved the constitutional mandate, where the community will now begin to be actively involved on all issues affecting them," Nxumalo was assisted by Ephraim Mogale and Dee Dicks also from the office of the Speaker.

The minority wards did not participate in

the launching of the ward committees citing confusion between the DA and the office of the Speaker. Issues the DA raised ranged from timing of the elections, cost of the exercise and places where the meetings were to be held.

However, DA leader Dennis Pretorius quelled allegations that his party boycotted the ward committee elections.

Nxumalo said: "Now that the DA has participated fully in the process, this completes the constitutional mandate and requirements.

"We have legally realised the dictates of the Municipal Structures Act, which requires public participation."

Councillor Annette Fourie, the ward councillor at the Silverfields where the first elections took place was over the moon.

"My previous ward committee worked very well and we interacted well on various issues affecting the ward. On a permanent basis we communicated with members of the community about issues affecting them.

"It is fulfilling to see some people coming forward to say I want to work with you. I hope to see the same relationship with the current ward committee," Fourie said ecstatically.

## PAY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

It has come to the attention of The Mogale City Local Municipality that an increasing number of households/municipal Customers do not pay for their services or postpone to make payments late.

Therefore, the municipality kindly reminds all the Mogale City residents/municipal customers to pay their service accounts in time.

It is important that consumers pay the entire amount reflected on their statements to avoid discontinuation of services and harsh steps that the municipality will take.

The municipality has applied stringent credit control measures and households/municipal customers are hereby requested to make their payments in time in order to avoid harsh steps that shall be taken against the defaulters in accordance with the Credit Control Policy of Mogale City Local Municipality.

That includes water and light cut offs and handing over of account to debt collectors.

The culture of non-payment leads to cash flow problems within the council and hampering of service delivery to the community of Mogale City. Non-payment negatively impact on the procurement of bulk services of water and electricity,

addressing services into deprived areas, IDP projects cannot be financed, repairs and maintenance can't be effected.

Households who are unable to pay for their service accounts but qualify for indigent status must register as indigents at the indigent office at the Civic Centre, corner of Commissioner and Market Streets, Krugersdorp.

**MUNICIPAL PAYMENT POINTS**  
Payment can be made at the following offices during normal office hours ie 8am to 3pm and on Saturdays between 8am and 1pm.

■ Town Hall (Civic Centre) corner Commissioner and Market streets (Krugersdorp)

■ Azaadville Community Centre

■ Munsieville Community Library

■ Rietvallei Community Centre

■ Magaliesburg Revenue Office

■ FNB, Pick n Pay, Shoprite and Post Office (opening & closing times vary)

■ Payment arrangements can be made at corner of Commissioner and Market Street (Krugersdorp)

Ratepayers are encouraged to manage consumption of municipal services particularly basic services of electricity and water.