



NEW EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THABO MOFUTSANYANA DISTRICT READY TO SERVE

Open-minded, resolute, astute and determined. A firm believer in the advancement of women's agenda. These are some of the words that can best describe Councillor Malefu Vilakazi, the newly elected Executive Mayor of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality.

Councillor Vilakazi was elected unopposed as the Executive Mayor of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality on 10 July 2014 following the resignation of Dr B.E. Mzangwa. She is the Councillor of the ruling party, the African National Congress and she hails from Bohlokong, Bethlehem, in Dihlabeng Local Municipality. Having been a Councillor at Dihlabeng Local Municipality for several years, Vilakazi became the district Councillor from 2011 after local government elections.

A second woman after Mofumahadi Mathokoana Mopeli to lead the district municipality as its Executive Mayor, Councillor Vilakazi's priority is to lead the district municipality to greater heights in delivering services and growing economy by exploring the vastness of its land through the exploration of agriculture and tourism.

Prior to her election as the Executive Mayor, Vilakazi was the Chairperson of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee of the very same Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, the position she occupied from October 2012. Before her being in charge of the municipality's watchdog body, she was a Member of Mayoral Committee for Community Services.

Councillor Vilakazi is also the Chairperson of the Women's Commission of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). She was elected in the position in 2011.

The incumbent District Executive Mayor's activism in politics started in 1989 when she became a member of the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) and ANC Youth League. Since then she has served in various structures and levels of the African National Congress.

- 2000 – 2008: Chairperson of ANC Women's League at Moses Kotane Branch in Dihlabeng
- 2000 – 2003 Treasurer : Moses Kotane ANC Branch in Dihlabeng
- 2003 – 2007 Deputy-secretary – Moses Kotane ANC Branch in Dihlabeng
- 2008 – 2013 Deputy – Chairperson: Moses Kotane in Dihlabeng
- 2013 – 2014 Member of the Regional Executive Committee of Thabo Mofutsanyana Region
- The Executive Mayor has also served in the ANC election management structures from 2000 to current.
- Currently she is an ANC member of Morelig Branch in Bethlehem in Dihlabeng
- She also played a role in community development when in 2000 she played an instrumental role in the establishment of a youth organisation, aimed at addressing issues of HIV/AIDS, called Eletsanang

Married with three kids, Executive Mayor Malefu Vilakazi is also a mother and a parent. An ordinary citizen, who responded to a call by her party to serve her people. Her dream is to see the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality delivering on its promises and in accordance with the service delivery mandates of the electorate.

Among her priorities are:

- The economic development of women, youth and people with disabilities
- Equality in terms of women being also appointed into senior positions.
- Reaching out to all communities of Thabo Mofutsanyana in various ways through the support of different stakeholders such as businesses, community leaders, churches, NGOs, professionals and other influential individuals.
- Infrastructure development as one of the key job drivers in the district.
- Local economic development and growth
- Attainment of clean audit

In her first week in the office, the Executive Mayor made her intentions of reaching out to the ordinary people clear when she embarked on a cleaning campaign at hospitals, distribution of toys to disadvantaged babies and food parcels to farm communities during Mandela Day.

