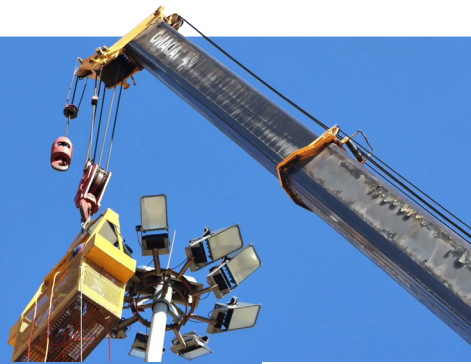


**Street and Apollo  
Lights Restored  
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**Ngwathe Executive Mayor  
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# NGWATHE NEWS

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## Ngwathe Solves Water Problems: New Pipeline in Koppies and Borehole in Tumahole Deliver Relief to Long-Suffering Residents



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Message from the Executive Mayor to the People of Ngwathe  
By Cllr Victoria De Beer-Mthombeni, Executive Mayor of Ngwathe Local Municipality  
(For Ngwathe Municipality News – Issue 1)

A promise kept, a future within reach

Fellow residents of Parys, Tumahole, Vredefort, Mokwallo, Heilbron, Phiritona, Koppies, Kwakwatsi and Edenville—good day. I am deeply honoured to address you in the first issue of Ngwathe Municipality News. This publication is for you: to report progress, to explain decisions, to set out the road ahead, and most importantly, to listen to your feedback so that we serve you better. Our task is clear: prioritise service delivery in every ward, every street, and every household. That is our daily work. That is my personal commitment.

When I took office, I was guided by a simple truth: local government is where people experience democracy in the most practical way—through water that runs, lights that shine, roads that are drivable, waste that is collected, and officials who answer when you call. I said then, and I repeat now: service delivery is our number-one priority. It is the heart of our mandate and the clearest expression of the ANC’s manifesto to deliver a better life for all.

**What we mean by “prioritise service delivery”**

To “prioritise service delivery” is more than a slogan. It is a discipline. It means:

1. Fix the basics first. Water, electricity, roads, waste, traffic management and customer service are the foundation of dignity and growth.
2. Build capacity inside the municipality. Own the tools, train the people, and hold ourselves accountable for results.
3. Spend every rand where it has the greatest impact. Budgets must move from plans to projects you can see and use.
4. Be visible and reachable. Oversight visits, open offices, call centres that work, and a clear way to lodge and track service requests.
5. Report progress and problems honestly. You deserve to know what’s done, what’s delayed, why, and what we’ll do next.

**Progress you can see: from commitments to delivery**

Over recent months, we have taken concrete steps that turn commitments into action:

- New leadership capacity. We welcomed a strengthened leadership team—Directors and Managers in key areas like Technical Services, Economic Development and Planning, Finance, IT, Land Use, Roads and Stormwater, Contract Management, Payroll and Expenditure, and Performance Management. This gives us the professional backbone to plan, deliver, and account.
- Water delivery breakthroughs. In Koppies (Kwakwatsi), the water supply project installed a 160mm Class 16 pipeline over 1.97 km. Residents who waited more than

20 years now report reliable water at home. In Tumahole (Mandela section), the pilot borehole project has brought “metsi pompong”—practical relief while we implement long-term solutions.

- Town-wide lighting. We rolled out a municipality-wide programme to repair street lights and Apollo/high-mast lights. Safer, brighter streets improve safety, support small businesses, and enhance tourism appeal—especially in our hubs.
- Waste management boost. A new refuse compactor truck is now stationed in Mokwallo, Vredefort, improving refuse removal schedules and reducing illegal dumping.
- Traffic services revived. After almost a decade, we re-established the Traffic Department and unveiled new traffic vehicles. This improves road safety and supports revenue enhancement to reinvest in infrastructure.
- Access to services—closer to you. The Tumahole municipal office in Parys is officially re-opened, offering prepaid electricity purchases, account payments, indigency applications, and general enquiries—saving you time and transport costs.

Each of these actions was chosen because it meets a need you raised directly with us. It is the kind of work we will keep doing—street by street, system by system—until the basics are reliable, predictable, and fair for everyone.

Water: dignity in every drop

Water remains the most urgent and human of all services. It is health, dignity, and economic life. Across Ngwathe, we are pursuing a two-track approach:

1. Immediate relief and stabilisation—repairs to leaks, pressure management, borehole optimisation where feasible, tanker services where strictly necessary, and rapid response teams to restore supply quickly.
2. Long-term reliability—replacing old pipes, refurbishing treatment works, building reservoirs, and upgrading bulk supply so that water reaches every home today and still flows ten and twenty years from now.

You have seen the Koppies/Kwakwatsi pipeline reach residents who have waited for decades. You have felt the immediate impact of borehole water in Tumahole (Mandela section) while longer-term work proceeds. In Mokwallo, Vredefort, we have launched upgrades linked to treatment works and storage, because sustainable supply needs strong bulk



systems behind the tap.

We will continue site visits and community meetings so that you hear directly from engineers and managers: where we are on each project, what the next milestones are, and how to report problems quickly. Your lived experience is our best early-warning system.

**Electricity and lighting: safety after sunset**

A lit street is a safer street. By restoring street lights and Apollo lights, we make it easier for children to walk safely, for businesses to operate longer hours, and for SAPS and our Traffic Department to do their work effectively.

Reliable public lighting is also a powerful signal: Ngwathe is working; Ngwathe is open.

Alongside lighting repairs, we are strengthening the electricity department under newly appointed leadership to accelerate fault response, improve maintenance schedules, and coordinate planned outages to minimise disruption.

**Roads, stormwater, and waste: the daily backbone**

- Roads & Stormwater. Pothole patching, gravel road blading, drainage clearing, and scheduled maintenance are underway with a ward-by-ward programme. Where full rehabilitation is required, we will design, cost and phase these larger projects transparently, so communities know what to expect and when.
- Waste Management. With the Mokwallo compactor now active, we are strengthening collections, tackling illegal dumping, and improving landfill and transfer-site management. Clean towns are healthier towns—and they attract

investment and visitors.

**Public safety and traffic: rules that protect us all**

Law without enforcement is frustration. That is why we revived our Traffic Department and deployed new vehicles—to end the culture of road lawlessness and support SAPS and Provincial Traffic on joint operations. Consistent enforcement improves safety, reduces accidents, and protects pedestrians and public transport users. It also strengthens revenue, which we ring-fence towards maintenance and upgrades you can see.

Bringing the municipality closer: offices, call centres, and ward rooms

The re-opening of the Tumahole office is part of a larger decentralisation drive: bring services to where people live. Over the coming period we will:

- Extend face-to-face service points where volumes justify it,
- Improve telephone and digital channels so you can log and track faults, and
- Run mobile service days in harder-to-reach areas with high demand.

When you walk into a municipal office, you must be helped. When you phone, someone must answer. When you lodge a fault, you must get a reference number and a realistic turnaround time. These are the standards we are setting and monitoring.

**Building a capable, ethical, accountable administration**

Service delivery only works when the administration is strong. The Council approved senior appointments to stabilise departments that directly affect your quality of life—Technical Services, Planning, Finance, IT, Roads & Stormwater, Contract Management, and Performance Management.

What this means for you:

- Clear responsibility. Every critical function has a named manager and team leader.
- Performance agreements. Targets and timelines are formal, measurable, and reviewed.
- \*\* consequence management.\*\*

Where work is not done or

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When you walk into a municipal office, you must be helped. When you phone, someone must answer.

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standards are breached, there are consequences—consistently and lawfully.

- Procurement discipline. We follow the rules, design contracts with strong performance clauses, and protect public money.

**Money matters: from budgets to visible delivery**

Budgets must translate into projects you can see. Our approach is to shift spending towards maintenance and capital projects that fix the basics first. We are also strengthening revenue collection—not to burden households, but to stabilise the municipality so we can spend more on repairs, replacements, and upgrades.

Here is how we will protect you as we collect:

- Expanded indigency registration and regular outreach so qualifying households are not left behind.
- Flexible payment arrangements for those in distress, with clear rules and fair timelines.
- Larger debtors (including institutions) must pay what they owe. Everyone benefits when the culture of payment is restored.
- Every rand we collect and save goes back into service delivery: pipes, lights, roads, and trucks.

**Partnering with provincial and national government**

We work within the broader sphere of government, aligning projects with MIG, RBIG, WSIG and other funding streams. This coordination is not red tape; it is how we multiply impact, avoid duplication, and ensure long-term sustainability of infrastructure.

Where we face delays—such as contractor failures or technical redesigns—we take corrective action: terminate where necessary, re-appoint lawfully, and keep residents informed.

**Local economy, jobs, and opportunities**

A well-run municipality enables jobs. When water is reliable, lights are on, streets are clean, and by-laws are enforced, businesses invest and hire. Our tender processes will continue to emphasise lawful local supplier participation where possible, skills transfer, and fair competition.

We will also support tourism and small business development by improving amenities and marketing our towns as safe, clean, and welcoming. Parys, Vredefort Dome, and our surrounding communities have real appeal—our job is to match that potential with reliable basic services.

**Youth, women, and vulnerable households**

True development is inclusive. Our programmes will continue to:

- Prioritise indigency relief and accessible customer service,
- Create skills and work exposure opportunities linked to infrastructure programmes,
- Ensure safety and dignity in public spaces through lighting, waste collection, and responsive policing partnerships,
- Strengthen community participation so that voices—especially of women, youth, the elderly, and

people with disabilities—shape the services they receive.

**Accountability: how you can track our work**

We are building a simple accountability chain:

1. Ward-based service plans with clear priorities and maintenance schedules.
2. Public dashboards/updates on project milestones and outage restorations.
3. Fault logging and tracking—reference numbers, realistic turnaround times, and escalation paths.
4. Monthly feedback from Directors and Managers to Council and communities.
5. Mayor’s oversight visits—published ahead of time, with post-visit notes on actions taken. If we fall short, tell us—early, directly, and with details. The sooner we know, the faster we can act.

**From the State of the Municipality Address: a standing pledge**

When I addressed you in Parys a few months ago, I made a standing pledge: we will focus the full might of the municipality on the basics that touch your life every day. I committed to better water, reliable lighting, cleaner neighbourhoods, safer roads, and open doors at our service points.

That pledge still guides us today. The progress you see—the Koppies/Kwakwatsi pipeline, the Tumahole borehole pilot, lighting restorations, the Mokwallo compactor, the re-established Traffic Department, and the re-opened Tumahole office—are not isolated wins. They are building blocks in a larger turnaround that we will maintain and expand.

**What comes next: our near-term priorities**

Over the coming period, we will drive:

- Water reliability: continue bulk upgrades, reduce leaks and non-revenue water, expand storage capacity, and strengthen pressure management.
- Electricity & lighting: maintain high-mast and street-light functionality, speed up fault response, and improve planned outage communication.
- Roads & stormwater: tackle potholes and priority resurfacing; improve drainage before heavy rains.
- Waste: standardise collection schedules and enforcement against illegal dumping; ensure adequate fleet availability.
- Customer service: expand the reach of walk-in points, telephone, and digital channels; publish service standards and report on them monthly.
- Enforcement and revenue: consolidate the Traffic Department, improve by-law enforcement, and apply fair, humane credit control that protects indigent households while restoring municipal finances.

**How you can help us deliver**

Service delivery is a two-way contract:

- Log faults with accurate addresses and contact numbers.
- Keep wayleaves clear for municipal teams to access infrastructure.
- Report illegal connections and dumping—they hurt all of us.
- Pay for services where you can, apply

for indigency where you qualify, and use payment arrangements if you are in distress.

- Volunteer information—for example, where leaks re-occur or lights go out repeatedly—so we can fix the root cause, not only the symptoms.

Every action you take helps your neighbour, your street, and your town.

To every resident: we see you, we hear you, we serve you

I want to speak to the grandmother in Tumahole who rises before dawn to prepare the children for school; to the small business owner in Parys who keeps staff employed through tough times; to the farmworkers near Heilbron who rely on public roads and reliable water; to the taxi drivers and truckers who need safe, orderly roads in Koppies; to the families of Mokwallo who deserve clean streets and predictable collections; to the youth of Edenville who want opportunities in their hometowns.

We see you. We hear you. We serve you. Our work is for you and with you.

**Closing: the work continues, and so does our commitment**

The journey of rebuilding Ngwathe is underway. We will keep pushing forward—with urgency, with honesty, and with care—until the basics are dependable and the foundation for growth is firm. We will measure ourselves by outcomes you can feel at home: water at the tap, light at the switch, a road you can drive, a bin that is emptied, a by-law that is enforced, and a municipal office that helps you the first time you ask.

This is the meaning of a better life for all in local government terms. This is how we translate the ANC’s mandate into everyday dignity. And this is how we will keep faith with you, the people of Ngwathe.

Thank you for your patience, your partnership, and your vigilance. Keep holding us to the standard we set here. We will not rest until the basics are reliable for everyone, in every town, every ward, every street.

***Yours in service,***  
***Cllr Victoria De Beer-Mthombeni***  
***Executive Mayor: Ngwathe***  
***Local Municipality***

Editorial Note

by Dr Futhuli P. Mothamaha

Municipal Manager, Ngwathe Local Municipality



To the people of Ngwathe — residents, community leaders, municipal employees, councillors, and all our stakeholders: It is my honour and deep responsibility to share this editorial note as your Municipal Manager. I write not merely as an official but as someone who has pledged service to you, under the leadership of Executive Mayor Cllr Victoria De Beer-Mthombeni and the council, in fulfilment of our shared mandate to restore dignity, functionality, and hope through effective service delivery. This note is intended to reaffirm my commitment to executing the policy direction given by the council and the Mayor, outline the progress we have made under challenging conditions, and set forth the roadmap for the period ahead. It is an opportunity also to invite your partnership — because no government can succeed alone.

**Our mandate: translating vision into action**

When the council and Executive Mayor set the strategic direction for Ngwathe, they entrusted me and my management team with the task of operationalising that vision. We are guided by the following imperatives:

1. Service delivery as non-negotiable. Our work must focus first and foremost on what touches lives—water, electricity, refuse collection, roads, safety, and customer responsiveness.
  2. Efficiency, accountability and capacity. We must build internal systems, capacitate staff, enforce performance, manage budgets prudently, and ensure transparency at every level.
  3. Sustainability and autonomy. Wherever possible, we reduce dependence on outsourcing by owning equipment (fleet, tools), doing maintenance in-house, and strengthening our ability to respond quickly.
  4. Inclusive participation and feedback. Residents, ward committees, civil society, and community structures must be invited in—not just for consultation, but to monitor, report, and hold us accountable.
  5. Alignment with ANC manifesto and public trust. Our municipal work aligns with national and provincial goals, especially the ANC’s thrust to deliver a better life for all, particularly at the local government level.
- As Municipal Manager, my role is to lead implementation, coordinate administrative functions, remove bottlenecks, ensure compliance (legal, financial, governance), and drive the municipality toward higher performance.
- The council sets policy; I must ensure that policy becomes reality, not rhetoric.
- What we have done so far: building momentum under pressure**
- In the months since assuming my position, I have made it a priority to demonstrate early delivery, strengthen



institutional foundations, and rebuild public confidence. Below are some key initiatives and achievements to date:

1. Strategic fleet and asset acquisition

To reduce costs associated with outsourcing, we have expanded our municipal fleet under my leadership. For example:

- A honeysucker truck was procured to handle sanitation, sewer empties, and liquid waste tasks, reducing external contractor reliance.
- Other essential machinery such as a TLB (tractor-loader-backhoe) and cherry picker have been acquired to support road repairs, maintenance, and other infrastructure task.

These are not cosmetic purchases—they are tools to achieve faster response times, reduce unit cost of maintenance, and give our technical teams direct capability.

2. Stakeholder engagement and restoring trust

From my earliest days, I prioritized engagement with civil society and community groups. Notably: I met with the Save Ngwathe delegation in September 2024 to hear their concerns, share our plans, and open channels for regular cooperation.

We committed to more regular meetings with community organisations such as AfriForum and others, especially in Parys, to co-monitor progress on water purification works, street lighting, and distribution systems.

We emphasized the principle of payment culture: we asked stakeholders to assist in spreading awareness about paying municipal accounts, because sustainable service depends on sustainable revenue. These engagements are not symbolic: they inform our planning, expose blind spots, and ensure that community voices influence our priorities.

3. Visible works, even amidst constraints

While large capital projects take time, we have pushed to deliver smaller, high-impact work that residents can see: In Parys, we expedited cleaning and desilting of water catchment basins and reservoirs to improve water clarity and supply reliability. In some cases, this has helped

reduceturbidityissuesinresidents’taps. We deployed municipal teams to monitor service delivery response in Tumahole, Parys, and Mokwallo. For example, a Municipal Service Delivery Check led by myself, Director Technical Services, and other officials in July 2025, aimed to audit faults, backlog repairs, and ensure visible progress in basic services.

**We confirmed that the Parys Mega Development and related infrastructure plans are proceeding, signaling confidence in long-term planning and investor interest.**

4. Leadership continuity and structural strengthening

We filled critical management positions to provide stability and oversight. In the budget address earlier this year, the Mayor emphasised that those appointments—including mine—aim to strengthen the municipality’s ability to govern, manage finances, and deliver to communities.

In the longer term, we are refining the organizational shape—creating performance units, strengthening contract management, integrating monitoring & evaluation, and embedding consequence management to address underperformance.

5. Infrastructure oversight and accountability

Recognising the importance of oversight, I have instituted more frequent site visits, cross-departmental coordination, and technical oversight. I have also insisted on progress reporting at directorate levels—monthly, with clear KPIs, risk registers, and remedial plans.

These steps strengthen accountability and help ensure that delays are flagged early, and corrective action is taken before small issues become large obstacles.

Challenges we face and how we will overcome them

Let me be frank: running a municipality such as Ngwathe is not without historic baggage, resource constraints, and external pressures. But facing challenges does not excuse inaction.

Below are some hurdles we face, and the strategies I commit to overcoming them:

A. Legacy infrastructure and deferred maintenance

Many water pipes, treatment works, pumping stations, roads, and electrical lines date back decades and have suffered from deferred upkeep.

Our response: we are prioritising refurbishment, rather than just new builds.

We are aggressively tackling leaks, non-revenue water, and broken valves first.

Projects such as the Koppies/Kwakwatsi pipeline and rehabilitation of old Parys water works are parts of this strategy.

B. Financial constraints and revenue shortfall

Collecting revenue in an environment of poverty, indigency, and political disincentives is difficult. Coupled with longstanding debt to Eskom, Rand Water, and

others, our cash flows are stretched. Our response:

1. Rigorously enforce credit control while protecting vulnerable households.
2. Ring-fence revenue from traffic enforcement for infrastructure projects.
3. Improve billing systems, meter readings, and revenue collection processes.
4. Seek external grants and partnerships aligned with IDP priorities.

C. Contractor performance and procurement risks

Somepastcontractshaveunder-performed or been terminated, leading to delays. Our response:

- Tighten contract management clauses and performance bonds.
- Introduce performance-based penalties
- Monitor contractor progress closely and work with provincial or national oversight if needed.
- Where necessary, invoke termination clauses early and reassign work promptly

D. Publicimpatienceandaccountability expectations

Communities rightly demand instant results. When things go wrong—water outage, potholes, broken lights—the pressure is immense.

Our response:

- Improve fault reporting systems with faster turnaround and escalation paths.
- Commit to visible oversight visits and “fault blitz days.”
- Publish regular updates on progress, setbacks, and next steps.
- Maintain ongoing dialogue and feedback loops with ward committees and community structures.

E. Talent retention and capacity gaps

Skilled technical, engineering, and financial personnel are scarce; losing them weakens continuity.

Our response:

- Invest in staff development, training, and mentorship programs.
- Package appropriate incentives and recognition.
- Build institutional knowledge by capturing procedures, manuals, and documentation so that work is not person-dependent.

Our promises to you — what you can expect in the coming period

As Municipal Manager, these are the undertakings I give:

- Faster turnaround on fault repairs. We will aim to close priority faults (water leaks, lights, drainage) within a targeted timeframe (to be published per ward).Transparency in project timelines. For every infrastructure project—water, roads, electricity—we will publish anticipated start and end dates, current progress, and reasons for delay if any.
- Stronger performance culture. Directors, managers, and staff will operate under clear KPIs, periodic reviews, and corrective measures where performance falls short.
- Better stakeholder relation and participation. We will hold regular community liaison forums, progress updates, and joint monitoring

sessions with civil society and ward committees.

Financial discipline and integrity. I commit to protecting municipal finances, reducing wasteful spending, enforcing procurement rules, and ensuring every rand is used deliberately. Service centric reorientation. All municipal departments—from finance to IT to technical—will align their workplans to service delivery impact, not bureaucratic metrics.

7. Better use of technology and systems. We will modernise asset management, billing, GIS monitoring, and fault reporting systems to support faster decision-making and accountability.

**A call to residents: your role in success** Our work will only succeed when you, the residents, partner with us actively. I call on you to:

- Report faults quickly, with full address and description.
- Keep municipal infrastructure accessible (e.g. no blocking of sewer lines, water valves, manholes).
- Pay for services where you can; apply for indigency where you qualify.
- Participate in ward meetings, community forums, and oversight structures.
- Hold us accountable—ask for updates, demand progress, and push for explanations.
- Avoid illegal connections, dumping, vandalism or theft of municipal property. These actions hurt everyone.

In short: be active, not passive. Be watchdogs, not just onlookers

We will welcome constructive oversight and partnership.

In conclusion: unity, persistence, and delivery

When Mayor Cllr De Beer-Mthombeni and the council set the direction for Ngwathe, they did so with the knowledge that to transform a municipality, leadership—both political and administrative—must walk the talk. I do not take lightly the burden of translating their vision into operational reality. But more importantly, I do not take lightly the trust you place in us.

Every day I pledge to act with integrity, humility, urgency, and accountability.

We have made early progress, even under resource constraints, stakeholder demands, and inherited challenges. But progress is not the endpoint—it is the foundation. We must continue, deepen, and accelerate.

My commitment is this: deliver the mandate of service delivery as the council and the Mayor have entrusted me, for all parts of Ngwathe, without favour or neglect. I will strive to build an administration you can trust, an environment you can depend on, and services you can count on.

Thank you for your patience, your vigilance, and your partnership in rebuilding Ngwathe. Together, we will turn promise into progress, and progress into improved lives for every resident.

**Dr Futhuli P. Mothamaha**  
*Municipal Manager, Ngwathe Local Municipality*

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We expedited cleaning and desilting of water catchment basins and reservoirs



# Ngwathe Solves Water Problems: New Pipeline in Koppies and Borehole in Tumahole Deliver Relief to Long-Suffering Residents



Vredefort – Ngwathe Local Municipality is turning the tide on persistent water shortages, with key projects in Koppies, Kwakwatsi, and Tumahole’s Mandela section bringing reliable supply to communities after years of hardship. Executive Mayor Cllr Victoria De Beer-Mthombeni highlighted these efforts during a site visit on 26 September 2025, emphasising the municipality’s commitment to restoring dignity and access for all residents. As part of a broader strategy to tackle water challenges across Parys, Vredefort, Heilbron, Koppies, and Edenville, these initiatives mark visible progress in service delivery.

## Historic Breakthrough in Koppies and

## Kwakwatsi: Pipeline Ends Decades of Drought

In Koppies’ Kwakwatsi area, a major water supply project is nearing completion, involving the installation of a 160mm diameter Class 16 pipeline spanning 1.97 kilometres. This upgrade addresses chronic issues that left some households without running water for over 20 years, forcing reliance on tankers and alternative sources. During the mayor’s monitoring visit last month, residents shared their joy at finally having taps flow again. “We have interacted with residents who expressed their happiness after some of them spent more than 20 years without water,” said

De Beer-Mthombeni. The project, set for an official handover soon, follows earlier setbacks like the April 2025 flooding that crippled the Koppies Water Treatment Plant, affecting supply in Koppies and Kwakwatsi.

This pipeline forms part of Ngwathe’s 2025/26 Integrated Development Plan (IDP), which prioritises infrastructure to ensure sustainable access. By fixing leaks and boosting capacity, it not only ends daily struggles but also supports health and economic activities in the area.

## Pilot Borehole Brings Immediate Relief to Tumahole’s Mandela Section

In Tumahole’s Mandela section, a pilot borehole project has already transformed lives, providing “metsi pompong” – water straight from the pump – to homes. Launched as a quick-response solution, it has ensured steady supply where main lines faltered.

The mayor noted that this initiative, rolled out amid broader water challenges, demonstrates innovative approaches to community needs. “In Tumahole, Mandela section, the borehole project being piloted has already ensured ‘metsi pompong’ for residents. We will be rolling out more solutions to solve water challenges,” she said.

Residents in Mandela and nearby areas like Top, Tokoloho behind Skotiphola, and Zuma had been without water since 2022, but supply resumed in January 2025. A July 2025 planned shutdown briefly disrupted services in Tumahole sections, including Mandela, Mbeki, and Winnie, underscoring the need

for resilient backups like boreholes. **Overcoming Legacy Issues: Ngwathe’s Turnaround Strategy in Action**

Ngwathe has grappled with water woes for years, from ageing infrastructure to funding constraints, leading to protests and health risks. The municipality’s IDP for 2025/26 allocates resources for upgrades, including the Koppies to Edenville bulk water pipeline and secondary lines in Kwakwatsi.

These projects align with national goals under the Presidential Employment Stimulus and local turnaround plans. By investing in internal capacity, Ngwathe reduces outsourcing, saves costs, and responds faster to breakdowns. The mayor’s budget speech in June 2025 reaffirmed this focus, channeling savings into roads, electricity, and more.

## Broader Impacts: Healthier Communities and Sustainable Development

Access to clean water goes beyond convenience – it cuts disease risks, eases burdens on families, and boosts local economies. In rural spots like Kwakwatsi, reliable supply can spark farming and small businesses. For Tumahole, the borehole eases daily chores, allowing kids to study and adults to work without worry.

Residents and stakeholders have welcomed the changes, noting improved quality of life. As De Beer-Mthombeni stated, “We have made a commitment to solve water challenges in all towns making up Ngwathe Local Municipality and our achievements are visible.”

Ngwathe Local Municipality has intensified its service delivery programme by fixing street lights and Apollo high-mast lights across all five towns that make up the municipality. The initiative is part of a broader operations and maintenance programme designed to improve infrastructure reliability, enhance safety, and boost local tourism.

## Lighting Up Communities

The repair and restoration work has already started in Parys, Vredefort, Heilbron, Koppies, and Edenville, with municipal teams working to ensure that residents and visitors enjoy well-lit streets at night. The move is being welcomed by communities that have long raised concerns about the dangers of dark streets, including increased risks of crime and compromised road safety. Municipal officials say the programme is not a once-off intervention but part of an ongoing service delivery commitment. The municipality has also confirmed that high-mast Apollo lights in several areas, which had been non-functional for months, are now operational.

Municipal Manager: “Service Delivery Remains Our Priority”  
Municipal Manager Dr Futhuli P. Mothamaha emphasised that the lighting project is a direct response to issues raised by residents.

“Our operations and maintenance programme is focused on municipal infrastructure as part of rapid response to issues raised by our residents because service delivery remains our fundamental priority. The appointment of the new Manager responsible for the electricity department has also boosted

# Ngwathe Local Municipality at Work: Street and Apollo Lights Restored Across All Towns



our plans, hence we are able to roll out this programme to all towns making up Ngwathe Local Municipality,” said Dr Mothamaha.

He added that improved lighting is about more than just infrastructure.

“When you enter our towns at night, the lights are on. This further has a positive boost to our tourism, while ensuring that no crime will take place in darkness

because even our high mast lights are now on.”

## Boost for Safety and Local Economy

The restoration of street and Apollo lights is expected to have a far-reaching impact on both community life and the local economy. Well-lit areas create safer environments for residents, reduce crime risks, and encourage evening business activity. The initiative also improves

Ngwathe’s image as a welcoming destination for tourists, particularly in towns such as Parys, which is a well-known hub for leisure and events.

The municipality says it will continue to monitor the functionality of all street and Apollo lights as part of its regular maintenance schedule to ensure that no area is left in darkness again.



Ngwathe Local Municipality has taken a big step towards better public safety and financial growth by unveiling new traffic vehicles. On 5 September 2025, the Executive Mayor, Councillor Victoria De Beer-Mthombeni, led the event alongside other key leaders. This move marks the revival of the municipality's Traffic Department, which stopped working in August 2016. The vehicles will help enforce road rules, cut down on lawlessness, and bring in more money through fines and fees. Residents in towns like Parys, Vredefort, Edenville, Heilbron, and Koppies can look forward to safer roads and better services as part of this push.

The unveiling comes at a time when many Free State municipalities are working hard to fix service delivery problems. Ngwathe, in the northern part of the Fezile Dabi District, covers a large area with a mix of urban and rural spots. With a population of around 120,000 people, the municipality has faced challenges like poor infrastructure and low revenue.

This new initiative is part of a wider plan to turn things around, including a record-breaking R2.099 billion budget for the 2025/26 financial year that focuses on basic services and development.

**Reviving a Long-Dormant Traffic Department**

The Traffic Department in Ngwathe shut down in August 2016 due to a lack of resources and operational issues, leaving a gap in law enforcement on local roads. For nearly nine years, residents dealt with unchecked speeding, illegal parking, and other traffic violations. Motorists and truck drivers often ignored rules, leading to more accidents and complaints from the community. Without a local traffic team, the municipality missed out on revenue from fines, which could have been used to fix roads, lights, and other infrastructure. Since the current leadership took over, bringing back the department has been a top priority. The delivery of these vehicles in September 2025 is a key milestone. It shows the municipality's commitment to its promises made in budget speeches. The vehicles, which include patrol cars

# Ngwathe Local Municipality Unveils New Traffic Vehicles to Enhance Safety and Generate Revenue



equipped for daily operations, will allow officers to respond quickly to incidents and patrol high-risk areas. This is expected to reduce crime on the roads and make travelling safer for everyone, from school children to long-haul drivers.

**Key Leaders at the Helm of Change**

The event saw the Executive Mayor flanked by the Member of the Mayoral Committee for Public Safety, Councillor Noma Moloi, and the Chief Whip, Councillor Mbuyiselo Tyumbu. They were joined by the Municipal Manager, Dr F.P. Mothamaha, and other directors.

This team effort highlights how the municipality is working together to tackle safety and money matters. According to the Executive Mayor 'Ngwathe's Traffic Department ceased operations in August 2016. Since taking office, we have prioritized its re-establishment as a means of generating revenue for the Municipality, as stated at our inception. The recent delivery of official vehicles for the Department in September 2025 marks the fulfillment of our budget speech promises"

The MMC for Public Safety emphasised the need for strong action. 'Many residents complained about a lot of lawlessness in our space, motorists and truck drivers ignoring road regulations. We will reinforce with our counterparts in Provincial Traffic and SAPS to enforce the law without any fear.'

Municipal Manager Dr F.P. Mothamaha added that this is just the start. 'This process is a foundation phase for our traffic development plans which is part of revenue enhancement strategy as traffic department will also help us to improve revenue that will be used to develop our infrastructure'. These statements show a clear plan: use the vehicles not only for safety but also to boost the municipality's funds.

Extra money from fines will go towards fixing potholes, improving water supply, and other projects that benefit residents

**Training the Next Generation of Officers**

To make the revival work, Ngwathe is not just buying vehicles—it's also investing in people. The municipality launched a Road Traffic and Law Enforcement Training

Programme for 2025, offering a 12-month learnership at NQF Level 4. This programme targets 27 young people aged 18 to 35 from the Free State. Learners get a monthly stipend of R2,500 while gaining skills in traffic control, law enforcement, and road safety. To apply, candidates need a Grade 12 certificate, a valid driver's licence, no criminal record, and must be unemployed. The closing date was extended to 1 September 2025, giving more locals a chance to join. Enquiries went to Human Resources Manager Mr J.S. Galeni on 078 422 6084. This training ensures the new vehicles are used by well-prepared officers who understand local needs. The learnership ties into the municipality's Integrated Development Plan for 2025/26, which calls for better by-law enforcement, road maintenance, and community facilities like parks. By building a skilled team, Ngwathe aims to create jobs and reduce youth unemployment in the area.

## Tumahole Municipal Office Officially Re-Opened to Bring Services Closer to the People

Ngwathe Local Municipality has officially re-opened its municipal office in Tumahole, Parys, in a move aimed at making services more accessible to residents. The office was unveiled on Tuesday, 23 September 2025, during a ceremony led by Executive Mayor Cllr Victoria De Beer-Mthombeni, who was joined by Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs), the Council Speaker, ward councillors, Municipal Manager Dr Futhuli P. Mothamaha, and senior officials.

**Bringing Services to the Community**

The re-opened Tumahole office will provide a wide range of municipal services to the community, including:

- Purchasing of prepaid electricity
- Payment of municipal bills
- Indigency applications
- General municipal enquiries

And several other essential services. For many residents, this means they will

no longer need to travel long distances to access basic municipal services. The move is expected to save residents both time and money, while strengthening the municipality's service delivery footprint in Parys.

**Executive Mayor: "This Office Belongs to the People"**

Speaking at the re-opening, Executive Mayor De Beer-Mthombeni said the Tumahole office symbolises the municipality's commitment to bringing services closer to the people. "This office belongs to the people of Tumahole. It is here to serve you, to make life easier, and to restore confidence that government is present in your daily lives. Our administration promised to improve accessibility, and today we are delivering on that promise," she said.

The Mayor added that the office will also serve as a hub for addressing community concerns and ensuring quick responses to service delivery issues.



**Municipal Manager: A Step Towards Improved Efficiency**

Municipal Manager Dr Futhuli P. Mothamaha welcomed the re-opening, describing it as an important step towards decentralising municipal operations. "The re-establishment of this office ensures that services are delivered at the doorsteps of our residents. It also eases pressure on the main municipal offices, improves efficiency, and allows us to respond quicker to community needs," he said.

Dr Mothamaha emphasised that the Tumahole office will be fully integrated into the municipality's operations, with trained staff and systems in place to ensure

accountability and reliable service.

**A Boost for Service Delivery in Tumahole**

Residents who attended the re-opening expressed relief and gratitude, noting that the return of the office restores dignity and convenience. Many said the closure of the office in previous years made it difficult to access services, and its return is a clear sign that the municipality is taking their needs seriously. The re-opening forms part of Ngwathe's wider service delivery improvement programme, which includes restoring infrastructure, improving water and electricity services, and strengthening community engagement.



Ngwathe Local Municipality has officially welcomed its newly appointed directors and managers, marking the beginning of a fresh chapter in the municipality’s leadership and service delivery drive.

The appointments, which were finalised on 6 January 2025, are part of a strategic move to strengthen governance, improve accountability, and enhance operational efficiency across all departments.

**Strengthening Municipal Leadership**

The appointments include senior officials across technical, financial, planning, IT, and performance management divisions, ensuring that Ngwathe has a full leadership team to respond effectively to community needs. The newly appointed officials are:

- Ms Patricia Morokolo – Director: Technical Services (effective 1 February 2025)
- Dr Sive Dintsi – Director: Economic Development and Planning (effective 1 February 2025)
- Mr Sandile Faku – Manager: Office of the Municipal Manager
- Mr Serame Phetoane – Manager: Finance
- Mr Bangisisi Nyembe – Manager: IT
- Mr Caleb Valoyi – Chief Town Planner/Manager: Land Use
- Ms Jwalane Mokoena – Manager: Payroll and Expenditure
- Mr Lehlohonolo Moreki – Manager: Roads and Stormwater
- Mr Thato Shebe – Contract Management Officer
- Ms Mosa Msibi – Manager: Performance Management System

The municipality also confirmed that the recruitment process for the Director: Community Services is at an advanced stage and will be concluded soon. This will complete the leadership team required to steer Ngwathe towards improved service

# Ngwathe Welcomes New Directors and Managers to Strengthen Service Delivery

delivery.

**Executive Mayor: “A Team to Put Ngwathe on the Map”**

Executive Mayor Cllr Victoria De Beer-Mthombeni praised the new appointments, stating that the municipality is entering a new era of accountability and innovation. “This leadership team has been carefully selected not just for their skills, but also for their passion to serve the people of Ngwathe. We are committed to building a municipality that delivers services with speed, efficiency, and transparency,” said De Beer-Mthombeni.

She added that the appointments are in line with the municipality’s broader service delivery turnaround strategy. “Residents of Parys, Vredefort, Heilbron, Edenville, and Koppies deserve a municipality that works for them. With these appointments, we are making sure that we have the right people in the right positions to fast-track infrastructure development, maintain financial stability, and ensure compliance with governance standards.”

The Mayor also highlighted that the appointments are part of efforts to attract investment into Ngwathe. “By strengthening our internal capacity, we are creating an enabling environment for economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development. Our vision is to put Ngwathe on the map as a municipality of excellence.”

De Beer-Mthombeni concluded with a message of unity: “This is not just about the officials; it is about all of us as a community. We must work together to turn Ngwathe into a place where residents can live with dignity, businesses can thrive,



and young people can find opportunities.”

**Municipal Manager: “Capacity and Accountability Are Key”**

Municipal Manager Dr Futhuli Mothamaha emphasised that the appointments followed a transparent recruitment process aimed at securing the best possible talent for Ngwathe. “Our goal was to bring in individuals with both technical expertise and a deep understanding of local government governance. We believe this team has the

## Ngwathe Local Municipality Boosts Service Delivery with New Refuse Truck Handover in Mokwallo, Vredefort

**Vredefort** – Ngwathe Local Municipality has made a key move to better its services by handing over a new refuse removal compactor truck to the Mokwallo community in Vredefort. Led by Executive Mayor Cllr Victoria De Beer-Mthombeni, this step aims to make waste collection more reliable and help keep neighbourhoods clean and healthy.

The handover, which took place on 26 September 2025, comes as part of the municipality’s push to fix long-standing issues like inconsistent rubbish pickup and illegal dumping. With this new truck, Ngwathe hopes to cut down on these problems and build trust with residents.

**Addressing Long-Standing Waste Management Challenges**

For many years, people in Mokwallo and nearby areas have complained about poor refuse services. The municipality’s 2025/26 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) highlights a lack of dedicated refuse trucks and staff shortages as big hurdles. New areas needing services and full graveyards add to the strain.

The new compactor truck is set to change that. It will help with regular collections, fight illegal dumping, and improve sanitation. Mayor De Beer-Mthombeni

called it a tool for the community: “This truck belongs to the residents of Mokwallo. It is here to ensure that your streets are clean, your environment is safe, and your dignity is restored. As a municipality, we are committed to sustainable and people-centred service delivery, and today’s milestone is proof of that commitment.”

**Cutting Costs and Building Internal Strength**

Ngwathe has often turned to outside help for refuse work, but this new truck lets them do more in-house. This shift should save money, speed up responses, and make things run smoother. “By strengthening our capacity internally, we are reducing reliance on outsourcing and building a more sustainable model for the future. The savings we make can then be channelled into other pressing service delivery needs, including roads, water, and electricity,” the Mayor added.

Municipal Manager Dr Futhuli P. Mothamaha linked this to the bigger turnaround plan: “This is about building a municipality that works for its people. Cleaner environments mean healthier communities, and healthier communities mean stronger development.”

**Benefits for Health, Environment, and**



**Economy**

Better waste pickup does more than keep streets tidy—it supports public health by cutting disease risks and makes areas nicer for living and visiting. This can draw investment and boost tourism in Vredefort and surrounds.

The truck will start work right away, with

set schedules for all parts of Mokwallo. Residents cheered the handover, seeing it as a sign their voices are heard and services will improve.



# Ngwathe Accelerates Water Infrastructure Projects Across All Towns

Ngwathe Local Municipality has reaffirmed its commitment to delivering reliable water services through a series of major infrastructure projects currently underway in Parys, Vredefort, Heilbron, Koppies, and Edenville. The projects, outlined in the Municipal Water Infrastructure Status Core Report released on 26 September 2025, show visible progress in addressing long-standing water supply challenges across the municipality. The latest update highlights a mix of ongoing upgrades, near-completion projects, and new developments designed to secure clean water access for thousands of households.

## Major Projects Underway

### Parys

- Replacement of 15km Asbestos Water Pipe (MIG): 57% complete. Almost all streets are connected to the water network, with only one still outstanding. Contractor Sethabohle Trading is addressing minor issues, with full completion expected soon.
- Refurbishment of Old Parys Water Treatment Works (MIG & RBIG): 38% complete. Progress has been slower due to changes in consultants and contractors, but the new contractor, Zaroe Engineering, is set to restart major works in April 2026.

### Koppies & Edenville

- Township Secondary Bulk Water Pipelines Upgrade (RBIG): 99% complete. Contractor Leano 87 Solutions is finalising household connections and repairing leaks. The project is almost ready for handover.
- Bulk Water Supply Pipeline (RBIG): 52% complete. Linking Koppies to Edenville, the project is on course despite some repairs to faulty pipes.

### Heilbron & Phiritona

- Construction of 5km Pipeline and Elevated Tower (WSIG): Recently started, completion expected by March 2026. Iusa Technologies has been

appointed after a contractor change.

### Vredefort

- Upgrading of Water Treatment Works and Construction of a 4ML Reservoir (MIG): Just started in September 2025, with MP Construction & Projects establishing the site. Completion targeted for September 2026.

Executive Mayor: “Water Is a Basic Right”

Executive Mayor Cllr Victoria De Beer-Mthombeni described the projects as a vital step in restoring dignity to communities that have endured water shortages for years.

“Water is a basic right, and as Ngwathe we are prioritising this above all else. We have listened to residents from Parys, Vredefort, Heilbron, Koppies, and Edenville who have raised concerns for many years. These projects show that this administration is not only listening but acting.”

She added that the near-completion of the Koppies-Kwakwatsi pipeline was a sign of visible delivery.

“To see 99% progress on a bulk pipeline is a milestone. It means that for thousands of residents, access to water is no longer a dream but a reality.”

The Mayor also linked the water infrastructure investments to Ngwathe’s economic development goals.

“Reliable water supply is key to unlocking growth in tourism, agriculture, and industry. This investment is not just about taps running — it’s about jobs, opportunities, and building sustainable communities.”

## Municipal Manager: “Building Sustainable Infrastructure”

Municipal Manager Dr Futhuli P. Mothamaha emphasised that the water projects were being monitored closely to ensure quality and accountability.

“We are building sustainable infrastructure that will serve our communities for decades to come. While some projects have faced delays, the important thing is that corrective action has been taken, contractors are in place, and work is continuing.”



He also underlined the importance of proper maintenance after completion.

“Delivering water infrastructure is only the first step. We must maintain it to prevent future breakdowns. The municipality has put systems in place for ongoing monitoring and repairs, so that residents are not left to suffer again after many years without proper supply.”

## A Turning Point for Ngwathe

The scale of the projects demonstrates Ngwathe Local Municipality’s renewed focus on basic services, after years of underinvestment in water infrastructure.

Communities like Mokwallo in Vredefort and Mapetla section in Parys, which have experienced water shortages for over a decade, are already beginning to benefit from restored supply.

By 2026, once the major treatment works upgrades and bulk pipelines are complete, Ngwathe expects to have secured consistent water access across all five of its towns.

For residents, this progress marks a turning point. Clean water in their homes is not just about service delivery — it is about dignity, health, and economic opportunity.

Ngwathe Local Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr Victoria De Beer-Mthombeni has conducted an oversight visit to the ongoing water supply project in Mokwallo, Vredefort, reaffirming her administration’s commitment to addressing the water challenges that have affected residents for over a decade.

## Water at Last for Mapetla Section

The visit comes as residents of Mapetla section celebrate a long-awaited milestone—having clean water running from their taps after more than 10 years of struggle. Many residents narrated how they were forced to rely on unreliable water tankers, boreholes, or travel long distances to access water, describing the new development as life-changing.

“This is the first time in years that we can open a tap in our own homes and see water flowing,” said one resident, expressing relief and gratitude. The community described the project as restoring dignity and improving health, especially for children and the elderly.

## Leadership Oversight

The Executive Mayor was joined by senior leadership and councillors during the site visit, including the MMC for Public Safety and Disaster Cllr Noma Moloi, Ward 14 Councillor Cllr Thabo Sothoane, the Municipal Manager Dr Futhuli P. Mothamaha, Director of Technical Services Ms Patricia Morokolo, and members of the administrative team. Their presence underscored the importance

of political and administrative accountability in monitoring service delivery projects.

Speaking during the visit, De Beer-Mthombeni said the project is a direct response to the commitments made in her State of the Municipality Address.

“Water supply remains one of our key priorities as a municipality. We cannot talk about development or improved quality of life without first addressing the most basic need—access to clean water. Today we are seeing real progress, and this is just the beginning,” she said.

## Turning Promises into Action

The Mayor further highlighted that the water project is part of a broader infrastructure improvement plan across Ngwathe.

“This administration has been clear that service delivery is not negotiable. What we promised in the State of the Municipality Address is being implemented, and the joy we see in the faces of residents today motivates us to do even more,” De Beer-Mthombeni said.

Municipal Manager Dr Futhuli P. Mothamaha added that technical planning and consistent monitoring are key to sustaining water access. “This project shows what can be achieved



when technical teams, councillors, and the community work together. It is also a lesson for us to maintain infrastructure once it has been delivered, so that residents do not have to go back to years of struggling,” he said.

## A Community Transformed

For the people of Mokwallo, the water project is more than just a pipe and tap—it is a promise of dignity and progress.

The initiative is expected to reduce waterborne illnesses, improve sanitation, and encourage economic activity in the area.

As Ngwathe continues rolling out infrastructure projects in other towns, the Vredefort water supply upgrade stands as proof that years of neglect can be overcome with political will, proper planning, and a commitment to residents.