



Foreword by the Executive Mayor

September has been a month during which the “normal hectic” pace turned into absolute overdrive for most of us. Members of staff and Council have been participating in Arbor Day, the IEC’ registration weekend, the Provincial Aids Council, interaction with the Provincial Office for Land Reform, our first strategic planning session towards our budget submission deadline, a presentation on security measures by the NIA, and a number of other activities. Two activities that are engraved in our minds must be the Provincial Housing Summit and President Mbeki’s Municipal Imbizo in Frances Baard District. We felt honoured, excited, and I must add - somewhat terrified, having to present to the President and his team what we have delivered and what our challenges are as municipalities in this District. What is very encouraging to note, is that in

all these activities, FBDM and other institutions of government are beginning to work closer together. Yes, the process is still slow and painful, but this is what WE HAVE

TO DO in order to speed up delivery to the communities we serve. We have seen from the housing summit and the Presidential Imbizo, that now is NOT the time to pat ourselves on the back in self-satisfaction. With humility and gratitude we have to acknowledge that we have made progress, but also to lift our eyes with determination and resolve to climb the mountains still ahead. Thank you to staff, yes - you who are reading this, who through your individual contribution, are making a great contribution to “*Team Frances*”.



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(Municipal Imbizo pictures courtesy of the DFA)

Municipal Imbizo Project Consolidate

Towards Good Governance

The President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Thabo Mbeki, accompanied by Cabinet Ministers, the Premier and Provincial MEC's visited the Frances Baard District in the Northern Cape Province on Friday, 30 September 2005.

Project Consolidate, a hands-on local government support and engagement programme, was launched in October 2004.

In the context of Project Consolidate, the President, the Deputy President and Cabinet Ministers are pursuing the Municipal Izimbizo programme, whose objective is to support municipalities in the achievement of their key performance areas and to deepen local government transformation.

Since the launch of the Project, Government has been focusing on the service delivery challenges and capacity constraints that are facing individual municipalities. This was informed by a detailed assessment of challenges according to each province and the municipalities concerned.

The targeted five Key Performance Areas (KPA's), are as follow:

- Basic Service Delivery and Infrastructure;
- Local Economic Development;
- Municipal Transformation and Institutional Development;
- Municipal Financial Viability; and
- Good Governance and Community Participation

Achievements

The Mayor of the FBDM highlighted the district achievements as follow:

In terms of free basic services access to most services at district level is above Provincial average; all municipalities provide free basic water and electricity; Dikgatlong, Magareng and Phokwane provide 6kl of water to all indigents. Period 2000 – 2005: 93% of households have supply of water to RDP standard. Over 16,595 households benefited from R25 million investment on electricity between (2000-2005). The total housing units build from 2000 - 2005 is 8458.

Challenges

Still remaining challenges constitute the following:

Capacity constraints - Human resources and funding in municipalities hampering speedier service delivery. Inadequate **capacity** of emerging contractors / service providers

Water provision - District-wide backlog of 6,444 households (below RDP standard).

Sanitation - Current backlog estimated at 18,892 households below RDP standards.

Solid waste removal - Backlog for district: 18,204 households (78,2%)

Key Decisions

- Potential roving technical teams to support municipalities
- Improved support to enhance financial viability
- Further effort from Provincial and National Government to support municipalities in district
- Specialist support from DPLG in economic development
- Investigate capacity deficiencies for potential support
- Potential partnership with De Beers in terms of capacity building



IDP Hearings

Section 32 of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000 requires municipalities to submit a copy of their IDPs to the MEC for Local Government for comments. In support of the Provincial IDP engagement and MEC's comments processes, the Department of Housing and Local Government (dplg) came up with a national support initiative to facilitate government-wide input in the IDPs - **IDP HEARINGS**.

The initiative engaged municipalities and line departments (national and provincial) on the implementation of key national priorities in municipal areas.

Objectives

- Evaluate implementation of IDPs over the past 4 years.
- Assist municipalities to adopt realistic and credible IDPs by June 2005.
- Assist new local government representatives in the next term to continue sound leadership and direction setting.
- Support provinces with IDP monitoring and the MEC assessment process.
- Facilitate content related discussions on achieving national goals through appropriate municipal development strategies and plans.

Focus

- Prioritization of developmental needs,
- Allocation and management of resources,
- Implementation and monitoring of projects, and
- Provincial and national inputs and support in integrated development planning.

Main development challenges

High levels of poverty, unstable migration pattern of communities -thus making provision of service delivery difficult, shortage of personnel and sparsely populated district.

Key Economic Potential

A key driving force for economic development is subsistence farming and agriculture, mining and tourism.

FBDM Action Plan

In response to the recommendations (see box below), the following activities were identified:

Basic services

- Establish statistics for basic services in the district

Community Participation

- Undertake ward base IDP Rep Forums in each municipality

Land use management and spatial planning

- Collect spatial information for the preparation of the district SDF.

Economic Development

- Identify potential economic activities
- Identify potential anchor projects

Governance and Institutional Capacity

- Undertake training in project management and administration
- Undertake training in financial planning and management, budgeting and tendering procedures and processes and strategic planning management and administration

Inter-governmental coordination

- Translate sector plans into tangible projects

Recommendations

1. Quantification of basic services
2. Finalisation of SDF
3. Undertaking of key economic analysis
4. Development of entrepreneurs database
5. Development of management skills
6. Enhancement of Inter-governmental relations
7. Strengthening of IDP Representative Fora

BUDGET FORUM – REPLACEMENT OF RSC LEVIES

The Regional Services Council (RSC) and Joint Services Board levies were introduced in 1985 and 1990 respectively in order to fund the provision of basic services such as water, electricity, sewerage and bulk waste to under-serviced communities.

With the restructuring of Local Government post 1994, the Regional Services Councils and Joint Services Boards were replaced by District Municipalities (Category C municipalities). Metropolitan Councils (also referred to as Category A municipalities) and Category C municipalities have access to this source of revenue.

The RSC levy system consists of two components, a “regional services levy” and a “regional establishment levy”, calculated on payroll and turnover respectively. The actual rates vary by municipality, but have not been increased since 1996.

Recognising that the RSC levies perform rather poorly with regard to the generally accepted principles of sound taxation, the Minister of Finance announced in the 2005 Budget that RSC levies would be abolished from 30 June 2006.

Possible reform options

The local government financing requirements should be resolved by a financing package that includes a mixture of grants, revenue sharing, tax sharing and autonomous tax instruments devolved to local government. Any one alternative tax instrument (base) need not exactly replicate current RSC collections. It should rather be considered as contributing towards a range of instruments/funding options aimed at addressing the local government financing requirements holistically.

The following reform options could replace revenues from RSC levies:

- Local business tax as primary source to replace RSC levies from 1 July 2006
- Business licence fee as a possible complementary measure to the proposed local business tax (for companies falling outside the local business tax system)
- A surcharge on user charges for municipal services, including a municipal electricity surcharge, as a partial replacement for the RSC levy
- Grants could perform two functions, namely:
 - i. a guaranteed revenue source for municipalities or categories of municipalities
 - ii. a transitional funding mechanism to smooth any possible shocks from the abolishment of RSC levies and the replacement thereof with alternative revenue source(s)

The possible reform options are presently being discussed and finality on the matter should be reached soon.

O & M

Infrastucture is often poorly maintained in Northern Cape municipalities, if it is maintained at all, due to a lack of capacity and funds for O&M. One strategy of the O&M Project is thus to establish O&M Support Units at district level, and Frances Baard District Municipality (FBDM) has been chosen as a pilot site for the first Support Unit.

The FBDM pilot site is run by a task team led by the chairperson of the Infrastructure Development Committee, Cllr Paul Jammer, and includes all the technical services directors responsible for O&M from the local municipalities in the district. Originally, we envisaged a district team going out and doing repairs for local municipalities, but now we feel that assisting and working alongside them will better achieve our aim, which is to build their capacity.



Support Unit Pilot Site

Current projects

There are several projects in progress, where O&M is the focus:

- Upgrading of sewerage works in Jan Kempdorp (Phokwane)
- Repairing and improving the water purification plant in Barkley West (Dikgatlong)
- A baseline study of water-related infrastructure in Phokwane, Magareng and Dikgatlong

Total upgrading of all plants cannot be done under this programme. When a plant is not able to function due to neglect, normal O&M is not possible, and repairs become expensive. It was thus decided by the task team to upgrade only certain plants, and then assist these municipalities to improve their normal O&M, to prevent these plants from becoming obsolete again.

Funding

The pilot unit is currently funded by the programme, supported by the Department of Housing and Local Government, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Development Bank of Southern Africa, SIDA and Frances Baard District Municipality.

The real challenge is to secure a permanent source of funding for future O&M activities. Most funders prefer large capital projects, and see O&M as a municipal responsibility, but smaller municipalities lack income to do proper O&M.

One solution is to allocate a certain percentage of capital spending to O&M, as the needs and costs are higher at first, due to long-standing neglect. But if all major repairs are done, and a proper O&M programme, coupled with the nec-

essary training, is put in place, then future O&M needs and costs will certainly decrease.

The way forward

The baseline study to identify O&M needs will require cooperation from municipalities, and co-responsibility. The support unit will in future play a consulting role, fund projects, and test and promote various options such as community based O&M, and partnerships between public and private sectors.

Initial stages of the construction of the Hartswater waste water treatment plant



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



1 Phokwane Programme

In July 2005 the FBDM in conjunction with State Departments and Non-government Organisations (NGO's) embarked on an out reach programme. The purpose of the exercise was to take government and other community development services to the most needy communities. The event was held at Motswedithuto Primary School at the Phokwane municipal area. The delegation comprised of the following: FBDM, Eskom, Social Services, SAPS, Labour, IEC, Public Protector, Home Affairs, PPASA and Health. More than 290 people visited the service point. During the event, all the teams made presentations on regarding the services they provide.

◀ Helpdesk of the Department of Labour

2 Koopmansfontein

The FBDM is currently busy with an electrification project in Koopmansfontein for 37 households. Electricity safety awareness forms part of the whole package. The Community Development Unit of the FBDM together with Eskom's Public Safety Unit embarked on a safety campaign whereby the community of Koopmansfontein was engaged in an educational programme regarding safety. Demonstrations were done and public participation encouraged through question and answer sessions and prizes ranging from squeeze bottle's, t-shirts and Eskom's promotional items were distributed.



Electricity Safety Campaign - Eskom official doing a demonstration on the safe use of electricity ▲

From the Municipal Manager's Desk



The President Imbizo that was hosted by the Frances Baard District Municipality on the 30 September 2005 presented an opportunity for the three spheres

of government to interact and unpack the challenges faced by local government which is at the coalface of delivery.

The key issues discussed included Project Consolidate, municipal transformation and institutional development, municipal financial viability, basic service and infrastructure, local economic development, and good governance and leadership.

A reflection was given at the end of this interactive session as regard the way forward. This reflection can be

summed up into three broad areas

It was concluded to have a balanced approach to Basic Service Delivery vs. LED within the national space economy.

Urgent needs exist to develop technical skills within the context of Project Consolidate (district wide action plan within the overall provincial plan).

Improve the capacity and organisation of National and Provincial Departments over time to actively support local government.

Tourism Month Soccer Day

On the 23rd September 2005 the tourism division of the FBDM arranged a Soccer Day for local schools in the region as part of tourism month. Tourism Month is one of the main events celebrated annually in South Africa. Local schools said that the sports event afforded children a chance to relax from their studies and to learn more of what the tourism field had to offer them through various speakers on the day.

Eight local schools namely, Homevale Secondary, Zingiza Intermediate School, Boys High, Emmang Mmogo Secondary, Pescodia High, St. Boniface, !Xunkhewesa Combined School and Tshireleco Secondary School were invited. They all participated in a Soccer Tournament held at the Galeshewe Stadium.

Local food stall owners in Galeshewe sold their products at the stadium



The winning team: Boys High School

on the day. Various sponsors also contributed to the success of the event; Northern Cape Tourism Authority provided t-shirts for the players, Swiftprint provided the trophy for the winning team, Griqualand West Rugby Union provided water bottles for the players and Keep Kimberley Clean provided refuse bins. The winning team was Boys High School.

Casual Day 01 September 2005



It has become tradition at the FBDM Offices for staff members to dress up in support of CANSA. This September was no different as staff members took to the spirit and donned their best “rags” to celebrate the coming of spring! The theme this year was to dress as “hobo’s” (as can be clearly seen in the pictures).

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations!

APPOINTMENTS:

Tumelo Moea - Human Resource Practitioner

PROMOTIONS:

Job Douw - Gang Boss (Technical Services)

Joshua Mashinyana - Grader Operator (Technical Services)

Paulina Thabane - Senior Cleaner / Tea Lady (Administration)

LONG SERVICE AWARDS:

Name	App. Date	Years
P Z Mandleleni	10/07/1995	10
L B Williams	01/09/1995	10
E van Niekerk	05/09/1995	10
N Joseph	11/09/1995	10

Ashlyn Kenny

Obtained her BA Communications degree. We are proud of you!



The Municipal Manager, Mr Thabo Nosi was the best of 22 students that completed a 18 months training programme for Municipal Managers at Free State University.

RESIGNATIONS:

Percy Pitso - LED Manager

Paulus Jacobs - Senior Environmental Health Officer

Andries Mokgele - LED Assistant

IN MEMORIAM

Ms Ruth Louw

Ruth Louw passed away on 19 September 2005 after a long suffering. She was employed by FBDM for less than four years, but she left us with numerous fine memories. One just had to take note of her. She was a tea lady and cleaner, but in reality she was, in her own words, a "stress reliever", despite personal circumstances.

Editorial Note

It is with immense pride that I look back at the work that was put into this edition. I realise that with a dedicated team to back you anything is possible.

To everyone who contributed to the finished product, thank you. To my Editorial Team, a special word of thanks, you have really shown commitment to making this edition possible.

The Presidential Imbizo have been the focus point for most of this quarter and I am sure that it was a gruelling few weeks, but all worthwhile in the end. Project Consolidate have proven effective in highlighting all the areas that we need to work even harder on to ensure that we improve our service delivery.

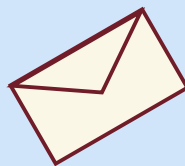
I hope all the readers enjoyed this issue and we look forward to your comments.

Gerline Roman
Editor

TAKE NOTE

- 7-18 Nov 05
Council meets the People
- 01 Dec 05
World Aids Day

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