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Message from the Executive Mayor

It is hard to believe it is that time of the year again when families will be reunited to celebrate Christmas and usher in the New Year together. 2013 has indeed been a memorable year in many respects; amongst the many memorable moments what perhaps stands out is that this year marked 100 years since the enactment of the 1913 Native Land Act.

The Act was a brutal piece of legislation passed by the apartheid government, which facilitated the dispossession of natives from their ancestral land and redistribute such amongst white colonialists.

As it would be expected, the Act had an adverse effect on the socio-economic development of black people in this country. However since the dawn of democracy the ANC led government has passed pieces of legislation which sort to undo the damage done by the Native Land Act of 1913. The government has implemented a policy on land reform. Under the land redistribution programme government has invested R

7.2 billion for land acquisition. Since 1994 nearly 3 Million hectares of land has been redistributed to more than 220 000 beneficiaries through 2 600 projects.

This and other good stories can be proudly told as the successes this country has achieved up to now, however a lot still needs to be done and we at Frances Baard District Municipality are committed to make our contribution to create more good stories for our people.

I want to thank the staff at FBDM for their dedication to serve our people, the local municipalities and other spheres of government for their contributions to enable our municipality to achieve its set targets for 2013. I wish all the communities of Frances Baard District Municipality a merry Christmas and a prosperous 2014.



**The Executive Mayor
Ms Khadi Moloi**



The Parliamentary Housing Committee chairperson addresses community members during an oversight visit in Kimberley in September 2013. **Read more on PAGE 3**



From the Municipal Manager's Desk

The year 2013 has been both challenging and exciting for us at Frances Baard District Municipality. As a district municipality one of our critical mandates is to provide support to our local municipalities in the delivery of services to the communities.

We have successfully implemented numerous infrastructure projects which were identified in the IDP's of the respective local municipalities, these projects include amongst others;

- The purchase of two sanitation trucks for Dikgatlong Local Municipality to the value of about R 2 Million.
- Funding for the repairs and maintenance of the Barkly West Treatment Works and for the construction of roads in De Beershoogte.
- Construction of a 2 km road in Ganspan, Phokwane Local Municipality, with a storm water drainage system.
- Water reticulation network for 558 sites in Warrentvale Magareng Local Municipality, and the general upgrading of the water network.

The oversight visit by the parliamentary committee on human settlements to our district presented us with an opportunity to be assessed on whether we are on track in implementing government programmes and policies on sustainable and integrated human settlements.

We welcome the impression by the committee that the municipalities in the district are performing well in terms of delivery of sustainable human settlements. This can be attributed to the support the district municipality is giving to its local municipalities, especially on spatial development planning and project management.

One of the highlights has been the progress made on the Lerato Park mixed development housing project, which was commended on the quality and the design of the houses. We applaud both Sol Plaatje Municipality and COGHSTA for the progress on this project.

Nothing was as humbling as seeing how beneficiaries of the Lerato Park appreciated the houses which were handed over to them during an official ceremony in October 2013. The FBDM is continuing to invest in SMME development and registration of new companies. Our annual School Tourism Business Plan Competition has grown tremendously; this year 17 schools participated in the competition compared to 9 in 2011/12.

In 2014 South Africa will be celebrating 20 years since the advent of democracy in 1994, as a district municipality we are confident that we can be counted as one of the significant contributors to the successes this country has achieved since 1994. It is important to highlight that we would not have made such contributions had it not been for the dedication, hard work and commitment of the personnel of our municipality, some have been with the institution for more than a decade and have contributed immensely to the growth of this institution.

I thank the staff of Frances Baard District Municipality for their contribution, and most importantly the greatest focus in making this municipality one of the reputable public institutions in the country. At the time of reading this piece, we would have received our audit outcome from the Auditor-General. So watch this space in the next edition. May the entire district have a merry Christmas. To all of you and your families, enjoy your holidays, travel safe and come back in the New Year fully energized and ready tackle the challenges ahead of us.



**Municipal Manager
Ms Mamikie Bogatsu**

A number of Parliament's Committees undertook oversight visits to different provinces to, among others, assess projects and programmes falling within their mandates. The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements visited the Northern Cape and specifically the Frances Baard district to assess progress in the implementation of government's programme on human settlements.

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements visited the Northern Cape from 28 July to 02 August 2013 to assess progress regarding the implementation of a comprehensive integrated human settlements strategy in the province and the building of government houses for indigent communities as well as compliance to policy and legislative prescripts.

ht visit - parliamentary ettlements committee

Policy gaps identified by the Committee

- Allocation of resources does not consider the topographic challenges
- The allocation of funds through a population census report have hit hard on the delivery of housing in the province, notwithstanding that the province has been declared as a development corridor
- Withdrawal of Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) from the district municipalities that have been accredited to implement human settlements program pose the challenge for these municipalities to provide a dedicated support to the local municipalities.
- Lack of systems for early detection of public servants doing business with government (bidding from other provinces)
- Lack of clear policy directives guiding the implementation of MIG in support of human settlements development programme especially (Bulk Infrastructure)

The Committee commended the province for the quality and the design of the houses built, e.g. Lerato Park and Kiemoes Project and Matjieskloof.

Furthermore, the Committee appreciated the commitment towards the National Upgrading Support Programme of the informal settlements as well the utilisation of the budget optimally by the province.

Nonetheless the Committee was concerned about the pace of service delivery (very slow as compared to the housing demand in the province). Committee Chairperson, Ms Nomhle Dambuza, highlighted that poor planning was also the biggest problem which resulted in projects not being completed, and end up impacting negatively on cost escalation for projects. There was a need to improve on inter-governmental relations, she added.

Although the Committee acknowledges the scarcity of resources, effective and optimal resource utilisation is a universal challenge within the sector.

The Committee was also concerned that the ward committee system as not functional in most municipalities in the province, which is very important part of public participation that is meant to inform the IDP of the

municipality. The Committee was also concerned to learn that the bucket system and asbestos roof still existed long after the deadline for their total eradication had passed.

The Committee advised the province to prioritise sanitation and ensure that bucket system is completely eradicated and consider retaining available land for housing development instead of selling to private developers.

Aside from the visit to the Frances Baard district the Committee also visited projects in Siyanda district (Danielskuil, Upington and Keimoes), John Taolo Gaetsewe district (rural villages / settlements in Joe Morolong, Ga-Segonyana and Gamagara municipalities).

Source: Parliament of South Africa



Members of the Portfolio Committee during the briefing session on Sunday afternoon, 28/07/2013.



Members of the Portfolio Committee inspecting the houses at Lerato Park on Monday 29/07/2013.

2013/14 budget for the FBDM

“The main focus of the district municipality is to support its local municipalities in the delivery of basic services to the community and to build capacity at these municipalities.”

The budget of the district municipality consists of two main revenue streams i.e. government grants and interest earned on external investments.

71 positions on the organogram are directly and / or indirectly involved in support to local municipalities to the estimated amount of R15,19m or 28,83% of the total employee related costs budget.

The municipality employed 30 interns to the estimated amount of R1,90m. This includes five finance interns, which is compulsory in terms of the financial management grant.

The district municipality is experiencing a major decline in its revenue base as its revenue has increased by only 3.3% from the previous year. Contribution from reserves to fund infrastructure projects drastically declined with regard to the outer years as the district municipality will not be able to sustain the high level reserve funding

The district municipality gives direct funding to the local municipalities, which was informed by the community needs as captured in each municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP). The district municipality does not generate its own revenue and is restricted on the allocation received from equitable share

Basic services focus areas

- Reduction of water, sanitation electricity, street & storm water & community facilities backlog
- Assist LM's to perform its responsibility with the provision of basic services
- Operation & Maintenance
- Housing function accreditation & implementation

Support given to local municipalities

The planning and development department of the district municipalities provides assistance to its local municipalities with the preparation and implementation of Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).

The department facilitates strategic planning, support town and regional planning, promote the development of geographic information systems (GIS) in category B

Key factors

- Grants makes up 94% of the revenue base and interest on external investment 5%.
- The main cost drivers for the municipality are salaries and grants.
- The district municipality relies heavily on grant funding as its main source of revenue
- More than 40% of the entire budget of the district municipality is committed towards the support of the local municipalities

Support to local municipalities:

- Salaries of employees involved in support amounts to R15,19m
- Operations & maintenance of infrastructure amounts to R9,66m
- Capital funding amounts to R11,95m
- Other Social economic related projects amounts to ±R 6,89m

Budget

- Operational = R121,16m
- Capital = R 4,29m.
- Largest portion of the budget allocated to Planning & Development and Infrastructure Services = R42,94m

municipalities and ensure sustainable development of the district economy through its LED unit. The district municipality provides administrative support in areas such as financial management, technical project support and audit functions.

The disaster management unit of the district municipality provides support with the implementation and review of disaster management plans. The district municipality developed municipal and environmental by-laws which will a legal and administrative framework within which municipal health obligations can be developed and regulated.

Celebrating Mandela Day

The 18th of July marks the celebration of Mandela day. The day calls upon everyone to dedicate 67 minutes of their time towards making a meaningful contribution in changing the lives of those less fortunate.

“It’s in your hands to make the world a better place.” This is what Nelson Mandela said during his 90th birthday celebration. He was appealing to all citizens to stand and do something for their fellow South African.

On 18 July 2013 the district municipality together with the Dikgatlong Municipality and the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) certainly lived up to these words when they handed over two houses to two very needy families.

The first family was that of Mr Bojosi Piet Sesenyamotse a 74 year old man. He lives with his wife and 5 children in a small shack in Windsorton and is the only breadwinner with his state pension. When the district mayor accompanied by councillors and officials from both the district municipality and the Dikgatlong municipality arrived at their house, they have been ready and waiting for hours.

It was clear to see that he could not contain his excitement and gratitude. “I am so happy today. My family will finally be living in a decent house,” said tata Sesenyamotse, with tears running down his face.

The second family really touched the hearts of everyone who read their backgrounds. Mr. Mothogaobonwe Blackie Basile is an 80 year old gentleman who is partially sighted. He has one dependent, his 9 year old granddaughter, Shereen Basile, the child of his totally blind daughter Monica (29).

Mr. Basile and his granddaughter currently resided in a shack in Haak en Steek, Barkly West, an informal settlement, where they have no access to water or sanitation.

“Life certainly was not easy for us. We really struggled to make ends meet. That is why we are so happy today to be moving into this house,” said Monica. She spoke on behalf of her grandfather and thanked all involved for making it possible for them to have a house in which they can now be more comfortable.

The Frances Baard District Municipality in conjunction with COGHSTA and Dikgatlong



A proud Mr Sesenyamotse unlocking the door of his new house. Flanked by the executive mayor, Ms Kgadi Moloi (right) and the speaker, Mr Brummer Maribe (left).



Members of the Basile family with Mr Basile (second from left) and Monica (fourth from left). Standing in front of the house as the MEC for COGHSTA, Mr Alvin Botes addressed the gathering before handing over the house to the family.

Municipality constructed houses for these deserving beneficiaries. These families were chosen as they have been waiting several years to benefit from the subsidy programme and are representative of those in need and who through the human settlements programme stands to benefit. Several sponsors from Kimberley and Barkly West also contributed to the successful completion of the houses. They were: Afrisam (Pty) Ltd; Macs Electrical; Central Roof Industries; Wills Construction; E-Store Barkly West; Pearsons Food Zone; Cocopan Cafe; Old Style Fish & Chips; Z&S Furnishers Stores and Drude Contractors.

Celebrating Woman's Day



Mrs Elsie Ramahule in front of her new house with the Executive Mayor, Ms Kgadi Moloi. Left the mayor helps grandma Ramahule to unlock the door to her house. She started to "ululate" in excitement.

In the 57 years since the march to the Union Buildings, the phrase "you strike a woman, you strike a rock" has come to represent women's courage and strength in South Africa.

As part of the annual "Woman's Day" celebrations the Frances Baard District Municipality in conjunction with COGHSTA and Magareng Municipality constructed houses for two deserving beneficiaries.

These families were chosen as they are representative of those women whom represent women's courage and strength in South Africa and those in need and who through the human settlements programme stands to benefit.

On the 22nd of August 2013 the Executive Mayor of Frances Baard District Municipality handed over houses to Ms Sannah Baapad in Pampierstad and Ms Elsie Ramahule in Kingston, Jan Kempdorp.

Ms Baapad (63) is a single parent whose daughter was brutally raped and murdered in 2010. She currently lives and cares for her two granddaughters.

The incident took place in the Galeshewe graveyard where this young lady was brutally raped by a group of young men, eventually murdered and her body severely mutilated. Ms Baapad resided in a shack in Pampierstad with her two granddaughters and is unemployed.

Ms. Elsie Ramahule (71) is also a single parent who suffers from memory loss, presumably the onset of Alzheimer's disease.

This has however never been confirmed by a medical doctor. She resided in a shack with no sanitation facilities in Kingston. She lives with her two grandchildren and is unemployed.

These families were chosen as they have been waiting several years to benefit from the subsidy programme and are representative of those women that symbolize women's courage and strength in South Africa, and who through the human settlements programme stands to benefit.



Ms Sannah Baapad (centre) with the executive mayor, Ms Khadi Moloi and Mr Eric Verkerk who's company supplied tiles and furniture for the house.



Promoting tourism development through business plan competition

The FBDM hosted its tourism schools business plan competition for 2013 over a period of several months, which culminated in an awards evening on 11 October 2013.

The aim of the competition is to promote tourism development and entrepreneurship amongst learners and encourage them to think creatively about the role of information and communication technologies in tourism development.

The competition presents learners with the opportunity to practically develop their business plan writing skills and have their business plans evaluated by experts as well as equipping and developing tourism classrooms for use as “media centres”.

High schools in the district offering tourism as a subject are the focus of the competition. Learners from grades 10 - 12 were afforded the opportunity to enter and compile a business plan on the following sectors: Leisure –Tourism, Tourism Route, Extreme –Tourism and Agri-Tourism.

Preparatory workshops for learners were hosted during April 2013 to improve on their presentation and writing skills in order for them to prepare the business plan for adjudication.

Presentation sessions, which formed part of the adjudication process, were held during August 2013. During this process the participating learners were given an opportunity to present their business plans to a panel of business plan writing experts. The third and final phase is an award ceremony which is held to honour the participants and winning schools.

In terms of prizes all participating schools received a “development incentive grant” to the value of R 5,000. The sector winners received an additional amount to the value of R 2,500. The overall winner received an additional amount to the value of R 5,000.

A sponsorship was received from Standard Bank for the successful roll-out of the competition.

FBDM will utilize the prize monies to procure furniture and other items for use in the tourism classrooms to further promote and develop tourism in schools. A total of 17 schools within the district participated in this year’s competition, namely:

- Greenpoint High School
- Northern Cape High School
- St. Boniface High School
- Vaalharts High School
- Hoërskool Vaalrivier
- William Pescod High School
- Elizabeth Conradie School
- Kimberley Girls High School
- Tshireleco High School
- Boresetse High School
- Mogomotsi High School
- Banksdrift High School
- Floors High School
- Hoërskool Hartswater
- Warrenvale High School
- Diamantveld High School; and
- Adamantia High School

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Fire engine to help combat shortage of fire services

The Northern Cape Province is not well equipped when it comes to the delivery of fire services. Only two out of the five districts have designated fire services which are situated in the Frances Baard District (Sol Plaatje Emergency Services in Kimberley) and the Siyanda District (//Kara-Heis Emergency Services in Upington).

This capacity lacks in the other three districts is forcing them to depend on Fire Protection Associations and volunteer fire fighters which resorts under disaster management. Currently some of the municipalities in John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality have entered into agreements with "Working on Fire" to extinguish structural and veldfires.

In the Frances Baard District municipal area all the municipalities outside the boundaries of the Sol Plaatje emergency services had to depend on Fire Protection Associations.

FBDM took a strategic decision to procure a medium capacity fire engine which can be utilized for the fighting of veld fires and structural fires. .



Features of the fire engine:

- 4 x4 capabilities;
- 3000l water carrying capacity;
- Equipped with Foam expansion system which can be utilized with the water to increase fire; extinguishing efficiency;
- Equipped to fight structural fires;
- Equipped to fight veldfires; and
- Equipped to do basic motor vehicle extrications;

Tourism awareness campaign

During tourism month a district-wide tourism awareness campaign was launched which included the four local municipalities and the district municipality.

The campaign created opportunities for the participating municipalities to promote and market their tourism products and services, create awareness and disseminate information.

The aim of the campaign was to market district tourism products and services and to position the Frances Baard district as a preferred tourism destination to domestic tourism masses.

The campaign took place in the form of events hosted in the four local municipal areas. Included in the activities were cultural exhibitions, a road show, soccer tournament and marathons. Each municipal area was showcasing the talent and cultural diversity they have within their communities



Top: The medals and trophy up for grabs during the soccer tournament. Above: The winning team from Dikgatlong Municipality.



Left: Exhibitors at the tournament

Dikgatlong Municipality receives sanitation truck

The communities serviced by Dikgatlong Municipality stretches from Koopmansfontein (90km west of Barkly West) to Windsorton (40km east of Barkly West) which includes 9 settlements. Many of the areas are serviced with on-site sanitation which needs attention from time-to-time.

The municipality was servicing these on-site sanitation systems with only one old sanitation truck. This truck experienced many breakdowns due to its age, the amount of kilometers to be travelled and the workload. This severely compromised service delivery and the municipality received many complaints from the community.

The district municipality budgeted for the acquisition of a sanitation truck in its 2012/13 financial year budget, after a request was received from the Dikgatlong Municipality. The initial request was for one truck but after assessing their situation they opted for two smaller trucks which will be able to accommodate the towns on the outskirts.

The capacity of each sanitation truck is 8000 litres. Theoretical and practical training on the operating and maintenance of the vehicles and on all attached and loose mechanical equipment was also given to six staff members of Dikgatlong Municipality.



The executive mayor, Ms Khadi Moloi hands over the keys to the

Disaster management volunteer training

Volunteers are an integral part of emergency services in rural areas. These people sacrifice their time, and sometimes their money, to help those who are destitute and helpless. The National Disaster Management Act allows municipalities to establish a unit of volunteers to participate in disaster management.

On 22 - 24 May 2013 the district municipality through "Working on Fire" trained 30 volunteers on the basic fire fighting techniques. The purpose of the training was to equip volunteers with the basic knowledge required to operate effectively during a fire incident.

Volunteers are divided into different categories i.e. first aiders, fire fighters, traffic control, etc. The training, was divided in theory and practical sessions. Volunteers from wards in Delportshoop, Koopmansfontein, Pniel and Gong-Gong were taken through this 3-day training programme.

In November 2012 the district experienced heavy losses and damage to farms in especially the Koopmansfontein area. Farmers lost an estimated 200,000 hectares of grazing in 22 incidents reported to the district municipality.

After this incident the district municipality identified the need to train volunteers to increase the fire fighting capacity in the Dikgatlong Local Municipality.

Training areas covered included firefighting techniques such as: fire line safety; basic causes of veldfires; how to make fire breaks; and the utilization of different equipment to combat veldfires.



The volunteers are taken through the correct procedure on how to handle the fire hose.

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Overall winner - Kimberley Girls High



Sector winner - Leisure Tourism:
Diamantveld High School



Sector winner - Agri Tourism:
Hoërskool Vaalharts



Sector winner - Tourism Route:
Elizabeth Conradie School



Sector winner - Extreme Tourism:
Kimberley Girls High School

At a glance: Activities and projects implemented in 2012/13

Infrastructure

An allocation of R21,802,000.00 was made to Category B Municipalities for capital projects. Eleven (11) projects in the local municipalities were funded by this allocation.

In Dikgatlong municipal area R6.4m was spent on the Barkly West Treatment Works, the construction of roads in De Beershoogte and procurement of sanitation trucks.

In Phokwane R6.2m was spent to construct a 2km paved road with stormwater drainage for Ganspan and a electricity master plan for the municipality.

In Magareng R6.1m was spent on a water reticulation network for 558 sites in Warrenvale, general upgrading of the water network, provision of water and electricity meters to 350 households and and electricity master plan for the municipality.

In Sol Plaatje R3.07m was spent on water and sanitation provision to 150 households in Freedom Park.

An amount of R8.3m was allocated to category B municipalities for operation and maintenance in areas such as dry sanitation systems, streets and storm water, electrical networks and water and waste water infrastructure.

R250,000 was also allocated for projects in rural areas to provide basic services such as toilets and water connections.

Spatial planning

An integrated zoning scheme was developed for Phokwane Municipality to regulate, control and facilitate the land development to ensure effective land use management.

A topographical survey has been completed for:

- the extension of Kingston settlement
- areas in Barkly West where a floodline study was also completed

Geographic Information System

The land audit geodatabase was updated for all local municipalities in Frances Baard district and a meter reading project was completed for Magareng municipality. The municipality's billing database was assessed to provide it with a sound basis for revenue generation.

Fire Fighting and Disaster Management

An amount of R500,000 was spent on reviewing the district disaster management plan as well as the development of plans for each of the local municipalities.

A fire engine was also purchased to the amount of R2.1m to fight veld fires, structural fires, motor vehicle accidents

and hazardous incidents in the smaller municipalities in the district. R91,000 was also spent on continued volunteer training.

Housing

An amount of R693,000 was spent on assisting the Phokwane, Magareng and Dikgatlong municipalities with the review of their housing sector plans, housing chapters and housing strategies.

In Magareng a target of 200 housing units for 2012/13 was set of which 181 was completed. Of the overall identified 1000 units for Magareng 426 in total have been completed and handed over to beneficiaries translating to 43% overall progress.

The Pampierstad 1,422 households project which commenced in 2011/12, saw the successful completion of 700 units. The Kingston 685 housing project commenced with the installation of services to the area in the 2012/13 financial year. This phase was completed and the construction of houses will start in the 2013/14 financial year.

In Dikgatlong the De Beershoogte 552 housing project started with construction on the next phase of the project. Progress to date is: superstructures - 41; roofs - 41; foundation floor slabs - 9. The Barkly West Buffer Zone Development continued with the improvement of the area for 220 erven.

Tourism

A tourism asset audit was successfully completed and a tourism database was developed for all tourism assets within the district. R126,000 was also spent on a tourism route feasibility and business plan.

Local economic development

An amount of R472,000 was spent on the annual LED Expo. The objective of the expo is to connect, mentor and engage with entrepreneurs, academics, private sector, small business agencies, financial institutions and government in paving a growth path for enterprise development.

R450,000 was spent on SMME development and registration. Through this programme SMMEs that showed potential were assisted to employ more people and become sustainable. Eight SMMEs were identified and were assisted with material and equipment.

R200,000 was spent on supplying electricity to the Ritchie incubation centre to ensure that it becomes fully operational and thus would enable SMMEs to start with their operations.

Celebrating 20 years of freedom and democracy



On 27 April 1994 South Africa cast aside centuries of discrimination and oppression to form a new society built on the foundation of freedom and democracy.

This marked the end of apartheid rule and an introduction of a new Constitutional order, wherein all South Africans work towards a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

However, we must never forget that our road to democracy was not easy and was achieved because of the unyielding sacrifice of thousands of patriots.

The year 2014 presents an opportunity for the people of South Africa, the continent and rest of the world to join us in celebrating the South African story.

In 2014 South Africa will celebrate 20 years of freedom and democracy.

This momentous occasion presents an opportunity for us to reflect on how our freedom and democracy were achieved; the progress we have made the past 20 years; and on how South Africans will work together to implement Vision 2030.

Our Constitution lays the basis for the construction of a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist, united and prosperous society based on justice, equality, the rule of law and the inalienable human rights of all.

One of the symbolic moments of the exodus from the past was the raising of the new flag in 1994.

This moment aptly affirmed the pride and dignity of an unfolding country and a celebration of humanity.

Another significant moment was the merger of *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* and *Die Stem* to form one national anthem in 1997.

On 27 April 2000 the new coat of arms was launched embracing the collective historical essence of the people of the country

Messages for 20 years of freedom

- South Africa has come a long way in addressing injustice, inequality and poverty
- Society has been totally transformed in every sphere since 1994
- We still have a long way to go in improving the lives of all South Africans
- We celebrate our victory over apartheid
- Our celebration will strengthen our partnerships with the rest of the world
- As South Africans we feel proud of our achievements and commit ourselves to work towards a shared future

Source: South African Government Information website

Editorial Note

The houses that we handed over to needy families on both Mandela and Woman's Day touched us all deeply and it made us realise how, through the smallest act, we touch the lives of others and like ripples in the ocean it just spreads the goodwill wider and wider.

It is astounding that we have reached the halfway mark in the 2013/14 financial year already. Whilst some may say that they are battling to spend the allocated budget, the FBDM is on track with the implementation of its projects.

The municipal finance management act requires that a mid-year report be submitted to Council to monitor implementation of the budget.

In this issue we gave you an overview of the types of projects and activities that were implemented in the previous financial year. Going forward we plan to give you a step-by-step account of how the implementation of projects are proceeding throughout the year, starting at the mid-year assessment.

We have summarised the focus areas of the 2013/14 budget on page 4 and in the next issue we will be focussing on the progress achieved in key projects for the 2013/14 financial year. So keep watching this space.

We hope you enjoyed the read and we look forward to hearing from you.



Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year to all!

Gerline Roman

Editor



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