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Message from the Executive Mayor

Looking back at the 2012/13 financial year it becomes important to assess what we have done to contribute to the improvement of the lives of our community.

In this year we focussed more on operation and maintenance as the importance of maintaining existing infrastructure is crucial. Through sound financial management practices we enforced compliance to rules and regulations internally without fail.

The support we have given our local municipalities regarding engineering services has grown in intensity. To such an extent that our technicians are almost permanently stationed at these municipalities to help with the implementation of infrastructure projects. In this issue you will be reading about the visit conducted by the Infrastructure Committee to assess the extent and impact of the support given to local municipalities with regard to infrastructure development.

The district municipality has also provided technical support in town and regional planning, in integrated development

planning and has provided spatial information and data to municipalities for planning and decision-making.

Through our local economic development (LED) we have provided capacity building of local municipalities.

In terms of environmental health we have placed more emphasis on waste management and pollution. A waste buy-back centre was established in Barkly West and programmes carried out jointly with sector departments such as the water awareness campaign in Gong-Gong captured in this issue.

As a district municipality we are continuously supporting our local municipalities to deliver quality services to our community.

We will continue to do so, in spite of challenges.



**The Executive Mayor
Ms Khadi Moloi**



The Koopmansfontein area was hit by damaging veld fires in November 2012.

Read more on PAGE 3

From the Municipal Manager's Desk

As a municipality we set very high standards for ourselves.

So when we received a qualified audit report from the Auditor-General for the 2010/11 financial year it was not a pleasant experience.

Since taking up the reigns in January 2012 (as acting municipal manager at first) we have managed to complete our projects within the set timeframes and budgets; we have successfully prepared and reviewed the mid-term budget as well as performance reviews; we have completed the annual report for 2012/13 according to set timelines; we have managed to complete the district IDP which was adopted by Council in May along with the 2013/14 financial year budget and we are already preparing for the Auditor-General's financial and performance audit on the municipality, which will start as early as September this year.

We pride ourselves that as a municipality we have been rated by National Treasury as one of the municipalities in the country that has fully complied with the MFMA in terms of financial reforms.

Despite all of the above we do not presume to be without challenges, be it generic or more specific. We will however not lose focus of the reason for our existence; that being to maintain and sustain service delivery to the communities in our district.

As we await the start of the 2013/14 financial year we have ensured that we have various projects lined up for implementation.

These range from eradication of backlogs on water, sanitation, electricity, storm water and

water facilities; maintenance of municipal infrastructure in the local municipalities; environmental health; disaster management; reduction of the occurrence of fire; social development services; ICT infrastructure; capacity building; town and regional planning; reliable spatial development information for sustainable settlements through GIS; SMME support through LED endeavours; tourism; financial management; risk management; etc.

This is a daunting list but we are prepared to take it on with utmost resolve and determination to ensure that service delivery continues unabated.

Stepping back to review the 2012/13 financial year, I can say with confidence that since I have assumed the post of municipal manager, the district municipality have continued to provide our stakeholders and the community in the district with highly efficient and quality services; with the concerted effort and dedication of all colleagues.

On the whole, the municipality has managed to achieve effective results in various areas of its work.



**Municipal Manager
Ms Mamikie Bogatsu**

Notable 2012 fire statistics:

Wildfires

Region: Free State

A total of 162 000 hectares burned in an August wildfire

Region: Northern Cape

A total of 370 000 hectares burned in the October to December period

Region: KwaZulu-Natal

A 50km stretch of land was burned in Escort on 25 August 2012

Residential fires

Region: St Francis, Eastern Cape

A total of 75 buildings, including 68 houses, six flats and an office premises, were destroyed or damaged causing tens of millions of rand in damage.

Farm land

Region: Free State

Farmers termed the fires that took place in August - the worst they'd seen

Deaths

Region: KwaZulu-Natal

2012 claimed the lives of three people (an average for the region). Only three fatalities

Region: Limpopo

This region had a total of four fatalities in veld and forest fire incidences.

Source: Fire & Rescue International

Wild fires season causes huge losses



In one of the worst veld fires to hit the Koopmansfontein area in a long time it was estimated that approximately 60,000 hectares were destroyed. 21 farms were burned and cattle and game was lost.

In November 2012 debilitating fires broke out in the Koopmansfontein area which raged for over a week. It is believed that the first incidence of the fire occurred on 13 November 2012 which was sparked by a vehicle involved in an accident that caused the surrounding veld to catch fire.

The second incidence occurred on 16 November 2012 when a veld fire flared up again, this time caused by lightning, as reported by farmers in the area. In the first incident the farmers in the area alerted the disaster management of the Frances Baard District Municipality and along with other roleplayers from the Province the fire was brought under control by the following day, 14 November 2012.

During the second incident the disaster team was alerted about the fire on 17 November 2012 and that it was out of control. Extreme heat and dry conditions as well as the strong turning winds made it difficult for the team. By this time the fire had spread considerably across an area of almost a 100km's. The wind caused the fire to jump and made it extremely difficult for the disaster team to try to contain it. Limited water in the area was an additional challenge that they had to contend with. "Our fire season here lasted till the end of December. October through December was a very

"Wild fires in two regions, Kuruman and Koopmansfontein, resulted in a total area of 215,000 hectares being destroyed within two weeks in mid-November." - Fire & Rescue International

tough period for the fire teams," said the Fire & Disaster Manager for the Frances Baard District Municipality, Mr Cliffy Jones.

The disaster team consisted of the provincial and district municipality disaster teams, the SAPS, the SANDF, "Working on Fire" from Cape Town and the district municipality as well as the farmers, farm workers and volunteers in the area.

A joint operations centre was set up at the Koopmansfontein filling station and events were coordinated from there. The mines in the area sent in resources to assist in the efforts and fire fighters from Hartswater and Windsorton was called in to strengthen the efforts of the existing people on the ground.

The Department of Agriculture requested assistance in the form of one fire fighting helicopter and a spotter plane from "Working on Fire" in Cape Town.

On 23 November 2012 the fire was brought under control and finally doused. 100 "Working on Fire" members arrived from Bloemfontein in the morning and strengthened the efforts to contain the fire.

The disaster management team, SAPS and the SANDF remained on standby to deal with any eventualities.

Disaster planning can save lives

“Every municipality must have a disaster management plan as part of its Integrated Development Plan (IDP). This plan must set up the structure and mechanisms for dealing with disasters and it must anticipate future disasters.”

The district disaster management plan was first prepared in 2006 with its main purpose to implement appropriate disaster risk reduction measures to reduce the vulnerability of communities and infrastructure at risk. The plan was reviewed in 2012 and adopted by Council in January 2013.

Disaster risk management is a collaborative process that involves all spheres of government, as well as NGOs, the private sector, a wide range of capacity-building partners and communities.

It also requires effective preparation for, and response to a diverse range of natural and other threats. The review process included all four local municipalities namely, Sol Plaatje, Dikgatlong, Magareng and Phokwane. Indigenous knowledge and community participation were used to identify risk and hazards within the respective areas.

The approach followed for the review of the disaster management plan was community-based. The team responsible for rolling out the process spent three days in each local municipality to gather information for the review of the plan.

One day was utilised to have meetings with the Mayors, Speakers, Municipal Managers and Senior Managers of each local municipality.

The last two days were spent with community members from each ward in the local municipality to look at the current hazards, risks and vulnerabilities and to identify new hazards, risks and vulnerabilities within their respective wards.

The review process included district-wide disaster risk management issues and a disaster risk management plan was developed for each local municipality.

Even though a plan was developed for Sol Plaatje local municipality assistance is not provided to this municipality from the contingency funds of the district municipality, as it has its own implementation unit and funds.

The disaster management plan developed 4 key performance areas which formed the bases of the review:

Institutional Capacity for the Disaster Risk Management

Establishes the requirements which will ensure the establishment of effective institutional arrangements in the provincial/district sphere for the integrated and coordinated implementation of disaster (risk) management policy and legislation. It addresses the principles of cooperative governance and places emphasis on the involvement of all stakeholders in disaster (risk) management in order to strengthening the capabilities of provincial and municipal organs of state.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Addresses the need for disaster risk assessment and monitoring to set priorities, guide risk reduction action and monitor the effectiveness of our efforts. In addition the key performance area outlines the requirements for implementing disaster risk assessment and monitoring by organs of state within all spheres of government. A critical facilities risk analysis was conducted to determine the vulnerability of key individual facilities or resources within the community such as schools, clinics, shelters.

Disaster Management Planning and Implementation

Addresses requirements for disaster management planning within provincial and municipal spheres of government. It gives particular attention to the planning for and integration of the core risk reduction principles of prevention and mitigation into on-going programmes and initiatives.

Disaster Response and Recovery

Focuses on preparedness of an area for disasters, rapid and effective response to disasters and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation. When a significant event or disaster occurs or is threatening to occur, it is imperative that there should be no confusion as to roles, responsibilities, funding arrangements and the procedures to be followed.

The 2011/12 audit findings - progress made

“An action plan on the findings of the Auditor-General must be drafted and progress reports on corrective measures must be submitted quarterly to Council for monitoring purposes.”

The district municipality received an unqualified audit opinion from the Office of the Auditor-General in respect of the 2011/12 financial year with two matters of emphasis for rectification.

Supply Chain Management - declaration of interest

Irregular expenditure occurred as a result of non-compliance to the Supply Chain Management Regulations. Bidders are required to submit a declaration if they were in the employ of state or connected to any person employed by the state.

This matter escalated from the audit done in the previous financial year. It led to the qualified audit opinion handed to the municipality by the Auditor-General.

The matter was addressed in the 2011/12 financial year and the municipality has fully complied with the requirements as set out in the audit report.

Internal Audit

The second finding of the audit report indicated that the audit unit did not audit the performance measurements on a continuous basis as required by the Municipal Planning and Performance Regulation.

Corrective steps and measures will be put in place during the 2012/13 financial year in order to ensure full compliance with the legislation.

The internal audit unit is currently in the process of auditing the quarterly performance measurement required. This audit will be completed towards the end of the financial year as per set target date.

The Auditor-General of South Africa pronouncements

In a media release issued in March 2013 the Auditor-General, Mr Terence Nombembe, urged the provincial government to immediately increase its momentum towards clean administration by implementing recommendations highlighted in his office's audit reports.

Announcing the provincial administration's audit results for 2011-12, Nombembe said the pronouncement was “pleasing and welcomed as it is likely to set the tone that the provincial leadership means serious business (in improving its administration)”; however, he said this announcement needed to be translated into immediate action guided by the audit recommendations the leadership had previously committed to.

Nombembe said it was encouraging to note that some auditees had started appointing and ensuring the effective

functioning of audit committees and filling vacancies in their internal audit units.

This, he said, is an important step towards improving the province's audit results, but he emphasised that provincial leadership should lead by example and set the tone in ensuring that turnaround strategies are developed and implemented without delay to enable the province to achieve better audit outcomes.

“Auditor-General, Terence Nombembe, has welcomed as pleasing, the recent pronouncement by Northern Cape's Acting Premier Grizelda Cjiekella that her provincial government has developed a strategy aimed at drastically improving audit outcomes to meet the government's fast-approaching Clean Audit 2014 deadline.” -

Media release, Auditor-General of South Africa, 12/03/2013.

Assessing infrastructure development in the district

On 22 August 2012 the Infrastructure Development Committee of Frances Baard District Municipality (FBDM) visited projects in Phokwane and Magareng Municipality. As part of its oversight role the committee wanted to acquaint itself with progress on the ground regarding infrastructure development.

Areas visited

The visits started in Ganspan where the Municipal Manager of Phokwane Municipality welcomed the team.

• Ganspan Access Road Project

| Progress on site: (as at time of visit) | Issues raised and discussed included the following: |
|---|---|
| Sub-base: 1,5 km completed Base: 1,0 km completed Kerbs: 1,0 km completed Paving: 0,4 km completed | <p>The rationale to use paving blocks instead of a tarred surface - Although the cost for construction of these surfaces does not differ much, the cost for maintenance of a paving block road is much less. The idea was also to create job opportunities for the local people.</p> <p>It seemed that the project progress was slow - There were delays in material supply; theft of material; funding of existing services and limited numbers of trained workers to lay paving blocks. The contractor was requested to employ more teams for laying of paving blocks to speed up progress.</p> |

O&M Projects

The team was joined by the Unit Manager of Jan Kempdorp, Mr. Andre Lubbe responsible for O&M in the Phokwane municipal area



He accompanied the team to O&M projects completed in the 2011/12 financial year.

• Re-surfacing of the taxi access road

The condition of the road was very bad and with the assistance of FBDM, Phokwane Municipality could repair the road to an acceptable level. The municipality made use of internal staff to do the repairs.

Mr. Lubbe also showed the team other streets where the municipal roads maintenance team was working. He also indicated that the purchasing of a truck that do pothole patching quickly would assist all municipalities in the same way the FBDM grader does.

• Water Treatment Works

O&M activities completed include:

- Repairing the collapsing roof of the chlorine settling house
- Repairs to old and broken pumps
- Supply of new pumps
- Repairs to doors and ceilings of the coagulation and the chlorination room

There were challenges identified on the filtration system with regard to the gear boxes and sand media but these problems will be addressed.

• Road Maintenance

The team also went to Pampierstad to inspect the gravel road grading progress where they were accompanied by



Operation & Maintenance in the District

| Municipality | Project Description | Estimated Cost | Progress to date |
|--------------|--|----------------|---|
| Magareng | Operation & Maintenance of Infrastructure in Magareng | 2,600,000 | Currently 72% expenditure. Work claimed for include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance on the WTW & the WWTW • Roads maintenance equipment • Maintenance on roads and stormwater infrastructure • Fencing repairs to electricity pump stations • Personal protective equipment |
| Dikgatlong | Operation & Maintenance of Infrastructure in Dikgatlong | 2,000,000 | Currently 32% expenditure. Work claimed for include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operator Immunisations • Pump Repairs • Maintenance on buildings at WTW • Maintenance on roads • Electrical repairs • Treatment Chemicals and Consumables • Personal protective equipment |
| Phokwane | Operation & Maintenance of Infrastructure in Phokwane | 2,900,000 | Currently 55% expenditure. Work claimed for include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance on the WTW & the WWTW • Bulk Water Pipes, Meters and Valves • Water testing equipment • Roads maintenance materials • Maintenance on roads and stormwater infrastructure • Electrical Transformers and cable replacements • Borehole pumps |
| Sol Plaatje | Operation & Maintenance of Infrastructure in Sol Plaatje | 800,000 | Currently 55% expenditure. Work claimed for include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance on the Platfontein dry sanitation systems. • Road maintenance in Richie |

..../continued from previous page

Mr Buti Tsinyane, Superintendant: Technical Services in Pampierstad. The team was satisfied and emphasized that operators must get their required working tools to ease the workload.

Magareng Municipal Area

Capital Projects

• Refuse Truck

The team visited the Magareng municipal workshop where the truck is stored. The team noticed that many of the machinery at the workshop was standing due to breakages. Challenges that were identified included: waiting for the service providers (sole providers) and slow supply chain processes due to staff constraints in the finance section.

O&M Projects

• Maintenance on Roads

Mr Landrie, Superintendent: Roads and the process controller at the Waste Water Treatment Works, showed the team the machinery bought for pothole repairs after which the site was visited. Issues that were raised related to poor maintenance work of previous small contractors and the dumping of removed waste road material on sidewalks.

• Waste Water Treatment Works

In July 2012 the plant seized to operate after the last of the functioning aerators broke down. The municipality had to speed up the procurement processes through deviations to ensure no huge environmental effects. On the day of the visit a contractor was on site, busy with repairs on the treatment works.

Brick manufacturing plant established in Warrenton

In the recent past there has been a huge outcry by community members in the Magareng municipal area about the poor quality of houses being built. This has led to the demolition and rebuilding of houses.

In light of the escalating prices and transport costs, the contractor, Refela Construction, responsible for the construction of houses in Magareng established a brick manufacturing plant on site.

The plant has been in existence since November 2012 and has created more than 20 jobs. The shortage of bricks and the remoteness of the area from suppliers was also one of the reasons behind the establishment of the plant.

The process of brick making consists of the following steps: gathering, crushing, grinding, screening, and mixing the raw materials; making the brick; setting, drying, firing, packaging and inventorying the final product.

“The manufacturing of bricks on site is cheaper as compared to buying them from suppliers, more especially considering the fact that they have to be transported all the way from Kimberley which escalates the cost even further,” says Ms Kea Parage, who is overseeing the operations on site.

“Although brickmaking may be considered a simple or low technology, good management is important for successful brick production. This includes providing an adequate supply of raw materials for the workers, keeping the equipment maintained and providing suitable facilities for the workers.” she says.

It also involves checking the quality of the product regularly, setting up smooth flow of production and having adequate financial arrangements for purchases and salaries.

Currently the brick plant produces bricks for approximately



The plant is located in Ikhuseng, a township in Warrenton

2,5 (two and a half) houses per shift.

One of the responsibilities of the main contractor on all housing projects is to capacitate the labourers and artisans with the relevant skills in order to empower them for future projects.

In this case the skills gained have been invaluable and will surely contribute significantly towards the development of entrepreneurs in the area.

Even in other projects, the district municipality will continue to encourage similar ideas, because the success of the project is based on the legacy it leaves behind for the people of that area.

There is no doubt that those involved will in future make a living out of the skills and experience gained in this project.

Moving forward the district municipality will continue to encourage such innovation on all housing projects within its area of jurisdiction.

“In order to ensure the manufactured bricks are durable and compliant with the SABS standards, they are subjected to lab tests from time to time.”

Magareng Municipality reviews its billing system

Through a land audit conducted in 2011 by the district municipality it was discovered that the Magareng Local Municipality had approximately 7,700 land parcels of which only 6,400 were registered at the Deeds Office.

This led to the district municipality rolling out the project to assess the completeness of the municipality's billing database. The verified billing information will provide a sound basis for revenue generation and also enable the local municipality to improve service delivery and the provision of free basic services in terms of its indigent policy.

"The clean-up of the data will result in significant revenue enhancement which can then be applied to improve service delivery or improving the billing system."

The proper implementation of this project will result in clean data and enhanced revenue. It will validate the user charges being levied, appropriate statement of debt positioning, restore the credibility of the entire billing protocol within the municipality, as well as enhance the sustainability of services through maximising revenue potential.

The increased cashflow from uncovering un-billed and under-billed accounts will be a direct and positive result.

"Two project steering committee meetings have been held on 02 February 2013 and 03 March 2013 respectively and desktop study based on data from FBDM and Magareng local municipality was also conducted," says Mr Mashudu Mudau the GIS Manager of the district municipality.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) system was used to:

- Verify all billing data in relation to accurate cadastral information (being all properties within the local municipality) that is from the approved layer as well as from all registered land parcels. This data should include the general valuation roll properties as well.
- Verify occupancy of all cadastral stands against the latest available aerial photography and provide the data in a suitable GIS format.

- Verify service coverage per site, through assessing billing status per registered erf against the level of service for electricity, water, rates and taxes and flag in a suitable GIS format.
- Verify debtor types per site and tariff code structure through assessing billing user type per registered erf, against the municipal lums (land use management plans)

Based on the assessment and verification analysis a gap analysis will be submitted by the service provided appointed to undertake the project. To date it was found that there were a number of discrepancies with the property information supplied.

The findings thus far:

Spatial Alignment

- cadastral dataset contains 7658 property records
- 7363 (96%) of 7658 has ownership
- 295 (4%) of 7658 has no ownership
- 11 (3.7%) of 295 is state land
- 273 (92.5%) of 295 is sub-division not registered
- 10 (3.4%) of 295 is Consolidations not registered
- 1 (0.34%) of 295 is Registered

Indigent Alignment

- All Indigent properties have ownership
- All Indigent properties have market value
- All Indigent properties have account numbers
- 2035 (27 %) of 7658 is indigent
- 5623 (73 %) of 7658 is not indigent

Billing Alignment

- 32 (0.4 %) of 7658 has no owner detail
- 7626 (99.6 %) of 7658 has owner detail
- 7626 of 7658 has account owner detail
- 2711 (36 %) of 7626 has no account number detail
- 4915 (64 %) of 7626 has account number detail

Meter Alignment

- 7363 Centroids generated for properties with meters
- 3894 (53 %) of 7363 has water meters
- 3469 (47 %) of 7363 has no water meters

Creating awareness on safe drinking water at Gong-Gong

“Water is one of nature’s most important gifts to mankind, which is essential to life; a person’s survival depends on safe drinking water. The Constitution provides that everyone has the right to have access to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being and recognises access to safe drinking water as a basic human right.”

Gong-Gong is a small community just outside Barkly West on the banks of the Vaal River in the Dikgatlong municipal area.

Recent investigations showed that the Gong-Gong community access drinking water directly from the Vaal River or boreholes. Routine water quality assessments in the Vaal River indicated the presence of E.coli which raised serious health concerns for this community.

“This would especially affect people who uses the river for potable water supply, which could result in an outbreak of waterborne diseases,” said Ms Maria Magoda, Environmental Health Practitioner at the Department of Health.

In an effort to improve the current situation at Gong-Gong the Department of Water Affairs, the Dikgatlong Local Municipality and the Frances Baard District Municipality launched a safe drinking water awareness, health, hygiene and water conservation campaign. The campaign was rolled out on 14 March 2013.

This campaign was meant to create awareness to the community of the quality and availability of safe drinking water, thus eradicating the majority of health-related problems experienced.

Community representatives were selected to assist with continued awareness. These representatives will take ownership of the campaign and circulate the information regarding the safe drinking water practices to the community on a regular basis.

They will make sure that people will continue to take measures to disinfect their drinking water long after the event concluded.

The representatives were trained to:

- understand the current situation with regard to water
- understand how to keep water safe for drinking purposes; and
- understand the importance of proper sanitation, health and hygiene practices



Top: A large number of community members attended the campaign launch.

Bottom: One of the community members who received training demonstrates the importance of keeping your hands clean.

When asked if they learned anything from the programme the members of the community was very enthusiastic. “I will make sure from now on that the kids wash their hands before I give them their food,” said one grandmother, grinning broadly.

Batho Pele Premier's Excellence Awards 2012

From left: The Executive Mayor, Ms Khadi Moloi, The MEC for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Mr Norman Shushu and the Municipal Manager of Frances Baard District Municipality, Ms Mamikie Bogatsu.



The FBDM received a bronze award at the 2012 Batho Pele Premier's Excellence Awards for its Corporate Geographic Information System (GIS) at the award ceremony held on 12 October 2012.

The awards is an initiative by the Office of the Premier aimed at recognising excellence in service delivery and provides the provincial government and municipalities with a unique opportunity to compare, benchmark and validate strategies aimed at improving service delivery.

The bronze award received is the second award for GIS in 2012 as it also received a special achievement award in May at the 2012 ESRI International User Conference which was held in San Diego, California, USA.

The district municipality embarked on the implementation of phase 1 of its corporate GIS in 2009 which created a platform to instill a change in the approach on the role of GIS in strategic thinking and decision-making.

The municipality is currently rolling out phase 2 of the process and has established a shared service where GIS information can be retrieved and used.

An integrated web-based land viewer has also been developed and along with the GIS website provides useful information on spatial data; which includes land parcel data, community facility data and water infrastructure.



Left the municipal manager, Ms Mamikie Bogatsu and Mr Mashudu Mudau, the GIS manager with the awards bestowed on the municipality. Right the popular Northern Cape Idols 2012 top ten finalist, Simphiwe Gwegwe, entertained the audience.

Industrial policy action plan launched

The Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) 2013/2014, aimed at creating economic growth, was unveiled in Pretoria on Thursday, 04 April 2013.

Presenting the plan, Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies said the document was a plan of action detailing what needed to be done to industrialise the economy.

It sought to build a competitive manufacturing sector with strong growth and employment. The plan also aimed to deepen support programmes in automotive, metals, agro-processing, clothing, textiles, leather, and footwear.

IPAP 2013/2014 entailed action plans for supporting green industries, renewable energy efficiency, and advanced manufacturing and materials. It set standards and a strategic tariff regime to clamp down on illegal and substandard imports.

It introduced a strategic focus in minerals and resources beneficiation, and improved competition policy to clamp down on collusion and price-fixing.

Davies said the South African economy had structural problems which caused it to be driven by imports and consumption sectors.

The country had enjoyed growth these past years, but still battled with high levels of unemployment.

Davies said structural unemployment experienced in the South African economy over the years could not be addressed by mere economic growth.

"If we want to make a dent on unemployment we need to boost the productive sector of the economy."

The consumption sector of the economy had grown at twice the rate of production sectors, such as agriculture, mining, and

manufacturing. "Even if we have jobs in the services sector, those jobs are more secure and are stronger in quality if they are underpinned by a strong value added manufacturing sector."

The IPAP 2013/2014 sought to promote value-added productive activity in different sectors of the economy, and aligned government policies into one encompassing plan.

Davies said procurement was a priority identified by the plan to boost local production. "We have taken a decision, as government, that we need to make sure that our procurement policies support deeper localisation and create more opportunities for locally-based productive enterprises to produce goods and supply services to government agencies."

Davies said particular sectors had been designated to boost local content through procurement. These included railway equipment, transmission lines, uniforms, and medicine or tablets used in public health institutions.

There were also new designations which were being prepared, and these included valves, manual and pneumatic actuators, power and telecoms cables, and components for solar water heaters.

Among other sectors identified as having potential for growth were green industries, pharmaceuticals, and agro-processing.

IPAP 2013/2014 identified beneficiation as an area with great potential to boost both the mining sector and manufacturing sector, while creating more jobs.

The new plan would be put into practice and aligned to government's infrastructure programme, Davies said.

- Sapa

Editorial Note

In this issue we focused on the devastating impact of veld fires. The vast hectares of veld that has been damaged in Koopmansfontein has taken some time to be restored as well as the impacts on the ecosystem in the area. However, I have read somewhere that fires form part of a natural process which can play a positive role in vegetation structure and composition. This helps recycle nutrients contained in old and dead trees. Provided that these fires do not happen too often.

The disaster management planning article highlights the important role of local government. Municipalities are at the forefront of dealing with disasters. Municipal officials are usually the first people who have to deal with a disaster, and if the disaster is not too large, the municipality is often the only government body involved. That is why municipalities need to be prepared to manage a disaster. It is also important that our farming community get involved in this process and form part of structures such as the Fire Prevention Associations (FPAs).

We also profiled the review of the Magareng Municipality billing system. The importance of a functional and fully implemented municipal billing system was highlighted. In the delivery of public services billing drives cash flow and is the key source of information for customers using these services.

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

Gerline Roman
Editor



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