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Message from the Executive Mayor

During the past quarter a number of changes happened in the municipality, all was in the best interest of service delivery.

Being identified as one of the Ministerial Ambassadors for Project Clean Audit 2014 was truly a great honour and privilege for the district municipality. As part of the "agents of change" as Minister Shiceka so eloquently stated, the Frances Baard District Municipality will strive to always improve on its work ethic and be even more focused on better service delivery.

The Local Economic Development Agency (LEDA) has started implementing some of its strategies to coordinate and improve the economic development potential of individuals and small business enterprises in our District. Through the agency the district municipality strives to promote local small and medium sized business and create an entrepreneurial culture.

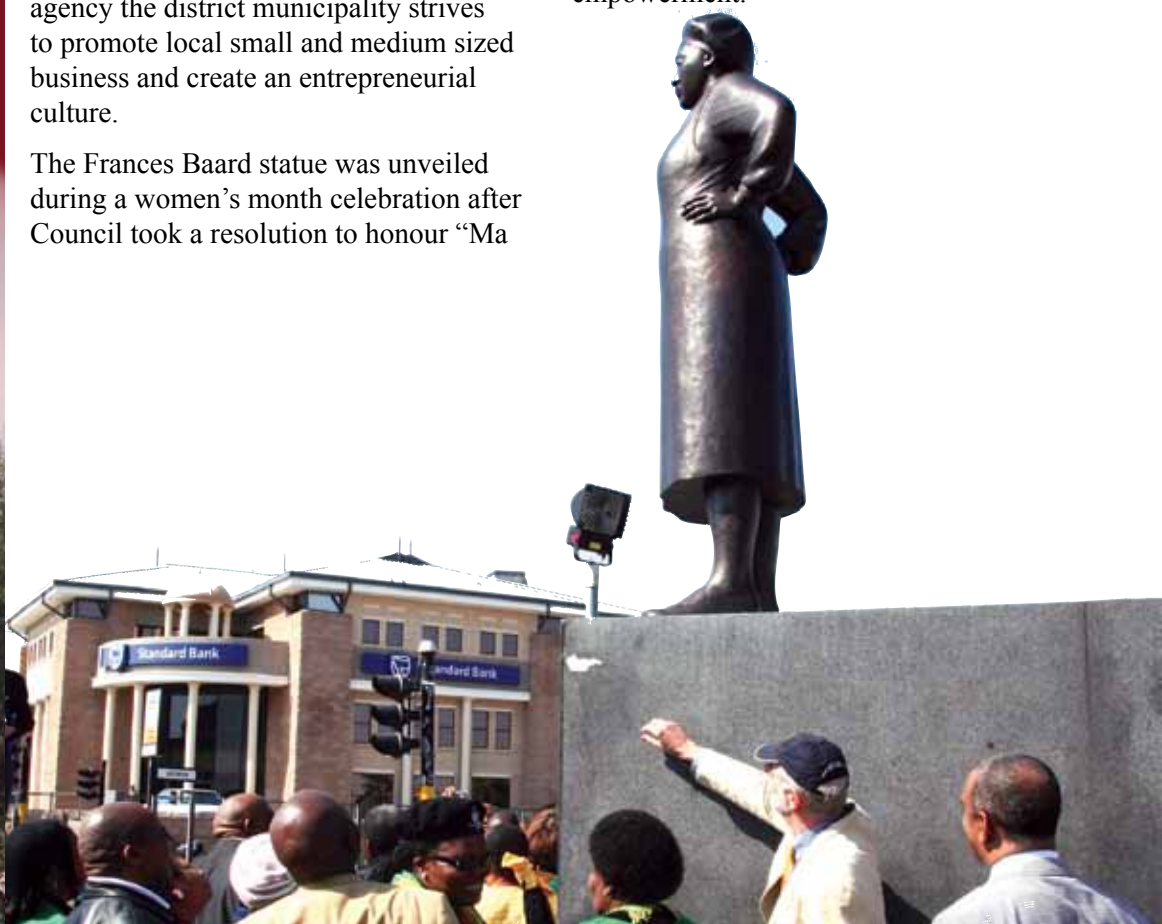
The Frances Baard statue was unveiled during a women's month celebration after Council took a resolution to honour "Ma

Baard", who actively fought for our rights in her lifetime. The stance of the statue symbolises a woman of great strength of character and stability but also a very humble person indicated by the clean and simple lines of her attire.

To ensure that service delivery is strengthened through strategic partnerships with communities and other stakeholders, we urge the broader community to engage with us on matters that deal with development and empowerment.



**The Executive Mayor
Mr Achmat Florence**



Unveiling of the Frances Baard statue on Womens Day. Read more on PAGE 6

From the Municipal Manager's Desk

We have just completed the first quarter of the financial year. Comparative; y s[eakeing this quarter is relatively quiet with regard to project implementation compared to the rst of the other quarters in the year. As we proceed to the second quarter we have to throttle at full capacity in terms of service delivery targets encapsulated in our (SDBIP).

Despite the above state of affairs, the quarter under review is not short of milestones and excitement. All legislative prescripts with regard to amongst others performance agreements for section 57 employees, budget and IDP process plans, submission of financial statements, performance reports has been complied with. The unveiling of the statue of Frances Baard on Woman's Day was an auspicious occasion and the municipality prides itself with honouring such an icon who has contributed enormously to the emancipation of our country. The freedom we enjoy in our time and generations to come is as a direct result of selfless contributions made by these martyrs.

In keeping with the principles espoused by Ma Baard after whom the municipality has been named, it has been an honour to be designated as the ambassador for operation clean audit 2014 by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Sicelo Shiceka. This milestone follows two consecutive clean audit reports received by the municipality. As an ambassador we have already shared our experiences for clean audit with all municipalities in the district and would strive to ensure that the objectives for this operation are achieved by the set date. However, we need to ensure that we do not become complacent. The achievement does put pressure on teh Council to sustain clean audit reports.

The provincial launch of operation clean audit took place on 01 October 2009 and again the FBDM was

awarded a certificate of achievement for clean audit reports.

The long awaited municipal housing accreditation capacity and audit compliance finally took place on 27 August 2009. With the very high compliance standards set by the audit team who comprised of high level experts in different areas of housing, the district is positive about the outcome of the audit. Should the district be accredited, it would serve a long way in addressing the acute housing shortages and provision in our district. The full compliment of the housign personnel team is now in place and we expect implementation of housing delivery to start with earnest.

Much said about achievements in the first quarter. As we start the next quarter various projects have been lined up. These range from eradication of backlogs on water, sanitation, electricity, storm water and water facilities; maintenance of municipal infrastructure in the local municipalities and the DMA; road maintenance; environmental health; disaster maangement; reduction of the occurence of fire; social development services; ICT infrastructure; capacity building; town and regional planning; reliable spatial development information for sustainable settlements (GIS); GDCY mainstreaming; LED; SMME support; tourism; financial management; risk management; etc. The tasks are duanting yet the resolve to address these head on for the sake of our communities is overwhelming.



**Municipal Manager,
Mr Thabo Nosi**

Handover of equipment

During June 2009 Councillors visited various projects in the District as part of the Mayoral "Know your Region" Tour. Projects that showed potential were identified and earmarked for funding.

A needs analysis was done on the Retsanang Vegetable Co-operative as well as the Zwavhudi Sewing Project.

The objective was to improve the productivity levels of the projects and to improve the turn-around time.

The following items were procured:

Retsanang:

- 1 x 4m Trailer at R 26,000.00
- Upgrading of Solar Panel and water irrigation R50,000.00

Zwavhudi

- 1 x Industrial Sewing Machine
- 1 x Industrial Overlocking Machine
- 1 x Electrical Press
- Material and scissors



Some of the ladies from the Zwavhudi Project with the delegation who handed over the sewing equipment.



Above: The Retsanang Vegetable Co-operative members with the delegation who handed over the trailer.

Operation Clean Audit Programme

“By 2014 all the 283 municipalities and 9 provinces’ departments in South Africa will have achieved clean audits on their Annual Financial Statements and maintaining systems for sustaining quality financial statements and management information.”

- Vision: Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

On 16 July 2009 the Frances Baard District Municipality was invited to the launch of the 2014 “Operation Clean Audit” by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Honourable Sicelo Shiceka at the Birchwood Hotel, OR Tambo Conference Centre Boksburg.

The municipality was represented by the Executive Mayor Mr Achmat Florence, the Municipal Manager Mr Thabo Nosi and the Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Hannes Van Biljon.

On 15 July 2009, the CFO and the Municipal Manager shared with the Minister and Deputy Minister their experience on how the municipality has over the years managed to obtain unqualified audits and how this achievement can be benchmarked to other municipalities in South Africa.

At the launch of “Operation Clean Audit” the Minister indicated that Frances Baard District Municipality has been identified as part of the Agents of Change and Ministerial Audit Ambassadors.

Post 1994, the government has and still puts service delivery improvement on the agenda. However, Auditor-General’s reports continue to spell out queries relating to ineffective institutions, ineffective structures (internal audit units and audit committees), poor performance or absence of systems, especially financial management systems. This negative picture seriously affects government service delivery plans in general and cooperative governance in particular.

Both provincial and local governments are faced with challenges which among others include:

- Inadequate skills in planning, budgeting, public financial

management, including expenditure management

- Poor interface between financial and non-financial information (in-year monitoring and quality annual reporting)
- Inability to manage cash-flow significantly
- Inadequate skills on credit and debt management, including basic financial accounting and filing or record keeping in most instances
- Duplication of payments in some instances and amounts not accounted for (lack of financial accountability)
- Lack of systems to manage audit queries and recommendations for both internal and external auditing
- Inadequate systems with regard to cooperative governance (especially, conflict of interest and accountability frameworks, and effective integrated risk management system) within provincial departments and municipalities



From left: Mr Hannes van Biljon, the CFO, the Executive Mayor, Mr Achmat Florence and Mr Thabo Nosi, the Municipal Manager proudly holding aloft the certificate which the FBDM received as Operation Clean Audit Ambassador.

The establishment of Local Economic Development Agency in FBDM

“ **The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs guidelines on Local Economic Development Agencies assert that the Municipal Systems Act and the Municipal Finance Management Act permit the establishment of a local economic development agency (LEDA) as a possible special purpose organisation to promote the local economy** ”

The District Municipality has specific coordination and facilitation responsibilities which need to be addressed in an innovative manner to initiate and promote sustainable local economic development as well as to attract investment in the Frances Baard region.

As a result the Council authorised the creation of a local economic development agency, which culminated in enlisting the services of a development consultancy, Letlotlo Ranyathole and Associates to put together a concept document, which will ensure that a grant from the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) is secured to:

- Cover establishment costs
- Build a critical mass of economic opportunities
- Mobilise local economic development initiatives through a combination of the interventions within the framework of the agency development programme.

Rationale

Frances Baard District Municipality is badly affected by socio-economic challenges and inequalities existing between its communities. More than half of the residents in the district are either unemployed or under-employed.

From a regional development perspective, the Frances Baard economy was characterised by a previously strong sector, which is mining. It was a significant source of employment as well as an activity with strong forward and backward linkages.

Mine closures in this area had placed a strain on cost-effective infrastructure and service provision. The economic implications are, amongst others, high levels of unemployment, low levels of disposable income.

The Frances Baard District Municipality intends to utilise the LED agency as an effective mechanism to mitigate these challenges. The medium term goal is to half poverty and hunger in the district by 2014 in line with our government programme and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

The strategic focus and leadership of the economic development lies with the District as part of its legislative and constitutional mandate. Frances Baard District Municipality wishes to partner and is thus working with stakeholders in business, government and communities to collectively search for best options towards development.

The LED Agency is a good supporting vehicle, and will bring expertise that ordinarily we would not be able to afford. The intervention by government remains critical especially in municipality where sustainability is dependent on a vibrant local economy. Sustainability of the municipality is critical.

The population in local municipalities is greatly affected by people moving from rural areas to nearest towns resulting in growth in population in the urban centres. The grants received for service delivery in especially rural municipalities is miniscule compared to the task at hand.

It is imperative that the municipalities should:

- Create means for communities to have food security
- Sustainably provide services, and decrease the register of indigents.

The LEDA is a special implementation vehicle created by municipalities and other stakeholders to achieve their common objectives. The LEDA does not make policy, it implements it.”

LED and more specifically the Development Agency can play a vital role in this regard.

Way Forward

How can the municipality address the above-mentioned challenges in a way that advances local economic development in general? The consultants are hard at work interacting with key stakeholders and particularly local municipalities, where Council resolutions from the respective local municipalities agreeing to the establishment of a district development agency should be secured. The resolution/s should also stipulate that the municipalities will provide the anchor and/or catalytic projects that will be part of the Concept Document (i.e. a list of projects that the development agency will focus upon as part of its mandate).

The various local municipalities should prove that they have engaged in Public Participation independently or in conjunction with the district municipality, the intent being to inform the Frances Baard public and various communities/stakeholders on the prospect of establishing a District Municipality LED agency.

The outcome of such public participation is to inform the communities on the development agency and seeking their approval.

Why an LED Agency?

Agencies are considered in South Africa for the following reasons:

- Agencies provide a way of establishing a formal and legal partnership between different stakeholders to integrate development efforts and overcome problems of duplication and lack of co-ordination
- Agencies are seen as a way of strengthening the capacity of current LED systems and resources in place within a municipal area, using a semi-external body
- They can be focused drivers of the economic development agenda within a local area, which can raise external resources to support LED
- The ability they have to support specific business sectors or specific geographical areas e.g. a development corridor
- As a possible route to alleviate bureaucratic processes within a municipality, promote a more private sector type culture and accelerate investment and public / private partnerships

Responsibility / Accountability

- Municipalities remain politically accountable for LED and cannot delegate political responsibility to another institution
- Municipalities remain responsible for public funds, even if projects are delegated to project institutions
- Municipalities must also be aware of the context and content of the Department of Local Government's Framework for Stimulating Local Economies (2006).

Frances Goitsemanang Baard commemorated

“It has become important in South Africa that we honour and acknowledge the people who sacrificed their lives, freedom and comforts to obtain democracy for all. It allows us to highlight the fact that all generations of our society need to remember our past in order not to make the same mistakes again and to use the present to obtain equality in all aspects of our communities.”

On the 09th August 2009 the Premier of the Northern Cape, Ms Hazel Jenkins, unveiled the statue of Frances Goitsemanang Baard after whom the Frances Baard District Municipality was named.

The event was honoured with dignitaries such as the Minister of Energy, Ms Dipuo Peters (previous Premier of the Northern Cape) the Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms Nosipho Ntwanambi and various MECs of the Northern Cape.

The unveiling ceremony was also graced with the presence of Ms Gcina Mhlope, who was the master of ceremony. The event became one of the major highlights for the Northern Cape Province and as such it was decided that it should be made into a Provincial event.

The Department of Sport, Arts & Culture was brought on board to ensure that the event included the other districts within the Northern Cape.

In her keynote address Ms Nosipho Ntwanambi said: “It is a great honour for the Women of the Northern Cape to participate in this wonderful event. Honouring Ma Baard in this manner is like rewriting history. A humble, soft but very firm woman and a mother. A trade unionist, a freedom fighter.”

The Council of the Frances Baard District Municipality took a decision at a Council meeting held on the 12th December 2007 to erect a statue in honour of ‘Ma Baard’, as she was affectionately known. Frances Baard, a community activist and prominent leader in the struggle of women against apartheid was a remarkable woman born in Beaconsfield in Kimberley in 1909.



Her entire life was devoted to community work and fighting for the rights of her people until her death in June 1997.

The statue of Frances Baard now proudly stands on the corner of Bultfontein and Long Street, at the Game shopping centre. The unveiling ceremony was the culmination of more than a year's work of planning, research and manufacturing the statue. With the assistance of the Heritage Unit at the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture the known bronze sculptors in the country were invited through a closed tender process to submit proposals for the making of the statue.

As a build up to the unveiling ceremony a memorial lecture was held on the 08th August 2009 at the William Humphreys Art Gallery. The lecture was conducted by Ms Barbara Schreiner who wrote the biography on Ma Baard.

The lecture was well attended and the audience was especially moved by the thought provoking look into the emotional and personal characteristics/perceptions of Frances Baard as described in the lecture.



Premier Hazel Jenkins untying the knot to remove the draping that covered the statue.



Women of all ages reacted with joy when the statue was revealed.



A joyous reunion for the Baard family



Ms Barbara Schreiner during her heartfelt lecture on Frances Baard

Implementation of Spatial Development Framework proposals

The Spatial Development Frameworks of the three local municipalities; Phokwane, Magareng and Dikgatlong have been finalized and adopted by their respective Councils.

Each Spatial Development Framework (SDF) document has identified specific development proposals. The development proposals concentrate mainly on social, economic and environmental development (e.g. housing, CBD renewal, promotion of tourism issues).

These documents are very useful tools in order to direct the development within the municipality. Each document identifies priority projects which after their implementation will serve as an impetus for other proposed projects to kick start.

The Town and Regional Planning Unit has therefore carefully selected some projects that will be implemented for the 2009/2010 financial year. The projects that we are initiating are as follows.

Magareng Local Municipality

Residential Development

The Town and Regional Planning Unit has collectively, with Magareng Local Municipality taken a decision to prioritise infill residential development on vacant land between Ikhukseng and Warrenvale (19.2 ha) and an area south-west of Ikhukseng (41.1 ha) as proposed in the SDF.

The number of residential erven with development potential in this area is approximately 1206; excluding roads and public open spaces. The housing backlog for Magareng as stated in the SDF is 2,328 and the Local Municipality is in the process of soliciting funding for this development.

Warrenton Central Business District (CBD)

At the beginning of the second quarter of 2009/2010 the Town and Regional Planning Unit will tackle another development priority for Magareng Local Municipality as identified in the SDF. The unit will develop Magareng CBD renewal strategies (for implementation) that will include:

- The upgrading of taxi rank
- Upgrading of the streets and sidewalks
- Upgrading of pedestrian ways
- Landscaping of open areas, parks and sidewalks
- Cleanliness of the CBD
- Core business area where provision must be made for the informal sector on selected sites within the main pedestrian routes

Phokwane Local Municipality

Residential Development - Jan Kempdorp

The SDF has identified the area north of Jan Kempdorp for residential development. The size of this identified piece of land is approximately 110 ha. It is estimated that the total erven (350m²) with development potential is 2,200.

The council is in the process of soliciting funding in order to initiate the process of residential development which amongst other things includes planning and surveying as well as conducting specialized studies.

Dikgatlong Local Municipality

The Town and Regional Planning Unit is still awaiting a date to be set by the municipality for the presentation of planned development projects.

What is the Spatial Development Framework?

In terms of Section 26(e) of the Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000), every municipality is required to formulate a Spatial Development Framework as a part of its Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

Taking into account the current pattern of land use and the nature of development in municipal areas, a Spatial Development Framework is required to describe in words and illustrations how the Municipality sees desirable future patterns of land use and development in its

area of jurisdiction. In essence, it is the Municipality's spatial "Vision" of what its Municipal area will look like in years to come.

The Spatial Development Framework is a legally enforceable component of the IDP, indicating both to the Municipality (councillors and officials) and to the public (developers, land owners etc.) where certain types of land use and associated developments are permissible, and where certain activities are unlikely to be permitted.

Go tsenngwa tirisong ga ditshitshinyo tsa Foreimeweke ya Tlhabololo ya Lefatshe le le lolea kgotsa patlelo

Diforeimeweke tsa Tlhabololo ya Lefatshe le le lolea la bommasepala ba bararo ba selegae ba Phokwane, Magareng le Dikgatlong di weditse ga mmogo le go amogelwa ke Dikhansele tsa bona.

Lekwalo lengwe le lengwe la Foreimeweke ya Tlhabololo ya Lefatshe le le lolea le tlaotse ditshitshinyo tse di rileng tsa tlhabololo. Ditshitshinyo tsa tlhabololo di tsepamisitse go le gontsi mo dintlheng tsa loago (sekai thebolo ya matlo) le ikonomi (sekai ntšhwafatso ya CBD, kgodiso ya bojanala).

Makwalo a ke didiriswa tse di nang le mosola tota go ka kaela tlhabololo mo gare ga mmasepala. Lekwalo lengwe le lengwe le lemoga diporojeke tse di leng botlhokwa thata tse mo morago ga go tsenngwa tirisong di tla dirang jaaka tlhotlheletso ya gore porojeke e e tshitshintsweng e simologe.

Yuniti e e rulaganyang e tshwanetse go tlhopha ka kelotlhoko diporojeke dingwe tse di tla tsenngwang tirisong mo ngwageng wa ditšhelete wa 2009/2010. Re tlele go simolola ka diporojeke tse di latelang:

Mmasepala wa Selegae wa Magareng

Tlhabololo ya lefelo la bonno

Yuniti e e rulaganyang, ga mmogo le Mmasepala wa selegae wa Magareng, di tshotse tshwetso ya go baya kwa pele ntlha ya go aga le go tlhabolola lefelo la bonno mo lefatsheng le le lolea fa gare ga Ikhutseng le Warrenvale (la diheketara tse 41.1) jaaka go tshitshintsweng mo teng ga Foreimeweke ya Tlhabololo ya Lefelo le le lolea.

Palo ya dierefe tsa lefelo la bonno tse di ka kgonang go tlhabololwa mo lefelong le e ka nna 1206; go sa akaretse ditsela le mafelo a morafe a a se nang sepe. Tshalelomorago ya thebolelo ya matlo ya mo Magareng jaaka e kailwe mo Foreimewekeng ya Tlhabololo ya Lefatshe le le lolea ke 2,328 mme Mmasepala wa Selegae o sa ntse o kopa matlole go tswelatsa tlhabololo e.

Kgaolo ya Kgwebo e e fa gare ga toropo ya Warrenton (CBD)

Mo tshimologong ya kgweditharo ya bobedi ya 2009/2010 yuniti ya Thulaganyo ya Toropo e tla itebaganya le ntlha e nngwe ya botlhokwa ya tlhabololo ya Mmasepala wa Selegae wa Magareng jaaka go kailwe mo Foreimewekeng ya Tlhabololo ya Lefatshe le le lolea.

Yuniti e tla tlhabolola maano a ntšhwafatso ya CBD ya Magareng (gore e dirisiwe) a a tla akaretsang:

- Go tokafatsa maemo a kwa renkeng ya dithekesi
- Go tokafatsa maemo a mo mebileng le tselanathoko ya dinao
- Go tokafatsa ditsela tsa motsamaya ka dinao
- Go tokafatsa dipatlelo, diphaka le ditselanathoko tsa dinao ka go lema ditlhare le malomo.
- Go tshola CBD e le phepa
- Lefelo le le fa gare la kgwebo mo go tshwanetseng ga nna le tšhono ya ditiro tsa ikonomi tse di sa laolweng ke puso mo ditsheng tse di tlhophilweng mo ditseleng tse dikgolo tsa batsamaya ka dinao.

Mmasepala wa Selegae wa Phokwane

Tlhabololo ya lefelo la bonno - Jan Kempdorp

Foreimeweke ya Tlhabololo ya lefatshe le le lolea e tlaotse lefelo le le mo bokone jwa Jan Kempdorp gore le tlhabololwe go nna lefelo la bonno. Bogolo jwa lenathwana le le tlaotsweng le la lefatshe bo ka nna jwa diheketara tse 110. Go lekanyetswa erefe yotlhe (350m²) go nna le bokgoni jwa tlhabololo jwa 2,200.

Khansele e mo tseleng ya go tsenya kopo ya matlole gore e simolole go tlhabolola lefelo la bonno, se mo gareng ga tse dingwe se akaretsang go rulaganya le go sekaseka ga mmogo le go dira dipatlisiso tse di kgethegileng.

Mmasepala wa Selegae wa Dikgatlong

Yuniti e e rulaganyang e sa ntse e letile gore mmasepala o beye letlha la tlhagiso ya diporojeke tsa tlhabololo tse di rulagantsweng.

This article is also available in Afrikaans and isiXhosa



“Council meets the People”



This year's meetings were conducted over the period 08 - 10; 15 - 16 September 2009. Council managed to visit its district management area (DMA) as part of the programme and had a very fruitful meeting with community members at the Blikfontein School.

The schedule of meetings was as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
08/09/2009	De Beershoogte Community Hall (Dikgatlong)	17:00
09/09/2009	Blikfontein School (DMA)	17:00
10/09/2009	Warrenvale Community Hall (Magareng)	17:00
15/09/2009	Pampierstad Community Hall (Phokwane)	17:00
16/09/2009	Platfontein Community Hall (Sol Plaatje)	17:00

Issues Raised

Communities in the different areas took the opportunity to raise the critical issues which lay close to their hearts. Some of the issues which were identical throughout the various meetings were:

- Proper houses with working water and sanitation systems
- Proper recreation facilities for children
- Lack of job opportunities for learners who completed grade 12
- More emphasis should be placed on Local Economic Development (LED) to improve economic opportunities and job creation
- Poor road infrastructure and the maintenance of roads
- Access to electricity still problematic
- More frequent contact sessions are necessary as people want to learn more about the allocations to local municipalities and how the amounts allocated are decided on

The community reiterated that they want more frequent ward meetings to be held to give them an opportunity to be part of the decision-making processes at their local municipalities. It was apparent that the process of the allocation of funds through the identified IDP projects were not clearly understood and community members engaged in one-on-one informal chats with the councillors afterwards to gain more clarity on some of the facts and figures presented to them.



Tourism Indaba 2009

During 09 - 12 May 2009 the Frances Baard District Municipality attended the annual South African Tourism Indaba. The focus of the Indaba this year was to show that South Africa is ready for the 2010 Soccer World Cup. Approximately 1,800 exhibitors put their wares on display.

The Northern Cape Stand was presented in a very professional and informative manner. The stand hosted several product owners from the region as well as officials from other local and district municipalities.

The information stand was manned by officials from the district municipalities. The LED/Tourism Division supported twelve (12) SMMEs to attend the event this year in an effort to promote their business ventures.

Each region was afforded an opportunity to market and promote their products and services at different times for the duration of the event. The Northern Cape stand was awarded the “Silver award” for the second best set up and marketing stand at the Indaba trade expo 2009.

Information on the stand regarding tourism in the Frances Baard region was informative and user-friendly. Information packages from tourism offices in the regions were distributed on a large scale.

Interesting prize draws were held daily on the stand in order to attract as many operators and media to the stand as possible. Information packages were requested by several operators, media officials from the stand.

“Take a Girl Child to work” Winners



Pictured above from left: Grade 10 learner, Busisiwe Nomateke, the overall winner, the Principal, Ms Dondolo and the Speaker, Ms Maria Chwarisang.

As part of the “Take a Girl child to Work” initiative the Speaker of the Frances Baard District Municipality this year ran a competition in which the girls had to complete a questionnaire about local government operations.

Up for grabs were prizes intended to contribute towards the school fees of the winners. This year ten learners, grades 10 - 11, from St Boniface High School joined the district municipality for the day.

The answers to the questionnaire were quite impressive and showed that the learners were actively participating in what was happening around them.

The prize money ranged from first prize R5,000, second prize R2,500 and third prize R1,500.

The winners were:

Busisiwe Nomateke	Grade 10	R5,000
Raylene Tshaka	Grade 11	R2,500
Mokgoasi Motshidisi	Grade 10	R1,500

NATIONAL HEADLINES

What is novel H1N1 (swine flu)?

Novel H1N1 (referred to as “swine flu” early on) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. This virus is spreading from person-to-person worldwide, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread. This virus was originally referred to as “swine flu” because laboratory testing showed that many of the genes in this new virus were very similar to influenza viruses that normally occur in pigs (swine) in North America. But further study has shown that this new virus is very different from what normally circulates in North American pigs. It has two genes from flu viruses that normally circulate in pigs in Europe and Asia and bird (avian) genes and human genes.

The spread of novel H1N1 virus is thought to occur in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something – such as a surface or object – with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

The symptoms of novel H1N1 flu virus in people include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting. Severe illnesses and death has occurred as a result of illness associated with this virus.

If you become ill and experience any of the following warning signs, seek emergency medical care.

In children, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish or gray skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

Editorial Note

Through the “Council meets the People” programme it is apparent that the community is hungry for a chance to engage more frequently with their respective representatives. This not only builds trust between the leadership at the different municipalities and the people they serve but also improves the channels of communication and interaction. It is of vital importance that you as the community are aware of what is happening at your local authority and know who your ward councillors and other representatives are. The IDP and budget engagement processes are such important events that you cannot afford to miss these sessions when your local municipality announces these meetings.

Also discussed in this issue was the spatial development framework (SDF) and how far this process in the local municipalities has progressed. As responsible members of the community it is our duty to participate in this process so that we can understand why and how development in our area is going to take place and how it will affect us or impact on our lives.

Local knowledge gained from the people living in a particular area is of immense value during these planning processes. Who better then to advise the local authority than the people who sometimes spend a lifetime in a particular area.

Inputs from you, the reader, are always welcome and we encourage you to contact us should you require more information on the featured articles.

Gerline Roman
Editor

EVENTS CALENDAR

SMME Business Expo: 23 - 24 October 2009
Tourism Product Owners Meeting: 05 November 2009
Outreach Programme (Tourism Workshop for DMA Women): 19 November 2009

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