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Message from the Executive Mayor

This issue is released on the eve of Christmas and New Year festivities and on the basis of that, I take this opportunity to wish our Communities, Mayors, Speakers, Councillors, Municipal Managers and all Staff of the municipalities in the District a joyous Christmas, an Incident free and Prosperous New Year.

The mandate our communities bestowed on to us, during the local government elections in March 2006, to create work and fight Poverty remains on track. The target we set in terms of our deliverable objective is on course. The consultative programme of Council Meets the People on average was encouraging and fruitful, in further determining our collective direction, as far as municipal services are concerned.

The 16 Days of Activism on No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign need to be an ongoing

programme amongst our communities to ensure abusers of Women and Children do not reside comfortably amongst ourselves without identification, notification and action by our law enforcement agencies.

We are indebted to our communities in accelerating, service delivery programme and we remain committed to that agenda.

***DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE
– SPEED KILLS!!!!***

***DRIVE ALIVE!!!!!!
ARRIVE ALIVE!!!!!!***



**The Executive Mayor,
Mr Achmat Florence**





“The key role player and leader in the delivery of services in the FBDM district”

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From the Municipal Manager's Desk



**Municipal Manager,
Mr Thabo Nosi**

**“I heard the bells on Christmas Day - Their
old, familiar carols play, - And wild and sweet
The words repeat - Of peace on earth, good-
will to men!”**

Isend greetings to those celebrating Christmas.

Each Christmas, we celebrate that first coming anew, and we rejoice in the knowledge that the God who came to Earth that night in Bethlehem is with us still and will remain with us forever.

During Christmas, we gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As God's only Son, Jesus came to Earth and gave His life so that we may live.

His actions and His words remind us that service to others is central to our lives and that sacrifice and unconditional love must guide us and inspire us to lead lives of compassion, mercy, and justice.

The true spirit of Christmas reflects a dedication to helping those in need, to giving hope to those in despair, and to spreading peace and understanding.

As we enter the 16 Days of Activism for no violence against Women and Children let us be reminded of the special place they, the women and children, have in our lives. Let us keep them from harm and not live

out these virtues in this period only but all through the year.

This Christmas, may we give thanks for the blessings God has granted in each of our lives. May the joy of the holidays renew our commitment to working together for a future of peace, opportunity, and hope.

2010 World Cup Opportunities



Since South Africa won the bid to host the FIFA Soccer World Cup in 2010, South Africa has become the destination of choice for many international tourists. The World Cup will undoubtedly bring many tourists to our shores and the Frances Baard District Municipality wants to ensure that we fully make use of this opportunity to entice visitors with the sights and sounds of our district.

Through the LED & Tourism Unit the district municipality would like to establish a 24HR Tourism Call Centre.

The FBDM is currently engaged in talks with a Johannesburg based organisation specialising in online and real world advertising.

By utilising the expertise of this established organisation the district hopes to run this innovative call centre system that will be managed by small businesses from our jurisdiction area.

The organisation will then give expertise and support in ensuring that this venture works through valuable experience.

The call centre will have a six-page listing on over 100 websites;

The pages will include:

- Information and pictures about FBDM
- Map and directions
- Contact and enquiries
- Rates and specials on accommodation and;
- Printable query sheets

The call centre will operate on a 24hr basis to accommodate all online bookings and queries which will be coming from all over the world with regards to touring South Africa during the 2010 World Cup.

The call centre will also be there to offer peace of mind to the traveling tourists as well as to offer assistance in case of emergencies whilst in the our district. These facilities will be manned by youth via skills transfer by the assisting organisation.

The call centre will serve as match-maker between FBDM, SA Tourism operators and potential visitors from around the world as well as those closer to home.

The domestic tourists seeking rest, relaxation and adventure is a largely untapped source of income for opera-

tors in the industry and through the call centre we hope to create an entry point for these adventurers to explore and experience what is right under their noses.

The call centre website will be one of the means by which we will bring information right into the homes of tourists, and offices to make information available and increase local tourist activity.

Our close proximity to Bloemfontein will also ensure that we receive a hefty influx of tourists through our accommodation establishments.

FOCUS ON:

Operation and Maintenance of Gravel Roads

The basic function of gravel roads are to provide a sound, safe and durable wearing coarse under all weather and climatic conditions. It is essential that the perception by motorists is influenced positively by the condition of the road. Maintenance of gravel roads should be undertaken regularly to ensure these requirements are met.

Basic requirements:

- Fulfil an important need,
- Be constructed in such a way that water drain effectively from, across and along the road,
- Be safe to use in all weather conditions,
- Provide a non slip texture,
- Minimise dust.

Objectives for Gravel Road Maintenance

The primary objective for gravel road maintenance is to protect the asset from water erosion, by providing adequate drainage.

Secondly is to provide a smooth roadway at all times to the user for the road user by regular blading, repairing potholes, reshape the road and regravelling to mention a few.

Gravel roads consist of the following elements that are combined to provide an effective passage:

- the gravel wearing course,
- the structural pavement layers and
- the subgrade.

Gravel Road Maintenance

Deterioration of the wearing coarse pavement can be ascribed to various factors.

These may include:

- normal deterioration as a result of traffic
- water damaged caused by ineffective drainage systems,
- erosion on the road due to lack of maintenance or inadequate crossfall.

Gravel road maintenance comprises all actions necessary to ensure a smooth, safe wearing coarse ride on.

This includes:

- Corrugations
- Cross section
- Loose material
- Potholes
- Stoniness
- Gravel cover over structures

Methodology of gravel road maintenance

Evaluation should be done regularly to determine the location, extend, quantities, costs and priority of the maintenance needed. The necessary maintenance should be done as soon as possible for all Grade 3 defects.

Risks

Maintenance of gravel road should be done regularly as indicated. The result for lack of maintenance of gravel roads for one season may double or triple the cost of maintenance in the following season. Another risk is that according to legislation the road authority can be held responsible for non performance and can the claim in case of an accident due to none compliance be enormous.

FBDM is going Wireless - The Blackberry



Why blackberry. What is the buzz all about?.....

..... It is a complete wireless Email Solution for connecting mobile government professionals and public servants to important information and colleagues while they're on the go.

Whether you need to check your email on the go, return a phone call, quickly send a text message, or look up information on the Internet. The BlackBerry Enterprise Solution can help increase productivity by giving employees real-time access to voice, email, corporate data, and line-of-business applications.

Your mobile employees can enjoy the benefits of being mobile and still have access to their corporate email, calendar, contacts, and more—all without lugging around a laptop or hunting for a phone jack.

What are the Benefits ? Emailing

The BlackBerry Enterprise Solution provides government and public sector users with a wireless extension to their existing government email accounts, allowing them to manage email like they never left their desk.

Users can send, receive, and delete messages while on the go!

Blackberry supports viewing of email attachments in popular document and image formats such as Ms Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF, Corel and many more!

Email is automatically delivered with Blackberry “push technology”, enabling users to receive communications with no efforts required/no need to dial to your private network

Phone

With built-in phone support, Blackberry users are able to use a variety of voice service and features such as Bluetooth hands-free technology, call waiting, call forwarding and conference calling.

Internet & Intranet Access

Blackberry allows mobile users to wirelessly access internet & intranet content from behind the firewall, helping them to remain productive and effective while on the go

SMS

The Blackberry Enterprise Solution supports Short Messaging Service (sms) which enables mobile users to communicate with users of other SMS-enabled devices and phones

Organiser

With Blackberry, mobile users can stay up-to-date with access to their latest calendar, address book, task and memo pad information throughout the day

Blackberry is a complete platform with advanced security features for wirelessly extending the information residing in existing applications and Systems to mobile government professionals.

COUNCIL MEETS THE PEOPLE 2006

Section 17(2)(c) of the Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 provides that “A municipality must establish an appropriate mechanism, processes and procedures to enable the local community to participate in the affairs of the municipality and must for this purpose provide for public meetings and hearings by the municipal council and other political structures and political office bearers of the municipality when appropriate.”

The FBDM Council embarked on a series of meetings again this year, to interact with communities on issues of concern and to inform them on what the district municipality is doing.

A number of meetings were scheduled and took place on 25-26 October and 07-08 November 2006. (See adjacent page for complete schedule).

A slide show presentation presented by the LED Manager (business meeting) and the Executive Mayor (community meeting); highlighted the broader responsibilities of the Frances Baard District Municipality (FBDM).

The presentations included the following:

Business Meeting:

1. LED Forums
2. Attraction of Investors
3. Skills development
4. Conducive environment for SMME's
5. ASGISA & JIPSA development
6. Investment & Marketing Strategy
7. Closing the gap between 1st & 2nd Economies
8. Preparations around 2010

Community Meeting:

1. Composition of the FBDM

2. Infrastructure projects
3. Allocations per municipalities
4. Project Categories (2006/07)
5. Operation & Maintenance
6. What is the Service Delivery & Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP)?

Issues Raised

Both communities and the business sector were concerned with the still very big infrastructure backlog and lack of or poor basic services provided.

Concern with our readiness for the 2010 World Cup were also raised i.e. the basic condition of our road infrastructure. Leading out of the presentation done by the LED Manager, Mr Phetole Sithole, the issues concerning the skilling of youth to enable them to become entrepreneurs, was one of the issues often mentioned.

Council also reiterated that the prime focus in terms of information sharing is on the youth and women to ensure that people are aware of opportunities for development.

A sector approach in terms of scheduling meetings are being employed to achieve the aforesaid goal.

FBDM and the local municipalities will also be making better use of the existing MPCC's in our area. These MPCC's houses various services and the locals and FBDM will also be getting involved in these centres to ensure that the communities receive the services they need.

Council again reaffirmed that it is expected of ward councillors to have meetings with the community once a month so as to report all concerns of the community.

It is clear that challenges are manifold and the councillors will re-commit themselves to listen to the community.

Attendance

Municipality	Business	Community
Dikgatlong	15	120
Magareng	5	5
Phokwane	25	800
Sol Plaatje	14	80
Subtotal	59	1005
TOTAL	1064	

BUSINESS MEETINGS		
Date	Venue	Time
25/10/2006	Sol Plaatje - Kimberley Library Hall	14:00
26/10/2006	Dikgatlong - Barkly West - Old Library Hall	14:00
07/11/2006	Phokwane - Hartswater - Barrons Lodge - Olive Room	14:00
08/11/2006	Magareng - Warrenton Library	14:00
COMMUNITY MEETINGS		
25/10/2006	Sol Plaatje - Ritchie - Motswedimosa Community Hall	17:00
26/10/2006	Dikgatlong - Windsorton - Kutlwano Community Hall	17:00
07/11/2006	Phokwane - Pampierstad Community Hall	17:00
08/11/2006	Magareng - Warrenton - Warrenvale Community Hall	17:00



Kimberley & Ritchie - 25 October



Barkly West & Windsorton - 26 October



Hartswater & Pampierstad - 07 November



The Roads, Streets & Stormwater Test Training

This training is currently taking place at Frances Baard District Municipality, with participants from Frances Baard, Sol Plaatje, Dikgatlong, Kgalagadi, Ga-Segonyana, Moshaweng and Thembelihle municipalities.

The technical training team of engineers, which also drafted the handbook, consists of Peet van der Walt (Frances Baard), Ben Olivier (Kgalagadi), Hennie Greeff (Pixley ka Seme) Toit Thiart (Namakwa) and Gail Jele (Sol Plaatje). John Roux of SIPU International is the process facilitator.

The aims of the training are:

- to test and further develop the draft Roads, Streets and Stormwater Infrastructure O&M Handbook
- to develop capacity, standards and good practice examples for O&M of roads, streets and stormwater infrastructure in participating municipalities

The test training involves five modules, of which three have been completed. Between modules participants undertake fieldwork assignments to investigate needs and improve O&M practices in their municipalities. Main themes in the training have been:

- Staff capacity and resources for O&M
- Developing asset registers for infrastructure
- Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to map and monitor infrastructure
- Assessing the condition of roads and streets
- Developing a GIS based Pavement Management System

- Planning, scheduling and budgeting for O&M of roads etc.

During module two we visited 12 sites in Galashewe and Sol Plaatje to see various maintenance needs and activities, including pothole repair, stormwater pipe cleaning, surface failings due to old, leaking pipes beneath a street, damp homes due to drainage problems, a large, brick-walled, labour intensive stormwater channel, a retention dam and brick-paved streets. Some of these examples will be included in the handbook.

An exciting pilot project has developed out of module two, where we had two GIS presentations. This project will install and test GIS systems for

mapping and monitoring infrastructure and managing O&M. We will test two different models – at Thembelihle a stand-alone model at a local municipality, and at Ga-Segonyana and Moshaweng linked to Kgalagadi, a district municipality based cluster model. Africon consulting engineers are facilitating this pilot project, conducting needs assessments, installing systems and providing training and follow-up support. The GIS cluster model could become an important component of the proposed district based O&M support units, and the project will also result in an additional chapter in the handbook – clearly the testing process really works!



Participants assessing the condition of a road

Introducing O&M Support Units in Districts

O&M Support Units

are included in the O&M project as no single municipality can afford all the staff and equipment needed for proper O&M. District based units will provide the necessary resources and support, though responsibility for O&M will still rest with municipalities. Support Units will in turn be supported by the provincial O&M Management Unit at DHLG, for which staff are now being recruited and detailed functions decided.

Testing confirms the need

The O&M Support Unit concept has been tested in Frances Baard District. The unit was not established as a stand-alone unit, but as a function of the Technical Department, in co-operation with the Infrastructure Development Committee. The DM has concluded that it must take a much more proactive approach to, and greater responsibility for O&M in B municipalities. The testing has shown that the concept of O&M Support Units is relevant, and the O&M Project will now continue to develop the concept and support those regions that would like to set up support units.

Functions of O&M Support Units

Proposed O&M Support Unit functions include:

1. Carry out O&M audits and assist municipalities to build-up infrastructure asset registers.
2. Assist municipalities to establish O&M schedules based on O&M Handbooks and addressing needs identified in audits.

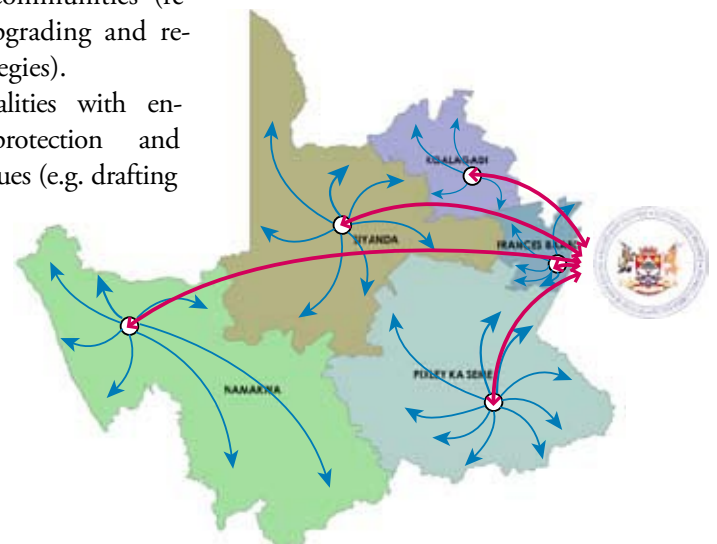
3. Provide guidance on O&M activities and repairs, and establish links between municipalities and with private contractors.
4. Maintain a depot of equipment that municipalities can't afford, including emergency and back-up equipment.
5. Assist municipalities in strategic planning, budgeting and developing key performance indicators for O&M.
6. Monitor and assist municipalities to comply with laws and regulations. Assist in developing and co-ordinating worker health monitoring programmes.
7. Capacitate municipalities to manage procurement of services from contractors (private sector and community organisations).
8. Assist municipalities to recruit and develop technical staff. Establish networks so municipalities can help each other in emergencies.
9. Assist municipalities to develop long-term plans to ensure that infrastructure development matches the needs of communities (rehabilitation, upgrading and replacement strategies).
10. Assist municipalities with environmental protection and management issues (e.g. drafting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and scoping reports).

A flexible approach

The O&M Project Steering Committee proposes testing a variety of models when establishing O&M Support Units, depending on the needs and capabilities of local and district municipalities. These could include:

- A separate O&M Support Unit at the district municipality
- A unit within the DM Technical Department
- A unit at a PIMSS Centre or MIG Project Management Unit
- A unit as a private company owned or contracted by municipalities

We must also find the best ways for municipalities to co-operate, including service level or resource sharing agreements, contributions to a common O&M fund, and paying for services as needed. The O&M Project is willing to test different arrangements in specific districts. Consultative meetings with municipalities start in July, towards establishing at least two O&M Support Units in the current financial year.



Assistance for Local Authorities with Operation & Maintenance needs

Included in the 2006/07 budget is an amount of R4 000 000.00 for use by the Support Unit to assist local authorities within the Frances Baard District with their O & M needs. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry also contributed R750 000.00 for this purpose.

When applications are considered there are certain factors that need to be taken into account:

- The allocation must be made for urgent O & M needs.
- The way in which service delivery is affected by the inefficient operation of infrastructure due to maintenance problems.

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT (Exc VAT)	AMOUNT AVAILABLE
Allocation of Frances Baard District Municipality and DWAF	4,750,000.00		
Allocation by DWAF	29,586.00	29,586.00	4,720,414.00
Dikgatlong : Windsorton - Roads	18,744.92	18,744.92	4,701,669.08
Frances Baard District Testing and Training program of the O & M Manual for Roads	200,000.00	175,438.60	4,625,869.08
Dikgatlong Municipality Electrical cable	86,412.00	75,800.00	4,450,430.48
Dikgatlong Municipality Municipal Stores: Emergency Stock (Electricity and Water)	200,000.00	175,438.60	4,239,904.17
Dikgatlong Municipality Replacement of water pumps and valves	240,000.00	210,526.32	4,156,570.83
Dikgatlong Municipality Longlands : Pressure Tank	95,000.00	83,333.33	4,007,448.03
Dikgatlong Municipality Repair and upgrade of telemetric system at the water works in Barkly West	170,000.00	149,122.81	3,805,693.64
Dikgatlong Municipality Barkly West : Removal of rocks in Rooirand	230,000.00	175 438.60	3,630,255.04
Magareng Municipality Ikhutseng - Replace elevated tank	882,280.71	773,930.45	2,856,324.60
Magareng Municipality Warrenton : Water Pump Station	100,000.00	87,719.30	2,768,605.30
Magareng Municipality Warrenvale : Sewerage Pump station	450,664.00	395,319.30	2,373,286.00
Magareng Municipality Sewerage Plant	36,000.00	31,578.95	2,341,707.05
Magareng Municipality Sewerage Plant	130,000.00	114,035.09	2,227,671.97
Magareng Municipality Warrenvale & Ikhutseng : Sewerage Pipe line	131,746.00	115,566.67	2,112,105.30
Magareng Municipality Water meters	192,400.00	168,771.93	1,943,333.37
Magareng Municipality Sewerage trucks	260,000.00	228,070.18	1,715,263.19
Magareng Municipality Magareng : Waterworks	196,600.00	172,456.14	1,542,807.05
Phokwane Municipality Jan Kempdorp: Water Treatment Works	891,796.44	782,277.58	760,529.47
Sol Plaatje Municipality Homevale Works - Replacement of sewer outfall	342,511.07	300,448.31	460,081.17
Sol Plaatje Municipality Ritchie : Sand filters at Ritchie Waterworks	81,201.61	71,229.48	388,851.69
BALANCE AVAILABLE		388,851.69	

SEASON'S GREETINGS

and best wishes for 2007....



The Council, the Executive Mayor, the Speaker, and Staff of the FBDM wishes its Community and Stakeholders,
a Blessed Christmas and Prosperous New Year;

We hope to continue the excellent cooperation in the coming year

Integrated Development Planning (IDP) and Performance Management (PMS)

Integrated Development Planning

In compliance with legislation all municipalities in the district compiled and approved the IDP's for 2006/07.

An action plan has been drafted in consultation with all municipalities in the district in order to ensure compliance to IDP legal requirements and to obtain the same level of credibility for all IDP's in the district.

The action programme has been adopted by all municipalities in the district.

Achievements:

- IDP's and Budgets are much more appropriately linked.
- Alignment with provincial and national government departments on IDP issues has

improved significantly.

Challenges:

- To further improvement on the credibility of IDP's in the district.
- To improve on public participation in the IDP processes of the municipality.

Performance Management:

The district municipality succeeded in the development, adoption and implementation of a PMS which included corporate and individual measuring and score card components based on the key performance areas (KPA) identified by Council.

The eight KPA's of the municipality also include the key performance indicators (KPI) set by National Government.

The District Municipality also upgraded its PMS Policy Framework to coincide with the new PMS Regulations of 01 August 2006 as promulgated by the Minister.

Achievements:

- A corporate and individual PMS has been developed and implemented.
- Much progress has been made in linking the IDP, the Budget and the PMS.

STAFF NEWS

Appointments

No New Appointments

Long service awards

Name	Appointment Date	Years
Andrew Africa	21 October 1974	30 years
Ruben Pienaar	16 September 1996	10 years

Resignations

Name	Appointment Date	Years
Mrs Goratamang Magodongo	Trainee Accountant	(3 yrs & 1 month)
Mr Moeketsi Maishoane	GIS/Database Manager	(2 yrs & 8 months)

CONGRATULATIONS!!

To Mr Thabo Nosi with his re-appointment as Municipal Manager.

To Tumelo Maropong and Vincent Shabalala with the birth of their sons.

PERSONALIA

Welcome back Frank! Our thoughts are still with Zelda in her recovering process. She is currently in Bloemfontein at the Louis Pasteur Hospital for special care and treatment to assist her on her road to recovery. Our Prayers are with her.

To all our staff a Merry Christmas and may the All Mighty give you peace and prosperity in the New Year

Editorial Note

The end of another working year is here - when we take stock of achievements and challenges.

In this issue we highlighted especially the interaction by Council with the Community and we encourage our citizens to really show interest in the workings of their local government.

Also focussed on is the important work done by the O&M team to ensure that we make headway with the backlogs in service delivery.

This is a time for celebration and goodwill and we wish our stakeholders and community peace and prosperity over the festive season.

Gerline Roman
Editor



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