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Message from the Executive Mayor

This edition comes to you as we concluded our fourth year of our term of office as the current Council of the FBDM. We have adopted the fourth year budget in May of this year and we are continuing to focus on improving the living conditions of the people of this district.

As a district municipality we want to ensure that our community find a voice in how we as the electorate is running the institutions that must look after the livelihood of the district. That is why we have re-embarked on rolling out public consultation meetings through the participation programme. We have managed to visit all our local municipalities and in the new financial year we will continue with this process.

We have also successfully re-launched the District Aids Council to ensure that we not only involve our communities in the fight against HIV but that we also ensure good coordination of efforts to deal with HIV and Aids. The municipality has a common focus to work for the good of the district and its

residents in ensuring a prosperous, crime free and clean environment and to deal with existing backlogs. Certainly one of the most extraordinary districts in the heart of its people and South Africa. As we continue efforts to deliver on our manifesto commitments, we pledge ourselves to continue to work with our people to leave no stone unturned in fulfilling our objectives by accelerating and doubling our efforts to bring about a better life to all our people. We will do so in an accountable and ethical manner, as we have been proven to do over the years.

We look back with pride as we approach the final phase of the current term of our political office. It is this achievement, coupled with our confidence, commitment and loyalty which will see us standing proud at the end of our political term.



**The Executive Mayor
Ms Khadi Moloi**



The 9th annual municipal manager's forum took place at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley in June 2015. **Read more on PAGE 3**



From the Municipal Manager's Desk

It seems like yesterday when we started this fiscal year, and now we are at the verge of starting yet another fiscal year. We had all our hands on deck throughout the year and I am pleased to report that the municipality ended the fiscal year 2014/15 on a very positive note with improved financial administration, services delivery output and accountability.

We strive, on a daily basis, to live up to our motto go direla setshaba. This is our driving force as we prepare ourselves to roll out projects for the 2015/16 financial year geared towards the upliftment and better living conditions of our communities.

Council adopted the 2015/15 budget on 22 May 2014 and, as the norm, allocated the greater portion of the budget towards infrastructure development within the district. This comes after we have successfully completed all projects that were projected to be finalised in the 2014/2015 financial year. Our housing component is showing great improvement in managing and ensuring completion of all budgeted projects for the 2014/15 financial year. We also created more urgency among ourselves and our local municipalities about the importance of operation and maintenance of existing equipment and infrastructure.

We want to ensure that financial systems for the entire district become compliant with the Standard Charts of Account (SCOA), a goal that must be achieved by 2017 as required by the national treasury. We have made necessary budgetary provisions for our smaller local municipality to keep to the expected output.

As the administration of this municipality we are committed to ensuring that this municipality performs better in the next financial year. We appreciate the focused leadership of our council in making us to work

beyond set achievements. For the first time in the 2015/16 fiscal year, we will be receiving a grant for rural roads asset management systems grant. This grant will assist us to establish a municipal road asset management system which will allow for the management of the municipal road network (including bridges), assess asset condition and the traffic carried by these assets. It will create yet another opportunity for the district municipality to work closely with its local municipalities to improve the road sector in the district. This grant will also help us to create more and much needed job opportunities for our communities.

Together with the Sol Plaatje municipality, we are delighted to have hosted the National Municipal Managers Forum which hosts municipal managers from all municipalities in the country. This meeting took place at a time when municipalities across the country faced challenges of settling the debts with water boards and Eskom. The forum was therefore a platform to reflect on how best to confront these challenges. We anticipate an improved situation with all stakeholders committing to finding a solution that ensures that our communities are not denied basic services because of compromised municipal viability in some parts of the country.

As you can see it has been quite a year and we are looking forward to achieving even more in the coming year.

Enjoy the read.



**Municipal Manager
Ms Mamikie Bogatsu**

Energy / Electricity Saving Tips

- Reduce the temperature of your geyser to around 55 degrees Celsius so that you don't need to add too much cold water when you shower or do the dishes.
- Remember to keep the lid on the pot when you cook to conserve heat and energy.
- The size of the pot should match the size of the stove plate; this can save you up to 25% on the electricity you use while cooking.
- Close the windows and doors when the air conditioner or heater is on and save money!
- Close the door every time you take things out of the fridge and also check that it seals properly.
- Soak beans, samp and other related dry food over night. This will save time, money and several hours of cooking.
- It will save energy and water to use shower than bath.
- Insulate your geyser by wrapping newspapers, old blankets or other insulating materials around it and the hot water pipes.
- Switch off lights, fans, computers and other energy-consuming appliances when you leave the room. It will save you money.
- Always try to use appropriate cooking utensils when cooking; for example, use pots and pans with a flat bottom, as these consume up to 50% less energy. Note that an electric stove consumes a lot of electricity so use the plates and oven as little as possible.
- Use the right energy for the right purposes; for example, use heaters for space heating rather than hotplates, and use an electrical kettle for water heating rather than an ordinary pot on the stove. You will use about 50% less electricity.
- Note: Electricity is good for electronic devices but gas is more efficient for heating and cooking.

More tips in the next issue.

Municipal Manager's Forum hosted in Kimberley

"The 9th National Municipal Managers Forum took place a day after the release of the Auditor General's - MFMA Audit Outcomes 2013/2014."

SALGA, in conjunction with Frances Baard District Municipality and Sol Plaatje local municipality hosted this year's National Municipal Manager's Forum (NMMF). Municipal managers from the 278 municipalities in South Africa attended the NMMF held on 04 - 05 June 2015 at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley.

Through this forum the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) coordinated a platform for municipal managers to interact and to appreciate not just the progress made but also the challenges that still remain.

Objectives

The NMMF serves as a platform to facilitate peer learning through the sharing of good practices and innovations so that there is a general keenness and zeal from those that have not as yet attained good financial governance.

It provides more opportunities for municipal managers to contribute to the strengthening of the sector by informing improvements in local government performance, collaborate in addressing common concerns and facilitate inter-municipal peer-learning so that local government can have more good stories to share. In a

media statement SALGA reiterated its satisfaction with the progress made in the 2013/14 financial year and is dedicated to continue to assist municipalities to do even better in the future audits.

Challenges

Over the two days the forum deliberated and reflected on the recent developments and challenges impacting on local government. The 9th sitting of the NMMF convened against the backdrop of recent challenges in local government such as the determination of upper limits for the remuneration of senior managers which, while improved from the last year, still contains elements that may need to be refined.

The withholding of the equitable share which is relied upon by municipalities for the provision of basic services to communities and in some instances, even the payment of salaries. This is in addition to existing systemic and structural challenges confronting municipalities.

Municipalities are faced with a variety of financial challenges that include: inability to pay some debtors including Eskom and Water Boards, withholding of equitable share by National Treasury, Eskom threatening to cut off certain municipalities, spiralling debt to municipalities.

The forum reflected on challenges that compromise municipal financial viability with a particular focus on; cost of municipal services; tariff setting; and revenue enhancement including debt collection.

From left: The municipal Manager of Frances Baard District Municipality, Ms Mamikie Bogatsu, the CEO of SALGA, Mr Xolile George and the municipal manager of Sol Plaatje local municipality, Mr Goolam Ahkharwaray, during a media briefing on Thursday morning, 04 June 2015.

"SALGA and local government is beginning to build a credible base of local municipalities in South Africa as the audit records of these institutions are improving steadily. This is important to restore the confidence of South Africa in local government."

- CEO, SALGA, Mr Xolile George



Tourism Indaba 2015

“Indaba is one of the largest tourism marketing events on the African calendar and one of the top three ‘must visit’ events of its kind on the global calendar.”

The Frances Baard District Municipality launched its district tourism stand at the 2015 Tourism Indaba on 10 May 2015.

The district stand formed part of 28 regional authority stands at Indaba 2015, all marketing their regional tourism destinations.

This year the district municipality boasted with a bigger stand and was joined by the four local municipalities in its area of jurisdiction. The team showcased of the local products from the district and attracted visitors to the stand with daily lucky draws to win produce all the way from the Diamondfields.

In her launch speech the district mayor, Cllr. Khadi Moloi, highlighted all the tourism attractions that await visitors to the Frances Baard District and said that the decision to allow the tourism division to take advantage of the opportunity to stage this branded stand at this year’s Indaba was totally unanimous by Council. “We saw it as an opportunity to showcase the potential of the district on an international platform and to keep abreast with global trends and new developments in the tourism industry,” she said.

Frances Baard District is the strongest economic region in the province, accounting for approximately 36% of the provincial gross domestic product. In comparison to other sectors tourism ranks very high in terms of its contribution to the GDP.



The team from the Frances Baard District was joined by the mayors of three of the local municipalities in the district. Seated is from left the mayor of Magareng municipality, Cllr. Elizabeth Monapule, the mayor of Phokwane municipality, Cllr. Robert Tsikwe, the executive mayor of Frances Baard district municipality, Cllr. Khadi Moloi and the mayor of Dikgatlong municipality, Mr William Mogongwa.

So it naturally stands to reason that by boosting this sector the district economy will benefit.

Attractions

Apart from Kimberley, which probably boasts with the most firsts in the country, such as being the town with the first street lights and the well-known Big Hole. The district also have a wealth of history in the form of the Anglo

Boer War, alluvial diamonds and the diamond rush, and the raptor route which is a bird watchers paradise. A visit to Barkly West offers attractions such as Canteen Kopje, fly-fishing, the Gong-Gong waterfall and glacial pavings. In Magareng visitors will be greeted by architecture dating back to the nineteenth century and right in front of the municipal buildings there is a locomotive, the Class 19D that was used as a passenger train between Warrenton and Mafikeng. The Nazareth Mission Station is also located here.

“It made good sense to ensure that we use this platform to show what our district has to offer in terms of tourism attractions, and do that by creating a separate platform that will bring to the fore the gems of the Diamond Fields.”

- Executive Mayor, Ms Khadi Moloi

“Some of the world’s unique tourism offerings are found right across our continent. Where else on earth can you witness the incredible sight of millions of wildebeest stampeding across wide sandy plains, crossing raging rivers as they hurtle towards new grazing grounds in their annual migration? Only in Africa.”

- Minister Derek Hanekom



The Frances Baard District stand at Indaba 2015.

The well-known Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme, the Olives South Africa as well as the Hartswater Wine Cellars are located in the Phokwane area.

In his opening address of Indaba 2015 the Minister of Tourism, Mr Derek Hanekom, said that just over 1000 exhibitors from 20 African countries, and about 2000 buyers from the world’s tourism source markets were at this year’s Indaba.

“We also have about 750 members of the media at this event. You – our trade partners, buyers, exhibitors, media partners and other stakeholders – are the people who make it big. And it is you who make tourism the exciting, growing sector that it is,” he announced.

The Minister also said that international arrivals in Africa increased to 56 million tourists last year, and are expected to grow by between 3% and 5% in 2015.

This will probably exceed the projected growth in global arrivals, which is between 3% and 4% for 2015.

More and more people are venturing out to discover new places, leaving the familiar behind to seek unique experiences, to meet new people and discover their culture.

Bloodhound

The Northern Cape Tourism Authority (NCTA) also launched the Bloodhound land speed project at this year’s Indaba. Part car, part airplane and part spaceship, the Bloodhound SSC aims to shatter the land speed record of 1 000mph and set a new world record at Hakskeenpan later this year.

The Bloodhound team searched the globe to find the perfect desert to test the fastest car on Earth, the British-built Bloodhound SSC. After an intensive search, Hakskeen Pan, in South Africa’s Northern Cape, was selected. Runway testing will be conducted in the United Kingdom and, all being well, the team will head to Hakskeen Pan in 2015.



An excited lucky draw winner receives her prize from the Executive Mayor, Ms Khadi Moloi during the launch of the Frances Baard District stand.



A replica of the Bloodhound on display on the NCTA stand. Visitors to the stand could also test a simulation driving experience.

The district municipality budget for 2015/16

The total budget for the 2015/16 financial year is R168.49m. The operational budget is R155.1m (40 million of which was allocated to the local municipalities for capital projects and operation and maintenance, as well as R17,03m for special projects for both the district and its local municipalities. The capital budget for the district municipality is R13.39m.

On 20 May 2015 the district municipality adopted the fourth budget for the current Council. In her budget speech to Council the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Khadi Moloi, reflected on the key achievements of the municipality and said that all projects planned for the 2014/15 financial year is well on track and will be completed successfully.

Achievements

The spatial development framework (SDF) for the district municipality as well as for the three smaller local municipalities have been completed. In 2015/16 the district municipality will assist Sol Plaatje local municipality with the preparation of the SDF. This is well in line with the objectives to enhance the implementation of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Development Act (SPLUMA), 2013.

The required environmental studies for township establishment in Dikgatlong local municipality have been completed successfully. Through the finalisation of these plans we will ensure that spatial development takes place in these areas.

The entire R30m that was budgeted in the 2013/14 for infrastructure improvement was used successfully to complete the planned projects.

All budgeted housing projects for the 2014/15 financial year are on schedule and will be completed successfully. The following is the picture of housing delivery in the three local municipalities:

- The target of 100 houses in Magareng has been achieved.
- In Phokwane local municipality all 50 houses planned for Kingston have been completed and 224 houses for Pampierstad were completed.
- The project for the Buffer Zone in Dikgatlong local municipality kicked off amidst several

challenges and currently 5 houses are completed. The 147 houses for Stillwater have been completed. Monthly site meetings and quarterly project steering committee meetings continues and regular consumer education workshops were conducted for the current financial year.

The executive mayor also stressed the importance of the SMME development and support policy which will provide a framework for SMME development in the district. She said that the district municipality was well on track with the implementation of the five key pillars of the “back to basics” approach for local government and emphasised that the municipality have to work better with its local municipalities to complement their “back to basics” action plans.

The budget

The largest portion of the budget is allocated to the Planning & Development and Infrastructure Services Departments. Allocations to these departments amounts to R78.43m and is directly linked towards the improvement of the quality of life of communities in the district. This includes R41.32m for infrastructure development and repairs and maintenance at local municipalities.

For local economic development and tourism an amount of R3.03m and R3.44m has been allocated respectively.

In terms of spatial planning R2.34m has been earmarked for the surveying of erven in Dikgatlong municipality; the development of a spatial development framework for Sol Plaatje municipality; the development of bylaws for three of our local municipalities; a CBD renewal plan for Magareng local municipality; township establishment for 450 erven in the Phokwane area and 200 erven in the Dikgatlong area.

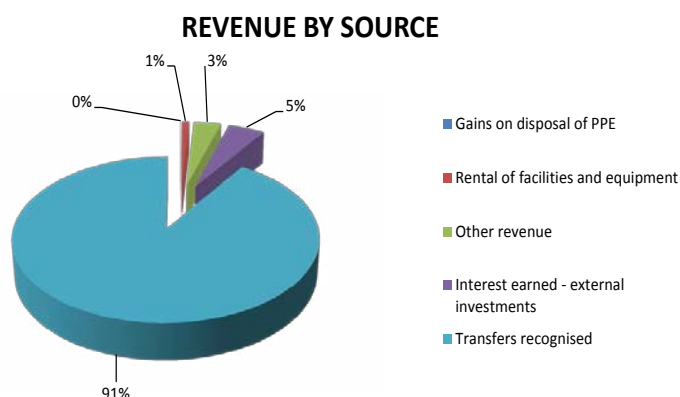
“R1.5m have been budgeted to support local municipalities with financial service related matters and to ensure that their financial systems are Standard Charts of Account (SCOA) compliant by 2017.”

Projects

Major infrastructure projects include:

- In Phokwane: Refurbishment of the old oxidation pond system and the upgrading of the outflow line at the Jan Kempdorp Waste Water Treatment Works, fencing of Hartswater Water Treatment Works, a master plan for bulk water and sanitation infrastructure including a maintenance plan, a water conservation and demand management strategy, and water and sanitation for 608 stands in Guldenskat;
- In Magareng: The provision of sewer reticulation network for 558 sites in Warrenvale will continue, and we will also be procuring a TLB and a sanitation truck;
- In Sol Plaatje the main focus will be on bulk water supply in Ritchie/Modderivier; and
- In Dikgatlong: Replacement of steel/asbestos pipes in the water reticulation network in Barkly West and we will also be increasing their refuse removal capacity.

Main categories of revenue



“In August 2014 the FBDM won the national award for the best level 2 accredited district municipality for housing in South Africa at the National Govan Mbeki Awards and at the Provincial Govan Mbeki Awards in April 2015 the municipality was first runner-up for the Provincial best level 2 accredited municipality for housing.”

| Operating Transfers and Grants | |
|--|----------|
| National Government Grants for 2015/16 financial year - R104,279 | |
| Local Government Equitable Share | R10,002m |
| Levy replacement | R88, 93m |
| Finance Management | R1,25m |
| Municipal Systems Improvement | R940,000 |
| Expanded Public Works Programme | R1m |
| Roads asset management | R2,15m |
| Provincial Government Grants - R2, 030 000.00 | |
| Housing | R1,4m |
| Near Grant | R315,000 |
| Fire Fighting Equipment Grant | R315,000 |
| Other grant providers – R200, 000.00 | |
| Seta Skills Grant | R200,000 |

Major grant funding received from national government:

- Equitable Share: R 98.94m
- Finance Management Grant: R1.25m
- Municipal Systems Improvement Grant: R940k.
- Rural Road Asset Management Systems: R2.15m
- District AIDS Council Grant: R500,000

District-wide priority issues for 2015/2016:

1. Water
2. Electricity and Streets Light
3. Land
4. Housing
5. Stormwater and Streets
6. LED and Job Creation
7. Sanitation
8. Waste Management
9. Health services
10. Education
11. Youth Development
12. Disaster Management



Dikgatlong municipality service delivery efforts given a boost

From left: Ms Clarissa Somers, FBDM Technician; Mr Castillo Vries, Dikgatlong Electrical Technician; Mr Abram Nthoba, Dikgatlong Technical Manager; Cllr Puleng Molefi; Mayor of Dikgatlong municipality, Cllr. William Mogongwa; Mr Kgotso Moeketsi, Acting Municipal Manager for Dikgatlong municipality and Mr Modise Gabanele, Dikgatlong Fleet Manager.

In its commitment to assist and support its local municipalities as far as possible to give the best services to communities, the Frances Baard District Municipality assisted with the procurement of a cherry picker, sanitation truck and a Backhoe Loader (TLB) for the Dikgatlong local municipality.

Maintenance of infrastructure is very important for municipalities to ensure sustainable service delivery and safety of communities. If municipalities do not have all the right equipment and machinery, it hampers maintenance and therefore impacts negatively on service delivery.

The Dikgatlong municipality has been struggling with maintenance and some of the issues relates to old and dilapidated electricity infrastructure which caused overhead lines to collapse, transformers that exploded and resulted in regular interruptions (outside of load-shedding).

Maintenance on water and sewer pipes was also hampered because the municipality did not have a TLB for excavations.

The district municipality previously bought two sanitation trucks but due to the increase in housing, especially

Windsorton and Stillwater, another sanitation truck was required. Dikgatlong municipality applied for funding to FBDM to procure the machinery and during a ceremony on 20 April 2015 the machinery were handed over to the municipality.

In attendance was the mayor of Dikgatlong, Cllr. Willie Mogongwa and the acting municipal manager, Mr Kgotso Moeketsi, as well as the member of the mayoral committee of the FBDM, Cllr Puleng Molefi.

All the machinery was registered in the name of the Dikgatlong local municipality and the purchase specifications of the machinery included a maintenance and service plan for the trucks for at least the first year. Thereafter the Dikgatlong municipality must budget for maintenance of the trucks to ensure sustainable service delivery.

The cherry picker and TLB will be utilised in all the settlements (Barkly West, Windsorton, Delpoortshoop, Longlands, Koopmansfontein and all surrounding rural settlements) while the sanitation truck will be used for Windsorton and Stillwater.

District Aids Council relaunched

On 19 March 2015 the Frances Baard District Aids Council was relaunched. Present at the launch were dignitaries from the local municipalities and the district municipality such as the mayors of Phokwane and Magareng municipalities, the Speaker of Frances Baard District Municipality and councillors from the district municipality and the local municipalities.

“In order to strengthen our response to combat the pandemic and to realise the objectives of the Provincial Strategic plan the Frances Baard District Aids Council is continuing to engage with all relevant stakeholders which includes all sectors to draw up integrated programs to ensure a better future for the Northern Cape and to contribute to the goals of Outcome 2 Health, Medium Term Strategic Framework.”

The FBDM Council resolved that the aids council should be relaunched to continue the fight against the HIV/Aids epidemic and to realise the objectives of the Provincial strategic plan.

It is envisioned that the district aids council will continue to engage with all relevant stakeholders to draw up integrated programmes to ensure that all role players in the district combat the scourge together. Together with the district aids coordinator seconded to the district municipality by the Office of the Premier programmes will be coordinated to ensure that the message about the HIV/Aids is spread as widely as possible.

The aids council received a grant of R500,000 to continue with its work. Seventy-five (75) representatives attended the relaunch and 200 condoms, lubricants and flyers were distributed as part of spreading the message to prevent unsafe sexual activities.

A pledge was also endorsed and signed by all at the relaunch to re-commit to promote activities designed to fight the HIV/Aids pandemic.

Plans to address challenges

- Update the database of the District HIV/Aids Council.
- Establish local HIV/Aids council and ward-based HIV/Aids council's.
- Establishment of district civil society leadership.
- Launch of website of the District Aids Council.



Executive Mayor, Cllr. Khadi Moloi, signs the pledge to recommit to the fight against the HIV/Aids epidemic.

HIV in South Africa at a glance:

- South Africa has 0.7% of the world's population but accounts for 17% of global HIV infections and carries a quarter of sub-Saharan Africa's total burden of HIV
- The HIV/Aids epidemic in South Africa is characterised as hyperendemic: it is present at a continuously high frequency within the population
- Highest prevalence remains in the province of Kwazulu-Natal (37.4%) and the lowest in the Northern Cape (17.0%)
- 45% of new infections are among 15 to 24 year olds
- There is a decrease in incidence among 15 to 24 year olds
- HIV prevalence peaks among women 25 - 29 years of age, with 1 in 3 living with HIV

Expanded Public Works Programme

“Unemployment in South Africa has made job creation one of the government’s top priorities, which has led to the initiation of the: Expanded Public Works Programme, commonly known as EPWP.”

The EPWP programme provide public or community assets or services through a labour intensive programme funded from public resources.

The programme has its origins in Growth and Development Summit (GDS) of 2003. At the summit, four themes were adopted, one of which was ‘More jobs, better jobs, decent work for all’. The GDS agreed that public works programmes ‘can provide poverty and income relief through temporary work for the unemployed to carry out socially useful activities

“EPWP is a nation-wide programme which draw significant numbers of the unemployed into productive works, so that workers gain skills while they work and increase their capacity to earn an income.”

The objective is to utilize public budgets to reduce and alleviate unemployment and poverty in our community.

EPWP is constituted of mainly four different sectors, namely: the Environment and Culture Sector, Social Sector, Infrastructure Sector and Non-State Sector without any limitations to the above will be any other programme deemed to be part of the EPWP as determined by the Department of Public Works.



The Frances Baard District Municipality is currently funding five EPWP projects in three local municipalities. The local municipalities are the implementing agents and the projects have created over 98 work opportunities to unemployed in the 2014/15 financial year.

Projects registered on the National Department of Public Works reporting system

- Operation and maintenance of water and waste water treatment works in Dikgatlong municipality;
- Maintenance of streets and stormwater in Warrenton;
- Development of Dikgatlong water operator rooms;
- Maintenance of roads in Dikgatlong; and
- Replacement of collapsed bulk sewer gravity line in Jan Kempdorp.

While notable progress has been recorded in the implementation of the programme in the district, the reality is that success does not come by chance. Instead it is the product of deliberate planning and commitment.

The district municipality has established a steering committee that looks at all matters pertaining to EPWP. FBDM will continue to implement as many labour intensive construction projects as possible in the 2015/16 financial year, thus contributing to more employment creation in the district.

Public participation programme

The district municipality in collaboration with the Phokwane municipality continued with public participation meetings in the Phokwane municipal area when they met with the communities of Pampierstad on 08 June 2015 and the community of Bonita Park in Hartswater on 09 June 2015.

Issues raised by communities

There should be more transparency when it comes to service delivery matters. The ward councillor/community relationship should also be improved.

The lack of housing and of community members to obtain suitable land for residential use also came up at most of the meetings.

The plight of the youth in the district and opportunities such as employment and further studies were also some of the issues that was brought up by the community.

Many people complained about the long cues at clinics in Pampierstad and Hartswater and accused each other for what they called “gate crashing” at clinics not in your area.

The final round of meetings was scheduled for the Dikgatlong municipal area, after which meetings will be arranged again in the new financial, to commence in September 2015.



Projects implemented in the Phokwane area by the district municipality focussed mainly on fixing sewer system infrastructure, roads infrastructure (specifically maintenance planning) and bulk water infrastructure.

Specific projects include:

- Replacement of collapsed bulk sewer gravity line
- Resealing of Korhan-Single reservoir
- Upgrading of the chlorination system in Jan Kempdorp Waste Water Treatment Works and Hartswater W Waste Water Treatment Works
- Resealing of raw water storage dam
- Master plan: roads infrastructure and maintenance plan
- Master plan: bulk water and sanitation infrastructure and maintenance plan.

NATIONAL HEADLINES

“25th African Union Summit - Infrastructure in Africa and South Africa”

South Africa's infrastructure achievements over the past five years:

Construction of dams

- 176 million litres of drinkable water per day was available for South Africans to consume, through new or expanded water treatment works that were completed. This is almost equal to a glass of water per day for every person in sub-Saharan Africa. The storage capacity of drinkable water increased by 39 million litres through expansion of reservoirs and tank facilities.

Road and rail infrastructure

- A major programme of construction is under way to integrate urban centres through integrated public transport systems, with funding provided through national government to metros for implementation.

Construction of power stations to contribute to energy security

- Africa's largest green energy programme was initiated during the current administration, with approval of green energy plants that will generate solar and wind energy roughly double the electricity demand of Johannesburg. In addition to conventional forms of generation, 328 megawatts of renewable energy was brought onto the grid in March 2014 and 2460 megawatts by 2015. A treaty was signed between South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in which South Africa has an option to purchase 2,500 MW of hydro-energy from the first phase of Inga 3, a major dam on the Congo River.

Telecommunication infrastructure

- 37,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cable for broadband were laid. This has provided the basis for a massive expansion in the ICT sector and for significantly greater access to the Internet by millions of South Africans through fixed-line and mobile connections.

Fuel pipelines

- A new 700km fuel pipeline from Durban to Gauteng was completed. It can transport 4 billion cubic litres of petrol, diesel and jet fuel a year.

Education infrastructure

- Existing universities have added 10,700 beds to the existing stock of student accommodation, and about 500 new lecture theatres. Moreover, two new universities and 12 new campuses for Further Education and Training (FET) colleges are due for or under construction, marking the biggest post-secondary school build in the past 30 years.

Health infrastructure

- Ten new hospitals were completed, in five provinces, with 2,770 patient beds.

Housing infrastructure

- One of the largest new housing projects in recent years has started outside eThekweni with the building of 482 houses in Cornubia and forms part of an eventual 24,000-house estate that will accommodate more than 100,000 people. Preliminary estimates suggest more than 630 000 houses were built over the past five years.

Source: GCIS

Editorial Note

We were very proud to have been part of the successful hosting of the 9th annual municipal manager's forum. It was a feather in the municipality's cap to receive a special mention and note of appreciation from the CEO of SALGA, Mr Xolile George for the achievement of yet another unqualified audit opinion with no matters.

We have managed to meet with a number of communities during the public participation programme in this financial year and we hope to build a strong relationship with our communities as we work closely with our local municipalities in establishing these platforms for interaction between our political principles and the community.

This issue comes at the end of the 2014/15 financial year and we have tried to give you an overview and insight into the budget for the new financial year, 2015/16, and the projects and activities that will be rolled out in this year.

We trust that it was informative and that it shed some light on what the focus areas of the district municipality will be for the year ahead.

We hope you enjoyed the read and we look forward to hearing from you. Any comments or suggestions on the content of this newsletter are welcome.

Gerline Roman
Editor



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