

Mpumalanga
Provincial Government



Department of
Local Government

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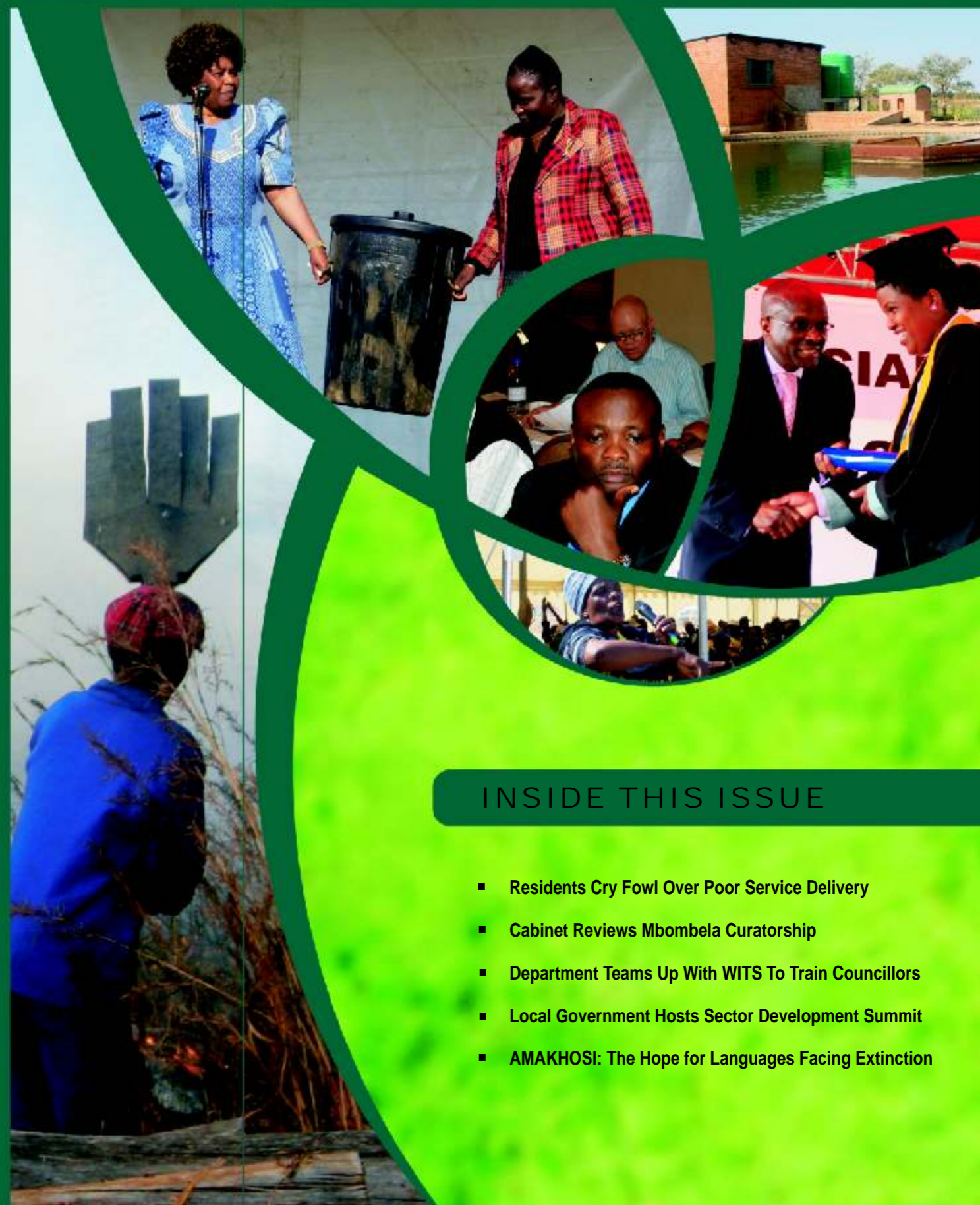


Local News



Official Newsletter for the Department of Local Government

July - Sept 2008 - Issue N° 2



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PREMIER MAKWETLA CONGRATULATE STAFFERS FOR GRADUATING



Hard work and spending sleepless nights has finally paid off for the department's staff members. The results of their toil has earned them praises from Premier Thabang Makwetla, for completing training in the Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) and Learnership programmes. The staffers were awarded certificates during a graduation ceremony held at the Rugby Stadium recently.

Graduates, who donned black gowns, were accompanied by their families to the ceremony, who ululated when they ascended to the stage. Of the 149 officials who graduated, 57 of them were awarded

certificates under learnership programmes through the Department of Local Government and Housing. 21 of the graduates were awarded certificates under the ABET programme.

In his speech, Premier Makwetla told graduates that the ABET and learnership programmes form part of the strategy to fight poverty. "As part of an integrated strategy to address poverty and inequality challenges, the province has continuously prioritised and invested in Adult Basic Education and Training over the years. This is borne out of a realization that the ability to eradicate extreme poverty is dependent on our success in

eradicating massive illiteracy," Makwetla said.

The number of graduates from the Department of Local Government and Housing could have been higher had it not been for the decision by some of them to drop out. However, it is hoped that the number will increase next year as the number of staff members who have registered for literacy programmes has also increased. Makwetla said the province congratulates all the ABET programme graduates for their dedication.

The function was attended by ABET service providers, Senior Managers and the Director-General, Mr Khaya Ngema.



DEPARTMENT TEAMS UP WITH WITS VARSITY TO TRAIN COUNCILLORS

A capacity building programme in which 47 councillors and officials from municipalities are trained on Local Economic Development (LED) has been completed. The programme is an outcome of an agreement between the Department of Local Government and a German supported NGO, the German Technical Support (GTZ) aimed at assisting the department on skills development issues. The training is accredited by Wits University and successful candidates will obtain qualifications equivalent to an Honours Degree.

Programme Manager, Mr Jabulani Mayindi says the programme started in February 2008 and will be completed in August 2008.



CONCLUSION: Programme manger Mr Jabulani Mayindi and WITS letcturer Mr Brian Borshof shake hands at the end of the training.

Mayindi says the training consisted of the following 7 modules:

- Approaches to Regional and Economic Development.
- Policy and Legislative Contexts.
- Economic and Financial Aspects of Local Economic Development.
- Trade and Industry in Local Economy.
- LED Management and Impact Assessment.
- Case Study Development and Presentation.

The graduation will take place on the 31 of October in White River.



IN CLASS: Candidates compare notes during a vigorous LED training course



DEADLINE: Candidates put final touches on their assignments before submission.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Welcome to the second edition of **Local News**, the official Newsletter of the Department of Local Government. This edition marks the continuation of a journey of a publication which hit the 'market' immediately after the split of the department into two separate entities. In a country where information-dissemination is key, it is our resolve through Local News and other platforms to keep you abreast with what the department is doing to improve the lives of people.

In a country where public participation is central, it was disappointing to note the poor response to the suggestions of a new name for this publication, after requesting them. We were of the view that our stakeholders will take with both hands the opportunity of creatively crafting a new name for the publication. We can only interpret the lack of response as content with the current name on the part of our stakeholders. As a result we will continue using the name '**Local News**' as the official name for the newsletter.

The decision by the Provincial Cabinet to review the curatorship of Mbombela Municipality with the view of rescinding the decision, is a vote of confidence for MEC Mashego-Dlamini for the strategic intervention. It also serves as a perfect barometer for the department's support mechanism of municipalities in the province. It is worth noting that the intervention has raised Mbombela Municipality out of the quagmire, owing to instability and other factors. In the past,

similar interventions have worked tremendously in municipalities especially in the area of financial management. A number of Municipalities were experiencing a shortfall in the submission of Financial Statements as required by legislation. However, this is a thing of the past now, thanks to the department's intervention strategies. Thaba Chweu Municipality, which also experienced difficulties in service delivery, is now back on track, after the department invoked Section 139, by appointing an Administrator to return it to its former glory.

In the meantime, the department continues to give support to municipalities in a number of areas. The translation of IDPs from English to African languages is one of them. The process is well underway, with the appointment of a service provider due to be finalized soon. Training of IDP Managers is on the cards with the view of ensuring the credibility of IDPs.

The recent training of officials and councilors from all municipalities on LED will also go a long way in ensuring that LED strategies are implemented and submitted on time as required by legislation. Municipalities are on the forefront of service delivery and therefore any support mechanism will go a long way to ensure that they are a corner stone of service delivery.

A Capacity Building Programme will commence on the third quarter for our Councillors and

Mayors focusing on land and mineral rights, computer literacy and relevant legislation. This capacity building will be conducted in consultation with LG SETA.

The Traditional Leadership Institution is also reflected in the capacity building plan of the department. A training workshop for Traditional Leaders and Councilors is in the pipeline to prepare them to play important roles in the local councils on issues of development.

The department is determined to help municipalities and institution of traditional leadership to contribute to the Pioneering Spirit that Mpumalanga is known for.

A Provincial Millennium Development Goals (MDG) will be held in the third quarter to make an analysis of progress in the implementation of the MDG goals.

Matters of Disaster Management continue to be a matter of concern to the department. We are continuing with our awareness campaign and we hope people will begin to realise the importance of preventing disasters. Construction of a Provincial Disaster Centre is a key priority of Disaster Management. A Service Level Agreement has been signed with Mbombela Municipality for a construction site.

FOREWORD BY THE MEC

The Department's turn around strategy for the Mbombela Municipality, has yielded the desired results. Not so long ago the department, through Section 139 (1)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, put the municipality under administration in a bid to ensure its effective functionality. As explained previously in this Newsletter, the decision was motivated by amongst other things, failure of the municipality to discharge its mandate as outlined in the Constitution. I am happy that the Administrator, Mr Khaya Mpungose and his team, were able to return stability to the Municipality. I would like to thank Council, Management and staff members for their co operation with Mr Mpungose and the team. The report about the performance of the Municipality has been tabled and accepted by the Provincial Executive Council. I can assure residents of Mbombela that the municipality is now ready to deliver services accordingly. From now onwards, the department will begin a process of handing over the powers back to Council and the Executive Mayor, Cllr Lassy Chiwayo.

Our rights are enshrined in the constitution of the country. Any action aimed at undermining our rights will always be met with brutal force. In return, we also have the responsibility as communities to practice our rights. However, our action does not reflect this side when we demonstrate our anger. The action taken by residents at Vukuzakhe in the Pixley ka Seme Municipality is a case in point. Agitated by what they described as failure of council to consult them on budget matters, amongst other things, they resorted to violence, which eventually affected the municipality. Houses belonging to

councillors were torched and learners were prevented from going to school. Even those willing to go to work, could not do so due to the threats by striking workers. The situation could have turned worse, had the police not intervened. Local residents, like any other community in the country, should enjoy the same rights and should be accorded the right to express their anger, however, this should be done within the confines of the law. It is unacceptable for people to trample on the rights of others in the process of exercising their rights. Once again, police should be commended for taking action against the perpetrators.

Events surrounding the attack of a family at Mananga Village by local residents, accusing them of witchcraft, once again brought about the need to educate our people about the values of ubuntu. The manner in which the accusations surfaced up to a point where the attack was carried out, shows how vicious are some of the people in our society and at the same time the extent of vulnerability of our aged in the society. As government, we view the attack in a serious light and we will do everything possible to protect the victims and deal harshly with the perpetrators. The incident has also renewed the urgent need to expedite the legislative process of passing into an Act, the Witchcraft Suppression Bill. Such a law will reinforce measures required in the fight against perpetrators of violence, who masquerade as people fighting witchcraft. We commend the police for acting expeditiously after the matter was reported. Not only will their action affirm government's commitment in dealing with such matters, but will also send a strong message to people who act with impunity that their behavior is



MEC K.C Mashego-Dlamini

intolerable. We also thank the intervention of the Nkomazi Municipality and Inkhosi Mlambo II on the matter, to save the lives of the victims.

The SALGA games which took place in Kinross recently, in the Govan Mbeki Municipality are gaining momentum. Participation from municipalities, with the view of sports development at grass roots level, lived up to expectations. For now, the focus of the country is to compete favourably in the 2010 Soccer World Cup. In Mpumalanga, our focus is on feeding the National team, Bafana Bafana with players who originate from this Province. And therefore the SALGA games is, but one of those initiatives. Like other provinces, we want to produce sporting heroes too. I would like to thank the co-ordinators of the games for the job well done and hope that next year, the games will be bigger and better, as they also contribute to social cohesion.

MEC URGES AMAKHOSI TO PRESERVE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

African Indigenous Languages are an important part of our heritage and should hence be promoted". These were the words of the Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Ikosi Siphohle Mhlangu during the Symposium on African Indigenous Languages in Hazyview. The symposium was attended by Amakhosi, headmen and language experts. Ikosi Mhlangu said the role of traditional leaders is to ensure that language, which serves as an identity is not compromised.

According to MEC Mashego-Dlamini, traditional leaders should take lead as custodian of indigenous

knowledge. In her address, she told them that their role will help protect languages that are facing extinction. "Sipulana, (a Sotho dialect) does not exist anymore. As the custodian of the indigenous knowledge, Amakhosi must stand up and fight for the preservation of these languages to prevent a similar fate of Sipulana," she said. She added that our children are losing these indigenous languages. "They should be taught to appreciate them," she said.

Mashego-Dlamini further appealed to Amakhosi to support government in its efforts to correct the names of rivers and areas. She said the

names have historical links and only Amakhosi have knowledge about them.



Chief Sandile Ngomane



LANGUAGE BUSINESS: Amakhosi prepare themselves to preserve indigenous languages

CABINET REVIEWS CURATORSHIP OF MBOMBELA MUNICIPALITY.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Executive Council has resolved to initiate a review and ultimate rescission of Section 139 (1) (b) of Act 108 of the South African Constitution that was invoked when the Provincial Government intervened to restore normality in the Mbombela Municipality. The municipality was placed under curatorship when MEC for Local Government and Housing, Ms Candith Mashego-Dlamini appointed a team of Administrators, led by Mr Khayelihle Mpungose to take charge six months ago. At the time the capital city was plagued by instability and poor service delivery. The municipality had a high number of critical vacant funded posts, consumer debt increased from R203 Million to R276 Million in over six months and the municipality received a qualified audit opinion for the financial year 2004/05 and 2005/06.

After six months, a remarkable improvement has been recorded since the intervention. The appointment of some Section 57 Managers and a Chief Financial Official, and the signing of performance contracts is one of the highlights marking the improvements. Progress has also been made in the following areas:



IN CHARGE: Mbombela Executive Mayor Cllr. Lassy Chiwayo

- Human Resource issues, 2010 and Service delivery,
- Management and Financial viability,
- Governance structures, processes and systems.

Following the remarkable improvement of the situation, the Provincial Cabinet decided to review and rescind Act 108 Section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution and revert back Executive powers to the Executive Mayor and Council pending

the decision by Minister of the DPLG and NCOP. Recommendation by the Cabinet will be submitted to Minister Sicelo Shiceka and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). This will enable the Mayor to constitute a Mayoral Committee and further capacitate Council to continue with the turn around strategy. The Provincial Department of Local Government working in partnership with the Provincial Treasury will continue to monitor and provide support to the Municipality.



ON TRACK: The construction of Mbombela Stadium runs smooth after the intervention of the Department.



FLASH BACK: Outgoing Administrators of Mbombela Municipality with Mr Khaya Mpungose (Middle)

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING HOD

Efforts by the Department's disaster section to fight the spread of veld fires has produced the desired results. Just like last year, Mpumalanga was also prone to the spread of veld fires during the fire season between August and October. Unlike last year, where the fires caused massive havoc to farms and human lives, this year the impact was relatively low, thanks to the hard work demonstrated by the Disaster Management Section, which embarked on awareness campaigns, teaching the public about the dangers of veld fires, encouraging people to report any veld fire and encouraging them to voluntarily join the fire fighting projects. As a result, we had minimal dangers, except for the 4 casualties and 27 injuries sustained reported at the time of going to press. 60 000 hectares of land was destroyed. With temperatures going beyond 35 degrees Celsius during the second week of September, the team should be commended for putting measures in place to ensure that the fires and the effects thereof are put under stringent control to avert a similar occurrence of last year. With the Disaster Management Centre under construction, I believe that in future we will be able to avert any form of casualties.

The recent Provincial Development Sector Summit which took place at Malelane, highlighted the importance of working together as a Department and Sector Departments as well as municipalities. The summit also cemented the need to give municipalities the co-ordinating power on developmental issues.

It does not help the cause of development, if Sector Departments go into an area within the jurisdiction of a municipality and build a school for example without the knowledge of the municipality concerned. I hope that the resolutions taken there will be implemented.

The launch of Ehlanzeni District's Government Information System (GIS) is a step towards the right direction. The system will not only help the district in its endeavor to make information accessible, but the local municipalities too. The importance of local municipalities to have statistics of their households and their location cannot be over emphasized, especially in this era, where they have to implement the Property Rates Act and the Water for all projects. Ehlanzeni has set the pace for other municipalities to follow. This is an aggressive approach to deal with issues that have to do with community development. The GIS will come in handy in this information age where the issue of Spatial Development Framework is also critical.

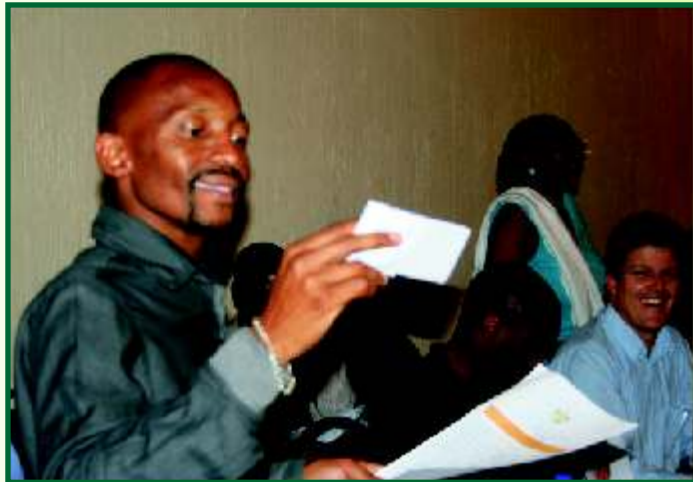
The partnership between our department, Wits University and the German NGO, GTZ is beginning to bear fruits. In fact the department sought assistance from Wits University to train councilors and officials on Local Economic Development (LED). After the declaration of the MEC in her budget speech that an amount of R 935, 000 has been set aside for the training, we had to move with high speed to ensure that the plan takes off the ground. I am happy to say that at



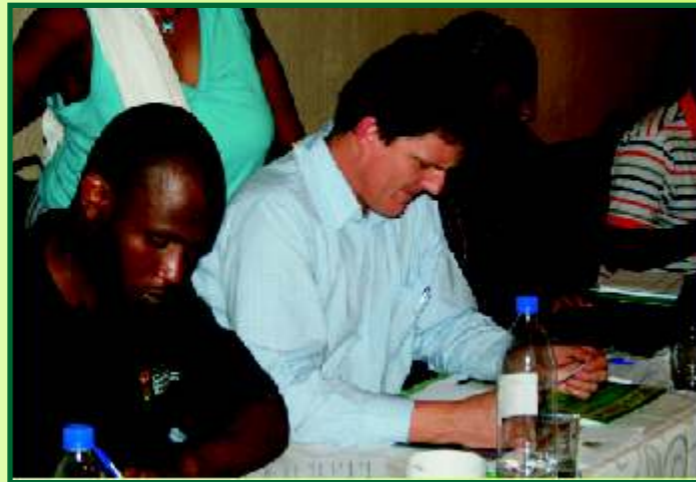
Acting HOD Mr. S. Ngubane

the end of October, councilors and officials from all the 18 municipalities will receive their certificates, after attending training courses offered by Wits University's Brian Boshoff. Their qualifications are equivalent to an Honours degree. This is part of the department's capacity building exercise. Congratulations to the successful candidates for taking up the challenge of enrolling for the training and pass it. I hope that this initiative will go a long way in addressing the challenges that municipalities have been experiencing with respect to the allocation of land for businesses, housing development and other use. On the same breath, I would like to congratulate our staff members whose names reigned supreme on the list of the graduates for the Learnership and ABET literacy programmes.

SECTOR DEPARTMENTS MEET TO DISCUSS KEY CHALLENGES ON IDPs



ICE BREAKING EXERCISE: Director of Local Governance, Mr Oupa Pilane lays ground rules for the summit.



CONSUMPTION: Delegates digest information presented during the summit.

The Department of Local Government organized a Provincial Development Sector Summit at Malelane to find ways and means of working together with municipalities on issues of development. The summit was attended by delegates from sector departments, municipalities, NGOs and educational institutions. Failure of some departments to register their developmental plans in the IDP documents was among the challenges faced by municipalities. Other challenges include duplication of resources and failure of some municipalities to adopt IDPs on time.

IDP Manager in the Department of Local Government, Ms Sybil Nyambi expressed concern that sector departments implement projects in the jurisdiction of municipalities without informing them. "You find a department building a school or a clinic in a particular municipality which is not reflected in the IDP of that municipality. It's only when problems arise that the department start looking for municipal officials for intervention. That has to stop," Ms Nyambi told delegates. It was agreed that in future departments should not be allowed to implement projects in a jurisdiction of a municipality if they are not registered in the IDPs.

A gloomy picture about the failure of

municipalities to adopt their IDPs on time was painted. According to Nyambi, local municipalities in the Nkangala District are able to meet targeted milestones for the adoption of IDPs. Nyambi said the majority of municipalities have already adopted their draft IDPs. She added that municipalities are already engaged in public participation. However, the situation is different in the Gert Sibande and Ehlanzeni Districts. "The process to adopt them is either delayed or the IDPs are poor or not credible. In Gert Sibande, only two were found to be credible," she said. She added that the following factors contribute to the poor situation:

- Lack of appointment of IDP Managers.
- Inexperienced IDP Managers.
- Political interference.
- Lack of intense communication with communities.

The Municipalities have difficulties in developing infrastructure plans. They implement projects on adhoc basis or in reaction to a problem. Ehlanzeni District came under fire for failing to comply with legislation. Nyambi said apart from failing to submit an IDP, the district has also failed to submit a Local Economic Development (LED) progress report and has not yet

completed its infrastructure plan. The department has organized a capacity building programme in which IDP Managers will be trained as an intervention measure.

The Director of Local Governance, Mr Oupa Pilane told the summit that in Bushbuckridge for example, the department discovered that the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has sent technical assistance, similar to the one sent by the Department of Provincial and Local Government (DPLG) and the district has done the same. Pilane described this as waste of resources which should be avoided in future. He said communication should be facilitated before any decision for assistance is implemented. This confirms the need for sector consultative meetings which will assist sector departments to share amongst themselves projects to be implemented in different Municipalities. Municipalities were also encouraged to develop a Spatial Development Framework (SDF) which will serve as a guideline for the proper use of available land. DBSA's Dave Moffat said the SDF will give direction about the location of Urban and rural areas, Transport Network, future priority projects and the hierarchy of settlements.

KNOW YOUR MUNICIPALITY

DIPALESENG MUNICIPALITY



The ESKOM project follows the establishment of the Great Basin Gold investment through Burn Stone Mine at Balfour. The mine was opened officially last year and has brought about ample opportunities through:

- Employment
- Business development
- Educational development
- Social development.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Dipaleseng Municipality is one of the seven municipalities in the Gert Sibande District Municipality. The strategic location of Dipaleseng Municipality as a gateway towards three provinces (Gauteng, Mpumalanga & Free State) and its proximity towards Gauteng Province, the access to National Roads (N3 & R23) & the rail line that runs through Balfour from Johannesburg to Durban, makes it an ideal growth point for economic development and investment.

ECONOMIC PROFILE

Dipaleseng Municipality is the smallest municipality in the Gert Sibande District Municipality. Due to lack of job opportunities, the majority of people have sought employment in neighbouring Gauteng. A drive by the municipality for investments, has seen major companies investing in the municipality. The demand for electricity in the country, has seen Eskom re-opening its multi-million rand power plant in Grootvlei. The plant is one of the several Eskom power suppliers closed down pre-1994. The decision to re-open it has created much needed jobs for the locals.

The biggest abattoir in the Southern Hemisphere Karan Beef is located in Dipaleseng.

The British investment Blue Skies, a fruit processing company is also located in Dipaleseng Municipality. The new economic developments create a high demand for accommodation facilities which is scarce at the moment.

The rich history of Dipaleseng Municipality puts it in good stead for tourism exploration. Four main historical events provide a basis for the tourism exploration:

- The Anglo Boer War battle Fields.
- The historic graves and the campsite of the Scottish Regiment.
- The Bakoena tribe history.

PROFILE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLL TSOTETSI.

Councilor Mabalane Tsotetsi was born in Grootvlei, Rietfontein. He completed Primary Education at Tshepeha Primary School (Grootvlei) and completed Matric at Letha Ukuthula Secondary School (Kathlehong).

His political career can be traced



Executive Mayor: Cllr. Mabalane Tsotetsi

from the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) Executive Committee at Siyathemba Branch. He graduated from the Youth League to serve in the SANCO Executive Committee and the African National Congress (ANC).

In the year 2000 until 2006 Cllr Tsotetsi was deployed as a Ward Councilor in Ward 4, Dipaleseng. At the time he was a Chairperson of the ANC Caucus and a member of Dipaleseng Council's Executive Committee.

VISION

Providing quality, affordable services and good governance.

MISSION

To implement programs and services that help to ensure that its residents are served by accountable and effective local government.

KNOW YOUR MUNICIPALITY

EMAKHAZENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



EMAKHAZENI
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The municipality is land locked, as it is bordered between the Elias Motswaledi (in Limpopo) and Thaba Chweu Local Municipalities. In the West, it is bordered by Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, by Albert Luthuli in the South, and by Mbombela Local Municipality in the East. It is one of the six local municipalities making up the Nkangala District Municipality. In the Mpumalanga Provincial context, Emakhaseni is strategically located between Pretoria/Johannesburg in Gauteng and Nelspruit. Further, it is situated along the N4 Maputo Corridor, which is a major link between Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Mozambique.

ECONOMIC PROFILE

Agriculture is the most dominant economic driver in the Municipality and employs the most economically active people, but it is one of the lowest paying sectors with people earning between R 400.00 - R 801.00. This situation makes the living standard of our rural people to be dependant on social security grants.

The economic potential of the municipality prompted the municipality to develop an LED strategy, which was adopted by Council in March 2007.

TOURISM

The municipal LED strategy has also identified tourism development support and integration as one of its key strategic thrusts. In this regard, the municipality boasts a number of attractions that already exist such as Arch Bridge Waterval Onder, Elands Waterval and the Old railways tunnel. There are other adventure related attractions like Rock climbing and abseiling.

Dullstroom is a mecca for trout fishing expeditions. It is the single area that attracts most of the trout fishing enthusiasts. Dullstroom has been developed over the past eighteen years as an attractive area for development and investment. As a result, a number of golf and trout estates are currently being developed. These include:

- Highlands Gate Golf Estate,
- Polo Estate
- Walkersons Trent Estate

The estimated capital injection that these developments are going to contribute to the economy of the municipality amount to more than R 3 billion over the next three to five years.

PROFILE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

Cllr. Linky Mohlala matriculated at Sidlamafa High School, Kamhushwa. She then enrolled as a Secondary School Educator at the Elijah Mango College of Higher Education where she obtained a three year Secondary Teacher's Diploma. She completed a



Executive Mayor: Cllr. Linky Mohlala

Masters degree from the University of Pretoria.

She was the SADTU Mabewa branch educational convener, later held a position of sports convener for the SADTU Lowveld Region. She is the ANC branch chairperson for Tholulwazi in Belfast.

VISION

A secure environment and sustainable development to promote service excellence, unity and community participation.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Emakhaseni Local Municipality is committed to a sustainable and conducive institutional environment within which communities can thrive economically and socially.

DR J.S MOROKA RESIDENTS CRY FOWL OVER POOR SERVICE DELIVERY



MEDIA TALK: A local journo talks to MEC Mashego-Dlamini after the Imbizo.

Local residents at Kameel Rivier have expressed concerns about poor service delivery in the area. The poor state of the roads, lack of access to clean water and Chieftaincy disputes formed part of the plethora of complaints raised during the imbizo. Residents accused the local municipality of failing to improve the infrastructure. "The Madubaduba road is impassable. It was deserted by contractors," a local resident complained.

The Imbizo was attended by MEC Candith Mashego - Dlamini, the Executive Mayor Cllr Innah Masombuka and Senior officials of the department and Councillors of the Dr J.S Moroka Municipality. In response, MEC Candith Mashego-Dlamini told the local community that problems related to the construction of the road will be investigated. "We have requested sector departments in the three spheres of government to register their development plans in the IDPs of all municipalities. So it's possible to trace which sphere of government is responsible for the road. We will deal with the matter," she said. With regard to chieftaincy disputes, Mashego-Dlamini told residents that such matters are dealt by the Nhlapo Commission, established by

the President (Mr Thabo Mbeki). "Let's wait for the President to take a decision on the matter. The department has no jurisdiction over the matter," she said.

During the imbizo, the department donated 5000 dustbins to the local municipality as part of a campaign to eradicate littering in Mpumalanga. This was the second consignment of donation after the Bushbuckridge Municipality. The latter received 4000 dustbins. With the 2010 Soccer World Cup around the corner, MEC Mashego-Dlamini urged residents to keep Mpumalanga clean. "We will be hosting visitors from around the world. We want them to have a good picture about our places. So use these dustbins to keep Mpumalanga clean, so that even post-world cup, these visitors can come back to experience Mpumalanga. The Executive Mayor, Cllr Innah Masombuka said the dustbins will be distributed to villages where littering was rampant.



BURNING ISSUES: Local residents express their grievances to the MEC



LYRICS: Queen of Ndebele Traditional Music, Nothembi Mkhwebane wows the crowd during the Imbizo.



OUTCRY: Residents submit grievances on Imbizo day

DEPARTMENT IN ACTION



LANGUAGE HINTS: Inkhosi Bheki Mnisi of Mantjolo listens to an address by MEC Mashego-Dlamini during a language symposium in Hazyview.



HOUSE ON FIRE: A Police officer stands next to the gutted hut at Mananga Village.



LID AGAINST DISASTERS: Disaster Management team led by Mr Slykie Dlodlu (extreme right) prepares for the International Disaster Reduction Symposium in Ermelo.



TEAM EXERCISE: Msukaligwa Municipality's Bongani Zwane and the Local Government's Sybil Nyambi share information about LED issues.



TRIUMPH: Candidates share lighter moments after completing the last leg of the LED training.



WAR AGAINST LITTERING! Dr J.S Moroka's Executive Mayor, Cllr Innah Masombuka and MEC Mashego-Dlamini display one of the many dustbins donated to the municipality.

DEPARTMENT IN ACTION



AUTHORITATIVE: Inkosi Mahlangu addresses residents of Kameel Rivier using audio facilities of a disaster vehicle.



MOBILIZATION: Ehlanzeni District's Bheki Mabuza notes discussions as John Mogane of Public Participation leads the way during a meeting with CDW Co-ordinators.



HARD WORK: Ms Faith Shai receives a certificate from Premier Thabang Makweta for completing a Project Management Course.



EMOTIONAL MOMENT: Graduates share a moment of glory at the Nelspruit Rugby Stadium after completing learnership and ABET literacy programmes.



SHARING IDEAS: Local Government's Pat Nkosi makes a point during the IDP Summit at Malelane.



NOTED: Mr P.G. Ntuli of Local Government ponders on discussions.

