

A good story to tell

“The Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality has indeed a good story to tell the communities as reiterated by President Jacob Zuma”. These were the opening words of Mayor Yvonne Mmakola when delivering the 2014/2015 municipality budget and accounting on how the 2013/2014 budget was used. She stated that the budget for 2013/2014 was just over R202million. Despite little budget available and the fact that the municipality is characterized by rural areas where there is no collection of revenue, as a municipality, indeed we have a good story to tell our people in the Ephraim Mogale Municipality.

Electrification of Villages Extensions

The Hon Mayor reminded the community that as a municipality we are proud of the fact that a few years ago we were able to achieve the millennium Development Goal one I electrification as per our Electrification Program with Eskom. It simply means that all villages under this municipality are electrified. The municipality is faced with challenges of electrifying the extension of villages which will be addressed with Eskom to electrify some of the extensions in the villages. Already electrification is finalized in Leeufontein (Mosongo) and Malebitsa with a total of 121 household connected. The municipality and Eskom are busy with some of the villages as indicated in the 2013/2014 program. We have submitted a proposal for the electrification of more extensions in the villages to the Sekhukhune District Municipality and Eskom, and we are awaiting a response in this regard.

Water reticulation progress in Moutse West

Water is still the main challenge and first priority of all communities within this municipality, she acknowledged. During the last financial year, the municipality has committed that to work with Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) in improving the provision of water, mostly in Moutse West and the project is bearing fruits and SDM is busy with water infrastructure in Moutse West which we believe will be completed within the coming financial year and solved the water crises in that area.

Community Centres (Theatres of Excellence)

During the 2012/2013 financial year, the municipality built a community centre or hall After at Ga-Mmakola. This has enticed more requests from communities to provide such centre. The municipality resolved to intensify the building of this kind of Community Centre that will be one stop centres that provide various government services to the community as part of the commitment to bring services closer to the people. Recently the municipality has open the Community Centres at Uitvlugh and the contractors are finalizing the last two, being Mabitsi and Morarela which will be handed over before the end of the financial year, meaning 30 June 2014.

Construction of roads

The municipality committed to improve on access roads as part of its responsibilities to provide better road network services to our communities. This municipality has identified bus routes as part of our commitment to improve access roads to our communities. The contractors are on site in developing the following bus routes and access roads, Mmakgatle, Leeufontein and Rathoke. The municipality is also finalizing the design of Mogalatsane- Phetoane bus route which we will be develop during the coming financial year. The Municipality have also entered into partnership with the Provincial Department of Roads and Transport to jointly work together with regard to roads maintenance in the municipality.

High Mast Lights

The process of implementing the High Mast Lights Project is on track. A contractor has been appointed and has committed to finish the work before the end of this financial year. The project will be implemented in the following villages, Dicheoung, Ga-Rakgoadi (Mohlalaotwane), Mohlotsi, Morarela-Mbuzini and Tshikanosi. The municipality will further engage Eskom to speed up the energization of high mast lights to provide the lighting in those villages. This intervention will, amongst others, contribute in curbing crime and enabling our people, particularly women, to reclaim the night. In other words, the high mast lights contribute to safety and security in our communities, the mayor indicated. Talking of electricity, the municipality is also busy with the Energy Efficiency Project in central Marble Hall. This project is the initiative of the National Department of Energy, as a strategy of saving electricity in this country and contributes towards a safe environment and minimizing climate change.

Gigantic Acquisition (Municipality purchases Plant and Machinery to provide service to communities)

As part of the municipality commitment to provide the services such as grading of the gravel roads, the municipality identified the acquiring of plant and machinery as the major drive towards the provision of such service delivery. The municipality has acquired the following as part of the commitment in improving the provision of services to our communities: 1 x 3tonne truck, 2 x Graders, 2 x TLB, 6 x LDV, 2 x Sedans and 3 x Dipper Trucks. Leeuwfontein Taxi Rank On May 2014 the long journey of the municipality with the Taxi Sector came to an end. The municipality together with the community witnesses the official handing over of the Leeuwfontein Taxi Rank to the Taxi Associations. The events started with the prayer services in the morning at the corner Moganyaka / Apelro ad and Leeuwfonten/Marble Hall road, a hot accident spot area. All religious community where invited to cleans the road after it becomes the main accident hot sport area, where a lot of lives were lost because of car accidents. "This is milestone in making sure that this important sector of our economy, transport sector, is operating from a formal structure, not under trees anymore. We thank the taxi associations for their cooperation in this regard and look forward to working together in the future' alluded the Mayor Mmakola.

Job Creation

The municipality has contributed to the creation of 382 jobs through Extended Public Work Program (EPWP). EPWP plays an important role in the upliftment of the lives of our people as Premier Mathabathe said "the EPWP is one of government's strategic initiatives aimed at addressing challenges of poverty, unemployment and shortage of skill". These jobs where more created in the infrastructural programs such as the development of access road and building of the community halls, a fulfillment of a call made by President Zuma on infrastructural development. The municipality continued to assist the community in creating project that create sustainable jobs. In partnership with DTI, nine (9) Corporative for organic farming have been established which created 127 permanent jobs. Another 47 beneficiaries benefited from the Phetwane Fish Ponds Project. Through the Community Work Program, 1145 benefited from the implementation of this program

Fencing of Graveyards (Cemeteries)

The graveyard fencing project is doing well. The municipality is busy finalizing the fencing of graveyards in the following villages : Disenyane , Moomane, Mamphokgo, Tskikanoshi , Rathoke, Moeding , Mooihoek (Tsimanyane) and Marble Hall. The fencing is done by community members in the form of short employment through the EPWP approach.

Community Bursaries

The municipality has introduced the Top-Ten Learners Awards which created a healthy competition amongst the learners, schools and the Education District and yielded good results that saw Moutse West District topping all others district with the municipality with 87.4%. The best performing learners who received the Special Bursary Award went to Nkoana Precious of Kgalatlou School.