

**External Communications Unit  
Press / Media Release**

To : All media  
Attention : News Editors & Journalists  
Date : 10 October 2011

***For the attention of all media houses***

**The Sedibeng District Council held its ordinary Council meeting in Vereeniging yesterday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011.**

As per our commitment during our elections campaign that we will ensure that every councillor would regularly report back to the community and explain plans, successes and challenges, it is in this regard that I on behalf of the Sedibeng District Municipality take this opportunity to bring you abreast with the development in our Sedibeng District Council.

The Council noted that it met during the October month which has since been ***declared Social Development; Children's Month and Transport Month***. During this month, the Sedibeng District Municipality and the Gauteng Department of Roads & Transport have been co-hosting Road Safety Awareness Campaigns every year in October as part of government's initiatives and consultation processes that affords government and stakeholders a platform to engage and develop informed decisions on best possible way to tackle the challenges our people face on our roads.

Council received and approved a report on the 2011 Public Transport Month Programme by the Transport, Infrastructure & Environment Cluster. The key elements of this year's programme include Car Free Day; Operation Hlokomela; Bicycle Day; Shova Kalula and the Road safety Campaigns

It further noted that we were 6 days to the start of the Census Counting programme. Statistics South Africa will conduct the country's third population and housing census from 10<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October. Enumerators will go from house to house spending about 40 minutes at each household asking about 75 questions contained in the Census 2011 questionnaire.

Census determines demographic data, the statistics on number, the distribution, and characteristics of people living within the borders of South Africa.

Council urged and appealed to all Sedibeng residents and South Africans in general to continue supporting and participating in these campaigns in an attempt to assist in conveying government's message in this regard.

Council noted that the Social Services Cluster will be hosting the Sedibeng District Health & Wellness Indaba from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011 and approved a report in this regard.

Council received and adopted the 2011 ANC Local Government Elections Manifesto as its basic guiding document to govern the development of the Sedibeng District Municipality's service delivery



commitments, programmes and campaigns to realize the Sedibeng electoral mandate renewed on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

Council received and approved reports on the Sedibeng District Municipality's state of finances for the year ending June 2011. These reports comprised financial overview and comparative analysis (Unaudited Annual Financial Statements); Progress Report: Thuthuka Municipalities Project; Report on the Over – Expenditure & Financial Compliance; the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund Allocation and Ambulance Debtors Write-off

Council considered and approved a report on the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) / Budget Cycle for the period July 2011 to June 2012.

Council received and adopted a report on the newly developed VIP Close Protection Policy which will provide operational, administrative and financial directives for the VIP Protection Unit.

Council was informed of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Quality Governance Lekgotla scheduled to take place at the Premier Hotel Regent, in East London, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

Council will be represented by the MMC for Environment: Cllr. Yusuf Mohamed and One member of the Section 80 Committee: Environment who will be accompanied by Custer Executive Director; Director for Environment and Manager responsible for Air Quality.

The Sedibeng District Municipality is currently expected to perform the function of licensing authority in this regard and the Air Quality Lekgotla will present our Municipality with opportunity to learn from other municipalities and various sectors in the country on how best they are managing their air quality programmes.

This Lekgotla will further assist the Sedibeng District Municipality to realize its goal of establishing and maintaining an effective atmospheric licensing authority and to continue striving for service excellence at all times. It is the Municipality's goal to ensure that we have a clear atmospheric air.

Council received and noted a progress report on the implementation of the Sedibeng Regional Sanitation Scheme.

The sanitation infrastructure within the Sedibeng District Municipality is old and the treatment plants are operating above their designed capacity. This Scheme will assist address this challenge and alleviate the discharging of raw sewerage and sewer effluent into the Vaal River.

This situation further hinder economic development in the Region as the sanitation infrastructure which we have cannot accommodate any development anymore. This applies to both private (business) and housing developments.

It is in this regard that Sedibeng municipalities led by the Sedibeng District Municipality established a Political Steering Committee which would look into the possibilities of expanding and developing



new sanitation infrastructure in the Region. Processes are at an advanced stage in this regard and some feasibility studies have been commissioned already.

This Scheme will cater for all municipalities except for the Lesedi Local Municipality.

Council received and noted progress report on the implementation of the Vaal Triangle Airshed Priority Area Air Quality Management Plan.

The Air Quality Management Plan was declared by the Minister for Environmental Affairs in terms of Section 18(1) of the Air Quality Act 39 of 2004 under Notice No. 365 of the 21 April 2006 as amended by Notice No. 711 of the 17 August 2007 as an area which is highly polluted in the country. These areas are found in Emfuleni and Midvaal Local Municipalities.

The purpose of this Plan is to implement government's commitment to ensuring everyone's right to an environment that is not harmful to their lives or well being; to ensure that everyone has a protected environment for the benefit of the present and future generations; to prevent pollution and ecological degradation; to promote conservation and secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources.

Council received and approved in principle a report on the implementation of the Gauteng Tourism Institutional Framework on the establishment of the Sedibeng Regional Tourism Organisation. The Report entailed the findings of the Sedibeng Interim Regional Tourism Association's feasibility studies which included their draft business plan; draft marketing plan and draft budgetary requirements for the establishment of the Sedibeng Regional Tourism Association

Council received and noted the progress report on the precinct development projects and the challenges encountered in the process as well as milestones realized.

Council received and noted a progress report on the precincts development projects together with challenges encountered in their implementation as well as milestones achieved.

**Council is pleased with the progress as reported on the following projects:**

### **Sharpeville Quick Wins**

The draft consolidated business plan for Sharpeville Precincts has been completed, comments were received from stakeholders including those from National Treasury's NDPG Unit and final consolidation of the Business Plan is continuing. The Business plan takes notice of the ongoing projects under construction.

### **Upgrading of Cemetery**

The Phelindaba Cemetery was the first quick win under Sharpeville Precincts to be constructed and has since then been completed on 04 February 2011.



Seven sub-contractors were used of which six were local. The project has created one hundred and fifty (150) jobs where 142 youth, 135 men, 28 women and 8 disabled were employed.

Council noted that a challenge at the Phelindaba Cemetery is that both the access routes to the heritage site are gravel roads and during rainy seasons does not allow free movement. National Treasury was approached to request that a saving of R1.6 million on the project be used to tar or pave the road and the council to counter-fund for any shortfall and permission has since then been granted.

A tender to invite prospective service providers for the construction of the access route is under way.

### **Upgrading of Sharpeville Exhibition Centre**

The nature and the extent of works comprise some internal changes, extensions and upgrading of the Exhibition Centre as well as general upgrading of the site.

The final inspection of this project was done on the 21 September 2011. Seven (7) local sub-contractors were appointed for brick works; plastering; electrical; steel works; air conditioning and painting.

The current total labour for the project is 85 with women comprising 19 and men at 66.

### **Upgrading of Constitution Walk**

The Constitution Walk is a linkage from the heritage site to the sports precincts passing through the Sharpeville Hall. The nature and extent of the works comprise the creation of a paved walkway with landscaping, trees and artworks.

The project started on the 30th May 2011 and expected to be completed on the 30th November 2011. The project progress construction to date is at 37% completion with all the necessary construction drawing approved and issued to the contractor. The main contractor has also submitted a comprehensive programme which outlined works to be subcontracted.

### **Sharpeville Community Hall**

Sharpeville Community Hall Project is within Heritage Precinct Development and the project entails demolitions, alteration and renovation of the Sharpeville Community Hall project.

The project started on the 30th of August 2010 and revised completion date was the 9th of September 2011. The project construction progress is at 96% completion. Forty four (41) residents from Sharpeville have been trained in various disciplines through EPWP training and the project has created 74 jobs where 44 youth employed and 40% being women.

### **Upgrade of Dickson Park Phase 3 Project**

This project forms part of Water Front Development and sport and recreation projects. This project is managed by the Emfuleni Local Municipality and funded by Municipal Infrastructure Grand.

The project started on the 14 June 2010 and revised completion date is the 30 October 2011. The construction progress is at 40%.

To date the project has created 37 jobs where 23 are youth and the main contractor has yet to appoint sub-contractors as soon as the Emfuleni Local Municipality management approved the works programme.

### **Midvaal Local Municipality feasibility study**

The Consultants have completed Community participation programme on the Sicelo draft Precinct Project Plan and was presented in both the Precincts Technical and Political Steering Committee meetings. It has since then been sent to national treasury NDP Unit to source comments.

The plan identified five catalytic projects for development and they are as follows:

- White house precinct;
- Community spine;
- Pedestrian bridge;
- Mobility spine; and
- Open space and storm water systems.

The biggest challenges in Sicelo precinct plan are to secure the White House Property and the land around it. Finalization of project sheets with Midvaal Local Municipality (MLM) and Sedibeng District Municipality (SDM) and finally approval of final business plans by NDPG.

### **Lesedi Local Municipality feasibility study**

In March 2011, KV3 (now Worley Parson RSA) were appointed to assist Lesedi during the technical assistance phase.

The progress to date is that the community survey and the economic analysis has been done and approved while a TRS & Urban Design Framework with catalytic projects linked to them are in the process of being developed for the following townships: Ratanda; Impumelolo / Devon; Kwazenzele; and Jameson Park.

### **Emfuleni Local Municipality feasibility study**

The detail investigation work has been completed and NDPG has provisionally approved the business plan pending the final submission of the following project plans.



Project Description	Where	Main Needs Addressed
Wetland Regeneration and Park Development	Boipatong	Improved health and safety, development of Boipatong tourist potential, provision of parks and pedestrian walkways
Upgrade of the Civic and Commercial Hub	Bophelong	Improvement of retail space, provision of space for artistic performance, need for a well located, quality meeting place for the community
Development of Open Space along the R57	Bophelong	Beautification of the entrance to Emfuleni and Bophelong, improving safety for children and pedestrians in Bophelong, provision of pedestrian walkways
Creation of a Cultural Precinct	Sebokeng	Provision of trading spaces for Informal Traders, provision of public space for multiple uses
The Development of a Regional Educational & Recreational Node	Sebokeng	To promote large scale economic development, create job opportunities in retail and entertainment, provide housing opportunities and complement other initiatives in the area

### Civic Precinct Development

Urban Genesis has been asked to re-look at the Civic Precinct and the design of iconic Council chambers. A briefing has been set up. National Treasury funding and approval of this process will be secured for going forward to the next phase.

Challenges in this regard is that the process forward has been hampered by the change in the management of Urban Genesis however a commitment has been assured by the new management during the PPSC meeting.

### Waterfront Precinct Development Framework

The objective of the Waterfront development is to develop an overarching framework that would allow for changes in land uses if required, strategic interventions in terms of infrastructure and municipal property utilisation and an overall set of road and transport linkages that would create a more functional and relevant economy given the opportunity provided by the waterfront.

Council noted the challenges experienced with this project, which include but not limited to the land ownership; Access; Environmental constraints; Flood lines; and Dump sites, quarries and slime dams.

As way forward it is recommended that the waterfront development be linked up with Vereeniging CBD to allow access to it and also source funding for development.

### **Council noted other development projects in Boipatong and Evaton Urban Renewal**

#### **Boipatong Memorial Project**

The project was established on the baseline that there is poor utilization of resources in the region while the region has heritage with advantage of attracting visitors and funding investors. The concept of developing a memorial to keep memory of Boipatong Massacre and attract such interested tourists was further established to a project which attracted Gautrain Funding through the then Gauteng Department of Public Transport, Roads and Works (DPTRW) now known as Gauteng department of Infrastructure Development (GDID). Gautrain grant of thirty eight million rand (R38 000 000) was allocated for the project through Expanded Public Works Program (EPWP), a program that aims at providing skills in different construction and building trades and to extend job creation.

A multipurpose and memorial is under design by the professional team appointed by the GDID. A procurement process had taken place by GDID for the appointment of the contractor. Fifty six (56) members of the public from Boipatong of Emfuleni Local Municipality (ELM) are on EPWP training program and were identified with the assistance of the project committee which was established by GDID through the ward councilor.

There has been progress with challenges in Boipatong Memorial Precinct project and a meeting with personnel from Gauteng Department of Infrastructure (GDID) ELM and SDM was called to assess the progress made and try to resolve outstanding issues. The meeting agreed that no proper public participation took place according to ELM and SDM practices and that there was a major technical shortfall in the whole process including designs (precinct or multipurpose) which will be amended if need be; drawings were for multipurpose but not yet approved by ELM; however, land use application approval process for rezoning project land from open space to public facility has been completed by ELM.

It has been agreed in the meeting that the budget; procurement processes and project management will be controlled by the GDID and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) drafted by GDID be amended to include all parties involved. It was also agreed that a separate report be written to council to give full status of the project and clearly outline roles and responsibilities of each party involved.

#### **Evaton Urban Renewal project**

The Evaton Urban renewal project is one of the programs for urban regeneration and implemented in partnership with the Gauteng province's department of Housing. The main challenge under this project is IGR as information contained in this report is generated out of presentation and informal gathering of information.

Progress to date includes the following projects having been completed:

**ROADS PROJECTS:** Eagle road; Selbourne road; Evaton road; Union road; Adams road; and Falcon road.

**OTHER PROJECTS:** Mafatsane Government Building; Sports Complex Precinct;

**Construction of Pedestrian paving in Evaton streets along the following roads:**

Union road; Stirling road; Hamilton road Togo road; and Eastern road phase (1) and (2).

Council noted that two streets were not completed namely Boundary road Avondale road

Council approved the Sedibeng District Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Framework to guide the process which will be followed by the Five Year IDP: 2012 to 2017.

Council received and noted a report on the amount of revenue collected by the Licensing Department during the past financial year and how much retained by the Council and how much was paid over to the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport.

Council approved a progress report on the transfer of the Youth Advisory Centers to local municipalities. These four (4) Youth Advisory Centers were established in June 2007 in partnership with the local municipalities in the Sedibeng area and the Umsombovu Youth Fund.

Council received a report that three of these Centers were located in the areas of the Emfuleni and one in the Lesedi Local Municipalities. Youth Advisory Centers (YACs) are walk in points where young people are provided with information and services through one on one or group sessions.

Council resolved that operations of the YACs will continue to be managed by the Sedibeng District Municipality for the financial year 2011 / 2012; the District Municipal Manager's Forum was delegated to provide guidance on the transfer process and that local municipalities be advised to make budget provision in the next financial year 2012 / 2013 in preparation for the transfer of the YACs to them.

Council received and noted a report on the intention of the Gauteng Provincial Department of Health & Social Development to render Ambulance Services as a direct service, referring to it as "provincialisation of emergency medical services (EMS)"

Council received and approved a report on the employee annual salary, wage and benefits increase for the financial year, 2011 / 2012.

Council received and approved a report on the proposal on the extension of the pilot project on the installation of the Solar Geysers in the District at no cost to the Sedibeng District Municipality.



Solar Water Heating is a system for heating water using energy from the sun. Solar energy (sunrays) is collected by a solar panel which is connected by electric wires to a hot water storage device such as a hot water cylinder.

By using sunlight to heat water instead of combustible sources or fossil fuel-produced electricity, fewer pollutants are being introduced into the environment.

Government has set a target for renewable energy to contribute 10 000 gigawatt per hour (GWh) of final energy consumption by 2013. Solar water heating could contribute up to 23% of this target. Solar water tanks are better insulated than electrical geysers and can keep water hot for a longer period of time.

The project is an initiative of the Sedibeng District Municipality. The project will assist the SDM with its local municipalities to contribute to the national target of One (1) million SWH uptake by 2015. The project will also demonstrate how alternative sources of energy can assist in cutting the electricity consumption and hence cost the creation of employment and the saving of the environment.

### **Socio-economic benefits**

In order to address the socio-economic challenges a number of job opportunities were created. The following is a breakdown of such: 65 Males and 23 Females

A total of 83 job opportunities were created.

### **Extension of the project**

Emanating from the presentations which were made to the Sedibeng Joint Political Management Team meeting of the 02 August 2011, which included, amongst others a proposal by Maziya GS on a roll out of solar geyser installations in the District, it was agreed that their services be engaged to continue with the project with no cost to the Sedibeng District Municipality.

### **Local Empowerment & Job Creation**

Due to the high levels of unemployment in the Sedibeng District, local job creation and empowerment of local partners is an imperative to the project. The following local partners will be sought:

### **Suppliers of Solar Geysers**

Due to the high quantities of solar geysers that would need to be supplied, a local partner(s) must be included in the project to provide at percentage of the supply as included in the Service Level Agreement. The local supplier must meet the required guarantees of specifications, cost and supply.



## Installations

This presents an opportunity for local artisans to be trained and skilled in the installation of these units according to the required installation standards. Besides supervisors, all installers must be scoured locally.

## Maintenance

Opportunities exist for suppliers of components and maintenance and repair technicians within the project. Most of these should be locally based.

The Solar Geyser Project will bring extensive financial relief for many residents across the District. South Africa has an abundance of sunny days in a calendar year and only during some days in winter do we experience lengthy periods of dim light conditions.

Solar energy is therefore very conducive to energy saving in Sedibeng. The long-term benefits include making our own contribution to reducing our dependency on carbon-derived energy and hence it contributes positively to address the issues of Global warming and Climate Change.

A Rollout Team would be formed to establish areas which would be provided with these geysers. Council welcomed all other service providers which were providing the same services to approach the Municipality in this regard

The contract of the Municipal Manager will be coming to an end on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011 that is six (6) months after the local government elections. Recruitment process in this regard has started. Council noted and approved the extension of the employment contract of the current Municipal Manager for a period of one month, ending December 2011.

Council received and accepted a resignation letter from Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi from the Council. Council unanimously congratulated and wished her all the best in her new capacity at the Gauteng Department of Local Government & Housing.

Council noted that the Sedibeng Mayoral Awards would be held during the November month, 2011

Council congratulated Amabhokobhoko for their sterling performance in their previous matches against Fiji, Samoa, Namibia and New Zealand and wished them well with their other games ahead.

Council further wished Bafana Bafana well in their campaign to qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations Tournament in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea next year. They will be playing Sierra Leone in their final Group G qualifying match at the Mbombela Stadium in Nelspruit on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Council conveyed its message of condolences to the families which lost their loved one, and the 166 community members who were injured in the tornado which hit Meqheleng in Ficksburg, Free State Province and recently Duduza in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng Province. We hope that they will be assisted to get back on their feet again soon.



**Ends!**

**Issued by the External Communications Department  
Sedibeng District Municipality**

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