



Quarterly Newsletter April - June 2016

Lephalale Municipality

Building a vibrant city to be the energy hub of Africa

Provincial Africa Day celebrated at Ga-Seleka

Lephalale Municipality hosted the provincial Africa Day event at Ga-Seleka on Wednesday, 25 May. Crowds of local residents enjoyed a beautiful blend of colour, music and dance from several cultural groups. Government officials from Zimbabwe and Namibia as well as a representative of the Africa Union also joined in the festivities.

The Mayor of Lephalale, Cllr Jack Maeko said in his address: "I hope this day will assist us to search and find the real African in all of us. That it will assist us to do serious introspection as Africans and go back to our roots. Corruption and xenophobia are not part of our African culture." On behalf of the Premier of Limpopo, Mr. Chupu Mathabatha, provincial Treasury MEC, Mr. Rob Tooley, thanked the people of Lephalale for providing the stage for the rest of Limpopo to celebrate this important day. "Our province represents a fusion and melting pot of Africa's diverse cultural heritage. Let us unite and celebrate together," she said. Africa Day is celebrated annually on 25 May within the African continent to mark the formation of the Organization of African Unity on 25 May 1963 and the African Union in 2002 and the progress made by the continent to advance democracy, peace, stability and socio-economic development.

South Africa rejoined the continent and the international community in 1994 following the dawn of freedom and democracy. Africa Day 2016 will therefore mark the celebration of 22 years since the country's reintegration into the OAU/AU and the international community.



The Mayor of Lephalale Cllr MJ Maeko at the Africa Day Celebration event in Ga-Seleka



Provincial Treasury MEC, Mr. Rob Tooley giving the keynote address on behalf of the Premier of Limpopo.





Africa Day 2016 in pictures



Minister evaluates service delivery progress

Lephalale Local Municipality (LLM) hosted Minister Mosebenzi Zwane during the launch of the 4th National Imbizo Focus Week on Monday, 4 April in Ga-Seleka. In his capacity as acting Communications Minister, and as part of national government's monitor and evaluation programme, Minister Zwane paid a visit to three RDP building sites in the area. Three families were identified for housing intervention by Communication Minister Faith Muthambi during the launch of the Imbizo Focus week in December 2015. The visit was a follow up to determine progress made by Lephalale Municipality. Construction on all three houses should be completed by the end of April 2016.



Altogether 438 RDP houses in 10 villages are currently under construction to assist families in the Lephalale area, including those whose homes were damaged by heavy winds and flooding.

As part of his visit, Minister Zwane switched on the Lephalale Municipality electrification project which benefits over 700 households in Ga-Seleka village. The project is part of Lephalale Municipality's commitment to service delivery in rural areas. The minister also officially opened an access road in Ga-Seleka. During an event at the Ga-Seleka community hall, residents were given the opportunity to engage with the minister and to ask questions relating to service delivery.



The Imbizo Focus Week which ran until 10 April coincides with the Parliamentary Constituency Week as well as the Commemoration of Freedom Month. It provides for profiling local government achievements particularly the building blocks for the Back to Basics approach including the provision of quality basic services to creating decent living conditions; the promotion of good governance in order to maintain effective functioning of municipalities; the promotion of public participation platforms to ensure that municipalities engage with their communities; sound financial management as an integral element to the success of local government; and building institutional capacity to strengthen municipal administrative systems and processes.

RDP Houses for Thabo Mbeki residents

Excited communities of Maletswai and Thabo Mbeki welcomed the introduction of Rheinland contractor at Thabo Mbeki on Monday, 25 April 2016. The contractor will start with the construction of 28 RDP houses in the area next month. This is the first phase of the project and will benefit people who were affected by heavy rains which resulted in floods damaging their houses as well as home owners with houses which lie within the flood line. These residents will be relocated as soon as construction is completed. The Mayor, Cllr M J Maeko urged the contractor to employ locally and to transfer skills to the youth in the area.



In addition, the Mayor, Cllr M J Maeko recently introduced five contractors to the community who have started with the construction of 534 RDP houses in 10 villages. The Department of Cooperative governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs allocated 300 rural housing units to be constructed for the 2016/2017 financial year in Lephalale. These housing projects are part of the Municipality's 67 projects that were launched by the Mayor on Mandela Day last year. The project is in line with the Municipality's commitment towards bettering living conditions of communities within Lephalale.



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House of traditional leaders opened in Marapong



Lephalale Local Municipality hosted the annual opening of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders on Friday, 22 April 2016 by the Premier of Limpopo Mr. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha at the Marapong sport ground. The event provided a platform for provincial and local government as well as traditional leaders in the province to assess the progress made in carrying out their constitutional mandate as well as identify the challenges faced in working together to serve communities.

The Premier reminded the gathering that Chapter 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa recognizes and supports the institution of traditional leadership. "The participation of traditional leaders in local governance is very critical, I strongly believe united in action we can do more," he said.

Premier Mathabatha announced that provincial government has put aside a substantial budget in this financial year to assist traditional leaders. Several traditional offices were upgraded and handed over to councils in the province. Training are also provided in the form of a programme called Visionary Leaders in which all 183 Senior Traditional Leaders in the Province will be trained by the Development Bank of Southern Africa as appointed by Anglo Platinum.

The Premier also applauded the Proclamation No. 326 of 17 March 2016 in which the President approved that salaries of all categories of Traditional leaders be increased with effect from 1 April 2016.

The Premier thanked Kgoshi Dikgale, the Chairperson of the House, the Deputy Chairperson, Hosi Chauke and the entire Executive Committee for the good work done. "You have worked well with this government throughout your term of office. Your advice and guidance on issues relating to tradition and culture is well appreciated.

The Mayor of Lephalale, Cllr M J Maeko said at the event that Lephalale Municipality is honoured to host this important organ of state. "This institution is charged with the responsibility of advising government, especially on matters of culture and tradition. Lephalale is predominantly rural and therefore need the assistance and guidance of our traditional leaders. They are the voices of the people. We are committed to restoring the dignity of the institution of traditional leadership," he added.

LLM serious about job creation



Lephalale Local Municipality (LLM) is holding true to its promises of working towards facilitating more job opportunities for local residents, especially the youth of Lephalale. The Mayor of Lephalale, Cllr Jack Maeko introduced a bulk recruitment programme in conjunction with the Management of the Medupi power station project, represented by Mashudu Khoza and Patrick Seloba.. The job creation project was officially launched at the Municipality on Wednesday, 13 April 2016. Through this initiative altogether 1917 job opportunities have been identified at the Power plant building site. The Municipality is requesting that at least 60% of these jobs be reserved for qualifying local residents.

The Mayor commended the newly appointed Medupi Project Manager and his team for engaging with the Municipality and for ensuring that recruitment at the Medupi Power station is guided by employment equity guidelines as prescribed in the labour law. The Mayor said that in meeting with the Medupi Project Management, it has become clear that local requirement is top of the agenda for both stakeholders.

The Mayor urged local jobseekers, to register their CV's on the Municipal database at the Mayor's office, the information Centre in Marapong or at tribal councils. The Municipality established the database earlier this year to assist stakeholders such as Eskom, Exarro and ResGen to employ locally.

New Taxi rank for Lephalale CBD



Public Private Partnership was the highlight of the day, when Lephalale Mayor, Jack Maeko, did a sod turning and ribbon cutting to symbolize the commencement of the construction of a taxi rank and hawker stalls in Lephalale town on Monday (23 May 2016). The construction of the Taxi rank forms part of a project to re-develop the Central Business District(CBD) of Lephalale by the the Pistorius Group and Resilient Group. A steering committee comprising of representatives from taxi associations, hawkers, Siyazi, Resilient group and the Municipality was established and shop tenants around the area were consulted and briefed about the planned development.

A temporary taxi rank was established to make way for the construction of the new taxi rank and hawkers have been allocated temporary trading space until the completion of the construction in September 2016.



Joe Slovo housing development on track



As part of Lephalale Local Municipality's commitment towards addressing housing backlogs in Lephalale and its vision for establishing integrated human settlements, the Municipality met with newly appointed contractors for the long awaited Joe Slovo housing development on Wednesday, 11 May. The contractors were introduced to the Mayor of Lephalale, Cllr M J Maeko, Councillors and LLM Management by the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) as well as the Housing Development Agency (HDA).

The R270 million project will see approximately 5000 mixed income housing units established on the farm Altoostyd next to Onverwacht. The aim of the project is to integrate housing and to provide low to middle income residents with an opportunity to own or rent homes close to the CBD. The initiative will go a long way towards formalizing housing in the Lephalale area.

The Mayor of Lephalale reminded the gathering of the important role that Joe Slovo played in establishing a democratic South Africa especially as the first Minister of Housing in the democratically elected government of former President Nelson Mandela. "As part of his legacy, let us build the Joe Slovo settlement to honour this struggle hero and to ensure that residents of Lephalale have decent homes to live in.

The first phase of the project will entail the erecting of overhead electrical lines as well as short bulk connections with bulk services such as water and sanitation. The contractors will start on the eastern side of the property and the first phase should be completed by September 2016.

The Mayor reminded the contractors of their commitment towards employing local residents. "This project must in the end benefit not only the future home owners but also local labour and especially those who were previously disadvantaged. He requested that at least 25% of procurement should be done locally, benefiting local SMME's and black owned companies.

EPWP brings hope to job seekers in Lephalale

Communities of Thabo Mbeki, in Lephalale welcomed with excitement the launch of the Expanded Public Works Programme by Lephalale Municipal Mayor, Cllr Jack Maeko, on Wednesday, 01 June 2016. The programme is one of government's array of programmes aimed at providing poverty and income relief through temporary work for the unemployed. The key approach is to drive Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) through community participation to ensure that poor people become actively involved in government programmes within their communities

One hundred and forty four (144) people have been employed. The one year programme commenced on the 1st of June 2016 and will end in June 2017. Some of the duties to be done under these programmes are road maintenance, cleaning of storm water culverts (pipes), grass cutting, bush clearing and road markings. The programme will cover the D3110 (Shongoane to Seleka), D1675 (Medupi T-junction to Steenbokpan) and R572 (Lephalale to Tom Burke).



The Mayor said at the event that the initiative is one of the best equipped programmes to address challenges of unemployment and poverty in local rural communities. Unemployment is one of the main issues which were raised by communities during the municipality's annual draft IDP/Budget road show recently. The Project team comprises of Road Agency Limpopo, the Contractor, Provincial Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure and the Municipality.

Congratulations!

We are excited to announce that Lephalale Municipality's Acting Chief Financial Officer, Ephesia Mathebula is one of the top 25 finalists for the Schwarzkopf Professional Mrs. South Africa competition. The announcement was made at the South Africa CANSA Gala dinner held at Emperors Palace. It was an important occasion on the Schwarzkopf Professional Mrs. South Africa calendar as the top 100 semi-finalists, announced two months ago, pinnacle their journey of workshops, networking, judging and rehearsing when the announcement of the final top 25 was made at the dinner. Judges Zuraida Jardin, Joan Madibeng, Vusi Zwane and principal judge Cindy Nell Roberts admitted to this being the hardest round of judging thus far as all semi-finalists had displayed beauty, grace and dedication. Ephesia will now embark on a journey of fund raising, networking and self-development until the final round of judging, to name the Schwarzkopf Professional Mrs. South Africa 2017, in October this year. We wish her all the best.



LLM Wellness Day

Lephalale Municipality hosted a wellness day event for employees at the Mogol Club on Wednesday, 18 May. Municipal teams played Soccer, Volleyball, Netball and tug-of-war against teams of the SAPS Lephalale, Ellisras Hospital, Blouberg Municipality and Lepelle-Nkumpi local Municipality. The Annual event reminded all to live healthy life styles in order to be effective in their workplace. The department of Health rendered services such as blood pressure/sugar and HIV testing.



**Sylvia Mapholisa,
Employee Assistant
Programme Officer
writes:**

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in Wellness Day Event on 18 May. The event turned out successful and we all enjoyed the day. Its main purpose to participate in health-related activities was achieved. We hope that the next wellness day event for the new coming financial year will even be more enjoyable and more creative than the one that took place on the 18th.



Asbestos pipes replaced in Onverwacht



The Mayor of Lephalale and Cllr S Niewhoudt with contractors on site

The Lephalale Municipal Water division started this week with a project to replace aging asbestos water pipes in Lephalale. The aging infrastructure is currently increasing the normal rate of repairs required. The Municipality is planning to implement reliable and comprehensive water management and water losses control plans on its water infrastructure investments that is currently above twenty years old.

The present water supply systems and the capacity of virtually all infrastructures need to be increased to at least double the present capacity, in order to sustain growth over both the short and the long term..

The existing water supply systems will therefore be refurbished and/or upgraded in a manner that serves the growing population of Onverwacht, Lephalale Town, Marapong and rural communities.

The implementation of this project will enable the Municipality to curb water losses from the existing AC pipes. A critical section of around 60km of AC pipes forms part of a critical section that need immediate attention. The existing pipes ranges from 100mm to 300mm diameter at an approximate depth of 1m to 2m below the ground. The project will take approximately five months to complete.

During this Municipal Financial year the following streets are targeted for phase by phase replacement of existing AC pipes:

Community excited over up coming water projects in their area

Communities of Ga-Seleka 4, Thabo Mbeki and Mmaletswai welcomed the introduction of contractors and consultants by Lephalale Mayor, Cllr Jack Maeko on the 24th of May 2016. This is one of many projects aimed at developing rural communities and highlighting the municipality's vision of building a city. In the past 5 years the municipality has made progress with regards to improving access to water supply from 75% to 94%

The contractors will be responsible for the installation of taps, storage tanks and refurbishment of a water treatment plant for the Mokuruanyane water scheme and the planning of water and sanitation projects. These projects will see more than 14 villages getting access to clean water. The project worth eleven million rand is expected to be completed in 30 November 2016 and 60 temporary jobs will be created.

The Mayor applauded the communities for the good working relationship with contractors on other projects and urged them to use proper channels when they want to raise issues. "This is another step towards the rural development of the lively hoods of our communities," he said.



Family advocate visits Lephhalale

Celebrating International Day of Families

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development joined hands with Lephhalale Municipality in emphasizing children's rights to equal parental care. This message was echoed during the commemoration of the International Day of Families which was held in Mokuruanyane on 13 May 2016.

The event, which was held under the theme 'promoting family cohesion thereby protecting the best interests of children,' was hosted by the Department of Justice's Office of the Family Advocate, which is an unbiased Family Law specialist who assists parental parties to reach an agreement on disputes regarding care, custody and contact of children through mediation.



Chief Family Advocate. Petunia Seabi-Mathope visited Lephhalale during the annual celebration of International Day of Families. Her Majesty Kgosisadi L M Langa and Lephhalale councillors also joined in the celebration.

Happy Birthday Mayor Maeko



The Mayor of Lephhalale, Cllr Moloko Jack Maeko celebrated his birthday on Tuesday 17 May by handing out blankets to the elderly and spending time with the community of Mokuruanyane.

