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EMALAHLENI MUNICIPALITY

UNITY IN DEVELOPMENT

EzasEmalahleni

Official

April 2011

Newsletter

The Editorial



The year 2010 was a momentous year in the history of our country and fortunately we were part of it as the inhabitants of this beautiful country in an African continent. The World Cup that we have successfully hosted will remain in our memories for quite a long time in such a way that stories of it will be told from generation to generation.

It had come and gone with hopes achieved, dreams attained, targets met and some not realized as expected but there are still grounds for improvement as “FAIL” is referred to as the “First Attempt in Learning”. If you fall for the first time you are trying to do something; never give up, collect yourself and charge forward. Failure is when you do not implement what is in your mind as there is nothing to measure. But failing to achieve your targeted quality, quantity and time frames-there is something you can improve on.

As the municipality, at the moment we are not where we are suppose to be in terms of giving out information to our clients that is due to the fact that there are no clear lines of communication between us and our clients. The way structures are responding to the municipal programmes still has a lot to be corrected as public participation is the pillar in any democracy. The manner in which the municipality is perceived by the communities and community structures shows a certain level of lack of faith by some to the service points available in our area of authority and that is caused by a number of issues i.e how we profile and communicate successes, strides, challenges, failures to the publics. Profiling the truth is the reality of the matter in which we are operating as there are no successes without learning from the failures and if so we can safely say experience is the best teacher.

Our municipality launched the anti-fraud and corruption prevention plan last year which needs inputs from all our stakeholders as this initiative cannot be well measured if it is working or not without your contribution in reporting suspected incidents. Whistle blowing is the way to go in serving public service funds for service delivery so report using boxes provided in all the three towns of Emalahleni, call the numbers that were given for your use in any given moment you see or suspect fraudulent and corrupt elements.

This is your newsletter where you can register your taking of service delivery in this area and that can assist in getting feedback from you as our valuable client. So keep the light burning communicate your thoughts,views and opinions.

Till next time,

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Provincial Exco Visit

The Eastern Cape Provincial Executive Committee was in Chris Hani district municipality for three days, embarking on a series of programmes including visiting community projects.

Emalahleni local municipality was earmarked to be one of the areas to be visited and Khuluphambene project, one of the sorghum producers in this vicinity, was amongst those projects. MEC for the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture Mrs Xoliswa Tom, MEC for the Department of Roads and Public Works Pemmy Majodina, Chris Hani leadership led by Chief Whip, Councillor Zenzile (Ray) Shweni, Emalahleni local municipality leadership led by the Mayor, Cllr Nolitha Lali and officials from various government departments were amongst guests that were visiting Zwartwater on this year's outreach.



Councillor Nolitha Lali, Mayor Emalahleni Local Municipality said we are here today to implement a resolution we took after we told the provincial sphere that we want to produce sorghum in this area. As members of the community and all the stakeholders let us chase poverty with all the energy we have.

Councillor Litha Ngcongca portfolio head Integrated Planning and Economic Development when doing a project background said sorghum production Emalahleni started at Maqhashu in 2003, Emalahleni is regarded as a rich area in sorghum production as compared with maize. After 2003 sorghum production developed and expanded to other areas in such a way that by then we targeted seven areas where people show interest in a manner that in some areas they were already working their ploughing fields. In 2008 we were given some of about R4 million rands funding and we managed to produce 8000 bags and the size of the entire land we ploughed was 1200 hectares.

> “...We are here to say bravo to the project. In the book of the bible it said God created heaven, earth and planted vegetation”
> -MEC Pemmy Majodina



This year we are prepared to plough fewer hectares by 200 hectares as compared to the previous year as we are funded with R4 Million that is not enough for this area. We requested funding from the Office of the Premier through Thina Sinako some of about R3 million for the construction of a sorghum processing structure (milling) in this area.

We are not without challenges as drought is one of the challenges we are faced with, marketing and market price are some of the challenges and lack of equipment to work the land is also another hindering factor. Emalahleni sorghum production was declared by the former MEC for Agriculture Mr Gugile Nkwinti as adopted by the Department of Agriculture that I believe if can be revived can help this area, said Ngcongca.

Mr Fatyela a member of the project when talking with the Executive Committee delegation did not hide his feeling that things are going well at his cooperative as he started by saying they commenced working the ground ploughing potatoes and on that period they were supported by two agriculture official to monitor their production. “As we are enlightened we advise others to form cooperatives and be members of cooperatives that are already existing as our government is not supporting individuals”, he said.

“We were sent to school to study agricultural production and management and now we are more than ready as our ploughing fields are ready for cultivation and seeds are also available. As communities we have got challenges with our way of doing things as we are looking for money but we are not willing to work the land although money is in our ploughing fields. It will be proper if we can be assisted with the storage facility in the form of a milling (silo) and tractors as we can easily work our land”, said Fatyela.

MEC for the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture Mrs Xoliswa Tom, said government promote working together from national, provincial and the local sphere of governance. “It will then help us as government to work together closely as we are targeting better life for all. When ploughing you have to be patient and as ploughing resembles the way of life as you plough a seed which you do not dig out to check how far it is in growing”.

MEC for the department of Roads and Public Works Ms Pemmy Majodina, first said, “We are here to say bravo to the project. In the book of the bible it said God created heaven, earth and planted vegetation. He also said men will eat his own sweat but because we are lazy we get sick as we do not plough and eat fresh produce. As members of this project you were sitting here doing nothing but now you are business people because you have stretched your wings and fly”. She further said, “A draught you are faced with here is a global issue as we have got a challenge with the climate change”. “You are trained in project management so that your books can be audited. As the department of Roads and Public Works we will ensure that roads are constructed and maintained so that your products can be transported out of this area. As project members you have to be focused and not to respond to all the negative comments”.

“We are here today during a period when we are cementing a campaign to fight against abuse for women, children and people with disability. As men let us teach our sons to respect as that will contribute towards reviving our manhood and humanness. “Don't look away act against abuse”.
In rural areas there are taverns that are opening 24 hours, it is our responsibility to ensure that taverns are closed. Church leaders are suppose to lead nation building and guide communities. Be all involved in community development issues i.e crime fighting and drug abuse”, concluded Majodina.

Best Performing Local Municipality

Emalahleni Local Municipality was acknowledged as the best performing municipality in Extended Publics Work Programme in Chris Hani District during the First Extended Public Works Programme Summit that was held at the International Convention Centre in Durban. Emalahleni municipality is also regarded as doing well in spending the Municipal Infrastructure Grant. This is as a result of the labour intensive work that is compliant with the EPWP that is done in Emalahleni area of authority where the municipality uses human labour instead of the machinery as much as possible. In doing this the municipality recognizes the fact that all the previously disadvantaged groups are given first preference in employment. Also is the fact that Emalahleni local municipality is reporting in good time on the progress done in the EPWP projects that are taking place, this is one of the requirements of the programme.

This municipal Extended Public Works Programme is heightened by the following initiatives: Paving of Indwe main street in Lady Frere, Trust road and stormwater project, Construction of three internal streets in Lady Frere, Construction of Mdantsane to Qwempe access gravel road and low level bridge, construction of main road from Indwe to Indwe resort, construction of main road from Indwe to Mavuya location in Indwe, construction of main road from Dordrecht to Sinako township. Building of community halls in Bengu ward 2, Ngqanda multi-purpose hall in ward 12, Community hall in ward 11 in Dordrecht, Community hall in ward 9. And storm water projects that are taking place in areas where there are high level grounds using the internal qualified teams with provisional employees supplementing the work force on a contract basis.






Mandela Day





Emalahleni Municipality took out on the community services during the Mandela Day period, led by Councillor Nolitha, Mayor, EXCO, Speaker, Chief Whip and other Councillors and political leadership. The management and staff of the municipality led by the Municipal Manager Mr Nkosinathi Kwepile was part of the teams that were deployed on three areas. This programme started two days before the actual Mandela day that was on Sunday. The following places were cleaned and painted i.e Stimulation centre in Dordrecht (a centre for the elderly people), a pre-school at Lanti and a pre-school in Vaal Bank.

On Sunday the Department of Correctional Services officials as part of their commitment to the Mandela day cleaned Lady Frere stadium surrounding area.
On the same day in the location at Nompucuko primary school work was happening where volunteers embarked on building a classroom using the foundation already there on the old prefabricate structures. This programme was initiated by the youth that is working for the department of Education in Lady Frere. After brainstorming about this issue they went to the municipal offices for assistance in coordinating a broader meeting to find ways and means of changing the bad situation of Nompucuko primary school. The youth already collected donations to buy the building material and lucky enough for this initiative a contractor that was working on this area promised to assist by building two classrooms.
When the work was done the contractor assisted the team by fetching the sand and bricks and also with the skill to build the structure. The community of this area shows discontent claiming that there are no people who can work without any form of payment and as a result window pales were taken away fearing for damages and vandalism.





IEC Youth Indaba

The Independent Electoral Commission at Lady Frere, Emalahleni Municipal area of authority, hosted the Youth Indaba. The main objectives for this Indaba were to harness youth participation in civic and democratic education and 2011 local government elections. The purpose of the programme was to focus on youth participation on democratic processes and the involvement of the youth in elections. It was said that the Independent Electoral Commission want to inform the youth that as the institution it must perform its duty without fear or favor with a sound knowledge of democratic processes.

Mr Ayanda Ntsweni when doing the Independent Electoral Commission presentation said, “The youth of 1976 played a pivotal role for the democracy we are enjoying today, as IEC they felt that the role of the youth at the moment is minimal. There are many challenges that might lead to youth uninvolvement i.e unemployment, lack of career guidance, crime, early pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and uninvolvement of youth in politics”.

He further said, “Lack of youth participation in election is as a result of a perception by the youth that there is nothing that they will gain in democracy. It is difficult to speak of youth participation when it comes to democratic processes. To change this perception as the commission we have to educate the youth about the importance of their participation in elections and also that they are future leaders”.

Mr Sanqele the District Manager for the Department of Education when giving inputs on the programme first said, “We want the youth to be part of decision making but it is unfortunate that we have challenges with the absence of youth in programmes and activities that they are suppose to participate and avail themselves. If the youth can be present they can ensure that the decision making bodies' account to them and that will raise their sense of ownership. They must restore their dignity and begin to respect others so that they may be respected”.

Lack of social responsibility is another challenge that we are faced with in regard to youth participation. The youth spend a lot of energy participating on minimal and trivial issues. There is a mentality of social climbing amongst the youth that accompanied with lack of self realization”.

“The youth must start to be involved and in so doing they must begin to be voracious readers and as the youth they must take their rightful place “First things first”. And lastly you must remember that you are not going to be the youth forever”, said Mr Sanqele.





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16 Days of Activism & Candlelight Memorial





Department of Social Development Emalahleni Office staged a campaign in Nompucuko as a build up towards 16 days of activism in no violence against women, children, elderly and people with disability and at the same time a candlelight memorial to commemorate those who are no more due to HIV/IADS ailments.

The department of Social Development in June 2010 was invited by the department of Education as there were problems that were identified facing Nompucuko Primary School i.e children who do not go to school regularly, that are abused by contract workers working in the area attracted by money, misuse of child support grants by parents and drug abuse to mention but few.

The Department goes back and started to work to do a follow up on cases that were referred to them. The department promised to stage an awareness campaign for this community hence we are here today on a build up campaign towards the commemoration of the World AIDS Day.

The departments of Education when giving a message of support raised the fact that in life we have got choices. In Lady Frere we are rated as having a high rate of pregnancy. Some of these children are as a result of abuse by their parents and their siblings like uncles. There are contract workers who engage on sexual activities with children in return for money as these children are being paid. As a department we offer life skills in trying to capacitate children to be able to have clear goals in life. In our department we have Social Security Assistance programme where we look at the factors and causative effects of children not to going to school.

“In life we have got choices”

Emalahleni Public Service Employee Day







For the first in the history of Emalahleni municipal area of jurisdiction an event dubbed the name Emalahleni Public Service Employees Day was held towards the end of 2010. This event was piloted to check if it can pass the test and become the standing annual event for the area employees from all public sector institution to embark on activities that are promoting their wellness as well as creating better working relations amongst themselves for the benefit of their clients. This programme came into being as a result of lack of social activities for the employees, platforms for them to be able to interact while on duty and the fact that government departments are less cooperative on programmes that need an integrated approach.

For this programme to be a success the private sector, i.e Spur Lady Frere, Nedbank Lady Frere Satellite and FNB Queenstown branch supported it with the items to be won by the participants in all activities. This programme shows how public-private partnership can work in giving services to the people as it did during this event.







This programme took two days as the first day was meant for the games and the second day for speeches and awards for the winners and elderly participants.

On the morning the programme commenced with the 2,5 km walk, 5km fun run and 10km run for both males and females. During the day soccer and netball teams displayed quality games that at the end of the day were won by two teams that proved to be better teams on the day and not that their opponents were not equally prepared. In soccer Glen grey hospital won against the Department of Education and Emalahleni netball became victorious against the Department of Social Development.

Emalahleni Mayoral Cup 2010







Emalahleni municipality during the year of mark staged the Mayoral Cup which attracted many spectators at the commencement of the games. 2010 Mayoral Cup was aimed at ensuring that youth participate on sporting codes like Soccer for males, Soccer for females, Netball, Rugby, Athletics, Golf and the Indigenous games. Three of the abovementioned codes were not played due to a variety of reasons. This memorable mayoral cup took almost seven week before the champs were announced on the four codes that were successfully played.



Speaker, Councillor Dumisa Kalolo speaking during the opening ceremony of the Mayoral Cup said in fighting for our freedom even sport was used as a tool for liberation in such a way that South Africa was once sanctioned to participate in any international sporting activities. But as soon as we get our freedom in 1994 we were free to take part.



A Mayoral Cup is a platform where talent can be identified as on the next levels players are expected to come from games and areas like these that are possible only if as players you are disciplined and exemplary. Democracy open doors for you to be recognized as players and also to thank freedom fighters who fought for the freedom we are enjoying.



The Mayor for Emalahleni Local Municipality Councillor Nolitha Lali said, “In the olden days youth had three days to exercise through music and dance. We thank the government of the day for establishing the local sphere of government. It was not easy to get to where we are today. But at the end we reap the fruits of our hardwork as it is nice to be here today. Other being games the Mayoral Cup is part of service delivery, it is a new beginning going forward. As Emalahleni we have hosted quit a number of amicable events and programmes”.

Games took almost seven weeks before the finals were played at Lady Frere stadiums where in ladies soccer Cumakala F.C beat Giant killers 6-0, on rugby MPP Stars of Lady Frere were victorious against Blue Bufs of Dordrecht with 15 points to 5 points, on soccer for males Lady Frere United from ward5 won against Hotspurs of Dordrecht from ward 11 with 1-0 and in netball Angels of Ward 5 beat Young Stars of Ward 15 with 20 goals to 24 goals.

Dubeni Small Irrigation Scheme







MEC for the department of Social Development, Nonkosi Mvana during the launch of Dubeni small irrigation scheme, whipped the local leaders and the organizers of the launch saying learners are not suppose to attend events on school hours and days. Education is one of the key priority areas hence we need to join hands in ensuring that learners attend school not celebrations and events during school days and hours.

The MEC touched on the issue of a bridge that is causing problems and lack of accessibility for the commuters to reach to their neighbours for social and mobility reasons saying she is going to do a follow up and ensure that this issue resolved.

Mvana said, “As government we acknowledge the fact that our province is one of the most rural and poor provinces in South Africa. As we always welcome people from big cities when they retire to benefit on our little budget. As government we work as a collective as it is not helping for each government department to work in silos”.

“The criminal acts that we are faced with against old aged women are uncalled for. Our government has started with rural development as we can see here in Dubeni. You can see that there are roads, electricity and water at these places that were not there before. Educators that are here I believe will choose Agriculture so as to help schemes that are emerging in their areas. What we have today is a show although we call it a launch; we have to make sure that we create a platform for projects to showcase their productions”. she said.

“There is no substitution for hardwork. A worrying factor here is the market that government departments like Health (Hospitals) & other businesses are suppose to buy local products. As the Department of Social Development, Municipality, Department of Agriculture and other departments we want to ensure that you become a fully fledged business that can export its produce”, said Mvana.

Capacity Building for Councillors

Councillors of Emalahleni Municipality were capacitated in such a way that one of them, Councillor Nyukwana has a Masters degree in Public Management specializing with Local Government Management with the University of Fort Hare. When doing her research Councillor Nyukwana use Emalahleni municipality as a case study towards attaining her qualification. She honored her research to the Council of Emalahleni given it to the Mayor Councillor Nolitha Lali in one of the Municipal Council meetings. During this show of keenness towards knowledge other Councillors show excitement when looking to their fellow.

Other Councillors attended short courses offered by the University of Walter Sisulu in Municipal systems, Financial Management, Local government and management.

During the graduation ceremony for this programme Mayor for Emalahleni Local Municipality Cllr Nolitha Lali said, “Dreams that are clearly documented on the Freedom Charter are fulfilled today as it is said doors of learning shall be open. In 1994 programmes like the Adult Basic Education and Training were introduced to accommodate elders who did not have opportunities to go to school who want to continue on education. We can change our situation due to the capacity and skills we acquired through education, we can speed up service delivery”.

“Other people although educated want to depend in such a way that when you enter their houses you will see pictures of graduates hanging on their walls but if you can trace their track record you will find no trails. As educated individuals share the knowledge you have with others even after you are no longer councillors”, said Lali.

Councillor Simphiwe Doni, Finance portfolio head speaking on this day, said, “As leaders you must be proud but people on the ground are the ones to praise you. After the transitional period it was identified that there are gaps and lack of knowledge as there were policies and acts we were expected to be well vested with. Councillors were then taken for capacity building. This is an investment that government needs to see its outcomes after a certain period of time.

The speaker of the day Councillor Zenzile Ray Shweni, Chris Hani District Municipality Chief Whip first said, “We are here to witness your achievements, your perseverance and tolerance you have made it, bravo. We are gathered here in the name of education, human resource development and above all the emancipation as citizens of this country”.

Mandela once said, “After climbing one small mountain there are too many mountains to climb”, You have managed to climb this one but there are many more mountains to climb. As graduates ask yourselves what does your education have to benefit your communities?

“After being capacitated and educated we become aloof and above everyone else and think that they are ants you can just trample above. Being capacitated must not distance you from your social issues. If your capacitation cannot fit in your society it is then a dream that you will never achieve”.

As councillors you have to ask yourselves, “Does my education makes me accessible as education must not separate us from the people it must not alienate us from our humanity. The born frees must compete for material things (those born after 1994). When we started doing what is expected is when we are doing what is inaccessible. Start small but make sure that you will muster what you are doing, concluded Cllr Shweni.



