

New Mayor and New Municipal Manager in a Brand New Municipality!

Lepelle-Nkumpi Mayor called for a business breakfast meeting this morning at 7h00 at the former MEC Residents Clubhouse . The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the relationship between the council and the local Business people and again to stimulate investments.

According to the new enthusiastic Municipal Manager , this kind of meetings that should be our daily bread so that everybody in business is abreast with anything that happens in the municipality. "The issue of the municipality and businesses operating in silo is history , it came to an end the day I reported as the Municipal Manager of this council," said Mr Sepitile Mphahlele. The municipality has already visited a number of businesses ever since Mr Mphahlele introduced his strategy of interacting with business people and stakeholders.

Development is about people ,as the provincial slogan ,there is no way we can speak of development without mentioning the people and visa versa ` ,said Lepelle-Nkumpi Mayor, Honorable Cllr Matome Masoga .He further said that it is not possible for the municipality to grow without Businesses and the other way round .The Mayor said Lepelle-Nkumpi as a municipality has a lot of potential, but cannot do it alone ,it needs to partner with private sector ,that is PPP(Public Private Partnership) in order for it to develop.

The Mayor posed a number of challenges the municipality has ,like sporting facilities which are not up to scratch ,e g softball grounds, Golf courses ,i.e. Zebediela Golf course etc. Therefore he made it up to the Business people to come up with proposals for upgrading of such facilities .He stressed a lot on the issue of preparing for 2010 in all aspects in terms of accommodation, as a way in which Lepelle-Nkumpi will be relieving Polokwane as the host city that will be overloaded with multitude of people from all over the world.

The Vice President of Lonmin,Mr Tshediso Mohase also supported the challenge of lack accommodation in the municipality by giving a scenario of his staff who travel from Polokwane to Lebowakgomo and back everyday because of that.

Butterfield Managing Director, Thakamangana Mphahlele complained that the municipality is regarded as the poor of the poorest whereas according to him it is actually not the case."This municipality has more than enough resources and potential for development and growth, what is needed is just proper planning .said Thakamangana .