

## **Mayoral Imbizo-an opportunity to voice service delivery issues**

Residents and representatives of community stakeholders from Ward 15, 16, 17 and 18 came in numbers for an opportunity to interact with government leaders during Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality's Mayoral Imbizo (Lebowakgomo Cluster) held at Lebowakgomo High sports ground in Zone A. The Mayoral Imbizo is a two way communication system aimed at presenting the municipal service delivery report and community involvement in decision-making processes of the municipality.

The Imbizo was led by Lepelle-Nkumpi Mayor, Cllr Ivy Phaahla, Executive Committee (EXCO) members, senior officials from the municipality and sector departments.

The Mayor, Cllr Ivy Phaahla gave a service delivery report and future plans of the municipality. "This is a very important day here in ward 18 as we are giving a report on community development issues. This is testimony that the government of the day is serious about its electorate. Taking into consideration that you have decided to put everything aside to come and attend this event here today, it is important to thank you for forming part of this gathering".

The Mayor said the municipality is doing everything possible to improve the lives of local people. "We have implemented the following road projects in Lebowakgomo: Block paving of internal streets and road marking at Lebowakgomo Zone F, RDP Access Road in Ward 15, Upgrading of storm water drainage at Lebowakgomo Zone F in Ward 15; Tarring of Internal Streets in Zone S to BA in Wards 16 and 17. Others include lining of storm water drainage in Lebowakgomo Zone B in Ward 15; Upgrading of road from gravel to block paving at Lebowakgomo Zone F in Ward 15; Upgrading of road from gravel to block paving of street and storm water – Rockville to Tleane in Ward 18 and Tarring of internal streets in Zone S to Q access road in Ward 17"

Phaahla continued by saying, "Modern life requires us to firewood for heating and cooking, candles for lighting and connect all households to the national electricity grid. In partnership with Eskom, we have connected electricity to our population to ensure that people enjoy daily conveniences of lighting, cooking, refrigeration,

heating and telecommunications. On that note we have electrified RDP Zone F in Ward 15”.

The landfill site is complete and with the assistance of Capricorn District Municipality in managing it. The appeal to community members is to dispose their domestic waste in an environmental friendly way, including waste from social events (wedding and funerals) and babies’ nappies. A forum for waste recyclers is used to share information and support each other for those already in recycling.

On the matter of the new cemetery site, the Mayor gave a brief report on the ongoing progress that Thorisho Geotechnics and Project cc (TGP) was commissioned by Molemo Consulting Engineers to carry out geotechnical investigations across two sites in Lebowakgomo to inform authority and design process. The two sites are Parliament (25 hectares) and Ledwaba (50 hectares). Under certain circumstances, the Division of Land Ordinance 1986 as well as within the requirements of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, it is required that soil conditions of the portion of land be investigated and that a report containing the results of the investigations be submitted to complete the site giving process.

A detailed geotechnical investigation was done for both sites and the results were favourable for both sites. A topographical survey, which forms the bases of designs, was also done for both sites.

Communities were also granted the opportunity to ask questions and comments based on the presentation by the Mayor. Simon Ledwaba, from Ward 15, complained about shortage of water in their area. “Residents sometime experience lack of water for two days in our area, can the municipality please look at this problem”, said Ledwaba

A resident from Ward 16 appealed to the municipality that when building RDP houses it should be ensured that the indigent people who are on the Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) list should be prioritised as the first beneficiaries.

On the issue of potholes, the Mayor assured residents that the municipality already has a plan in place to minimise the potholes. “We have heard your cry on the state of roads in your areas – like potholes, which seem to be a permanent feature in areas where we stay. This challenge remains with us and the Technical Services Department has in place a pothole maintenance programme”, the Mayor said.

Besides individual community members who formed part of the Imbizo, other stakeholders included the Moral Regeneration Movement, Lebowakgomo Taxi Association, Department of Social Development, South African Police Services, and Lepelle-Nkumpi SANCO.