

LEPELLE-NKUMPI MUNICIPALITY 2011 CITIZENS REPORT

Programme Director, Madam Speaker, Chief Whip, Traditional Leaders, Fellow Councillors, Struggle Veterans, Leaders of Political Parties and Civil Society Bodies, Government Departments, Residents of Lepelle-Nkumpi municipality, Please accept my greetings and heartfelt appreciation of being able to address you here today with pride of having served you to the best of our ability.

We meet here today on the eve of local government elections where new deployees of various political parties are to be elected. We are all going to vote on then 18 May 2011 and vote for people with the capacity to account on mandate you give them like the way we are doing here today.

We are here to tell you that having walked with you on this journey, together we have achieved much. We promised accelerated delivery at local government and we did just that with appreciation of all the difficulties we encountered along the way. *'Mintirho ya bolabola'*. There are those who have veins like all of us but cannot feel the service delivery we have or maybe is not blood that runs through their veins, they have eyes like all of us but they cannot see the development we achieved or maybe they use a different made of lens to see, they have ears to hear all the achievements we made and yet they insist the issues we tell them are fictions. We are not living in periods of miracles that we could tolerate Thomases who cannot even believe by seeing and feeling the changes we made today.

For those of you who voted us into office and we made it our duty to fulfill your mandates, we say to you we were with you throughout and you are best suited to give us marks on our performance. We acknowledge the constructive comments and compliment you gave us without perpetually complaining like the modern Thomas I just described. This Thomas can never believe anything about achievements this municipality has seen, he needs a magician.

We are convinced that having travelled with you during the dark days of apartheid, during the infancy stage of democracy and now when we are transforming the deeds of 342 years of colonial racist and fascist regimes of White minority rule; you cannot leave us now when you got us this far to change things with you. Our partnership with you does not start nor end with voting day. We live with you, we suffered with you and we will celebrate with you when we get to the promised land of a better life for all through this people's contract. We experienced FIFA world cup with you, we were with you under the worst global economic meltdown of our lifetime, and we

saw the Inauguration of a new State President and a new Premier. In difficult times and in happy times.

When we got into office in 2006, work had already begun through collective efforts of our predecessors in council to give you a better life. We took the baton from them on this development relay belt knowing very well that we had our mile to run and that we were to hand over to the incoming crop of servants and comrades to continue with the race. The route map was very clear with frameworks. We adopted political mandates and programmes from the ANC Manifesto, ongoing inputs from you during consultative meetings and then the Local Government's Five Years Strategic Development Agenda to influence our IDP's.

We got into office at the time to find that there were;

- 70% of our households had access to electricity
- 27% of our households with proper and safe toilets facilities
- 44% with access to portable water at RDP standard and above
- 15% with access to weekly refuse removal services
- 76 % vacancy rate on our staff establishment with makeshift senior management
- Poor roads conditions that were not maintained, especially access/main gravel roads all over our municipality
- Municipality operated with R69 m total budget at 20% rate of billed revenue collection

We struggled to overcome problems that were defocusing or hindering our work as we were seeking to change things for the better. Some of these hurdles were;

- Lack of funding, poor revenue base and low collection rate
- Crime and vandalism on our assets and infrastructure projects (including stealing of projects material, municipal trucks, water pump machines and electric cables)
- Extreme weathers (floods and warm temperatures) that affect our roads and lead to disasters

And as such we still had to intervene to improve things. And this is how far we have gone as per the Five Key Performance Areas of the Local Government Five Years Strategic Development Agenda;

1. BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Our achievements during our five years are;

- Electrification of 10618 houses
- Refuse removal services to 6423 houses
- Provision of sanitation to 4460 houses (3210 of which are VIP in our rural wards)
- Water at RDP standard to 14621 households
- Increase of Lepelle purification plant capacity from 30 to 60 mgl per hour
- Construction of 150 km of roads

1.1. WATER AND SANITATION

The District is the Water Services Authority and has given us some of its responsibilities through a Service Level Agreement to assist in provision of water to our communities. We are grateful about the work done with the District Municipality and the Department of Water Affairs in bringing about water to our households;

Our main water source at Lepelle River has been upgraded from 30mgl per hour to 60mgl. We completed the following projects for bulk supply and reticulation at RDP standard;

Mphahlele Bulk water, Groothoek extension (Rafiri, Makweng, Matome and Madisha-ditoro), Specon BWS (Morotse, Thamagane and Malekapane), Motsane BWS (Mphaphe, Manhlane, Malakabaneng, Mantukulu and Ramongwane), Stocks BWS (Madisha-Leolo, Bulk water supply to Magatle Hospital), Mafefe BWS (Maphagane, Mashushu and Moila), Seotsweng, Bolahlagomo and Madilaneng), Groothoek Phase 3, Mphahlele Phase 3, Mathabatha Water Scheme, Moletlane Water Scheme,

Also, together with CDM we provided sanitation facilities to the following villages;

- Mashadi, Madisha Leolo, Mahlarolla, Mamaolo, Morotse, Molapo, Magatle, Ngwaname, Makhushwaneng, Seleteng, Ledwaba, Bolahlagomo, Dublin, Staansplaas, Makweng, Byldrift, Rakgwatha, Mphaaneng, Mahlatjane, Makaepea, Hwelereng, Malemati, Lenting, Marulaneng, Mashite, Rafiri, Sehlabeng, Moletlane, Mogoto.

1.2. ROADS AND STORM WATER

During this council term, we managed to purchase most of the equipment required to construct and maintain roads. Our plant has started dealing with gravel roads and now with the arrival of a lowbed truck it will be easy to maintain all roads with efficiency and economically.

We implemented the following roads projects with RAL and CDM;

- Mathibela Internal Streets and Storm Water Control networks
- Lebowakgomo Zone A Internal Streets and Storm Water Control networks
- Lebowakgomo Zone R&S Internal Streets and Storm Water Control networks
- Lebowakgomo Zone B&F Internal Streets and Storm Water Control networks
- Lebowakgomo Zone P Internal Streets and Storm Water Control networks
- CBD access streets
- Mohlapa Storm Water Drainage System
- Mogoto/Mokopane Road
- Seleteng/Mashite Road
- Mamaolo/Tooseng Road
- Moletlane/ Makhushwaneng Road
- Mafefe Road

There had also been storm water and roads maintenance projects on an ongoing basis in various areas. We are being strained in this regard by the recurring potholes in most of our roads.

1.3. ELECTRICITY

The municipality is one of those that are on track to provide electricity to all by 2014. We have provided electricity to 10618 houses during our council term and this could have been higher had it not been the load shedding problem that came from overloaded ESCOM grid. We have implemented the following projects to provide 92% of our households with electricity;

Bodutlulo, Phalakwane, Bolopa, Lehlakwaneng, Bothonyeng, Lebowakgomo Zone R, Lebowakgomo Zone P, Lebowakgomo Zone Q, Makgoba , Hweleshaneng , Bolatjane, Motserereng, Makweng , Nkotokwane, GaMolapo, Mahlakeng, Mathibela Ext 3&4, Makaepea, Lekurung, Madisha Ditoro, Moletlane, Mahlarolla (Makurung), Mahlarolla (GaMogotlane) , Matjatji, Scheming, Post Connection Extensions in Various Villages through E-Square ,

There are few more other villages which are under construction or at design stage, those are Makweng, Maake, Makgophong, Makotse, Hwelereng, Magatle, Madisha Ditoro, Matinkana, Mahlakeng, Khureng, Sedimothole, Sefalaolo and Staansplaas.

1.4. LAND AND HOUSING

Housing is a Provincial function and our role in this area has been the identification of suitable land and compilation of beneficiary list. The Department of Local Government and Housing has

constructed 1570 low cost houses of which 800 are in the township. There were problems with quality of some of houses in some projects and the department is busy correcting those.

We have worked with traditional leaders to provide settlement plans to Tooseng, Magatle, Malemati, Mamaolo, and GaSeloane.

Our aim is to provide housing options to lower-middle to middle class category and council has already approved housing development at Lebowakgomo through Private partnership in this regard. DLGH has also initiated a BNG project which was stalled by discovery of a dolomite rock which can be hazardous for human settlement.

1.5. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The municipality has provided the following facilities;

- Construction of a traffic station
- Building of four community halls that are currently under construction: (Tooseng, Hlakano, Majjane and Mehlaeng)
- Establishment of four parks in Lebowakgomo
- Upgrading of Lebowakgomo library which is now partially functional
- Refurbishment of cultural centre, showground and civic hall
- Refurbishment of Lebowakgomo Stadium
- We constructed six taxi ranks (Leporogong, Seleteng, Mamaolo, Mathibela, Zone A and Zone F)
- We have started with designs to construct a softball diamond at Seleteng.

We have apologized to the community of Tooseng for the way things turned out with regard to their hall and because work is nearing completion there, I am sure they will be happy to start using it. We thank them for their cooperation and understanding.

1.6. ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

We have increased the number of households we provide with refuse removal services to include those in rural areas. We did this by purchasing the required machines and trucks and hired the personnel to perform the service provision duties. We also undertook greening of environment activities and cleaning campaigns in partnership with other role players like business and civil society bodies including youth formations and schools.

Our achievements in these areas were recognized as we bagged the following awards;

- Greenest Municipality: District Most Improved and Overall District 2nd Position

- Ka Moso EPWP: Provincial Best Implementing Body: Environment and Culture Category and Provincial Best Project: Environment and Culture Category

CDM is assisting us to construct a landfill site so that we can cover even more households with refuse removal services. We have supported seven recycling community cooperatives and entered into a service level agreement with Buyisa EBag Company to do recycling of waste here in our municipality so that our cooperatives and any other individual do not have to travel far for recycling.

1.7. SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

Ntlo lerole ga e tswale kgoshi. Because of the positive atmosphere and stability we have in our municipality, we saw a huge progress in sports among our youthful teams across various sporting codes.

Softball: Athletes from our municipality represented the country at National and International Games. Giant Killers has always outdone its previous performances during LIMDEV league games. Our municipality had more softball teams competing in the Provincial League than all the other teams combined and remains the provincial hub of softball.

Soccer: We congratulate our own Mathothe Mogaladi for having acquired two clubs that compete at First Division and Vodacom leagues (viz. Bay United and Winnerspark), We also congratulate Khurishi Mphahlele with his achievements with Baroka F.C: They are a miracle team which is continuing to put our name on the map- never before has it happened that any team at their level in the country has beaten two big clubs from the Premier League (Kaizer Chiefs and Moroka Swallows). We wish them luck in their play-offs as they seek to be in the First Division and also in the Nedbank cup competition game this afternoon against Black Leopards as we congratulate them for having reached this far the way they did in this cup competition. We also note the presence of Mandebele Happy Fighters, P.D United, Flying Beast and Bakgakga United which are also at Vodacom stream with Baroka and Winnerspark.

Also, our sporting activities produced National Teams players in a form of Hlompho Kekana(Bloemfontein Celtic), Ramahlwe Mphahlele (Swallows), Isaac Maduane (WITS University), Clifford Kgomoesewana and Clinton Mphahlele(Mamelodi Sundowns). and our Banyana Banyana star Mary Ntshweng.

Ladies soccer has also developed to an extent that we have a number one team Provincially, Mphahlele Ladies team. In this regard we further established Women Football in all our clusters.

Athletics: We recognize the achievements of Hellen Thanyane and Themane for reaching the national Athletics Championships Competition. Also, Bridget Baloi obtained position 01 in 2009 in 100m during National School Sports, Sharlin Mathaola obtained position 02 in 2010 during National School Sports in Bloemfontein and Thabang Nkuna obtained position 02 in 2011 during ASA through LIMA competitions.

Tennis: Our Municipality is District Number 1 insofar as tennis is concerned and this is because of hard work put into the preparations by the athletes and Coach Mr. Ramokgopa.

Table Tennis: Our municipal team has been competing up to World Competitions. It is undisputed District Champion and received two trophies from World Championships in Europe. We thank the work done by Mr. Ratshwene to these kids for them to compete successfully.

Boxing: We have just started a boxing club and received training equipment.

Gymnastics: We have received gym equipment from National Sports and Recreation SA and our team is the current District No.1.

Disabled Team: We recognize the achievements of Mahlasedi and Tsoga-O-Itirele Special Schools for having reached the Provincial Championships.

Indigenous Games: Each year our teams reach National Games and we were also lucky to have Lucas Thobejane representing the country in Korea in 2008. One of our athletes is again selected for the upcoming International Championships after seven of members of our team represented team Limpopo.

There are so many of you doing lot of things to make us proud and is only that there is no space to mention all of you here today. We wish to encourage you to keep up the good work and stay very far away from things that are less important for you, especially the youth from whom we are expecting a lot.

2. INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2.1. INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

The following projects were implemented successfully to move with the whole world in making it a global village linked by technology;

- Website Revamp
- ICT Kiosk at Lebowakgomo Library
- Integrated Financial Management System

- Wireless Technology Network for all Municipal Offices
- Disaster Recovery Plan
- EnviroRack
- Municipal Intranet (We had Internet from previous council)
- Upgrading of Bandwidth from 128 KB to 1M
- Scanner Meter Reading System
- Voice Over IP (Intercom)

2.2. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The highlight of our work done here is that there was no enough staff to implement municipal programmes when we came. But we are completing our term leaving behind the following in an intact position;

- All critical posts have been filled and key units established. These are positions for senior managers including Municipal Manager, town planning, Financial Managers, Internal Audit and Risk Management, Special Focus and Project Management Unit
- We are a grade 3 municipality after we moved from Grade 1 in 2006
 - 50% of our senior managers are women and again 50% is youth
 - We have appointed 112 people to bring our total staff to 187 and reduce vacancy rate from 70 to 22 percent. This current figure excludes dismissals, deaths, retirements and resignations whose positions have been mainly filled. Remember when we came into office there were only 75 officials on our payroll- including managers.
- Province entrusted us with Traffic and Licensing Services and the unit is now fully functional
- We also reviewed our staff salaries make them market competitive and ensure that we attract and retain correct skills
- We have trained all our 54 councilors on various levels of relevant courses which are SETA accredited. 12 of them attended advanced courses in municipal leadership and management.
- 201 staff trainings were offered for our officials of all levels including general assistants on various courses that are SETA accredited, including municipal leadership and management.
- We undertook eight disciplinary cases against our own officials that lead to two dismissals.
- There were six litigation cases of which two are finalized and the others are still in court processes. We can report that unlike other institutions, we had not been sued during this period probably because of our well functioning systems and our level of engagement with our stakeholders

2.3.POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND BY-LAWS

-The following policies have been developed during our term;

- Recruitment and Selection
- Car Allowance
- Travel and Subsistence
- Cellphone allowance
- Overtime
- Telephone Usage
- Supply Chain Management
- ICT
- Debt Collection Procedure
- Writing-off of irrecoverable debts
- Assets Management
- Credit Control and Debt Collection
- Budget Policy
- HIV and AIDS

-The following sector plans were developed and/or reviewed by our council in the last five years;

- Performance Management Framework
- LED Strategy
- Investment and Marketing Strategy
- Spatial Development Framework
- Environmental Management Plan
- Land Use Management Scheme
- Risk Management Strategy
- Anti-Corruption and Fraud Prevention Plan
- Communication and Public Participation Strategy
- Waste Management Strategy
- Revenue Enhancement Strategy
- Storm Water Master Plan
- Disaster Recovery Plan
- Public Safety Strategy

The following by-laws were approved by council and promulgated;

- Adverting Signs and Hoarding
- Building Regulations

- Meetings and Processions
- Cemeteries and Crematoria
- Credit Control and Debt Collection
- Hiring of Halls and Other Facilities
- Informal and Street Trading
- Land Use Applications
- Noise Abatement and Prevention of Nuisance
- Property Rates
- Public Amenities
- Solid Waste
- Standard Child Care Facilities
- Traffic

2.4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Council has managed to produce and submit to MEC all quarterly and mid-year performance review during its term of office.

Annual Performance Reports were produced for each year from 2005/5 financial year to accompany the Annual Reports of respective years.

The municipality has procured a PMS system to manage PMS electronically. Also, council approved the PMS framework in November 2010 so that individual assessment can be conducted especially for senior managers. New council will appoint a PMS specialist and begin to roll-out individual PMS which had lagged behind.

3. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Council established an LED forum in 2006 and was further relaunched in 2008 to advise council on related issues in accordance with the LED strategy's development thrusts.

3.1. MINING

We have directly supported small scale mining activities run by community based cooperatives as a way of encouraging local initiatives by our community members. The following projects were supported; Rietvalley Stone Crusher (equipment and strategic partner that we are soon to appoint), Mafefe Slate Slabs (feasibility study), Komantjaas (business development and registration).

We saw fast economic growth in 2006 to 2008 but we were unlucky to be affected by the global economic downturn in 2009 that resulted in job shedding from our local mines. However, we recognize the abundance of platinum and chrome minerals and the presence of diamond stones in our area which attracted six mining companies who are all readying themselves to start operation and hoping they will opportunities to our aspiring SMME's and create jobs for our people.

3.2.AGRICULTURE

We have provided support to community cooperatives initially in a form of financial support before we learned our lessons and decided to intervene in any other way except for direct funding. The following cooperatives were supported;

- Hunadi a Modipadi Goat Farming Project
- Broiler Farm
- Dinose Bee-Hive Project
- Grootfontein Irrigation Scheme
- Fertilies, Germini, and Success

These projects were implemented with our development partners from within and outside government, notably, CDM, LIBSA, SEDA and LONMIN. These projects do not create just jobs alone, but provide food security and skills to our communities.

3.3.RETAIL

We have become a booming economy as far as retail is concerned. There are so many new shops (including multinational franchises) that have been opened in our municipality especially around Lebowakgomo since 2006. In fact we are approached day-in-day-out by business people who want to open even much bigger shops and we are readying ourselves for them by building the necessary infrastructure to meet their needs in areas where our SDF directs us.

3.4.TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup has not provided us with the boost we so much envisaged. However, we saw increase in hospitality and accommodation facilities in our area of Lebowakgomo. As a municipality, together with CDM, we supported the community tourism initiatives at Mafefe and hope to see fruitution of our efforts rather soon.

3.5.JOB CREATION, SMME's SUPPORT AND INFORMAL ECONOMY SUPPORT

We have created 328 direct CWP jobs through our cooperatives support and some more other temporary jobs through these activities.

The municipality has constructed hawkers' stalls and continues to engage our informal traders on how we can work better with them. We are happy to announce approval of our business plan by one of the major banks for construction of some more hawkers' stalls in congested areas.

The municipality has conducted 13 seminars with different themes and target groups to our SMME's. We also selected some of them for in depth training in various fields. Formalisation of businesses required us to provide on site and ongoing monitoring and support.

4. FINANCIAL VIABILITY

When we came into council we were one of the poorest municipalities in terms of the size of our budget. However, we grew quite rapidly and managed to move from a budget of R69 million in 2006/7 to what we have today at R253 million and further increased our asset base. We have moved from GAMAP to GRAP in financial reporting and introduced Venus Financial System for proper financial management and accounting.

4.1. REVENUE ENHANCEMENT

We developed a revenue enhancement strategy in an endeavour to increase our revenue base and the rate of collection from billed revenue so as to move towards self reliance. Council further approved a credit control and debt collection policy to this effect. Also, an indigent policy was approved to provide safety net for our poor households so that they continued to get access to basic services even when they did not afford.

In 2007 we adopted a valuation roll that was in line with the Municipal Property Rates Act to expand the revenue base. We visited all our traditional leaders on the matter so that we also include them for collection. We hope that the new council will take this programme forward and finalise preparations of its roll-out in all wards.

Our collection increased tremendously in 2007 to the extent that we were collecting up to 40% of billed revenue. This was as a result of operations unleashed by council against defaulters and the engagement of a private debt collector. However, things changed due to queried bills and the residents' demand for cancellation of debts. We are a responsive government and I can safely announce as mandated by council of Lepelle-Nkumpi that we have scrapped all household irrecoverable debts with an understanding that this will bring back the culture of payments. This will further expose those who are not supportive and patriotic so that once everybody starts

paying they will be uncovered as to what their true colours are. We have never failed to listen and hope that our consumers will also heed to our call to reciprocate by paying for services whenever they receive them.

4.2. SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

MFMA prescribed for us to have systems in place to manage and procure assets and services in affair and competitive manner. We established bid committees for development of tender specifications and evaluation and adjudication of tenders.

Of all tenders we issued, 90% of the value of money spent went to our BBBEE. Our concern has always been our local business people who do not compete for tenders or compete with unrealistic bid amount and are as such not appointed to do work for our municipality. Let us not forget that we allocate points for companies who come from our municipality to give them a boost and advantage against companies from outside, but that is how far we can assist them according to prescribed legislation and our SCM policy.

4.3. AUDITS

There is a general problem of negative audit opinions amongst many of our municipalities in the country. We are moving at a higher gear to make sure that we get an unqualified audit opinion by 2014 as per the National Treasury aim and objective to address this problem. We have been receiving negative audit opinions all these years and we hope our successors will built on our foundation to take this municipality out of such bad situation and get an unqualified report by 2014 or earlier.

4.4. BUDGETS PREPARATIONS

Our budget preparation process was always participatory and derived largely from the needs and priorities of our communities as contained in the IDP's. We have always approved our budget before the beginning of each financial year and as such never had to explain ourselves to the Local Government MEC and AG as to why we could not have a budget and IDP at the beginning of each financial year.

What is a major highlight for the term of council was the rate at which our municipality grew financially. In 2006 we had a budget for R69 million, 2007 was R83 m, 2008 was R140 m, 2009 was R260 m, 2010 was R237 m and now we are at R243 million.

5. GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

5.1. COUNCIL MATTERS

Our council was elected in March 2006 and started its work in April 2006. There were 54 of us and the number is still the same although death robbed us of two of our colleagues while a further two were recalled by their political party. However, all were replaced according to the municipal and IEC processes.

Council managed to meet 47 times through ordinary council meetings and some special council meetings whenever the need arose and never failed to execute our powers in that regard. Besides taking decisions to guide the operations of the municipality, we also played an oversight role on the administration. Our relationship with all our stakeholders has been satisfactory. This includes how we related to you as the primary stakeholder, the community, traditional leaders, ward committees, civil society bodies and our administration and other spheres of government.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all our councillors for the job well done. The whole is better than the sum of its equal parts.

5.2. WARD COMMITTEES

The role played by ward committees in assisting us to provide service delivery to our people can never be described in words. These are a group of men and women, young and old who volunteered their skills, time and other resources to ensure that our programmes succeeded. We are glad to mention that they will get stipends starting this financial year and going forward to further strengthen their role in municipal work.

We have conducted ward committee conferences each year starting 2006 and from 2008 managed to have quarterly ward forum. All our ward committees have been stable although there are few of some of our ward committee members whose participation in ward committees was not really as we expected. The ward committees are effectively going to be dissolved with the election of new council on Wednesday 18 May and we hope that you will work with the new council and ward councilors to elect equally committed ward committees.

5.3. IDP REVIEW AND PLANNING

Council has approved four IDP's since its election. We have last month approved IDP for our incoming council. We have during 2006, 2007 and 2010 conducted ward based consultation meetings and further in all the years conducted clusters consultation meetings to allow you space to identify your development needs and priorities and inputs into our IDP and budgets.

We have managed to conduct our own Community Survey to update planning data in 2007 and CDM is assisting us currently to conduct the same study for socio-economic assessment. This year is the year of Census to be undertaken by Stats SA which is the authority as far as planning data is concerned. Preparations are underway and we will all wait for house visits from fieldworkers and provide them with correct information that assists in resources allocations and development planning. Also, Stats SA is busy with a project for house number plating and your cooperation is expected as this will be linked to Post Office, town planning and GIS (Geographic Information System)

In 2009 Premier's Office and DLGH helped us develop a Municipal Turn Around Strategy that looked at areas requiring immediate attention and support by other spheres of government. We used this chance to mobilize more resources for our municipality and jerk up the pace of service provision.

In 2006 when we got into office we were one of those municipalities which were put under Project Consolidate because we had serious incapacity problems. But this year in 2011 we are one of the 10 Provincial Growth points in which case because Limpopo is growing because of us.

5.4. SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

The Five Years of our term saw the acceleration of activism for promotion and protection of the rights and interests of special groups in our municipality. We started with establishment of the Special Programmes unit in the Mayor's Office and further implemented the following programmes;

- Establishment/relaunching of advisory structures i.e. Local AIDS Council, Disability forum, Youth Council, Children Advisory Council and Moral Regeneration Movement.
- Hosted Sports Heroes Walk Against HIV/AIDS with South African Sports celebrities.
- Launching of HIV Counseling and Testing in various clinics and Municipal hospitals.
- Three in one campaigns on 16 days of activism for no violence against women and children abuse, HIV/AIDS and awareness on Moral regeneration campaigns.
- Safety and Security Ambassadors programme launched and activated.
- Carrier Guidance with SANDF on considering the profession as highly needed in the Country.
- Annually hosted 'Take a girl child to work' programme.

- Hosted provincial women's day celebration.
- Hosted Youth information forum.
- Recruited Learners for learner ship on Development Practice to community development programme.
- Hosted Children's camp.
- Recruited youth to participate in rural development programme that which is running

5.5. INTERNAL AUDIT

We have appointed an internal audit committee in 2006 and again now in 2011 after the former's term expired. The committee reports directly to council and is independent. Its tasks are, among others, to advise council and municipal manager on compliance, financial accountability and performance management.

6. CONCLUSION.

Working together with you we have achieved much, but there is still a lot to do to speed up change where people live, improve access to services, create jobs and bring a better life for all our people.

I leave you with the words of a song by Joyous Celebration that say 'I can't believe you brought me this far to leave me.'