

## **Mayoral Budget Speech 2008/09**

### **"Moving Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality towards service delivery orientated municipality"**

Honorable Speaker  
Honorable Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality  
Mayors from various municipalities within the district  
Members of Provincial Legislature  
Traditional Leaders  
Colleagues in Council  
Chief whip of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality  
Municipal Managers and all section 57 Manager's  
Invited Guests  
Comrades and Friends  
Ladies and Gentlemen

In the first week of January 2008, we handed over 85 liter dustbins to the 200 families of Lebowakgomo Zone R as you will recall that they had challenges with regards to waste storage and removal for many years. As we speak today they are part of the broader grid of municipal waste removal. The waste in the township is generally collected on daily basis without any hiccups. This is for the first time that such collections are done by the municipality itself.

An older lady in the name of Mme ----- was one of the recipients of the referred dustbins. She said to us: "I am now happy that I will no longer use plastics and I know for a fact that my waste will be collected on scheduled days. My kids will no longer dump refuse everywhere but refuse will be collected right at my doorstep. Further I advice other community members who do not have dustbins should consult the municipality"

As part of ensuring that we have a clean and safe environment, the municipality has embarked on a number of programs that include the cleaning campaign which was organized by staff members. This campaign had a very serious impact since we were able to instill cleaning awareness into the minds of our communities. We need to emphasize that a clean environment becomes our priority as Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality. We have recently started the beautification of Lebowakgomo entrance points and very soon you will recognize the impact of this program. Since the beginning of this year we have started with the cleaning and redesign of our CBD and surely by the end of this financial year, you will also see a new and different Lebowakgomo CBD. Since we have emphasized that we value the clean environment and further in enhancing the call to green South Africa which was made by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, we have actively participated in the activities of the Arbor day wherein we issued about 1500 trees to various schools, Clinics and Community halls across the municipality.

Part of our environmental intervention strategies is to convert illegal dumping areas into recreational parks and as such we have already started to construct a recreational park in Lebowakgomo Zone F and this park will be operational by not later than September 2008. Other parks are planned in Zone A. Our main aim is to develop recreational parks in all zones and this will be done each financial year. Further as part of our contribution to the broader fight against crime, we have embarked on a regular de-bushing program since criminals take advantage of bushes to rob and rape our people.

We have noted with serious excitement about the progress made by Seleteng Giant killers when they were declared the 2007/08 Limdev Cup Champions and their victory confirms Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality as home of softball champions. It should therefore be indicated that in the province it is only Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality that has many softball playing teams in the Limdev Super Cup. As Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality together with the District Municipality we will be upgrading the sporting facilities so that our clubs play in well developed and sufficient facilities.

It was recently brought to the attention of the Municipality that we are currently having two football playing teams which will be competing in the Vodacom Super League in the new season and this compels us as the municipality to ensure that we have a stadium that meets the SAFA requirements. We need these teams to use Lebowakgomo stadium and together with the Capricorn District Municipality we will work towards providing them with adequate facilities in the stadium.

This kind of developments requires us to ensure that apart from sports development, we are still able to tap in to the opportunities that are attached to the 2010 World Cup. By now we are all aware that our neighbouring municipality in the name of Polokwane will be the host city for the first round games during the 2010 Soccer World Cup. We are the closest to Polokwane and we need to be ready. The Local Economic Development is one of our key performance areas as set out by the National Ministry of Local Government and Housing, therefore we need to begin to accept that 2010 will bolster the socio-economic status of our people.

Madam Speaker, our municipality will soon be arranging an Economic Development Summit, which aims to ensure that our business people within the municipality are able to understand the

opportunities that are attached to the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. We have many guest houses within Lebowakgomo and the question we should be asking ourselves, is whether they are moving towards fulfilling the requirements of South African Tourism Grading Council so that , they can be enlisted in the FIFA guest house data base. We need our people to benefit but they should also fulfill requirements. Our target with regards to economic development is to boost our economic growth as the municipality by 2% annually and also reduce unemployment by 2% annually. President Thabo Mbeki in his 2008 state of the nation address announced the 24 APEX priorities wherein government commit itself to achieve in the short term, in order to realize the overarching goal of advancement of better life for all.

Some of the priorities are

- Acceleration of both the economic growth and development
- Improving the effectiveness of our intervention directed at the second economy & poverty eradication

It is therefore, imperative to indicate that as the municipality we have made every step possible by unlocking the potential that is inherent within our municipality particularly in the Agricultural, Mining & Tourism sectors. Business seminars were successfully hosted by Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality which were basically aimed at empowering our SMME's with information on the opportunities that exists and their possible expansions. We have recently launched an Agricultural marketing project which is also aimed at empowering our emerging farmers with technical skills. We are happy that the Department of Agriculture has pledged to provide market for their products.

Madam Speaker, we have in partnership with Libsa & Capricorn District Municipality contributed R3, 6, million during the financial year that we are bidding goodbye today to fund the Women goat farming project. We have indeed made number of interventions when it comes to Local Economic Development. After realizing that , there is a bee keeping project with the potential of making R2, million per annum we then provided training for 10 young people on bee keeping and as we approach the new financial year we will further provide another training on honey harvesting.

In our effort to attract investors, we are currently developing the investment and marketing strategy and it will be finalized by September 2008.

We are pleased to indicate that:

- Malemati brick yard was awarded a contract to the value of R90 720-00 and
- Moletlane sweets co-operative is in the process of getting their products certified by SABS.

It is our belief that for any economy to thrive we will need to give a serious attention to infrastructural development and therefore we have set aside an amount of R10, 3 Million for servicing of sites for middle to high income earners.

The municipality has on many occasions tried to deal with corporate challenges and as a way of moving forward and addressing such challenges, we will be embarking on a massive institutional transformation. Part of such transformation includes the adoption of a new organogram that will position the Municipality to deal with its service delivery challenges. We are confidently pronouncing that with such an organogram that is service delivery orientated, we will be able to achieve our goals and objectives as per our mandatory obligations.

We have moved very fast in ensuring that all systems are in place so that, we will be able to deal with our challenges. I need to reiterate that, with this new organizational structure we will deliver on our mandate as an institution.

Madam Speaker, part of our objectives is to improve governance and administrative capacity so that, we are able to achieve our IDP goals on an annual basis. We are hopeful that between now and 2011 we will have improved greatly on governance and administrative capacity. We will achieve this by recruiting suitably qualified and experienced personnel to fill vacant positions by 2008/2009 and of course we will be guided by our performance indicators.

Madam Speaker, it is important for me to allude that, we are one of the most stable municipality in the Country. We have followed all governance principles when we were dealing with all matters in relation to governance. Our Council meetings and of course Portfolio Committees took place as scheduled and this precisely gives us a conclusion that we have indeed improved on our governance trends and tendencies.

We need to ensure that we always commit ourselves to best governance principles at all times and this will result in us having to act within the ambit and provisions of various legislations that are relevant to our environment. We are an institution that is charged with the responsibility of bettering

the lives of our people and this need us to understand the best practices with regards to governance.

Madam Speaker, if indeed we understand our political and administrative mandates then we will never have a fundamental problem with regards to matters related to governance but we will always work as a collective both ourselves as Council, Administration and Communities. The National Department of Local Government and Housing gave us a clear strategic agenda which was set out as follows

- Institutional Transformation
- Basic Service Delivery
- Financial Viability
- Local Economic Development
- Good Governance

Then we should be asking ourselves questions as to what did we do with regard to this key performance areas. Our conviction Madam Speaker is that we have done well and we acknowledge that we need to at least improve on all these aspects so that we do better than we did. This will remain our challenges and we will remain confident and focused in dealing with them.

## **BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Water**

According to surveys done in 2007, it is estimated that 68% of the population have access to water within RDP standard. Madam Speaker, this is a commendable development since 2001 where only 58% of the people had access to water. However a lot more work still needs to be done to ensure our target of water to all by 2011 is reached.

As we are not water service authority, our budget does not cater for any water service but this is reflected in the Capricorn District municipality's budget and Lepelle-Nkumpi is allocated R28 million for water.

Discussions to sign service agreement for water with Capricorn District Municipality are at an advanced stage and this would hopefully improve our water service provision for the better.

### **Sanitation**

It is estimated that only 27% of the population have access to sanitation facilities within RDP standard. Madam Speaker this is our greatest challenge especially when we consider reaching the target of 100% access to sanitation by 2010, as well as related diseases caused by poorly ventilated toilets used by many rural households. This year a total of 3 000 toilets were constructed by CDM as the service authority for sanitation. CDM has for 2008/9 financial year, allocated R12 million for construction of 4 000 toilets.

### **Roads & Storm Water**

Madam Speaker, the other challenge facing the municipality is with regards to roads & storm water management. Roads and storm water control in the municipality is generally in poor conditions. This has negative impact on our ability to attract investors and uplift socio-economic levels of our people. However the municipality has tried to rehabilitate the conditions of our roads. We are currently, attending to the potholes in many of our internal streets. As a way of dealing with potholes we have shifted our focus to paving internal streets in Zone A as opposed to the conventional way of tarring streets. We have also dealt with road and storm water challenge at Ga- Sefako internal street. Furthermore we have appointed a reputable engineering company to develop storm water master plan. To this end the municipality has put aside an amount of R6m to address storm water management at Lebowakgomo & Mathibela, further an amount of R7, 8m is allocated for access road to Unit P & R. Madam Speaker you will agree with me that it is hard to drive within our township because of the potholes. We have set aside an amount of R3, 1m to address this challenge.

The municipality has received funding from the District to surface the road from Mamaolo to Seleteng to the amount of R40m, Moletlane to Mogoto, also to the amount of R40m and lastly the regravelling of Motsane road amounting to R4m. We as municipality have engaged the district terms of road D4100 (Mamaolo-Tooseng). The district is also going to fund the construction of Unit A taxi rank to the amount of R3m and upgrading of unit F taxi rank for R1m.

### **Housing**

Madam Speaker, I am grateful to indicate that 92% of our households are sheltered in formal dwellings despite the rural nature of our municipality. The challenge that we currently have is that we

do not have a housing plan to direct and guide housing development within the municipality and this lead to uncoordinated and lack of forward planning in relation to housing issues. We however intend to develop housing plan during the coming year to address these challenges.

I wish to indicate that we have received an allocation for 350 rural low cost housing, 327 top structure RDP units at Unit Q from Department of Local Government and Housing

### **Electricity**

Madam Speaker allow me to indicate that we are doing well in terms of electricity as we are confident that by the end of 2008/9 financial year all villages shall have access to electricity. Our focus now is mainly on extensions. The municipality has put aside an amount of R2, 5m to electrify unit R, F & B and R1, 2m each for Phalakoane & Lehokoaneng. The district will again fund the following villages for our municipality, Mahlatjane for R3, 0m, Mogoto R0, 8m, and Matlharolla for an amount of R2, 0m. Eskom will also electrify Mathibela RDP. Madam Speaker let me also indicate that the Eskom/E-square program is nearing completion, and the following villages have been already energized, i.e Turfpan, Gedroogte, Malekapane and Makurung. The Municipality has put aside an amount of R880 000 for the installation of high mast lights at the junction of Mogodi, Unit P, B, A and F extension.

### **SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT**

Madam Speaker, you will agree with me that Social empowerment services are key to maintaining a healthy, orderly and stable community. As the municipality we take services within this cluster with the seriousness it deserves in order to achieve socio-economic development of our communities.

### **Traffic**

The municipality had in 2006 assumed the function of traffic services which were devolved from the Provincial Department of Transport. The Municipality has performed very well so far and managed to complete administration block to accommodate our Traffic officers at the cost of R2m. Furthermore an amount of R800-000-00 is budgeted for law enforcement vehicles which would assist the municipality to enforce by-laws which are in place

### **Community facilities**

Madam Speaker, in order to preserve the dignity of our people we have budgeted R400-000 to build public toilets at Lebowakgomo cemeteries, We also manage to put aside the amount of R450-000 for fencing of new admin block at the Traffic station and Lebowakgomo Library. For the development of a park we have put aside R200 000 to complete a park in unit F as we have already alluded that development of parks is part of our environmental intervention strategy.

### **Environmental and Waste Management**

Environmental management is one of our top five priorities in our IDP. In order to address the challenges related to this issues, the Municipality has, with the assistant from Capricorn district municipality secured R8 million to develop licensed land fill site next to Habakuk industrial area as we speak the contractor is already on site and the project is expected to be completed within the next three months. Part of the contractual obligations is to rehabilitate the illegal dumping site next to Thabamopo hospital. The land fill will also have provision for composting and recycling.

Currently only 13% of the households within the municipality have access to refuse removal services. As part of enhancing our revenue we will be extending refuse removal services to Magatle and Mathibela in the financial year 2008/9.

We have also managed to purchase steel bins for public places and institutions in an effort to improve on environmental cleanliness. Further with the assistance we were able to procure an R.E.L. Compactor truck and a skip loader which will be used for refuse collection.

### **Pound Management**

The Municipality has performed very well in terms of impounding stray animals along the public roads. We have so far impounded about 600 cattle. The department of Public Works as enhanced our program by embarking on an extended public works program which was about fencing along main roads. However as the municipality we are busy renovating our cattle pound so that it can totally comply with the regulations of SPCA.

### **Sports, Arts and culture**

As far as sports and recreation the Municipality with the assistant of CDM had already issued a tender for upgrading of Lebowakgomo stadium and amount of R10 million has been budgeted for and this

augurs well for football development in our municipality. Further R110-000-00 has been budgeted for the development and promotion of sports for financial year 2008/09

### **Special Focus**

The municipality special focus programs has achieved a lot more in 2007/8 than the previous years in mobilizing youth, women, children, and disabled to take part in community development programs. We have successfully participated in Take a girl child to work by hosting school girls from various schools within the municipality and this was done in partnership with Cell C and ABSA

### **FINACIAL VIABILITY**

Madam Speaker, part of our vision as the municipality is to achieve financial independence and viability. When we look at our projected revenue for the coming year, there is huge improvement towards achieving our vision.

This improvement is attributed to amongst other things:

- The property rates policy and valuation roll
- Expansion of services to Mathibela and Magatle
- Envisaged sale of sites
- Implementation of LUMS
- Enforcement of by-laws
- Planned water service agreement to be signed with CDM, etc.

The implementation of these programs is however not without challenges that need our concerted efforts to overcome. Key to this challenge is to improve our financial systems. The municipality has on embarked on campaigns such as "Operation Lefela Ditirelo" and "Ntlo tse Lesome" Madam Speaker these campaigns have significantly increased our revenue collection and we are confident that our people will continue to realize the importance of payment of services.

Madam Speaker, we are confident that, this time we have delivered what we call a people centered budget, we will continue to strive for excellence. We will continue to be service delivery orientated and we will make Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality a home for champions, a provider for better life for its communities. We need to indicate that we have just commemorated the Youth day and as part of our celebrations for youth month we have employed about 54 young men and women.

All hands on the deck let the ship set sail.

I THANK YOU