



TaseKhaya

July-Sept 2007 - Issue N° 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Province signs MoU

MEC on Provincial
Branding

Department scoops SAIGA
Award

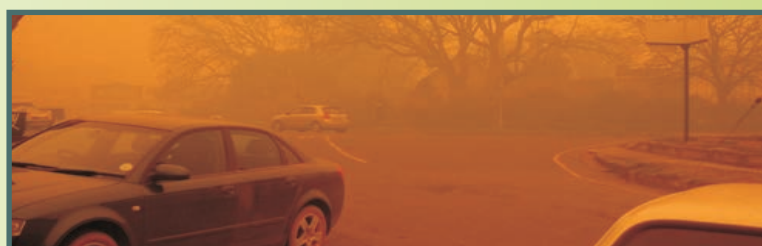
SALGA Youth
Summit

Support to
Traditional
Institutions



Table of Content

3. **Editorial**
Community Development Workers Graduate
4. **MEC Candith Mashego-Dlamini briefs the media on service delivery progress**
5. **Province signs an accord on disaster management**
6. **MEC on provincial branding**
Department scoops SAIGA Award
7. **Communication get priority at Local Government Level**
- 8-9. **Department in Action**
10. **Know your Municipality:**
Mbombela Local Municipality
11. **Emalahleni Local Municipality**
12. **Albert Luthuli Local Municipality**
13. **Proactive Approach on Natural Disasters**
14. **Local Government to advance youth development**
15. **Province holds workshop on Free Basic Services**
16. **Debate on roles and functions of municipalities**



Editorial Team

Chief Editor: S.S. Kunene (013) 766 6591

Editor : F.L. Ngobe (013) 766 6014

Graphic Designer & layout : R. Martin (013) 766 6294

Contributors: Arthur Ndlovu
Mary Sibande
Mxolisi Mabuza
Carol Mazibuko
Solly Shabangu

EDITORIAL

Like any other months, the second quarter of this Financial Year had its ups and downs. The July/August fires that ravaged the province, claimed 15 lives, caused extensive damage to plantations, grazing land and structures. Disaster Management Teams from the Department, affected municipalities and private partners joined forces in dealing with the inferno. The fires were however swiftly dealt with by the respective teams.

Subsequent to that, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the province and Gift of the Givers, was signed. The Department also launched the Disaster Management Awareness Campaign Programme. With this programme the department will visit all municipalities assisting communities with disasters. We are confident that these interventions will assist the department to deal with disasters.

Again, in the 2nd quarter the MEC embarked on a serious drive to visit municipalities and meet communities. These visits are aimed at getting first hand information regarding progress and challenges in service delivery at the grassroots level.

The first visit at Mkhondo Municipality did exactly that where a myriad of issues were raised. Equally so, subsequent meetings have been organised to give responses to the raised challenges.

The Department scooped the South African Institute Government Auditors Awards for its 2006/07 Annual report. The award was in recognition for the departments commitment to the principle of good financial reporting. The Department was the overall winner in the category for departments in the province.

At the end of September 2007, 59 Community Development Workers (CDW) graduated in the province. This number is in addition to the current 326 CDW's. The graduation of these CDW's serves to strengthen governments commitment of ensuring that government services and programmes reach all people especially the aged and those in the most rural areas.

Critical to this quarter's achievements were the coming together of communicators from various municipalities and the Department at the Induction Workshop of Communicators. The workshop helped the participants to understand the Local Government Communication System, strategising communication, Communication Implications on the 5 Years Strategic Agenda for Local Government, amongst others.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS GRADUATE

On the 25th of September 2007 a group of 59 Community Development Workers (CDW's) graduated from a grueling course that changed their lives and made them into important and useful members of their communities.

The MEC for the Department of Local Government and Housing Honorable Candith Mashego-Dlamini praised the CDW's for their choice of profession and thanked the Vice Chancellor of University of South Africa (UNISA) for producing these graduates and by so doing advancing government programmes to improve the lives of the people. She said that although they are new graduates they must not lag behind in doing their work because they have an advantage over the challenges that face them.

She further urged the CDW's to begin looking at their role within governments targets of provision of

clean water and decent sanitation by 2010, all houses having access to electricity by 2012, eradication of informal settlements by 2014 and the Millennium Development Goals. "Your graduation today gives our people hope. They have hope that as CDW's you will bring about an improvement to their lives" said MEC Mashego-Dlamini.

The CDW's will help their communities plan development and explain service delivery processes. The CDW's are the select members of the community that are expected to hold all the information on development for the community to be able to have a better life and improve the pace of service delivery.

The CDW programme has ushered in a new era in as far as government services reaching people in the province is concerned. The CDW's programme has seen many of our most marginalised and vulnerable citizens receiving government services like being brought into the social security system.



EDUCATED: CDW's taking an oath at the graduation

MEC CANDITH MASHEGO-DLAMINI BRIEFS THE MEDIA ON SERVICE DELIVERY PROGRESS.

It was more of questions and clarity seeking exercise on service delivery in the first Quarterly Media Briefing held by the Department of Local Government and Housing. Department MEC Candith Mashego-Dlamini faced the media in tackling different issues for the first three months. A large contingent from both the print and electronic media houses met the MEC and the Department's Executive Managers for what is otherwise referred to as a "stock taking" exercise.

The briefing took a form of the MEC, Chief Directors for both Housing and Technical and Local Government providing information to the reporters. This type of interaction has a fundamental aim of improving the department's relations with the media. In recent years the media has been viewed as an enemy of government, while the latter is perceived as an information parsimonious institution.

The media briefing touched on the following issues:

- Rolling out of capacity building in Local and District Municipalities.
- Payment of municipal services and debt collection.
- Roll out of Basic Services
- Service delivery on farms
- Sanitation
- Water provision
- Housing delivery

Some of the questions the media wanted to know were on the functionality of Local Government.



ADDRESS: MEC K.C Mashego-Dlamini flanked by her managers talks to media houses at the briefing

They also wanted to know the status of service delivery in Lekwa Municipality. MEC Mashego-Dlamini indicated that there is a team of specialist assisting that municipality and others in relation to institutional arrangements.

Another issue raised was the availability and translation of the Ingoma Bill. Chief Director for Local Government, Mr Sam Ngubane said that there are processes underway to make sure that the Bill was read and understood by all the people in the Province so that they will be able to submit their responses correctly.

Another question was the update on the fires that recently ravaged parts of the Province. The MEC was quick to say it is regrettable that the fires claimed lives and property, but they were contained and local fire authorities pulled all stops to deal with the situation.

All in all, it was a well attended media briefing and the MEC and the media alike got more stories than on any dry day in a newsroom.

In attendance from the various media houses were:

- SABC Radio
- Ligwalagwala Current Affairs
- SABC TV
- Lowvelder
- Mpumalanga Mirror
- Africa Eye News Services
- Sowetan
- Mpumalanga News

PROVINCE SIGNS AN ACCORD FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT.



AGREED: MEC K.C Mashego-Dlamini and Gifts of the Givers Chairman, Dr. Imitiaz Suliman

The Mpumalanga Province has witnessed the birth of a partnership on Disaster Management following the recent fires that raged through the province where lives were lost, property damaged, livestock killed and plantations burnt down. The partnership was in a form of a Declaration of Partnership Commitment on Disaster Relief Support between the Province and a Humanitarian Relief NGO Gift of the Givers.

The relationship between the two will entail efforts in emergency relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction that may take years with resources that cannot be borne by any individual institution. The declaration will mostly look at Partnership for Disaster Preparedness, Prevention and Response. Signing the Memorandum of Understanding, MEC for Local Government and Housing, Candith Mashego-Dlamini acknowledged the generous contribution and assistance offered by many parties and the

overwhelming expression from NGO's and citizens of the province at large.

Much as the partnership does not necessarily commit on issues of financial resources, it however has tangible commitments on the following:

- Mobilization of additional resources to meet the emergency relief needs of victims
- Strengthen coordination and cooperation of relief efforts to ensure effective and immediate distribution of any assistance
- Support the efforts of all organizations and non-governmental relief organizations
- Promote and encourage private sector participation and
- Develop regional instrument for disaster management emergency relief response

The participants agreed to provide human, technical and financial resources needed, subject to their availability. Gift of the Givers Founding Chairman, Dr Imitiaz Suliman, said that they believe that through concerted efforts, and spurred by the spirit of compassion and sacrifice and endurance, together, they will prevail in overcoming disasters.



OBSERVE: Guests and fire fighters witnessing the signing of the partnership between the Department and the Gift of the Givers

MEC ON PROVINCIAL BRANDING.

No stone will be left unturned as the Mpumalanga Province embarks on a campaign to market itself to the world. As part of this positive exercise, the company entrusted to carry the exercise - Global Interface - interviewed MEC Candith Mashego-Dlamini. She responded to questions ranging from her view of the province's potential, to service delivery.

On the eradication of the bucket toilet system in the province, the MEC said great strides and progress have been made in addressing the issue. The Department is also considering supporting HIV / AIDS orphans who are heads of their households with providing housing for them. She also mentioned what she liked about the Province. Its beauty, scenery, the good seasons in a form of the long summer in the Lowveld and winter in the Highveld are a plus.

When asked about what the situation was about the shortage of skills and skills transfer and empowerment in the Province.

She said that technical and engineering skills are very scarce and qualified people are not attracted to government because of the low salary scale in government.

"Development takes place in stable political environment and friendly communities" said the MEC. Part of the development currently in progress is housing development, the implementation of municipal IDP's, building of Thusong Service Centres and Economic Growth at our four main municipalities of Mbombela, Emalahleni, Steve Tshwete and Govan Mbeki.

These towns are where current high development activities are taking place in the Province. The company is carrying out the branding exercise on the province's tourism and

leisure, business and its people. It is hoped that this exercise will help the province to be better received by the outside world.



PAINT: MEC KC Mashego-Dlamini making contribution to the branding exercise

DEPARTMENT SCOOPS SAIGA AWARD

The results of this year's National sixth Annual Public Sector Reporting Awards have been published. The Department of Local Government and Housing received a Southern African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA) award for being the overall winner in the category for departments in the province and being placed 6th nationally.

A total of 21 Departments both National and Provincial participated in the competition.

The awards have been tailored according to similar projects and practices world wide.

SAIGA has been supported with the co-operation of the Accountant-General and the Auditor-General. Mpumalanga was the only province with no disqualifications while other provinces had a single Department disqualified.

This award means that the Department of Local Government and Housing followed the principles of good financial reporting and has been recognised for their efforts. The Departments performance in the accounting sector underscores its commitment to effective and accountable financial reporting.



SHOW: MEC K.C Mashego-Dlamini holding the SAIGA accolades

COMMUNICATIONS GETS PRIORITY AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL



STRATEGISE: Head of DPLG Communication, Ms. Jenny Morulane sharing ideas during the induction workshop

Blyde Canyon - If commitments made by communicators from the Provincial and Local Government spheres of government are anything to go by, service delivery will improve. Communicators from the Department of Local Government and Housing and various municipalities from the province attended a two day workshop where issues of effective communication were deliberated on.

In her opening remarks, the Director for Media Liaison in the Office of the Premier, Nonala Ndlovu indicated that delivery is happening at a local government. It is therefore critical to synchronise the level of communication between the two spheres.

The gathering is as a result of processes of serious considerations by SALGA, GCIS, DPLG and the Premier's Office.

The workshop kick-started with an overview presented by Head of Communication in the Local Government and Housing Department, Mr Simphiwe Kunene. "The local government system should create an enabling environment where municipalities can communicate effectively and share understanding within which they must operate", outlined Kunene. The workshop also heard that some municipalities did not have communicators before, but significant strides had been made by some municipalities in this regard.

He emphasised that through the Local Government Strategic Agenda a programme of action should be drawn. This will be used as a measure as to how communication is doing at a local level and what impact is made through the participation in the District Communicators Forums (DCF's). As for the handling of crisis communication, GCIS's Michael Currin, said communication is strategic in a sense that it is critical in making or breaking government programmes and understanding to the people.

The energetic Currin advised the communicators that for effective functioning, they must sit in strategic meetings to gather content and develop messages.

For better communication in the 21st Century the three spheres of government need to communicate with one voice. Considering the South Africa Government's commitment of halving poverty by 2014, communication becomes paramount in assisting the realisation of this undertaking.

"The country is a developmental state and still transforming, hence it is critical to communicate with advanced ways", alluded GCIS's Marketing and Advertising Representative, Stephen Mosifana.

The climax of the workshop was the unpacking of the 5-Year Local Government Strategic Agenda by Department's Municipal Administration Manager, Pat Nkosi. He said the agenda is a national programme or a "road map" to deal with local government aspects over the next five years.

According to Nkosi this is an approach with clear targets and direction in shaping resources to assist local government in delivering resources. Again, municipalities should consider their Integrated Development Plans (IDP's) when drafting their reports for the plan.

All in all it was a well attended workshop and the inputs were substantial in understanding communication at a local sphere.



TRAIN: Municipal and Departmental Communicators attending the induction course on Communication

Department in Action



CHECK: MEC K.C Mashego-Dlamini with housing officials during the visit to Mkhondo Municipality



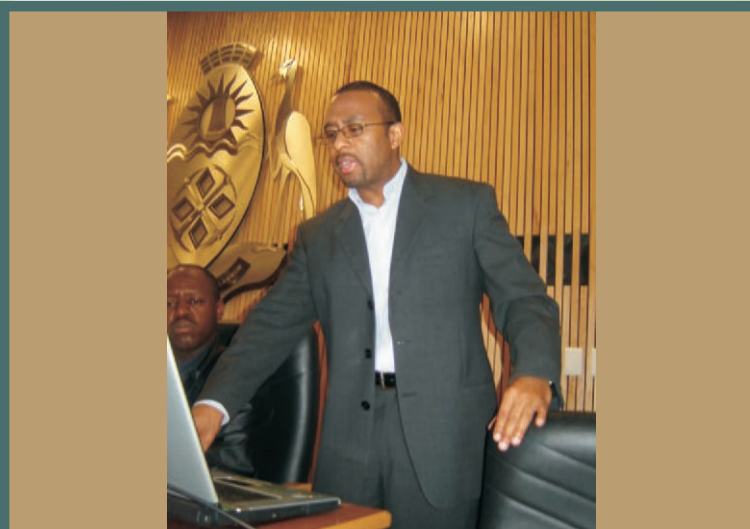
MEC Candlth Mashego-Dlamini flanked by her managers during the quarterly media briefing



Gift of the Givers Chairman, Dr. Imtiaz Sooliman accompanied by Premier Thabang Makwetla, donates humanitarian relief goods to Fire victims



Provincial and Local Government Minister, Sydney Mufamadi and Executive Mayor of Emakhazeni, Cllr Linkie Mohlala during their assessment of the fires



Deputy Director General for 2010, Mr. Desmond Golding outlining economic opportunities at the Youth Summit in Nkangala



PLAN: Fire fighters listening to the action plan during the inferno

Department in Action



FODDER: Piles of animal fodder donated to farmers at Emakhazeni Local Municipality by Middleburg Mine



The Chairperson of the Traditional Healers Association, Nhlabana Maseko reviewing his notes during the consultation with the Dept. on the Drafting of the Mpumalanga Witchcraft Suppression Bill



GATHERING: Community members at Mkhondo Municipality raising concerns on housing delivery



DAMAGED: A Graskop Primary School's roof blown by the wind during the fires



REPORT: SA's Weather Services Climatologist, Mr. M. Msimanga educating the media and communicators during the workshop



COLOUR: Bright Ndebele colours seen at the recent Ummemo in Belfast

KNOW YOUR MUNICIPALITY

MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



economically active population of 173 927 and 42,7% unemployment in the whole Ehlanzeni District. There is a notable decline in agriculture and utilities (electricity, gas, water) sectors and a significant growth on construction due to the increased business and residential development in the Municipality and 2010 preparations.

The LED Strategy has identified the following programmes for economic growth, job creation, Local Economic Development and Diversification, income and wealth generation in the Municipality:

Industrial and Beneficiation Development which includes establishment of Manufacturing Advice Centre, review of the industrial Policy and establishment of the local Industrial Forum.

Agro processing- Industrial Development Potential which includes nut oil extraction plant, venison processing, assorted nut-butter processing (macadamia and cashew nuts), fruit & vegetables drying projects, honey processing, organic fertilizer production and manufacturing of recycled paper products.

Industrial beneficiation and establishment of processing facilities which includes sand processing, glass manufacturing plant, brick and concrete production projects, fertilizer manganese chemicals and recycling plant.

Agriculture and Mining- Industrial Development Potential, which includes flower farms, wooden floor panel production & roof timber, agriculture diversification, mining extractions (small scale mining operations) and manufacturing of general agricultural equipment.



Executive Mayor, Cllr J. Nsibande

On Tourism, the LED strategy focus on the following projects

- Repackaging of tourism products
- Development of events calendar with special focus on sports tourism (2010)
- Creation of unique tourism destination identity and revision of the Municipal branding strategy
- Identification, linkages and expansion of new Tourism Routes
- Develop the Tourism Information Desk
- Safety and security programmes for the Community and Tourists.

VISION

To be a Municipality that provides equal opportunities, sustainable services, economic growth and quality of life for all.

MISSION

To alleviate poverty and promote socio-economic development by providing reliable, sustainable and affordable services to all residents of Mbombela.

Geographic overview

Mbombela is situated in the North Eastern part of South Africa within the Lowveld sub region of the Mpumalanga Province. The Metropolitan areas of Pretoria and Johannesburg are located 320 km inland, with the border post at Komatipoort approximately 120 km to the east and the Mozambican coastline being around 200 km away. Urban areas in Mbombela include Nelspruit, White River, Hazyview, Kabokweni, Tekwane, KaNyamazane and Matsulu as well as other peri-urban areas situated mainly in the eastern parts of Mbombela.

Local Economic Development

The Municipality adopted the LED strategy in 2002, and it is currently under review for updates and alignment with PGDS, AsgiSA and new National LED Framework. The LED strategy is planned to be adopted in May 2007. According to the Mbombela Local Municipality draft LED (2007:22), only 16,3% households earn no income, 83,7% of households earn less than R 38 400.00 per annum (R 3 200.00 per month) and it is further estimated that 70.2% earn less than poverty line (about R 1 800.00 per household per month) and can be considered poor.

The study further reflects the unemployment rate of 37,8% in the Municipality based on the

EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



Geographical Overview

Emalahleni Municipality is situated in Mpumalanga Province and it is one of the six municipalities in the Nkangala District Municipality. It forms part of the western regions of Mpumalanga Province and borders onto Gauteng Province. The Municipality is strategically located in the province and in relation to the national transport network.

It is situated in close proximity to the City of Johannesburg, City of Tshwane and Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality in Gauteng, and it is connected to these areas by the N4 and N12 freeways and a railway network. These freeways converge at Emalahleni Town, from where the N4 extends to Nelspruit, the provincial capital and ultimately to Maputo in Mozambique. The N4 freeway and the railway line which runs parallel adjacent to Gauteng to Mozambique constitute the Maputo Corridor.

The Corridor forms part of a transcontinental corridor initiative, aimed at linking Walvis Bay on the west coast of Africa with Maputo on the east coast, thereby creating linkages of trade and tourism between Namibia, South Africa and Mozambique.

The development patterns of the municipal area can be described as fragmented, due to the previous dispensation of separate development based on race which separated disadvantaged communities of Lynville, KwaGuqa and Pineridge from Emalahleni Town to east. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that large areas within the municipal area are undermining or have mining rights which resulted in the further physical separation of these areas. Natural features like floodplains and marshlands restrict the opportunities for the physical integration of these communities even further.

Industrial Activities

There are nine major industrial areas in Emalahleni, mostly concentrated in and around Emalahleni Town. This also represents the largest concentration of industrial activity in the Nkangala District. Mining, however, poses a major constraint to the expansion of these areas, which is problematic in view of the fact that there is a need for industrial land in Emalahleni, both in terms of land for heavy industries (approximately 20 to 50 hectares) and for light industries, service industries and high-tech industries.

Economic Profile

The Emalahleni economy is dominated by electricity as the main contributor to the GDP of the area. It is clearly evident that the electricity sector dominates the local economy and that the mining activities also contribute significantly. The manufacturing and community services sector are respectively the third and fourth most important sectors in the local economy.



**Executive Mayor, Cllr
Linah Malatjie**

During 1996-1999 only the finance sector and the electricity sector recorded significant growth rates. However, 1999-2002 was a period of expansion in the local economy with the aggregate economy expanding by 2.7%. The key sectors that drove this expansion were Mining, Manufacturing, Transport and Finance.

Vision

"Striving together to be an excellent centre for service delivery and development"

Mission Statement

"Providing affordable, accessible and sustainable quality service, enhancing community participation and creating a climate for economic development."

Core Values

In pursuance of our Vision and Mission, we adopted the following values:

Efficiency, Effectiveness, Transparency, Community involvement Growth and development.

ALBERT LUTHULI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



Geographic Overview

The Albert Luthuli Municipal area of jurisdiction stretches roughly from Diepdal and Ekulindeni along Swaziland and South African border in the east towards Hendrina to the west and then roughly from Nooitgedacht and Vygeboom Dams in the north to Warburton in the south.

The area is transversed by three prominent east west and north-south provincial routes, namely R 38, R36 and R33. All three provincial routes play a tremendous role in serving as transport and economic linkages linking all areas not only within the Albert Luthuli Municipal area but also with other important areas in the Ehlanzeni and Nkangala regions.

There are numerous development concentrations scattered across the region and can be categorized into five sub-regions namely, Carolina/Silobela; Elukwatini; Ekulindeni; Empuluzi and Tjakastad/ Badplaas. High levels of land use concentrations are evident in the Elukwatini, Empuluzi and Ekulindeni eastern sub-regions as compared to the other two sub-regions.

Agricultural land use is the pre-dominant land use constituting approximately 80 percent of the total area, with limited fragmented human settlements scattered across the region. The area is pre-dominantly rural in character with small-scale socio-economic activities.

Tourism

The tourism sector is underdeveloped, as there is high potential for recreation and tourism in the area. There are few areas that have been developed for tourism purposes e.g. resorts and hiking trails. Tourism development should be linked to low intensity commercial activities. Development of tourism will strengthen the economic base of the area and promote the area within the Mpumalanga context.

Songivelo Game Reserve is the biggest game reserve within Albert Luthuli Municipality. The Mpumalanga Parks Board, which owns Songivelo Game Reserve is busy finalising a deal to combine Songivelo and Malolotja Game Reserve in Swaziland to form a transfrontier park. This proposed Songivelo Malolotje Transfrontier Park will boost tourism in the area considerably

Vision

A transparent, innovative and developmental municipality that improves the quality of life of its people.

Mission

To provide a transparent and accountable government by:



Executive Mayor: Cllr S.E Dlamini

- Rendering affordable and sustainable services; and
- Encouraging economic and social development through community participation.

Value System

The Municipality:

- Is driven by the aspirations of the people, we will respect and uphold the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa;
- Commits itself to the Code of Conduct for councillors and officials, in the Municipal Systems Act;
- Commits itself to the principles of sound financial management;
- Subscribe to the Batho Pele principles of-
Consultation; Service standards; Access; Courtesy; Information; Openness and transparency; Redress Value for money
- Subscribe to co-operative governance. As a partner in governance we will promote and constructively participate in regional, provincial and national programmes.

PRO-ACTIVE APPROACH ON NATURAL DISASTERS

The Department of Local Government and Housing in Mpumalanga has partnered with the South African Weather Services in dealing with disasters. The partnership will see the two institutions exchanging information in anticipation of disasters before and after they happen. This understanding was strengthened at the recent Media Workshop on the Weather. The workshop brought together climatologists, journalists; communicators from provincial and local government to share knowledge on the subject.

During the proceedings, Ms Lee-Ann Clark, a meteorological reporter, at the SABC said the Lowveld had two distinct influences that put it at risk of violent weather. "There is moist air from the ocean in the east and we have the hot air from the Highveld. Such a place should be given a lot of attention due to its weather."

The recent fires were used as reference points in this regard and experts who facilitated the workshop, warned journalists to be cautious when tacking issues pertaining to weather. "We do receive a lot of warnings, but are afraid to release such information directly to the public because we do not know how they may react. We are also afraid no to warn about something which may not happen."

Clark mentioned the need for media to understand the weather terminology to some extent; the national weather service cannot convey a clear message to the public as it contained a lot of coded and scientific



EDUCATE: Ms. Lee-Ann Clark engaging journalists at the workshop

components. In this regard, there are numerous challenges standing in the way of the weather service. Some of these are the need to bridge the gap between indigenous knowledge and the scientific approach to weather, the decentralization of information to municipalities and the strengthening of ties between the SA Weather Services and the media. "The media should know that they have a role to play here. For instance, in the rural areas where there are no TV's or newspapers, broadcast media would be ideal," she said.

The Weather Services has established a regional office at Kruger Mpumalanga Airport and radar coverage that became operational in March 2007. The institution is centralizing structuring, greater attention regional needs, greater

responsiveness and development of regional competence.

Municipalities are key players in the workshop, for a better understanding of weather patterns. Mpumalanga Province is home to 7,5% of the population of South Africa and due to its proximity to Swaziland and Mozambique, could be subjected to serve weather conditions and poor observational coverage.



AVOID: Workshop aims at dealing with such disasters

LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ADVANCE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



MEC K.C Mashego-Dlamini receiving a token of appreciation from SALGA, Deputy Chairperson, Cllr Clara Ndlovu

Huge tasks lie ahead for municipalities at a local level to advance youth development. Issues of capacity building, job creation, economic development and poverty eradication, are critical elements for youth development. These and other issues emerged as urgent interventions needed for youth development at the recent SALGA Youth Summit held at Middelburg. Youth from all over the province, youth organisations and other youth formations converged at the 2007 SALGA Youth Summit to thrash out achievements made and challenges by municipalities in assisting young people.

In his opening remarks, SALGA Mpumalanga Chairperson, Speedy Mashilo challenged the current youth to emulate previous youths on issues of development. He said the youth of 1976 created a platform for social development and the youth of today must be more involved in Governmental Developmental Programmes like Masibuyele' Emasimini and Sakha Bakhi.

Mashilo called on them to actively participate in the country's development forums where issues of skills and economic participation are attended to.

Various presenters came to the fore and related to the delegates about available opportunities in these different institutions. The Deputy Director General for 2010, Mr Desmond Golding reflected on opportunities available to the youth ahead of the 2010 soccer extravaganza. The event will present massive opportunities on infrastructure development, tourism ventures, global exposure, investment and job opportunities.

The youth wanted to know how will these be practicalised and made possible. In response Golding said, the 2010 Team will engage with banks on access to credit, business development, build-up activities and procurement opportunities are to be presented during the event. "Government, host cities and the private sector have agreed to dedicate 30% of procurement to the youth", said Golding.

The Mpumalanga Youth Commission presented that there are achievements made to assist the youth in the province. Commission Chairperson, Mr Siphon Shongwe mentioned that the Emalahleni Housing Project has recruited 150 youths, 437 on the Expanded Public Works Programme and the Information Communications and Technology (ICT) Training Projects will feed to the Thusong Centers at municipalities.

The ICT project had targeted 150 people mainly at Nkomazi and the Bushbuckridge Municipalities. Shongwe conceded, however, that issues of inadequate funding, lack of youth issues mainstreaming and understanding and the slow pace of the establishment of youth units in municipalities remain challenges.

The delegates also debated issues of Economic Empowerment for 2010, Policy for Youth Development and Skills Development. It emerged that municipalities should review their procurement policies and that the youth must organize themselves in municipalities.

The summit also agreed that all Municipal Managers to include issues of youth development in their Key Performance Areas, municipalities to adequately budget and youth managers to sit in management meetings. On skills development, the gathering agreed that SALGA to engage the Labour Department on that issue and skills audit to be done by March 2008.

In closing the summit MEC for Local Government and Housing, Candith Mashego-Dlamini said there is a need to create a Developmental Government to address issues of poverty, job creation and diseases, etc. Mashego-Dlamini raised that all municipalities should include youth issues on their IDP's. "There must be practical involvement of youth in economic development" said Mashego-Dlamini.

PROVINCE HOLDS WORKSHOP ON FREE BASIC SERVICES.

On the 27th August 2007 a communication strategy workshop on Free Basic Service (FBS) was held at Loskop Dam. In attendance were the Department of Local Government and Housing, District and Local Municipalities, the Department of Provincial and Local Government (DPLG), the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT).

The purpose of the workshop was to look at the rolling out of the current communication strategy of Free Basic Services (FBS) to communities and find out if all Departments and municipalities are communicating the provision of FBS adequately and whether they are communicating the challenges and successes enough to the communities.

The workshop set out to make sure that as government communicators and officials we understand the issues that underlie the provision of FBS and communicate the correct information.

Cindy Damons a Senior Manager from the Department of Provincial and Local Government gave presentations on the strategy that can be used to improve the communication of the information on FBS. She cited lack of information as one of the reasons that has seen communities taking to the streets protesting against the slow pace of service delivery to their areas. The information we give out is basically on what government has done for the community and not what the challenges are and plans to address them.

Advertising, posters, the media, both TV and radio, the use of CDW's to disseminate information to the people were among other resources that could be used to give maximum publicity to the efforts government has put in improving the lives of the people. The communication must clearly indicate successes and challenges in trying to get the basic services to the communities.

A presentation was made on Free Basic Water (FBW) by Mr Hugh Sussens from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. He dealt with the challenge faced by his Department on different statistics on the indigent house holds who should qualify for FBW. There are differing statistical reports on the actual indigent households in municipalities.

Each time a report is submitted, by a municipality there are discrepancies in the figures. He said this negatively affects their planning and the rolling out FBW in those areas where they are needed most.

Other officials who made presentations include Ms Annah Mosimo from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) who gave a presentation on Free Basic Waste Removal; this refers to dumping sites and their status in terms of security and legality, whether they have been registered or not. She also gave an indication as to what may happen to the illegal dumps if they are not registered and the negative effects on the environment they may have.



PRESENT: DEAT's Anna Mosimo at the FBS workshop in Nkangala

The community expects to see the delivery of services in their areas, not in other areas. They need to see it happening right there before their eyes. She said we must be proactive when we communicate with the community. "We must not wait for a ward committee meeting or communicate information only when Ministers or senior officials visit the area. Let us try to keep the communities informed and also communicate the challenges government is facing and make them part of the service delivery process" related Damons.

DEBATE ON ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES BEGINS

The powers and functions of municipalities came under serious discussion at the recent Municipal Workshop on Powers and Functions in all the districts. The last workshop was in Nkangala where Municipal Mayors, Municipal Demarcation Board and SALGA Mpumalanga attended. The topics of discussions that were deliberated upon during the workshops were:

- Understanding of Powers and Functions between Local and District Municipalities;
- Mayoral Executive System vs. Mayoral and Council Committees;
- The processes followed by the Municipal Demarcation Board in assessing the capacity of Municipalities;
- Roles and Responsibilities of Chief Whips

These topics were discussed at length during the workshop where each District Municipality displayed their uniqueness in terms of the understanding and application of the matters arising from the topics.

The three Districts have a general understanding of the Powers and Functions as delegated to them by the Municipal Structures Act No. 117 of 1998, to the extent that there has been no conflict between them and Local Municipalities. The Districts fully perform all the functions and responsibilities as delegated to them by the legislation.

However, the issue of note is that other Districts do not have enough capacity both financially and human resources to carry out the functions of planning at the Local Municipality level. As a result the lack of capacity in the Districts, the Local Municipality has been carrying out some of the functions that are meant to be the District Municipalities functions as delegated by the legislation, and the constitution of the country.

It has been recommended therefore that the Provincial Government carry out their constitutional obligation in terms of capacity building within the District Council, so that the Districts can fully carry out their functions. Whilst the Provincial Government assists the Districts to build its capacity, the Local Municipality and the Districts should have a Service Level Agreement on the functions currently being carried out by the Local Municipality which ought to have been a District Council function.

On the Mayoral Executive System vs Mayoral and Council Committees, all Municipalities within the Mpumalanga Province apply the Executive Mayoral system. The Section 80 Committees have been established in the District and Local Municipal Council and are fully functionally, reporting and accounting only to the Executive Mayor. However there is confusion about the roles of Section 79 Committees. The thinking appears to be that Section 79 Committees should



Mr. Hillary Monare: CEO for the Municipal Demarcation Board

deal with issues of ethics and rules, whereas the legislation does not suggest so.

The dilemma that is faced by the municipalities is how to hold the Mayor and his/her Members of Mayoral Committees accountable to the council.

On the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Whip, both Legislation, i.e. Systems and Structures Act are silent on the issues of Chief Whip. So the Chief Whips are appointed through Section 12 notices and their duties are not prescribed in any legislation.

In conclusion the Powers and the Functions of Speaker and Mayors are clear as we get them from the legislations. The powers between District Council and Local Council differs from District to District as this is more governed by the relationship politically. The role of Municipal Demarcation Board concerning the capacity issue links with the Powers and Functions of municipalities. MDB however cannot enforce but merely recommends to the MEC who would consider a number of pertinent issues before he/she eventually decides on the functions.

Vision, Mission and Values

**Our Department is dedicated to serve our people and to treat them with respect.
We therefore pledge our whole hearted support to the public.**

VISION

Sustainable Local Government and Better Housing for all.

MISSION

Provision of provincial integrated support and monitoring framework for Sustainable Local Government, Human Settlements and Traditional Leadership towards a better life for all.

VALUES

**to uphold consultation with communities on departmental programmes
to aim for a proactive stance in order to be ahead with our plans
to uphold a high standard of commitment amongst staff
to be client driven and develop a caring team
to watch clients served
to ensure that we adopt a development oriented approach to service delivery
to be result driven in our service delivery
to render our work with the highest level of integrity and honesty**

HEAD OFFICE:

Building 6 & 7
Riverside Government Complex
Nelspruit

1200

Mpumalanga
Tel. 013 766 6087
Provincial Government
Fax. 013 766 8441



Department of Local
Government and Housing

Elukwatini: (017) 883 0827

Ermelo: (017) 811 1177

Kwamhlanga: (013) 947 2501