

ENHANCING AND OPTIMISING SERVICE DELIVERY AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL

BACK *to* BASICS

INDEPENDENT QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Volume 6 // March 2024

A close-up portrait of MEC Nono Maloyi, a middle-aged Black man with a short beard and mustache, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a light blue shirt. The background is a blurred, warm-toned wall. A red square graphic element is visible on the right side of the image.

MEC Nono Maloyi

Aims to ensure capable, ethical and developmental local government in the North West Province



DATE:
23 - 25 APRIL
2024

PUBLIC SECTOR AUDIT & RISK INDABA

VENUE: CAPE TOWN ICC

THEME: INCREASE IN IRREGULARITIES IN
PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT, RISK
MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE:
- **DID WE DROP THE BALL?**



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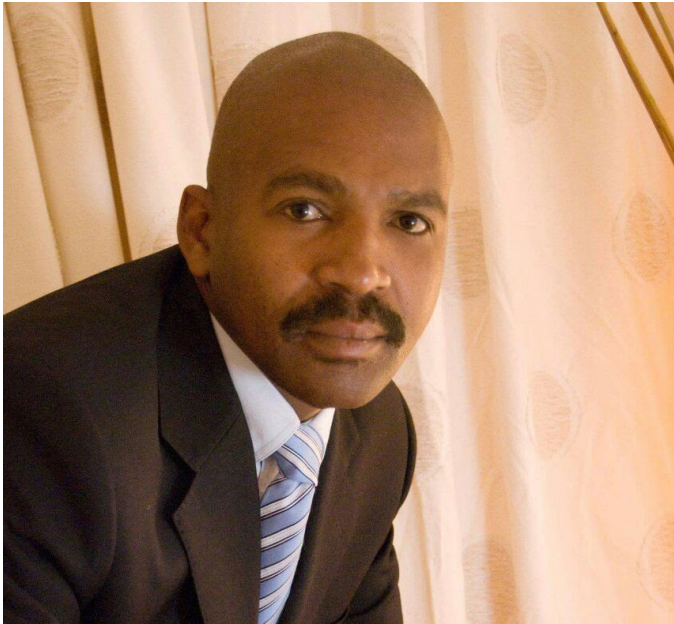
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Publisher's Note.

The looming energy and water crises demand urgent attention. These essential resources are the lifeblood of our nation, sustaining our industries, communities, and ecosystems. As we confront these challenges, we must do so with a sense of urgency and purpose, exploring sustainable solutions that safeguard our future.

In the midst of uncertainty, one thing remains steadfast: the resilience of the South African spirit. It's a spirit forged in the crucible of struggle and tempered by the fires of perseverance. It's a spirit that refuses to yield in the face of adversity, that rises to meet the challenges of our time with courage and conviction. As we embark on the next chapter of our journey, let us do so with a renewed sense of purpose and determination.

Let us embrace the democratic principles that have guided us for the past three decades, and let us work together to build a future that is inclusive, equitable, and prosperous for all.

In these pages, you'll find stories of hope, inspiration, and resilience. You'll find voices from every corner of our nation, united in their commitment to a better tomorrow. So join us as we celebrate our past, confront our present, and chart a course towards a brighter future. Together, we can overcome any obstacle. Together, we can build a South Africa that is truly worthy of the dreams and aspirations of its people.

Lawrence Mofokeng

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of democracy in South Africa, it's both a moment of reflection and anticipation. Three decades ago, the nation embarked on a journey towards equality, justice, and inclusivity. Today, as we stand at the cusp of another national election, we're reminded of the power and responsibility inherent in our democratic system.

In these pages of Back to Basic Magazine, we delve into the complexities of our current reality. We confront the challenges that face our nation with unwavering determination and a commitment to find solutions. The economic landscape is fraught with difficulties, yet within these challenges lie opportunities for innovation and growth. It's imperative that we harness our collective ingenuity to navigate these turbulent waters.

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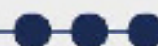
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LET'S GROW TOGETHER

North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

The North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs as led by MEC Patrick Dumile Nono Maloyi, aims to ensure capable, ethical and developmental local government and institutions of traditional leadership. Through Section 154 (1) of the Constitution, the department is supporting and strengthening the capacity of municipalities to manage their own affairs, to exercise their powers and to perform their functions.

One-on-One Engagement Session

In its effort to strengthen municipal support and improve effectiveness in terms of Section 154 of the Constitution, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs convened one-on-one engagement sessions with all 22 municipalities in the province in order to assess their performance and address the challenges that hamper the performance of various municipalities.

The engagement sessions which were pronounced by MEC Patrick Dumile Nono Maloyi were attended by Municipal Managers, representatives from Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent - MISA, South African Local Government Association - SALGA, Provincial Treasury including the Department of Water and Sanitation under the theme "Strengthening municipal support programme to improve its effectiveness".

The sessions were headed by the Head of Department, Dr Ben Bole who appealed for frank and honest discussions to find solutions to challenges facing municipalities.



From left - Chief Director - National Cogta - Mpho Mogale, Head of Cogta North West – Dr Ben Bole and Municipal Manager of Maquassi Hills LM – Nokuthula Mbonani during an engagement with Maquassi Hills Local Municipality at Dr KK chambers.

"We have crafted specific objectives to restore order and stability in municipalities. Information must not be held back so that we can assist and support in order for municipalities to uphold their constitutional mandate of providing services to communities without fail".

The objective was to verify and validate the state of affairs, assess, review and develop new improvement plans on the state of each municipality for improved collaboration and accountability.

The one-on-one engagement sessions go along with the department's mission of "effectively support, monitor and promote developmental local government and viable institutions of traditional affairs".

As part of the implementation of the Local Government Turn Around Strategy, the department is using a software system which seeks to create and strengthen real time, early warning-oriented system and rapid response. The data will be uploaded by the municipalities and it will assist the department to access systems of municipalities in real time, thus ensuring that intervention are not after the fact but happen before things fall apart.



MEC PDN Maloyi and MEC O. Molapisi patching potholes



Patching of potholes in Mamusa



MEC PDN Maloyi meeting Ditsobotla local municipality Intervention Team

As part of ensuring decisive interventions in municipalities, the department is conducting skills and qualifications audit and over 6000 municipal employees have undergone the audit process. The project is intended to identify the skills capacity in municipalities, align it to the existing skills properly to the business operations of the municipalities, identify skills deficiencies and devise requisite training interventions.

Municipal Audit Outcomes

The department in collaboration with Provincial Treasury continues to support municipalities to improve on their financial management and eight (8) municipalities were placed under Section 139 (5) of the Constitution read with Section 139 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 which gives the provincial government mandatory intervention in a municipality.

Ramotshere Moiloa, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, Naledi, Kgetlengrivier, Madibeng, Mahikeng, Tswaing and Ditsobotla.

Provincial Treasury has deployed Provincial Executive Representatives (PERs) and their mandate is to develop financial recovery plans. Ditsobotla local municipality is also receiving the necessary support from the provincial government.

Both the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs have deployed a team of experts and seconded officials to the municipality to assist with capacity.

Accelerated Service Delivery Programme - Thuntsha Lerole

MEC Patrick Dumile Nono Maloyi, in his capacity as Acting Premier of the province officially launched an Accelerated Service Delivery Programme - ASDP known as - Thuntsha Lerole in Ipelegeng in Mamusa local municipality last year (July 2023).

The programme is in line with the mandate of the department of encouraging the involvement of communities and community organisations in matters of local government. The primary objective of the programme is to mobilise communities to be part of a solution in addressing service delivery challenges confronting their localities.



MEC PDN Maloyi patching potholes during the Accelerated Service Delivery Programme - Thuntsha Lerole in Mamusa Local Municipality



From left - Moretele Mayor - George Manyike, MEC PDN Maolyi and MEC O Molapisi officially handing over an Internal paved road in Moretele LM

The primary objective of this initiative is to mobilise communities to be part of a solution in addressing service delivery challenges confronting their localities. ASDP - Thuntsha Lerole is also aimed at creating a platform for constant feedback to communities on progress registered by government in responding to their needs and demands.

MEC Maloyi, other MEC's Mayors and Executive Mayors, led different service delivery clusters and visited different projects, which amongst others included patching of potholes, cleaning and clearing of illegal dumping sites, inspection of ongoing projects and handover of houses and title deeds to beneficiaries.

Some of the projects included those funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant – MIG, like paved internal roads as well as water and sanitation projects.



Service Delivery Blitz

Different provincial government departments also gathered in the targeted locality to provide services share critical information aimed at empowering the local residents which amongst others included the registration of SMMEs as well as online application services.

Amongst others, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs provided support to the programme by clearing illegal dumping areas, fixing of street lights and potholes, registering indigents to receive free basic services such as water and electricity, handing over of Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) projects which included paved roads, water and sanitation projects.

Traditional Affairs

The department continues to provide strategic support to the institution of traditional leadership to improve governance, performance and accountability as well as building capacity of the institution. The department is also constantly reviewing and strengthening the policy and regulatory framework of the institution; supporting and monitoring performance of institutions of traditional leadership and resolving disputes.

The department is supporting fifty-six (56) traditional councils across the province through the North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership to ensure their good administration and governance.

The renovations for traditional council offices for Barolong ba ga Phoi, Bahurutshe ba ga Gopane and Bahwaduba



Residents of Tlaakgameng during a feedback session

have been completed at a cost of over R2.1 million.

Water and sanitation

North West province remains a water scares province and as such most of the municipalities are experiencing water shortages.

A number of projects are lined up to address this challenge and to reduce the water and sanitation backlog and capacitating municipalities for delivering sustainable services. The construction of the R36 million bulk water sewer pipeline at Agisanang township in Tswaing local municipality is due for completion this year.



Service Delivery Blitz



MEC addressing residents during feedback session.

The community of Mazista Township, which is located within Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality, have been experiencing water supply challenges for a number of years. Amongst other, the scope of work for Mazista Water Supply project drilling of new boreholes; testing, refurbishment and electrification of existing boreholes, installation of a 4,5 km pumping main as well as the construction of new ground storage tank. The R23 million rand worth of the project was completed in November 2023.

Additional boreholes have been drilled and equipped for both the Rooigrond Waste Water Treatment Plant and Water Augmentation projects to address water provision challenges in Mahikeng.

The construction of water pipeline from Pudumoe to Huhudi to augment the provision of bulk water supply, has started and will cost over R200 million.



Mazista Water Supply project



MEC PDN Maloyi and Provincial Chairperson of House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders Kgosi Thari Maotwe during a meeting with Dikgosi.

Fostering a National Consensus

Towards a just transition



The Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) is a multi-stakeholder body established by the President of the Republic of South Africa to advise on the country's climate change response and pathways to a low-carbon climate-resilient economy and society. In building this society, South Africa needs to ensure decent work for all, social inclusion, and the eradication of poverty. Those most vulnerable to climate change, including women, children, people with disabilities, the poor, and the unemployed need to be protected, and workers' jobs and livelihoods also need protection.

The PCC's mandate emanates from the Presidential Jobs Summit held in October 2018, when social partners agreed that a statutory entity should be formed to coordinate and oversee the Just Transition towards a low-carbon, inclusive, climate-resilient economy, and society. Through a multi-stakeholder process, the PCC successfully delivered the first Just Transition Framework for South Africa, adopted by the Commission in May 2022, and approved by Cabinet in July 2022.

The commission consists of Government Ministers and Commissioners that represent diverse perspectives of these social partners, including academia, business, civil society, labour, and youth. The PCC facilitates dialogue between social partners on these issues and, in particular, defining the type of society we want to achieve and detailed pathways for how to get there. The Climate Change

Bill of 2021, currently being considered by the National Assembly, designates the following function to the PCC :

“(a) advise on South Africa's climate change response to ensure realisation of the vision for effective climate change response and the long-term just transition to a climate resilient and low carbon economy and society;

(b) advise government on the mitigation of climate change impacts, including through the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, and adapting to the effects of climate change; and

(c) provide monitoring and evaluation of progress towards government's emissions reduction and adaptation goals.

SOUTH AFRICA'S JUST ENERGY TRANSITION INVESTMENT

South Africa's policy commitment to just transition, aims to ensure no one is left behind during the shift to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy.

The South African interpretation of just transition is society-focused, envisioning measures to uplift and support workers, communities, and society; accommodating a broad range of interests; and advocating for system transformation.

It tackles inequities on both national and sub-national scales, centering on the spatial and distributional impacts of economic transition.

Municipal investment needs have been cited as a cross cutting investment target in the JET-IP. This investment plan sets out to provide specific support to municipalities to navigate the energy transition and play a dynamic and responsive role in the energy system for the benefit of the communities they serve.

This requires functional distribution grids that can accommodate an increasing penetration of renewable energy generation at different scales and connect all residential, public, commercial, and industrial energy users.

It also requires the establishment of a financially sustainable service delivery model that provides for equitable access by the whole grid community, all local energy users, including small businesses and low-income and energy-poor households.

The JET-IP has identified the following as the immediate needs of municipalities in the initial five-year plan:

Distribution maintenance

- Distribution modernisation for NEVs
- Electrification backlog
- Operational: Demand-side management
- Operational: Energy access design
- Grid capacity
- Capability and capacity
- Collective planning
- Municipal revenue modelling



INVESTING IN RESILIENCE MITIGATING THE RISK AND IMPACT ON OUR ECONOMY

Vulnerable communities are at risk of loss as change sweeps through SA. Losses will derive from changes in both economic and climatic conditions. To mitigate social risks arising from the transition, three categories of investments in economic and climate resilience are needed urgently and at scale:

1. Economic diversification, enabling new jobs and livelihoods, enhanced access to resilient services and infrastructure, and land and biodiversity rehabilitation and restoration.
2. Equipping and strengthening the abilities of workers and SMMEs (small, medium, and micro enterprises) to participate meaningfully in transforming regional economies.
3. Establishing and operationalising of just transition management structures and institutional arrangements responsible for coordinating policy responses, ensuring, and facilitating stakeholder engagements, and the implementation of projects in affected areas.

SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN MITIGATING THE RISK

The PCC Appraisal and Recommendations on the JET-IP envisages addressing the need for clearly scoped and well-developed energy plans and the project pipelines that will achieve

this, at municipal level. This will be achieved through a municipal project preparation facility pilot project, to assist municipalities (listed below) with a needs/ situational analysis of the energy system planning and city-level just energy transition plans.

The Municipal JET Support Programme will consist of two phases, with the second phase focusing on project development, preparation, and de-risking for bankability.

The following municipalities are pilot localities for the programme in phase 1:

1. City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality,
2. City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality,
3. eMalahleni Local Municipality,
4. eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality,
5. Govan Mbeki Local Municipality,
6. Hantam Local Municipality,
7. Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality,
8. Tswelopele Local Municipality

The PPC distributes reports and events, through its newsletters and mailing list. Subscribe via the website to receive information on these. The National Assembly passed the Climate Change Bill in October 2023.

The Bill once passed by the National Council of Province (NCOP) will have implications of climate change response measures and actions required from all tiers of government and industry.

The Bill will further re-establish Presidential Climate Commission as it relates to its composition functions and accountability.

Please read the Climate Change Bill
at <https://www.parliament.gov.za/bill/2300773>



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CLIMATE COMMISSION**
TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION

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5 takeaways

Support Programme For The Presidential Climate Commission

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana has tabled a budget mixed with optimism and caution about the country's public finances as the government scrambles to balance the books. The highly anticipated budget speech was Godongwana's third since the start of his term and the sixth administration's last before the general elections. But it was also arguably the toughest budget vote in decades.

It comes at a time when the government is faced with a mismatch of less-than-expected revenue collection and higher-than-desired spending, resulting in a fiscal deficit. With over a decade of low economic growth, the country's poor balance sheet has only been made worse by structural challenges – especially where Eskom and Transnet are involved.

Power cuts and operational problems in freight rail and ports continue to disrupt economic activity and limit the country's export potential. In a last-ditch attempt before the watershed 29 May elections – the government has put together a plan that it believes will address macro-economic stability, structural reforms and improvements in state capability to raise growth rates. In addition to keeping expenditure in check and finding additional revenue – Godongwana's 2024 budget has also set its sights on bringing down the government's rising debt. Although cautiously optimistic – Godongwana says a combination of prudent tax increases, improved tax compliance and strengthened revenue administration put South Africa in a good place to face near-term challenges.

INCREASING TAXES

The government has proposed tax increases totalling R15 billion in 2024/25

to alleviate immediate fiscal pressures. This includes above-inflation increases to excise taxes and no inflation adjustments to personal income taxes to accommodate what's known as bracket creep.

On the face of it – no increase to personal income tax sounds like some reprieve but the devil is in the detail. If you receive an inflation-linked salary increase this year – you could be bumped up into a higher tax bracket and ultimately pay more tax.

Despite the tough economic times – smokers and drinkers won't escape the annual increases for their favourites vices. Excise duties for alcohol of up to 7.2%, while tobacco products will increase by up to 8.2%.

MAKING THE WEALTHY PAY

While personal income tax brackets will remain the same – the government is looking to corporates to meet its revenue shortfall.

The National Treasury now plans to introduce global minimum tax rules for multi-national corporations. This will see big corporations pay a minimum of 15% in efforts to boost tax collection.

SOCIAL GRANTS IN AN ELECTION YEAR

Cost containment won't be easy in an election year, but it won't stop the ANC-led government from splurging on the social wage bill to appease voters. As the country approaches the 29 May general elections – Godongwana's 277-page document has been described as an elections budget. Social grants are expected to take up the lion's share of the government's expenditure this year – with increases across the board expected to take effect in April.

BORROWING FROM PETER TO PAY PAUL

Sporting a hat, Godongwana says he will go cap in hand to the South African Reserve Bank to help alleviate the country's debt crisis.

The government has announced plans to dig into the country's gold and foreign exchange reserves to pay off some of its high and rising debt.

In a move that has garnered mixed reaction – Godongwana says the National Treasury will withdraw R150 billion from the contingency reserve account over the next three years.

The gold and foreign exchange contingency reserve account is an account held by the central bank – aimed at protecting it from currency volatility. The drawdown is expected to lower the government's borrowings from R553 billion to R429 billion by 2026.

TOUGH LOVE FOR SOES

Like in previous years, Godongwana looks set to continue his tough love approach to state-owned companies (SOEs). While Transnet and Eskom are among the biggest drags on the country's economy – there are no new cash bailouts for struggling and underperforming SOEs. But there are still guarantee facilities – with strict conditions – to fall back on.



BRITISH COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE MATRILIA



LEGISLATION

Law-making entails considering, passing, amending or rejecting any law.

This service includes monitoring the implementation of the provincial legislation that has been passed. After a law or bill has been passed, the committee is expected to monitor it in terms of the implementation process.



COMMITTEE

Committee creates the subject and formal written, strategic and standard writing provided by legislators, including Parliament, in respect of the implementation of the application of the budget, and the other documents of interest, and the Committee.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Legislature allows the people of British Columbia to participate in law-making and oversight processes.

The public participation service consists of various participation mechanisms such as public hearings, public meetings, public consultation workshops, budget review, social report and public etc.



CO-OPERATION BY GOVERNMENT

Co-operation government is the coordination of efforts across the different spheres of government. One of the principles states that different spheres must consistently collaborate with each other.

- Fostering healthy relations.
- Joining and supporting one another.
- Integrating and working together to achieve common goals.
- Co-operating with others and working together.

South Africa's Political Landscape

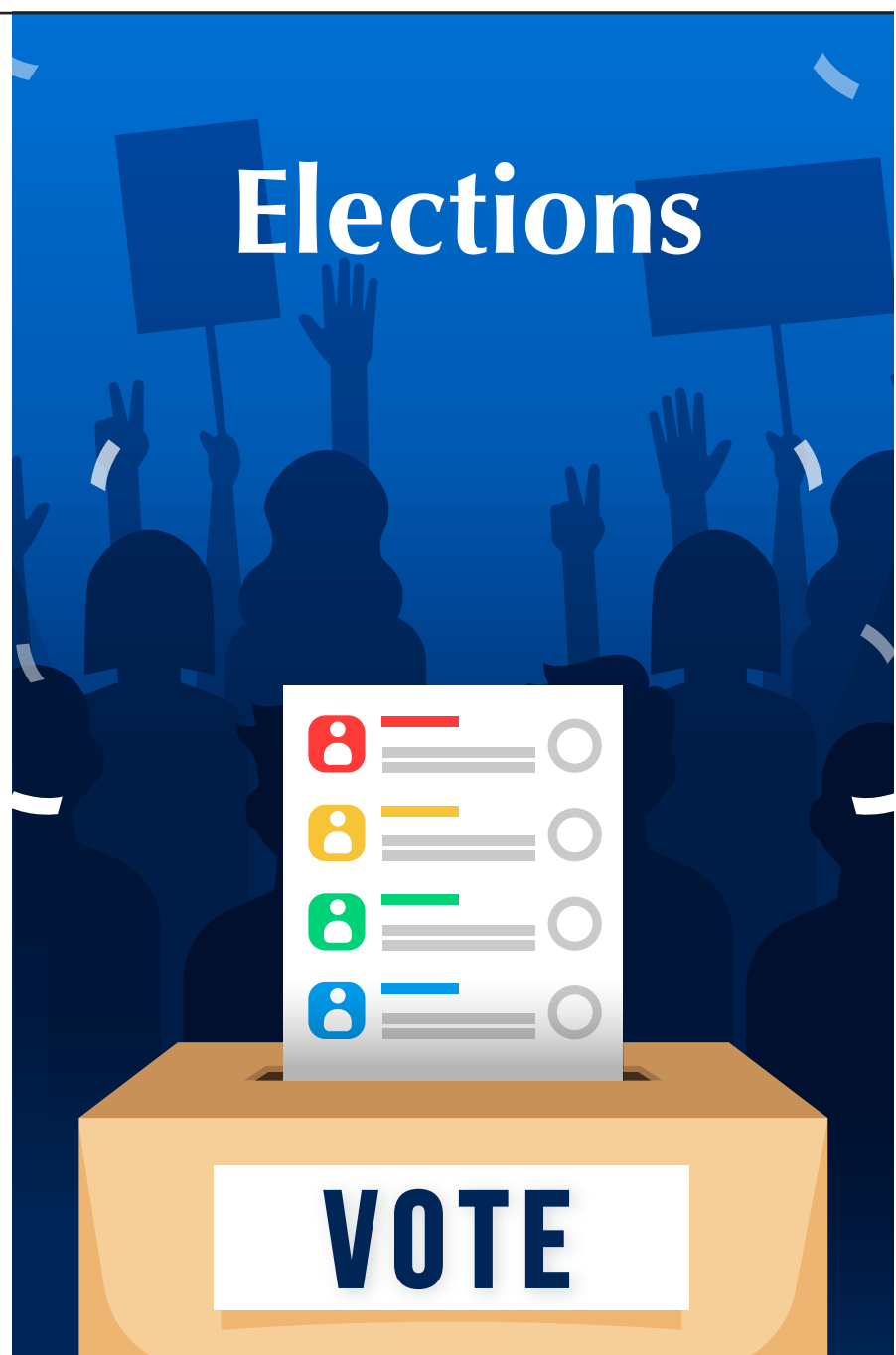
Faces Major Shifts Post-2024 Elections, Ipsos Poll Reveals

A significant upheaval looms over South Africa's political scene following the 2024 general elections, according to a recent Ipsos poll. The African National Congress (ANC) may see a decline in support, possibly receiving less than 40% of the vote. Meanwhile, the Democratic Alliance (DA) faces fierce competition from the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), making the election highly competitive.

Ipsos conducted extensive research, interviewing 3,600 individuals across South Africa from October 23 to December 1, 2023. Respondents were asked to simulate voting on a computerized ballot, ensuring confidentiality.

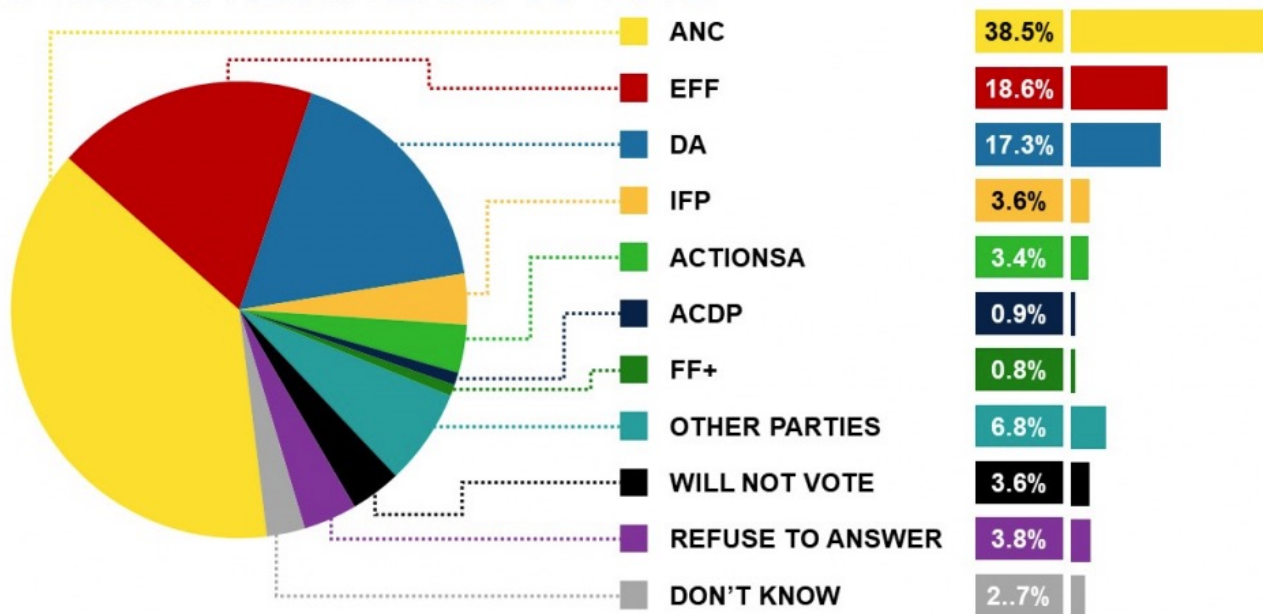
However, Ipsos emphasizes that these findings are not definitive predictions, as various factors such as campaign dynamics and economic changes can sway outcomes closer to the election. History serves as a reminder of the potential inaccuracy of polls, as seen in the 2016 US presidential election and the Brexit referendum.

Furthermore, the poll was conducted before the formation of the uMkhonto we Sizwe party by former President Jacob Zuma, with several other parties excluded from the survey.



PARTY CHOICES ON THE NATIONAL BALLOT PAPER OF SOUTH AFRICANS REGISTERED TO VOTE

SPECIFYING "WOULD NOT VOTE", "REFUSED TO ANSWER" AND "DON'T KNOW"



© Ipsos 2024
Support for Political Parties and Leaders (6 February 2024). Results from an Ipsos study

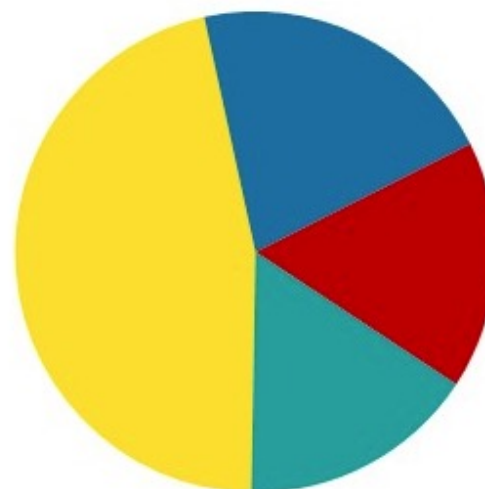
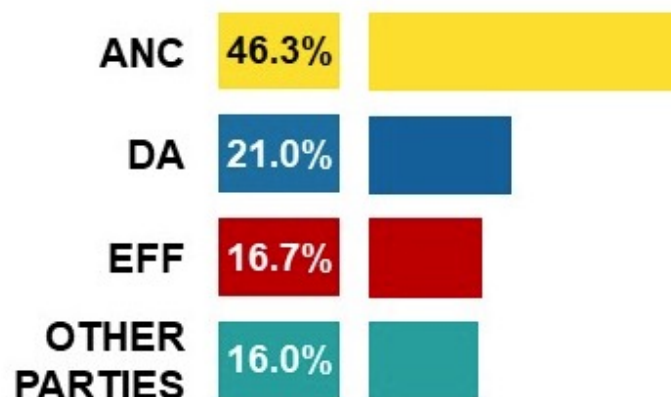


The results suggest that coalition governments will likely be necessary to secure power, with both the ANC and the DA facing challenges. The Multi-party Charter for South Africa is projected to gain around 33% of the national vote. While the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and ActionSA show regional strength, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng respectively, the overall landscape indicates a decline in ANC support and a significant rise for the EFF.

However, it's crucial to consider the portion of the electorate that remains undecided or unwilling to align with a party. Ipsos warns against taking these figures at face value, as they include a significant percentage of the registered electorate.

The key determinant of the election outcome will be voter turnout. Low turnout, projected between 39% and 41%, could favor the ANC, potentially necessitating coalitions with smaller parties to secure a majority. This reflects a broader sentiment of disillusionment and distrust towards political entities among the electorate.

LOW VOTER TURNOUT



Alan Winde calls for service delivery

probe in Knysna, Beaufort West, Theewaterskloof and Kannaland

Western Cape Premier Alan Winde wants an investigation into municipalities in the province – including his home town of Knysna – over service delivery. Winde made the remarks during his response to the debate on the State of the Province Address (Sopa) on Tuesday, 20 February, at the Huguenot Community Hall in Paarl.

Winde's final Sopa of this administration was held on Monday night. On Tuesday, it was debated extensively by members of the provincial legislature.

"I'm going to give notice here about a substantive motion that I want to bring to this House. I will bring a substantive motion calling for a full investigation into the ANC, EFF and Patriotic Alliance corrupt municipalities in this province," Winde said.

He specifically mentioned that he would bring the motion to investigate the Knysna, Theewaterskloof, Beaufort West and Kannaland municipalities. These

municipalities are all run by parties in opposition to the Democratic Alliance (DA), which governs the Western Cape. Winde did not clarify when he would table this motion in the legislature, the only DA-led legislature in the country.

"We need a proper investigation into these coalitions of corruption," Winde said.

"We need to do this because it must be a warning to voters in South Africa – that is, a coalition of the ANC, EFF, Patriotic Alliance is a total mess."

Winde was heckled several times by opposition members during his response. The coalition, he went further, "destroys every single opportunity for those citizens in those municipalities".

'Cannot deliver the basic services'

Knysna has come under fire for its poor service delivery, unstable political governance and lately, a lack of water in several communities, which at one point was caused by a body found floating in a key reservoir.

"They cannot deliver the basic services; that must be investigated," Winde said of the ongoing situation in the coastal municipality.

During the 2021/2022 financial year, Knysna received an "unqualified with findings" audit outcome.

It is run by a coalition of the ANC, Patriotic Alliance (PA) and Plaaslike Besorgde Inwoners (PBI). The EFF, which has one council seat, has previously voted with the DA coalition and ANC coalition at different council sittings.

'Dubai of the Karoo'

In addition to the focus on Knysna, Winde commented on the ANC/PA/Karoo Democratic Force coalition in Beaufort West.

"The same thing – where on earth is the Patriotic Alliance, ANC coalition in Beaufort West delivering the 'Dubai of the Karoo'?" Winde asked, referring to plans by former Beaufort West mayor Ashley Sauls to rename Beaufort West as Dubai West.



“Where is that? I will tell you where it is: it’s got sewerage pipes that run into the desert and the sewerage just runs,” he said. “That’s the kind of investment they made into their people.”

In the 2021/2022 financial year, Beaufort West received a “qualified with findings” audit outcome. Just last week, Daily Maverick reported that the municipality would elect its fifth mayor since the 2021 municipal elections.

Kannaland and Theewaterskloof

In the 2021/2022 financial year, Kannaland received a disclaimer audit with findings, the worst audit outcome an institution can receive.

The seven-seat council is run by a coalition of the Independent Civic Organisation of South Africa and another small party, the Kannaland Independent Party. Kannaland often runs into financial and governance issues, with the municipality at one point owing millions to both Eskom and the Auditor-General. In Theewaterskloof, a coalition of the Good party, the ANC and the PA run the

municipality. In the 2021/2022 financial year, it received a clean audit outcome.

The municipality made headlines when there were claims that senior municipal officers used taxpayer monies to fund a trip to the 2023 Rugby World Cup final in Paris, France. Towns in the municipality include Greyton, Grabouw, Genadendal, Villiersdorp, Tesselaarsdal, Riviersonderend, Caledon and Botrivier.

Winde planning a return

In his closing remarks on the debate, Winde said while it might be the final Sopa of the term, he looked forward to making the first Sopa after the elections.

Winde is the DA’s candidate for the premier of the Western Cape in the upcoming elections, and the DA is widely expected to gain the majority of votes in the province, meaning he is likely to be elected into office once again.

Winde said that not only would DA policies be implemented in the Western Cape, but in other provinces too. He went further, ignoring comments by

the opposition, saying: “The DA and its coalition partners are going to save South Africa because the ANC will be voted out at national level as well.”

Earlier in the day, ANC Deputy Chief Whip Pat Lekker lambasted Winde’s Sopa. “This must have been the worst State of the Province Address we have heard from a DA-run administration in the Western Cape ...

“It is the worst because it sums up the desperation of the Democratic Alliance in trying to convince our people that this province is a better one than it was five years ago.”

Another ANC member, Ayanda Bans, greeted Winde as the “outgoing premier” and claimed the DA could sense “there’s new leadership coming”.

EFF representative Thembile Klaas said Winde’s Sopa was not “only empty and shallow” but “full of promises”.

GAUTENG SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON TRACK IN DEALING WITH SOCIAL ILLS

Poverty is the single biggest burden on South Africa's people and the direct result of the apartheid system and the skewed nature of business and development which accompanied it (RDP Document 1994 p14).

“

A cornerstone of the Government's programme has been to tackle poverty. Through the use of various instruments, such as social grants, food relief, and the delivery of basic services and housing, the government focuses on the relief of income, non-income, and asset poverty.

”

The Gauteng Provincial Government adopted a plan to guide the Sixth Administration in the fight against poverty, called the Gauteng City Region Urban Poverty and Elimination Strategy and it remains the guiding pillar in driving the provincial elevated priority of eliminating poverty and inequality for the poor and vulnerable citizens in the province.

FOOD RELIEF

The government continues to roll out food support programme for impoverished families. It targets poor families, pensioners, child-headed homes, homes where breadwinners are ill or incapacitated, parcels as well as food growing starter packs. An

“At the beginning of the term in 2019, the Gauteng and to date, we have reached and impacted 4 million during the COVID-19 period. As Gauteng, we have

In addition to this number, an additional **98** Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and from food security programmes. Late last year, the Community Nutrition and Development Centres of rising hunger in GP.

The two Departments have noted massive achievements

- As per GCRO 2021 survey, food insecurity in Gauteng individuals. However, the food relief initiatives from **of 8.3 million food insecure individuals.**
- The GCRO Quality of Life Survey confirmed a significant poverty
- The Department of Social Development deliver Development Centres (CNDCs) and Home Communities informal settlements, clinics)

“These numbers reflect the day-to-day work we do to enable our beneficiaries to have sustainable meal instant relief and assistance in food production and MEC Hlophe.



GAUTENG PROVINCE

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Food parcels distribution

d support
rgets very
omes, and
pacitated. The Gauteng Department of Social Development is coordinating this programme and it includes food
ks. An important part of poverty relief is school uniforms and material assistance.

Gauteng Department of Social Development committed to reaching over two million food-insecure people by 2024,
ed 4 507 909 beneficiaries who accessed food relief programmes, and the height of this massive intervention was
ve have declared hunger and food insecurity as enemies of our people,” said MEC Mbali Hlophe.

1 98 106 individual beneficiaries produced their own food through the initiatives of the Gauteng
nent and Environment, bringing the total achievement of the two Departments to 4 606 015 individuals benefitting
ear, the Department of Social Development embarked on two expansion plans for food relief, where the target of
ntres (CNDs) moved from 2588 and reached **28 716 beneficiaries**. This is in part to respond to StatSA figures

achievements against the enemy of our people - the food insecurity of people in Gauteng.
in Gauteng stood at 52%, which equates to about 8.3 million people, inclusive of severe and moderate food-insecure
ves from both departments have reached **4.6 million food insecure individuals which translates to 54%
uals.**

ed a slight decrease of 1% in children missing meals, an indication of the impact of our work in fighting hunger and

delivers food relief through food parcels distributed by food banks, daily meals through Community Nutrition and
Community Based Care Centres (HCBC), food gardens within TISH (households, schools, hostels, municipal land,

we do in especially challenged communities in TISH areas. Integrating seeds within the food parcels for planting will
means to eradicate poverty. Gauteng government is awake to the fact that hunger cannot be postponed, and that
tion are must-dos by our committed officials to defeat the enemy of our people – hunger and food insecurity,” said



Mobile Homeless Shower for people living in the streets

HOMELESSNESS

In caring about the less fortunate and providing dignity to the homeless, the homeless programme was elevated as one of the key priorities of the Gauteng Department of Social Development. Through our various interventions, some homeless people were able to exit the homeless programme and reunited with families, others started their own businesses while others were placed in jobs and some recruited into the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).



In addition, life skills were provided, and others participated on accredited and non-accredited skills development programmes to increase their chances of employability. The Department also enrolled some of the homeless people in substance rehabilitation programmes and in other health related interventions.

In a major move, the Department invested in the mobile wash/shower trailers and five mobile offices for the homeless and these have been delivered to the NPOs to operate as mobile bathrooms for the homeless. Five trucks were also purchased to tow these wash trailers and mobile offices in

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

National Drug Master Plan (NDMP 2019-2024) is a plan for combating the scourge of alcohol and substance abuse which has reached epidemic proportions in South Africa.

The overarching goal of the NDMP is to prevent substance abuse before it starts, early intervention to ensure substance users receive treatment and rehabilitation services and reduce the demand for illicit drugs.

The government is committed to tackling the scourge of alcohol and substance abuse in South Africa. In this regard, the GDSD has established the Central Drug Abuse Multisectoral forum to tackle the scourge of alcohol and substance abuse.



MEC for Social Development, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Environmental Conservation Mbalu Hlophe interacting with former substance users at a Treatment Centre in Johannesburg

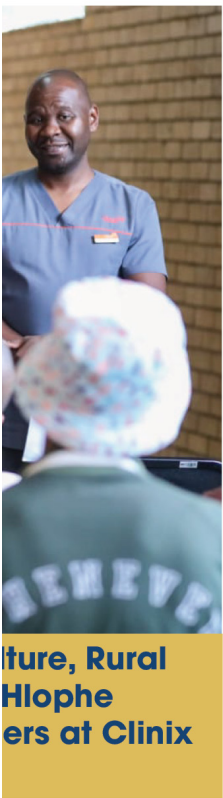
The war on drugs and substance abuse remains one of the critical elevated priorities. The work we have done includes:

- **Rehabilitation of 205 071 individuals addicted to drugs including aftercare**
- **15 832 764** beneficiaries of substance abuse treatment through prevention programmes
- The Department of Social Development has a public Partnership with Clinix Health Group of hospitals for the provision of inpatient treatment services with 119 Inpatient treatment beds, 200 Outpatient treatment programs and 160 Halfway house beds
- Through a partnership with SANDF on treatment and training programmes, 252 inpatient treatment beds can be made available
- GDSD is currently doing work at Dr F&F Phase 1E and will add an additional 144 by the end of June 2024
- The Department will utilize the recently established Sawubona Mhlali Service Delivery Brigade to

4) is a blueprint
substance abuse
South Africa.

prevent drug use
substance users
and reduce the

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Drug Authority, a
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Former substance user being trained in welding at Xilembeni Skills Development Centre at Bapsfontein.

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

Unemployment is one of the major issues affecting the people of Gauteng, and this is not surprising noting that Gauteng is the golden pot of South Africa and of the continent where people come from all walks of life for opportunities, be it business or employment.

A study by the South African Institute of Race Relations (IRR) found that for every employed South African, there are nearly three dependents (2.8 to be precise). This is significantly higher than the global average. A total of 3000 young people are being employed by the department through Sawubona Mhlali Service Delivery Brigade. So for each person employed, a minimum of three people will benefit from that one salary.

Also, through the Welfare to Work Programme, the department aims to move young people from social security grant recipients and other beneficiaries of social services such as drug addicts, homeless individuals and youth exiting Child & Youth Care Centers to sustainable livelihoods through youth development structures, job centres and cooperatives.

About 85 354 grant beneficiaries were reached through the programme surpassing our target of 76 906.

The Welfare to Work Programme is at the centre of all skills development programmes for social welfare beneficiaries.

Furthermore, we have funded the establishment of two trade test centres, in the centres of excellence wherein youth can be tested for full qualification as artisans.

The Department is currently concluding engagements with various private entities to maximize the impact of skills development programmes of the department.

In addition, the department provides accredited skills training programmes through partnerships with accredited training partners and has expanded the state-of-the-art Trade

Gauteng HoD for COGTA

accentuates the importance of
intergovernmental relations for impactful
Municipalities.

In a recent (20 February 2024) technical intergovernmental relations session involving Municipal Managers from Gauteng Municipalities and senior managers from the Gauteng Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), the Head of Department (HOD), Dr Darion Barclay emphasised the significance of collaboration to achieve impactful municipal performance.

Given the essential role local government play in community development and public services delivery; Dr Barclay reminded local government managers that one fact the government can never lose sight of in its planning is the undeniable and critical importance of the relationships and cooperation between local government and the communities.

The Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act provides that these sessions are essential to promote and facilitate

effective and efficient intergovernmental relations between the provincial and the local governments.

The February 2024 session came after the August 2023 session that highlighted that 76% spending on capital expenditure projects by municipalities was inadequate given the backlogs on capex programmes in the municipalities. Through such intergovernmental relations sessions spearheaded by Dr Barclay, high risk municipalities such as Merafong Local Municipality and Emfuleni Local Municipality have been receiving financial and administrative support.

The Merafong Municipality, for example, has been assisted with financial recovery plan and disaster management intervention, while Emfuleni Municipality has also been supported through financial recovery plan. These municipalities are expected to present their governance improvement plans to CoGTA.

In 2022 the Auditor General's office reported that the poor audit outcomes and inadequate service delivery by many municipalities were the result of a pattern of behaviours and conduct by leaders and officials that led to a local government culture in which performance, accountability, transparency, and integrity were not prevalent. The AG's statement talks direct to the mandate of CoGTA.

One of the most significant mandates of the department is the provision of democratic and accountable government for local communities. This by supporting and strengthening municipalities' capacity to perform their functions. The department has launched several initiatives to ensure that municipalities in Gauteng perform at their best. One such initiatives is the Intergovernmental Relations Strategy.

Intergovernmental relations refer to the interactions and relationships between the national, provincial, and local



spheres of government. This typically involves all these levels of government working together to address common governance issues, share responsibilities, and coordinate policies and programs. Moreover, intergovernmental relations bring coherence in the delivery of services through the three spheres.

Generally, intergovernmental relations play a crucial role in fostering effective governance, promoting cooperation and collaboration, and addressing collective challenges in a diverse and decentralized political system.

According to the intergovernmental relations strategy of CoGTA there is a need for the department to support municipalities in implementing sound financial management policies, facilitating good relations with provincial and national departments, and lobbying their assistance in support of municipalities experiencing administrative challenges.

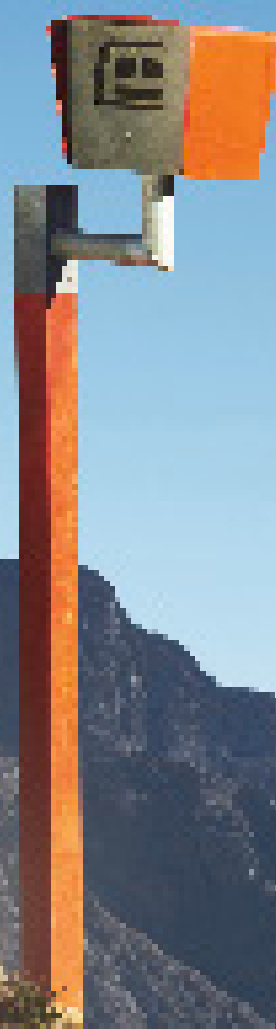
In line with these imperatives, Dr Barclay states that “the department’s intergovernmental relations strategy provides mechanisms, processes, and procedures for facilitating intergovernmental relations and co-operative governance. The aim is to support municipalities to become highly functional”.



AS CAPABLE ON-ROAD AS OFF IT



DEFENDER



Midvaal Municipality's **Bold Move**

Revitalizing Water Infrastructure



In a proactive bid to address the challenges posed by aging water infrastructure, the Midvaal Local Municipality has embarked on a transformative project surpassing R16 million. The initiative aims to replace outdated bulk water pipelines, particularly focusing on Ward 3, Rothdene, where at least 10.2 kilometers of aging pipelines will be upgraded.

The significance of this endeavor extends far beyond mere infrastructure renewal. It is a strategic move aimed at tackling issues such as non-revenue water losses, enhancing revenue generation, and fortifying the overall efficiency of water management systems within the municipality.

Non-revenue water, a longstanding concern for Midvaal, has been a significant contributor to financial losses. By addressing this issue head-on through the replacement of aging pipelines, the municipality is poised to significantly

reduce losses, thereby safeguarding its financial sustainability.

Scheduled for completion within a tight timeframe of eight weeks, the project demonstrates Midvaal's commitment to expeditiously addressing critical infrastructure needs. Moreover, it represents a concerted effort to minimize disruption to residents and ensure the uninterrupted supply of water throughout the implementation period.

Beyond the tangible benefits of infrastructure renewal, the project has also yielded socio-economic advantages for the local community. By engaging with five local Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), the municipality has not only fostered economic empowerment but has also created 48 job opportunities.

This not only injects vitality into the local economy but also underscores Midvaal's dedication to fostering inclusive growth and development.

This initiative underscores Midvaal Municipality's unwavering commitment to investing in the maintenance and enhancement of water infrastructure.

By prioritizing the revitalization of water systems, Midvaal ensures that residents continue to receive high-quality service delivery while laying the groundwork for sustainable development and resilience in the face of future challenges.

As communities increasingly grapple with the repercussions of aging infrastructure, Midvaal's proactive approach serves as a beacon of inspiration, highlighting the transformative potential of strategic investments in essential services.

With this bold move, Midvaal sets a precedent for municipalities nationwide, demonstrating the power of proactive planning and decisive action in securing the future well-being of its residents.



Encouraging Municipal Excellence

KZN COGTA MEC Inspires Improvement in Service Delivery Through Awards Ceremony



Pietermaritzburg – Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi, the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, has urged municipalities to look to exemplars in various programs to enhance service delivery at the grassroots level. She delivered this message during the annual Municipal Service Excellence Awards held at Pietermaritzburg City Hall.

The event, attended by Mayors, Municipal Managers, and Amakhosi, aimed to recognize and motivate municipalities to elevate their performance, productivity, and innovation in service provision, while also promoting best practices.

Municipalities competed across 17 categories, spanning financial management, sustainable electricity

projects, Expanded Public Works Programs, cleanliness in townships, functional waste management, clean audits, and disaster response.

MEC Sithole-Moloi presented awards to municipalities excelling in various programs, including acknowledging the Best Traditional Council for their coordination of service delivery at the Traditional Administrative Centre (TAC), where the Mpungose Traditional Council in Ulundi emerged victorious.

Among the notable winners was the Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal's south coast under Ugu District, recognized as the overall winner for its service delivery and budget implementation plan (SDBIP) for the 2021/2022 financial year.

This accolade was determined by the level of achievement in planned targets, service delivery indicators, and audit outcomes. In her address to attendees, MEC Sithole-Moloi emphasized the awards' purpose to inspire improvement among municipalities. While acknowledging existing challenges, she reassured mayors of the department's commitment to monitoring and intervening where necessary.

"Our vision is to have all 54 municipalities functioning at their best, positively impacting people's lives and reflecting well on government. We urge renewed commitment to addressing challenges and striving for improvement," said MEC Sithole-Moloi.

South Africa's Energy Progress Highlighted at 16th Africa Energy Indaba

The 16th edition of the Africa Energy Indaba, held under the theme “African Energy Transitioning from Aspiration to Action - Delivering a Sustainable and Prosperous Future,” witnessed a significant discourse on South Africa's strides in the energy sector.

The event provided a platform for stakeholders to review progress and discuss strategies for achieving sustainable energy goals.

In line with the theme, the South African government presented a comprehensive overview of its efforts to make the energy sector a catalyst for economic growth.

Emphasizing a commitment to eradicating energy poverty and facilitating a just energy transition, officials highlighted the importance of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) in guiding the country's energy infrastructure development.

Since the inception of the Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme in 2011, South Africa has pursued diversification in energy sources to reduce reliance on singular primary sources.

The government's rigorous efforts, outlined during the Parliamentary Debate on the State of the Nation Address, have

resulted in significant milestones:

- Connection of 150 MW from Scatec Projects to the grid.
- 1,587 MW under construction from 15 Independent Power Producers (IPPs), expected to supply electricity from September 2024.
- 1,360 MW from 10 IPPs preparing to reach commercial close.
- 2,842 MW from 18 IPPs progressing despite challenges in reaching commercial close.

Building upon the IRP 2019, the government has issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the procurement of additional energy capacities, including 5,000 MW under Bid Window 7 of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP), 2,000 MW under Bid Window 1 of Gas-to-Power, and 615 MW under Bid Window 2 of Battery Energy Storage.

Moreover, plans are underway to issue RFPs for an additional 5,616 MW for renewable energy and battery storage by the end of the current financial year. These efforts are expected to supplement the 7,327 MW procured by previous administrations through the IPP Programme.

Acknowledging challenges such as limited grid capacity and the intermittent nature of

renewable energy, the government remains committed to resolving these issues while ensuring access to affordable and reliable energy. Initiatives like the Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) project in Mpumalanga Province underscore the commitment to clean energy technologies.

Recognizing the importance of gas in the energy transition, South Africa has engaged in strategic partnerships to secure gas supplies. Efforts include negotiations with the Mozambican Government and agreements with Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH) to potentially deliver up to 200 peta joules of natural gas. The government is also focused on developing the country's upstream petroleum industry to strengthen energy security.

Furthermore, South Africa is exploring nuclear energy as part of its diversified energy mix, with plans to procure 2,500 MW of nuclear capacity. This initiative aligns with global efforts to address climate change and ensure energy security. As Africa navigates the energy transition, collaboration and strategic investments are vital to achieving sustainable and inclusive growth.

South Africa's progress serves as a beacon of hope, highlighting the continent's potential to embrace clean energy while driving economic prosperity.

Back to Basics Approach

A recipe for developmental local government



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This White Paper on Local Government which is more commonly known as the mini-Constitution for local government is the sphere of government that interacts closest with communities, is responsible for the services and infrastructure so essential to our people's well-being, and is tasked with ensuring growth and development of communities in a manner that enhances community participation and accountability.



On Thursday, 18 September 2014, former President Jacob Zuma and Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Pravin Gordhan hosted a Presidential Local Government Summit with key local government and private sector leaders who adopted the Back to Basics approach as an urgent action plan to strengthen local government by getting the basics right.

The question now is "What does it mean to get the basics right". The first point of reference is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the Bill of Rights where the core services of local government are the provision of clean drinking water, sanitation, electricity, shelter, waste removal and roads - are basic human rights, essential components of the right to dignity.

The Back-to-Basics approach aims to facilitate developmental local government towards a responsive, caring and

accountable local government. Our National Development Plan makes it clear that the transformation agenda can only be achieved through functional, sustainable machinery at local government level.

The Five Pillars of the Back-to-Basics Campaign were, Supporting the delivery of municipal services to the right quality and standard; Promoting good governance, transparency and accountability; Ensuring sound financial management and accounting; and Building institutional resilience and administrative capability.

The institutional framework for government in South Africa was established in 1996 when the country adopted its first democratic Constitution. This was the culmination of a negotiation process to end apartheid and introduce democracy to South Africa.

National government, provincial government and local government were



established as three elected spheres of government, each with distinctive functional responsibilities.

The Constitution requires the three spheres of government to function as a single system of cooperative government for the country as a whole. While national government has set policy objectives, norms and standards for these services, the actual delivery programmes and budget are directly managed by municipalities.

The Extended Cabinet Lekgotla in January 2007 mandated the Ministry and Department of Provincial and Local Government (the dplg) to review the existing White Paper on Local Government. This task of assessing whether existing forms of governance remains appropriate to meeting the changing demands has become routine in developed and developing countries alike.

This process will draw on the lessons of a decade or more of practice, wide public consultation and comprehensive research, geared towards making proposals. Following the January 2007 extended cabinet lekgotla, the assessment of progress that has been made with access to basic services since 1994 is directly attributable to the critical role that our democratic municipalities have played.

For example:

- Universal access to water supply increased from 59% of total households in 1994 to 86% by April 2007.
 - Universal access to sanitation increased from 48% in 1994 to 73% by April 2007.
 - In 1994, 30% of houses in South Africa had access to electricity and by 2006/07 this figure had increased to 73%.
 - From 1994 to 2006 a total of 2,243 million houses were delivered, at an average of 249 290 units per annum.
- The second section of this White Paper,

Developmental Local Government, puts forward a vision which centers on working with local communities to find sustainable ways to meet their needs and improve the quality of their lives. It urges local government to focus on realising developmental outcomes, such as the provision of household infrastructure and services; the creation of liveable, integrated cities, towns and rural areas; and the promotion of local economic development and community empowerment and redistribution.

The delivery of basic services has been uneven across the Gauteng City Region as outlined in the Quality of Life survey 2020/21 conducted by the Gauteng City Region Observatory with access and satisfaction levels with basic services show satisfaction levels up to 75% with basic services that includes water provision, refuse removal, sanitation and energy. Most notably Emfuleni local municipality shows the lowest level of satisfaction



with refuse removal of 26% and 20% respectively. Rand West local municipality and Merafong local municipality is at 68% and 55% respectively.

With regards to access to piped water in a dwelling or yard, satisfaction level increased to 93% in 2020/21 in comparison with 91% in 2017/18 and 92% in 2015/16. Access to clean water reduced to 75% in 2020/21 in comparison with 82% in 2017/18 and 85% in 2015/16. Furthermore, satisfaction levels with access to water reduced to 84% in 2020/21 in comparison with 86% in 2017/18 and 83% in 2015/16.

The servicing challenge continues to grow in GPG's largest Metropolitan including Local Municipalities, with most of the rapid growth, experienced particularly in the low-income households with the potential to perpetuate a phenomenon known as the 'urbanisation of poverty'. Water Quality challenges driven mainly by human behavior and failing infrastructure operating above design capacity with specific emphasis on the Hammanskraal Cholera outbreak, and the Emfuleni local municipality ailing sanitation network as primary

examples. The aged water distribution networks leading to high quantities of non-revenue water and disasters in the form of sinkholes and floods destroying services infrastructure with Merafong local municipality being mostly affected.

Current Infrastructure grants are not adequate to roll out bulk Infrastructure services to support new settlements, upgrading of informal settlements and drive future growth. Vandalism and illegal operation of Infrastructure exacerbate continued water supply disruptions in all municipalities leading to higher and unsustainable operational costs.

Minister of Cooperative Governance, Thembi Nkadameng briefed media on the state of local government on 15 November 2023 and highlighted that in the past year, we have witnessed a truly commendable transformation within our municipalities. The latest evaluation of local governance, in the form of the State of Local Government Report, reflects a substantial improvement in the overall condition of municipalities nationwide.

This shift is vividly depicted in the data, signaling significant progress in

the stability and efficiency of our local governing bodies.

Reflecting on the previous year, 2021 painted a varied picture: 64 municipalities were categorized as dysfunctional, 111 at a medium risk, 66 at low risk, and 16 deemed stable. However, in the most recent assessment for 2022, there's reason for optimism. While there has been a marginal increase in the number of dysfunctional municipalities to 66, the truly remarkable aspect lies in the positive transformation observed across the other categories.

The number of medium-risk municipalities has slightly decreased to 107, reflecting focused efforts towards improvement. Similarly, the count of low-risk municipalities now stands at 54, indicating a significant consolidation of stability in these regions. Most notably, a substantial leap of 30 municipalities now proudly sits in the stable category, signifying a leap forward in effective governance and operations.

Our own assessment signifies that a dysfunctional municipality will struggle to maintain a sustainable revenue stream



thus compromising service delivery to communities resulting in community protests over poor service delivery. It is therefore in the interest of government as a whole to ensure that sustainability of local government as the delivery arm of services at local level to communities.

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Accountability and training are the keys to better financial management in municipalities



Dr Auchalie Mothupi

Local municipalities in North West have not achieved clean audit reports due to the mismanagement of financial resources. This is according to a research study conducted by Dr Auchalie Mothupi in his PhD studies at the NWU. The title of Dr Mothupi's thesis was "Developing an accountability framework to enhance management of local municipal finance in the North West Province".

He says the goal of this research was to assess the major enablers for achieving financial accountability and to propose a framework for financial accountability at local government level in the province. "The study showed that the major enablers of sound municipal financial management are the facilitation of policies and regulations, the facilitation of oversight



functions of the municipal public accounts committees (MPACs), risk management, benchmarking, internal control and proper financial management," he says. Financial training for municipal employees, coupled with consequence management for role players who do not comply with financial rules and legislation, could help turn the finances of municipalities around.

"The study recommends that all municipal employees in financial roles should be adequately trained to ensure competency," Dr Mothupi says.

"The MPACs should conduct their oversight duties effectively and make recommendations where necessary. In an extreme case, legal action should be taken against employees who fail to execute their jobs properly after upskilling. This should be part of a larger strategy

in North West to improve the financial accountability of local municipalities."

About the researcher

Dr Auchalie Johannes Mothupi completed a BCom accounting degree with the former University of North West in 2000. He then obtained his postgraduate diploma in public governance and leadership at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2015, and his MBA at the NWU in 2018.

He worked as a member of the provincial legislature at the North West Provincial Legislature from 2009 to 2014, and has been employed as the director for strategic planning and transformation in the Office of the Premier since 2016. He is currently acting as municipal manager of the Ratlou Municipality.

Land Restitution Milestone

Over 83,000 Claims Successfully Settled, Minister Didiza Highlights Multi-faceted Achievements



More than 83,000 land claims resolved: Minister Thoko Didiza of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development announced that a total of 83,067 land claims have been successfully settled since the inception of the Land Restitution Programme in 1995 through 2023. This represents a remarkable 94% resolution rate for old-order claims, benefiting approximately 2.3 million people.

Presenting the outcomes of a comprehensive evaluation of South Africa's Land Restitution Programme, Minister Didiza revealed that a substantial investment of R25 billion facilitated the acquisition and transfer of 3.9 million hectares of land. An additional R22.5 billion was allocated for financial compensation to those opting for monetary settlements. Notably, between 2019 and 2023, 1,494 claims were resolved, largely accelerated by strategic interventions from the ministry.

The research, initiated in 2018, involved extensive sampling and interviews with 2,664 households and 3,378 individuals. It demonstrated a 16% increase in the economic empowerment of restitution beneficiaries, measured per capita per month, compared to control groups.

Minister Didiza underscored the significance of the Restitution of Land Rights Act of 1994 as a landmark legislation reflecting the government's commitment to rectifying historical injustices. She emphasized the Act's constitutional backing, particularly in Section 25(7), which guarantees restitution or equitable redress to individuals or communities dispossessed of land rights post-1913 due to racially discriminatory laws.

Addressing long-standing familial and societal fractures resulting from forced removals, Minister Didiza acknowledged the importance of fostering social cohesion and trust among beneficiaries. She advocated for increased investment

in communication and social integration initiatives to bridge informational gaps and promote unity.

Reflecting on the study's implications, Minister Didiza highlighted the multifaceted nature of land restitution, emphasizing its role not only in economic and financial justice but also in psychological and social restoration. She emphasized the need for comprehensive community integration programs alongside existing post-settlement support and skills training efforts.

In conclusion, Minister Didiza reiterated the government's commitment to advancing equitable land restitution while recognizing the complex interplay of historical, economic, and social factors in achieving lasting justice and empowerment for all South Africans.

South Africa's Democratic Journey

A Testament to Progress



In April 1994, the world witnessed a historic event: South Africa's inaugural democratic election, marking a pivotal moment in the nation's journey towards racial equality. Emerging from the shadows of the Apartheid regime, which institutionalized segregation for decades, South Africans cast their votes, ushering in a new era of governance.

At the helm stood Nelson Mandela, a symbol of resilience and unity, who assumed the presidency after years of incarceration.

While hailed as a triumph for democracy, South Africa's path has not been without its challenges. Critics point to economic disparities, corruption scandals, and governance issues that have tested the nation's democratic fabric. Leaders like Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma have faced criticism for their handling of critical issues, underscoring the complexities of post-Apartheid governance.

Amidst the global resurgence of authoritarianism, the significance of South Africa's democratic experiment cannot be

overstated. Evan Lieberman, a prominent political scientist at MIT, argues that despite setbacks, South Africa's democratic journey of the past quarter-century has been a resounding success. In his forthcoming book, "Until We Have Won Our Liberty: South Africa after Apartheid," Lieberman explores the nation's progress, emphasizing its commitment to inclusive development and fundamental rights.

Lieberman contends that South Africa has embraced "dignified development," a blend of economic progress and respect for human rights, marking a stark departure from the oppressive policies of the past. Despite instances of corruption, the country has cultivated democratic norms and fostered civil discourse, empowering marginalized communities in ways previously unimaginable.

Through poignant narratives from Mogale City municipality, Lieberman offers a firsthand account of South Africa's democratic evolution. Despite lingering discontent, particularly among marginalized groups, there's undeniable progress. Access to essential services

has vastly improved, reflecting tangible advancements in quality of life.

However, challenges persist. Inequality remains a pressing issue, exacerbated by lingering socio-economic disparities. Moreover, the specter of violence threatens to undermine democratic gains, highlighting the urgency of addressing systemic grievances through peaceful means.

As scholars reflect on South Africa's democratic trajectory, Lieberman's work emerges as a seminal contribution to the discourse. Daniel Ziblatt of Harvard University praises Lieberman's blend of personal narrative and empirical analysis, underscoring the enduring value of democracy amidst adversity.

Ultimately, Lieberman's hope is twofold: to underscore the achievements of South Africa's democratic experiment while recognizing the ongoing struggle for progress. By acknowledging the sacrifices of those who fought for freedom, he underscores the imperative of safeguarding democracy for future generations.

Multi-Party Charter Unveils Comprehensive Plan to Eradicate Load-Shedding

In a decisive move aimed at putting an end to South Africa's persistent load-shedding woes, the Multi-Party Charter (MPC) has presented a comprehensive plan advocating for the dismantling of Eskom's monopoly and the expansion of private power generation.

ActionSA leader Herman Mashaba, speaking on behalf of the MPC, emphasized the urgent need for a shift in leadership, highlighting the necessity for a government with the competence, political determination, and integrity to tackle the issue of rolling blackouts and promote sustainable energy development.

"The reforms outlined in the charter today will not only secure South Africa's energy future but also pave the way for increased utilization of clean, renewable energy sources," Mashaba asserted.

The MPC highlighted the detrimental impact of load-shedding on the economy, particularly affecting first-time voters who have grown up amid constant power cuts. They attributed the crisis to the incompetence, corruption, and mismanagement plaguing Eskom under national government oversight, leading to a dire energy security situation in the country.

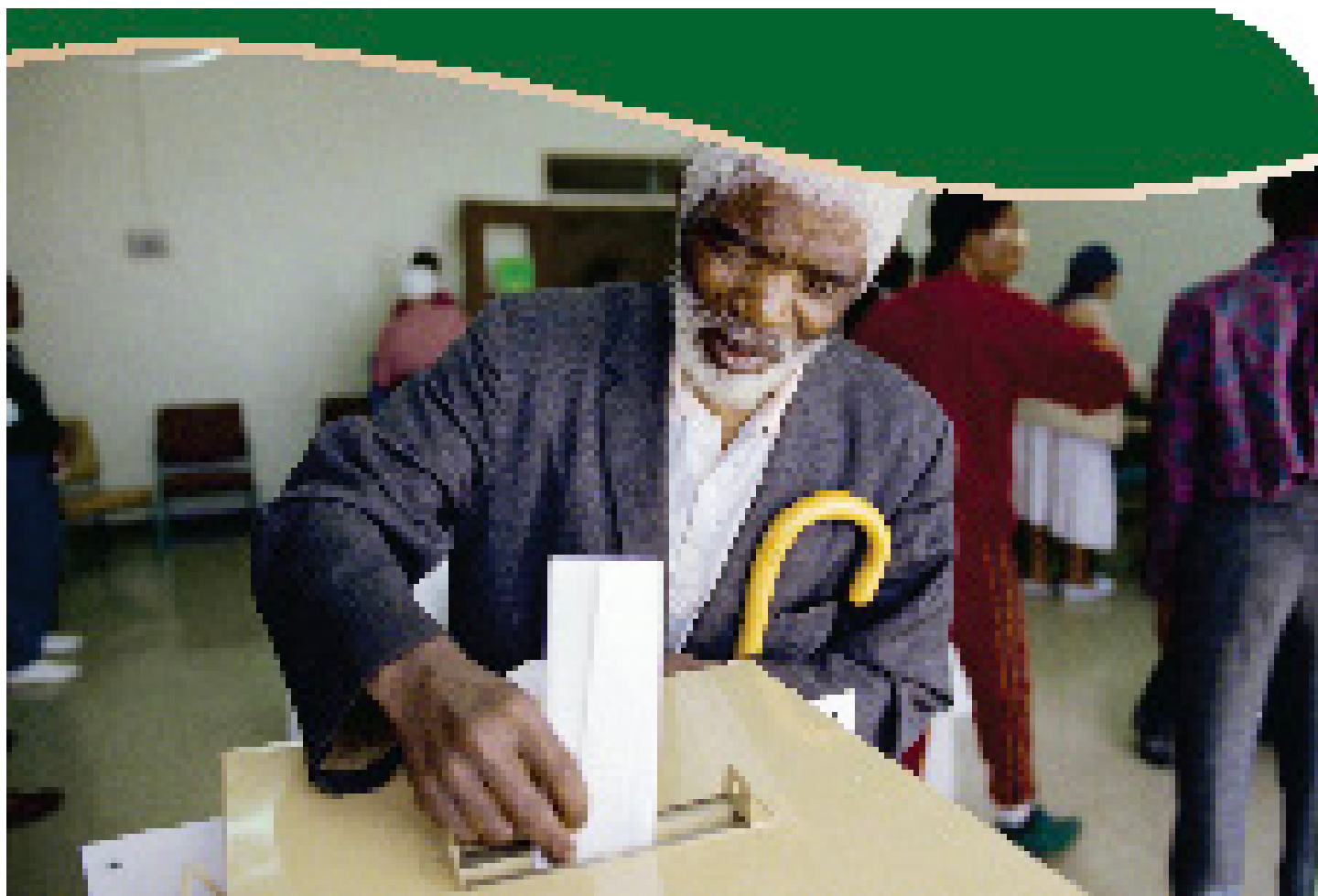
The MPC's plan adopts a three-pronged approach, focusing on reforming Eskom, fostering an open energy market, and

facilitating a just transition towards renewable energy. Key components of the plan include:

- Accelerating the unbundling of Eskom to establish a separate transmission company, thereby enhancing grid efficiency and market operations.
- Streamlining the energy sector by abolishing the Ministry of Electricity and integrating its functions into existing ministries.
- Instituting merit-based appointments in leadership positions within Eskom and other energy entities to eliminate political interference and corruption.
- Investing substantially in grid infrastructure maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability.
- Creating an enabling regulatory framework for the development of micro-grids and promoting competitive electricity markets.
- Facilitating power transmission between generators and consumers through standardized wheeling tariffs.
- Promoting demand-side management strategies to reduce electricity consumption.
- Incentivizing the widespread adoption of rooftop solar panels through feed-in tariffs and tax rebates.
- Collaborating with domestic and international partners to expedite the transition from coal to cleaner energy sources.

Moreover, the MPC is committed to mitigating the socioeconomic impact of the energy transition by providing retraining and reskilling opportunities for workers in the coal sector, thus ensuring a just transition without jeopardizing energy security or causing job losses.

"We are committed to navigating this transition responsibly, leveraging the expertise within our coalition and consulting with a diverse range of experts," Mashaba affirmed, underlining the charter's dedication to effective governance and sustainable progress.



South Africa's 2009 **DATA REVOLUTION**

South Africa specifically
 Gauteng province with its
 growing influx of im-
 migration is investing in
 public and voter education
 to enable young people to
 understand the
 significance of voting and
 what it means for our
 democracy and to also
 register their legal status
 as South Africans to acquire
 an Identity Document (ID).

Exploring Public Service Reflecting on 30 Years of Democracy



SA News.gov.za



Despite enduring occasional criticism in the court of public opinion, numerous public servants have left an enduring legacy in advancing the nation's progress. Their efforts stem from the understanding that a proficient public service plays a pivotal role in delivering services that enhance citizens' lives.

Professor Busani Ngcaweni, Principal of the National School of Government (NSG), asserts that despite numerous challenges confronting the Public Service, public administration is steadily progressing. As South Africa approaches three decades of democracy, Ngcaweni observes that despite some negative perceptions regarding its effectiveness, the Public Service has undergone significant evolution over the past 29 years.

In the nascent years of democracy, the government faced the monumental task of establishing an inclusive public service to serve all South Africans, while also instituting democratic institutions.

Ngcaweni describes the early public service under former President Nelson

Mandela as a period characterized by remarkable growth and achievement, marked by rapid transformation. The subsequent administration, spanning from 2008 to 2014, witnessed elected and appointed officials consolidating the gains of the initial administration.

During this period, public servants spearheaded initiatives such as the expansion of the social security system, pivotal international conferences, and the implementation of legislative measures like the Employment Equity Act and Black Economic Empowerment (BEE). Notably, South Africa hosted significant events like the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the transformation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union, elevating its global standing.

The tenure of former President Thabo Mbeki saw preparations for hosting the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, complemented by a burgeoning economy and continued innovation in public service delivery.

Despite facing setbacks such as the global financial crisis of 2008, which impacted

the economy adversely, subsequent administrations persisted in their efforts. However, challenges like state capture and institutional instability hindered progress, albeit amidst some notable initiatives like Operation Phakisa.

The NSG, celebrating a decade of existence in October 2023, plays a crucial role in professionalizing the Public Service, evidenced by the approval of the National Framework for Professionalization. The institution's mandate includes training public servants, including political principals, and embracing e-learning platforms for remote training, especially during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking ahead, Ngcaweni emphasizes the importance of continuous learning among public servants and the need for ethical governance. He underscores the role of education in instilling ethical conduct and advocates for a national campaign to promote ethics in public service. Ngcaweni's tenure at the NSG has been marked by hands-on leadership, focusing on designing and implementing new programs to enhance public service effectiveness.

As South Africa reflects on nearly three decades of democracy, Ngcaweni urges public servants to leverage available data to assess achievements and plan for the future. He emphasizes the imperative of sustaining momentum and preserving institutions for future generations of public administrators, highlighting the stakes involved in ensuring continued progress.

South Africa's 2024 Election

Navigating Uncertainty and Shifting Political Landscapes Analysis



South Africa finds itself on the brink of its most uncertain national election in the post-apartheid era, set for 2024. Historically, the African National Congress (ANC) has maintained a firm grip on power since 1994, securing an absolute majority in parliament and controlling the presidency and legislative agenda independently.

However, the upcoming election presents a potential shift in this narrative. Recent polls indicate a significant decline in support for the ANC, with projections suggesting it may fall below the crucial 50 percent mark for the first time.

This decline is linked to widespread perceptions of corruption within the party, disconnect from ordinary citizens, and poor service delivery exemplified by ongoing electricity shortages.

Opposition parties have seized upon these vulnerabilities, gaining momentum and forming strategic alliances to challenge the ANC's dominance. The Democratic

Alliance (DA), led by John Steenhuisen, appeals to voters on a platform of good governance and anti-corruption, though it grapples with accusations of being dominated by white leadership.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), under Julius Malema's leadership, advocate for populist policies such as state-provided housing and economic nationalization, attracting a sizable portion of the electorate.

Internal divisions within the ANC further complicate the political landscape, with factions led by figures like Cyril Ramaphosa and former President Jacob Zuma splintering off to form rival parties or challenging the party's leadership directly.

Despite these challenges, the ANC still commands significant support compared to other parties. However, a notable portion of disgruntled ANC supporters may opt to abstain from voting altogether, adding another layer of uncertainty to the electoral outcome.

The looming prospect of coalition politics signals a potential shift in South Africa's political landscape, necessitating a willingness to engage in power-sharing and compromise among competing factions.

Amidst these developments, South Africa benefits from strong democratic institutions, including an impartial Electoral Commission and an independent judiciary, which serve as bulwarks against abuses of power.

However, the country also grapples with persistent issues such as political violence and the threat of external interference, notably from Russia, which seeks to exploit societal divisions through disinformation campaigns.

Ultimately, the 2024 elections represent a pivotal moment for South Africa, testing its ability to address pressing social and economic challenges while upholding democratic principles and forging new alliances for meaningful reform.

Presidential Unit Launches Funding Platform to Channel Billions into Clean Energy Projects

The Just Energy Transition (JET) Project Management Unit (PMU) within the Office of the Presidency has unveiled a funding platform aimed at channeling funds from various sources, including \$11.596 billion (R221bn) in international pledges, into clean energy initiatives.

During a recent media briefing, Joanne Yawitch, head of the JET PMU, clarified the implementation process of the JET Implementation Plan 2023–2027, approved by the Cabinet in November 2023. Yawitch emphasized that the newly introduced funding platform is designed to match available funds with projects operating within the JET framework. Out of the \$11.596bn pledged by the international community, \$756bn is earmarked for grants, with half of that amount already allocated. The Funding Platform will now facilitate the distribution of the remaining 50% to JET IP activities, with efforts to access additional funding ongoing.

Yawitch outlined priority project areas, including electricity, new energy vehicles, and green hydrogen, stressing the importance of these projects in

safeguarding vulnerable workers and communities, promoting sustainable employment, and fostering inclusive economic growth.

According to the JET Implementation Plan, the funding platform operates as a “matchmaking” service, connecting grant funders with beneficiaries. While the JET PMU will offer assistance to applicants and recommend projects to funders, it has no role in grant approvals.

Yawitch emphasized the significance of the funding platform in the implementation process, highlighting its role in ensuring a more efficient flow of funding, providing oversight, and offering advisory services. She underscored the importance of the grant package in supporting communities, particularly those in Mpumalanga affected by the decommissioning of coal-fired power stations, emphasizing the need to build skills capacity and create alternative livelihoods for affected communities.

Beneficiaries of the grants may include government institutions, NGOs, small and medium-sized enterprises, community-based organizations, and trade unions, with funding provided by development finance institutions, corporates,

philanthropists, the International Partners Group, and multilateral development banks.

The briefing also addressed the transparency and accessibility of the funding mechanism, emphasizing its role as a monitoring and evaluation tool. Plans were outlined to expand the register to include concessional and commercial financing from international partners, philanthropies, and the South African private sector.

Rudi Dicks, a project management head in the Office of the Presidency, emphasized the need for alternative funding mechanisms and partnerships with the private sector to address South Africa’s electricity crisis and facilitate the rollout of renewables.

The announcement coincides with Minister of Electricity Kgosiensho Ramokgopa’s plan to unveil a funding mechanism for expanding the transmission grid, a critical step in accommodating additional generation capacity from renewables. South Africa faces the imperative of expanding its electricity transmission lines to unlock significant energy potential in the coming years.

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Tshwane's Strategy to Rescue Itself from Financial Ruin



In response to the looming threat of financial collapse, the executive management of the City of Tshwane has unveiled a robust plan aimed at revitalizing the city's faltering finances. Mayor Cilliers Brink announced the implementation of this "bold plan," which entails intensifying revenue collection efforts and implementing stringent cost-cutting measures.

The primary objective is to generate an additional revenue of approximately R1 billion per month over the next six months, with the aspiration of recovering at least a quarter of the staggering R23.3 billion owed to the city by its constituents by mid-year. The significant debt burden has been a major impediment to the city's ability to meet its financial obligations, resulting in detrimental effects on service delivery for its populace of over 4 million residents.

Acknowledging the daunting task ahead, Mayor Brink conceded that while the full amount owed may not be realistically collectible, the focus will be on targeting the top 1,000 delinquent consumers whose debts collectively amount to over

R6 billion and are deemed recoverable. To achieve this, the city is exploring innovative debt recovery methods, including legal recourse and asset seizure, as interim measures to address immediate financial challenges while concurrently addressing broader issues such as tariff restructuring.

Furthermore, the municipality has committed to enhancing cost-efficiency measures, slated to commence with the new budget cycle starting in July. Mayor Brink emphasized the critical importance of successfully executing these revenue enhancement and debt recovery initiatives, citing their potential to ameliorate cash flow, mitigate outstanding debts to entities like Eskom, and bolster the city's credibility and creditworthiness in financial markets.

However, failure to achieve these objectives would necessitate a fundamental overhaul in the city's financial management practices. Tshwane's financial predicament has garnered widespread attention, with the city grappling to meet its financial obligations to contractors, suppliers, and employees in a timely

manner. Of particular concern is the escalating debt owed to essential service providers such as Eskom, which has surged to nearly R4 billion, exacerbating the city's financial woes.

Moreover, the city's bonds have come under scrutiny from the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), underscoring the severity of its financial challenges.

Recent reports indicate that Tshwane has not made payments to Eskom since September 2023, while its trade creditors are owed a staggering R12.6 billion as of June 30, representing a substantial increase from the previous year.

The city's financial mismanagement was further underscored by its 2021/2022 audit report, which revealed irregular expenditures exceeding R10 billion.

Despite the likelihood of another unfavorable audit outcome for 2022/2023, Mayor Brink remains optimistic about the city's prospects for improvement, underscoring the importance of implementing decisive measures to safeguard its financial stability.

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Midrand, 1686

Umpope Branch

5701 Agatha Street
Managing Director
Lephalale, 0505

Thuntsa Lerole

Accelerated Service Delivery Programme implemented throughout the JB Marks Local Municipality

Councillor Gaba Thithiba Ka Qhele, the Executive Mayor of JB Marks Local Municipality, facilitated and oversaw the second iteration of the Thuntsa Lerole - Accelerated Service Delivery Program, which began on Monday, November 20, 2023, and ended on Thursday, December 14, 2023.

Members of the Mayoral Committee, Councillors, Speaker, and Single Whip stood beside the Executive Mayor. Department Directors and Managers worked in teams of Municipal Workers under the direction of Mr. Kgomo Kumbo, the Municipal Manager.

Making sure that Government provides a variety of services through District Development Model (DDM) is the main goal and emphasis of Thuntsa Lerole - Accelerated Service Delivery Program. Although Local Municipalities are the program's primary beneficiaries and get relevant services from it, District Municipalities are expected to perform the coordination role.

A number of tasks were completed at designated locations as part of the Thuntsa Lerole - Accelerated Service Delivery Programme, including clearing illegal dumping sites, unblocking sewer lines, de-bushing, patching potholes, and repairing of broken communication wires and electrical keypads.

Areas that were visited for clearing of illegal dumping were Sports Grounds close to Mosaic and Dan Tloome Primary School, Mogolodi Street, the Power Station in front of Tshupane Primary School, and the fence around Keotshepile Primary

School. There are four hotspots in the same vicinity that includes Snake Park, Extension 6 Sports Grounds, Tontobane Street illegal dumping area, Ext 6 Areaganeng Street, and so on.

Activities that were slated to take place in the Ventersdorp Region began to take place from Monday, November 27, to Friday, December 1, 2023. The program was revived on Monday, December 4, 2023, after it had been moved to the Tlokwe Region.

The programme rotated between the two regions starting on Friday, December 8, 2023, and lasted continuously until Thursday, December 14, 2023. The 2024 Thuntsa Lerole Programme will shortly commence in significant sites to be chosen.

The following departments were involved in the delivery of services:

Community services

- Clearing out unlawful dumping,
- Cleaning of parks
- Cutting of grass
- Clearing of open areas and terrain
- Trimming of trees
- Collection of all the skips that are full.

Infrastructure

- Pothole repairs
- Road blading
- High mast lights
- Street lighting
- Storm water sewer leaks
- Water scarcity
- Toilet programs
- Water leaks

Community Safety

- Road markings

The following actions were taken by other Municipal Departments to assist the program:

Housing

- Title deeds
- Informal settlement profiling

Local Economic Development

- Financing for SMME's

(BTO / Finance)

Writing off of unrecoverable debt

Corporate Services

- Live-streamed - photo and video coverage of Thuntsa Lerole program activities at all designated locations.

The Thuntsa Lerole Programme included the cleaning of unlawful dumping sites as one of its scheduled operations, so places like Mogolodi Street, the Sports Grounds next to Mosaic and Dan Tloome Primary School, the Power Station in front of Tshupane Primary School, and the fence surrounding Keotshepile Primary School were cleaned up.

Tontobane Street, Ext 6 Areaganeng Street, Snake Park, Extension 6 Sports Grounds, and other locations were among the hotspots that were targeted.

All Hands On Deck During The Jb Marks Local Municipality Thuntsa Lerole – Accelerated Service Delivery Programme



Executive Mayor of JB Marks Local Municipality, Cllr Gaba Thithiba Ka Qhele with the Speaker, Cllr Rosy Moithoesi Dassi as the Thuntsa Lerole work progressed.



Executive Mayor Cllr Gaba Thithiba Ka Qhele hard at work together with Officials of the JB Marks Local Municipality implementing the Thuntsa Lerole – Accelerated Service Delivery Programme.



The Single Whip of Council, Cllr Lumkile Links, the Executive Mayor, Cllr Gaba Thithiba Ka Qhele being exemplary as they worked on patching potholes together with Municipal Workers.



Officials of the Municipality Electrical Section installing the transformer at Ikageng Ext. 11 where residents experienced electricity challenges.



The transformer was installed immediately as part of Accelerated Service Delivery programme.

“Taking Jb Marks Local Municipality Forward”



Municipal Officials busy working on the road markings at various points of the Municipality.



Officials of Jb Marks Local Municipality installing poles that are warning people not to dump illegally. Boards contain details to be contacted in case of illegal dumping.



Municipal Manager of the Jb Marks Local Municipality, Mr Kgomotso Kumbe was part of Politicians and Officials who had their hands on deck during the Thuntsa Lerole – Accelerated Service Delivery Programme.



The Executive Mayor chatting with the Municipal Manager of Jb Marks Local Municipality as they worked tirelessly with Officials to patch potholes on affected roads.



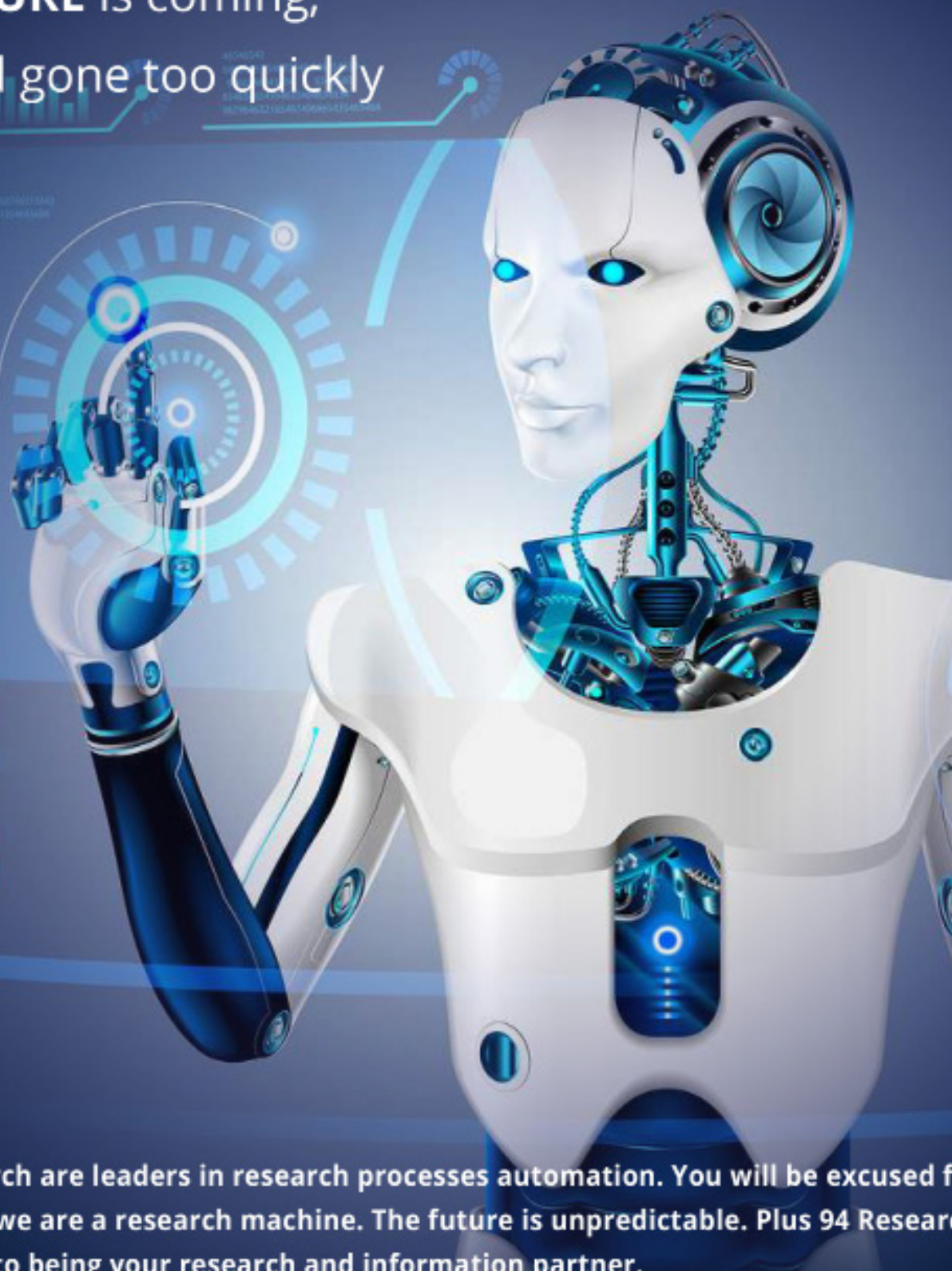
Officials of Jb Marks Local Municipality clearing illegal dumping at affected areas of Tshing Location.



Clearing of illegal dumping at Tshing Location in progress.

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OPINION PIECE BY SIPHO MOSAI - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF RAND WATER

Gauteng's water supply and demand requirements need to be carefully managed in Province's water scare and financially distressed municipal environment. The debate about water sufficiency cannot be isolated to a water quantity dialogue outside the affordability of a good that is not only a social but economic one.

The complexities of water provision must be fully understood in toto beyond an unbalance noise of "just pump more water into the system" to include how water provided is efficiently utilised. To narrow

and overly simplify it as a one-dimensional water quantity science is unsustainable and can only serve to collapse the water supply system and annihilate the value chain, particularly Rand Water, resulting in the never seen before water catastrophe in Gauteng and parts of Mpumalanga, North West and Free State Provinces.

What we must first understand is that South Africa is a water stressed country. South Africa's mean annual rainfall is estimated at 492 mm (millimetres) against the world average of 985 mm. To make matters worse, rainfall distribution in the country is uneven with the western part of the country receiving over 1 000 mm of rainfall and the eastern receiving no more than 250 mm of rainfall.

Gauteng only receives between 500-1 000mm. This rainfall is not sufficient to meet the water use needs of Gauteng for the irrigation, environmental, domestic, mining, and industrial uses if this rainfall was to be dammed in the Province.

To rub salt into the wound, the Gauteng region is also in the receiving end of the El Nino state the country now finds itself. According to the South Africa Weather Services (SAWS) Climate Watch Report issued on the 31st of October 2023 for the period November to March 2024, this state is expected to persist through most of the summer months.

The SAWS multi-model rainfall forecast indicates below -normal rainfall for the north-east of the country during Nov-Dec-Jan, Dec-Jan-Feb and Jan-Feb-Mar with below normal rainfall predicted for the central and south-western parts of the country. Minimum and maximum temperatures are also expected to be mostly above-normal countrywide for the forecast period.

For Rand Water and Gauteng this in turn means higher than normal water consumption with excessive water consumption. To meet the water demand in its area of operation, Rand Water has over the years starting as way back at 1903 started the exploitation water resources firstly beginning with groundwater development and as the Witwatersrand demand for water started exceeding the supply, Rand Water started exploiting



Completed 210ML Vlakfontein Reservoir No.3 in Ekurhuleni

surface water with the building of Vaal dam with then Department of irrigation in 1955. Progressively over time many dams were built in the country including Lesotho's Mohale and Katse dams as the demand for water exponentially grew. The number of these dams have increased over time to several dams that feed into the Vaal dam from which Rand Water abstracts raw water. These dams together with the rivers that feed them form a system that is called the Integrated Vaal River System.

It's a river system made up of 14 dams located in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State, KZN, Northern Cape and Lesotho. It is reported that the system supplies water to 46% of the country's economy and 33% of the population.

Rand Water has since those early ages been closely monitoring water demands of water users in its area of operations and contributing to the water resource reconciliation studies that advises the now Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) when to build the dams to meet the future water requirements. Subsequently, Rand Water then expands its bulk water infrastructure to meet future water requirements. Rand Water's demand forecasting is mainly made up of:

1. Customer water demands. This forecasting is based on demand forecasts from major customers (municipalities) per meter connection at 5-year intervals. Included in this forecasting is planned municipal developments.

2. Population forecasting. Rand Water obtains estimates of population growth from Statistics South Africa and various institutions because the water demand growth is closely related to population growth.

Intrinsically, Rand Water looks at factors affecting demand growth, utilises population demographic model and questionnaire model to major customers.

Following the acquisition of the water demand forecasts, Rand Water imposes this demand into its asset life cycle management model for the planning and design of infrastructure augmentation project to meet future water requirements by its customers. This model not only assist with infrastructure planning but also ensure that Rand Water operates and maintains its infrastructure fleet so that the assets achieve their original design or estimated useful life.

The identified projects are given effect by the Infrastructure Development Plan that highlights projects that must be implemented in the medium-term future. Rand Water plans for the a 20yr. Rand Water in 2023, because of its long-term planning discipline, launched two flagship projects namely:

Vlakfontein Reservoir No. 3. The project was about the construction of a 210ML post-tensioned concrete reservoir with associated inlet works, outlet chambers and scour chambers. It is the largest post-

tensioned reservoir in the world at 210ML. The construction of the project started in May 2020 and was completed in February 2023. The reservoir supplies Tshwane (Pretoria East), Ekurhuleni, Govan Mbeki, Victor Khanye, Thembisile Hani and Lesedi Municipalities.

Zuikerbosch System 5A. The second flagship project is the Zuikerbosch System 5A water purification works. The project's main objective is to provide an additional 1 200 Million Liters per Day (ML/Day) of potable water to the current supply capacity of Rand Water. Construction of the scheme commenced in 2015 and the project is already adding an additional water supply of 150 (ML/Day) into the system from August 2023.



Zuikerbosch System 5A

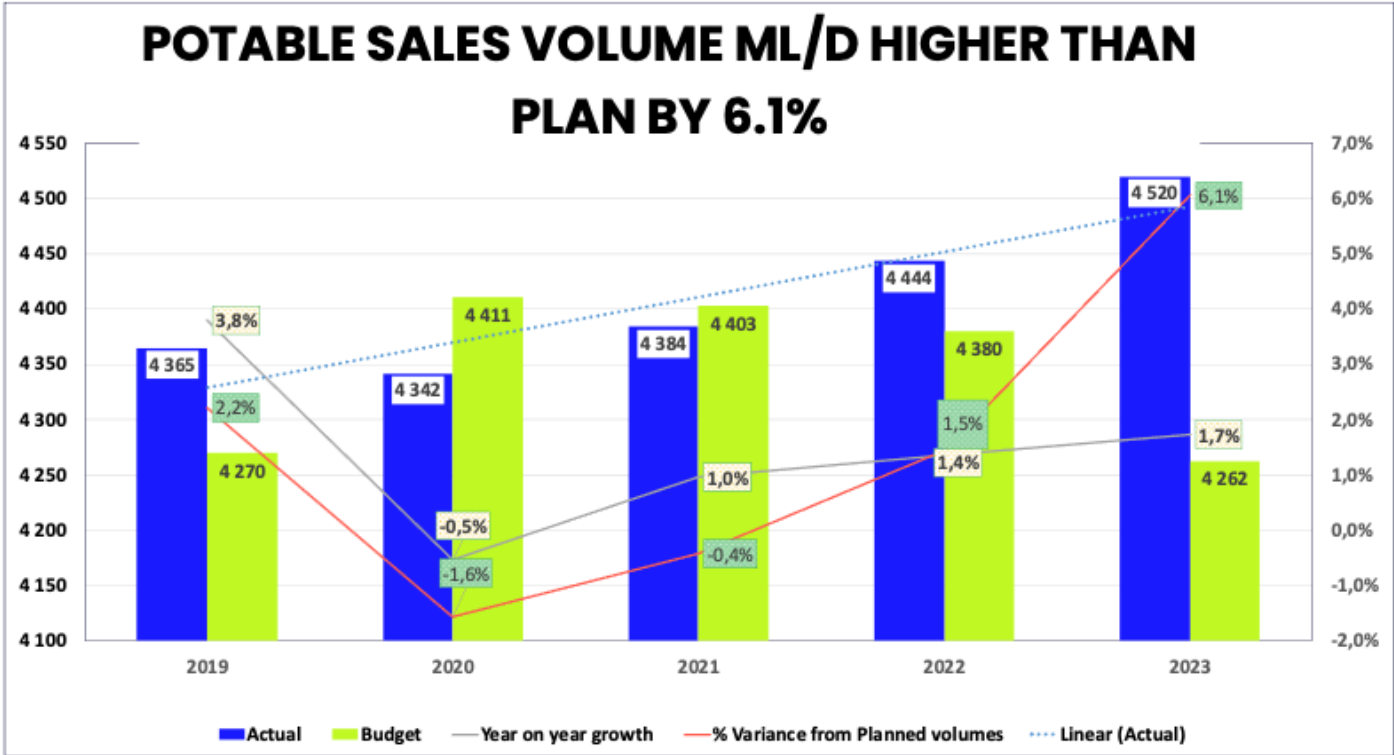
ENHANCING AND OPTIMISING SERVICE DELIVERY AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL

These augmentation projects have since enabled Rand Water to supply water that far exceeds our customers water demands that usually grows year-on-year by 1.2%.

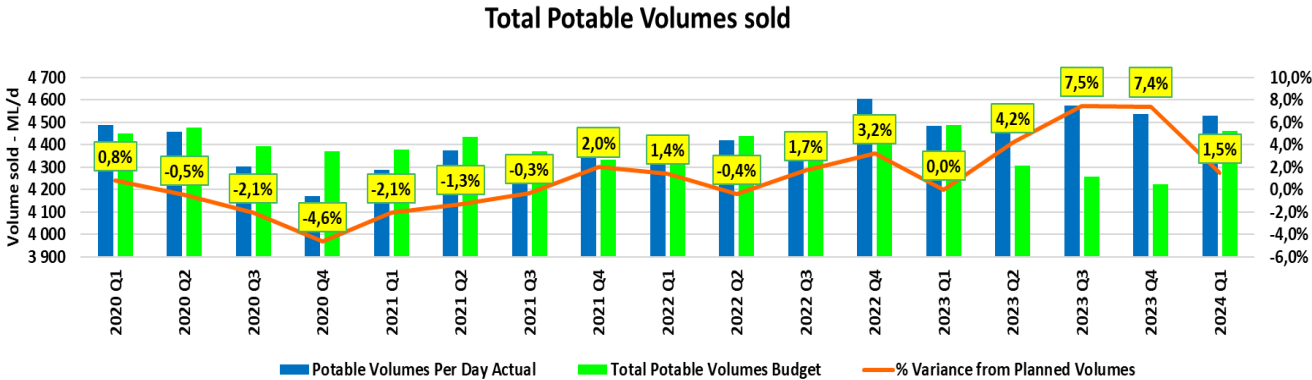
The graph herein below clearly demonstrates that Rand Water has been growing and increasing bulk potable water supply to municipalities. In 2023, relative to 2022, the water supply variance as a percentage from planned volumes grew by 6.1 %. In volume terms, Rand Water on average supplied 4 520 ML/D relative with planned water supply demand of 4 262 ML/D.

This consumption was approximately 1.5% more than 4 444 ML/D potable water supplied in 2022. Rand Water has for the last three year been increasing water provision year-on-year exponentially for the last five years depicted by the linear dotted graph in Figure 1 herein below.

Quarter (Q) on quarter from the first quarter of 2023, variance from planned water volumes supplied has increased by 4,2%, 7,5% and 7,4% in Q2, Q3 and Q4, respectively. In effect, Rand Water has been pumping more water into the system than planned water demand.

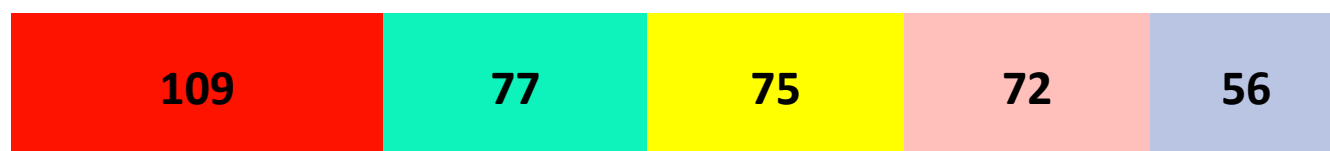


Zuikerbosch System 5A



Financial Impact

DEBTORS DAYS - YEARLY TREND



■ FY2023 ■ FY2022 ■ FY2021 ■ FY2020 ■ FY2019

Rand Water debtors from the Financial Year (FY) 2019 to 2023

The increased water supply to municipalities beyond the budgeted water requirements have had unintended financial distress to municipalities and accounts receivable burden on Rand Water's finances.

The Rand Water debtors' days have at the same period of increased water supply further deteriorated. Most municipalities are struggling to pay their water bills to Rand Water on time and some have completely stopped.

In 2019 Rand Water debtors' days were sitting at 56 days but by end of

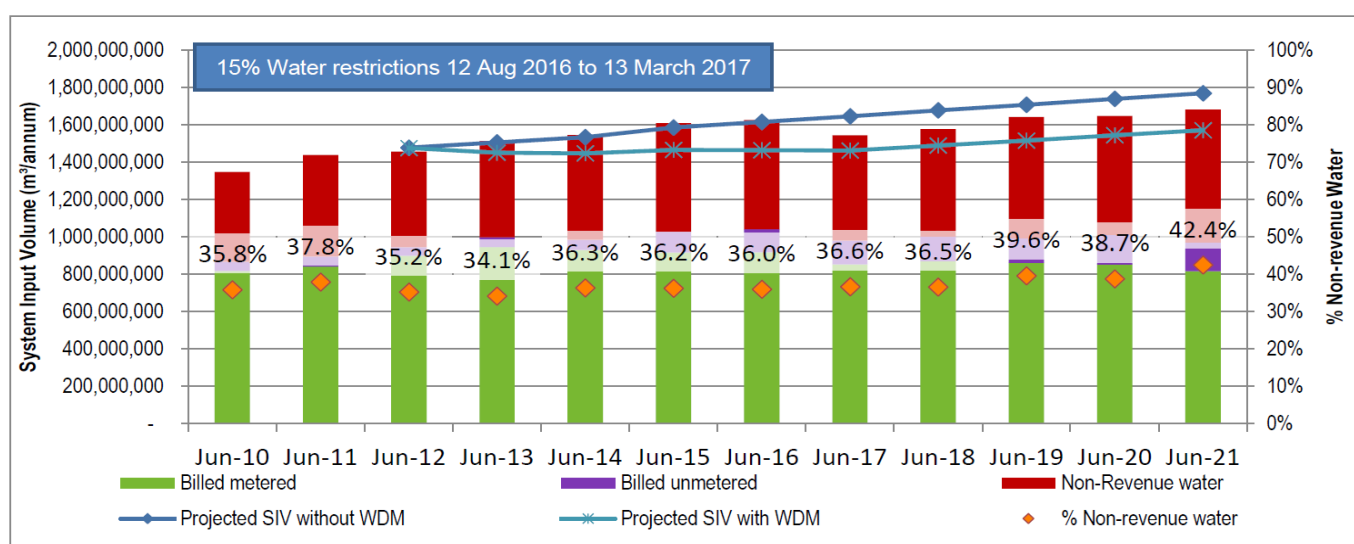
the financial year in 2023 the debtors' days had grown to a whopping 109 days demonstrating a sheer financial distress by municipalities. Despite many packages Rand Water made available to the municipalities, the municipalities still struggle with their water bill payment. Some of the interventions included the extended payment period and interest holidays.

It is evident from the above that increased water volume in a high-water loss environment is not helpful to the municipalities and pumping more water into such a system will not only harm

municipalities with high debt but also cause Rand Water financial distress and extinction in the long run. Insisting on Rand Water to pump more water into the system is potentially detrimental to the largest water utility in the country.

Physical water losses

According to the No Drop report published by the Department of Water and Sanitation in November 2023, the estimated System Input Volume for Gauteng province is 1 500 000 000 m3/ annum and Non-Revenue Water (NRW) is 637 100 000 m3/annum (42.4%) which is above the international norm of 15%.



Gauteng Non-Revenue Water



The major contributor to NRW is largely composed of physical losses (33%). This is due to, amongst the others, pipe leaks/burst and reservoir overflows. The leak repair performance of municipalities ranged from poor to critical as outlined by the No drop Report. The report also points out that the Gauteng liters per person pay day water consumption is 279 against the international average of 173 liters per person per day owing to high municipal high non-revenue water.

In 2023 the Rand Water, that provides wholesale water in bulk to municipalities, peak water supply at the end of the financial year was 5 200ML/D. The 33% physical water losses translates to the total physical water losses of 1 7billion Liters of water a day when Rand Water's supplies at peak. Put differently this is an equivalent 850 000 000 2L water bottles a day.

The Solution

To demand of Rand Water to simply add more water in the system at all costs

without understanding that Rand Water business model of purchasing raw water from DWS purifying it at a net operating cost of R16 billion per annum without any national fiscus support and appropriate cash backed revenue is irresponsible and at best reckless. It is a call for the total distraction and complete annihilation of the water supply value chain that provides an estimated 18 million water consumers dependent on bulk water from Rand Water.

To demand for Rand Water to add water into a water leaking system and try to silence it from demanding it be paid in time to cover its raw water, chemical, labour and electricity costs is an unfortunate, ill-informed unhelpful expediency with short term focus completely lacking oversight. It simply flies in the face of basic science.

The solution water supply challenges in Gauteng still lies with the water use efficiency. This is a matter that is not completely new to the water supply sector and has been at the fore since the advent

of the first addition of National Water Resources Strategy in 2004. The national water resource strategy is the country's blueprint that provides the framework for the protection, use, development, conservation, management, and control of water resources for the country.

The strategy makes it clear that "we have enough water to meet our nation's needs for the foreseeable future. But we need to use that water sparingly, and we must reduce and avoid pollution". It further emphasises that "We are not on the point of running out of water, but we have to use our limited water supplies more efficiently and effectively".

The second edition in 2012 also indicated that Water Conservation and Demand Management (WC/WDM) is the foremost reconciliation strategy to balance water supply and demand. WC/WDM targets must be met in several priority water supply systems to reduce demand and thus 'stretch' the available water resources up to the date when the new augmentation projects will be implemented. If this is not



achieved, earlier and more severe water restriction will have to be implemented when droughts are experienced. The report suggested that a dedicated national programme is required to deal with water wastage and losses, which will have additional job creation and small business development benefits.

The strategy proposed that specific actions and targets be set different water use sectors, which include:

- Implement effective water metering and monitoring system,
- Set and implement realistic targets for water use reduction,
- Development of incentive schemes,
- Implement targeted regulation and ensure effective control,
- Obtain sector commitments,
- Focus on improved technology,
- Improve associated water management, especially in priority risk areas,
- Support effective water use for productive purposes in rural and peri-urban communities.

The third edition of the NWRS dated November 2021 emphasizes the same. It emphasizes the water demand management to ensure efficient use of water by all sectors through the implementation of appropriate water conservation and water demand management measures to meet the social and economic needs of South Africa both now and in the future.

Furthermore, the report indicates that where water is used efficiently, WC/ WDM could postpone the need for capital infrastructure such as dams and bulk treatment works. The resources, scope of work and prioritisation of WC/WDM activities should be determined through an integrated planning process.

The latest No Drop report further underscores that Gauteng solution lies with the invest in Water Conservation and Water Demand Managements. According to DWS there is the is an insufficient investment in Operation and Maintenance (O&M), resulting in operational inefficiencies of the

infrastructure leading into massive water losses. The lack of O&M has resulted in the rapid deterioration of the condition and performance of the infrastructure. There are a few interventions that can immediately be affected to set the WC/ WDM interventions on the way.

These include:

- Enforcement of By-Laws such as tackling unwise water usage,
- Appointment of panel of service providers to fix leaks on an urgent basis,
- Implement Pressure Reducing Valves to manage night flows,
- Restriction of high consumption meters.

The above must be supported by repurposed institutional arrangements wherein water and sanitation revenue is ring-fenced so that infrastructure investments could be made into the sector enabling sufficient budget to implement water conservation and demand management measures.

Bojanala Platinum District

Municipality Unveils Bold Strategies for Economic Renaissance



**Acting Executive Mayor,
Cllr Victoria Makhaula**

In the quest for economic recovery and sustainable growth, districts like Bojanala Platinum in South Africa face a myriad of challenges and opportunities. With a vision set on cooperative governance and effective service delivery, the Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr Victoria Makhaula, underscores several critical enablers to catalyze economic revitalization within the district.

Resource Mobilization: One of the foremost pillars in the economic recovery strategy is resource mobilization. Without adequate funding and investment, sustainable development remains a distant

dream. By leveraging both internal and external resources, the district aims to fund catalytic infrastructure projects that stimulate economic diversification and growth.

Regulatory Reforms: Removing bureaucratic hurdles and streamlining regulatory processes is imperative to create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. The Acting Executive Mayor emphasizes the need for regulatory reforms that foster entrepreneurship, innovation, and ease of doing business within the district.

Strengthening Institutional Capacity: Robust institutions are the backbone of any successful economy. Bojanala Platinum District Municipality recognizes the importance of bolstering institutional capacity to effectively implement economic development plans. This involves enhancing coordination, accountability, and efficiency across various governmental departments and agencies.

Skills Development: Investing in human capital is paramount for sustainable economic growth. Through targeted skills development programs, the district aims to equip its workforce with the expertise needed to excel in emerging industries and sectors. By bridging the skills gap, Bojanala Platinum paves the way for inclusive growth and prosperity. Support for SMMES, Cooperatives, and Start-ups: Small and medium-sized

enterprises (SMMES), cooperatives, and start-ups are the lifeblood of local economies. Recognizing their significance, the district pledges unwavering support through access to finance, mentorship, and market opportunities. By nurturing a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, Bojanala Platinum lays the groundwork for job creation and wealth generation.

Incorporating these strategies into the broader economic development plan aligns with the district's focus areas centered around economic diversification and infrastructure development.

As articulated by Cllr Victoria Makhaula, the plan aims to achieve tangible deliverables:

- Building a diversified and innovation-driven economy.
- Promoting tourism and hospitality.
- Supporting the services, retail, and light manufacturing sector.
- Retaining, attracting, and expanding businesses.
- Institutionalizing Local Economic Development (LED) initiatives.

The commitment to economic recovery extends beyond traditional sectors to embrace emerging opportunities and challenges. Agriculture, despite climatic and soil constraints, holds promise through technological advancements and strategic partnerships with research institutions like the Agricultural Research Council. Agro-processing emerges as a key focus



area, adding value to raw materials and driving economic growth.

Moreover, land reform and rural development underscore the importance of inclusive and sustainable development. Community-based income generation programs and social assistance initiatives aim to uplift rural economies and enhance livelihoods. By fostering financial inclusion and empowering local communities, Bojanala Platinum District Municipality strives for equitable growth across its jurisdiction.

The mining sector remains a cornerstone of the local economy, contributing significantly to employment and GDP. However, efforts to diversify beyond

mining are underway, with emphasis placed on sectors like tourism, agriculture, and services. Through strategic interventions and collaboration, the district aims to mitigate dependency on mining and foster a more resilient economy.

Addressing key challenges, including limited infrastructure, skills shortages, and regulatory bottlenecks, requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders. Bojanala Platinum District Municipality is poised to navigate these challenges with resilience and determination, guided by its vision of cooperative governance and effective service delivery.

As the district charts its course towards economic recovery, the path forward is clear: collaboration, innovation, and inclusive growth will be the cornerstones of success. By harnessing the collective potential of its people and resources, Bojanala Platinum sets sail towards a future of prosperity and opportunity for all



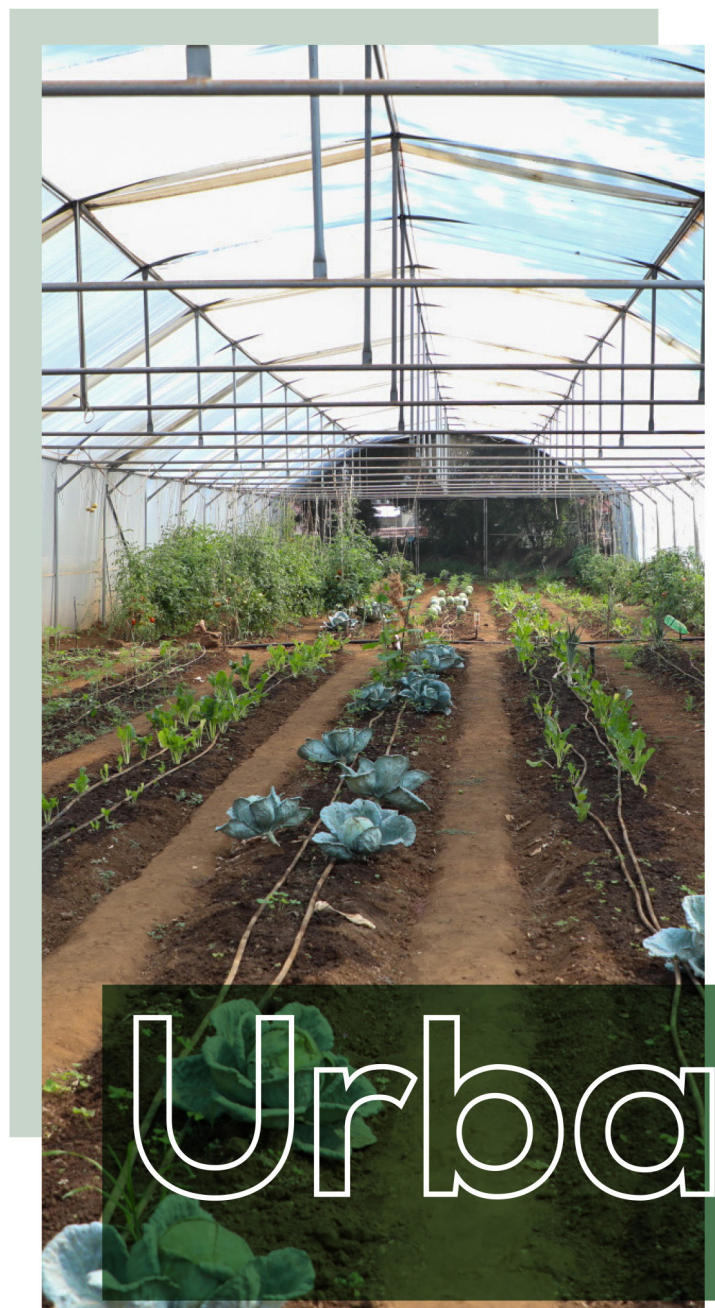
THE GAUTENG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT MAKES GOOD STRIDES IN ITS COMMITMENT TO

ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERIORATION

At a global level, food security and environmental protection forms part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Locally, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa explicitly guarantees the right to adequate food. Equally, the Constitution enshrines the right for everyone to an environment which is not harmful to their health or well-being. These two key areas are also some of the strategic focus areas of the National Development Plan (NDP) which is implemented through the Growing Gauteng Together (GGT2030) plan, underpinned by the Transformation, Modernisation and Reindustrialization programme.

It is within this context that the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) has prioritised both food security and environmental sustainability for implementation by the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (GDARDE) in the term of the 6th Administration.

Whilst South Africa is food secured at national level, the country is still food insecure at household level as not all households have access to adequate food. According to the study conducted by the GCRO, about 18% of the Gauteng population are faced with food insecurity and 7.3% face severe inadequate access to food.





MEC Hlophe transplanting seedlings in a school food garden during the school reopening programme

Further, the study indicates that households headed by Black Africans and Coloured Africans were less likely to have adequate access to food compared to households that are headed by Indians/Asians/Whites. To address this situation, GDARDE embarked on food gardens and urban farms to fundamentally maximise food security in TISH (Townships, Informal Settlements and Hostels) areas, rural notes, and cities of the province.

A total of 32 383 subsistence farmers were supported since 2019. A total of 21209 inclusive of school, homestead, and food gardens as well as urban farms were established in TISH areas. Other food gardens and urban farms were established outside of TISH areas such as rural areas and cities across the across all the five development corridors of the province including City of Tshwane, City of Johannesburg, City of Ekurhuleni, Sedibeng, and West Rand.

Support provided included production inputs, on farm infrastructure, training, extension, and advisory services. Other than other households, this programme has also benefitted 36 hostels, 60 homeless centres, and 10 963 subsistence women producers. In the quest to systematically transform the agri-food value chains, the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG), has at the beginning of the term of the 6th Administration, committed to support Black smallholder farmers who remain excluded from market opportunities presented by the sector. It is within this context that the Commercialisation Programme was initiated to ensure that Black smallholder farmers participate meaningfully in the agrifood value chain and contribute to the economy of the province. During this term of the 6th administration, GDARDE was able to support 17 farmers towards Commercialisation in accordance with the prioritised commodities (4 piggery farmers, 6 poultry farmers, 3 grains farmers, 3 horticulture farmers and 1 beef farmer). Most of these beneficiaries are female farmers.

A total of nine (9) existing Agri-parks have been upgraded through the provision of tunnels, road infrastructure, fencing, tunnel repairs, solar panels installation and generators. Gauteng Agri-park programme aims to develop smallholder farmers and it is also intended to transform the sector.

n Farming



During the term of the 6th Administration several strategic investments on infrastructure projects were made. GDARDE invested R14m for establishment of egg aggregation pack station in Mogale City for a Co-Op of farmers in collaboration with South African Poultry Association (SAPA).

The project is expected to start operating in April 2024. The Department had further invested in a poultry meat cutting facility at Tshwane Fresh Produce Market, the facility was established at a cost of R5m in collaboration with SAPA. The Department has also invested in meat deboning facility as well expanding abattoirs and the roll-out of two mobile abattoirs at the cost of R22m. This is a critical intervention that is enabling smallholder participation in the red meat value chain. Another R22m has been invested to commercialise two Medical Cannabis Enterprises.

It is worth noting that the Department has furthermore assisted the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) to procure equipment

and set-up an accredited laboratory for medical cannabis and hemp. A total of R15m was allotted for the high-tech analytical machinery as well as associated equipment. The process of accreditation of the laboratory is underway.

South Africa's environmental quality is deteriorating leading to increased adverse impacts on society and increasing economic costs as evidenced by amongst others, increasing greenhouse gas emissions, poor waste management, loss of biodiversity and failure to drive an agenda on renewables.

The GDARDE spearheaded and coordinated provincial climate action with the main outcome for the term being development of Gauteng City Region Overarching Climate Change Response Strategy and Plan in 2020 which was approved by EXCO. The province working with CSIR and National Cleaner Production Centre has more than 402 companies participating in the Gauteng Industrial Symbiosis Programme that has industry reducing emissions from their operations.

Other concerted efforts to address the negative impacts of Climate Change include the planting of trees across the province. Among the myriad benefits that trees offer, their other key function linked to climate change is the sequestration carbon emissions. Through the Gauteng 1Million Trees Programme, implemented in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Foundation and Green Development Foundation, a total of 316 006 trees have been planted in Gauteng. Of the said total number of trees, 61672 were planted in TISH areas.

Furthermore, the Department provides continuous training programmes which benefitted 212 waste enterprises. The department is also supporting township waste enterprises on the roll-out of the waste ATMs (reverse vending machines), targeting youth participation in recycling.

To avoid littering and illegal dumping as well as maintaining cleanliness, waste receptacles totaling 118 900 were procured and distributed in TISH areas. Under the elevated priority, environmental sustainability, 3883 full-time equivalent jobs and 15 057 job opportunities have been created since 2019. Of the 15057 job opportunities created, 6000 were for the Green Army and Supervisors who were employed specifically under the Bontle ke Botho programme to clean and green the TISH areas.

While the GDARDE has progressed well in implementing its mandate for the term of the sixth administration, it is acknowledged that concerted efforts to maximise food security, transforming the agricultural sector and protecting the environment are continuous. Therefore, more hands will be needed for the province to make even a bigger dent on each of these focus areas. The war on reducing food security and environmental protection continues.

PLANTING

In terms of the waste economy, the Department are on a drive to reduce waste going to landfills by 25% in 2024. Currently only 11% is being diverted from landfill sites. Gauteng is rapidly running out of landfill airspace and GDARDE through Municipalities in collaboration with private sector, is in the process of identifying landfill sites to be transformed into parks with more tree planting space.

To accelerate performance on this area, we are working with Pro Alliance Organisation, an alliance of seven organisations that are participating in the extended producer responsibility programme of the country. In the term under review, 302 buy-back centres were supported with recycling equipment which has ensured sustained growth of the waste enterprises that have been supported by GDARDE. Additionally, the Department has also formalized a total of 196 Cooperatives aimed at growing participation of waste enterprises in the waste economy to create green jobs as well as improving the environment.



Some of the Green Army members cleaning in one of the townships

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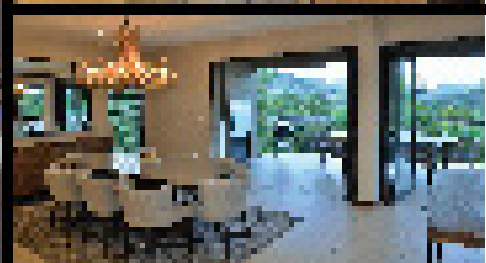
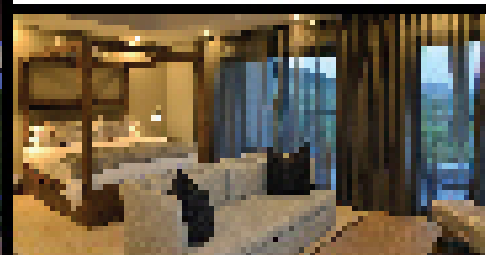
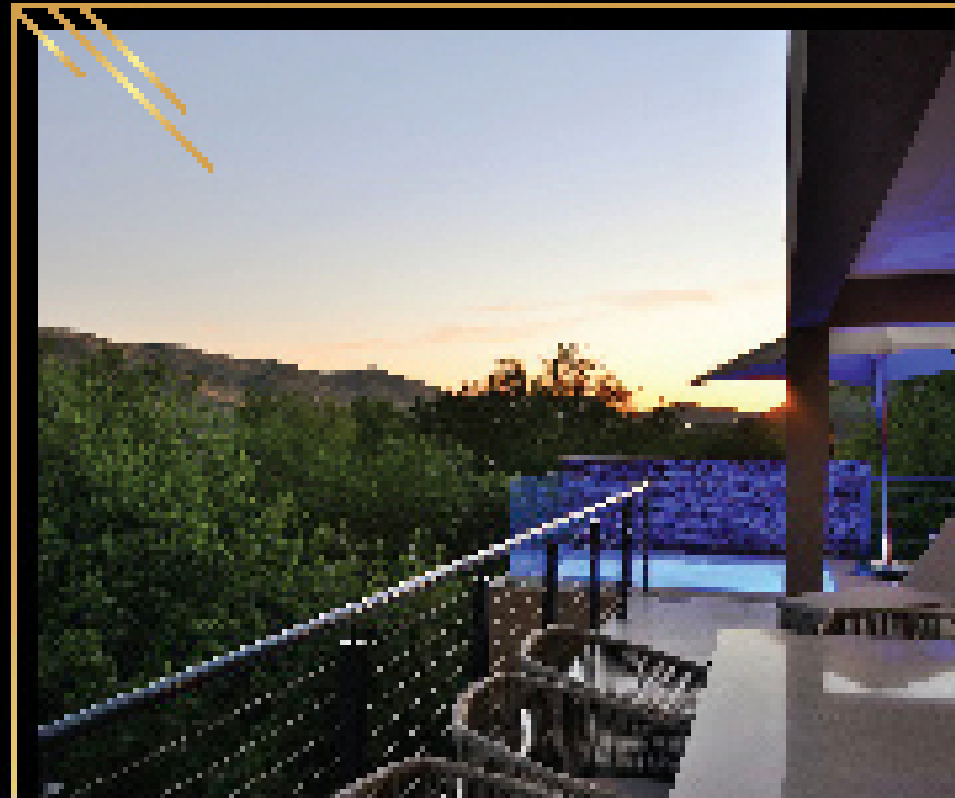
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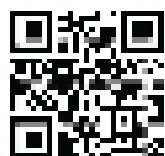
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