



*Address all correspondence to the Municipal Manager*

## *Dipaleseng Municipality*

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01 June 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ESKOM'S COMMITMENT TO DIPALESENG LOCAL COMMUNITY**

Eskom Development Foundation and Grootvlei Power Station approved more that R10 million in projects, donations and sponsorships made to local schools and community organisation's around Dipaleseng area with 6 000 beneficiaries.

From 2014 to date, Eskom has donated furniture, computers & office equipment, electrical appliances, stationery, security systems, park homes, science equipment & chemicals, trophies and upgraded sports fields, classrooms and ablution facilities to numerous schools and crèches within the jurisdiction of Dipaleseng.

The station continues to roll out the bursary scheme for qualifying local matriculants to further their studies at any of the country's universities. They are then offered internship opportunities at the completion of their studies.

A fire truck which was refurbishment at a total cost of R750 000 was donated to the local municipality to assist the fire and rescue section. Water leaks repairs and the repairs of floating valves in the reservoir, donation of road signs as well as the refurbishment of the sewerage plant in Grootvlei are some of the interventions undertaken by Eskom to assist the municipality in its service delivery imperative.

Career expo, Mandela day, school shoes campaign, sanitary towel campaign and schools mobile clinics are some of the station's own initiatives that set them apart from the other. These programs indicate how the station is willing to go an extra mile for the local community.

Other upcoming projects that they will be implementing include the construction of the Skills Development & Localization Centre in Balfour and the stimulation centre in Nthoroane. The municipality has already approved the allocation of land for both of these community projects.

The aim of the Skills Development and Localization is to achieve maximum and sustainable local development impact through leveraging Eskom's procurement spend in a manner that allows flexibility within the business in order to accommodate government development initiatives and policies.

The Executive Mayor thanked the Grootvlei PS for all their help and support throughout the years citing that such collaborative work between them can actually yield more for the community.

There are a number of identified challenges in terms of local procurement empowerment initiatives include, amongst others; lack of competition & capacity from local site supplier market, limited supplier opportunities and suppliers not meeting Eskom SHEQ requirements which will be mitigated by reviewing of the tender requirements to cater for identified developmental areas, hosting of supplier development workshops on an on-going basis as well as hosting of compulsory clarification meetings as and when the need arises.

Eskom has also identified opportunities in the short term that will be used to enable implementation of the strategy. To ensure sustained impact, a number of measures will be put in place to monitor the implementation of the strategy, additional opportunities will be identified/ developed in the medium to long term, and ensure that opportunities are realized by the intended beneficiaries.

Despite the progress made to date, there is still a significant amount of work to be done to address the socio economic challenges facing the locality. In response to this, a socio-economic strategy has been developed which is meant to ensure that transformation objectives are addressed during operations, execution of outages, refurbishments and recovery projects.

**--ENDS --**

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