



Dipaleseng News

Senior Citizens to get a Centre



Dipaleseng Local Municipality will be assisting Asibambaneni Luncheon Club with the establishment of a Recreation and Activities Centre for the aged.

The club which is based in Siyathemba and currently operating from a unit at the Micro Industrial Offices Centre in Siyathemba was formed way back in 1997 with the purpose of providing comprehensive community based care and support services and to promote independent living and active aging to over thirty older persons from the area.

The daily routine involves devotion, breakfast, life skills, engaging in physical exercise, hand-work and gardening, lunch, playing indigenous games and cleaning.

The Centre provides nutritious food to keep beneficiaries

strong and healthy while the social interactions and sporting activities keep their self-esteem high.

Council approved the allocation of land for this purpose during the Council Meeting that took place on Thursday, 03rd May 2018 at Thabakgwadi in Grootvlei as the Municipality believes that it is important to contribute towards the attainment of the best possible standard of life of the elderly by promoting their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being.

The members could not contain their excitement at the delivery of this good news by the Executive Mayor, Clr. Mafunda Makhubu and the Acting Municipal Manager, Conny Mametja on Monday, 04th June 2018 and are filled with enthusiasm at the prospect of having a decent and suitable place to operate from.

Inside this issue:

Local Aids Council **2 & 3**

Council goes to Grootvlei **4 & 5**

AMM Attends ICLEI World Congress **6**

TVET College **7**

Mayoral Cup Games **8 & 9**

***“Centre of quality, affordable service, good governance a
and
sustainable economic opportunities”***



Acting Municipal Manager
TC Mametja

From the Editor.....

It is a great pleasure for me to present to you the latest edition of Dipaleseng News.

Communication and information sharing is one of the key elements to building strong relations between institutions and its publics.

Being responsive to the

needs of our citizens is intrinsic to our being as government, especially to us at grass root level as local government.

My recent trip to Montreal in Canada was worthwhile and hope to impart the knowledge gained there within this locality, district and entire province at large.

Local Aids Council



The Local AIDS Council is an HIV /AIDS structure led by Executive Mayor as Chairperson consisting of local head departments, civil society leaders, district and provincial delegation.

The Local AIDS Council is mandated to convene quarterly meetings Chaired by Executive Mayor to arrest HIV/AIDS

related issues at municipal level, and track progress made by the council in terms of programmes and resolution implemented.

It is at this council that a consolidate Local AIDS Council report emanating from various departments is presented with the aim of reflecting on challenges affecting the LAC and municipality at large while assessing the functionality of civil society in the council.

On the 14th June 2018, a meeting was convened under the leadership and prerogative of the Executive mayor as Chairperson to address the following issues;

- Establishment of a Technical working Team consisting of key departments- (DSD, DOE, DOH and Civil Society Leader.. The team will assist with the consolidation of LAC report, Brief Executive Mayor on all key HIV/AIDS, STI and

Executive Mayor's Foreword

Our municipality has experienced many trials and tribulations and through the variety of challenges that persist, we are able to soldier on.

The institution managed to obtain an Unqualified Audit Opinion for the

2016/17 year review. This is great news, though we did not improve from the previous year, we did not show signs of regression from our manner of operation.

We are aware of our weaknesses and aim to improve on certain areas of governance, public participation as well as service delivery. Working together, we can achieve anything we set out to.



Executive Mayor
Clr. Mafunda Makhubu

TB related issues and assist and support Ward AIDS Councils.

- Establishment of Ward based AIDS Council in Dipaleseng. Ward AIDS Councils are expected to be led by councillors and are expected to be launched by 1 September 2018.
- Consolidation of inter-departmental and civil society 2018/2019 plans. All departments and civil society were expected to submit their plans to HIV/AIDS Coordinator by end of June 2018, and the Executive Mayor committed himself to source funding for all submitted plans.



The meeting was graced by the presence of Mpumalanga Provincial Civil Society Chairperson, Mr. Mthembu and the Manager: HIV/AIDS Division Ms. Zama Mthethwa from the Office of the Premier.

DIPALESENG TAKES GOVERNMENT TO COMMUNITY

“Public participation should not only be emphasized at planning and implementation phases of projects...”

The community of Thabakgwadi, Grootvlei received a direct experience of what transpires in local Council proceedings on Thursday, 03rd May 2018 as local residents both young and old gathered and listened attentively to the deliberations when the munic-

ipality held its council meeting at the local community hall.

In his opening statement, the Executive Mayor, Cllr ML Makhubu, expressed an appreciation to the Madam Speaker for taking Council to the people and he thanked community members for their at-

tendance of the council sitting. He provided in a nutshell the importance of community participation in council matters including attendance of council meeting. He further indicated that the municipality has developed a Financial Recovery Plan/Turn Around strategy to im-



prove the state of financial affairs of the municipality and encouraged the community to pay for their services.

The Madam Speaker, Cllr Khethiwe Nkosi reiterated that it is important to take the Ordinary Council meetings to the people on a rotational basis throughout the municipal area and this is just the beginning.

The Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mafunda Makhubu,

who seemed elated by this decision said “public participation should not only be emphasized at planning and implementation phases of projects, but community members should be seen as permanent and important partners, active participants and valued stakeholders in decision making processes of the municipality”.

The municipality understands the significance of community involvement on government mat-

Continued...

ters as well as the value of continuously engaging with residents to build an active and responsible citizenry.

The community was able to get a holistic and in-depth understanding of the state of affairs of the institution as they listened to items contained in the council agenda ranging from quarterly performance and audit reports, and governance issues to projects. The five hour session allowed community members an

opportunity to understand how and why decisions are taken in Council.

After council was adjourned, councilors remained to engage with community members on other pressing matters affecting the community. In his response to community questions raised by the community, the Executive Mayor committed to ensuring that municipality delivers of the promises made to the people and encouraged people to be active participants of this democracy and engage with the munici-

pality through available platforms such as Ward Consultations, IDP/ Budget Consultations, Full council sittings and any other community engagement platform that the municipality might have.

The next Ordinary Council sitting is scheduled for the 26th of July 2018 and will take place at the Nthoroane Community Hall.



The Acting Municipal Manager Ms Conny Mametja participated in the ICLEI World Congress 2018 in the City of Montreal in Canada at the invitation of the Mayor, Valerie Plante and the President of ICLEI Mr. Won Soon Park.

The ICLEI is renowned as the world's largest global association of cities and sub-national governments dedicated to sustainable development. It was established to connect, serve and empower local government worldwide. The organization boasts a membership of more than 1 500 cities, towns and regions.

The congress is expected to discuss amongst other critical issues, local governance and their most successful initiatives, innovative policies and remarkable results in achieving the sustainability of local government, cities and towns. Transformation of the urban landscape in relation to women leadership and gender mainstreaming will also form part of the agenda for the congress.

Ms Mametja described the congress as a building block towards the establishment of smart and sustainable cities. "I am hon-

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER ATTENDS ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS



ored and excited to have been chosen to participate in this highly esteemed congress, more so that I am pursuing my PhD studies around the issues of smart cities", she said ahead of her departure.

Her participation in the congress is viewed by the Dipaleseng Municipal Council as an opportunity to put the Local Municipality on the international map.

This has also raised expectations for the growing municipality with a population of more than 42 000 in Mpumalanga, as the Executive Mayor, Cllr Mafunda Makhubu explained: "We truly believe that the Acting Municipal Manager will bring back with her a lot of knowledge and innovative practices that she would have learnt from her peers across the world," he said. The Congress started from the 19th to the 22nd of June 2018 in the City of Montreal.

TVET College Building

The community of Dipaleseng will soon see the realization of a promise made years ago with the construction of the state of the art TVET College Campus set to commence soon. This comes after the Department successfully concluded the process of appointing a contractor that will be responsible to the project.

The Department of Higher Education and Training outlined the project plan for the construction at the Site Handover meeting held at the municipal offices on Friday, 08th June 2018 with the Gert Sibande Technical and Vocational Education and Training College and Dipaleseng Local Municipality.

The fifteen month project, costing something to the tune of R 110 million is anticipated to create a stir in the local economic

landscape and bring about a lot of positive spin offs.

The new campus will bring about the introduction and roll-out of a variety of many more courses that will be offered over and above the current ones, which will obviously go a long way in bridging the skills gap currently experienced.

“The alignment of courses and training to the local industry demands is also an important aspect that we need to bare in mind in order to be relevantly responsive to the needs of our people, said the Executive Mayor, Clr. Mafunda Makhubu during the handover ceremony.



The Department extended its appreciation for the support and assistance provided by the municipality over the years and banked on this collaborative relationship to continue to ensure the success of the project.

A Project Steering Committee comprising of representatives from all relevant stakeholders has been established in order to ensure the seamless implementation of this massive project by overseeing the on-going statutory and

Executive Mayor Hosts Mayoral Cup Games

In commemoration of Youth month, the Executive Mayor of Dipaleseng Local Municipality hosted the Mayoral Cup Games Tournament for the youth of Dipaleseng under the theme 'Sports for Life' aimed at fighting social ills that continue to plague our community, particularly the youth.

The all-day tournament took place at Siyathemba Stadium on the 23rd June 2018 and saw four local teams per code; Soccer and Netball from all areas of the municipality, Grootvlei,

Nthoroane and Siyathemba participating and competing for the first prize at the action-packed games with the teams displaying high levels of skills, talent and enthusiasm at the field of play.

The main concept behind this program was to conduct a community outreach event that has clear, integrated and positive short, medium or long-term tangible outcomes for the youth of the area by creating an ongoing awareness and community engagement platform on social ills that have detrimental effects on

"Let us continue to support and include drug and substance users in mainstream community upliftment programs to foster rehabilitation"



the lives of the youth. This programme showcased constructive alternatives to current lifestyle for positive future growth and development.

The tournament reflected an inclusive approach wherein the youth who are drug abusers also participated as curtain raisers for the final soccer match. They displayed such talent and kept the spectator packed grandstand roaring. Both the teams, winners and the other teams were awarded gold and silver



medals respectively. Surprisingly, the player of the tournament, Thokozani 'Skhakhane' Msibi came from one of the user's teams and he was awarded a trophy as a gesture for displaying overwhelming skills.

A spectator during the tournament, Mr. Sipho Mlangeni from Extension 5 in Siyathemba, expressed his satisfaction with the tournaments inclusive approach of drug users and further said "What I like is the inclusion of all people, particularly the users. We need to regularly work on providing alternative platforms to their current lifestyle. They have so much talent that needs to be nurtured."

The soccer champions, Young Rabbits who beat Swallows four (4) goals to nil (0) were awarded a full soccer kit, soccer ball, revolving trophy and gold medals, while the first runner-ups got a soccer ball and silver medals.



Portugal Netball Club, the netball champions received a netball kit, ball, gold medals and trophy while the first runner-ups, All Stars got a trophy, silver medals and a ball. The third and fourth place teams Rabbits and Go-getters also got medals and Whitey Mntungwa stole the show as the woman of the tournament and she received a trophy.

The soccer and netball match officials who assisted by officiating the games were also given gold medals and whistles. Young kids that were in attendance and watched in awe of their older counterparts were given water bottles as gifts.

Speaking during the awarding of rewards, the Ex-

ecutive Mayor, Clr. Mafunda Makhubu expressed

his sincere gratitude for all participants in general and the users in particular. "Let us continue to support and include drug and substance users in mainstream community upliftment programs to foster rehabilitation" he concluded.

It is envisaged that the tournament will be an annual event, circulating around all the areas within the locality and expanding to include other sporting codes where possible, to encourage young people to remain actively involved in sports simultaneously embracing notions of the Mandela legacy by actively remaining patriotic community



Cnr. Johnny Mokoena Dr & Themba Shoji
Street
Balfour, 2410

E-mail: dipaleseng@worldonline.co.za
Website: www.dipaleseng.gov.za

***“Centre of quality, affordable service, good governance and
sustainable economic opportunities”***

**Find us on the web at
www.dipaleseng.gov.za,
Dipaleseng Local Municipality on Facebook**