

June 2022

# Dipaleseng News



## ***VISION***

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

## From the Editor.....



**ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER  
MR. LWAZI CINDI**

Council was able to approve its 2022 – 2027 IDP and budget on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022, thus in compliance with legislature. We thank all participants for their participation in this significant process which forms the blueprint of the municipality's plans for the next 5 years.

The municipality was also delighted by being chosen to host a very successful provincial event in celebrating the Africa Public Service Day, which further confirmed the municipality's ability and capability to serve as a gallery for the three spheres of government to showcase their service offerings.

During this quarter, the municipality was further able to attain salient and yet alarming dashboard indicators which included its non-compliance to the blue and green drop assessment as a Water Service Authority, the perpetual escalating Eskom and bulk water debts which instruments are custom-built to indicate the amount of work that lies ahead for the next 5 years in restoring consumer confidence in the quality

The municipality may have been slowly edging towards its end of 2021/22 financial year, which ends on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, the pace of service delivery had been phenomenally slow when compared to former financial years. This was mainly attributed to the Constitutional Court judgement which had set aside the Preferential Procurement Framework Act thus adversely affecting procurement of goods and services within all spheres of government and state owned enterprises which had a direct effect on the municipality's ability to render basic services especially on general planned maintenance.

Notwithstanding the above, April is traditionally a very busy month within a municipal calendar as we finalise the draft new Integrated Development Plan and Budget for the next 5 years. Typically a number of public ward consultations meetings were planned in all 6 wards of the municipality to gather inputs and comments from the broader communities, but due to occasional disruptions of these meetings, the municipality had to resort to other mechanisms of engagement which *inter alia* included online participation through virtual platforms, WhatsApp platforms and written submissions.

services provided by the municipality. It is also needless to single out the adoption of an action plan that seeks to address the findings contained in the investigation that was conducted in accordance with Section 106 (1) (b) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 which aims to cleanse the institution of maladministration and any forms of undue activities outside of the law. The municipality is in full swing to address these warning signs of an ailing organisation without deterrence.

It is with confidence to also indicate and re-affirm that the municipality does have the ability to make amends and alter the flattering performance through its new Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plans (SDBIP) that were duly approved on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 which shall serve as an enabler to commit, monitor and evaluate performance in the new financial year that starts on 01<sup>st</sup> July 2022. The aforesaid SDBIPs are indeed a commitment between the Executive Mayor, Municipal Administration and the community in the delivery of improved services.



On Tuesday, 7th June 2022, the Acting Municipal Manager, Mr. Lwazi Cindi together with his management team held an engagement session with employees to unpack critical institutional issues.



The Acting Municipal Manager discussed amongst others;

- IDP & Budget approval
- Revenue enhancement strategy in conjunction with Code of Conduct of both employees and councilors, particularly in relation to payment of municipal services.
- Section 106 report and its implementation plan.

To foster interactive and inclusive internal relations, employees were afforded an opportunity to have inputs and also voice frustrations which management committed to take into consideration in moving forward.



This is one of the municipality's modes of strengthening and maintaining good and valued internal communication with the understanding of the importance of having a conducive working environment.



# State of the Municipality Address

Financial Viability  
Good Governance & Public Participation  
Basic Infrastructure  
Local Economic Development and  
Organisational Transformation and  
Institutional Development

## Financial Viability

Financial viability is one of the major components of a sound government entity that aims to successfully carry out its legal obligatory mandate such as Dipaleseng.

The municipality regressed to a Disclaimer Opinion from the Auditor General for the 2019/20 financial year with findings on internal control deficiencies, non-compliance and supply chain management.

Implementation of revenue enhancement strategy alongside other budget related plans is paramount in the improvement to our financial situation.

## Organisational Transformation and Institutional Development

The institution had challenges with the full time appointment in the capacity of Accounting Officer, an anomaly that often threatens the overall institutional stability if left unattended timeously. The presence of a full capacity of capable senior managers however assisted in ensuring the attainment of business continuity and its overall objectives.

The institution continues to strive to attract talented and committed people with adequate skills and knowledge to advance it to greater heights.

The National Development Plan 2030 highlights the need for a long-term approach to skills development in order to develop tech-



**EXECUTIVE MAYOR  
CLLR. KHETHIWE  
MOEKETSI**

Dipaleseng Local Municipality is a local government entity at the coalface of direct service delivery with deliberate aims of community improvement.

The municipality also faces the formidable task of planning; implementing, assessing and providing feedback on the performance echelons achieved as per plans in our budgets, Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plans which are derived from our overall Integrated Development Plan.

Given the pre-existing institutional and environmental challenges we are remain steadfast and are still geared towards serving the needs of the community of Dipaleseng. Dipaleseng Local Municipality continues to deliver services being guided by five Local government key priorities that are:



nical and professional skills needed to fulfil core functions in the public service arena. It also highlight that most learning takes place on the job, and that staff members at all levels need to be stretched, supported and mentored to develop their skills and expertise.

Dipaleseng Local Municipality understands the need to pay attention to the role of recruitment, human resources and management practices in promoting ongoing learning alongside the provision of training.

### **Good Governance & Public Participation**

At the local government level, there is an increased need to ensure that participation in the integrated development planning process is deliberative, with citizens being involved in identifying and resolving trade-offs rather than simply developing shopping lists of needs.

While structures such as ward committees have been created to enable councilors and officials to engage with communities through public participation, this system or linkage was not realized as a result of the outbreak of Coronavirus in the past year which made it difficult. The challenge should be addressed through the translation of IDP's into ward-level service delivery improvement plans that respond to specific needs of each specific and unique ward.

More weight needs to be placed on endorsing the existence of two-way communication and interaction that enables citizens to express their needs and concerns as well as for citizens to be kept informed by councilors of key issues and developments that are underway in the ward.

### **Basic Infrastructure**

Dipaleseng is faced with aged and dilapidated infrastructure which was constructed to service long surpassed numbers of people. This is further compounded by a rapidly growing population, economy and prosperity which have led to growing utilization of infrastructure

by more and more people.

We sit with a bigger prerequisite for economic infrastructure investment while still continuing to address backlogs in housing and social infrastructure.

The construction of GS College Balfour Campus as well as the Balfour Community Health Care Centre will assist with the creation of skills feed for local industries and boost to local economy while addressing the lack of an appropriate health care facility in the area.

### **Local Economic Development**

An inclusive and local economic development strategy which encompasses uplifting local SMME's and bridging gaps between them and surrounding business and industries is what Dipaleseng aims for.

While government cannot realistically meet the needs of all role players in the local economy mix, the responsibility to create a fertile and mutually beneficial environment that fosters growth and development of the local economy rests with us.

With the ever increasing unemployment rate, we need to push efforts in start-up businesses as it has been proven to thrust economies in developed countries. We need to place ourselves in better quartile in terms of opportunity entrepreneurship and new firm activity.

Past, present and future projects that employ the utilization of local skills and resources through SMME's individually or by partnership reflect our commitment to the realization of such goal.

I cannot omit to echo our assurance to continued service delivery upholding Batho Pele principles at all times to ensure the realization of our vision of a developmental local government.

## BUDGET AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

South Africa had a successful and peaceful local government elections on 01 November 2022 which bestowed the ANC to politically lead Dipaleseng Local Municipality for the next 5 years. In accordance with the provisions of the laws that govern the affairs of a municipality, Dipaleseng embarked upon a process of consultations with the local communities with a view of ensuring that aspirations of communities are well represented in the 5 year plan of the municipality.

Chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act (32 of 2000) makes community participation in the affairs, programmes and activities of the municipality a legal obligation;

This 2022 to 2027 IDP / Budget is therefore the culmination of a lengthy process of consultations with local communities, provincial, national stakeholders, business communities and civil organisations that is why our Draft IDP carries the aspirations of our people which the Budget must seek finances. Our IDP is therefore a beacon of hope that will continue to guide us for the next 5 years;

We remain committed to the realisation of the 5 National Key Performance Areas of a functional municipality:

- Good Governance and Public Participation;
- Municipal Transformation;
- Basic Infrastructure and Service Delivery;
- Local Economic Development; and
- Municipal Financial Viability and Sustainability

In the development of our IDP / Budget we have been guided by a very systematic process contained in the IDP / Budget Process plan which contains 5 key processes to follow in order to develop a credible IDP and Budget namely:

- **Phase 1: Analysis – Complete;**
- **Phase 2: Strategies – Complete;**
- **Phase 3: Projects – Complete;**
- **Phase 4: Integration – Complete**
- **Phase 5: Approval – Completed ( 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022)**



The IDP and Budget further subscribes to the District Development Model, adopted by the Gert Sibande District Municipality to ensure that all spheres of government operate from a single Plan to enhance collaboration, cooperation, coordination, alignment and thereby having a high impact in our local communities.

Collectively the IDP and Budget will go a long way in improving the quality of lives in our communities by broadening accessibility to municipal services and alleviating poverty, inequality and unemployment especially amongst the most vulnerable sectors of our society namely households with no income or an income below living standards, the unemployed youth, women, people living with disabilities, senior citizens.

We want to grow economic opportunities through supporting local SMME's, unlocking strategic municipal land parcels, securing of bulk services and reticulation networks to all 6 wards of the municipality.

## **BUDGET SUMMARY**

The Budget was based on the collection rate for the Municipality is 64% as per the Budget Circulars.

The Municipality Operating Revenue amounts to R330,728 million while the Operating Expenditure R316,079 resulting in the R14,322 Millions surplus in the current year.

The Property Rates amounts R 35,022 millions representing 11% of the Final Budgets.

Services charges for Water revenue, Electricity, Refuse and Sanitation amounts R139, 459 which represents 42% of the draft budget for 2022/23.

Transfers and subsidies from the Equitable shares as well as the Financial Management Grant amounts to R100,104 million amount 30% of the budgets.

Other Income comprises Rental of Facilities and Equipment's, Interest on Investments and outstanding debtors, Fines and Penalties and forfeits, License and Permits and other revenue 17% of the Budgets.

*The net cash flow at year projects a cash flow surplus of R17,604 million for the 2022/23 financial year, R10,378 million for 2023/24 and R11,329 million for 2024/25 financial year*

## PRIORITIES

- Provision of Basic Municipal Services (Water, Sanitation, Electricity, Refuse Removal, Electricity and Fire and Rescue Services);
- Institutional Development;
- Enhancement of Revenue Collection;
- Local Economic Development and Job Creation;
- Attraction of Investors;
- Public Participation and Good Governance;
- Social Services (Covid – 19, HIV / AIDS, Education, Health, Crime and Drug Prevention)

## BUDGET AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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## EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

- Employee related costs amounts to R70, 58 millions which represents 23% of the budgets which is still below the normal trend of 34% as per the norm while Councillors Remuneration is 2% R6,23 millions.
- Debt Impairment and Depreciation and Impairment amounts to 15% collectively which is made up of R54,291 million and R25,226 million respectively.
- Finance Charges makes up 3% of the Budget while the Bulk Purchases amounts to 26% of the Budget.
- Contracted services makes amount to 11% of the budgeted expenditure which is 6% above the norm and this is due to the lack of internal capacity.
- Bulk Purchases makes up 26% of the Budget at R 84,794 Million.

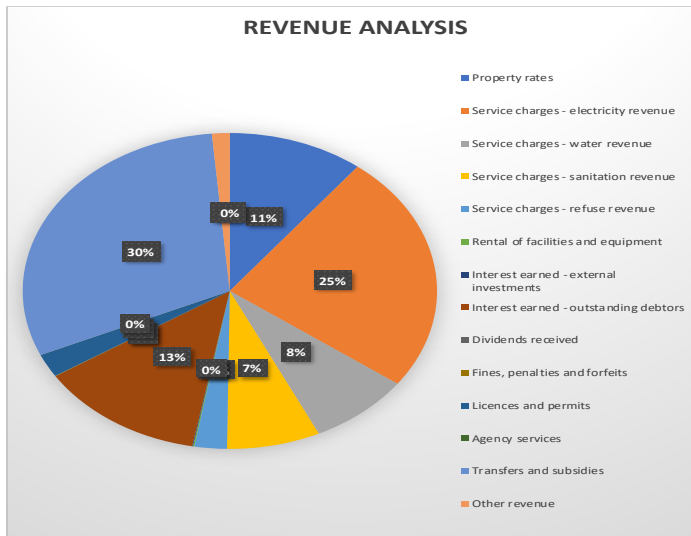
## TARIFF PRINCIPLES

**In funding the operational budget, the following criteria inform our credible 2022/23 Budget:**

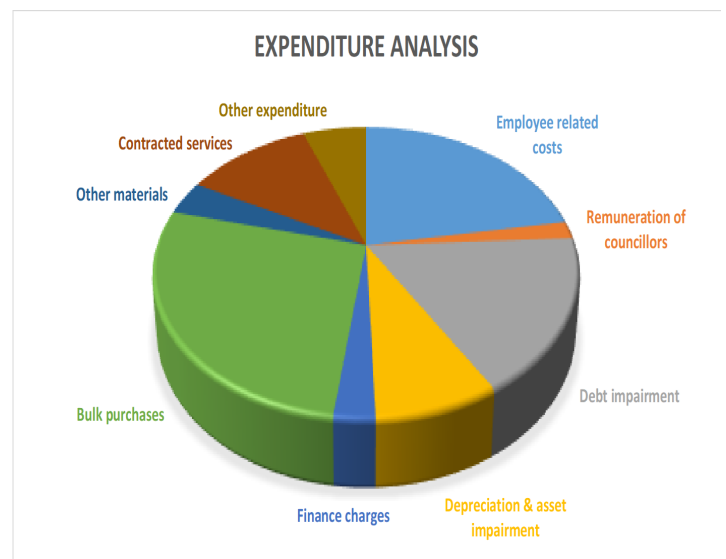
- 1. Increase in Property rates by 4.8%**
- 2. Increase in Sewerage tariffs by 4.8%**
- 3. Increase in Refuse tariffs by 4.8%**
- 4. Increase in Water tariffs by 4.8%**
- 5. Increase in Electricity tariffs by 9.6% - electricity tariffs are subject to change pending NERSA approval.**

**The average increases are linked to the inflation targets as guided by Circular 115 of National Treasury issued 4 March 2022.**





Section 35 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 stipulates that the IDP is the principal strategic planning instrument, which guides and informs all planning and development, and all decisions with regard to planning, management and development in a municipal area.



As stipulated in Section 25 of the MSA, an IDP adopted by a municipal council must:

- ♦ Link, integrate and coordinate plans and take into account proposals for the development of the municipality.
- ♦ Align the resources and capacity of the municipality with the implementation plan;
- ♦ Form the policy framework and general basis on which annual budgets must be based;
- ♦ Complies with the provisions of the MSA, with particular reference to Chapter 5; and
- ♦ Be compatible with National and Provincial plans and planning requirements binding on the municipality in terms of legislation.

At the Special Council sitting on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022, Dipaleseng Local Municipality

accordingly approved its Integrated Development Plan 2022-2027 and Medium Term Revenue & Expenditure Framework for the 2022/23 Financial Year as prescribed by the Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act.

# AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY

***“Rebuilding  
Human Capital  
Development  
Challenges for  
Social and  
Economic  
Development”***

Africa Public Service day is an event entrenched in the African Union calendar, and is celebrated annually, in a quest to recognise the value and virtue of service to the community, through discovering innovations, reward excellence in the public sector, motivate public servants to further promote innovation, enhance professionalism in the public service, raise the image of the public sector, enhance trust in government and share best practices for possible replication within the district as well as across the province.

Dipaleseng Local Municipality was been identified by the Office of the Premier to play host to the Africa Public Service Day event for this year's celebration.





Then event took place on an icy cold Thursday, 23rd June 2022 at the Siyathemba Tusong Service Centre. Where the community braced the cold front and took up the opportunity to engage with government and also to access much needed service that were offered on the day.

In her welcoming address, the Executive Mayor of Dipaleseng Local Municipality, Cllr. Khethiwe Moeketsi highlighted the honour that come with hosting the event and also appreciated the platform created by the Office of the Premier by brining the vast array of government services to the people.

Issues such as poverty, unemployment and

inequality that are affecting Africa as a continent were highlighted by Mr. Peter Nyoni, the DDG in the Office of the Premier is his keynote address. We took the opportunity to thank all public servant throughout the

Mpumalanga province for their continued dedication in their respective roles.

He also encouraged constructive active engagements between government and communities.

In line with the 'Keep a girl child in school' program, the Department of Education handed over sanitary towels to three local schools, two of which will be on a continued support basis.

As a build-up to this event, the Department of Public Works & Transport under the stewardship of MEC M Latchminarain had a program of pothole patching in Balfour preceded by donation of dignity packs to learners at Isifiso-sethu Secondary School in Siyathemba.



# National Lottery Commission Funding Workshop

Municipal youth, sports, arts and culture desk is developed for all inhabitants of Dipaleseng particularly young people. The desk was established to remain mindful of socio-economic challenges affecting our inhabitants. The high rate of drug dependency, crime, violence, sexuality, unemployment and poverty comes as a result of marginalised people primarily manifested in racial segregation, rural based youth, high scarce skills, minimal economic active participation and job scarce environment which works against job seekers particularly young people.

The desk sought to develop a comprehensive context specific to lack of competitiveness in sports, arts and employment skills that poses a serious threat to the municipal long-term socio-economic growth should it not be efficiently addressed.

The unit is embarking on a strategy to reposition youth, sports, arts and cultural programmes of action for social cohesion, creation of sustainable jobs and skills development and economic emancipation. The significance progress builds on the strategic framework that to sought enhance maximum economic participation, development and social cohesion for our community.



The municipality facilitated a National Lottery Commission Funding Workshop on the 13<sup>TH</sup> May 2022, in a quest to assist local teams across all sporting codes in Dipaleseng to apply for sports and recreational funds from National Lottery Commission.

The meeting further noted that majority of teams have not registered their teams as NPO entities, moreover the meeting further agreed that we should seek intervention and support from Department of Social Development to workshop teams on processes of registering as an NPO.

The NPO registration workshop for teams is scheduled to be convened on the 10<sup>TH</sup> June 2022, where teams will be invited to a workshop that sought to assist with the registration of teams.





# SECTION

# REPORT

## 106

At the Council sitting on the 31st May 2022, Council also considered the second quarterly report as submitted by the Council Ad Hoc Committee to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan in relation to the Section 106 report.

This is in line with Council's resolution from Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022, wherein it resolved inter alia in committee that a committee of council be established to monitor the implementation of the action plan as directed by the recommendations of the report and report to Council as well as the MEC of the Department of

Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs.

It should be noted that the action plan and all remedial actions contained therein has a lifespan of a year from now as it is anticipated that all remedial actions would have been exhausted by end June 2023, afore such time, the municipality meekly appeals for space to duly implement these in full and in accordance.

**MR. L CINDI**  
**ACTING MUNICIPAL**  
**MANAGER**

One of the Department of Human Settlements' areas of responsibility relates to provision of housing subsidies through different programmes and/housing typologies to the needy, including assistance in the acquisition of well-located land for sustainable integrated human settlements. A housing subsidy is a grant by government to qualifying beneficiaries for housing purposes.

The initiative by the Municipality to purchase Portion 28 (a Portion of Portion 20) of the farm Vlakfontein 556, registration Division I.R., Province of Mpumalanga resulted in DHS, DLM and Vipcon PTY. LTD entering in an agreement to purchase 1500 sites on the property in question at an amount of Seventy Four Million Four Hundred and Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Five Rands (**R74 439 405.00**).

On 25 April 2017 Department of Human Settlement introduced the appointed contractor for construction of 1500 subsidised housing units in Ridgeview over a period of three (3) years, for which 100 units allocated to Dipaleseng Local Municipality is under implementation in the current financial year.

## PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



DLM HOUSING SUBSIDY ALLOCATION-2017/18, 2018/19 AND 2019/20-RIDGEVIEW								
Local Municipality	Area	Programme	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Contractor	Total No. of Units	Budget (mil)
Dipaleseng	Ridgeview	Integrated Residential Development Programme IRPD Phase 2-Top Structures	300	700	500	Prince of Tides	1500	33, 284 100

The initiative by the Council in land allocation had the aim of assisting the municipality in generating revenue through disposing of land to interested parties, building plan submissions and paying for services.

This process was open to all interested prospective applicants who are first time property buyers. The land was subdivided into 323 stands through the appointment of a surveyor and a general plan approved by the SG Office. As per the Council Resolution, the value of each property stands at R20 000 and would be sold “voetsoets”. The R20 000 would be payable over a period of 90 days.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 an invite to the public was extended and applicants made down payments of at least R2000 per stand using the chosen stand and their ID number. As at end of May 2022 a total of 235 buyers had completed payments of the stands with 170 having accepted and signed their deeds of sale and submitted to the Council approved attorneys for registration of title deeds process.

In terms of the progress of registration of title deeds, the Council appointed attorneys began the process in January 2022 with briefings that were held three times weekly and have since shared a list of buyers who have either completed or made payments towards the R 8666.00 fee set out by the attorneys.

Through this process of land allocation, the municipality has generated revenue amounting to R4 700 000 as at April 2022

The municipality facilitated an engagement with prospective buyers on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 to address frustrations directed to lawyers and the municipality that included:

1. Low staff complement in terms of showing buyers and demarcating properties.
2. Services provision in some of the sites in terms of access roads to stands
3. Communication breakdown from Council approved attorneys
4. Communication breakdown from the municipality in terms of updates affected by a heavy reliance of office based telephones.



In addressing the above issues communication on updates has since increased with the attorneys as well as a schedule of site visits with the attendance of both GIS Officer and Town Planner was developed.





# INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES PROJECTS



## BUDGETED MTEF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project Name	Project Amount	Ward Location	Type of Service	Funding Source
Upgrading of Siyathemba Sewer Pump Station	R12m	2 & 4	Sanitation	MIG
Construction of 802 m long Dlodlu Street in Siyathemba	R12m	1	Roads & Stormwater	MIG
Construction of 24 High mast lights in Dipaleseng LM – (Phase 3 – 8No. High Light Masts)	R3m	1 – 6	Public Infrastructure – Electrification	MIG
Electrification of 200 Households (HH) in Ridgeview – Phase 3	R12m	2	Electrification	INEP
Energy Efficiency and Demand Side Management – Phase 2	R3m	1 – 6	Public Infrastructure – Electrification	EESDM
Upgrading of Fortuna Water Treatment Works (From a 6.5 MI/day to 19.5 MI/day)	TBA	1 – 6	Water	RBIG (DWS/GSDM)





Project Name	Project Amount	Ward Location	Type of Service	Funding Source
Balfour/ Siyathemba/ Greylingstad/ Nthorwane Regional Bulk Water Supply – Phase 3 & 4	R116m	1 – 6	Water	RBIG (DWS/GSDM)
Farms Electrification Project: Muddelbult (12) Households	TBA	2	Electrification	Eskom
Cleaning of All Reservoirs in Dipaleseng LM	R1.2m	1 - 6	Water	O & M (DLM)
Construction of 10 MVA sub-station and Electrification of Households (HH) in Grootvlei Ext. 1	R3m	5	Electricity	INEP
Construction of a New 10 MVA Balfour Substation	R4.5m	2	Electricity	INEP



## COMMUNITY SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY



Fire prevention awareness campaigns are important to our communities especially during this time of the year as people battle to keep warm as temperatures keep declining as expected during the winter season.

The jurisdiction of Dipaleseng Local Municipality is not exempt from such and to ensure that we eliminate or at least minimise the occurrence of

house and veld fires as well as loss of lives as a direct results of these circumstances.

The municipality realises the significance of integrated approach in the dissemination of information to the immediate community and the society at large. The municipality therefore took the initiative of hosting a fire prevention awareness campaign at the Balfour Clinic on Friday, 13th May 2022 to teach them on basic level fire fighting and the handling of ignition sources.

The Acting Chief Fire Officer together with the fire fighters successfully conducted the campaign covering the following topics during the public education program;

- ⇒ Give basic fire fighting
- ⇒ Educate staff and patients on how to use portable fire extinguisher
- ⇒ Checking the availability and serviceability of the fire extinguishers in that particular venue



Both staff members as well as patients attended the program and received this valuable training.

### **HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM FIRES**

- *Do not burn tyres or dirt close to homes.*
- *Do not throw burning cigarettes close to bushes or dry grass.*
- *Curtains, blankets and other highly flammable materials should not be too close to open flames.*
- *Fireworks should not be too close to or in your home.*
- *Dry vegetation should not be too close to the house as they could be potential ladder fuels.*
- *Clear all debris and/or leaves from roofs and gutters to prevent fires.*
- *Petrol/Gas and other flammable gasses should be stored safely.*
- *Firewood should not be stored too close to the house and open fires.*
- *Matches and other lighters should be kept out of reach of children.*



Libraries are on the list of critical amenities that play a major role in disseminating information particularly to improve the quality of life through education. The Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation (DCSR) has built a new library at Dipaleseng Local Municipality.

Through this facility, the municipality is able to regularly promote library services through campaigns aimed at encouraging a culture of reading and learning and also imparting knowledge about the various services available at the library.







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