



SERVICE DELIVERY- MEDIA STATEMENT

Presented by the Executive Mayor: Cllr. Lerato Maloka

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1. Introduction and Background

Let me take this opportunity to send my warmest greetings to the members of the Media present today and all other stakeholders that have keen interest in the developments of the Local Government with special focus on Lesedi Local Municipality. The members of the mayoral committee, together with the acting Municipal Manager are with me today to provide you with a service delivery outlook of our municipality and give assurance of our commitment in ensuring that citizens of the Lesedi Local Municipality are provided with basic services as enshrined in the objects of Local Government.

The aim of today's briefing is to inform the media and public in general about the strides accomplished by the municipality in addressing the major service delivery backlogs that have been continuously raised by our citizens in different engagement platforms and through our newly constructed Customer Care Service Centre. Our people have raised their dissatisfaction on a number of service delivery matters, such as,

- Municipal Road Infrastructure
- Street Lighting
- Refuse Removal and
- Municipal Fleet.

The key component of our vision puts emphasis on the fact that we are people-centered and performance driven municipality, and we want to live up to it at all times and we also encourage our citizens to continue support the municipality to achieve this vision, by becoming involved and actively participate in programmes organized to develop this municipality. Our municipality is becoming financially viable, and this is made possible by the commitment of our people to pay for the municipal services and this is indeed highly appreciated.

2. Municipal Road infrastructure.

The municipality has built a massive road infrastructure over the years covering the previously disadvantaged area, such as Ratanda, Impumelelo and Kwazenzele. The growth of our road networks, including water and electricity, has put a tremendous pressure on the municipal fiscals especially with regard to maintenance budget. Over and above this, in 2017/18 financial year we also experienced floods in the area and as a result our road network were highly compromised.

The following measures have been put in place to address some of the problems;

2.1 Resealing of roads.

We have budgeted an amount of about R5 million to reseal and refurbish the highly compromised road infrastructure in our area, to also deal with ever-growing number of potholes within our space. The project started at beginning of this financial year and will be concluded November 2018. The municipality will budget annually for the resealing of roads to ensure that our roads are brought to a desirable level. The potholes that are outside the resealing programme are dealt with by a dedicated team of our municipal employees on daily basis through our maintenance budget. We commit ourselves to these programmes and we are confident that we will win this battle and our access road will be free of potholes in the near future.

2.2 Road Marking and Street Furniture.

We have also embarked on a campaign to improve the image of our town by revamping the road marking and refurbishing the street furniture. We are in the process of painting all our major access roads and this will also contribute towards the safety of road usage. Our dedicated team is doing its outmost best in this regard and the results are starting to show especially as you travel through Jacob and Louw Streets.

3. High Mast Light and Street Lights

In our previous IDP engagements with the communities of Lesedi, issues around street lighting were sharply raised and the municipality has since embarked on a multi-year project to install high mast lights in the newly developed areas, such as, Obed Nkosi and Ratanda Ext 8. Our team is also on the ground in Bergsig, Rensburg, Jordaan Park and Jameson Park to fix and maintain our street lights. I have personally visited some of the areas for oversight purposes and to engage face to face with members of the affected communities.

We are currently experiencing serious problems with regard to street lighting around Heidelberg CBD, whereby our street lights were vandalized and should now be refurbished and in some cases be replaced. A procurement process has been initiated to acquire services of maintenance and refurbishment electrical company, as we speak the advert has already being processed.

It is proper to indicate, at this point in time, that we are also experiencing a high rate of theft, with regard to electrical cables and the components of our substation. We are in process of engaging our communities to assist in safe guarding of municipal assets and further continue our engagements with the police through the CPFs. The municipality is also in a process of improving security on our electrical network and a tender process has already been initiated in this regard.

4. Refuse removal.

The municipality has worked around the clock to improve the refuse removal services in our area. The major problem that we experienced with regard to delays of refuse collection, was around aging fleet resulting in a number of mechanical breakdowns. Currently, we have managed to keep five (5) our trucks in proper working conditions and this has improved the refuse collection in the area. We have also extended our refuse removal services to Obed Nkosi Township where collection is now taking place on Fridays. May I humbly appeal to our residents to keep Lesedi as clean and safe for all who live in it. Illegal dumping is becoming prominent in and around the area, and the municipality alone will not be able win this battle outside the involvement and assistance of the community. We are also in the process of refurbishing our mass solid waste containers, of which some will be placed at the identified illegal dumping hotspots to curb the problem of littering and illegal dumping.

5. Municipal Fleet.

One of our major problems in delivering proper services to our people is the fact that our service delivery vehicles are old and the need for their replacement is now ostensible. Fleet is a significant enabler towards providing necessary services by attending timeously to service delivery queries (related to either electricity, water or sanitation) as raised by the residence through the call centre network.

We have already procured four (4) vehicles that will be used to attend all electricity problems in the area, and these vehicles will be delivered during the course of this month. We are confident that all electricity queries will be attended too, more effectively to the satisfaction of the all our customers.

We have committed ourselves to prioritize issues around municipal fleet and will budget annually to replace vehicles accordingly.

6. Conclusion.

Let me take this opportunity as part of concluding this media briefing by highlighting projects that the municipality is undertaking as part of the IDP and Budget 2018/19 implementation program;

The following projects are underway as promised in the IDP and Budget consultation meeting;

Project Name	Budget	Source of Funding	Progress
Electrification Obed Nkosi Phase 6	R 1 740 000	INEP	Contractor appointed for the Electrification
Electrification Obed Nkosi Phase 7	R 1 550 000	INEP	Contractor appointed for the Electrification
Bulk Electricity Supply Kwazenzele Extension 1	R 1 659 000	INEP	Procurement
Electrification Kwazenzele Phase 1	R 2 325 000	INEP	Procurement
Electrification Kwazenzele Phase 2	R 1 160 000	INEP	Procurement
Electrification Ratanda Extension 8 phase 1	R 1 160 000	INEP	Contractor appointed for the Electrification
Electrification Ratanda Extension 8 phase 2	R 1 301 200	Internal Capex	Contractor appointed for the Electrification

Project Name	Budget	Source of Funding	Progress
Replacement of water pipes in Lesedi	R 15 000 000	WSIG	Contractor on site for phase 1
Upgrading and Refurbishments of Sewer Pump Stations in Lesedi	R 10 000 000	WSIG	Procurement
Backup power supply Emasdale Water Pump Station	R 500 000	Internal Capex	Procurement
Construction of Sport Facility at Rensburg X4	R5 467 000	MIG	The contractor is on site. This project commenced in 2017/18FY with a budget of about R15 million, and it will be concluded in 2018/19FY

May I therefore thank all representatives of the media that have taken time, out of your demanding schedule, to come and listen to the ways that Lesedi Local Municipality has pursued in improving the lives of our people. Your presence and contributions are highly regarded.