



EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S OUTREACH – SENQU LM – 09 FEBRUARY 2018

Honourable Mayor and Speaker Senqu

Chief Whips

Political leadership

Traditional Leaders

Councillors

Municipal Managers, Directors and municipal officials

Members of the civil society

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am privileged to be here today to reflect on Joe Gqabi District Municipality's performances in the Senqu Local Municipal area.

However, I know as members of the community you are aware and concerned about the developments in the country.

Last December the ANC has elected its new leadership to lead and unite all South Africans .

During that time the country was holding its breath, anticipating a potential clash of difference within its members. It is pleasing to say we came up as one ANC. ANC is the winner – not individuals.

As a country, let us allow our leaders to come up with the best possible solution in the discussions between the president of the ANC and the president of the country.

Ladies and gentlemen, each Local Municipal Area has its own unique composition of circumstances , opportunities and challenges – both for the District as well as for the local Municipality.

I will focus today on the key informative issues to equip you with insight into the progress made by the District Municipality to ensure a better life for the residents.

Water and sanitation: The District is responsible for the provision and management of water and sanitation services in all municipalities within the District. Currently programmes are in place with regard to extending access to water and sanitation services. The JGDM continues to monitor water quality on an ongoing basis in order to ensure that the water delivered to the communities is of a safe standard.

WATER

The **Sterkspruit** water supply is sustainable with the Sterkspruit dam level being at 77 %. However, the illegal water connections are hampering the service delivery of water in the high areas of Sterkspruit area and this causes huge water losses . The District is currently in the process to legalize and upgrade illegal connections.

The **rural water supply** schemes are supplied by a total of **52 boreholes** that are covering all the Sterkspruit villages.

The Sterkspruit groundwater stand-alone water supply schemes are functioning well except for Bikizana, Mission and Penhoek. These three villages do not have water due to drying up of boreholes , illegal connections, overused pump stations, erratic diesel supply , vandalism and theft.

The District appointed a service provider to address these challenges through its “Quick Win” project . Water carts are temporary in place for some of the affected villages.

The Witfontein dam **in Lady Grey** is empty and the Lady Grey dam is only at a level of 45%. Water restrictions and water rationing are being implemented. Water is only supplied once every 48 hours between 16:00 – 20:00.

The District is developing five (5) additional boreholes and storage reservoirs with funding received from Eastern Cape Provincial Treasury Drought Intervention Programme.

The Zachtevlei Dam and the Karringmelkspruit projects are forming part of the broader Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) to address Lady Grey’s medium to long-term water requirements. The projects amount to R37 m.

The Zachtevlei Dam is planned to be built on the Zachtevlei farm , near Lady Grey. The completion of the dam will meet the demand of the

water supply for the town of Lady Grey. The design and tender processes are completed.

The Karringmelkspruit project will look at building a weir on the karringmelkspruit tributary. The Pre-lim design for Karingmelkspruit design is complete.

The recent rainfall has increased the volume of water in the Langkloof river which supplies **Barkly East**. Water supply is currently sufficient for the community. However, the water treatment works cannot handle the high turbidity. It needs new pipelines connected and additional storage to supply safe and sufficient water to the community.

Storage is only enough for 48 hours which means that if there is no power there is no water.

The completion of the pumping main, upgrade of the water treatment works and augmentation of the clear water storage are necessary.

Only 3 boreholes supply water to the Barkly East area. The remaining 4 boreholes are not running due to damages caused by the weather.

DROUGHT

It is still very dry in most parts of the district, and we have been receiving less than normal rainfall over the past three years. It will be extremely careless if the Joe Gqabi Council refrain from planning for a crisis as is currently experienced in the city of Cape Town where day zero is rapidly approaching.

The District is continuously curbing water losses and uncontrolled and irresponsible water usage through the ongoing “War on Leaks” programme and the installation of pre-paid water meters.

- Pre-paid water meters have already been issued to consumers in Barkly East who applied for this service. On-going installation of meters will continue until all towns in the District are provided with pre-paid meters. This is an attempt to preserve and manage water in the district.
- Indigent consumers will still receive 6kl (6000 litres) of **free** water per month – translating to 200 litres per day – with the pre-paid meters.
- Water is **not** more expensive when you use a pre-paid meter . It will allow consumers better control over water usage thus preventing high water accounts at the end of the month.

SANITATION

Mvula Trust has been appointed by the District for the construction of VIP toilets in various Senqu villages. The project has a total budget of R39 m and is progressing well.

The Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant funded Sterkspruit waste water treatment work project is in its planning phase. The estimated budget for the project is R120 m.

AUDIT OUTCOME

The Joe Gqabi District Municipality has continued to prove that its financial management is in good hands. In the past two financial years the District has received clean audit opinions by the Auditor General. The findings reflected that the financial statements were free from material misstatements, there were no material findings on the annual performance report and there were no material findings on non-compliance with key legislation.

The provisional Auditor-General's report of the 2016/17 financial year assessment for the District is an **unqualified audit opinion**.

The findings pointed out material misstatements whereby the draft financial statements were not prepared without mistakes that had to be corrected during the 2016/17 financial year. These mistakes were of a technical nature. All information required for audit was available and able to be audited. The JGDM is appealing this matter.

The senior manager from the Auditor General's office, Mr. Rama Purusohotoman presented his audit report to the Council on the 30th of January. He reported that the financial state of the District is sound although we regressed from a clean audit. It is also reported that the failure to maintain a clean audit does not mean the collapse of good governance, excellent leadership or the breakdown of the internal control systems.

The leadership and its officials will continue to maintain and improve any findings in the current financial year.

FIRE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

With regard to the provision of efficient disaster management , emergency and rescue services, the District planned to respond to all reported fire and disaster incidents and this target was achieved.

To improve this service, the District is in discussions with the Department of Environmental Affairs for support to implement the shared fire services model. This will enable the District to procure fire services vehicles and equipment to replace the ageing vehicles.

Our Disaster Management unit goes to great strides to create public awareness of Disasters prone to our area.

It is predicted that due to the weak La Nina phase, above normal rainfall is expected in the late summer season , extending to the early autumn . This may lead to potential flooding associated with mud slides and rock falls. Severe storms , heavy downpours, lightning, hail and tornados are expected. You are expected to remain indoors if possible. Do not cross low lying bridges when there is heavy rains. Avoid hiding under trees when there is severe lightning. Always remember that the forces of nature are much stronger than the human being.

MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES

Municipal Health Services is a function of the District Municipality. The District always inspects urban waste sites, food premises and funeral parlours. This is part of its functions to manage health standards.

As a District we are aware that there are a number of waste sites which are not approved. This poses health hazards and it is illegal.

It is the responsibility of the communities reduce or recycle their waste to save our environment.

The District Municipality is in a campaign to educate communities about Listeriosis since January this year. This disease is affecting members of the community through food contaminated with the bacteria *listeria monocytogenes* which is found in soil, water and vegetation. It is usually

common in **raw** milk and other dairy products. Currently, 820 people have been infected and 92 deaths were reported.

There are no reported cases in the Joe Gqabi District , but as a precaution and a preventative measure JGDM communities are being informed about Listeriosis and educated on handling food, cleaning hands and use of clean utensils.

The Joe Gqabi District Municipality has adopted its draft By-Laws on Municipal Health Services. Roadshows have started to interact with members of the communities in an attempt to solicit inputs from members of the community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Joe Gqabi Economic Development Agency (JoGEDA) has established various strategic partnerships for investment promotion in key priority areas. This seeks to stimulate trade and industry whilst providing opportunities for job creation within the district.

SENQU CATALYTIC PROJECTS

Senqu Plastic

JoGEDA seeks to ignite the productive potential of Senqu Plastic Manufacturing as a multi-plastic and related products manufacturing centre. The project centres around PVC pipe manufacturing and by

making use of plant and machinery which was donated to JoGeDA by Senqu Local Municipality.

Milestones and achievements attained so far :

- A viable business plan for the plastic manufacturing project is available and conducted by CSIR ;
- The agency submitted an application for funding to the Department of Trade and Industry ;
- The JGDM council has approved the request for land for the development of the project ;
- A partnership has been developed with a successful plastic manufacturing company (Rare Plastics) to have a local manufacturing plant which will produce products for distribution;

Senqu Small Town Regeneration

The Small town regeneration strategy was developed for the towns of Barkly East, Lady Grey and Sterkspruit to identify which town has the potential for commercial development. The feasibility study reveals a compelling business case for the development of a community shopping centre in Sterkspruit.

Milestones and achievements attained so far :

- Council approval for developmental right on erf 101 ;
- Developing a terms of reference to invite proposals for the development of land .

SMME Development

The Agency seeks to incorporate skills development into the catalytic projects implemented by the Agency. JoGEDA has partnered with the University of Stellenbosch Business School Enterprise Development unit for the training of local entrepreneurs.

Milestones and achievements attained so far :

- 26 participants graduated during the 2016/17 Financial year ;
- 25 participants were recruited to join the programme for the 2017/18 financial year.

I thank you.