



## **EXECUTIVE MAYOR's OUTREACH – ELUNDINI , 26 FEBRUARY 2018**

Honourable Mayor and Speaker Elundini

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 Elundini Local Municipal area.

Each Local Municipality 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 of this beautiful area.

**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**

There is sufficient water to supply the urban centres of Maclear, Mt Fletcher and Ugie. The dam levels at the Maclear and Aucamp Dams are 75% and 98% full and the Mt Fletcher weir is at 40%. Dredging was done on the weir and we have refurbished the sluice gates to compromise the challenge of siltation of the Mt Fletcher weir which presented water supply challenges in times of high demand.

Certain high lying areas in Maclear do not receive municipal drinking water when consumption is high.

The construction of the second phase of the **Mooi River water treatment plant** is planned to commence in June 2018. The consultant has done their designs and is working on a draft tender document which has to be approved by the District.

Phase A of the upgrading and extension of the **Ugie water treatment plan** has been completed and phase B - consisting of amongst other - the provisioning of a water reticulation system for Ugie and the construction of the Ugie dam and reservoir has commenced. The total budget of this project amounts to R144 million.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2018 the service provider appointed for the Umzimvubu Water Project was to conduct drilling activities to assess the geotechnical integrity of the Lalini Dam, water treatment works and river crossing in Ntabelanga Dam. TCTA is the implementing Agent.

The municipal drinking water quality in the Elundini municipal area is generally of a good standard and no significant incidents have been reported.

I want to appeal to consumers **not** to use unprotected spring water during times of water shortages as this can have a negative public health impact.

Approximately 80 boreholes provide the rural communities in the villages with water. The district is investigating additional boreholes to extend the supply to those villages.

The Tsolobeng and Mpharane Project includes the provisioning of water to both villages. The project was divided into 9 contracts which were awarded to 9 Learner Contractors. 8 contracts have attained completion and have since been handed over.

The Elundini Rural Water Programme funded by MIG and ORIO will ensure water supply to 107 rural villages. The Lead Consultant was appointed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 and designs are in progress. Construction is estimated to commence in January 2019 over a period of four years – ending in 2021.

## **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.

- All consumers in the town of Ugie will receive a free pre-paid meter in 2018 and the process will continue until all towns in the District is provided with pre-paid meters.
- 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 control over water usage thus preventing high water accounts at the end of the month.

## **SANITATION**

The Maclear wastewater treatment works project is ongoing . This project will assist in enhancing the sanitation service levels in Maclear and surrounding areas.

There were complaints from the Greenfields Township about frequent sewer blockages. This occurred due to the construction activities at the Maclear Waste Water Treatment Works . The site was closed due to the contractor’s expired site insurance. The consultant submitted an updated recommendation on extension of time.

## **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 findings of the Auditor General indicated that although the District has regressed from a clean audit to an unqualified audit opinion, the institution's control systems are still intact. It 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.

A week ago, heavy rains caused extensive damages in Mqokolwena village . The road and bridge were inaccessible - preventing children to travel to schools and the community to reach the clinic. Several houses were damaged.

Our Disaster Management Unit has liaised with the Department of Housing and an assessment of damages is under way.

The department of Public Works has been contacted and an excavator in the area will reach the damaged area within the next few days to repair the road. A TLB secured access of the road in the meantime and children could return to school.

In the event of heavy rains, stay indoors and off the roads if possible. Avoid crossing rivers and swollen streams where water is above your ankles.

Our Disaster Management unit goes to great strides to create public awareness of Disasters prone to our area. This include thunderstorms, strong winds, heavy rains, extremely high temperatures and veld fires. Always remember that the forces of nature are much stronger than the human being.

## **WORKING FOR WATER / WETLANDS**

The working for water and working for wetlands programme is an intervention that seeks to reduce alien vegetation in our area. This programme has benefited a number of small contractors and sub-contractors from the Elundini municipal area and created a number of jobs for the local community. The national Department of Environmental Affairs has expressed its interest in extending the contract with the District Municipality to cover the 2018 to 2021 period. The expansion of the programme will have a positive impact in increasing the number of job opportunities for communities.

## **MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Municipal Health Services is a function of the District Municipality. The District as one of its performance areas inspects urban waste sites, food premises and funeral parlours. It has been noted that there are a number of waste sites within the District which are not approved. This means that they are illegal sites. Communities are requested to reduce or recycle their waste in order to save the environment.

Listeriosis is a serious but rare infection, mainly caused by eating food contaminated with the bacteria *listeria monocytogenes* which is found in soil, water and vegetation. It is usually present in **raw** milk and other dairy products.

Currently 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.

The Joe Gqabi District Municipality has adopted its draft By-Laws on Municipal Health Services. Council will take these by-laws to the communities to solicit their inputs and comments before they are adopted as the final document. The Municipal Health Public Participation outreach will take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of February in Elundini.

## **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.

Partnerships that have been established include the following:

- Chris Hani Co-operative Development Centre and Elundini Co-operative Development Centre - partnership agreement covers the development of agricultural projects and co-ordination of co-operatives for agri-business development.
- Housing Development Agency – partnership agreement covers the project implementation roles for the Elundini Middle Income Housing.

## **ELUNDINI CATALYTIC PROJECTS**

### **Elundini Middle Income Housing:**



This development of 15.6 hectares of land in Ugie has been made possible through the council resolution that grants JoGEDA developmental rights over this piece of land for residential development. JoGEDA has assessed the land which is partially serviced and earmarked for Middle-Income housing.

In the 2017/18 financial year JoGEDA has prioritized creating strategic partnerships with the Housing Development Agency, public sector entities and departments in a bid to source technical expertise and financing solutions to fast track the development of the necessary bulk infrastructure.

#### **Maize Meat Hub Feedlot:**

The essential purpose of the maize-meat hub in Elundini Local Municipality is to increase income and employment for beneficiaries by developing the red meat value chain in a region which holds competitive advantage within livestock production.

The proposed intervention was made in view of the existing market gaps and situational analysis that recommended a feedlot is setup in the Joe Gqabi District. Through the project JoGEDA aims to stimulate the involvement of historically disadvantaged farmers in partnership with commercial farmers in the formal maize and livestock industry in the province. Significant role players and stakeholders in the agriculture sector have agreed that there would be considerable value in developing a business venture that can involve the different types of communal cattle herds as well as the maize farmers.

In the 2017/18 financial year, JoGEDA will focus on developing a strategy to ensure sustainability of the project through the development of the stakeholder matrix, operational model and ensure that social facilitation is conducted for the project.

### **Ugie Industrial Park:**

The essential purpose of the Ugie Industrial Park in Elundini Local Municipality is to increase income and employment by developing the industrial hub in a region which will hold competitive advantage within the district.

The proposed intervention was made in view of the existing market gap and the fact that the district does not have this kind of development opposed to other districts. In the 2016/17 financial year, the Agency partnered with the Coega Development Corporation (CDC) and Elundini Local Municipality to develop a feasibility study for the project which will detail if the project can be viable in Ugie.

For 2017/18 the development Agency aims to have these industrial parks being launched as business cases with an intention to generate economic growth by developing a competitive and sustainable industrial business sector in Joe Gqabi District . The focus will be on linking the market access with Cooperatives and SMME's.

I thank you.