



COUNCIL

TRADITIONAL LEADERS

TOP MANAGEMENT

BROAD MANAGEMENT

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Allow me to congratulate you on the job well done to receive a 3rd **Clean Audit outcome** since the 2014/15 cycle.

This indicates that the Joe Gqabi District Municipality through its internal control and supervision ensured proper financial and performance management.

This is tied to respect for the law in the running of the municipality, leadership prioritizing accountability and the monitoring of all assurance providers.

The Clean Audit outcome should serve as a litmus test to assure the community of Joe Gqabi and South Africans in general, that their taxes are being jealously safeguarded and used for their intended purposes by the leadership and management of Joe Gqabi District Municipality.

I am happy to report that last week the District launched the first pilot **free wi-fi project at the Sterkspruit library**. The Minister of

Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams has applauded and committed to support the project. Ndabeni- Abrahams also promised to assist in the development of digital economic development in the District. This in turn will create suitable skills relevant to the 4th Industrial Revolution.

One of the core functions of the District Municipality is ensuring clean , potable water and sanitation services to all its residents. There are many challenges and I want us to come up with implementable and achievable programmes. We are experiencing **many infrastructure problems**. As we speak, Burgersdorp is without water due to electricity problems at the pumping stations.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa funded a market plan to assess the Aliwal North water and sanitation infrastructure. Currently there is a consultant on site assessing infrastructure and a design document with specifications detailing frequent pipe bursts and sanitation blockages will be compiled and handed over to the District .

The cost for the replacement of stolen or vandalised infrastructure has escalated over time to such an extent that locked lines will have to be replaced. We need to fight this behaviour through awareness campaigns.

There has been several reports of illegal water connections throughout the District. The District is committed to process applications from illegal connected properties swiftly in order to legalise them and replace it with our own .

Other service delivery challenges that we need to consider are :

- Lack of sanitation infrastructure in the Ugie area
- Ageing water supply infrastructure in Maclear
- Insufficient water supply to Greenfields and Sonwabile
- Sewer spillages in Aliwal North – There will be a complaint in the Aliwal Weekly about the spillage in the main street
- Sewer spillages in Jamestown
- Water Shortages in Sterkspruit and Rossouw

Frontloading

Council resolved to implement 2 projects – Maclear Water Upgrade and Maclear Sanitation Upgrade by means of frontloading and approached Development Bank of Southern Africa. After considering the outcome of DBSA, council resolved that frontloading must proceed. I want us to move with these resolutions.

The District has been plagued by below-normal rainfall the past three years. This has a serious effect on the farming community and job losses in the industry.

The climate change has made its presence felt as a result the council resolved to declare a **state of drought disaster** with the affected municipalities being Senqu and Walter Sisulu Local Municipal Areas.

Climate change is part of our lives and it is not going to change overnight. Instead, the situation is going to worsen. **Therefore we must come up with practical ways of preserving water.** There should be an on-going community awareness, educating them on this long term crisis.

The District has come up with a two-way strategy to mitigate and conserve water. One is water restriction and the other installation of pre-paid water meters. Although some are using this as a political game – this is a reality. **Every household and business in the District must have a pre-paid water meter.**

Joe Gqabi District Municipality is committed to job creation and therefore participate in the Expanded Public Works Programme. We are not performing well in the EPWP programme. The high unemployment rate and people living in poverty need to be scaled down. These socio-economic and economic issues are the front movers of unrest in the country.

The allocation of commercial farms to emerging farmers is one of the top priorities of the District but it is running at a slow pace due to the administrative breaches – both National and Provincially.

JoGEDA

The feedlot in Aliwal North was launched on the 4th of December 2018 and has a carrying capacity of 300 herds of cattle .

Commercialisation of the Aliwal Spa and Island Spa Conference Centre has been advertised to prospective developers and an appointment of the successful bidder has been completed . The Service Level Agreement is currently being developed for conclusion of the project.

The country is plagued by series of protests linked to service delivery. These are common behaviour in particular when we are

heading for any kind of elections. Political leaders should educate people about the importance of their right to protest but not destroy properties. What we have seen in Senqu last year, and early this month was not acceptable.

We need to look at the many things in our District that proves challenges. We need to strategise, implement , monitor and evaluate. Now is the time. Let's get to work!

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