

**Sol Plaatje Municipality's LED Unit create decent and quality work for both youth and women in Kimberley through BPO&O under MBDCS.**

The South African government has identified the Business Process Outsourcing and Off-shoring (BPO&O) sector as one of the top three priority sectors to stimulate growth within its Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative. The sector is identified for its potential to attract investment and create employment opportunities in the economy. The Department of Trade and Industry (the Dti) has introduced an incentive programme to attract investment in the sector.

During 2007 Sol Plaatje Municipality was one of the two municipalities in Northern Cape identified by the Dti as one of the economically depressed municipality which needs to take advantage of the incentives created by BPO&O to establish a call centre with aim of creating enabling environment for job creation. As result of this programme the Dti was able to attract investors who will establish call centres within the identified municipalities. All identified municipalities were to compete against each by submitting a value proposal which the closing date was 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008. In case of Sol Plaatje Municipality we were competing with other three municipalities that is one in North West, one in Limpopo and the other in Mpumalanga.

The four municipalities were competing against each other in order to convince the MBD Credit Solutions ("MBDCS") as an investor that their municipality is best place for investors to be and conduct their business. As the results of presentation through the value proposal and through our interaction with MBDCS' representatives when visiting Sol Plaatje Municipality we were able to convince them that SPM is the best destination to be and operate business. We managed to submit our value proposal on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008 before 16:00 as the closing time and as such we received acknowledgement note from the Dti for the receipt of our proposal.

The following information provides details of decent and quality jobs created for our vulnerable group that is youth and women by SPM's LED Unit.

- MBDCS employed 228 staff at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010, of which 146 or 64% were female

- There were no disabled staff employed at that date (nor currently)
- MBDCS constantly reviews its capacity across all its operations but at current the headcount in the Sol Plaatje branch is not planned to exceed 266 head
- At 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010, MBDCS employed 120 people 25 years old or younger, or 53% of the total staff complement, whilst 208 people, or 90% of total staff complement were 30 years of age or younger.

It is Council's belief that LED Unit is contributing markedly to sustainable development and social upliftment in our communities and we welcome the opportunity to work with MBDCS and the Dti at the local government to further aims of jobs creation.