

SOL PLAATJE

MAY 2017

Calls/Roep



Remarks by the **EXECUTIVE MAYOR**



New Affordable Tarrifs for the City

As the Sol Plaatje Council, we recently approved the budget with an objective eradicating of poverty, employment and inequality. This budget happens exactly six months after local government elections where our people were giving the leadership of local government the authority to change and better their living conditions. Due to economic down turn, this budget does not come near to solving our challenges. Without any doubt, we acutely aware of the enormous responsibility facing us to continue unwaveringly towards a free and democratic society.

Much still needs to be done and significant challenges are still facing us, but our pledge to our citizens is that we will not divert from our course towards a better life for all. The goal should be to enhance service delivery aimed at improving the quality of life for all people within the district. Budgeting is primarily about the choices that the municipality has to make between competing priorities and fiscal realities. Our revenue budget has been compiled based on the following tariff increases assumptions which are the lowest in several years.

Rates and taxes, to increase by 5, 5%, from 0,009688 (just below one cent) cents to 0,010221 (to a cent) cents per rand of valuation. Sewer and sanitation, to increase by 5, 5%, from R137,60 (One hundred and thirty seven rands, sixty cents) cents to R145,17 cents. Refuse removal to increase by 5,5%, from R98,18 cents (Ninety Eight Rands, eighteen cents) to R103,58 cents (One hundred and

three rands and fifty eight cents) per month. Water to increase by 5,5%, from R5,27 (Five Rands and twenty seven cents) cents per kilo litre (thousand litres) to R5,56 cents (Five Rands and Fifty Six Cents) per kilo litre. Electricity to increase by 3,28%, from 143,82 cents to 148,54 cents, for IBT Block 1, for example. The average tariff increase shall therefore be 4,5% against inflation estimated at 6, and 4% for 2017/18.

We understand by now that in as far as electricity tariffs are concerned, the guidelines are yet to be issued by National Energy Regulator, and should the tariff increase proposed not be in line with NERSA, the assumptions shall be reviewed immediately, and the budget shall be corrected as such.

It is also pleasing that we are working hand-in-hand with the National Energy Regulator with regards to price determination and regulation of bulk costs increases according to the Electricity Regulation Act 6 of 2006. As Council, we have noted concerns raised by the members of the public with regards to comparability of the municipal electricity tariffs with similar sized municipalities. A benchmark exercise was done internally, which confirmed that we are not the most expensive city. However, an independent analysis will be commissioned to investigate and report on this matter.

*Sol plaatje university,
major investment in the city.*



The Editorial Team | Sello Matsie (Editor) | Thokozile Riet | Ann Jansen

SMS 44204 FOR ALL YOUR SERVICE DELIVERY ENQUIRIES

War on Dirt in our City

A revised the approach to the cleaning of the city by the Sol Plaatje Municipality has been adopted which hope will deal a massive blow to the current state of the city cleanliness. As a consequence of good rains over December and January the growth of grass and other plants was rapid to an extent that it gives the city a dirty look. This also coincided with the close out of the EPWP cleaning project making the problem worse.

The city has now been divided into 11 clusters with roughly 3 or 4 wards per cluster. Each cluster is being equipped with petrol operated grass cutters, rakes, spades and brooms to name but obvious items needed. Every team member will be productively utilised with a team coordinator being held accountable for achieving set targets per day. This approach is also to ensure that a set team is held responsible for a specified area (as opposed to before where no one took responsibility).

The team has been instructed by the MM to have targeted approach for the next 4 to 6 weeks that will see priority being given to areas of high risk, where public frequents more, near public amenities such as schools and graveyards, entrances to the city, to name but obvious matters. This will be followed by expanding to other parts. Additional flatbed trucks are being procured to be available fulltime for the cleaning operations and removal of debris. The overall project manager is Paseka Rasego who can be contacted at telephone number 053 8306568.



Similarly the management of the landfill site (dumps) was reviewed. It will be operated between 7.30 am to 4pm Monday to Saturday with spotters guiding where offloading must be done. Past problems arose mainly due to the fact that persons wanted to drop off waste at the gate. This will not be tolerated in future. Safety is being upgraded with fulltime security personnel on site. We continue to advice the public to avoid the landfill site after hours until the complete refurbishment project has been completed. Weekly waste removal will continue as before although there are considerations around the improved efficient use of the trucks.

ITS TIME

All roads led to our sister City of Bloemfontein at the farm Wilde Als Farm. Many of our residents braced the Bloemfontein road to be part of the day of prayer for all South Africans of all races and denominations who are concerned about hatred, violence, corruption and murder. The prayer day was the brain child of Evangelist Angus Buchan who said the aim of the day was to pray for the social ills facing the communities in the country. As a city that has also been part of crime, we lost police officers, children are still missing due to human trafficking and high levels of unemployment, we fully support the event Municipal Spokesperson, Sello Matsie said. While many could not attend the event but our hearts were there and we are grateful everybody could make it back home safe he added.



A major pipe installation project for Newton Reservoir



A major R14 million pipe installation project has kicked after a site hand over to newly appointed contractors. Work is expected to span over an estimated five months to repair water pipes that are constantly bursting. The city has experienced several unannounced water interruptions. A new water chamber will be constructed so that the water supply to Hadison Park, Royldene, Conrad Street in Albertynshof and Sol Plaatje University would be separated from the main network. This will enable the system to isolate the areas that experience water leaks or burst pipes while continuing to supply other areas leading to better management of water resources and improved reliability. Water interruptions would only take place towards the end of the project when the pipes were connected.

Preparation work will first be done on site and the contractors will begin sourcing the necessary materials. Adequate notice will be given before the water supply is temporarily interrupted to residents. The preparation work should not affect the daily supply of water. Other repairs would be made to the valve in Lawson Street and pipes would be replaced in Carrington Road, Hoffe Park, Reservoir and Birbeck Avenue, William Gasson Street and Waterworks Street. The new pipes, which will have an expected lifespan of between 20 to 30 years, will be corrosive proof and will be constructed of steel or PVC. We request residents to be patient while the repairs are taking place over the next few months and we assure the public that we will inform them ahead of time of any upcoming water interruptions.