

SOL PLAATJE

MARCH 2017

Calls/Roep



Remarks by the **EXECUTIVE MAYOR**



Let us build a safer city for all

Dear Ratepayer, Statistics SA has revealed that almost 70% of South Africans feel unsafe at night, even though their experiences of crime have declined according to Statistician General Pali Lehohla. The survey found that in 2011, 931 000 people said they had experienced at least one incident of housebreaking, burglary or home robbery. This dropped to 807 000 for 2015/16, but it was not enough to make them feel safer. Clearly this is very unacceptable and we should all redouble our efforts to change the situation. To this end we are equally concerned about the disappearance of children in our community due to human trafficking. We will continue our efforts for the return of Keitumetse Magwadibane, Anna Moyo and Kwena Moshoeshoe. Let us continue to support the families and provide information about their whereabouts.

All structures like community policing forum, the ward committees and the community development workers must ensure that we work with law enforcement agencies to build a safer community. We want to welcome the speedy arrests of the perpetrators of crime at our landfill site and also call for the speedy resolution of all reported muggings at the same place.

Furthermore we support fully the call towards radical economic transformation, which should mean moving beyond share ownership schemes only. We would like to see black people involved directly in business, owning factories as the President has outlined. The same goes towards the broadening of the participation of black people and SMMEs, including those owned by women and the youth, in the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector. On our part we will continue to run an effective poverty alleviation programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The EPWP has since 2014, created job opportunities towards the attainment of the target of six million work opportunities by the end of March 2019. Of the work opportunities created, more than one million have been taken up by the youth. The construction of the Sol Plaatje University and other infrastructure has also created a number of jobs to the local economy. In conclusion we welcome the recent good rains

We welcomes all new students for the academic year 2017.



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

SMS 44204 FOR ALL YOUR SERVICE DELIVERY ENQUIRIES

Inspections to be Conducted for General Valuation Roll 2019

A general valuation roll is required to be undertaken at least once every 4 years in terms of the Municipal Property Rates Act No 6 of 2004 (MPRA).

Our official Data Collectors and Valuers will be doing inspections and gathering information of property in your area from February 2017 to December 2018 for valuation related purposes as contemplated in Section 41 of the MPRA. This entails, amongst other things, the measuring of buildings and taking photographs where necessary. These Officials can be identified by their ID cards with photograph and they will be wearing a reflector vest with the Sol Plaatje Municipal logo. Our Officials will only be conducting these inspections during working hours (week days 07H45 – 16H30 and Saturdays 08H00-13H00) unless specific arrangements have been made with the owner. Section 41 of the MPRA states that we may inspect a property between 07H30 and 19H00 on any day except a Sunday or public holiday. You can also contact the Valuations Office at 053 - 8306071 to verify the employee.

Please do not let anyone purporting to be an official from the Sol Plaatje Municipality Valuation Section onto your property unless they have the required identification.

The more information gathered the better the valuation process will be. We plead with the community to please cooperate with our employees to ensure the information received is correct.



Front (left to right): S. Hashatse, J. Borraine, K. Seatlholo, M. Mothibedi, K. Nel

Back (left to right): K. Modise, ZL. Mahloko (CFO), C. Mzinyathi, M. Moeti, A. Klopper (GM), P. Jansen

Street Names and House Numbers

Residents are called upon to ensure that street names and numbers are clearly recognisable. Operational officers experience problems identifying street names and house numbers when responding to emergencies. This problem is a growing concern, not only for the Emergency Services but also Ambulance and Police Services. The municipality will also be embarking on a programme for all outstanding street names in areas that are still without. These are mainly newly build like Phomolong extension, Santa and Lerato Park.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER: 053 832 2222

2017 Budget in a nutshell

Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan's National Budget recently tabled in Parliament was relatively welcomed. Below is the budget in summary.

Budget framework

- The budget deficit will fall from 3.2% in 2016/17 to 2.4% in 2018/19 (3.9% in 2015/16).
- Debt stock as a percentage of GDP is expected to stabilise at 46.2% in 2017/18 (43.7% in 2017/18).
- Government will lower the expenditure ceiling by R10bn in 2017/18 and R15bn in 2018/19 by reducing public sector compensation budgets.

Spending programmes over the next three years

- R457.5bn on social grants.
- R93.1bn on transfers to universities, while the National Student Financial Aid Scheme receives R41.2bn.
- R707.4bn on basic education, including R45.9bn for subsidies to schools, R38.3bn for infrastructure, and R14.9bn for learner and teacher support materials.
- R108.3bn for public housing.
- R102bn on water resources and bulk infrastructure.

Social Grant increases

- State old age grant from R1 415 to R1 505 per month.
- State old age grant for over 75s from R1 435 to R1 525.
- War veterans grant from R1 435 to R 1 525.
- Disability grant from R1 415 to R 1 505.
- Foster care grant from R860 to R890.
- Care dependency grant from R1 415 to R1 505.
- Child support grant from R330 to R350.

Commemorating 100 Years of the SS Mendi and Her Crew

The president recently paid tribute to the men who perished on the SS Mendi. Speaking during the Armed Forces day held Durban said the day had a special meaning in our country, because it marked the centenary of the sinking of the SS Mendi troopship. On the 21st of February 1917, the SS Mendi ship was chartered by the British Government as a troop carrier to serve in World War 1, carrying eight hundred and twenty three members of the fifth battalion. They had completed 34 days of the voyage from Cape Town to England, and were now on their way to France to the war, when the tragedy struck in the English channel. The SS Mendi was struck and almost cut into half by a much bigger ship, the SS Darro, which was bound for Argentina. Black people had volunteered to join the First World War in order to fight against fascism. The president said they joined the war believing that their contribution would lead to better treatment back home after the war by the colonial masters.



Unfortunately their sacrifice did not earn them any respect from the rulers of the time. They were not allowed to carry weapons and were to be utilised as labourers rather than as fighting soldiers. They were also never decorated or awarded any medals at the end of the war.