

# SOL PLAATJE

## July 2017

### *Calls/Roep*



## Remarks by the **EXECUTIVE MAYOR**



### ***Towards a Leading and Modern City***

The new approved budget marks a significant milestone, not only for the political and administrative leadership of the municipality, but also for the communities that reside within the Sol Plaatje Municipality. We have developed a fresh new vision for the future which is captured as *Towards a Leading and Modern City*. This is underscored by a pilot for the “new deal” - the *Integrated Urban Development Framework*. Our ultimate goal is to lead the city towards modernisation. To achieve this, Transforming the city spatially, Support Inclusive economic growth, Provide services to all and

Good Governance will form the strategic objectives guiding the city towards the future. I'm disturbed by the sporadic service delivery protests that have affected the municipality. We are proud of what we have done for the community of Sol Plaatje, we are not perfect, but a striving municipality. We are committed to serve without prejudice and deliver to our people within our financial capabilities. As of the same time to date, more than 5 200 sites were created through our town planning initiatives. In the current financial year, we have yielded 1 150 ervens, these include Phase 3 Snake Park 637, we are hoping that Begonia will yield about 102 sites after the completion of geo-tech studies necessary for site enrolment with NHBRC, we have resolved the

burning issue of Santa Centre Community and 137 sites complete for their relocation which already commenced.

Other informal settlements upgrade is taking place in Ramorwa and Witdam with an estimated yield of 23 and Soul City 64 ervens, awaiting surveyor general's approval. In Ritchie, we are currently busy with the upgrade of Erf 454 for human settlements purposes. We have indeed served the people of the city. There is a need for us to increase our revenue base to ensure the development of the Municipality, it is in this light that we will be hosting an “LED and Investment summit” end of July. This will serve as a roadmap in the town planning plans of the Municipality and also reflect on the current state of the SMME's.

The “Integrated Human settlement summit” set for end of August will put a proper plan and strategy in place. Key to this plan is to take these housing developments to areas like Galeshewe, Roodepan, Greenpoint, Ritchie and Riverton and not have an over concentration of development in certain parts of the City. It is an obligation to us as the Municipality that these two summits succeed. To conclude, we are working with SANRAL to ensure that the killer crossings on the R31 road that has taken the lives of so many people is redesigned and reconstructed to reduce the number of fatalities.



## Improvements for sporting facilities



A number community facilities including the De Beers Stadium, Galeshewe stadium and Florianville swimming pool, will be for upgraded and **R6.8 million** has been allocated to these projects. The maintenance and sustenance of these facilities will be done in collaboration with other stakeholders. There is also need to fast track the implementation of the Nelson Mandela Memorial program that will ensure the development of recreational and sports facilities

in all our communities including Ritchie, Riverton, Greenpoint, Platfontein and Colville-Floors.

To support new developments and growth on the north-western side of the city, it became important that availability and connection to water and sanitation receives priority. For 2017/18, the following projects will be implemented. The linking of bulk services (water and sanitation) to Lerato Park at a combined budget of about R27, 7 million over the MTREF. This project has also been identified as a Human Settlements Catalytic project by the Housing Development Agency. The refurbishment of the Gogga Pump Sewer outfall at a cost of R25 million earmarked for the first year of the budget. The Ritchie Bulk Water Augmentation project and the upgrading of the Riverton Pump Station Building and High lift pumps are other key projects for the period with a combined budget of R56, 8 million.

## Youth Day 2017

Youth Day celebrations were held with several municipal teams taking part in sporting activities. With the theme, The year of OR Tambo: Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment the national event was commemorated in Ventersdorp, North West Province. President Jacob Zuma delivered the keynote address. In 1975 protests started in African schools after a directive from the then Bantu Education Department that Afrikaans had to be used on an equal basis with English as a language of instruction in secondary schools. The uprisings tragically ended with hundreds of young people killed by the apartheid government when they protested against the imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction. Youth Day commemorates the Soweto youth uprising of 16 June 1976.



## Housing for the gap market

The outcry from communities about the lack of response from the Municipality to the housing needs of people outside of the Subsidy and High End brackets has been noted by the Executive Mayor. Addressing the budget approval council meeting, the executive mayor said the Human Settlement programme needs the municipality to respond to two important markets that have not been catered for in our planning previously. These are the so called GAP market and those that can build for themselves, in this regard sites will be set aside and developed for the roll out of the FLISP programme.

This programme targets residents who earn between R 3500 and R 15 000, who cannot afford bonds but earn above the subsidy threshold. The municipality will also be setting sites aside for the GAP market, for people who earn above the FLISP requirements but can't afford current property markets. The Executive Mayor said the municipality needs to avail land for sale to individuals who may want to build their own properties or create a market for houses between R 400 000 and R 750 000.

Equally important is the condition of our roads that needs urgent attention. To this end, an amount of R115 million over the next three years has been allocated for the resealing and upgrading of roads in the Municipality. In addition to this, an amount of R36, 9 million as the operational allocation for the general maintenance of roads in 2017/18. It is envisaged that this budget allocation will greatly assist in improving the condition of the roads within the municipal area. Some of us would recall the Kagisho Dam Disaster, R20 million funding has been availed during the MTREF to upgrade the dam, thus preventing similar disaster from occurring in the future. This project is long overdue and will be prioritised as well.



# DO NOT DUMP

**IT'S A HEALTH RISK!**

**Keep your area and city clean for your children's health.**

