

# SOL PLAATJE

## *Calls/Roep*

APRIL 2017



## Remarks by the **EXECUTIVE MAYOR**



### *Unity in action in advancing Human Rights*

Dear Ratepayer

We celebrated our Human Rights Day mindful of the challenges that we are still faced with as City. We can never be happy when our women and children continue to have their rights violated. A report released by Statistics South Africa, the Survey of Activities of Young People, outlines the burden on the country's children. While the situation is slowly improving, there are still many children who are obliged to work to survive.

The report says there was a decline in the number of children who were involved in child labour from 779 000 in 2010 to 577 000 in 2015, this was a difference of 202 000 children. Children aged 16-17 years were more likely to be engaged in child labour than the other age groups. The report says Black African children were more likely to be involved in child labour when compared to other population groups. We should always remember that lots of our people paid the ultimate price for our constitutionally enshrined human rights.

This year Human Rights day marked 40 years since Biko died while in detention in police cells in Pretoria in 1977. The marking of this day was born out of huge sacrifices made by brave men and women who fought for freedom in the face of extreme brutality by the apartheid regime. We share the sentiments of the President Jacob Zuma that our country now enjoys a stable constitutional democracy where everyone is entitled to equal human rights because of the sacrifices of the people of Sharpeville, Langa, Soweto, KwaMashu, Tzaneen, Zeerust, Giyani and many other parts of our country.

We should continue to strive to ensure that we build on the foundation of our constitutional rights. As we approach Easter, which is respected for being the commemoration of the crucifixion of our lord, let us uphold all religious rights. Our diversity should not be divisive but should strengthen us as a city and country.

In conclusion, as a city we salute our galant police officers and extend our condolences to the families of the deceased.



*Members of the police paying tribute to their fallen colleagues.*



## Capital budget in summary 2017

A R50 million budget has been set aside to subsidize the roll-out of free basic water, electricity, sanitation and refuse removal. A process of Indigent Verification is planned to start soon, as most of the indigent households that qualified are based on area and we need to still collect their data as per the policy. Ward Councillors will be updated with regards to this process.

The approved capital budget for 2016/17 was R125 million, funded from internally generated funds of approximately R44 million and grants and subsidies of R81 million. These funds had been adjusted as follows:

- CRR increases from R43,6 million to R50,9 million as a result of rolled over funds from the previous financial year
- The Accelerated Community Infrastructure Programme (ACIP) new funding of R3 million
- Grant funding from DSAC of R9,7 million rolled over from previous financial year
- Francis Baard District Municipality grant of R5 million that became available after approval of budget.

The rolled over projects comprises of the following projects:

- Florianville Swimming Pool upgrade R1, 6 million
- Nelson Mandela Memorial Monument Project R8,15 million
- Township establishment projects R1, 031 million
- Fleet Replacement Project R4,8 million
- Homevale Waste Water Treatment Plant rolled over an amount of R6,9 million

## Obituary: Dirk van der Merwe

One of the City's long serving Councillor passed on early this month. Democratic Alliance Councillor **Dirk Van Der Merwe** had served the Municipality since 1995. The Executive Mayor, Speaker and councillors including staff mourn his passing. Councillor Dirk van der Merwe will be solely missed.



## Opportunity to add Your Voice on our new Integrated Development Plan

Every five years the Municipality adopts a development plan. The focus of the current plan developed in 2011 was addressing failing infrastructure, financial stability, improving audit opinions, stimulating growth through infrastructure, informal settlement upgrades, etc.

Today we are in a better space with the following :

- ▶ upgraded bulk infrastructure in the water, electricity and sewerage sectors,
- ▶ improved finances and unqualified audit reports,
- ▶ improved services in several settlements and
- ▶ Renewed private investments in the construction sector.

We need to build on this stability and accelerate future growth and development.

To that end residents need to make their inputs at meetings intended for this purpose.



## Galeshewe SMME Village

The Galeshewe Small Medium and Micro Enterprise Village currently hosts several business which range from Environmental Consultant, Electricians, Artists, Training Providers, Computer Centre, Enterprise Development, Business Advisor and Cleaning Material manufacturing. Centre Manager Mr Collin Bosman believes the centre has great potential and encourages members of the community to visit the centre to meet with the different business to grow the Township economy.

For enquiries call 087 310 5250

