



MAKANA

Volume1 - 2016

News



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NKWINTI
RESTORES
DIGNITY IN
RADWAY FARM**

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DARKNESS FOR
ETHEMBENI**

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Mayor's Foreword

Dear readers of Makana News

I am privileged that I get to interact with you through this platform to keep you informed about the state of our municipality and progress made on service delivery.

The mid-year reveals financial and sustainability challenges. Unrealistic budget has had a negative impact on the current financial status of the municipality.

Our SDBIP indications are that 46% of performance against outputs and goals of service delivery and budget implementation are lagging behind for various reasons i.e funding constraints. Portfolio Committees must perform oversight role, and take necessary steps to ensure that low achieving areas are brought back on track.

The municipality has faced so many challenges. The income generated barely covers expenditure. The rate of income is 72% and steps were taken to enhance income generation. We have also managed to fill key positions including the Director of Technical and Infrastructural Services and we anticipate the next CFO to be appointed by March/April.

On the positive side, there is a general feeling of stability in the municipality, despite funding shortage and the fact that the Municipal Manager's position is not filled yet. Council meetings are sitting regularly, the Audit Committee is meeting, senior management and extended management meetings are taking place and a culture of discipline is promoted.



Executive Mayor - Nomhle Gaga

Strides have been made to address the water problems in our municipality. The Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) has approved funding R69 million from RBIG funding to upgrade the Mayfield Waste Water Treatment Works and R101.85 million (RBIG) the project is estimated to cost R93 million over a 3 Year Financial period. Amatola Water was appointed as an Implementing Agent and the Design stage is 50% complete.

Revenue enhancement is of utmost importance to the municipality. A revenue enhancement committee consisting of every directorate and section involved in collecting revenue was established. Revco, the company appointed to assist with revenue also serves on this committee. At the first meeting, issues like the installment of prepaid meters, processes and systems that must be put in place to facilitate income generation was already addressed. SALGA has offered training to the debtor's section and the reading of meters will be addressed.

Above all we have faced, I am honoured that the municipality has received a qualified audit opinion

Editor's Note

Dear readers

Let me take this opportunity to present to you the Makana News publication that is aimed at informing the community about developments in the Municipal area.

This edition is packed with good news stories that profile the work that is being done by the government to make the area a better place to be, from restoring the dignity of a displaced community to empowering and equipping residents with tools to fight poverty.

Despite the challenges that the Municipality is faced with, progress is being made to address service delivery issues.

As we are moving towards local government elections, we need to promote the democracy that we enjoy and encourage citizens to register and exercise their right of voting.

Should you have anything you want to share, please do not hesitate to contact us. Hope you enjoy this read.



Yoliswa Ramokolo

from the Auditor General's office. I commend all those dedicated individuals who worked tirelessly to turn around the municipality and ensure we receive this achievement.

We must therefore dedicate this year, among other things, to:

- Year of unqualified audit
- Year of revenue enhancement
- Year of consequence management
- Year of clean town

All this will be done through officials creating a culture of performance.



MINISTER NKWINTI RESTORES DIGNITY IN RADWAY FARM



Rural Development and Land Reform Minister, Gugile Nkwinti, with Executive Mayor of Makana Municipality, Nomhle Gaga, hand over a newly built house to a Radway Farm community member on 14 December 2015.

The year-end of 2015 will forever be memorable to the Radway Farm community. After being displaced within their respective farm they were residing at, community members sought assistance from Makana Municipality who then contacted the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) for intervention. The DRDLR bought the land for the displaced people and placed them on temporary structures while they were sorting out their housing needs. The department identified about 27 displaced families to be recipients of these new houses.

This housing project utilising new technology, awarded to Hydraform in February 2015, also involved the concept of creating job opportunities and skills development by providing training for 31 people from within this community.

The community members were also involved in the construction of their houses. Hydraform provided training in construction, block-making and basic machine maintenance to ensure that the block-making machines, given to them by Hydraform, will be repaired by them when necessary.

The project also included a training of National Rural Youth Service Corps (Narysec) for young people

between the ages of 18 and 35 that are recruited from rural wards, irrespective of gender and disability. These youths are trained in various skills such as wastewater management, water purification, construction, electricity and agriculture so that they are marketable and can open their own businesses after training.

The Executive Mayor of Makana Municipality, Hon. Nomhle Gaga expressed her gratitude from the department mentioning that efforts like these are welcomed to curb the ever increasing housing list as Makana has more than 14 000 housing backlog.

She commended the community for being hands-on on the project. “The beneficiaries were proactive during the fruitful negotiations to temporarily relocate them from their previous home to this site and to allow the construction to start without delay.

“ They were also hands on in their construction, which is what we need. I would like to thank them for their co-operation and dedication in making sure that everything goes according to plan. These houses are now yours, please take good care of them” said the Exec Mayor.

...continued on page 4

Minister Nkwinti restores dignity in Radway Farm

...from page 3

Minister Nkwinti thanked his team for the job well done and commending them on bringing the first project that uses new technology. He also commended the community for being patient confirming to them that they will be occupying their houses as from today as they were very impatient. “The members of this community could not wait to occupy their houses the last time I was here. Today I am here to hand you the keys to your houses, from now you will be owners of your own houses”, said the Hon Minister.

The housing development entails the drilling and equipping the site with boreholes, installing of rainwater harvesting tanks for each household, implementation of waste water management system that will recycle grey water and each house has also been equipped with solar power. They are also provided with new plasma televisions and gas stoves. The NARYSEC team will be receiving the two block-making machines from Hydraform for future projects.

Rural Development and Land Reform Minister, Gugile Nkwinti, hands over keys and title deed of the house to a community member



Rural Development and Land Reform Minister, Gugile Nkwinti, with Executive Mayor of Makana Municipality, Nomhle Gaga, standing with all the beneficiaries of the newly build houses in Radway Farm

PAVING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE FOR VUKANI COMMUNITY



Progress is being made on the Vukani Location taxi route



A large part of the roads work in Vukani Location has been completed

After living in the dusty streets for the past few years, Vukani Location residents are now living in a less potholed and pollution area. This comes after Makana Local Municipality and the Department of Human Settlement had spent R21 million towards the paving of the taxi route in Vukani Location.

This has been a gravel road that used to make it difficult for taxi commuters and car drivers to commute through the streets of Vukani. In all the Mayoral Imbizos that the Executive Mayor called, the issue of taxi route and the maintenance of the gravel road in the area was always a thorny issue. The residents are now happy that their complaint has been answered.

Mcedisi Soxujwa, a Social Facilitator from Makana Municipality, said that paving is more labour intensive and has given opportunity to the local labourers to work in the project. He said that paving is more durable, no potholes found and is easily maintained than asphalt.

At least 39 unemployed youth from around Grahamstown have been employed including four local Small Medium Micro Enterprise that benefited from the project as they are sub-contracted for the construction of sidewalks.

Vukani Ward Councilor, Mthuthuzeli Madinda, said

that he was ecstatic and relieved that the project has

finally taken place after a long time they have been trying. "This project has decreased the unemployment rate, even the SMME's have benefitted from it. I wish that there should be speed humps inserted because cars are speeding and I am afraid that accidents could happen."

The areas that will be paved includes Vukani Taxi-Route from the corner of Albert Road and A-Street all the way behind Nathaniel Nyaluza High School to the Centre of Vukani Township and connecting to the old tar road connecting the top of B-Street.

Noxolo Ngcethe a community member from Vukani expressed her feeling about the newly paved road saying that she is very happy that the roads are in good condition because recently the gravel roads were causing lots of dust making it difficult for them to make their laundries.

Another community member Thanduxolo Kula expressed his gratitude to Makana Municipality for answering to their plea. However, he requested the municipality to build speed humps as now many drivers are speeding.



MAKANA WATER INTERVENTION PROJECT

milestone achievements since February 2015

Under the leadership of the Department of Water & Sanitation, public sector partners across all spheres of government, Makana and Amatola Water, worked tirelessly to ensure that residents of Makana Municipality receive sustainable, uninterrupted, high-quality supply of water 24/7. Makana Water Intervention Project made great strides and achieved significant milestones.

Evidence abounds that this significant public sector investment in service delivery is bearing fruit as the redundancies in the system increase and it is better able to cope with a variety of challenges, including managing the impact of load-shedding, adverse weather conditions, vandalism and aging infrastructure.

The positive impact of the intervention is evident in a decline in the number of water supply outages experienced by residents, the acceleration of leak repair response times, greater cohesion between the east and west water supply systems and the seamless functioning of the Makana reticulation & Amatola Water bulk supply operations.

Howieson's Poort Bulk Water Supply Pump Station upgrade:

- 2 existing pumps commissioned and functional
- New panel for 3rd pump installed and is fully functional
- All 8 Valves replaced with new 2 Balance meters installed
- Two existing pump motors repaired
- New Electrical panels with intelligent technology

- Civil and mechanical work for 3rd pump set is installed
- SCADA operational

Waainek Water Treatment Works:

- Repair & upgrade of 4km 66kv power line completed
- Daily on-site training undertaken
- Repair of dosing systems completed
- Clarifier desludging system under repair
- Filters refurbished
- Upgrade and standardisation of Laboratory testing equipment completed
- Raw Bulk and final water meters installed
- Relining of lay dams initiated
- Pumping capacity of raw water from Town Filters reclaimed
- Quality improvement to SANS 241
- Consistent improvement on Blue Drop compliance

Revenue Generation:

- An excess of 1500 mechanical meters replaced in reticulation
- Billing volumes improved by up to 300%

James Kleynhans Water Treatment Works:

- Bi-monthly draining & cleaning of system
- Daily on-site training
- Upgrade of Chlorine & Flocculation dosing systems complete
- Clarifier desludging system refurbished
- Filter refurbishment completed
- Laboratory testing equipment in place
- Bulk water meter installation 60% completed
- 4th pump and motor set manufactured, and installed
- SCADA system being upgraded

Botha's Hill Reservoirs:

- Additional bulk pipeline installed
- 2nd reservoir operational
- Increased supply by operating plant well above their designed specification, to residents in East
- Pipe bursts, theft & vandalism have negative impact
- Bulk meter installed
- Anticipated Kleynhans upgrade will further improve
- Sludge handling facility being upgraded

Tantyi Reservoir:

- Bottleneck resolved & now operational improving supply to households
- Bulk meter installed

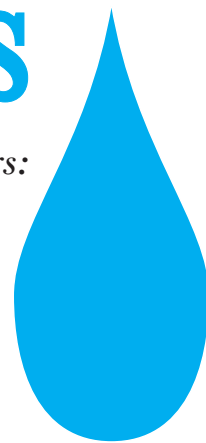
Ward 12 Reservoir:

- Innovative design & rapid construction
- Smart, accurate meter installed
- Enhanced revenue generation anticipated





WATER-WISE PRACTICES



*Grahamstown's water supply continues to be unreliable due to various factors: infrastructure and operational issues, unreliable rainfall patterns and intermittent droughts. Various parts of town may have problems with water service delivery from time to time. Makana Municipality and the Kowie Catchment Campaign appeal to the community to be part of the solution: please use water **responsibly** and **sparingly**, and observe water-wise practices.*

Repair leaks:

Report all leaks immediately. A dripping tap or leaking toilet can waste more than 1000 litres per month. To check for toilet leaks: place a drop of food colouring in the cistern – if it is leaking, the colour will show up in the toilet bowl.

Reduce toilet flush:

Place a full plastic bottle in the toilet cistern. This reduces the amount of water flushed.

Water-wise garden:

Plant indigenous and mulch. Many beautiful indigenous plants use less water. Mulching with straw/leaves/etc helps retain soil moisture.

Use low-flow showers:

Shower for 5 min using low pressure or a low-flow showerhead. This helps use less water.

Re-use grey water:

Use grey water from basins and showers to flush toilets and water plants.

Only wash essential items:

Avoid washing non-essential items such as cars, paving, etc. This helps reduce wastage of valuable water.

Only do full loads of laundry:

Do laundry only when there is a full load, to save on water use. Use a water-saving / eco-friendly washing machine.

Switch off taps:

Switch off when not in use. A running tap - while you clean your teeth, rinse veggies, wash dishes, etc - can waste a lot of water. NB: in the event of a water cut, please ensure taps are kept closed!

Rainwater tanks:

Filtered rainwater is suitable for cooking and drinking. More info at www.ru.ac.za/greenliving/action/waterwise/rainwater

Reporting leaks: Makana Municipality

Engineers
Department:
046 603 6063

Fire
Department:
046 603 6000

After hours
Toll free:
080 111 444



Makana Local Municipality
MobiSAM





KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS



Executive Mayor:
Cllr N.S. Gaga



Council Speaker:
Cllr Y. Vara



Cllr J. Wells:
Chief Whip



Cllr V.C. Kolisi:
Ward 10



Cllr M.C. Booyesen:
Ward 3



Cllr B.W. Fargher:
Ward 12



Cllr P. Ranchhod:
Proportional



Cllr L. Reynolds:
Proportional



Cllr M. Gojela:
Ward 11



Cllr B.P.N. Jackson:
Ward 8



Cllr M.M. Khubalo:
Ward 7



Cllr M. Matyumza:
Proportional



Cllr N. Magadaza:
Proportional



Cllr E. Louw:
Ward 14



Cllr N. Meti:
Ward 2



Cllr M. Phongolo:
Ward 1



Cllr L.C. May:
Ward 4



Cllr M. Madinda:
Ward 13



Cllr N.C. Masoma:
Ward 6



Cllr R. Plaatjie:
Proportional



Cllr B. Sali:
Proportional



Cllr X.G. Madyo:
Proportional



Cllr K. Jela-Solomon:
Ward 9



Cllr N.C. Tyantsula:
Proportional



Cllr T.C. Ngeleza:
Proportional



Cllr M. Tame:
Ward 5



MAKANA MAYOR VISITS ALICEDALE



Door-to-door visits: Executive Mayor, Nomhle Gaga (second from left), with Ward 14 Councillor, E. Louw (far right) visit the Zondani family to listen to their concerns.



Community members attending and engaging in the Mayoral Imbizo in Alicedale.

On 22 February 2016, Executive Mayor of Makana Municipality, Nomhle Gaga, conducted a Back to Basics programme in Alicedale where she interacted with community members in the area. The campaign focused on 2 pillars of the Back to Basics programme namely; putting people first and sound financial management.

The day-long programme began with door-to-door visits in an informal settlement where Exec Mayor Gaga, accompanied by councillors and officials, opened up the communication channels to engage with local residents and listen to their concerns.

“This is an opportunity for us, as representatives of the Makana Municipality and local residents to give each other a first-hand experience in exchanging information and encourage participation from all stakeholders in making decisions that will change

the lives of ordinary citizens,” said Mayor Gaga.

Matters that arose from the door-to-door visits included the following:

- Housing backlog
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Quality of water
- Social grants
- Lack of toilets
- Lack of taps

In an Imbizo, later on the day, Exec Mayor Gaga engaged further with residents on the issues of service delivery affecting them. She highlighted that the municipality's financial position is not a good one, with revenue collections being one of the major contributors affecting its financial stability.

If the municipality is to provide services adequately and efficiently, Exec Mayor Gaga stressed that the business sector and residents must pay rates. “I go around visiting all

wards explaining this responsibility and appeal to everyone to pay up and do their bit,” said Mayor Gaga.

The Alicedale business, residents and indigents owe the municipality R7.4 million, R17 million and R2 million respectively. In total, the Makana business community owes the municipality R50 million and the residents owe R285 million.

However, the Exec Mayor assured the community that the municipality will attend to the service delivery problems. Several sector departments, including the Departments of Public Works and Water and Sanitation, have been engaged to assist in solving the issues.

The community members appreciated the initiative, echoing sentiments that it is through openness and engagement that Makana Municipality can move forward.

FINAL REGISTRATION WEEKEND

9-10 APRIL | 8AM-5PM

WHO SHOULD REGISTER?

South African citizens, 16 years or older
(you have to be 18 or older to vote).

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO REGISTER?

An SA ID document (green bar-coded ID, smart-card ID, or a valid temporary identity certificate).

WHERE TO REGISTER?

Register at your local voting station where you live.

To find out where your voting station is:

- Visit www.elections.org.za
- Call 0800 11 8000 (7am – 9pm)
- Dial *120*IEC# (*120*432#)

ARE YOU ALREADY REGISTERED?

SMS your ID number to 32810 to check your registration details (SMS charged at R1).

ENGLISH

Find us on:
iecsouthafrica



**MUNICIPAL
ELECTIONS
2016**



NO PROOF OF RESIDENCE REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS A VOTER

In Local Government Elections voters may only vote where they are registered and voters are reminded that it is a criminal offence to register in a voting district in which they are not ordinarily resident.

All eligible voters visiting a voting station should have with them a valid South African identity document – namely either a green bar-coded ID book, a smartcard ID or a valid Temporary Identity Certificate.

Applicants will need to specify the address of where they live that is located in the voting district where they are registering. Where voters do not have a formal address they will need to specify sufficient details of where they live to allow election officials to confirm they are registering in the correct voting district.

It is important to note that the proof of residence is NOT a requirement when registering to vote.

Applicants will complete a voter registration application form (**REC1M**) in person at the voting station for the voting district in which they ordinarily reside.

Voters without formal addresses will be required to complete and sign an affirmation form (REC AS) accompanying the **REC1M** form in which they attest to the fact they live in the relevant voting district.

Each voting station is provided with a copy of the voters' roll reflecting the voters currently registered in that voting district. Also, there will be orientation maps to assist the registration staff in making sure that the address provided by the applicant is within the voting district boundary.

MY FUTURE IS IN MY HANDS



REGISTER AND VOTE

elections.org.za
0800 11 8000

× MUNICIPAL
ELECTIONS
2016

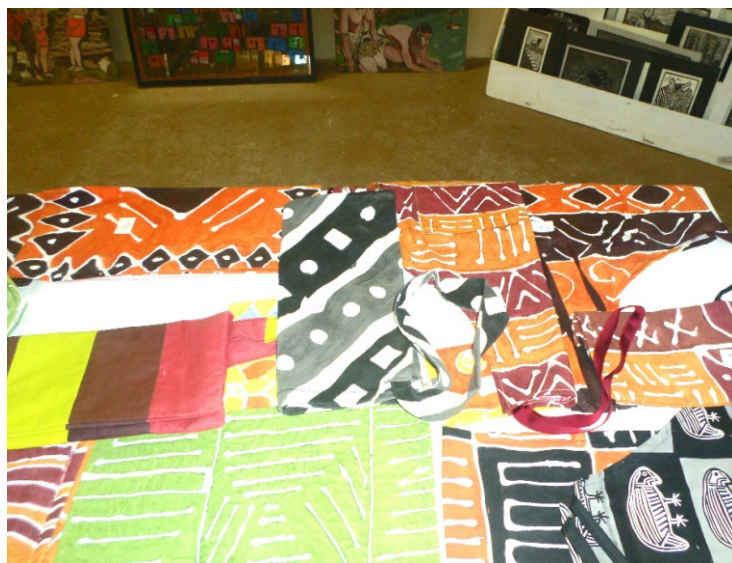




EXTRAORDINARY TALENT OF CRAFTSMANSHIP



Vukile Teyise showcasing some of the crafts he has produced



Colourful textiles: some of the products manufactured by Vukile Teyise

Vukile Teyise is an Art Crafter based in Joza Location. He fell in love with art at a tender age of twelve while he was still in primary school. He told *Makana News* that during his school days when girls were asked to draw pictures they used to ask him, that is when he realized his talent.

“I am coming from a family that is passionate about art, my mother was good on bead work even on painting pictures, I learnt all this from her” said Teyise. He said that he used to look when she paints a picture and tried to copy it.

He said that at first it was very difficult for him to exhibit his work

because he used to paint picture and keep them to his house because there were no exhibitions where he can send his work to be viewed.

In 1993 he resigned at his work as a cleaner and went to an art training, then in 2000 he joined an Egazini Outreach community art and culture initiative Project. “That's where things started to happen because all my art work was exhibited and people started noticing my talent,” added Teyise. He also said that, his work was being exhibited in other art Galleries such as the Carinus and VG exhibition.

Teyise said that, his challenge is

the lack of resources and funding. He also said that his business goes well during the National Arts Festival that takes place in June, this year he was amongst the crafters who were helped by Makana Municipality to get a stall at the Green village to exhibit his art work.

He said that he is very thankful to Municipality for lending a helping hand and recognizing their art work. The prices of his art product including bead- work, pictures, art print and craft products ranges from R50 to R650 depending on what the customer wants. People are requested to visit the center and give support to the crafters as that is their means of living.



Vukile Teyise showcasing a range of his beaded products





VOX POPS ... on service delivery



ANELISA MENTE (RU Assistance Librarian): They must upgrade the standard of road maintenance in Grahamstown and intervene in the housing allocation.



BETHELA NOZETHU (Educator): Congratulations on the housing allocation to some of the beneficiaries as well on paving but there is a poor service delivery backlog on distribution of electricity boxes.



ARMA MOLLER (Educator): Service delivery is pathetic they take forever to fix burst water pipes. They need to improve in every facet.



JOSEPH COETZEE (Student): Street lighting is still old. The name of the town should change. The water situation has improved at least.



LEON LOUWSKIETER (Self-employed): The service from our muni is very good we report thing they attend to them swiftly



LUMNKILE BANGANI (Pensioner): Our municipality is progressing forward but I would be very glad if they can fix roads like they did at Vukani and Extension 6. Hlalani needs a proper road.



RETHABILE MOBE (student): Cleanliness needs to be improved. However the water and sanitation has improved considering the previous experience.



SAM SCHOEMAN (SMME Contractor): Extension 6 and Hlalani finally have flushing toilets and hundreds of people are owners of RPD houses because of Makana municipality. We will appreciate more if Makana can consider or employ local SMME's for projects.



ZALISILE KLAAS (Pensioner): We are very thankful to municipality for fixing the water problem because we don't experience any water outage as we used to.



ZILINDILE ROYI (Pensioner): Our municipality is still treating us well in terms of service delivery, but next year we want them to install the toilet pipe in Hlalani location.





MAKANA PROJECTS

Makana Municipality has approved some projects that were started from previous financial years but could not be completed due to lack of funding. All the profiled projects have already started and some are nearing the completion phase. These are not the only projects that are being done around Makana.

Replacement of asbestos pipes around Grahamstown - R5.4 million

- The project includes the exposing and protecting of existing asbestos.
- Laying of 4.9km of new PVC pipes.
- Connecting the new pipes to the existing nodes.
- Reconnecting the existing bulk and ERF water connection.

The project has started and is ongoing.
It is anticipated to be completed in
2016

CONSTRUCTION OF VUKANI ROAD - R21 MILLION

- Concrete block paving of the 2,1km road surface.
- Construction of new storm water drainage and installation of Reno mattresses
- Construction of pedestrian walkways
- Construction of Headwalls and Wing walls
- Cleaning and shaping of stream bed approach
- Construction of layer works
- Kerbing and channelling
- Installation of new storm water pipes, catch pit and junction box
- Preparing the in-situ subgrade material
- Repairing the existing concrete lined or stone pitched concrete storm water drainage
- Cleaning the existing storm water drains

The project is completed and will be officially handed over in 2016.

EXT 6 SEWER RETICULATION

R12.6 million

- Ø Installation of sewer reticulation pipes and erf connections of ± 500 houses.

The completion was delayed by the fact that the area contains rock excavation which caused more financial impact. The project is anticipated to be completed 2016.

Construction of Multi-Purpose Centre in Ward 7 - R11.4 million

- Ø Involves the construction of an indoor multi-purpose hall that will accommodate 250 people
- Ø The centre will cater for different types of indoor sporting codes.

Construction of Football facilities in Foley's Ground - R4.9 million

Construction of concrete tennis court has been completed and was officially handed over to the community

UPGRADE OF SANI STREET - R12.8 million

- Ø Construction of a 1.9km pave road with associated storm water and kerbs.
- Ø Contractor has been given additional scope of work to construct Side-walks in one direction

*The road construction is complete.
However, storm water drainage system is not addressed properly and this result in ponding of water in some areas.*





Power ends 20 years of darkness for Ethembeni

The installation of electricity in a crime-ridden Grahamstown informal settlement has closed a dark chapter in the lives of residents who have been without electricity for more than two decades.

Residents of Ethembeni informal settlement near Extension 7 were overjoyed when electricity was installed in their homes this week. More than 300 households are expected to benefit at the conclusion of a project that started in October last year.

Baymont Field Services from Johannesburg was appointed by Eskom to install electricity in the area. Construction supervisor Lucky Motukisi said the project started on 1 October and was expected to be finished by the end of November, but due to delays in the distribution of material it couldn't be completed on time.

Motukisi said they only received material from Eskom in November and tried to push for transformers before the December holidays. "By 17 December, 265 houses had been energised out of 330," he said.

Motukisi said they were remaining to electrify the remaining 65 houses by today (Friday, 22 January). He said the project had created temporary employment for 12 people in the area.

Ethembeni resident Nomawethu Kondile has lived in the area for about 21 years. She shares her house with her husband and their 17-year-old son.

Kondile says they have been living without electricity for years and it has been a big problem for them, especially at night. "We were living like animals in this place. Im very

happy because we see ourselves as human beings now that we have electricity," she said.

Kondile says they were condemned to a life of paraffin stoves which can be dangerous, especially around children. "At least now that we have electricity we can use things like microwaves and other safe appliances," she said.

Another resident Mkhanyiseli Solomon, who has been living in Ethembeni since 1995, had nothing but praise for Ward 11 councillor, Mncedisi Gojela. Solomon says the area was named Ethembeni (Hope) because previous councillors had nothing promises for the residents.

Solomon shares his home with his wife and their two children. "Since arriving here, service delivery has only been done verbally, hence the name Ethembeni, but we are beginning to see change," he said.

Solomon said he could, literally count things that have been done in the area since it was established (shortly after 1994) on the fingers of one hand – these being four communal taps and a garden. He adds that he has been impressed with Gojela's leadership because he started with a clean slate when he came into office in 2011 and asked for advice from local residents about what their priorities were.

"We told him not to worry about houses because we knew that would take forever. So we asked him to prioritise formalising the area so people can have their own properties, having our own taps and electricity in this area," he said.

Solomon says, slowly but surely, these things are starting to happen because they now have electricity

and their own plots.

"The electricity came unexpectedly. We didn't expect it this soon," he said. He says they are still looking forward to more good things, in terms of service delivery from Gojela, "because we can see he has the capacity to lead and he has good ideas". Solomon said one of the things they wish to see is the eradication of pit toilets. "I, for one, would love to see him being given a chance in the upcoming election, so he can finish his work," he said.

Speaking to Grocott's Mail in Ethembeni, Gojela said the residents of the area have been struggling for more than 10 years. "One of the ANC government's most important priorities is to provide basic services to its people, which is why we ensure projects of this kind are carried through."

He added that the lack of electricity in the area meant that its residents were vulnerable to criminals and that the next thing on his list was to fight for the people of Ethembeni to get RDP houses.

"I have submitted an application to the Human Settlements Department for 1254 houses. Human Settlements is currently screening the names of the applicants and we are waiting for that process."

Municipal spokesperson Yoliswa Ramokolo said, "As the municipality we are trying by all means to make sure that services reach everyone in Makana. We are very excited about that project and we are happy that the people of Ethembeni finally have electricity".

This article was written by Anele Mjekula and appeared in the Grocott's Mail, 22 January 2016.



TB can be CURED

1ST SIGNS OF TB

- Cough for 2 weeks or more
- Night sweats
- Loss of weight/appetite

ADHERE TO TREATMENT

- Take your treatment regularly for full 6 months
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Prevent the spread of TB

STOP STIGMA

- You can speak out about TB or HIV status
- Stop labelling someone with a disease
- Give support to a person with TB/HIV

TB/HIV CO-INFECTION

- TB is curable even if you are HIV positive
- If you have TB, you need to get tested for HIV
- If you have HIV, you need to get screened for TB

GET SCREENED FOR TB TODAY



EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES TO FIGHT POVERTY



The community of Table Farm received gardening tools handed over by Makana Municipality and DRDAR

Makana Municipality, working with the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform handed over gardening equipment to a community in Table Farm on 4 March 2016. The initiative is a drive to empower rural communities to use their gardening skills to alleviate themselves out of poverty.

The equipment included forks, spades, wheel barrows, rakes, hosepipes, hoes as well as water tanks and fencing.

Vukile Wali, who is the Special Programmes Unit manager at Makana Municipality, cautioned the beneficiaries to utilise and safeguard the tools. “We appeal to you to keep these tools safely. We do not want to come back here and not find them.

“Government has limited resources but we try by all means to provide services to our people to bring change in their lives,” said Wali.

The municipality and the department will monitor progress and continue to assist the community. Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform's sub-district manager, Nontsikelelo Katshaza, urged the community to plough and beat the scourge of increasing food prices.

“The drought that has hit many areas of our country has affected food prices. A bag of potatoes now costs double the amount than late last year.

“By ploughing your own vegetables, you will save a lot of money which you can use to buy other necessities in your households,” said Katshaza.

She further advised the community that they could even decide to sell some of their vegetables to generate income that could sustain and grow their gardens.

Nothemba Pini, a community member and beneficiary, said she was happy the tools they have received. “We are thankful to government and we assure you that we will work hard. The next time you come visit you will see the progress made.” Said Pini.

“I am grateful and happy about this support. This will help us greatly in the long run,” added Maggie Kom, another beneficiary.

Other rural areas in Makana Municipality will also benefit from this initiative.



ABOUT US

This publication is the official newsletter of Makana Municipality published by the Communications Unit. The newsletter is published to keep the community informed of news within the Makana area.

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