

Heat turned up at IDP workshop

Lively debate as councillors take on several thorny issues

BY SIPHO NONE AND KEOTSHEPILE WA MOGOTSI

In line with its mission to provide an integrated Municipal Governance System for improved quality of life for all communities of Mogale City, the city's offices of the Chief Operating officer and the Chief Financial Officer engaged councillors, managers and stakeholders in an Integrated Development Plan (IDP) workshop.

The workshop which was held at the Council Chamber was aimed at outlining the roles and responsibilities of the various roleplayers, and to propose public participation processes in a move to highlight the key milestones in the process, among others.

In terms of Chapters 5 and 6 of the Municipal Systems Act, the Council must develop an integrated IDP and Performance Management Framework during its term of office or adopt the IDP of the previous council.

The IDP is a 5-year strategic programme of a municipality, which gives the council's vision for the long term development of the municipality. This programme links and integrates all key strategic plans of the municipality.

Most importantly, the IDP should be compatible with the national and provincial development plans.

The city's COO Thabo Ndlovu said the workshop was aimed at involving everyone in the process to

understand what exactly is needed in the course of action.

"This process is aimed at making sure everyone understands what is involved in the process and what are the key milestones and timeframes," Ndlovu said.

Ndlovu, who also made a presentation on the processes to be undertaken for the revision of the IDP and compilation of the 2009/2010 financial year budget and the Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP), said producing a realistic and reliable IDP is the most important factor of all.

"It is most important to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders involved in the process.

"All of that will ensure we produce a credible Integrated Development Plan and Budget within the legislative stipulated timeframes."

While the process entailed a detailed budgetary and service delivery process, concerns included departments that submit budgets which are not realistic and also not including the operational cost.

"There are serious budgetary issues that we normally leave out when we do our budgets as departments.

"There are various institutions under the municipality and we normally leave out the operational costs of maintaining those institutions. Some departments are stretched financially to help in maintenance of those institutions,"



AT THE CENTRE OF THE STORM: Mogale COO Thabo Ndlovu conducts a workshop with councillors.

said infrastructure manager Andre Botes.

Japhter Makhafola, budget and treasury manager, also made a presentation which covered the financial implications regarding the IDP and various aspects of municipal administration.

Meanwhile, in a session attended by about 19 councillors and Speaker Noluthando Mangole, politicians shot rockets of question with regards to the presentation outlined by Ndlovu. And, unlike the first session of managers, councillors shifted the platform into a heated debate.

However, most of the questions raised toiled around the establishment of a ward-based IDP task team. Rural councillor Kgathatso Sebilane was outspoken on the issue sighting that the establishment of this task team would result in clustering of wards which he said is unfair for to majority of rural people who don't have transport.

"If we going to have this task committee in the rural areas, we are going to be faced with a problem of clustering of wards and our rural people do not have transport to travel

to meetings", said Sebilane.

The youthful Sebilane also called for clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the task team members as to whether they are not in conflict with those of the PR councillors.

Councillor Sam Oliphant, who seemed clueless on the much-talked about establishment of the task team, asked for clarification.

However, questions and answers echoed back and forth in the chamber entertained four members of the public in the public gallery.

Speaking to *Dikgang tsa Mogale* on poor and late attendance, DA councillor Jakkie Naude expressed his disappointment and said councillors should respect meetings.

Evidently, 15 ANC councillors and only five from the opposition attended. "People who come late and those who are absent do not respect other people and show ignorance to the value that these meetings bring to the people of the city," said Naude.

Although the attendance was disappointing, Speaker Noluthando Mangole and public participation officer Tshupo Mathodlane assisted Ndlovu in responding to most

questions.

And, responding to the issue of clustering, Mangole spelt out that clustering takes place with the ward-based IDP task team not the entire committee.

Adding fuel to the fire, Mathodlane said: "Councillors are expected to launch the task team in their respective wards and these task teams would strictly deal with IDP matters."

According to Ndlovu, other stakeholders such as ward committee members, community development workers and community-based forums are also going to be workshopped on the processes of the 2009/2010 IDP/Budget/SDBIT.

However, this did not go down well with ACDP councillor Jeff Daniels who expressed his view that other stakeholders such as churches are not included.

"It seems as if the workshops and these processes are excluding other stakeholders such as the pastors' forum.

"There is no proper co-ordination with regard to the flow of information," said Daniels.

Magaliesburg community get new cemetery

BY SIPHO NONE

The general public of Magaliesburg, particularly Ga-Mogale residents, will no longer travel long distances and bury their loved ones in the far flung areas such as the Sterkfontein and Kagiso cemeteries.

This noble gesture, which forms part of the city's service delivery programmes to the needy people and the general populace, was evident recently when the Intergrated Environmental Management department under the political head of Nomalanga Ntamane, handed over the extended graveyard to the Magaliesburg community.

Ntamane, who was speaking on behalf of mayor Koketso Calvin Seerane, said the handing over of the cemetery to the community of Magaliesburg was in line with the municipality's programme to service the community of Mogale City.

"Today is indeed a testimony of the municipality's commitment to service delivery.

"Our communities made a plea for accessible and quality burial grounds and we have responded



BREAKING NEW GROUND: Councillor Nomalanga Ntamane cuts the ribbon at the official opening of Magaliesburg Cemetery.

by acquiring land, obtaining environmental authorisation and making the necessary budget allocations," Ntamane said.

Ntamane added the upgrade of cemeteries around Mogale was prompted by illegal burial grounds that existed in the area, and the distances that families had to travel to bury their beloved ones.

"We have noticed as a municipality that several illegal burial grounds exist in our rural areas.

"The reason for this is that some communities are located as far as 30km away from the nearest cemetery.

"We have to keep in mind that because of these people's socio-

economic conditions, they often did not have transport to take their deceased to urban cemeteries. Their loved ones were then buried on farmland, sometimes without the landowner's approval, which led to animosity between the parties," she added.

The handover activity took place at the cemetery, and in attendance were a handful of residents, councillors, community development workers and community liaison officers.

The project created at least 16 temporary job opportunities for the local community during the development.

The facility boosts ablution facility, a caretaker's house and a concrete palisade fence.

Local ward councillor Landisile Crosby Dingizweni said: "The handover of the cemetery signals a victory for the residents of Magaliesburg, who have buried their family members in areas far from their respective homes."

Sinah Kokota, a resident of Ga-Mogale said the initiative was a sign of goodwill from the municipality.

"She said the initiative will relieve them of the burden of burying their beloved ones far from their homes.

"I'm happy that the current graveyard has been extended because some families have suffered immensely from the effects of burying their family members far from their homes.

"This initiative would help us to bury our loved ones nearer our families.

"Most families have suffered a lot in that they had to incur the financial burdens of burying their family members in areas such as in Munsieville and Kagiso.

"The extension of the graveyard will take the burden off our shoulders," said the blissful Kokota.

The residents of Magaliesburg are the fourth rural community in Mogale City to be beneficiaries of the noble handover of cemeteries after the communities of Muldersdrift, Tarlton and Hekpoort.

Avbob Life and Funeral insurance Company assisted with the provision of a tent and more than 50 seats for the residents and dignitaries.