

Angry Kagiso residents on march demand answers to thorny issue ...

Keep your promises of houses!

BY KEOTSHEPILE WA MOGOTSI

‘Where were all of you when the mayor addressed IDP meeting held in Kagiso on May 6 2006?”

This was a clear-cut question posed by Mogale housing portfolio head Councillor Olivia Caldera when she addressed about 60 enraged residents who demanded to see Executive Mayor Koketso Calvin Seerane on housing and land issues.

Caldeira's inquiry emerged when she addressed the furious crowd of Kagiso residents who marched to the Civic Centre to hand over a memorandum to the mayor who, at the time, was attending other council engagements.

Addressing the marchers Caldera was hauled over the coals asking residents (who where looking for the mayor) why didn't they attend IDP meeting held at Kagiso Hall where the mayor was

present.

“As a Member of the Mayoral Committee, I have been delegated by the mayor, who is out on council duties, to come and collect your memorandum. I know that you demand to see the mayor but I need to know where were you when the mayor was present at the IDP meeting held at Kagiso Hall?” asked valiant Caldeira.

However, the question further infuriated protesters who kept brandishing placards reading “Houses for all”, “Away with empty promises” and “Housing is a right, houses for all”. On the day of Take a Girl Child to Work, female youth who joined their elders baffled municipal officials by dancing and singing to what seemed to be “take a girl child to march for houses”.

The protest comes three weeks after council embarked on Integrated Development Plan (IDP) roadshows which presented a snap review of the service delivery and



TAKING THEIR FIGHT TO THE STREETS: Residents of Kagiso make their message clear –they want houses and will not accept anything less. They also demanded to speak to the mayor himself.

budget implementation performance. However, community participation meeting are held in line with the requirements of the Local Government Municipal System Act and Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act.

And though council maintains that meeting were widely publicised on local newspapers, the municipal website, through flyers and loud hailer, marchers, largely from greater Kagiso, yelled at Caldeira and Manager in the Mayor's Office Mohale Selibi that the community

was not informed about the meeting.

Chanting revolutionary slogans and dancing at the Civic Centre, demonstrators disregarded the thorny question and rather focused on the business of the day demanding to know why land is sold when there is scarcity of houses.

Reading the memorandum before it was handed over to Caldeira, PCO Secretary General Luyanda Njomane shouted: “We say no to the sale of municipal land, as this will further frustrate plans to house the poor.

“Your 2009/10 budget is not for the poor, and that it does not take the plight of the poor to consideration.

“We say that the budget clearly does not cater for slum dwellers (Orient Hills, Tudor Shaft, Soul City, Soul City ext 12, Baghdad, and Bull Brand) and all other areas,” said an angry Njomane.

The memorandum which is in possession of this paper, further alleges that there are people who have registered for RDP houses since 1996 and that they (marchers) demand answers.

Officers reiterate pledge to protect and serve ...

... From Page 1

Stakeholders also committed to engage in new partnerships, recognise members performing and committed at grass roots levels – and support traffic and security efforts in reducing accidents, and contribute meaningfully to all national and provincial projects (Arrive Alive, Rollout Enforcement Plan, RTMC).

Mangole said the occasion should make people realise that West Rand is a place to be.

“As the Speaker of Mogale City, I pledge that together we must make sure our community is able to realise that West Rand is a place to be.

“Outsiders tend to say our area is the countryside but they are now flocking in for the sake of peace and harmony,” said Mangole.

However, Mashitisho recalled that improving safety in our areas and roads was not an easy task. “Mogale City is not an easy place to run. I am here basically for two and half years and I met with challenges especially in the component of public safety.

“However, I am glad that there is chemistry between Executive Manager, Manager, Sups (Superintendeds) going down to officers. You are going exceptionally well and we are there to support you,” said Mashitisho.

The well-planned occasion sparked various developments and achievement by Mogale City Public Safety. And, in her presentation,

Mathebula outlined what the municipality has done for the safety unit including legislative compliance which is a problematic issue in other safety offices reported in the media.

In this case, Mogale Public Safety made acquisition of the firearm license and appointment of a responsible person in control of fire arms in Mogale City. The unit facilitated registration of traffic officers as peace officers. Most importantly, traffic officers are issued with appointment card to which must be presented to all drivers when stopped.

However, the unit also restored discipline and improved quality of services which ranged from appointment of an external service provider to further train internal personnel.

In addition, public safety has established investigation unit with a considerable recovery rate for stolen goods (cable, truck batteries and other municipal equipment).

The level of professionalism in the unit can be measured by a proven track record in managing warrants, a spot on schedule for road blocks and the spreading of road safety education in schools.

Chief Superintendent Victor Monnakgotla who was running with the programme also announced a chilling government initiative to implement the administration & adjudication of road traffic offences

(AATO) in November 2009.

This act is envisaged to reduce accidents and improve safety on our roads of which all offences will be allocated demerit points, resulting in a suspension of license for six months when driver loses in excess of 12 points.

Conversely, Public Safety has been engaging in co-operative governance working with Department of Correctional Services in managing illegal immigrants.

The unit is also working with the provincial department of community safety and the SAPS in joint road blocks, crime prevention, management of crime scenes.

Speaking on behalf of the mayor, Member of the Mayoral Committee Councillor Iris Makola applauded the department for the job well done.

“I would like to applaud and thank our public safety department for creating a safe environment.

“I was asked that MMCs have come and go, what is it that I am bringing for the unit, it is not about the MMCs is about you role players (officers) who have created a safer environment for our people,” said Makola.

And to improve services, the unit plans to establish a municipal court and procure new firearms and portable radios.

The occasion culminated with all stakeholders signing the memorandum.

Rural development high on mayor's priority list

BY SIPHO NONE

Mogale City Executive Mayor Koketso Calvin Seerane declared that he is ready and prepared to embark on a rigorous campaign to deal with rural development in the city.

Mayor Seerane made this bold remark when he was addressing the residents of Muldersdrift during the 2009/2010 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) review and budget cluster public participation road shows meeting recently held at the Muldersdrift Sports Complex.

These public participation road shows follow last year's IDP sessions which were held between October and November, where communities made inputs on the IDP as well as the budget.

“They also developed a register of needs. In all the road shows held, 579 needs were recorded.

Mayor Seerane, who was accompanied by councillors and city's officials, made his intentions clear after an army of residents poured their hearts out about lack of service delivery in the rural areas of the city.

In his opening remarks he said in every elections, be it national or local government elections, Mogale City is doing well because residents go out in their numbers to vote, and councillors and officials cannot just fold their arms and do nothing.

“It is important that we give hope to our people and show that their trust in the African National Congress [ANC] is not misplaced. In every election (general and local government) our city is doing well

and we cannot just fold our arms and do nothing,” Mayor Seerane said.

He also indicated to the general public that his office is flooded with numerous calls on the high rate of evictions in rural areas.

However, the mayor pointed out that the rural development and special project unit headed by Shimi Phate is working around the clock to address the concerns.

“I'm always with you and we are not going back in terms of development.

“We have received numerous calls regarding the high rate of evictions in the rural areas, and we want to inform you that we will not forsake you.

“We are with you every step of the way.

“As a municipality and officials of the ANC we have a political and moral responsibility of taking care of our communities in a bid to improve the lot of our people for the better. Most importantly we want to update you that our rural development unit is working very hard in addressing your plight.

“We have a plan and one of the first things we did in our plan was to prioritise rural development.

“We also have a budget which is committed to making sure that development in rural areas takes centre stage,” Mayor Seerane added.

On evictions, Mogale City has made achievements such as relocating of flooded households and evicted families at Plot 6 Vlakplaats, Plot 81 Rietfontein and Hekpoort Hyper Store respectively.