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AMAVA

The catalyst for change

Emfuleni Local Municipality ANC Caucus Newsletter



Vaal River City, the Cradle of Human Rights





Vaal River City, the Cradle of Human Rights



AMAVA is the mouthpiece of the ANC in government and seeks to advocate the will of the ruling government in this municipality

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Fellow residents of Emfuleni Local Municipality, Members of the gigantic and an old liberation movement in the continent, the African National Congress members and the patriotic citizens I wish to bring you my greetings in the year declared by the ANC NEC as the Year of Unity in Action Towards Socio-Economic Freedom. This call does not go to only members of the ANC as we know that by the way ANC remains a Parliament of the people therefore this call is directed to all of us as patriotic South Africans.

This call was made twenty four days on the 12th January 2013 after the watershed conference of the ANC held in Mangaung, this was a watershed indeed given the resolutions taken at the conference which totally changes pace in which ANC will take transformation moving forward. Prophets of doom had unleashed prophecies that ANC will perish post Mangaung forgetting that the ANC advocated for democracy from time immemorial people were allowed to avail

themselves to serve the organization and the people of South Africa and that was done with caution that the conference will decide who must lead.

It is normal in a democratic state that every organization or movement, different views and perspectives will exist and once that is realized all these views must be subjected to a debate to allow a majority position to prevail. Hence in the ANC we are guided by the principle of Democratic Centralism which in my view must be understood as a living process especially after a democratic process has prevailed. Thus this conference indeed united the ANC more than ever before as you can see that there is tranquility and jubilation from those who are not elected. Furthermore a sense of maturity is gradually coming since the outcome of the conference.

Comrades and compatriots the leadership has been elected and from time to time the leadership will make decisions from minute to the next and members should follow these decisions and let minority be majority. It must go on record that the ANC Caucus in Emfuleni Local Municipality render its unequivocal support to the leadership elected at Mangaung and will effect resolutions of the conference in building better lives for our people.

I wish to congratulate the people of Cuba for going out in millions to cast their vote in the national elections, we are aware that elections started in October with the municipal elections and thus far everything went smooth and peaceful without any hindrance from capitalist society. This gives us hope that one day money laundering during elections will be a thing of the past and we shall defend this revolution from the claws of capital.

In the same spirit we usher condolence to the people of Venezuela for having lost social, political and economic freedom fighter in Hugo Chavez. As the global world we had hope that it is leaders like him that will make us realize socialism in our life time, nonetheless the struggle continues and in him we shall derive courage and strength to face up to the imperialist agenda, pulverize it

and make sure it regenerate no more.

I raise this as the Chief Whip of the ANC noting that the Mangaung re-affirmed the character of the ANC being a disciplined force of the left, multi-class mass movement and an internationalist movement with an anti-imperialist outlook. In the same spirit wish to commend the chairperson of the African union commission Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma on her work of bringing about stability in Mali which is under siege given number of attacks from rebels.

Let me congratulate the people of South Africa for displaying high level of excitement regarding the AFCON games being held here in South Africa, this they have shown through procuring the tickets to the games in high numbers albeit tickets sold late when the games were about to resume. It is my conviction that Bafana Bafana went up the quarter finals due to the resounding support they received from all corners of this land and as fellow South Africans we need to commend them for their militant spirit they displayed during the tournament, this goes even for the coach who was afforded a limited time of six months to prepare for the games but was able to make South Africa proud as we bowed down to a third ranking team in Africa.

We rally behind the vision as explained by the Minister of Sports Hon: Fikile Mbalula in terms of transformation in the sporting industry which will according to his ministry start from the ground level, this visions echoes his initial stance that school sporting will be a focal point in this term of office as there is a huge amount invested for that course.

Coming back home let me make a call to all indigenous residents of Emfuleni Local municipality and the business community to rally behind a call made by the Executive Mayor, that of paying for services rendered to us as the civilians and business community. The municipality cannot and will never survive on grants alone but will need robust revenue enhancement in order to radically push back the frontiers of poverty and accelerate service delivery for the benefit of our people.

Chief Whip’s Corner continue

Let us make it our conscious responsibility to pay or make arrangement of payments with the municipality officials as a sense of building ownership to the development in our beloved municipality. I equally wish to make a sincere plea to our people in township, suburb and business to use water sparingly as the level of water loss is indeed alarming which propels the municipality to pay out

unreasonable amount of money to the water provider 'Rand Water'. This plea goes with the one of cooperating with the municipality on the installation of water meters as part of ameliorating the situations and as part of building good governance given the challenge that we might be facing due to drought by the year 2020 if we are not water wise.

Lastly the ANC caucus wishes to commend the ANC led municipality for working tireless in the last financial year to get an unqualified opinion from the Auditor General, this indeed marks history in Emfuleni Local Municipality and surely it serves as an indication that we are now heading towards the right direction as a just and accountable municipality.



New stalls for informal traders



VEREENIGING - Informal trading has become a feature of Emfuleni Municipality as it is vital in assisting to reduce unemployment. Most informal traders are able to put food on the table by selling legal goods on the street. However informal trading is conducted in a regulated environment hence there are Municipal Street trading by-laws and health regulations that informal traders must comply with. The food vendor kiosks in Mark Park were erected in compliance with the health regulations and stipulations in the street trading by-laws in terms of a clean environment. The kiosks were also erected to provide street traders with shelters wherein they can conduct their business and this also shows the Emfuleni Municipality's interest in the development of informal traders in this area.



ANC WHIPPERY LEKGOTLA DECLARATION

27th -28th September 2012 at Tropicana River Lodge



We, the African National Congress Whippery Members of Emfuleni Local Municipality having converged on the 27th -28th September 2012 on the 3rd Whippery Lekgotla held at Tropicana River Lodge to take stock of the progress of the ANC in the municipality and to assess the progress to date in charting the way forward in building a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous Emfuleni in line with the vision and the aspirations of the ANC. We note that Whippery has a mandate and responsibility to develop and lead the ANC branch in the municipality. For our caucus to deliver on challenges facing Emfuleni it should be activist in character and robust in addressing issues. The endeavors to entrench an activist caucus towards the second centenary of the ANC which relies on the robust Study Groups and Section 80 Committees; this is an obligation and a revolutionary task that this Whippery will undertake without fail or hesitation. Whippery notes that Discipline is a paramount pillar which we shall uphold at all levels of the municipality.

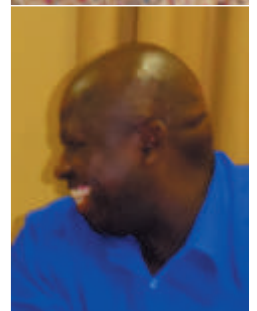
We declare that Emfuleni Local Municipality in its quest to develop its communities is striving towards a developmental and transformative Metro City that can best fulfill the aspirations of the poor majority of Emfuleni. As this Whippery Lekgotla we commit to the organizational vision of the smart city which will complement the developmental metro City.

We declare our commitment to a people driven IDP that is informed by our constituencies. This will be done along the deployment of all our councillors in the length and breadth of Emfuleni and the monitoring of their activism especially in the Parliamentary Constituency Offices (PCO's), and the monitoring of efficacy of our shadow councillors in the wards not led by the movement. The realignment of our SDBIP's to our budget is crucial in addressing the service delivery challenges.

We note that this Lekgotla gave us an in-depth understanding of the departmental challenges which gives an impetus or a reason to strengthen leadership in various departments to address service delivery deficiencies in our municipality towards a Metro City. In building good governance in our developmental municipality on behalf of caucus we commit to leading clean governance as we forge for the unqualified report in the 2012/2013 financial year, this shall be done in working with our internal accounting systems and further strengthening MPAC so that they can better perform the oversight work for council.

As this caucus we commit that henceforth we will be a first line of defense on the party line in council, In driving forth the developmental agenda of our municipality as the executive of caucus we shall see to the full implementation of the separation of powers in the quest to entrenching the activist caucus in council towards the second phase of the transition.

We reaffirm our commitment to ensure that our councillors attend the political education in line with the 2007 ANC 52nd National Conference resolutions and capacity building of our councilors in an endeavor to empower them so that they can



DECLARATION (continue)

better perform their oversight work as one of the key pillars of the developmental agenda of the ANC led municipality.

The 3rd Whippy Lekgotla commits to the successful celebration of the second coming of the Flame in Sedibeng which will play a pivotal role in driving social cohesion program forth since our movement has always being in the forefront of uniting our communities across all races, sexes, classes, and creed.

Towards Mangaung as the executive of caucus we shall strive to build unity and cohesion of all cadres of the movement in council albeit difference of leadership preference, we note that ours is not ANC set processes, which as leaders in our own right in various levels of the MDM and abide by them. We commit to keeping unity and not purge anyone who does not hold a particular view of interest to others but ensure to and from Mangaung the caucus remains intact and focus on the 2011 election Manifesto.



ELM and VUT Joint Media Statement

The Vaal University of Technology, in collaboration with the Emfuleni Local Municipality, has initiated a capacity building programme for local councillors. The aim of which is to develop public management skills for Municipal Councillors with the vision that this will assist them in performing their duties and increase their contribution to the public sector.

The programme will equip councillors with a better understanding of the handling of community issues as well as other council matters. Entrenched in VUT's Mission Statement is that the university interacts closely with industry and community to ensure the relevance of its programmes and qualifications, thus this platform created the opportunity for a two-way partnership that catered for the like of such a unique programme that offers mutually beneficial opportunities for both institutions and perhaps will serve as a model for other municipalities to latch on to.

This uniquely formulated course will address the municipality's primary factor of building sustainable communities through capacity building that would be acquired and addressed through the programme. Currently councillors have already embarked on a three year Public Management course through the partnership programme that will bear fruitful results in equipping councillors with the necessary skills and knowledge in their specific specialized fields of expertise.

"We are hoping to strengthen and maintain the relations and/or partnership between the two institutions and further enhance the capacity of councillors", said Mr. Klaas Mafofome: spokesperson for the Emfuleni Municipality.





On the chair with Bob Mthembu (ANC Regional secretary)



1. Briefly tell us about yourself?

• **Place of birth**

Free State Rosendale

• **Parents**

Florence and Johannes Mthembu they have been both supportive to the course of changing the lives of the people for better.

• **Evolution of your activism**

I started to be politically active at Secondary level firstly as the Deputy President of the SRC in 1997 and later the SRC President in 1998 at Lake Side Secondary School.

Joined the ANCYL in 1999 in Evaton West Branch and later the first Chairperson of the Launched Branch in 2001-2004.

In 2004 appointed as the Acting Secretary of the Branch in Evaton West Ward 24 and later elected as the Branch Chairperson in 2005.

In 2010 I was elected as the Chairperson of the Evaton Central Zone till 2012.

Elected as the member of the ward committee in 2000 representing the Youth Sector

In 2002 I was elected the Chairperson of SGB in Khunoana Primary School in Evaton and gained a lot of experience in terms of policy formulation and significant of policies in any organisation and good governance principles.

2. You are a father and a comrade at the same time how do you find time?

It is very difficult to find the balance between

being a father and a Leader because it requires a lot of dedication and time in conducting political work and the support of the entire family has been helpful, however the good thing is that my family understands that we are in a revolution to change the lives of the people and they are part of the revolution as important ally.

3. From the ANC perspective what does it entail to be the Secretary?

There are three key task that are expected from the Office of the Secretary

- To provide political education and political management to general members of the ANC as our core business and in our effort to build good cadres that will assist in advancing the aims and objectives of the movement in line with the National Democratic Revolution in pursuit of building a National Democratic Society.

- To provide administrative management of the organisation in terms of ensuring that there are systems if they don't exist it is your task to set up systems and conduct continuous management and controls on the administration and the implementation of the organisational programme in line with the mandate.

- To hold deployees of the ANC in government accountable in terms of the ANC manifesto and other Policy directives and ensure that service delivery is not compromised and there is continuous feedback by Municipality and the ANC on progress achieved.

4. After the announcement was made that you have been elected as the regional secretary how did you feel?

I felt very humbled by the confidence bestowed on me by the members of the ANC and I thank God for afforded me with the opportunity to contribute positively in the National discourse, One thing that greatly appreciate is that leading the ANC in the current epoch is an quite and honour because the decision we take as the current leadership of the ANC will form part of the next centenary review.

5. Are you settling in well?

I am settling well as the first four months was to mainly to deal with setting up structures such as the RWC, Disciplinary Committee, Reporting and Administrative systems and it was also very hectic in the first two weeks as we had to prepare for the welcoming reception and the community outreach programme of the Flame.

6. What makes you cringe?

Self-centred and Jealous people

7. You are still a youth and have already made a mark for your name, what keeps you going?

Faith in the power of God, Passion for the work I do, collective wisdom, hard work, confidence and love for the people.



8. Considering the ANC historical and present political dispensations what would ANC centenary mean to you?

The centenary means the beginning and the ending, in sense that the ANC has successfully reached 100yrs of its existence which was based on the founding principle of uniting the African people in general and blacks in particular to fight the colonial oppression system of apartheid and create a democratic state. The current political dispensation means the ANC need to determine the evolution of the next 100yrs towards the second centenary and it can only be achieved through approach, posture and attitude in dealing with the current challenges moving forward and modernising the ANC towards the second centenary.

9. What is the state of progress regarding the metropolitan city concept?

The Metropolitan City concept is short term vision and currently we have made submissions to the Demarcation Board terms of our proposal as the ANC which propose the Emfuleni Local Municipality and Midvaal Local Municipality boundaries to be considered for the status of the Metropolitan Municipality and we are still awaiting the outcomes of the Demarcation board and they will announce mid year 2013.

10. What motivated Gauteng to be so vocal on organizational renewal during policy conference?

The Policy Conference is an organisational process of conducting review on the current policies and recommends any necessary changes to the elective conference that in itself it's a renewal process and the ANC has been adapting at various point informed by various challenges and we believe that given the current challenges facing the movement we are compelled to renew ourselves as the movement in terms of how we conduct our

business given the changing environment which we exist on, however the organisational Renewal should be a comprehensive process that must renew policy and leadership in order for the organisation to be relevant in the context of the current revolution.

11. Don't you think its contradiction for the Provincial Chair to be talking about the assessment subject before the official nomination process in October?

There is no contradiction on the statement because it is our task as members of the organisation to continuously assess the leadership of the organisation in terms of the mandate, so that we can come to the determination of either change of re-election of leadership and it is important to assess continuously particularly when we go to the elective conference like Mangaung.

12. What plans do you have in transforming the organization?

The first thing is to build the image of the ANC as organisation and this process has already started with the renovation of the Regional Office so that it resembles the status of the Regional Office of the ANC and this process will run parallel with staff training and placement to ensure that we build sufficient capacity to run the organisation.

The second programme we needed to do was build unity and cohesion of the movement which is work in progress because we strongly believe that as revolutionary movement we need unity of purpose in ensuring that the ANC regain the trust and confidence of our masses moving forward. We have also adopted a programme of action that seeks to create a social cohesion in our society and ensure that the ANC becomes the real leader of society in theory and practice.

We have also started a process of developing systems, from Finance Policy, HR Policy, Administration Policy and other related policies that will enable us to provide professional service to our members and meet the turnaround time.

We have also adopted the Media, Marketing and Communication strategy in order to position the movement properly within the opinion makers and the society at large and also assert the movement, within the strategy there is also a plan to establish ANC call centre that will deal with various issues which includes; membership queries, customer care, complains on service delivery, corruption, surveys and general interaction with our members and the community.

Lastly we need to build a strong and united Alliance and there and in the last four months we held the Alliance five aside meeting followed by the Secretariat and the Bilateral meeting with the SACP and the Secretariat has been tasked to develop a joint programme of action that will be driven by the Alliance and the programme will mainly focus on strategic issues that drives our Region in both Socially, Economically and Politically and I must also thank the Alliance partners with the spirit that they have demonstrated during this engagements.

13. As the ANC Regional Secretary are we succeeding in changing the outlook of our communities with regard to the 2011 Local Government Manifesto?

We are proud to report that all ANC Led Municipalities have performed exceptionally well in terms of delivering the service and the state of governance in all our Municipalities, however we have also identified certain weaknesses in certain areas and we will deal with them moving forward.

14. As a leader what motivates you and

how do you motivate others?

Positive and Negative feedback that is objectively informed to work with and people who are driven by passion and love for what they do.

15. What is your ideal model for the Chief Whip offices since they account to you as the regional secretary?

Very interesting question, the ideal Chief Whip should provide leadership to the Caucus by creating and maintain unity, cohesion and hegemony to all ANC structures in government, e.g. Whippery, PMT, Study Groups, and Section 80 through effective functioning of these structures and hold all councillors deployed by ANC accountable to the Branch of the ANC in government.

Build mutual party to party relations for strategic purpose through continuous engagements with opposition parties in council and provide political direction to the caucus and the council on strategic political issues as mandated by the organisation and lastly the ideal Chief Whip should also be decisive on key policy issues.

16. What do you think should be the strategic approach towards service delivery?

Building of the Capacity in our Municipalities by appointing qualified staff in all positions and continuous capacity building programmes through skills development. Clean, Accountable, Transparent and Good Governance.

Revenue Management and allocation of budget into visible service delivery deliverables that are in line with community needs.

Efficient and effective stakeholders relations including the general public in creating an environment enabling for stakeholder engagements and feedback on progress. Private Public Partnership and effective Intergovernmental relations.

17. Society in Sedibeng seems to be divided along religious lines what do you

think should be the strategic approach since the ANC has always been in the forefront of uniting society?

Our view as the organisation is to take a holistic approach in dealing with all issues that divide our society because we do not believe on a piece meal approach when dealing with issues that are interrelated and have common implications that divide the society.

We have resolved on creating a social cohesion in our society and the society need to play a meaningful role in dealing with this programme and our posture is to say there are key issues that affect our society which are course for division and religion is one of them but what we are saying is that how do we deal with the current challenges facing the religious and faith society and what role can this constituent play in contributing positively in building our society.

How do we fight crime that threatens and take innocent lives and leaves behind orphans, terrorising of our society through brutal murder, rape, assault, house breaking, hijacking of cars, selling of drugs and any form of crime that seeks to destroy our society, building of our local economies to fight unemployment, poverty and inequality within our society, What role should our sports arts, culture and heritage play in uniting our society and building a sustainable social cohesion through healthy living, arts expression of our better society, what are the cultural barriers and how can we positively use our heritage to build patriotism within our society.

18. Why is the ANC audibly silent on the mining industry saga?

There is a position of the ANC on the saga and we support the commission of enquiry we are eagerly awaiting the outcome of the recommendation that will derive from its findings, we would also like to take this opportunity to send heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and a speedy recovery to those who were injured in the massacre.

19. But this is the Government position, what is the ANC stance on this issue? We have not heard anything from the North West Provincial leadership even ANC National and equally regional leadership.

I think as the ANC we must admit that we have done very less on Marikana and we have opened a vacuum on Mining Industry. I believe the 53rd conference of the ANC in Mangaung will further engage on Nationalization of Mines to give direction in terms of the policies that will shape up the mining industry.

20. Branches of Sedibeng have elected and bestowed their trust in you, what message do you have for them?

Unity, Cohesion and Hegemony, Integrity of the organisation should be priority of the organisation and discipline is the only formula to achieve this, I am pleading to all the members of the ANC, supporters, detractors, general public to join the ANC Sedibeng Region in its journey to turn Sedibeng to build a Smart City that will be built around advanced methods and innovations that are People orientated, people centred, people driven and technological centred.

I am calling on all members of the ANC to continue to be the ambassadors of the ANC in communities and to continue with the support they provide to the leadership in the best interest of the ANC as a movement which will ultimately benefit the society. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the REC for the tremendous progress we have recorded in the last four months and the support of our Provincial Executive Committee and wavering support provided bring the period under review. Wish the ANC a successful Conference in Mangaung and with a hope and trust that Mangaung will be the saviour of the soul of the ANC in these trying times and hope all the delegates will apply their minds not emotions when electing leadership and come out with progressive policy directives that will advance the National Democratic Revolution.

Well Done the Class of 2012

By: Thami Mgudlwa

Historically, we come from a society that developed a system of education that valued certain racial groups, their history and culture as well as the mode of production colonialism introduced to our country. This system of education also devalued the indigenous racial groups, their history and culture and their whole humanity. In this regard it becomes imperative to always take into consideration the fact that we have axiomatically inherited a system that had many challenges and was designed to suit a particular race with no regard whatsoever to a black person.

For many decades our movement has managed to survive many challenging times and negotiated treacherous terrain because it was steered by a matured corps of leadership. The approach of such corps of cadres was steeped in high level political education that enabled them to subject each historical experience to correct analysis and come up with strategies and tactics best suited to the needs of the time.

With that said, almost nineteen years into democracy there is much that the government of the ANC has achieved; and systems put in place with respect to education are gradually paying off; notwithstanding room for improvement.

Systematically, the ANC led government regards education as a right and not a privilege. It is for this reason that the ANC led government is investing so much in education. The 2012/13 budget for the department of basic education has increased from R13.868 billion of 2011/12 to R16.344 billion, an increase of R2.475 billion.

In a speech at the unveiling of a Monument to Marx and Engels, November 7 1918, Comrade Lenin said that "Practice without theory is blind. Theory without practice is

sterile". The ANC led government is largely and maximally implementing the guarantee enshrined in the constitution that; (a) Everyone has the right to a basic education including adult basic education and (b) to further education which the state through reasonable measures must make progressively available and accessible. The ANC is walking the talk, theory and practice at play. The legacy of our past is not only that of difficulty and despair. We can draw pride from the celebration of the ANC Centenary and build on the past to get things done today. The idea of working together to realise practical goals must be revived. The idea of an active citizenry drawn into motion by dedicated activist and inspired by a compelling vision of the future must be renewed at all times.

Education requires an extraordinary national effort from all role players, committed not just to identifying the barriers to progress, not just to proposing solutions but also working together over the long haul. Education is a societal issue, let us all take responsibility.

The Annual National Assessment (ANA) is used as a precursor to juxtapose progress in terms of systems in place, whether we are achieving set objectives or regressing and it also assist in terms of international benchmarking. Contained in it is Periodical Assessment that ensures timeous intervention is deployed where there are grey areas with the intention of inculcating renewed focus and effort. The South African Education system as a whole is comparable with the international standards (International Benchmarking Body). **It is important to note that matric exams are standardised and benchmarked internationally.**

The Office of the Chief Whip, **Eric Tshabalala** is indeed very proud with the class of 2012 and encouraged by the role

that all stakeholders continue to play without dismay in the education of our future leaders. To date the system put in place is proving to slowly but surely produce positive results that the country needs.

Gauteng Province has garnered the highest pass rate in the country, 83.9% from 81.1% in 2011; this is without doubt an achievement. Education under the leadership of Barbara Creecy has once more shown commitment and dedication in their quest to change negative perceptions regarding education in the province. The Gauteng results presents an over 8% rise in the number of students achieving a matric pass enabling them to study for a bachelor's degree when compared with last year. We must equally thank parents who are forever at the centre stage of education in supporting their children and actively participating in the School Governing Bodies. These results are realised amid criticism and cloud of doubt by the opposition parties that the government of the ANC is not doing well when it comes to Education, worse is the fact that this prophets of doom have once more gone out of their way to channel the minds of the public to believe that 2012 outcome will be worse than the previous year; way before matric exams could even start.

In contrast to this view, department has performed above the set target of 70% by 2014 according to the signed performance contract between the Minister of Basic Education and the President. We must refuse to be a nation of talkers and idealists but doers and shakers. The results reflect the contribution by the education system which consists of pupils, teachers, parents, communities and the government and this is an indication that the government of the ANC is indeed moving in the right direction.

Clearly, the increase in university entrance from 41 000 in 2011 to 51 000 in 2012, mathematics from 46.3% in 2011 to 54% in 2012, physical science from 53.4% in 2011 to 61.3% in 2012 and distinctions from 56 000 to 66000 in 2012 should be welcomed



by the entire society. The management of the examination process is an indication of a maturing system.

Whilst it is a fact that the performance surpasses the 2014 set target more still needs to be done in improving quality of education and addressing mismatch of educators regarding subjects teaching. It is significantly imperative to match teaching skill and competencies with positions to which teachers are appointed.

It is encouraging to see an increase in the pass rate but we need to look at the number of failures and where they are coming from in order to address the massive number of dysfunctional schools our learners find themselves in. we can only realise this objective if we cease to be spectators, armchair critics and become active role players thus ensuring systematic improvement of our education system.

We also urge the South African Broadcasting Commission (SABC) to air educational programmes when learners are at home and not at school as it currently happens.

It is commonly acceptable when schools register high level of pass rate but quality should not be compromised; we all ought to assist in bringing about quality education whilst ensuring that results are equally qualitative. There are still challenges in improving the quality of education for learners in poor, rural and farming communities. Challenges of efficiency still exist with high number of drop-out rates.

While the improved pass rate deserves praise from all stakeholders involved, we need to pause and ask whether we are producing the kind of quality of high school graduates that our country needs. This question also applies to Further Education and Training Centres and Universities. For a while the matric pass rate has been increasing on average and yet many do not go on to pass their first year at university (According to Research).

The Basic Education Director General Bobby Soobramanyan also acknowledged the need for better quality passes at matric level which is everyone's responsibility.

Conversely, there are three areas of concern to which attention must be placed; School Management and Leadership, Teaching and Learning and Resources and utilization thereof. There is also a need for improvement in areas of planning, coordination and communication for better management. The School Governing Bodies remain central with regards to good governance in keeping with legislative requirements but more resources must be made available in regard to their accredited training which its primary objective is to help them to better execute their responsibilities efficiently as required.

Sedibeng have generally done well with east achieving 85.65% from 83.94% in 2011; it has produced 807 potential students for national diploma qualification and 768 students for the bachelor's degree qualification. In 2012 the Sedibeng east district had eleven secondary schools clustered as Project (Underperforming) schools. Of the eleven, four schools which include Private or Independent School performed below 70% namely; Isizwe – Setjhaba Secondary in Sharpeville, Ruster Vaal Combined, Thuto Lore Secondary in Sharpeville and Jeppe Education Centre (47.37%) in Vereeniging. It is incumbent on all stakeholders residing within Sedibeng east district to work together in bettering the results and ensuring that identified challenges in these schools are programmed whilst maintaining and improving the standards of those that have performed well. With eleven clustered underperforming (Project) schools in 2011, at least there is steady progress registered.

Of concern, is the fact that Isizwe – Setjhaba Secondary School, Thuto Lore Secondary School and Ruster Vaal Combined continue to produce undesired results with Ruster Vaal Combined dropping to 35.29% from

59.46% in 2011.

Of interest is that LSEN (Learners with Special Educational Needs) Schools are consistent in producing high pass rate results. Destinata in Meyerton achieved 100%, Hoerskool Emmasdal in Heidelberg 100% as well and Hoerskool WJ Luckhoff in Heidelberg with 80%, Far beyond normal and/or ordinary schools.

On the other hand, Sedibeng West District has performed extremely well with significant improvement of 79.45% in 2012 from 71.95% in 2011, an increase of 7.5%.

During the month of October 12, Arcellor Mittal Science Sebokeng Centre held the Grade 12's educational camp with more than 16 secondary schools from Sedibeng West District of Education. The main objective of the camp was to create a platform for matriculants to prepare themselves towards the examinations. The plan has already made an impact on learners given the achieved results when juxtaposed with the class of 2011. Schools that attended the camps are: Sapphire, Mahareng, Residensia, Tsolo, Prestigious, Moqhaka, Crystal Springs, Jet Nteo, Samelson, Vaal High, Riverside, General Smuts, Vaalpark, Carel de Wet, Moshate and RutaSetjhaba. The following subjects were taught – Accounting, Business Studies, Maths Literacy, Economics, English, Maths, Physical Science, Life Science, Geography and History. These preparations have indeed yielded results thus producing 1414 bachelor degree entrants and 1689 National Diploma potential students. We still have schools that continue to perform below sixty percent pass rate albeit 70% set target one of which was among schools that were in ICU in the class of 2011; Sizanani – Thusanang Secondary School garnered 59.67% from 34.78 in 2011, improvement of 24.89%. Worse is Moqhaka which drastically dropped from 68.57% in 2011 to 50.84% in 2012, Crystal Springs with 38.63%, Samelson with 51.21% and Watershed with 39.28% from 88.88% in 2011. It is absolutely



necessary that stakeholders come together and develop a programme that will better performance of the schools in question. It is worth noting that Sebokeng Parliamentary Constituency Office has adopted Sizanani Secondary School.

We would like to thank the leadership of the district, School managers, dedicated educators for the exceptional efforts and long hours during the past year. Channel that energy to our incoming class and let it rub off for greater results in 2013. Parents and Community at large your commitment to your children's education is bearing fruits, Keep up the good work.

We are particularly encouraged by the fact that Sedibeng West is consistent in their quest to better results and always have contingency plans regarding the underperforming schools. Importantly, we need more learners who will do Maths & Science. We also need more time in improving and enhancing the quality of teaching in mathematics and physical science. We need to do things that will help the country developmentally in a long trajectory.

The secondary school improvement programme which its primary objective was to provide extra classes on Saturday and during public holidays for grade 10,11 and 12 to assist underperforming schools across the Gauteng province had played an immense role towards the increase on matric pass rate.

To those who did not perform as expected, do not despair. There are many options for improving your results or pursuing alternative career paths. Take this as an opportunity to better reflect on subject areas that might have contributed in you getting insufficient marks to pass through matric. Remember **“Today is a fresh start, you will surpass all past performances. Cast aside those emotional blocks which you may have placed in your own path. Every day of our lives brings the opportunity for a new beginning and there is never better time than now”**.

Students who did not pass their matric have until January 21 to register for a re-marking or re-checking. Application forms for re-marking and re-checking can be obtained at the schools and centres where the candidates sat for their exams, but there are fees

attached to this exercise, R73 for re-marking, R14 for re-checking and R153 for viewing a re-marked or re-checked examination script. Candidates from no-fee schools and learners whose parents have applied and have been granted a concession on payment of school fees are exempted from payment of re-marking and re-checking fees. Students will also be able to register to take supplementary examinations by applying at their schools or centres where they sat by January 21 as well.

Necessarily, efforts should be channelled towards encouraging drop-outs to go back to school as learning is a life time activity or journey. On the same breath, we need to delve deeper into what give birth to Youth Criminality, Teenage Pregnancy, and Poor Academic Performance as contributing factors.

Government is pumping more money into the Further Education and Training (FET) colleges so that they can offer good quality education to every deserving learner including the needy. It is for this reason that our youth should take advantage of this opportunity thus empowering themselves with skills needed to grow the economy. In 2012 the minister of Higher Education, Dr Blade Nzimande announced that as of 1 August 12, all 50 FET Colleges would receive their individual allocation of the R2 billion FET Expansion and Capacity Development Programme. With this investment the department and government are sending a message on the importance of FET colleges in skills development in our country. We are having many FET colleges in Sedibeng and encourage the youth to make use of them, please ensure that the FET college that you enrol with is a registered one.

FET colleges must reflect local/regional needs programmes that are needed of the required quality and relevance. At this stage of economic development, SA needs to produce engineers, entrepreneurs, medical researchers, information technology wizards among others, for it to grow the economy, reduce poverty and create jobs. We need a pool of educated and productive young people who are ready to take on the world.

We also welcome the progress made on the

appointment of 40 qualified Chief Financial Officers across the Sector Education and Training Authority which means there will be proper planning and financial management and that funds will be channelled where there is a greater need for the economy; Fitters, Plumbers, Electricians, Welders, Boiler Makers etc.

The ANC January 8 statement declared; **“The ANC shall lead by example by being the champion of education and skills development in this phase of the revolution”**.

Every ANC branch and member should play an important role in improving literacy, education and skills in their neighbourhood and get involved in programmes to improve the quality of learning and teaching in schools – ANC President Jacob Zuma. The Alliance should work together especially at the branch level to design and implement programmes that are aimed at addressing challenges that our education is faced with.

The Sedibeng District Municipality through the office of the Executive Mayor is consistent in providing bursaries to needy and deserving learners in different fields of study each year, a commitment that the ANC government has made. At the same rate Emfuleni local municipality through the office of the executive Mayor is also playing its part in partnering with the department of education at the level of the district to create conducive environment in which learning takes place without any form of disturbance.

Another important consideration as members of the ANC is to value education

Under conditions of freedom and democracy there is no justification for our members not to further their studies for their own empowerment. We need technical skills and knowhow to address the binding constraints on our growth and development and as leaders in society ANC members have to take up the challenge in order to lead by example.

At the end of it all, government cannot do it alone. We need to work together to vexing challenges that confront our education system!



As we begin our programme this year taking into account the tasks outlined in the January 8th Statement presented by President Jacob Zuma during the one hundred and first anniversary celebrations of our movement in Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal. We have in the past two years as the ANC entered into an agreement and made a commitment with our electorates that we as the movement will improve the lives of our people. We have made a substantial progress since the dawn of democracy in 1994. As we ponder to the resolutions we took in Mangaung the NEC of the ANC led by President Jacob Zuma present a programme of action which will guide and shape the movement for the annum to come. The ANC's response to any new developments in our political landscape is strategic, principled, comprehensive and visionary. We use our position of incumbency to effectively communicate the truth that two decades of ANC governance have considerably improved the quality of life of the overwhelming of our people.

It is therefore evident that the ANC is a tried and tested liberation movement on the continent which brought about freedom and democracy. The road traversed has been mountainous as we lost many of our heroes

and heroines. The President further makes emphasis on the programme of action to speed up the elimination of past apartheid legacy which brought about the impact of inequality, racism, oppression and discrimination. This road we must traverse together and leave no footprints that which will hinder the progress and achievement we have made thus far. Moses Mabhida Stadium is full to capacity as comrades come from all corners of South Africa and ANC has also extended invitations to our neighbouring states to witness this oldest liberation movement in the continent. All invitees were afforded time and space for message of support and alliance partners contributed their support to this gigantic congress of the people.

The ANC President calls on all members and citizens to celebrate promote and defend the country's constitution and also urging members to honour the national symbols which defend who we are as a people.

Our country has mixed economy where the public, private, cooperative and other forms of social ownership complement each other in an integrated way. The ANC within this mixed economy reaffirms the active role of the state in ensuring economic development

and further open up space for more black South Africans and more women to participate in the economy. This participation must be as employees, as creators of jobs and importantly as owners of means of production. The ANC has already put up plan in place to achieve all these goals through a range of measures contained in the development blueprint, National Development Plan which was presented during the ANC National Conference held in Mangaung by the Minister in the presidency Honourable Trevor Manuel. The plan sets out various methods to tackle unemployment, poverty, inequality and other challenges facing our country. The National Development Plan is the long term vision of the ANC which seeks to address the eradication of poverty, reduce unemployment and eliminate inequality by the year 2030, thus the ANC urges all members to unite behind this vision and drive its implementation with our government.

As the President felicitate the 2012 matric class and welcome the gradual improvements in matric results country wide. Education is declared an essential service and a societal issue. Parents and communities are urged once again to participate in the day to day development of

their children and ensure the success of their schools. The ANC is committed in improving the development of education hence we are striving for quality education and champion the skills development in this phase of the revolution.

NHI is high during this year's 2013 January 8th Statement and remains on track and plans are in place to introduce the NHI fund by 2014. South Africans are urged to embrace the NHI as it will take us a step further towards better and more affordable health care for all. The ANC has also made a call to government to improve the management of hospitals and welcomes measures that are being put in place to employ qualified Chief Executive Officers to bring about efficiency in hospitals. The ANC has taken a note that our hospitals are not being treated with respect and members of the community feel neglected by long queues, hence we are making a call to health professionals, workers to treat every sick person with care, empathy and society in general to change attitudes and develop our hospitals into centres of excellence which are clean and efficiently managed.

The awards are aimed at highlighting the features of strong branches and councils and to reward best practice within the movement. They are named after outstanding cadres of the ANC whose individual qualities of commitment and selflessness are an example to every ANC member. During their lives, each of these people made an immeasurable contribution to the struggle for freedom and a better life for all. It is in this note that the Lilies leaf Farm branch Sol Plaatjie awarded, conferred on the best performing ANC branch in Gauteng taking it away from the Bohlabela Region in Mpumalanga last year.

NEC declares 2013 the year of Unity in Action towards Socio-Economic Freedom



The Power of Giving

By: Thami Mgudlwa

The universe operates through a dynamic exchange - giving and receiving are facet of this flow of energy, and in our willingness to give that which we seek; we can enjoy the abundance of the universe flowing into our lives.

Because our bodies and minds and that of the universe are in constant and dynamic exchange, stopping the circulation of that energy is like stopping a flowing river. A river that stops flowing begins to stagnate, to suffocate and destroy its very own life force. Circulation sustains and maintains its vibrancy. That is why we give and receive to keep relationships, wealth and affluence or anything we want to flourish in our lives. When we learn to give that which we seek, we mobilise and choreograph life's symphony with exquisite, energy and vibrant dance.

Maharam Mi Rottenberg tells a story of a man who had a dream in which he was invited to a banquet. First he saw a magnificent hall in which people were seated at tables laden with the finest, mouth-watering delicacies. Observing the people, he was horrified to see that they were eyeing the food hungrily, yet they were miserably starving.

Why weren't they eating? Upon closer observation, he noticed that their hands were tied to knives and forks which were much too long to bring to their mouths. Their arms were straight and bending their elbows was completely impossible for them to bring the food to their mouths, even though every pleasurable food was available. It was so close, yet out of reach! There was no alternative but to go hungry. He was then shown another banquet room and to his amazement, the people were jolly and healthy looking. And they were eating, although their hands were also tied to long cutlery. They appeared well fed and content. Upon closer study, he noticed they were reaching across the table and feeding one another so that they didn't have to bend their arms. Those who merited to sit at these tables were accustomed to giving and

benefiting others. By feeding one another from across the table they quickly realised that they would satisfy everyone.

The foundation upon which a relationship stands is a willingness to give, without expecting anything in return. Though our thoughts may sometimes stray and appear valid when we think – What about his side of the bargain? Or What is in this for me? Or Why doesn't he do the same as I do for him? They are actually insidiously destructive; making the basis of a good relationship weaker the longer and stronger they persist.

Every relationship is one of give and take. Giving engenders receiving and receiving engenders giving. In reality, receiving is the same as giving because giving and receiving are different aspects of the dynamic flow of energy. The more you give, the more you will receive because you will tap into the abundance of the universe. This precept works equally well for individuals, companies, communities and nations.

The intention of one's giving should always be to create happiness for the giver and the receiver. One sensation is that when we give to others, we attest to the value and dignity of the one whom we consider deserving of help. This is of even greater impact when we are non-discriminating in our willingness to give. The return is directly propositional to the giving when it is unconditional and from the heart.

It doesn't absolutely require a heavenly mandate nor a tedious search through the thick tomes of the philosophers to discover what "good" is. A self revelation can occur on the subject, it can be worked out by any person. If one were to think how over how he or she would like to be treated by others, one would evolve the human virtues. Be a good exemplary and reflective mirror that everyone desires.

"The way to happiness requires that one set a good example for others"

Emfuleni Revenue Management Summit

The Emfuleni Local Municipality is faced with serious challenges regarding municipal debt due to non-payment of services by residents. This problem is negatively affecting the Municipality's ability to effectively render services optimally to its communities. The current debt due to non-payment by consumers is standing at two-point-seven (R2, 7) billion rand and is increasing daily. For the past six months, the payment levels are sitting at 89%. Of great concern is that not only the poorest sections of our communities owe the Municipality, but also the wealthy sections of our communities. As part of the plan to address this challenge, the Emfuleni Local Municipality embarked on a programme of action for revenue enhancement, by holding a REVENUE SUMMIT at four different areas within Emfuleni from 24 January to 07 February 2013.

Areas visited during the summit

1st Venue

Mphatlalatsane Community Hall – which catered for the residents of Sebokeng, Evaton, Palm Springs, Lakeside and Residensia

2nd Venue

Sharpeville Community Hall – which catered for residents of Bophelong, Tshepiso, Sharpeville, Vanderbijlpark, Vereeniging, Rustervaal, Roshnee, Ironside Debonairpark

3rd Venue

Mafatsane Community Hall – which caters

for the greater Evaton

4th Venue

Vanderbijlpark (ELM Main Building) – which caters for the greater Vanderbijlpark and the surrounding areas

This summit was initiated to create a platform for discussions, communicate and disseminate key and strategic information with all the stakeholders, especially the community members. This was also derived from the notion of creating awareness, empowering communities and also providing information so that the various key and strategic stakeholders can make informed decisions. The need for a summit is further necessitated by the ever increasing and growing organizational positioning and strategic alignment with the provincial and national government programme of action.

Key objectives of paying Masakhane

- To promote the delivery of basic services
- Stimulate economic development in urban and rural areas
- Promote the resumption of municipal services
- Create conditions conducive for infrastructure services and local economic development
- Promote the creation of an environment suitable for effective and sustainable corporate governance

Without the payment of municipal services

- The municipality will gradually run out of money for delivering basic services
- The municipality will experience

challenges in stimulating economic development

- The municipality will not create conditions necessary to encourage investment
- Investors will not take risks putting their investment at ransom
- Effective and sustainable local governance will be put at risks

Areas of concern during the summit

1. Basic Services Cluster

The Officials from Basic Services Cluster gave a presentation on how services are rendered and why should they be paid for. It was then evident during the presentation that the municipality cannot perform its functions optimally if community does not pay services.

2. The by-laws and billing process (including meter reading process)

This clarifies and simplifies the manner in which both the municipality and the consumer rights and responsibilities when it comes to meters, billing, complain procedure and budget process participation. Credit control s measure was also discussed and little demonstration was performed on how a water meter should be read to verify the correctness of the reading.

3. Free Basic Services and Indigent Household Consumer Subsidy

The Policy on free basic services and indigents was presented and thoroughly explained and a little demonstration on the 6 kilolitres given.

4. Establishment of the revenue





Emfuleni Revenue Management Summit (continue)

Agency and Turn Around Strategy

A presentation on how the agency intends to resolve the revenue problem in Emfuleni. Smart Metering is also put as a proposal for further discussions.

The Summit was aimed at achieving the following:

- Promote and encourage effective communication
- Promote stakeholder participation and liaison
- Clarify, discuss policies and procedures relating to revenue and governance
- Create and promote awareness of customer roles and responsibilities
- Provide and create a platform for stakeholders engagement and consultation on revenue and service delivery
- Promote and encourage communities especially those who are less fortunate to register as indigents in the municipal database.

The provision of services cost money. For continued success and development, we will have to pay for services rendered. Masakhane also means working together in paying for and receiving services. Particular attention has to be focused on senior citizens for the payment of services in terms of convenient arrangement.

Masakhane is a call to all residents to build our country through unity and solidarity. It is about empowering ourselves by creating good working relations between government and communities, for the benefit of everybody. We want a new consciousness and value system that promotes equality and justice to pervade our townships and cities. We want people to regain respect for human rights. We want people – like you today – to take responsibility for the development process.

Masakhane is about accountability. It is about democratic government reporting back to you on delivery and challenges it has experienced. But Masakhane is also about the active participation of each and every one of you in upliftment, delivery, and development. Masakhane belong to all of us. It belongs to you, the people of Emfuleni. That means that each and every resident has a role to play in making it work. Let us all stand firm, join hands to serve as a beacon of hope, change and growth. As communities let us all help lay the foundation for a better life. The call now is to build on that foundation.

The best solution to challenges we face can only be found when we work with each other,

it requires a commitment of each and every one of us. Today we should ask ourselves; what have I done to improve the surroundings in which I live? Do I litter or do I protect my surrounding? Do I promote nation building, peace and reconciliation? Do I pay my dues or do I cheat on my taxes, municipal services? Do I create a better life for myself and my community? Challenges require all of us to pull together, into a partnership, in order to bring about the necessary changes.

After all the deliberations and discussions it was understood and noted how Emfuleni Local Municipality strives to provide services to the community and the costs associated with these services and therefore the community declared:

- Committing into protecting the municipality infrastructure that provides services to the community
- Preserving, conserving and use municipal services sparingly and wisely
- Responsible and accountable for payment of municipal services
- Promote constant communication and engagement with ward councillors and municipal officials
- Respect environment , property and the various laws that govern and protect us



Auditor General's Report on Emfuleni Local Municipality

Over the years we have seen Emfuleni Local Municipality struggling in terms of Finance and Good Governance in terms of stabilizing the municipality. As the municipality we did not have systems in place which will lead to accountable municipality which highly considerate of good governance as one of its key pillars. Indeed it took a tall straw as we had to ensure that we speak to Information management, Risk Strategy, Performance management Strategy and stringent expenditure by the institution.

The Auditor general as he annually assesses the municipality made the following observations but before that let us take you down the road in terms of the Auditor General's office and mandate.

The Auditor-General of South Africa has a constitutional mandate and, as the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of South Africa, it exists to strengthen our country's democracy by enabling oversight, accountability and governance in the public sector through auditing, thereby building public confidence

Types of audit opinions that can be expressed

• Unqualified Audit opinion (two types)

☐ Material misstatements were not identified on the financial statements and no findings on Predetermined objectives and Compliance with laws and regulations

RESULT = CLEAN AUDIT

☐ Material misstatements were not identified but there are findings on Predetermined objectives and Compliance with laws and regulations

• **Qualified opinion** – Material misstatements were identified with/without findings on Predetermined objectives and Compliance with laws and regulations

• **Adverse** - Material misstatements identified affecting various balances in the financial statements with or without findings.

• **Disclaimer opinion** – Inability to perform the audit, resulting in a limitation of scope. No opinion is expressed.

What is a clean audit?

A clean audit relates to only three aspects:

- The annual financial statements are free of material misstatements resulting in an Unqualified Opinion
- There are no material findings on the annual performance report
- There are no material findings on

compliance with key laws and regulations

- These three aspects are regulated by the MFMA and the Public Audit Act, and are supported by International Standards of Auditing (ISAs)

Structure of the Audit report

The audit report consists of the following aspect:

- **Opinion / conclusion on the financial statements**
- **Emphasis of matter**

It is aimed at drawing users' attention to a matter presented or disclosed in the financial statements which is of such importance that it is fundamental to their understanding of the financial statements.

– Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

- Predetermined objectives
- Compliance with laws and regulations
- **Internal control**
- Leadership
- Financial and performance management
- Governance

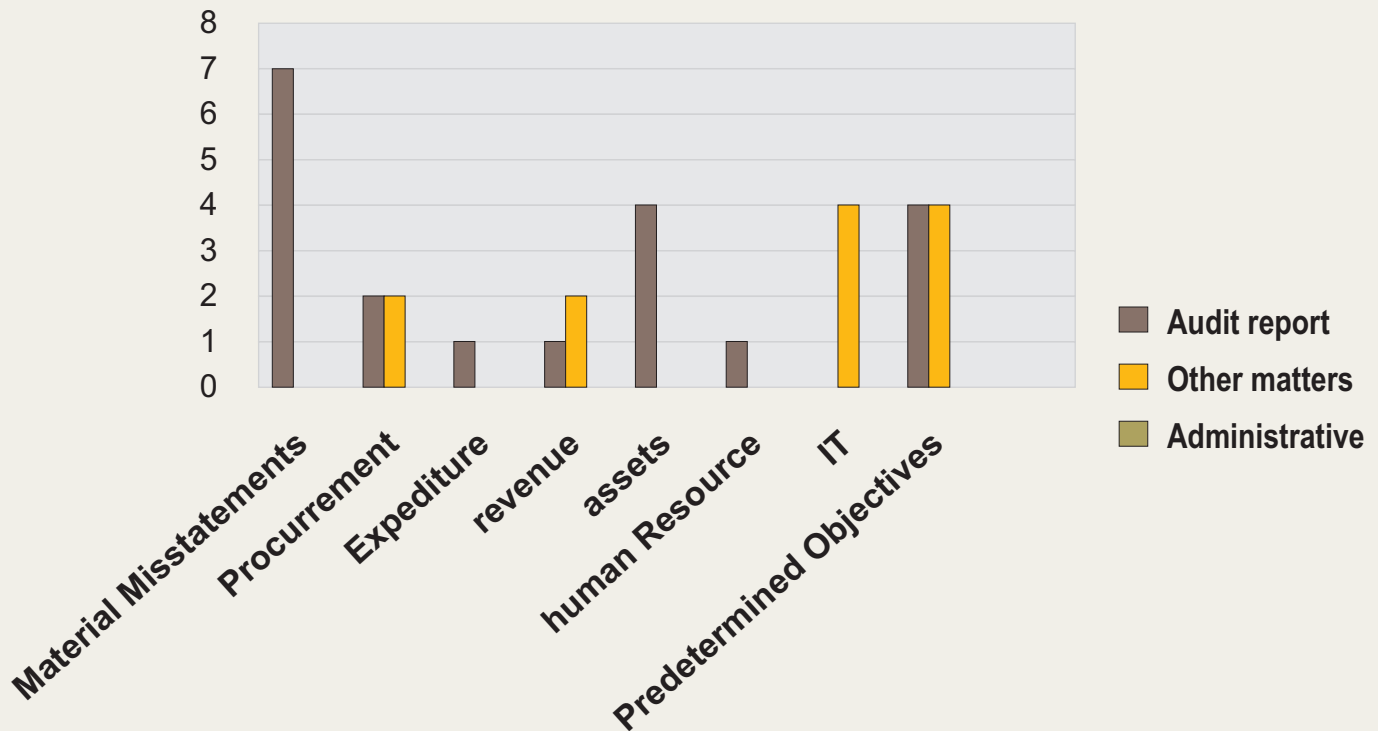
Audit Outcomes

Opinion	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	Movement
Financially Unqualified	✓			↑
Financially Qualified		✓	✓	
Compliance with laws and regulations	✓	✓	✓	↔
Pre-determined objectives	✓	✓	✓	↔

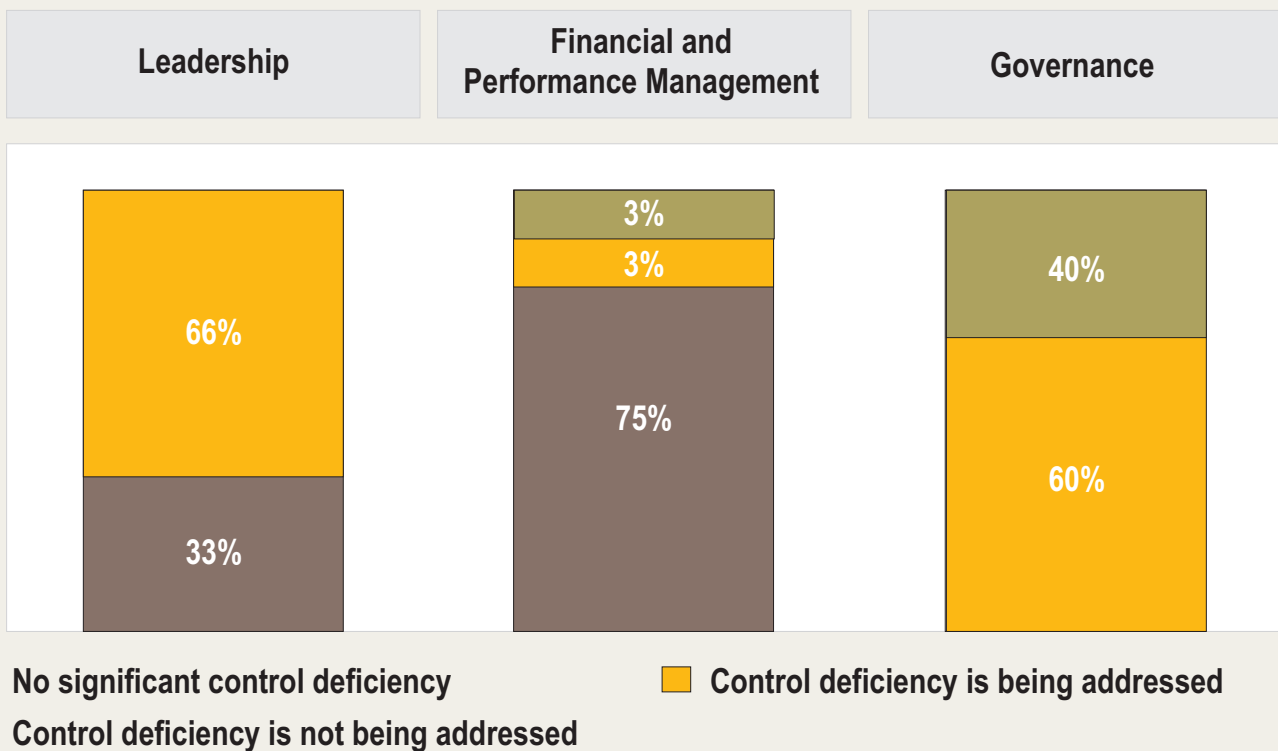
Auditor General's Report on Emfuleni Local Municipality (continue)

Audit Outcomes

Analysis of compliance audit findings



Internal Controls



Auditor General's Report on Emfuleni Local Municipality (continue)

Way Forward

Way forward	Responsible person
Asset counts are performed regularly.	CFO
Complete and accurate quarterly financial statements are prepared with supporting notes and disclosures	CFO
Review and monitor compliance with applicable laws and regulations.	ALL unit heads
Implementation of internal audit and audit committee recommendations	Accounting officer
Review of the accuracy, validity and completeness of performance information on a quarterly basis	All unit heads and Accounting officer

What this report entails is that there is a lot that we have made appropriate strides to remedy the previous years audit opinions but as the State President says 'Yinde lendlela esiyihambayo' thus we need to tread carefully in reaching to the Clean Audit opinion. This signals a call that as the municipality new will not be able to attain this on our own but working together with our communities in different segmentations we will attain it.

The report speaks of the money owed to the municipality which makes it to be instable as it now tends to depend on grants but a healthy municipality must be able to sustain itself in terms of self generated revenue. It is against this background that the ruling party ANC and the municipality we make a call to all our communities to respond positively to Operation Patala campaign aimed at enhancing revenue which will in turn contribute immensely towards the infrastructure development.



Vaal River City, the Cradle of Human Rights

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