



## Celebrating the VUNA AWARDS

**A**nother prestigious award comes home. On Friday, 1 December, the Provincial Vuna Award Competition for municipal performance excellence was won by our municipality, making us the best local municipality at performance on a provincial level.

The same award was also given to the Nkangala District Municipality for being the best District Municipality.

The Vuna Awards (Vuna meaning harvest in Nguni) is an initiative launched by the Department of Provincial and Local Government (DPLG) in partnership with the

Development Bank of South Africa (DSA), the National Productivity Institute (NPI) and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

This initiative is to award local municipalities and district municipalities for outstanding service delivery.

It must be noted that our municipality has been rated in the top ten municipalities in the country by the Independent Credit Rating Firm.

Municipalities are assessed on the following key perform-

ance areas as laid out in the national regulations:

Infrastructure level
Service delivery and infrastructure development
Water and electricity service
Solid Waste and environmental management
Roads, housing and community facilities
Urban efficiency and spatial planning
<b>Local Economic Development</b>
Economic growth
Poverty alleviation and job creation
<b>Municipal Financial Viability</b>
Financial viability
Grant expenditure and management
<b>Municipal transformation and institutional development</b>
Organisational design and capacity
Employment Equity and Skills development
Integrated development planning
Performance management system
<b>Good governance</b>
Public participation, accountability and transparency
Ward systems and Council meetings
Corporate governance



The Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu with the trophy, certificate and cheque of R750 000. Steve Tshwete is the best local municipality in the Mpumalanga province.

## See you next year – Mayor

**2**006 was a busy year when we witnessed another successful Local Government Election (1 March 2006), which gave us a fresh mandate to continue in partnership with the people, to create a local government that works for them.

Some of the highlights of 2006 were the HIV/AIDS campaign; hosting the launch of the Ubuntu Imbizo Nation Building; the wonderful MACFEST and others which are noted in this issue.

For many of us, the festive season and the Christmas holidays we have enjoyed, presented an opportunity to come together with our families after a long time of being far apart. I am sure that we all experienced the spirit of togetherness; we rested, rejoiced and shared love and gifts.

Now that we are entering the New Year, we must not forget that there are people who have nowhere to go, no one to talk to, no food, no clothes and are homeless. I appeal to everyone in our community not to forget those who are less fortunate, let us build a caring people-centred community in 2007.

**I appeal to you to be mindful of the following:**

- That the spirit of Arrive Alive to live 365 days in our lives, Buckle-Up, Don't Drink and Drive, Be Patient on the Road, Don't Fool Yourselfs, Speed Kills;
- let's not forget that there is still no cure for HIV/AIDS, but we can prevent the spread of it. Take the necessary precautions for 52 weeks. Take care of yourself, your family and those close to you;
- the spirit of paying for municipal services must continue. Attend all ward meetings and municipal activities; and
- report all the faults and damages to public properties to the relevant departments.

In conclusion, thank you very much for the support you gave us throughout the year and for honoring your obligations to the municipality.

Let the spirit of Ubuntu prevail in 2007. Let's make this year a year of hope for all, committing ourselves to building a better life for every one of us. May God richly bless you and have a successful 2007.



Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, Executive Mayor.





Illegal structures being erected around electricity poles, obstructing electricians from gaining access to circuit breakers and transformers.

## No access to ELECTRICITY POLES

**T**he Municipality Electrical Department's technicians are experiencing a serious problem in accessing electricity poles which carry the circuit breakers that distribute power to more than three houses each.

Inspections conducted by the Technical department revealed that the field electricians who attend to electricity complaints, cannot gain access due to obstacles such as sheep kraals, concrete, garages, shacks, bricks, scrap piles, trees, invisible stand numbers, fencing, wood, packed stones, dogs, toilets and gardens.

Members of the public are requested to remove all such structures/obstacles and ensure that an area within two metres from the distribution pole/line is clear. Such problems are found mainly in Extensions 2 (RDP housing) 4, 5 and 6.

Not gaining access to the electric pole is a waste of time for the municipal electricians and expensive because one breaker circuit distributes electricity to a minimum of three houses.

"We plead with the community to clear these areas, because they prevent us from delivering an important service," said Lawrence Nkambule, Senior Electrician.

"In a case where members of the public do not respond after being verbally warned, then given a written notice, further steps will be taken as this is against the Town Planning Development Structure," warned Meshack Mahamba: Town Planning Head.

For help concerning electrical complaint call:

**(013) 243 1656 or (013) 249 7231.**



Above: The acceptable distance from buildings to electricity poles.



Left: Stubby boxes should be in a position of access to electricians.

## Help us to serve YOU BETTER

**T**here are 28 suggestion boxes situated at central venues in the municipal area where residents can submit their suggestions, complaints and compliments in respect of the service they receive from the Steve Tshwete Municipality and its staff.

By making active use of these boxes, the public can positively assist the Municipality to provide them with an even better service in the future.

Neels Badenhorst, Assistant Chief: Public Relations, told the Masakhane News that the authentic wooden boxes are fitted with locks and keys which are kept by him alone, so that no one can tamper with the forms.

"We want the community to be actively involved, which is why we encourage them to make use of these suggestion boxes so that the municipality can be aware of their grievances and needs. If the public does not make use of these boxes, then the municipality will not know their problems," he commented.

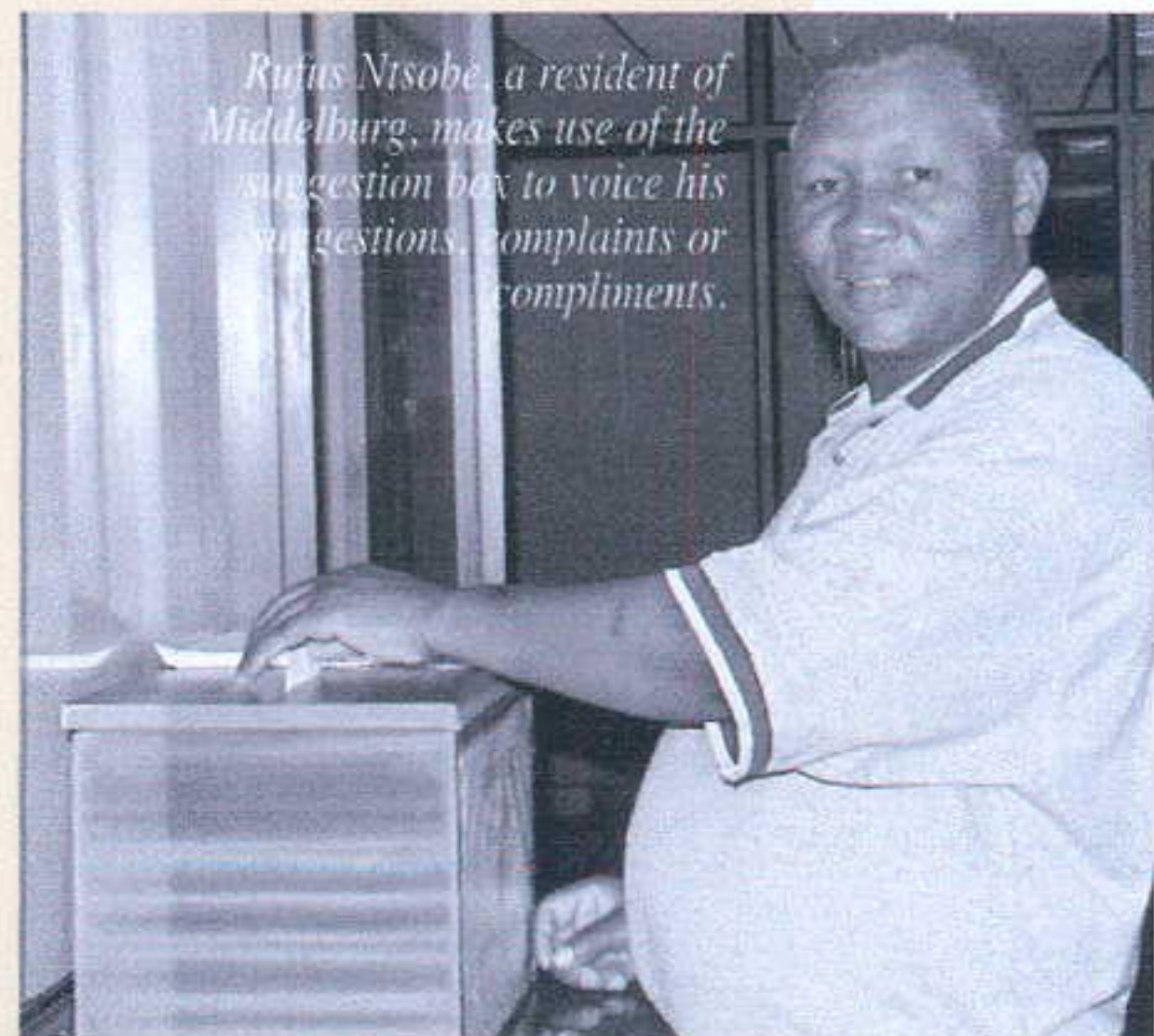
The questionnaire form, which the public can utilise for this purpose, includes a contact address so that any member of the public who submits a suggestion, compliment or complaint can receive feedback on the issue.

Once a month these boxes are opened and the contents processed. Depending on the contribution, investigations are done and those people who left contact addresses are provided with written feedback on their particular contribution.

This suggestion box service has been into practice for more than a year now, and the contributions have helped the municipality to render a better service. The boxes are placed at all municipal pay points, libraries and clinics.

### VENUES OF SUGGESTION BOXES ARE AT THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- Mhluzi Paypoint, Clinic (2) and Library • Chromeville Paypoint • Ext 5 Paypoint
- Ext 4 Clinic • Ext 8 Clinic • Nasaret Paypoint, Clinic and Library • Rietkuil Paypoint
- Pullenshope Clinic.
- Komati Paypoint.
- Hendrina Paypoint and Clinic • Newtown Clinic.
- Kwazamokuhle Paypoint, Clinic and Library • Van Calder Paypoint • Gerald Sekote Library, Access Control, Rates Hall and Clinic.
- New Municipal Buildings • Eastdene Clinic and Library.



Rufus Ntsoke, a resident of Middelburg, makes use of the suggestion box to voice his suggestions, complaints or compliments.

## RED CARD

**REPORT UNETHICAL OR  
DISHONEST BEHAVIOUR  
IS YOUR CIVIL DUTY!**



**Phone the Hotline  
0800 20 12 20**

**Totally  
Anonymous!**

**RED CARD  
ANY CORRUPTION,  
THEFT OR  
DISHONESTY**

**Steve Tshwete Municipality**



# MAJOR PROGRESS WITH PROJECTS

**T**he Steve Tshwete Municipality made major progress with a large number of important projects during the past year, especially in the sphere of service delivery and creating an environment in which future development can take place.

According to a summary of a progress report, made available to Masakhane News by Municipal Manager Willie Fouché, the following milestones were achieved during 2006:

As far as major service delivery is concerned, progress was made with the construction of new roads in rural areas, roads were maintained in the urban and rural areas, the quality of the electricity supply was further improved, funding has been secured and the design completed for a Multi Purpose Community Centre which will be able to accommodate 800 guests and more industrial stands were created.

Furthermore, at least three new rural villages will be created, 3 000 stands at Rockdale will be serviced, 601 serviced stands at Kwazamokuhle will be created and additional stands in Aerorand and Extension 18 will be serviced for sale to the public.

The Multi Purpose Community Centres at Mhluzi Extension Seven and Doornkop will be completed and two more developed, assistance will be granted with the provision of RDP housing within budget limits, a sufficient and stable water and electricity supply for future generations will be ensured, the traffic flow through Middelburg and Mhluzi will be improved and Disaster Management arrangements will also be improved.

In the field of basic service delivery, improvements were brought about with regard to the provision of water, electricity, sanitation services, sport and recreation facilities and cleansing services. In fact, this municipality was judged to be the Cleanest Town in Mpumalanga in 2006!

In the sphere of Local Economic Development (LED), a commitment was made to implement the strategies of the Nkangala District Municipality.

Further assistance will be rendered to develop a regional shopping complex that will result in the creation of at least 1 200 permanent jobs.

With the assistance of the National Government, land will be acquired to be used for commonages at towns and villages throughout the municipality.

The old Thushanang School in Mhluzi will be converted into a facility for the development of emerging entrepreneurs.

The Municipality will act as implementing agent for the settlement of restituted communities at Doornkop and Botshabelo.

Skills development and other training programmes for the citizens will be instituted.

As far as Comprehensive Social Security is concerned, community gardens will be developed for poor communities, administrative support will be extended to ward committees, co-operation with the SAPS will be continued to eradicate crime and air pollution will be seriously addressed.

Also, a dedicated Youth Unit will be created to enhance local youth activities and indigent support extended to the poorest households to help them get rid of their arrears accounts and have access to basic services.

In the area of activity of promoting Constitutional Rights and Democracy, the new Property Rates Act will be utilised to broaden the revenue base, the transformation process will be continued to fully reflect the current demography and special planning will be pursued to integrate communities and undermine racial discrimination.

The Municipality will ensure that its current favourable financial situation is maintained and even improved, continue to actively combat fraud and corruption and interact with and improve the conditions for informal traders.

It will be ensured that Town Councillors meet their obligations to report back to and interact with their wards at all times, at least six Mayoral report-back meetings will be held annually and close cooperation with the Nkangala District Municipality, Provincial and national Governments will be continued.

The Council fully participates in all activities of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) in Mpumalanga to enhance Local Economic Development and the Executive Mayor is in fact the Chairperson of the Finance Working Group.

Community participation in the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) will be encouraged and regular meetings with the community will be held annually to this end.

## IN HONOUR OF STEVE TSHWETE



*Mrs Pamela Tshwete (middle), wife of Mr Steve Tshwete, and the Executive Mayor, Mantlakeng Mahlangu, in the Eastern Cape. As part of this year's Heritage Day celebrations, the Mayor visited the grave of the late Steve Tshwete to pay tribute to the many contributions he made towards a democratic South Africa.*

## Our municipality THE BEST

“The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in the province is unique in many ways. For instance, we are leaders in the field of the provision of advanced infrastructure, in research on service delivery on farms, and coming up with innovative ideas of dealing with informal settlements.”

Congratulating our municipality on the pioneering role it has - and still is - playing in the country, was the Mpumalanga MEC for Local Government and Housing, Mr J Mahlangu, when he addressed a function in Middelburg earlier this year.

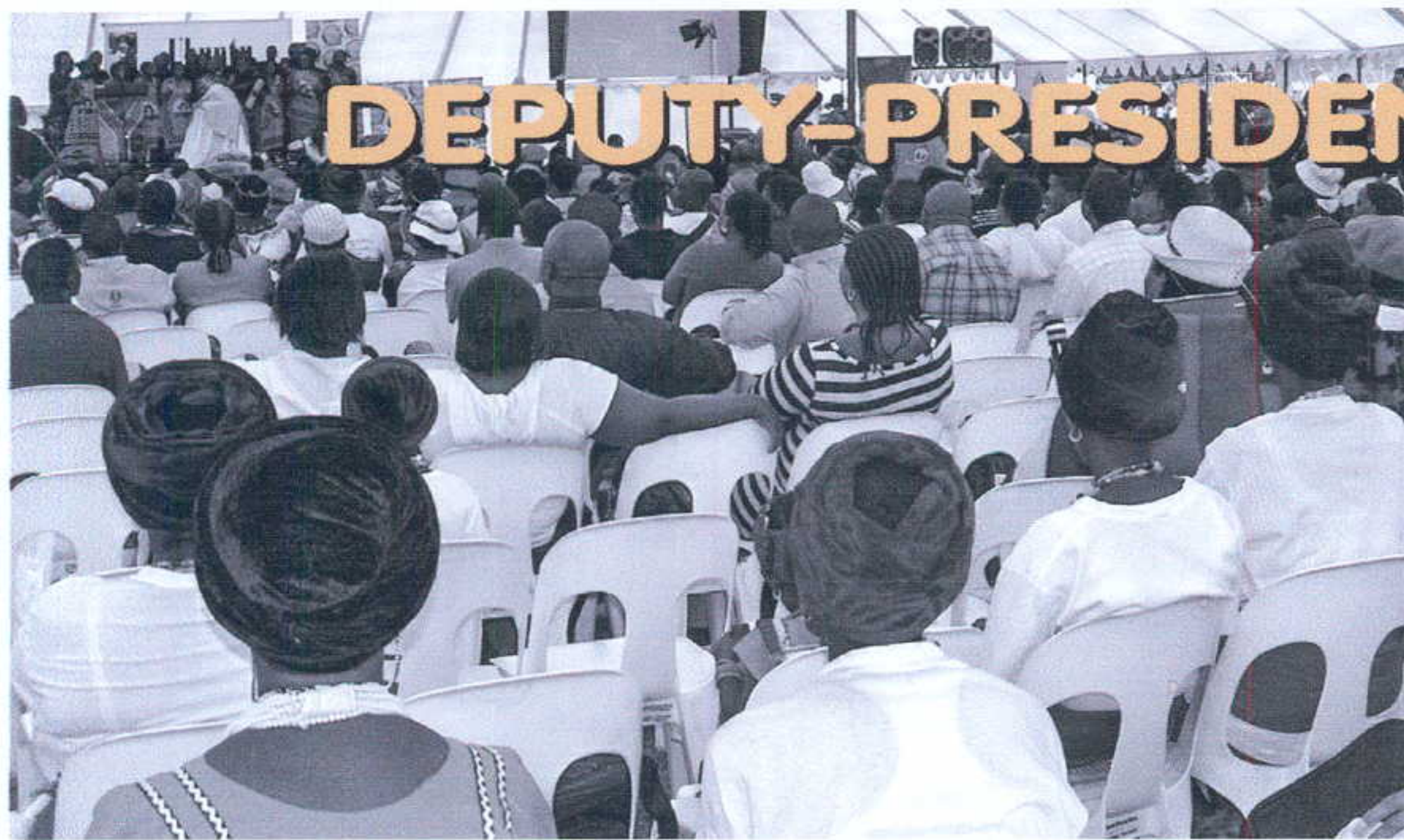
The occasion was the inauguration of Mantlakeng Mahlangu for another term of office as Executive Mayor.

After emphasising that the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality had won prestigious and highly coveted titles in the past, such as the Vuna Award, Masakhane Award and Cleanest Town Award, the MEC noted that it had the highest proliferation of political formations in Council in the province.

“You have won accolades from receiving unqualified Auditor-General reports for many years now. This year you continued to show prudent leadership by achieving a credible Integrated Development Plan (IDP) - one of only three municipalities in the province that has achieved this. The list goes on ...

“You have set yourselves up and every municipality in Mpumalanga will be benchmarking against you, save for the Nkangala District,” he stated.





# DEPUTY-PRESIDENT at Botshabelo

**T**he National Heritage Council held its national Imbizo/Pitso day on 'Ubuntu' at Botshabelo on 17 November 2006. The three day celebration was graced by the presence of the Honourable Deputy President, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Ngcuka's message was to encourage the masses to practise 'Ubuntu' beginning from their only God given gift, which is family. She gave a word of advice that people must change their behaviour by respecting and caring for one another.

"How do we explain such high levels of violence on our streets and in our homes, which spills over to our schools? How do we account for such high rates of rape - even by relatives. Family murder, child abuse, the increase of street kids and street begging all describe the wave of individualism and obsession with material wealth - above social responsibility and by even those who have the means to help," she said.

Amongst the invited guests was our Premier, Thabang Makwetla, Executive Mayor, Manthlakeng Mahlangu, traditional leaders, traditional healers, leaders of different faith groups, and intellectuals.

Ngcuka received the Ubuntu Award on behalf of former President Nelson Mandela. This was presented to him as the first recipient and as a person who emulates the values of Ubuntu.

Some 3 000 people attended the celebration, with many buses from Middelburg and surrounding areas.



Councillor L. Mahlangu voices her opinion on Ubuntu while the MEC notes down.



Zolani Mkhiva welcomes the Deputy-President with one of his famous poems.



From left to right: Khosi Kutama, Dali Mpofu - CEO of SABC, Manthlakeng Mahlangu - Executive Mayor, Steve Tshwete Municipality, Thabang Makwetla - Premier of Mpumalanga, Nomsa Mtsweni - MEC for Arts & Culture, Mpumalanga and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka - Deputy-President.

## Centre empowers OUR YOUTH

**T**he establishment and launch of a Youth Advisory Centre, in conjunction with Umsobomvu Youth Fund, is one of the most outstanding achievements ever in our Municipality.

Challenges facing our young people can now be addressed at the centre. The centre offer assistance in all matters related to young people. Amongst other services rendered are structuring of CVs, life skills, career advice, business advice,

employment, projects, bursaries, learnerships and loans - free of charge.



Marcus Masebola, Outreach Officer.

"We discourage the use of drugs, that is why we have joined forces with Midcol in an anti-drug campaign. Young people must abstain from sex, or use a condom," advised Mbuso Mnisi, Career Advice Counsellor.

The office is situated on the second floor in the municipal building. Personal visits/consultations are welcomed or contact him on (013) 249 7279 or log in to: [www.youthportal.org.za](http://www.youthportal.org.za)



Mbuso Mnisi, Career Advice Counsellor.



Brigalia Bam - CEO of the Independent Electoral Commission plants a tree.

## New look for THE RATES HALL

**A** budget estimated at R150 000 has been set aside for the renovation of the Municipality's Rates Hall. The renovation is expected to start soon.

Manager Finance, Frans Naude, explained that the Rates Hall will be taken over by the Finance Department after the Licensing Department has relocated to its new offices. Renovations will soon start and are expected to be completed before the end of March, 2007.

The layout of the renovated area is designed to be consumer-friendly and provide enough space for rate-payers to manoeuvre.

According to Mr Naude, the hall will offer both privacy and security.

Discussions are underway with the banks for the installation of an Automatic Transmission Machine (ATM) and the opportunity to make payments using credit cards.



Renovations at the Rates Hall will start soon.



# Municipal highlights in 2006

## WE HAVE THE CLEANEST TOWN ... AGAIN!



Once more the Steve Tshwete Municipality has come out tops after Middelburg was officially rated the Cleanest Town in Mpumalanga for 2006.

This initiative to motivate municipalities to keep the towns under their jurisdiction clean and tidy was originally launched by Department of Agriculture and Land Administration.

Responsible waste management by households, companies and in the main by municipalities is recognised and rewarded by this competition.

The prestigious award presentation event took place in Middelburg recently, where the call for zero tolerance to waste generation, illegal dumping and pollution was emphasised, amongst many other challenges that the annual Cleanest Town Competition poses to participating municipalities.

Provincial Agriculture and Land Administration MEC, Madala Masuku, applauded the winning municipalities for their staunch efforts.

The Steve Tshwete, Govan Mbeki and Nkomazi Municipalities achieved the first, second and third places - receiving trophies and prize money of R40 000, R30 000 and R20 000, respectively - for their outstanding achievements in executing waste management policies, strategies and practices.



The Executive Mayor, Manthalakeng Mahlangu, with the Cleanest Town Competition trophy, surrounded by members of the municipality and well wishers sharing the victory.



Community members put in an effort towards cleaning up our town.

## TELKOM DELIVERS TO THOSE IN NEED



The Telkom Foundation came to the rescue for sufferers of the Christmas 2005 hailstorm. Rescue came in the form of food parcels, mattresses, blankets and other necessities. Seen here is the Executive Mayor, Manthalakeng Mahlangu, handing out these much-needed parcels.

## OPENING OF ORANGE STREET BRIDGE

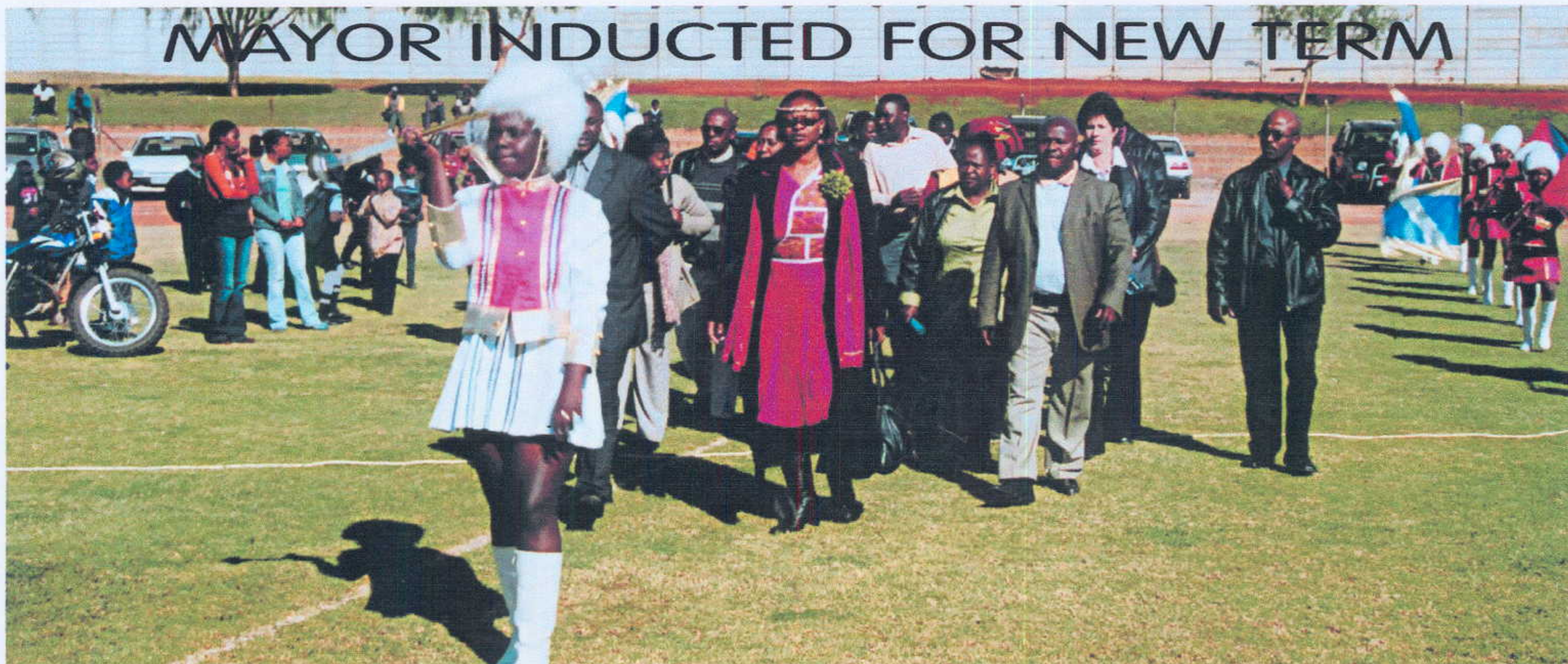


The new Orange Street Bridge was officially opened by the Executive Mayor, Manthalakeng Mahlangu and the Executive Mayor, SK Mahilo of the Nkangala District Municipality earlier this year.



# Municipal highlights in 2006

## MAYOR INDUCTED FOR NEW TERM



Dignitaries, councillors, stakeholders and members of the public arrive to witness the Mayor's inauguration.

**H**er commitment to serving the community led to her reappointment as Executive Mayor of the Steve Tshwete Municipality, wherein Mantlhakeng Mahlangu hopes to touch the lives of many people.

She would like to contribute meaningfully towards creating a non-racial, non-sexist society in South Africa.

"I have no doubt in my mind that 1 March 2006 was a day where our patriotic, loyal citizens - irrespective of race, colour, sex or creed - decided to carry their green bar-coded Identity Documents and go to different voting stations with a common goal," she commented.

This prestigious occasion, held on 25 May 2006 at Themba Senamela Stadium, was graced by presence of members of the mayoral committee, councillors, mayors and speakers from other municipalities, SALGA representatives, stakeholders and the community.



After the inauguration, the Mayor hosted a gala dinner for VIP guests. She is photographed with JL Mahlangu, MEC for Local Government, the Mayor of Emakhazeni, the Mayor of Emalahleni, the Speaker of NDM and several Municipal Managers.

## REMEMBERING our fallen heroes

**T**he Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, laid a wreath at the unveiling of a cenotaph in memory of the fallen heroes of the struggle for liberation at the Emalahleni (Witbank) Municipality earlier this year.





# Municipal highlights in 2006

## ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF HENDRINA RESIDENTS

**T**he Executive Mayor of the Steve Tshwete Municipality, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, presented her first Mayoral Outreach of 2006 earlier this year at Hendrina's Kwazamokuhle Hall accompanied by some members of the council and managers of the Administration.

The purpose of this outreach was to inform the community of Hendrina about the council's programme of action on:

The adoption of the municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP);

The problems experienced with RDP housing, houses that will be demolished and houses that will be rebuilt;

The allocation of a Municipal Infrastructure grant for Kwazamokuhle, which makes provision for:

- An amount of R1 million for the erection of street lights at Extension 7.
- An amount of R1,6 million for the establishment of a bus and taxi route at Extension 7.
- An amount of R900 000 for water infrastructure.
- An amount of R1,2 million for sanitation infrastructure.

During the meeting, members of the community were given the opportunity to ask questions, raise their complaints and make suggestions and comments.

Issues raised by the community were mainly problems relating to housing, job creation, employment opportunities, the building of an entertainment centre, a shortage of medicines at the clinics, the condition of roads and the Cosmos Hall.

The Executive Mayor, together with council members, responded to the questions and undertook to address the outstanding issues promptly.

*Councillor J Mayaba responded to questions asked during a Mayoral Outreach at Hendrina earlier this year.*



*Members of the public during the Mayoral Outreach*



## NATIONAL AIDS DAY - 1 DECEMBER 2006



**N**ational HIV/Aids Day was held on Friday, 1 December 2006. This year, the occasion was commemorated at the Council Chamber where municipal officials converged in a 15 minute prayer session.

During the session, Sister Margaret Skosana, Chief of Health Services, reiterated the fact of the existence of HIV/AIDS and its negative economic impact on the work force.

Increasing numbers of orphaned children places a greater degree of social responsibility onto council and government in general.

"It is important to know your status in order to lead a healthy life if HIV-positive, and/or to retain a HIV-negative status, to those who are negative," she said.



*Chief Health Services, Sister Margaret Skosana.*



*IMATU representative, Sister Ingrid Kyde.*



*Municipal Manager, Willie Fouche.*



*SAMWU representative, Mr Simon Mamaru.*



# Naming and renaming CONTINUES

**C**onsultations with relevant stakeholders are presently taking place on the matter of naming and renaming streets and other municipal facilities within the area of jurisdiction of the Steve Tshwete Municipality.

At no time will new names and renaming officially be announced. Six streets names and thirteen municipal facilities will change once the process has been finalised.

Assistant Town Planner, Sipho Mthethwa explained that the naming and renaming of streets and other municipal facilities is an on-going process and the entire country is engaged in this implementation.



Sipho Mthethwa,  
Assistant Town Secretary.

The involvement of the community via ward meetings will speed up the process and ensure its success as inputs from the community are required.

“The logic that it is expensive and a waste of money to change names is not true because costs incurred come out of the operational budget. It is essential that some names be changed, for example, having Kerk Street in Middelburg and Church Street in Mhluzi does not make sense,” explained Sipho.

“People must not think that the Mayor is the one behind this, but the entire country is engaged in this implementation of names that can redefine us as a nation,” he concluded.

Sections which have no street names, such as Newtown, Tokologo, Ext 5, 6, present a difficulty when emergency services are called to the area, such as ambulances, fire fighters, etc., as they find it difficult to locate a destination.

## The following street names will change:

HF Verwoerd, DF Malan, Hans Strydom in Dennesig, Church Street in Mhluzi, Kerk and Coetsee Streets.

## Municipal facilities to change are:

Middelburg Dam, Kruger Dam (recreation), Middelburg Provincial Hospital, Middelburg Town, Greater Middelburg Housing Association, Loskop Dam and Loskop Koppie, Klein Olifants river, Bankfontein and Doornkop settlements, Mhluzi Police Station, Hendrina Town, Hendrina Secured Care Center.

## When changing or renaming, the following criteria should be applied:

- Extensive use of themes in naming or renaming of streets per sections or wards are advantageous but not compulsory;
- historical information pertaining to a name must be considered and submitted with proposals;
- no duplication of street names can be allowed;
- no naming or renaming of streets with numbers will be accepted;
- no naming or renaming of streets with the names of people who are still alive; and
- involvement of all the relevant stakeholders in naming or renaming must run across one section or Ward of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality jurisdiction.

## MILESTONES IN FIRST 100 DAYS in office

**R**epresentatives from various structures of traditional healers, businesses, religious groups and youth structures, mayoral committee, councillors, managers and staff members graced the occasion as the Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu delivered a speech about the victories of the first 100 days in office. She delivered the speech earlier this year, on 1 March 2006.



- contracts awarded for the first phase of construction of two multi-purpose community centres for Mhluzi Extension 7 and Doornkop.

### Development Impact:

- Servicing of 150 stands at Middelburg Extension 18;
- establishment and launch of the Youth Advisory Centre in conjunction with Umsobomvu Youth Fund;
- approval of 526 building plans to an estimated value of R193 million;

The highlights of achievements during this period have not only renewed the confidence of the masses, but has improved the quality of lives and the citizens value these achievements.

“As a municipality, we put service delivery on top of our agenda, hence for us, that’s value number one,” she said.

Furthermore, she acknowledged the fact that these achievements are not individual victories but a collective victory for councillors, municipal personnel, the business community, religious society, NGOs, CBO, labour and youth.

The following are the highlights of a Balanced Scorecard model which cover the four pillars of score card during the first 100 days in office:

### Service Delivery:

- Official opening of the Oranje Street Bridge and Mhluzi Library;
- upgrading of sporting and recreation facilities at Eastdene sport fields, and completion of cloakrooms at cricket field and Kees Taljaard Stadium;
- electrification of informal dwellings. Doornkop 130 units, Extension 24 - 444 units and Tokologo Phase 11 - 78 units;
- MIG (Municipal Infrastructure Grant) construction of waste transfer stations: Komati 90%, Hendrina 80%, and Rietkuil 60%;
- development of parks and additional playing equipment within the municipal area; and

- 199 residential erven sold, 32 industrial erven sold;
- re-alignment of the LED Structure to the Nkangala District Municipal LED Structure;
- approval of 300 hectares for an industrial township; and
- winning of the Regional and Provincial ‘Cleanest Town Competition’.

### Governance:

- The approval of the 2006/2007 IDP;
- approval of the 2006 - 2009 multi year budget;
- the adoption of 2004/5 Annual Report;
- successful budget indaba;
- community satisfaction survey and staff wellness survey conducted; and
- a successful mayoral outreach conducted at Hendrina.

### Resource Management:

- Official handover of 150 title deeds to Kwazamokuhle Extension 6 residents;
- seven ad-hoc valuations, 105 supplementary valuations and about 6 200 inspections and updated data for properties;
- medium fire and rescue vehicle delivered and in operation;
- some 450 staff members trained on various aspects in terms of the Skills Development Plan;
- updating of policies - delegations, roles and responsibilities; and
- upgrading and maintenance of municipal buildings for improved service delivery.

## Mayor visits France ON WOMEN’S CONFERENCE

**T**he Executive Mayor of the Steve Tshwete Municipality, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu, has just returned from an empowering women’s conference in France, to which she was invited.

The South African Embassy hosted a one-day conference on 10 November 2006 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic 1956 Women’s March as part of the struggle to liberate our country.

The commemoration celebrated the freedom which was achieved in 1994 and to re-commit to the struggle for gender equality and the emancipation of women.

In the context of the strong bilateral relations between South Africa and France, the conference focused on harnessing the support and solidarity of the French Government, private sector and people to promote the empowerment of South African women, inter alia, through decentralised co-operation and through economic partnership between women from both countries.

In her keynote address, the honourable Mayor focused on “using decentralised co-operation in advancing social and economic empowerment of women” in the context of:

- The land issue.
- Educational levels.
- Formal employment levels (local situation in all sectors).
- Empowering programmes (Partnership Based Governance).
- LED strategic recommendations.
- Employment rate in the region.
- Opportunities.
- Empowering programmes (Extended Public Works Programme).
- Empowering programmes (Participatory Management).
- The potential of decentralised services.
- Integrated Development Plan.
- Municipal Challenges.

“My visit to France was very interesting and even more so when viewed in the light that I was invited to represent women in a country where the South African Ambassador to France is a woman herself,” concluded the Mayor.



# 24-HOUR CALL CENTRE COMPLETED

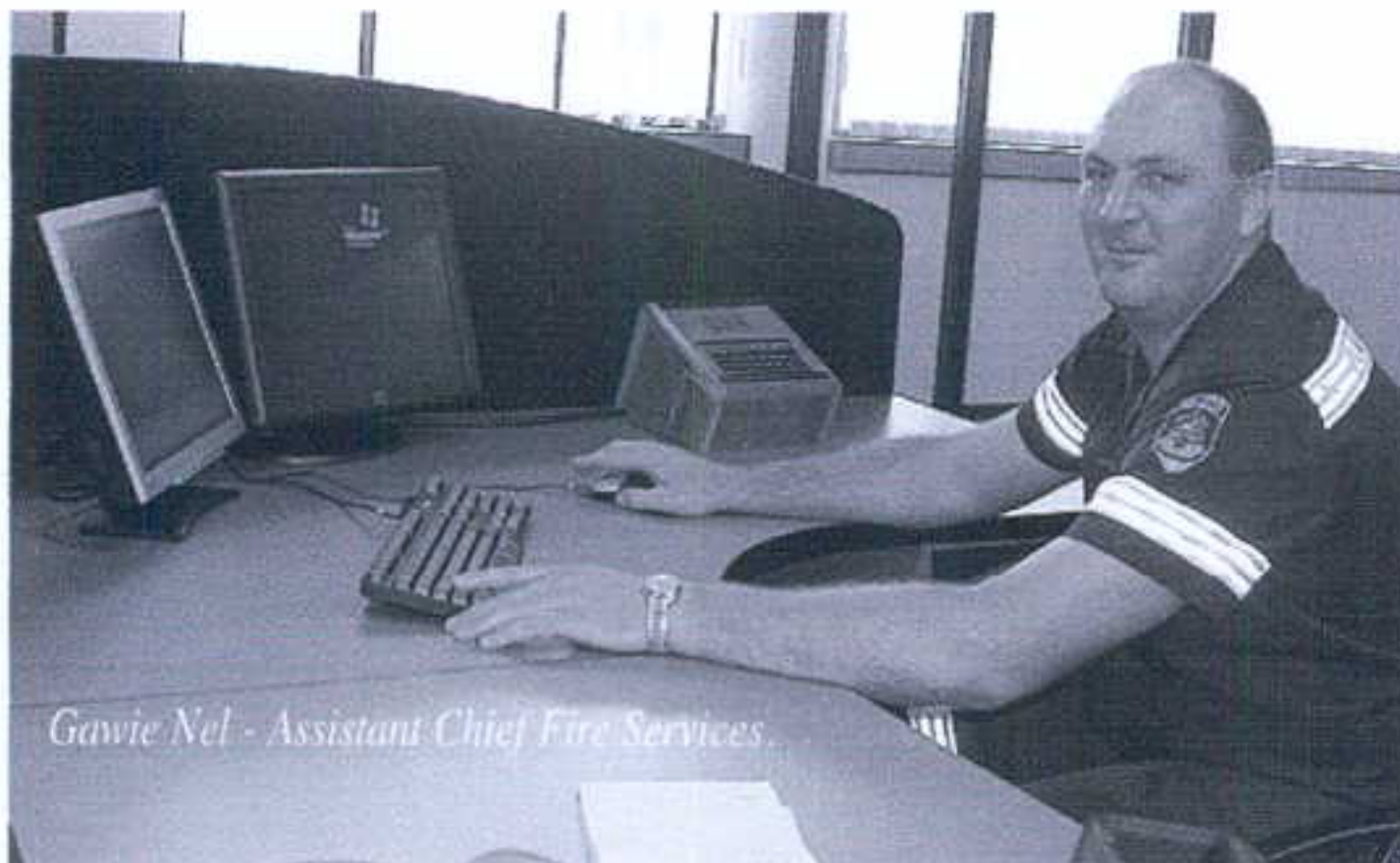
**A**† last construction work has been completed on the new municipal building located on the corner of Wanderers and Coetsee Streets. It accommodates a 24-hour control and call centre, emergency pay points, a disaster management centre, an automatic vending machine for electricity as well as offices for the Traffic and Licensing departments.

On the ground floor, there's a 24-Hour control centre, information desk, automatic vending machine, and the licensing department.

The first floor accommodates the new disaster management centre, from where crises such as natural disasters (floods, fires, earthquakes) will be managed. The Traffic department's offices are also located here.

## 24-HOUR CONTROL AND INFO CENTRE

This centre, situated on the ground floor of the building, was officially opened on 1 December 2006. The community can now report complaints regarding services of electricity, road, water, refuse removal, parks, traffic and sewage here after hours.



Gawie Nel - Assistant Chief Fire Services

The fully trained staff of 18 is available to assist and they operate a sophisticated system to deploy these services for residents.

The number for help is (013) 249 1656 or (013) 243 8300.

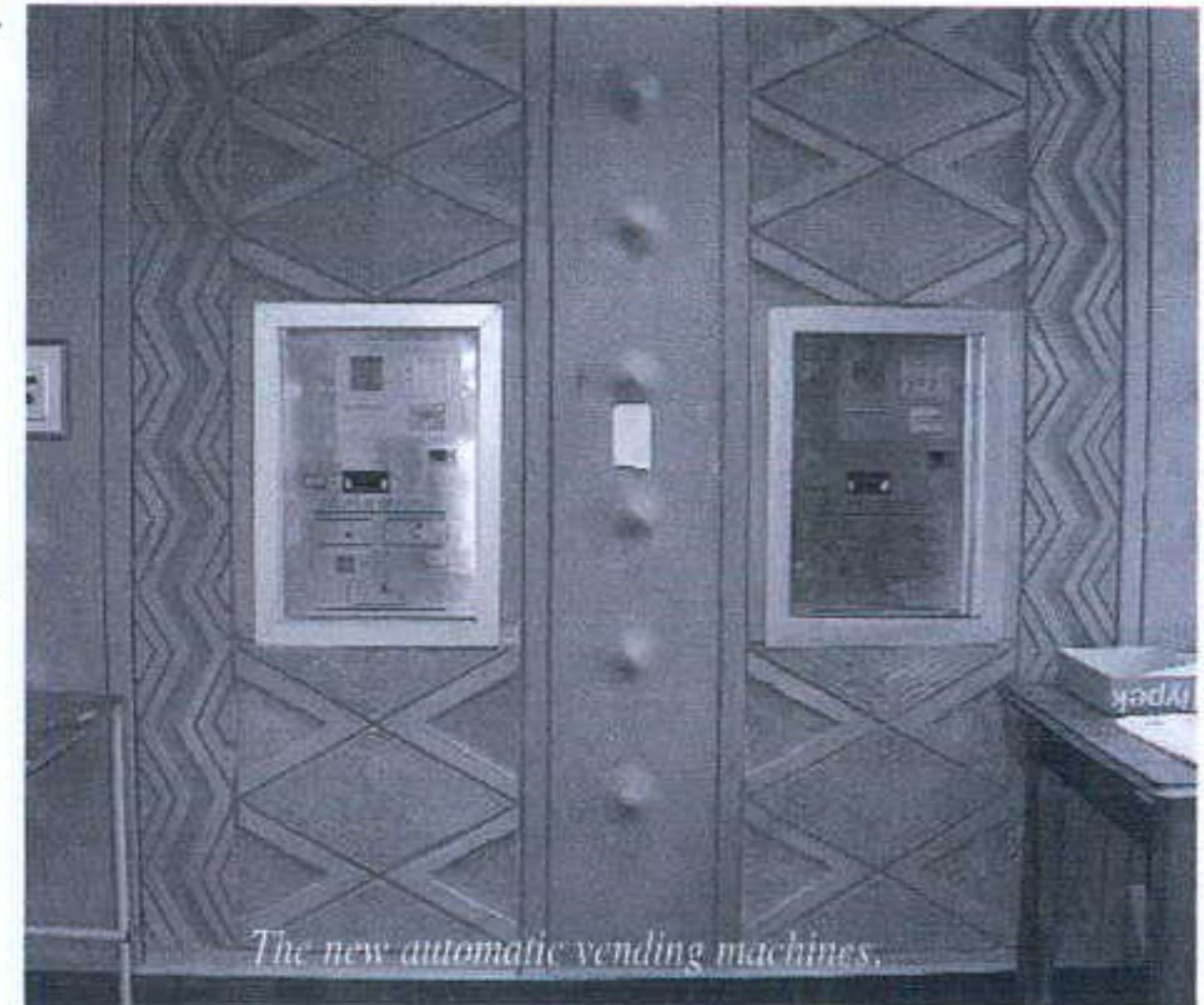
## AUTOMATIC VENDING MACHINES

Two vending machines officially started operating from 4 December 2006.

For purchasing electricity, only pre-paid electricity cards may be used, and the account must be fully paid up.

Once a day the machines will go off-line in order to update the computers.

Only pay the exact amount for your electricity, since no change can be paid after purchasing your electricity.



The new automatic vending machines.

## TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

The traffic department's offices are also located on the first floor with nine spacious offices, a parade room and a large public reception area.

Traffic Officers who did not have offices in the old building, are now accommodated. The community can now expect faster and better service than in the past.



The reception area at the new Traffic Department.

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

The first floor houses the new disaster management centre, from where crises (natural disasters) will be managed.

## LICENSING DEPARTMENT

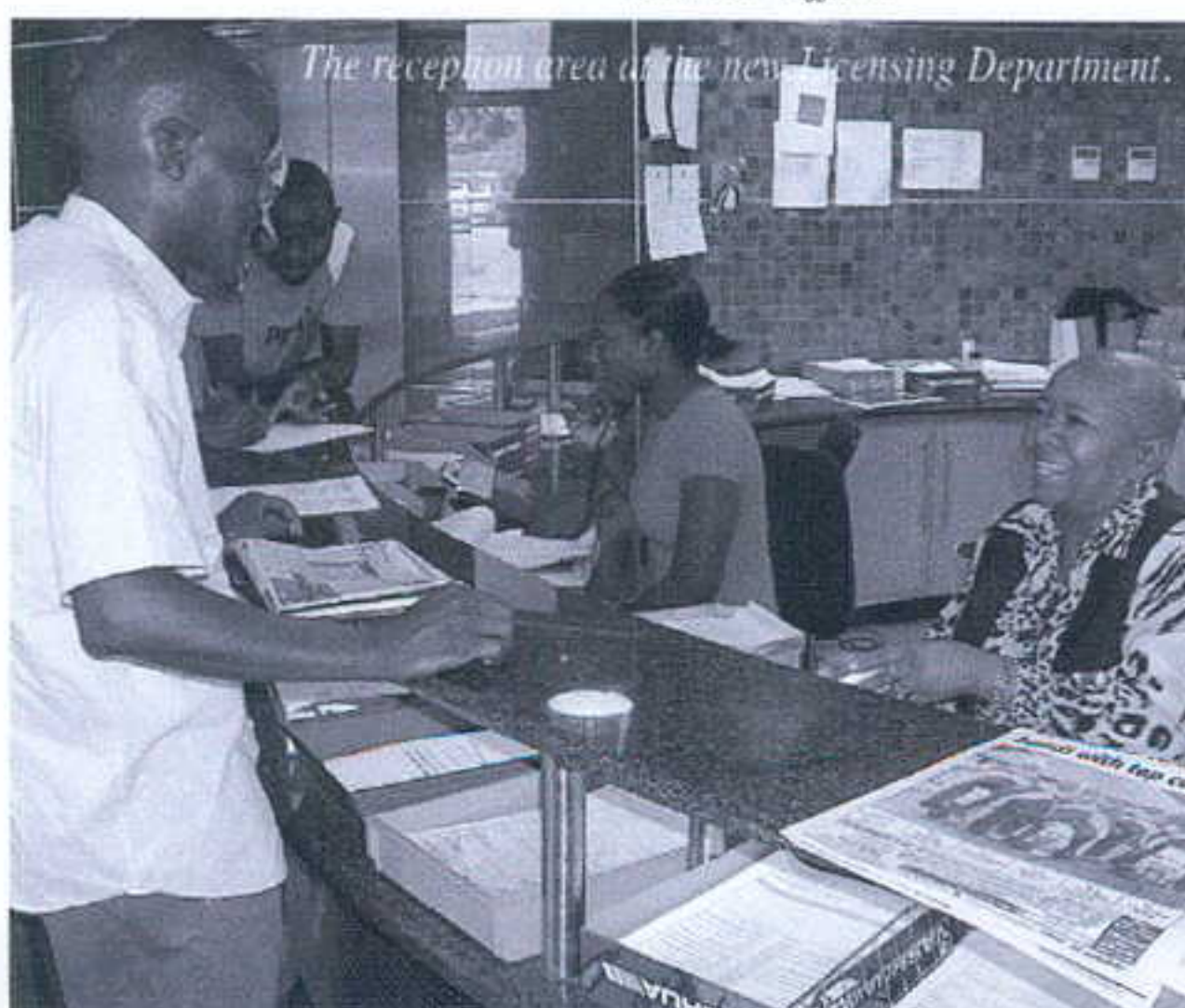
This is one the busiest departments, where residents can always expect to wait in a long queue. The new department has seven offices, two big public halls and two big offices.

According to Annemarie du Plessis, Secretary of the Licensing Department, they have recently adopted a new working system called the Best Practice Moral System in an endeavour to combat corruption, which typically, involves the issuing of illegal licenses.

Members of the public are requested to be patient because the system is new but it is becoming better everyday. Before they issue a license, documents must undergo a stringent checking process.



Petunia Tholo and Annemarie du Plessis in their new office.



The reception area at the new Licensing Department.

## Don't be an ATM VICTIM

**T**he South African Police Service has issued the following safety tips for people who utilise Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) during this festive season:

Use ATMs you are familiar with or choose well-lit, well-situated ATMs.

Avoid using an ATM if there are suspicious-looking people around, or if it is isolated or looks unsafe in any way.

Avoid opening your purse, bag or wallet while in the ATM queue. Have your card in your hand or pocket before you approach the ATM.

If the ATM appears to have attachments to the card slot keypad, use another ATM and inform the bank.

Avoid ATMs with messages or signs fixed to them indicating that the screen directions have been changed.

Do not accept help from strangers and never give your PIN to anyone (even people claiming to be bank employees or security guards).

Be on the lookout for "shoulder surfing" - people standing close behind you to watch you enter your PIN.

Stand close to the ATM and shield the keypad with one hand when entering your PIN. Try using the knuckle of your middle finger to key in the PIN.

Do not key in your PIN until the ATM prompts you to do so.

If you feel the ATM is not working as it should, press cancel, withdraw your card and go to another ATM. Report the matter to the bank.

Finally, do not forget to take your receipt or transaction records with you to protect information of your account.

## Mayoral Committee and Council Meetings FOR 2007

	1ST MAYORAL COMMITTEE MEETING	2ND MAYORAL COMMITTEE MEETING	ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
<b>JANUARY</b>	11 Jan	18 Jan	25 Jan	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	8 Feb	15 Feb		22 Feb
<b>MARCH</b>	8 Mar	15 Mar	29 Mar	
<b>APRIL</b>	12 Apr	19 Apr		26 Apr
<b>MAY</b>	10 May	17 May	31 May	
<b>JUNE</b>	7 Jun	14 Jun		28 Jun
<b>JULY</b>	5 Jul	12 Jul	26 Jul	
<b>AUGUST</b>	8 Aug	16 Aug		30 Aug
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	6 Sep	13 Sep	27 Sep	
<b>OCTOBER</b>	11 Oct	18 Oct		25 Oct
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	8 Nov	15 Nov	29 Nov	
<b>DECEMBER</b>	6 Dec			

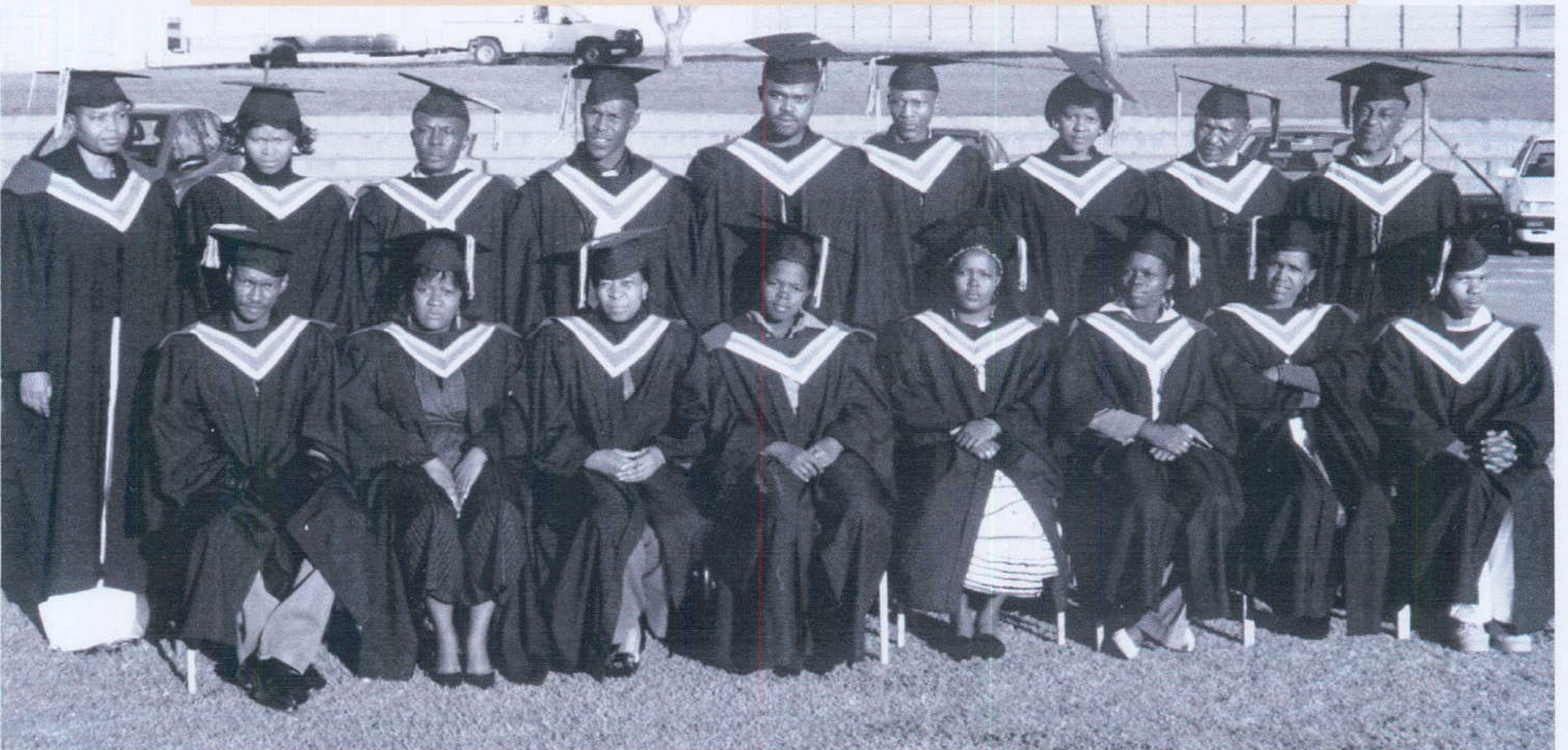


# MAYORAL COMMITTEE AND COUNCILLORS



*The Executive Mayor with Councillors. Councillor J Mokwana resigned from council and was replaced by Councillor J Nkambule of Ward 2. Councillor P Tlou passed away and was replaced by Councillor A Grobler of Ward 23. Councillor B Ndala also resigned earlier this year. Refer Councillors on page 11.*

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS



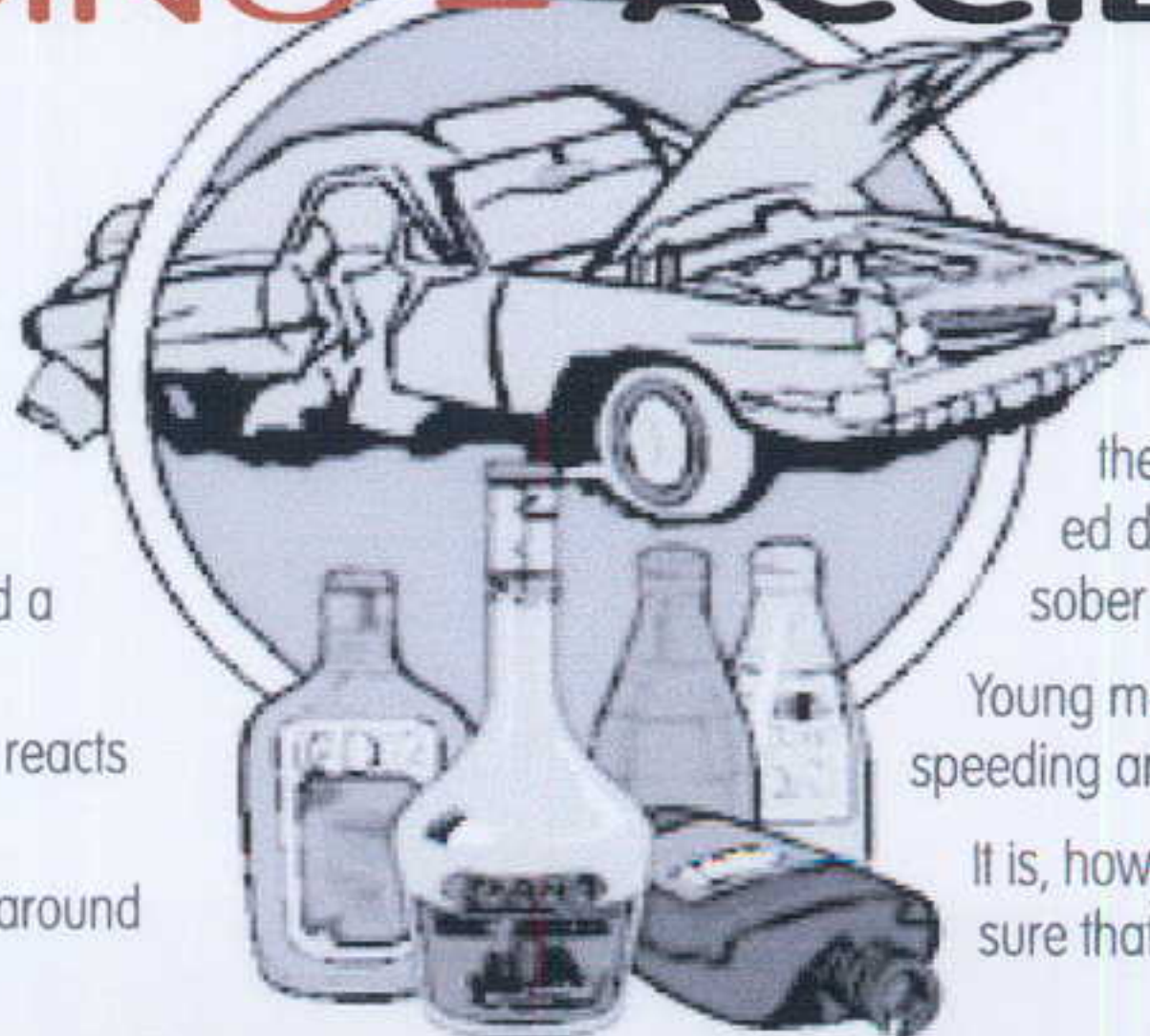
*Seventeen Community Development Workers have been deployed to various wards of the municipality as a government effort to 'bring government closer to the people'.*

## SPEEDING = ACCIDENTS

**T**he Arrive Alive Campaign is warning motorists that exceeding the legal speed limit definitely can contribute substantially towards accidents occurring during this festive season.

Speeding is regarded as a factor in nearly one-third of all fatal crashes. The important factors to consider are the following:

- Speed reduces the amount of available time needed to avoid a crash and to properly stop the vehicle.
- Speed extends the distance a vehicle travels while the driver reacts to a dangerous situation.
- Speed reduces the ability of the driver to steer safely around curves or objects on the road.



- Speed increases the likelihood of crashing.
- Speed increases the severity of a crash once it occurs.

Alcohol and speeding are a deadly combination. Research in the USA has indicated that a much higher percentage of intoxicated drivers who were involved in fatal crashes, were speeding than sober drivers involved in fatal crashes.

Young male drivers are most likely to be involved in fatal accidents where speeding and alcohol are prevalent.

It is, however, the driver's responsibility to obey the traffic laws and to be sure that all passengers are safely seated and buckled up.





*Councillor N Monareng - Ward 1  
Newtown.*



*Councillor J Nkambule - Ward 2  
Extensions Six and Eight.*



*Councillor L Mahlangu - Ward 3  
Part of extension Five, Tokologo and  
Malope Village.*



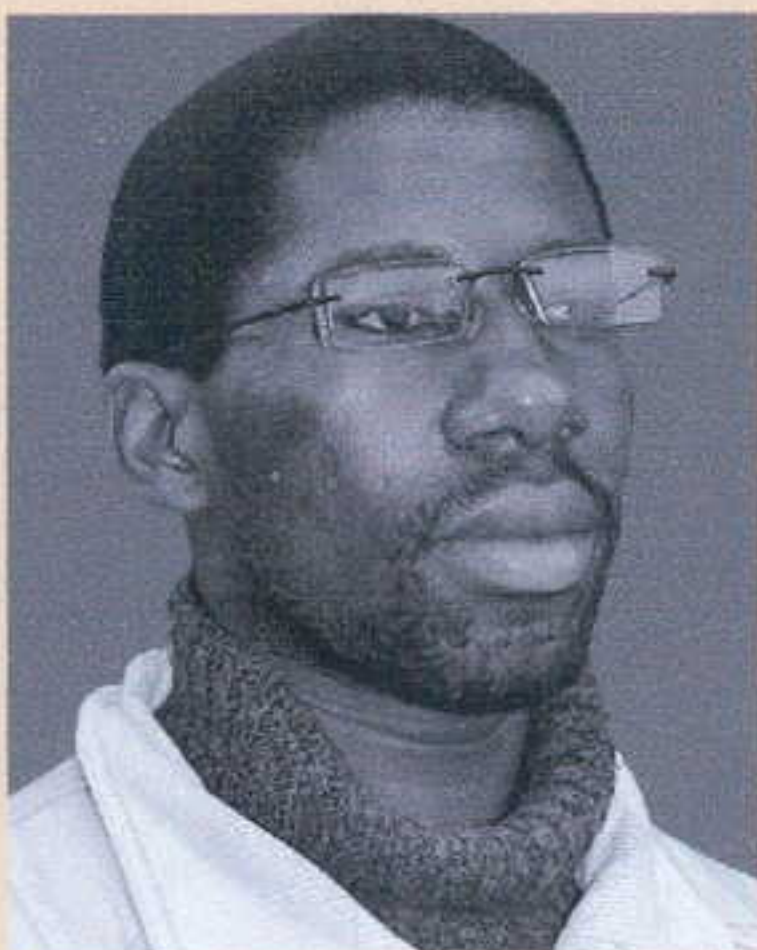
*Councillor MG Mathebula - Ward 4  
Extensions One, Three and part of Four.*



*Councillor TP Motau - Ward 5  
Chromeville, Rockville and Mountainview.*



*Councillor B Simelane - Ward 6  
Thembisa, Phumula, Modderfontein and  
Reabota.*



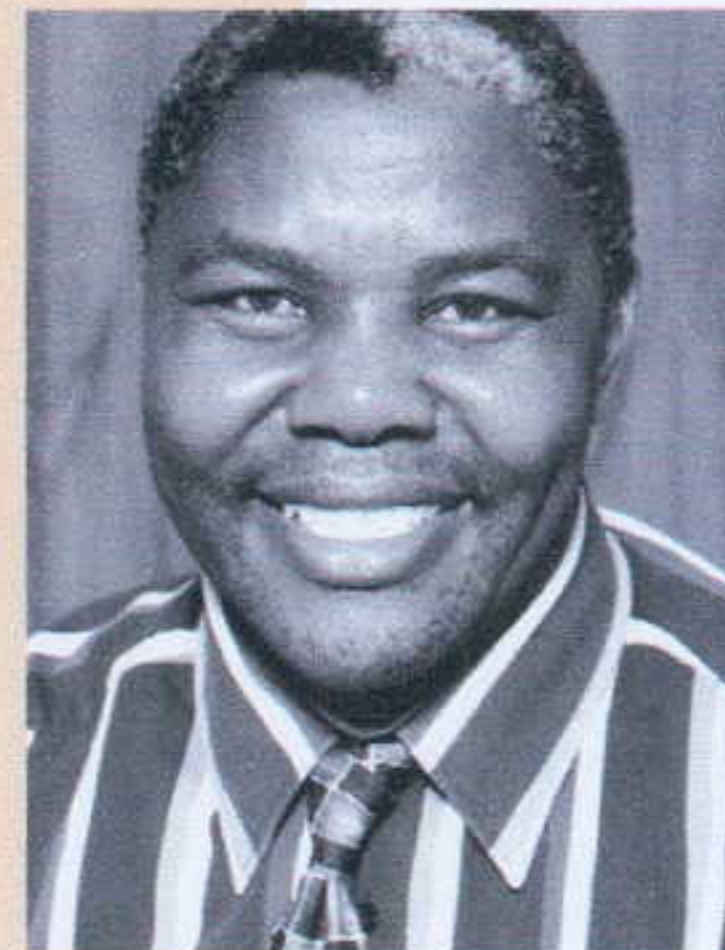
*Councillor G Nkamba - Ward 7  
Vuka and Plein.*



*Councillor MT Masango - Ward 8  
Extensions Four and Seven.*



*Councillor AB Xulu - Ward 9  
Mathailen.*



*Councillor MA Masina - Ward 10  
Extensions Two and part of Four.*

## MEET YOUR WARD COUNCILLORS



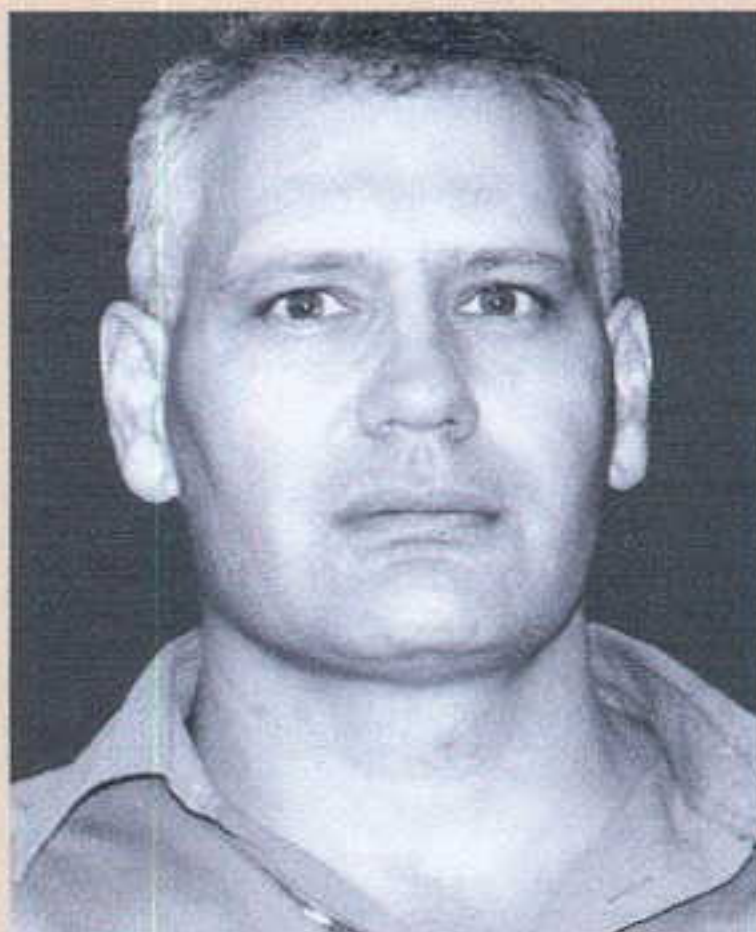
*Councillor L Zweni - Ward 11  
Arnot and surrounding farms.*



*Councillor EA Swarts - Ward 12  
Kanonkop.*



*Councillor JP Pretorius - Ward 13  
Clubville and Golsig.*



*Councillor D Botes - Ward 14  
Middelburg Central.*



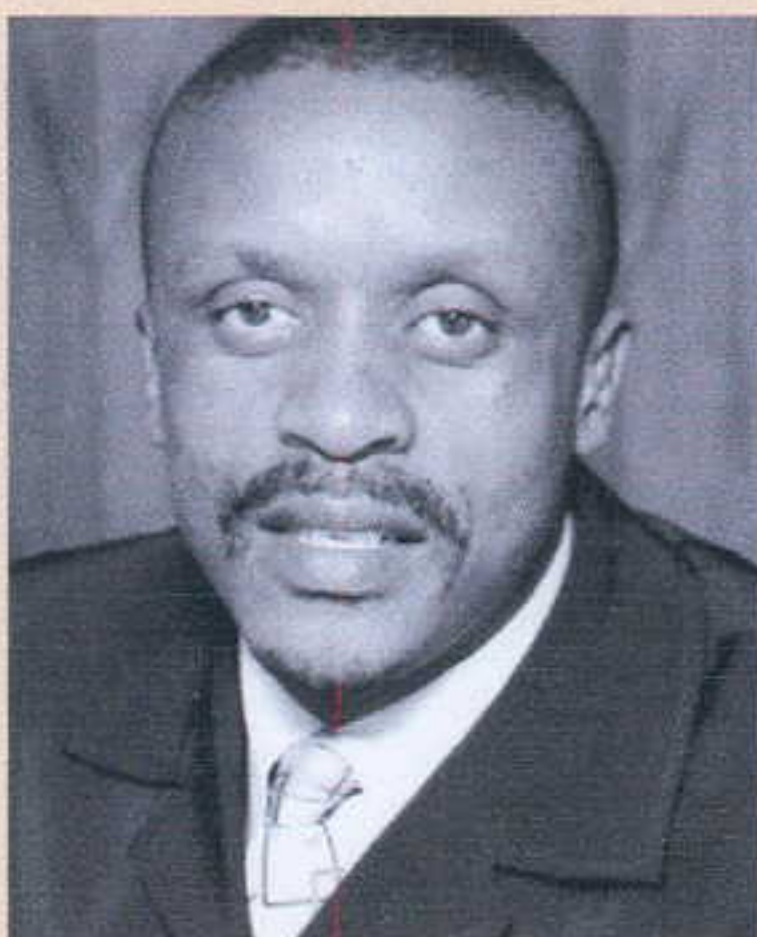
*Councillor J Makanya - Ward 15  
Hope city and Kanhym Estates.*



*Councillor H Pilodia - Ward 16  
Eastdene.*



*Councillor R Xaba - Ward 17  
Nasaret, Hlalamandi and Extension  
Twenty Four.*



*Councillor TR Mpye - Ward 18  
Hendrina and Grinacker.*



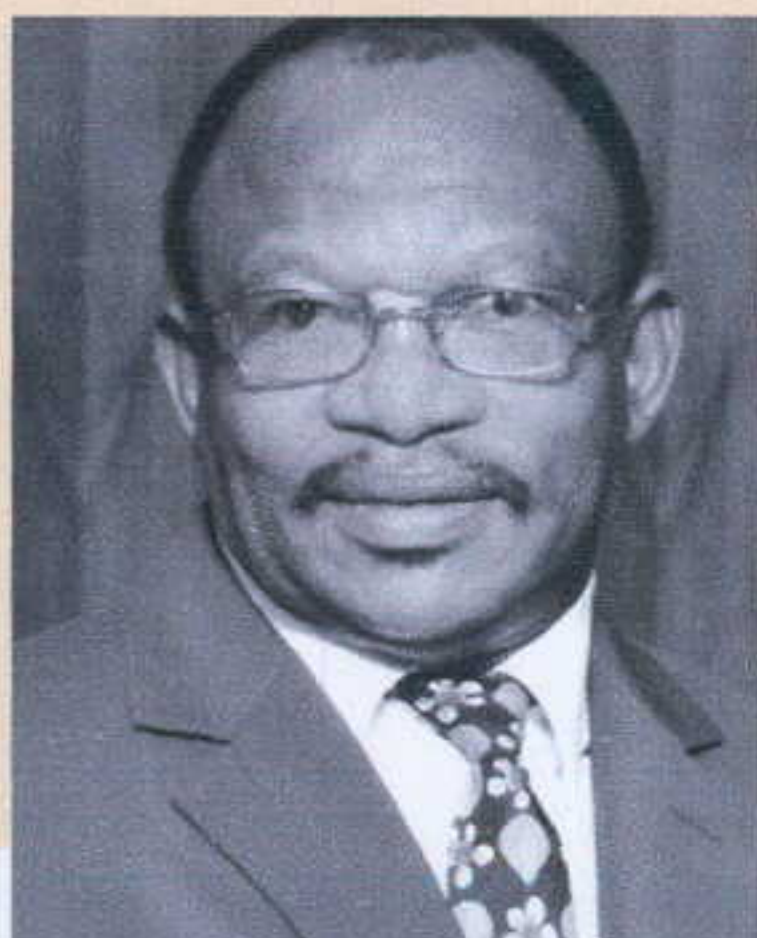
*Councillor MTE Mnguni - Ward 19  
Kwazamokuhle.*



*Councillor EF Mathebula - Ward 20  
Mafred, Komati and surrounding farms.*



*Councillor PR Sibanyoni - Ward 21  
Bankfontein.*



*Councillor TJ Marotobolo - Ward 22  
Pullenshope and surrounding farms.*



*Councillor A Grobler - Ward 23  
Dennisig, Botshabelo and Doornkop.*



*Councillor G Mbalane - Ward 24  
Naledi, Lesedi, Koornfontein, Many  
Waters and Bank.*

**T**he Steve Tshwete Municipality takes this opportunity to present all its Ward Councillors. Their role is to liaise with you, through ward meetings, to establish your needs as a community, and to take them to the Town Council for consideration.

Communicate with your Ward Councillors to improve conditions in your community.



# Club had an ACTIVE SPORTING YEAR



All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" and "a healthy body houses a healthy mind."

In the spirit of these words of wisdom, members of the Steve Tshwete Municipal Sport and Recreation Club put to good use the opportunities that club membership afforded them this year, and made a few notable achievements at the same time.

In the available space, it is not possible to report on the full spectrum of the club's sporting activities during the year, but a few of their highlights were supplied by the Club committee, comprising Dr Amos Dube (chairperson), Emmanuel Selepe, Elmari Wasserman, Precious Boledi Masina and Mercy Maseko.

Employee members participated in the international inter-municipal games, hosted by Buffalo City Municipality in East London during September where four countries were represented, namely, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland.

East London, the birth place of the late Steven Vukile Tshwete, after whom our municipality is named, was a very fitting venue for this multi-national event which took place during Heritage Month (September). Teams competed in volleyball, netball and soccer. Our soccer team made it through to round robin level; the netball team reached the quarter finals and the volleyball team gained an overall third placing.

In August, the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality hosted the annual Mpumalanga Provincial Games in which the municipalities of Emakhazeni, Dr JS Moroka, Albert Lethuli, Mbombela, Bushbuckridge, Msukwalikwa and the SAPS participated.

## Loskop Marathoners

Several sports club members competed in the Loskop Marathon in the colours of their respective running clubs, as well as in the rotary-sponsored, Greatest Train Race, both of which start and/or finish at the Civic Centre.

The photographs here which were taken by committee member, Emmanuel Selepe, show some of the highlights of the year's sporting activities.



Great rewards! Volleyball players with their bronze medals at the International Inter-municipal Games in East London.



Left: Volleyball players receive their bronze medals at the International Inter-municipal Games in East London.



The Soccer Team of the Steve Tshwete Sport and Recreational Club before locking horns with the Greater Tzaneen Municipality in East London during the International Inter-municipal Games. Our team won the game with 1-0.



Above: Support from fellow Recreational Club members is never scarce at all games of the Club. Here members are seen relaxing during the soccer tournament, held at the Polokwane Local Municipal Games held in February.



Sakkie Roussouw displaying his coveted medal after sweating it out with other Recreational Club members at the annual Greatest Train Race.



Left: Cllr Alex Xulu with the Municipal Award (for participating) received at the International Inter-Municipal Games in East London.

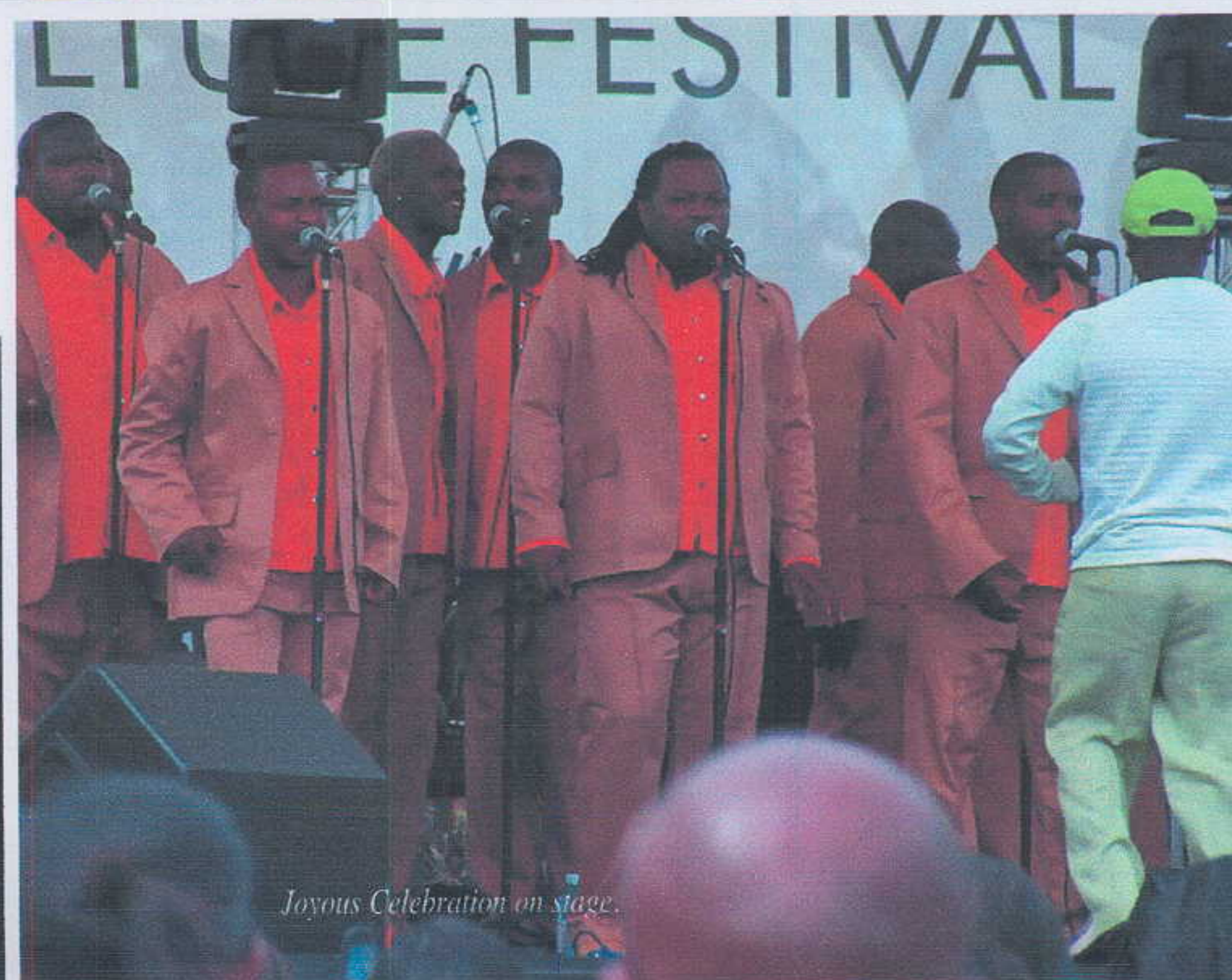
## ANDRE CROUCH IN TOWN



acfest International's Gospel Festival became a reality when Andre Crouch made an indelible impression as he performed live at the Kees Taljaard Stadium on Sunday 26 November 2006. For the first time, such an event was hosted by the Department of Sports, Culture and Recreation.

A line-up of talented Gospel groups performed as well. The multi SA award winner, Joyous Celebration, the Queen of Gospel, Rebecca Malope, Lusanda Spiritual Group, Deborah Frazer, Lundi and Benjamin Dube brought delight to thousands of Gospel music lovers.

Andre Crouch and his choir performing a gospel song.



Joyous Celebration on stage.