



# MAYOR REPORTS ON PROUD ACHIEVEMENTS AT FIRST COUNCIL MEETING

We are the second runner-up in the National cleanest town competition. Story in next edition.

The Steve Tshwete Municipality's councillors started the year on a high note at their first Council meeting when Executive Mayor, Mantlakeng Mahlangu proudly reported on achievements by our municipality last year:



The Executive Mayor, Mantlakeng Mahlangu.

"As an ANC-lead municipality, we would like to thank all of you who have re-affirmed your confidence in us. This is why, today, we are singing the same tune of improving the lives of all our people. The year ahead of us has been

declared as the year to intensify the struggle against poverty as we advance in unity towards 2010".

### MAHLANGU PROUDLY ANNOUNCED SUCCESS IN THE HOSTING AND CO-HOSTING OF:

- The National Ubuntu Awards presented to Nelson Mandela by our National Deputy President, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at Botshabelo. We are really honoured that this award was launched here at Steve Tshwete Municipality.
- An Environmental Indaba which paved the way in dealing with environmental issues and how to conserve the environment for the current and future generations.
- The event on HIV/AIDS with some popular South African musicians was a great success.
- Our province staged a magnificent MACFEST International Festival, the first of its kind, at Steve Tshwete and Emalahleni municipalities.

### ANOTHER AREA OF ACHIEVEMENT WAS IN SERVICE DELIVERY, WITH NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS BEING:

- The official opening of the 24-Hour Service Centre where one can purchase electricity at no time and reporting of complaints related to licensing, traffic, disaster management et al.
- Construction of two Multi Purpose Community Centres at Mhluzi Extension 7 and Doornkop.
- Upgrading and installing new infrastructure: electricity, storm water drainage systems, water and sewage. New streets were provided especially at Tokologo, Extension 24, Aerorand and other rural areas.
- A vibrant Youth Advisory Centre with the Umsobomvu Youth Fund was established.
- The construction of RDP houses at Doornkop, Tokologo, Kwazamokuhle and Extension 24.
- All our clinics are now HIV/AIDS testing and counselling centres.

She further announced some good news on awards received by our municipality during the year 2006. All these awards were coupled with trophies, certificates and a total amount of R1.3 million.

Council will soon decide on how to use the funds to benefit the community. **THEY ARE:**

- Provincial Vuna Awards.
- National Vuna Awards.
- Provincial Cleanest Town Award.
- Provincial Skills Development Facilitation.

The Executive Mayor applauded local institutions and companies who contributed their resources and expertise in order to enhance the living standard of our community. "Let us recognise the following individuals and institutions for work well done in 2006," she said.

- Anglo Coal for a donation towards the construction of a Multi-purpose Community Centre at Doornkop.
- Nkangala District for winning both Provincial and National Vuna Awards.
- Telkom Foundation for assisting the families who suffered during the wind-storm disaster of Christmas 2005.
- SAMANCOR Foundation for providing funds for the Hlanganani Upliftment Centre in Ward 17, Extension 24.
- South African Police Services, especially in Mhluzi, for their efforts to fight crime.
- Our officials for ensuring that our resolutions are put into action.

On service delivery, Mahlangu announced construction projects aimed at addressing the issue of homelessness for the community.

### THROUGH ALLOCATIONS BY THE PROVINCE, THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS OF RDP HOUSES WILL BE BUILT THIS YEAR.

- 800 Extension 24.
- 130 Extension 2.
- 670 Tokologo including 50 for finance linked.
- 300 Doornkop.
- 100 Extension 6.
- 230 Kwazamokuhle Extension 7.
- 50 Rectification Allocation.
- 34 Farm workers assistance project.
- 50 for relocation.

### THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE TO BE DELIVERED AS WELL:

- Over 1000 stands at Rockdale (next to Extension 24) will be fully serviced.

- Upgrading and synchronising of the traffic lights at Cowen Ntuli Street will be completed. Installing streetlights and high masts will contribute to fighting crime.

The programme to electrify stands, especially in Aerorand, Extensions 18 and 24, Kwazamokuhle Extension Seven and Doornkop will continue.

- New roads, especially at Kwazamokuhle Extension 7, will be built, upgraded and maintained.

### ON THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FRONT, THE MAYOR UNVEILED FLAGSHIP PROJECTS DESIGNED TO DRIVE DEVELOPMENT AND CREATE JOBS IN OUR TOWN. THEY ARE:

- Shopping Mall.
- The Old Thushanang School in Mhluzi will be converted into a facility for the development of

emerging entrepreneurs.

- Establishment of 100 community bakeries.
- Recycling Centre.

"On 26 June 1995, the Freedom Charter was adopted. One fundamental issue addressed was 'There Shall be Houses, Security and Comfort'.

"We believe that the programmes that we are embarking upon, together with our colleagues from the Provincial and

National Government as well as from the Nkangala District Municipality, are seriously addressing these fundamental rights.

"In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to patriots who passed away during the past year. I am referring to ex-councillor Piet Tlou and all council employees. We honour their contribution to making a better life for all," Mahlangu said.



Caro Mohlala, Linah Lephadi and Elsie Skosana.



Senior Citizens also attended the Council meeting.



After the council meeting, community members delighted in a gourmet meal.



Managers: Bennie Nieman - Technical Services, Frans Naude - Finance and Caroline Hlatshwayo - Public Services.



# "I HAVE TO GO, ITS BURNING"



Above: Raging fire completely burnt offices in the south wing of Wonderpark Centre.

Praise and honour goes to the Steve Tshwete Municipality's Fire Brigade for a job well done in controlling a raging fire from spreading at the Wonderpark Centre - although some offices were gutted on January 12.

A brave lady remained calm inside a blazing office while she summonsed the Fire Services Department to the Wonderpark Centre. Just nineteen seconds were enough for her to supply all the necessary information that triggered an immediate response from the Fire Brigade. Her last words were "I have to go it's burning"...

It was 16:11 when our Fire Service Department received the call. Eleven Fire Fighters, four Station Officers and the Chief of Fire Services sprang into action. Five pipes measuring 600 metres and 235 000 litres of water were used to douse the flames.

The fire started on the second floor of the southern wing, presumably inside the First National Bank's (FNB) offices. It then spread to Platorand Radio Station offices, Legalwise offices, Gymnasium and MTN offices.

The municipality's Fire Fighters, succeeded in preventing the flames from spreading to the northern wing and the first floor. Chief of the Fire Services, Mr Gert Stoltz was full of praise for his colleagues following the successful mission.

## COUNCIL ADOPTS 2007/2008 IDP

The consultative process by which the needs of the community are identified and prioritised for the 2007/2008 final draft of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) document and next municipal budget has been finalised.

At an IDP (Integrated Development Plan) Forum meeting held on 5 February 2007, representatives from various stakeholders concluded tabled discussions on the IDP document.

Inputs were raised based on the different levels of priorities which identified the most current urgent needs for residents - which were mainly housing, roads and provision of electricity.

IDP Officer of the Steve Tshwete Municipality, Dr Amos Dube explained that a series of ward meetings had been held between September and October 2006 at which the community and representatives from various stakeholders raised inputs

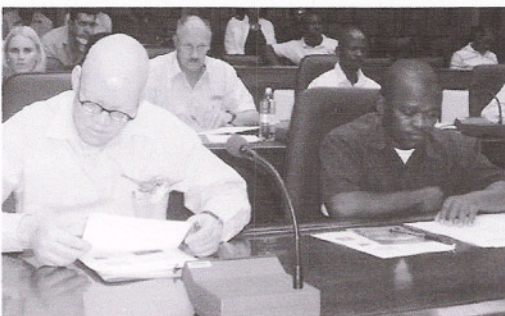
concerning the needs of the community.

A draft IDP document was made available for scrutiny at various public venues, such as libraries and the civic centre, and residents contributed their comment in writing.

Dr Dube encouraged business to take the trouble to visit the IDP Document, as this will not only benefit the community but will also put them in good standing with the Government.

"Businesses who commit themselves to giving a hand in social upliftment initiatives, also stand a better chance of benefitting from the Government's tenders", he concluded.

The final IDP document was adopted on 15 March 2007.



Representatives from the Nkangala District Municipality at the IDP Consultative Meeting.



Cllrs A McFarllen and M Brits at the IDP Consultative Meeting.

## Five students train in INFO TECHNOLOGY

Five students from the Advanced Technology Training Institution completed an intensive, four-month practical training at the Steve Tshwete Municipality, under the mentorship of Khosi Makwati, a Data Technologist. The training is a Bula Technologies initiative which assist students who want to venture into Information Technology.



From left to right: Front: John Ntshwane, Sipho Mtshu, Thulani Ntane and Samuel Lecwathi. Back row: Lucky Moetanalo - Senior Personnel Assistant, Lucky Mashilwane, Kgosi Makwati - Data Technologist, Gert Louis - Personnel Assistant and Noah Chauke - Chief Information Services.



## Multi-Purpose Community Centre completed

**M**unicipal Manager, Willie Fouche, confirmed that the official opening of the new Multi-purpose Community Centre at Doornkop will be on 29 March. Some 70% of the building was demolished, 30% of the building was retained and renovated, and there was a brand new extension.

The centre will house a clinic, library and pay-point. Total cost in this first phase is estimated at R580 000. The library consist of a spacious study area and book shelves. The clinic has a reception area, four consulting rooms, a medicine dispensary, waiting area and a toilet. The pay-point features two cashiers and there is a kitchenette and a toilet.

A second phase is in the pipeline.



*The completed gabled multi purpose community centre structure at Doornkop.*

## Municipality spends R9.4 million on water and sewage projects

**I**n line with its mission statement of 'commitment to the total well being of all its citizens', the Steve Tshwete Municipality has allocated R9 million to four of its jurisdiction areas for water and sewage projects.

The areas that will benefit from these projects are Tokologo, Kwazamokuhle, Extension 7 and Extension 18.

Major progress has already been made, with 350 stands serviced at Tokologo, at a total cost of R3.2 million for water and sewage. At Kwazamokuhle, R4 million and R800 000 for sewage and water respectively, has been allocated and at Extension 18, water and sewage costs stand at R600 000. A further R800 000 has been spent for the servicing of 500 stands.

## Multi Purpose Community Centre for Extension 7

**T**he residents of Extension 7 in Mhluzi will be proud of their municipality as the appointed developers have already commenced with the construction of a Multi Purpose Community Centre within their area.



This project will cost the Steve Tshwete Municipality an estimated R4 712 million after its completion.

*Bricklayers digging to resume the foundation of the Multi Purpose Community Centre at Extension 7.*

## Councillor takes family out of darkness

**M**aking good use of our ward councillors can help our municipality to serve us better and ultimately improve the living conditions of our community.

This was proven in December when Councillor Girly Mathebula of Ward 4 took the initiative to address a six-year old household electricity problem in Extension 1.

Although it was not easy for her to assist Mrs Sina Mthimunya, a pensioner who lives with her unemployed children and grandchildren, she persevered and was able to pioneer a solution for the household which did not have R900 to pay for a meter box.

Clr Mathebula negotiated with the municipality on their behalf, reaching an agreement whereby a meter box could be installed on condition that she pays it off at a monthly rate that the family can afford. Clr Mathebula also arranged for the family to receive the annual Indigent Grant, for which they qualify, which entails free services and water including 50kW of electricity.

The woes of the family started when they were evicted from a farm in the year 2000. The farmer apparently bought them a stand where a two-roomed structure was erected without an electricity supply.

However, Mrs Mthimunya is now a happy person and is proud of both her councillor and the municipality.



*Mrs Sina Mthimunya (left) and Cllr Girly Mathebula happily show the new installed electricity meter box.*

## LIGHTS ON ....

**A**t last! Residents of Doornkop 2 are happy and proud of their municipality after a long awaited switch-on of their new high-mast lights.

This switch-on took place at Doornkop 2 on March 17, when the Steve Tshwete Municipality gathered to share this memorable moment with the patient residents.

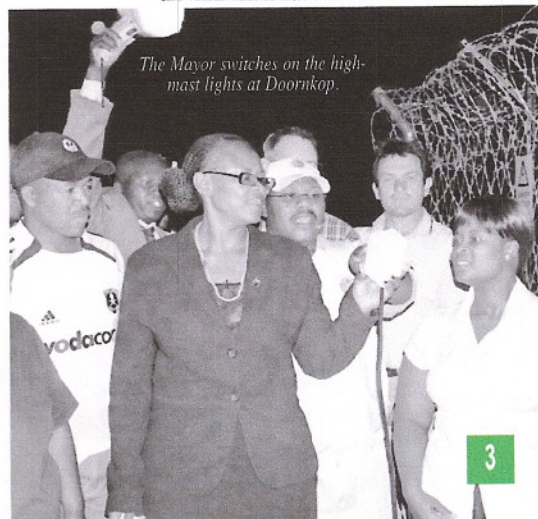
This project, which started in 2005, is a joint venture initiative of the Steve Tshwete Municipality, the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Nkangala District Municipality.

Total cost involved in this project is estimated at R1.3 million.

Expressing her delight at the completion of a successful project, Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu stated: "It's happening right here, at Doornkop in Middelburg."



*The Mayor switches on the high-mast lights at Doornkop.*



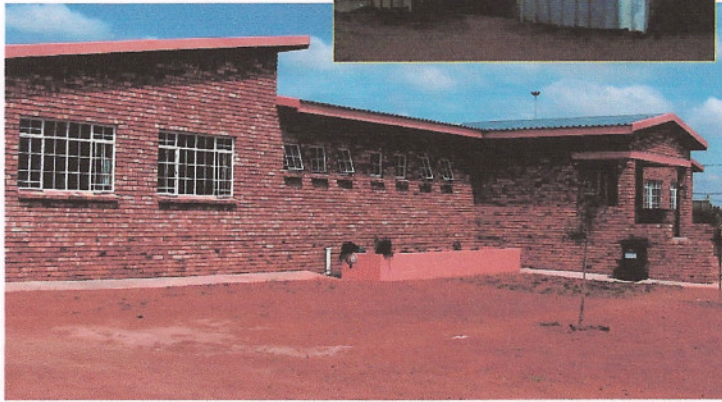
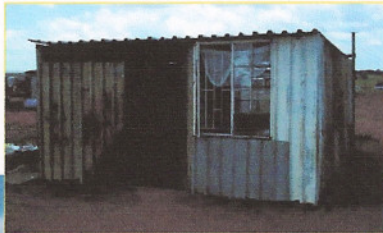


# MUNICIPALITY DONATES LAND FOR SANCTUARY

The official launch of the Hlanganani Upliftment Centre on January 25, 2007 will always be a memorable one for its founders, Adrijah and Phiena Mokoena who are the recipients of the land donated by the Steve Tshwete Municipality.

It all started in 2001 when Phiena was moved by the plight of the school kids she transported to various schools from Nazareth and Extension 24.

According to Phiena, most of these kids came from impoverished families - and they would go to school without food, shoes or proper school uniforms. She decided to adopt seven kids who were particularly neglected, bringing them into her own home, albeit with limited resources, herself.



From the small shack (photo insert) to this modern ethnic look building.

These good Samaritans went on to add on a shack to accommodate and cook for these neglected children, and their numbers increased. The shack soon became a sanctuary for orphans and the sickly, as well.

An international charitable organisation, Turn the Tide and Ligrus Kerk responded positively to their application for assistance, providing them with food parcels, school uniforms, and clothing.

Then the Steve Tshwete Municipality and Middelburg Ferrochrome reviewed their appeal for assistance favourably, and donated land and R1,3 million for a building, respectively.

Speaking during the launch ceremony, Thoko Mabanola, member of the Mayoral Committee for Arts, Sport and Culture expressed her gratitude to the SAMANCOR Foundation (under the business unit of Middelburg Ferrochrome) for reviewing the Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP), in which this upliftment centre for the

community of Extension 24 is identified.

She thanked Adrijah and Phiena Mokoena for a job well done and appealed to the community to take good care of the centre.

"To the business community, SAMANCOR Foundation has set a fine example; you are also invited to come to the party and assist by seeing to it that their dreams are not shattered. We also invite you to visit our IDP as SAMANCOR did and contribute to the upliftment of our community, especially this year, in light of the intensifying

the struggle against poverty," she said.

Roelof Retief, Managing Director of Middelburg Ferrochrome, thanked all the stakeholders in the project and explained that it is part of the Foundation's policy and a key to their operating principles, to strive



Always give thanks... kids expressing their gratitude to Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Middelburg Ferrochrome.



Kids with their teachers in their new classroom.

for 'zero harm' - both at the Samancor Chrome plant and within the community in which it operates.

"We at Middelburg Ferrochrome feel both proud and privileged to have been part of this project and sincerely hope that this centre becomes a treasure chest for this community; that it will generate educated people who will in turn stand up and reduce social problems such as unemployment, alcohol abuse and HIV/AIDS," he said.

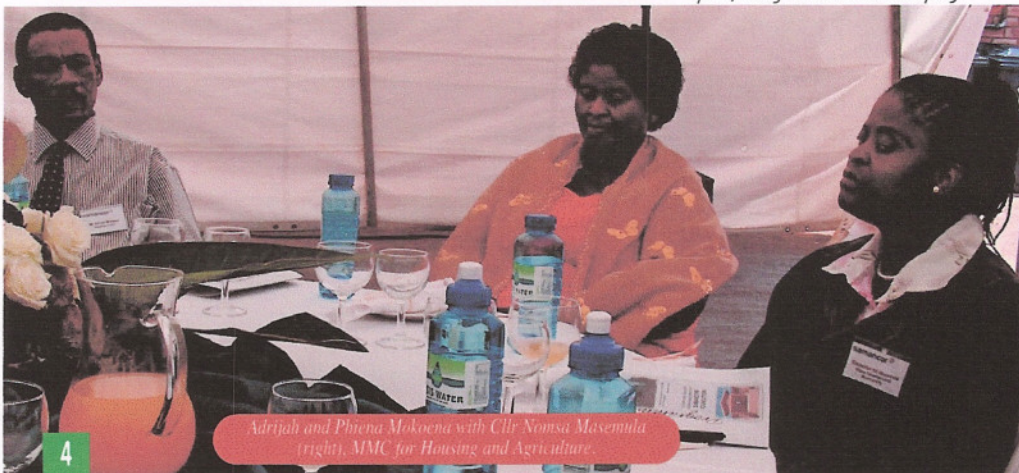
The ceremony was attended by representatives from Middelburg Ferrochrome, Councillors of the Steve Tshwete and Nkangala District Municipalities, National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa (NUMSA), Department of Education, the NG Kerk and the media.



Cllr Thoko Mabanola, member of the Mayoral Committee, representing the Executive Mayor.



Above: Middelburg Ferrochrome Managing Director, Roelof Retief officially hands over the Hlanganani Upliftment Centre.



Adrijah and Phiena Mokoena with Cllr Nomsa Masekela (right), MMC for Housing and Agriculture.



# MAYOR VISITS WARD 17

**O**n February 8, the Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu embarked on her first Mayoral Outreach Campaign for 2007, with door to door visits in Ward 17.

Afterwards, the Mayor, Councillors, Council Officials and the residents of Ward 17 gathered for a meeting at the Hlanganani Upliftment Centre in Extension 24.

**ADDRESSING THE RESIDENTS, SHE OUTLINED A PROGRAMME OF ACTION, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS OF THE MUNICIPALITY FOR THE PRESENT YEAR, WHICH ENTAILED:**

- 3 000 Stands to be serviced at Rockdale.
- Improvement of Disaster Management.
- Development of local economy - for job creation.
- Donation of industrial land next to Columbus Stainless where people can start small industries and create job opportunities.
- Bought land next to Bethal road where a mall will be constructed, creating 1 200 jobs in the process.
- Sustainability of lives in establishment of co-operatives, like the Strawberry cc at Doornkop.
- LED (Local Economic Development) - creation of industrial parks for small industries.
- Thushanang High School converted to a centre for small enterprises.
- Expanded Public Works Programme (Nkangala Municipality Project: Management Unit for training people on how to start businesses). Young people must take advantage of this opportunity.
- 2010 - stadiums will be renovated for practice matches during World Cup 2010 and for the hosting of PSL matches while SAFA is still building the stadiums.
- Social Security - the community was encouraged to apply to become Police Reservists, especially the youth.
- Gender and Disabled affairs to receive prominent attention.
- Community Gardens - groups encouraged to identify suitable land and consult the municipality.
- Youth unit created - soon a manager will be appointed.
- The community was encouraged to register for Indigent Support Grants.
- Property Rates Acts utilised.
- Black community encouraged to relocate to, or buy houses in, the town's suburbs.
- Improved hawkers' businesses.
- Community Development Workers to perform their role and responsibilities in advising the community.
- Council must reach out to the people and arrange meetings six times a year.
- Town Planning - community must not erect structures anyhow, but must first consult the Municipality's Town Planning Department for approval.
- Pensioners and Indigent beneficiaries reminded to renew their applications before the end of June every year.
- Total cost for road construction in Extension 22 - 1,2km road was R980 000.
- Total cost of road construction in Extension 24 - 1km road was R1 380 000.
- Lahlakani and Thuthazo Contractors have been appointed to build 500 RDP houses at Extension 24.

During the meeting residents were afforded the opportunity to make comments, complaints, suggestions and ask questions regarding their needs. The community's main concern was RDP houses, water and electricity for the new Hlanganani Secondary School, transport for school kids at Nasaret, bad treatment by nurses at the Nasareth Clinic and a request for a playground to be built.

The mayor responded on the issue of RDP houses by outlining and clarifying the policy regarding the allocation of RDP houses. The meeting revealed the importance of communication and consultation between the municipality and community which needs to be strengthened regarding residents' problems.

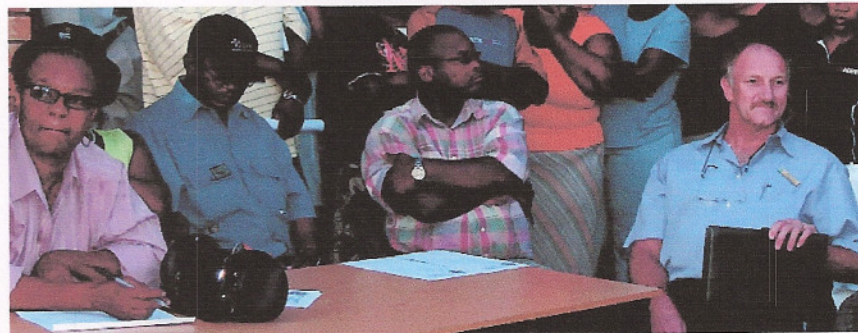


*Above:  
A resident asking a question.*

*Above right:  
Municipal Manager,  
Willie Fouche during the meeting.*

*Right:  
Executive Mayor,  
Mantlhakeng  
Mahlangu addressing the residents.*

*Below:  
Hennie Nieman,  
Manager Technical  
Services with other  
councillors.*



## SAVE OUR BOOKS

**I**n an endeavour to safeguard library books, our municipality has embarked on a project whereby the Reference section and the Study area are demarcated for library patrons.

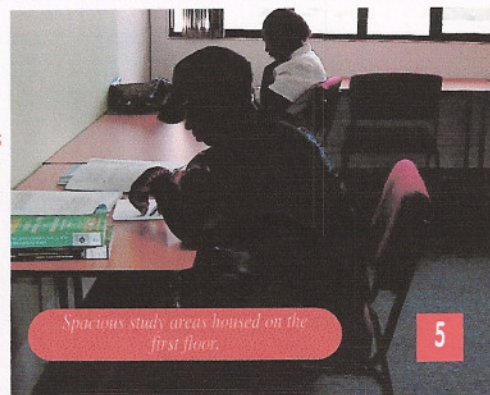
This decision was prompted by the learners who cannot afford photocopying fees and tear out pages from important books like encyclopedias. This practice has involved the municipality in unnecessary costs as some important reference books had to be replaced as new books could have been provided.

The Chief Library Services, Mrs Shirley Xulu, explained that this project of demarcating the reference section, where one is not permitted to borrow or move the book to another area in the library, will minimise damage to books, as patrons are monitored.

The first floor has been renovated to house the new spacious study area, which is to accommodate many people as no one is allowed to use the ground floor for studying. As part of the library's service, a business corner will be demarcated where visitors can obtain information about our town. Information that will be available will include directions and tourist destinations.



*The new demarcated reference section at Gerald Sekoto library.*



*Spacious study areas housed on the first floor.*





## Unbelievable talent in town

The Youth Advisory Centre of Steve Tshwete Municipality in conjunction with the Black Dreamer Youth Club and Greater Middelburg FM pulled off a spectacular "Youth Masibuyele Emasweni Day" with most fans, spectators and entertainers pleased with the event.

'The Spirit of the Dance' stole the show with an overwhelming performance of dance from the 1940's, when black people lived under oppressive laws within a colonial ethos. Other groups performed poems, music, drama, story telling, comedy and dance.

This event was held on February 24, at the Eric Jiyane Hall, where young people were encouraged not to forget their roots and cultures.

The main aim of this event was to motivate young people to take the lead in their lives and to create awareness about freedom of expression, eliminate contaminated minds and myopic attitudes, engender a culture of reading and to foster an appreciation of diversity.

Speaking to young people at the event was the Executive Mayor of Steve Tshwete Municipality, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu who encouraged them to rally to the call to revive their cultures.

"As we begin to ensure deepening of our hard fought democracy, we value and notably observe cultural diversity that exists in our communities. The post democratisation of our society has brought forth the emancipation of being too westernised and retained the restorance of our cultures and norms. In the last few years there has been a noticeable increase of South African voices calling for revival of our societal values in order to tackle some of our societal challenges.

"Today Government as well as civil society, uses element of a cultural system such as UBUNTU in their approaches to the day to day challenges," she explained.

The Mayor outlined some areas where the government endeavours to preserve the cultures of its people.

"Some examples are the Government Batho Pele campaign that seeks to place interest of the public at the centre of local government work and service delivery," she added.

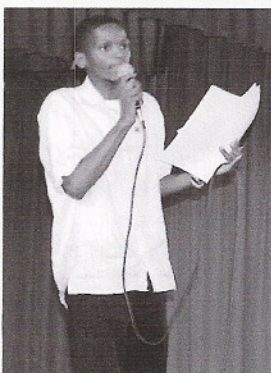


On celebrating the day, she urged the youth to stand up and embrace their cultures with aplomb and dignity.

"Respect the elders and realize their god-given gifts as one of the principles of youth development," she said.

The mayor revealed that plans to build a Banquet Hall are in the pipe-line to host such events. Among dignitaries at the event was the Steve Tshwete Municipality Speaker, Reverend Thomas Mpye who said hosting an event of such unbelievable talent and magnitude showed that our youth is capable to compete in national class events.

The Executive Mayor addresses the youth.



Marcus Masekela, Youth Advisory Centre Outreach Officer.



The Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu and Speaker, Thomas Mpye.



Spirit of the dance on stage.

## Ward Committee Conference



Above: Delegates from all the wards in the Municipal area at the Ward Committee Conference.

Left: The Speaker of the Steve Tshwete Municipality, Rev TR Mpye.

Far Left: The Municipal Manager presenting the strategic intent of the Ward Committee Conference held on 3 March.

Below: Mr John Mogane, Mpumalanga Department of Local Government and Housing, Cllr RT Mabonola, member of the Mayoral Committee, Cllr TG Mhimunye, Speaker - Nkangala District Municipal and Cllr T Mpye, Speaker - Steve Tshwete Municipality.





# EASTER WEEK "ARRIVE ALIVE"

The Easter holidays usually pass with a tragic backlash of carnage on South African roads. Many people from religious denominations will be travelling to different destinations to commemorate the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Community members are urged to take extra care if they will be using the roads.

To promote road safety, our municipality will be embarking on the Easter Week "Arrive Alive" campaign.

The campaign aims to create awareness of safety regulations to be adhered to by motorists on the road. Certain roads will be randomly targeted in Mhluzi and fixed points in certain roads in town will have municipal roadblocks in place.

Our local radio station, Greater Middelburg FM in conjunction with Radio Kragbron and the rescue helicopter project along the N4 Toll roads and N12 will work together to inform the community about road conditions.

Three most dangerous behaviours have been identified and will be the focus of law enforcement officers during this Easter Week. They are:

- Drivers and passengers not wearing seat belts.
- Speeding.
- Driving whilst under the influence of alcohol.

"Buckling up" will definitely reduce deaths and serious injuries if an accident should occur, especially amongst children who are particularly vulnerable.



OTHER ROAD SAFETY TIPS TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU TAKE TO THE LONG ROAD ARE THE FOLLOWING:

- Make sure that your vehicle is in a fully road worthy condition, especially with regard to your tyres, brakes and steering mechanism.
- Beware of driver weariness. Be fully rested before you undertake a long journey and take regular rest stops to refresh yourself.
- Plan your trip in advance and plot your route, taking into account the weather and road conditions.
- Avoid aggressive driving behaviour and don't take chances with your or other people's lives.
- Maintain a sufficient following distance between your vehicle and the one ahead.
- Obey all road signs.
- Do not be distracted by passengers, a cell phone or the sound system.
- Be on the lookout for emergency vehicles.
- Be extra careful of the actions of the pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.
- On the road, there are many coal trucks that are covered in thick coal dust. In many instances this dust obscures their flicker lights. Watch out for trucks standing stationery in the road ahead, waiting to turn off.

REPORT ANY FAULTS - STREETLIGHTS, TRAFFIC LIGHTS, BURST PIPES THAT MAY BE OBSERVED WHILE DRIVING TO (013) 243 2222.



## PRESERVING OUR WATER THROUGH WETLANDS



The Steve Tshwete Municipality, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and Administration, Mpumalanga Parks Board and local educators, marked 'Wetlands Day' with important information sharing on this natural phenomenon with learners from different schools.

The slogan of the day was 'fish for tomorrow', which simply means caring for our wetlands so that we can have water for tomorrow. Wetlands are simply defined as the mouth of the sea, where water can be stored for future use.

A good example of a wetland which should be cared for, is the sponge type area behind Reatlegile Primary School where coincidentally the occasion was hosted. Learners' used drama, music and poetry to prove that they clearly understand what wetlands are all about.



Left: Chief Health Services: Sister Margaret Skosana and Mamsy Msiza, headmaster of Reatlegile Primary School. Pupils perform a dance in celebrating Wetlands Day and behind is an exhibition of reed and other plants which grow only in a wetland.



Learners, teachers and other stakeholders putting an effort in cleaning the sponge type behind Reatlegile Primary School.



# FESTIVAL - THE DRAW OF THE TOWN

**N**ow in its third year since its inception, the annual Moral Regeneration Gospel Music Festival, held at Themba Senamela Stadium at Mhluzi has become an ideal means to start a new year, and continues to gather strong support from residents of the town.

Initiated by the Steve Tshwete Municipality in conjunction with Nkangala District Municipality, Department of Culture, Sport & Recreation, Moral Regeneration Organisation Movement and Ikwekwezi FM, the festival also provides an opportunity for hawkers to boost their income.



*The Executive Mayor, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu.*

Staged in celebration of the new year's day, it is characterised by gospel music, speeches, sermons and prayers.

The event attracts gospel music fans and people from all walks of life, from as far afield as Limpopo, Gauteng, as well as surrounding towns.

This year's event saw executive mayors, councillors, pastors, religious leaders, traditional leaders, officials from government and a law enforcement contingent, in attendance.

This special event affords gospel music enthusiasts a rare opportunity to meet, talk and watch their favourite musicians, for free!

Speaking on the occasion was our Executive Mayor, Cllr, Mantlhakeng Mahlangu whose speech heralded 2007 as a year of commitment to moral regeneration in all aspects of life. She applauded those parties whose efforts had ensured the success of the event, especially the former MEC for Culture, Sport & Recreation, Nomsa Mtsweni.



*Above: Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Mass Choir performing.*

*Left: Former MEC, Arts, Sports and Culture, Nomsa Mtsweni.*

*Below Left: Rev Isaac Mtsweni, Ikwekwezi FM.*

*Below: Tight security ... Godfrey, a well-known comedian feels safe in the hands of police officer.*



## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Water & Sewerage	013 249 7168	013 243 2222
Electricity	013 249 7223	013 243 2222
Fire services	013 243 1656	013 243 2222
Municipal Traffic services	013 282 5607 013 282 4543	013 224 2222
Provincial Traffic Services	013 282 8029 013 282 9030	013 243 2222
Weigh bridge MPA - traffic	013 243 9019	013 243 2222
Trac	013 243 9620	013 243 2222
Toll plaza	013 243 9620	013 243 2222
Provincial hospital	013 282 4773	013 243 2222
Midmed hospital	013 282 6143	013 243 2222
Midmed ambulance	013 282 0911	013 243 2222
Ambulance services	10 177	013 243 2222
Netcare - Lance	082 576 7322	013 243 2222
Netcare - Carica	082 566 3129	013 243 2222
SAP - Middelburg	013 249 1608	10 111
SAP - Blinkpan	013 295 3181	10 111
SAP - Mhluzi	013 242 1021	10 111

## HENDRINA AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Water & sewerage	013 293 0516	013 243 1656
Electricity	013 293 0516	013 243 1656
Traffic services	013 293 0000	10 111
Ambulance services	10 117	013 243 1656
Fire services	013 293 0011	013 243 0011
SAP - Hendrina	013 293 9000	10 111