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DEBONAIRS PIZZA

Elias Motsoaledi Mayor tables her 2020/2021 Draft IDP Budget

Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Mayor Cllr Julia Mathebe presented her 2020/2021 Draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Budget. The mayor announced her budget on different community radio stations as a result of the rapid spread of COVID-19, for stakeholders comments and inputs, to ensure their full participation before tabling it to the council for approval as a final document. The mayor said the

actual amount of the budget is still going to be approved by the council after consultations with the Treasury Department. highlighting a brief description of the municipality, the mayor stated that Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality is a category B municipality as determined in-terms of

What has the ANC done in the past 26 years? Existing provisions are falling apart and the implementations of new provisions are going at a snail pace.

Municipal Structures Act of 1998. "The 2016 Stats SA Community Survey results shows that the municipal population has increased to 268 256 as compared to the 2011 Stats SA census, wherein the population was 249 363. The municipality consist of 31 wards and 61 councillors," she said. Mathebe said the municipality will consider tackling the problem of water backlog, which is at 52,3 %, affecting 34 681

households and with sanitation provision backlog at 84,6 % affecting 56 149 households. She added that government has concerted efforts to fight the backlog with the provision of free Basic water provided by Sekhukhune District Municipality. Approximately 20141 households receive free basic water. She said they have noted electricity backlog where the municipality is unable to completely eradicate electricity backlog due to the mushrooming extensions in various villages. "The backlog is estimated at 4500 households. During the 2019/2020 analysis report, the electricity backlog was indicated to be 3112 households. The backlog has been increased by the growing number of new settlements such as Lusaka and Moteti extension, phooko extensions and other extensions that are taking place within the municipality. The municipality is currently finalizing the electrification of New Town in ward 9 with 901 households, Masakaneng in ward 14 with 221 households and uitspanning A in ward 11," she said. Mathebe said the municipality is been challenged by insufficient financial resources to eradicate the backlog and provide free basic electricity. "The indigent register of the municipality indicates that 1949 beneficiaries have been registered and only 1443 collect free basic electricity," said Mathebe. She indicated that the municipality provides waste management services to 6299 which constitute 9% of the entire population. The current waste management backlog is 60 034 households which is 91% of non-collected waste. "The institution is unable to extend the provision of refuse removal services to other rural areas in the municipality due to limited resources. This includes illegal dumping of informal disposal of waste, awareness on good waste management practices," she said. According to the mayor, the backlog on the surfacing of internal streets is at 1212 km and the backlog has been reduced by 9,9km during the current financial year. "Roads projects that are currently under

construction are the construction of 3,3 km at OR Tambo in ward 9, the 5,2km road construction in Kgapamadi in ward 21 and the 1,7km road construction project in Zaaip-laas," she said. She said the municipality is currently facing challenges of shortage of machinery and plant, outdated road infrastructure master plans, maintenance of the existing surfaced roads and insufficient budget for maintenance of the surfaced roads.

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Speaking on the behalf of the executive mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, MMC for Community Services Cllr Thokozile Nchabeleng said the municipality is happy about the donation that will save residents of the district municipality from the pandemic. "With the country moving to level-3 from 1 June, more people will be returning to work and it is important to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our taxi ranks as most of the people use taxis to commute from home to work," she said. The MMC said she was worried that people contravene the social distancing regulation and encouraged them to leave spaces in between in order to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

COVID-19 cases. The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Stanley Ramaila, said the COVID-19 District Command Council is extremely worried by the rapid increase of infection cases in the district. "We are extremely worried by the fact that our district is rapidly becoming the epicenter in the province. Evidently, mines in the district are the breeding ground for the coronavirus because all these active infections were recorded in the eastern limb of the Bushveld Complex.

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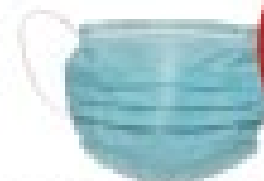
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Moutse still experiences water shortage months after R143 Million Draught Relief Funding allocated

Residents of Dennilton in Moutse say they are still living in an extreme water shortage situation, despite the R143 Million pledged by the Minister of Water and Sanitation Lindiwe Sisulu, to fight water scarcity in the area. The funds were allocated to residents in February 2020 aiming to provide water to the community as a temporary relief measure in draught stricken Moutse villages. According to residents, nothing has changed as they still rely on nearest rivers and wells to draw drinking water. The community now fear that they are exposed to contract the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of not getting water

to wash their hands regularly. According to Ali Maloba, Moutse Residents Committee Chairperson and EFF Councillor in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, the community had hopes that water shortage will be a thing of the past in Moutse after the multi-million rand pledge by the minister. "Unfortunately till to date, nothing has changed instead the community of Moutse still depends on Ndlovu Care Group's boreholes and the rivers nearby. We are now even more vulnerable and exposed to COVID-19," he said. Maloba said they are worried that four service providers, who were irregularly appointed by Sekhukhune District Municipality to provide water trucks and drill boreholes are doing nothing to fight draught in the area. "The tender that was awarded to the four service providers was not even advertised. As some of us have predicted before, now it is clear that

the role players were not aiming to fight against the draught we are experiencing, but they were eying to illegally benefit from the R143 Million draught cake, while poor ordinary citizens on the ground continue to suffer and nobody cares," he said. Maloba said residents want fraud and corruption to be reported and will request the office of the minister to investigate the irregularities, taking place within the Moutse draught relief funding. "We will demand a full investigation on the draught relief program to be instituted including on why the tender was not advertised like others. This is against PFMA and supply chain regulations," he said. He added that they will also need to know the criteria used to appoint the companies and to verify if the same companies meet the requirements. "We also need to know how much they were paid and project duration. Which

wards were targeted or benefited and if the stakeholders include ward committee members or councillors," he said. Maloba said they are going to seek intervention of the Hawks and Public Protector to investigate issues relating to the minister's draught relief funding in Moutse. "There is a need to investigate Sekhukhune District Municipality Supply Chain where companies are appointed without following proper PFMA procedure. A group of business people is in charge of who is appointed and who is not. If you are not from their cabal, you can just forget. You may refer from a list of companies benefited from this municipality from April 2019 you will be shocked by who is on the list," he said. Sekhukhune District Municipality Communications Manager Moloko Moloto said the Moutse Draught Relief Project is facilitated by Lepelle Northern Water. "The minister appointed Lepelle Northern Water to run the project, we are involved in the project as we are water authority in the district and not in the position of appointing service providers," he said. He added that the companies were only appointed to deliver water for a period of a month, meanwhile the district municipality is awaiting water trucks purchased by Lepelle Northern Water. "A total of twenty trucks will be arriving around June month end to assist and fight draught in Moutse villages. We have to understand that there is a delay in the delivery of trucks caused by COVID-19. The current service providers were appointed because people will not go without water during this COVID-19 period," he said. Moloto said the district municipality has already identified 29 boreholes to be refurbished and provide water to residents of Moutse. "The process has already started and we are currently busy testing whether the water is suitable for human consumption," he said.

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Sterkfontein youth campaign to fight hunger

The youth of Sterkfontein Village outside Tafelkop has conducted an ongoing fundraising campaign aiming to donate food parcels to the poor. The initiative was started to assist people of the village with food during the COVID-19 distress.

The majority of the village's residents are unemployed and living below the poverty line as many rely on social grants to survive. According to the fundraisers, food parcels provided by the government are only allocated to residents who support the ruling party. They accuse the councilor and ward committee members of sidelining the real beneficiaries and hijacking the food parcels project to lobby votes for the ANC in the 2021 local government elections. According to Herbert Radingwana, a Sterkfontein food parcels donations coordinator, the fundraising has been officially launched and residents are urged to contribute any amount of money that will be used to buy food for the less fortunate. "It will be less responsible and ungrateful of us to look away on what the government has already done for the people during this time. We decided to be active key role players and assist our government where possible and do good for the people of Sterkfontein. We donate with the aim of alleviating hunger during

this time of COVID-19 distress," he said. He said the first food parcels distribution has been made to twenty beneficiaries and they are waiting for more donations to hand over food to other benefiting people in the village. Radingwana said the task team committee has been appointed and already hard at work identifying beneficiaries. "First preference is given to people who do not receive any form of income on monthly basis, the elderly citizens and child-headed households. Our task team committee is neutral and does not involve councilors and ward committee members," he said. He said they might broaden their generosity to reach other nearby villages provided they manage to raise more donations to do so. "We appeal to individuals and businesses to come on board and contribute on this drive to extend their hand

and help the underprivileged in the wrath of this fatal disease. Any form of donation that will include any amount of money and food will be well received," he said. The contributed money will help us to buy food parcels that will include maize meal, vegetables, eggs, rice, tin foods and cooking oil," he said. Individuals and business owners who are willing to donate can contact Timothy Ntshoane on 082 640 5922.

Premier Mathabatha launches Food Bank in Sekhukhune

The Premier of Limpopo Province Chupus Stanley Mathabatha launched the Sekhukhune District Food Bank at Old Jane Furse Hospital, on Friday 15 May. This Food Bank, that will be aiding thousands of residents from hunger, is necessary to help destitute families under the nationwide Lockdown as pronounced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in March due to the Coronavirus pandemic. "Since the outbreak, government has embarked on measures to assist vulnerable households through the provision of food parcels to deserving beneficiaries. I am glad that District Municipalities have already distributed hundreds of food parcels to our deserving people in the province", said Premier Mathabatha during the launch. He said the province had seen over a dozen of COVID-19 cases, which is a concern to assist people with food during the nationwide lockdown. "Life under Covid-19 is not going to be the same, we are now in a new normal," said Premier Mathabatha. The Premier also slammed officials and politicians who abuse food parcels for their selfish ends. He urged the media and the public to expose such rogue elements. "We have had such

challenges, at times they do it for political party interests. As you would remember some councillors have been charged, but as and when we receive these allegations, we act decisively. But this is not widespread. What we are emphasizing is that councillors are not allowed to distribute food parcels," he said. He indicated that while councillors will assist in identifying indigent families, the process will be audited and only eligible officials will distribute food parcels. The process will be led by the Department of Social Development. The Limpopo Provincial Command Council will discuss the movement to level-3 in the next meeting as the President announced the movement. Speaking during the same briefing, Executive Mayor Stanley Ramaila said over 27 000 indigent families in the district are eligible to receive food parcels. He called on businesses and individuals to contact both the district municipality and the Social Development Department for a list of food items they could buy.


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Notice for publication

Dennilton Residents Association [DRA] hereby inform all the residents of Moutse, Dennilton that there's a new organisation which intends contesting the upcoming local government elections in 2021. The organisation was founded on the following principles: fight against the socio economic ills such lack of service delivery to the people of Elias Motsoaledi local municipality, corruption in the local government, nepotism, maladministration, gender based violence against women, health issues and among other things job creation. We shall promote batho pele principles and root out corruption whenever it rears its ugly head in the Elias Motsoaledi local municipality.



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