

OVERVIEW BY THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER: Yunus Chamda



We present this 2011/2012 IDP at a particularly interesting and challenging time for local government in our country. It is interesting time as we move from the end of a five-year cycle to the next five-year cycle. The accumulative fruits of 5 years of implementation should now be tangible, visible and felt by communities. As we measure the successes of the last cycle, we drift into the next cycle and have to negotiate a formidable hurdle, that of a local government election. That is a unique challenge that sees the baton of governance passed from one duly elected Council to the next. The responsibility of the administration is to ensure a smooth and seamless transfer of planning, projects, resources, personnel, and most importantly to carry over the voices of the people to the next leadership. The role of the administration is also to ensure stability and support for the democratic process. To allow the incoming Council to make its own mark on the next five year IDP, this 2011/2012 will therefore, be a one year 'Bridging' IDP as we have dubbed it.

This IDP will include many evaluation and planning exercises that will measure the impact of the last Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy (SGDS-1) and will develop the Second Generation SGDS (SGDS-2). This will assess the long term vision for Sedibeng and adjust the development path accordingly. The effects of the global economic crunch are still being felt in our country. At the level of the Sedibeng District we see that the increases in the Equitable Share are well below expectations. This has created a financial squeeze on salaries, operating costs and capital projects. The incoming political leadership and the administration will have to step up the efforts to access more funding from national and provincial programmes, in many instances these programmes already exists. In addition to this, donor funding from across the globe needs to be sought. Internally we must stretch our resources further, and exercise prudence in our spending.

The future of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) must be finalised in the next financial year. And, if it is to remain with local government, then it cannot be as an underfunded mandate in excess of R17million as it currently stands. The uncertainty for the staff is equally uncomfortable. One of the biggest challenges that the institution will face in the next financial year will be to implement the Personnel Cost Reduction Strategy as contained in this IDP. As the future of District Municipalities is debated, it remains our responsibility to plan ahead and to remain a viable and sustainable structure of local government.

Inter-governmental Relations (IGR) within the Sedibeng District remains a fluctuating relationship. At its best it yields great benefits to our communities, it produces great synergy of resources and thinking. When at its worst, it consumes great resources and energy and deprives our people of the best services they deserve. We must endeavour to operate for the greater part at its best levels.

The strategies and deliverables in this Integrated Development Plan remain the basis of our work as employees. When translated into the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plans (SDBIPs), this is what guides our day-to-day work and our mandate. We must remain focused and fixed in our

application. The transition from one body of political leadership to the next should not detract us from this responsibility.

Performance Management remains a vexing issue. Sedibeng District Municipality took a bold decision in 2008 to pay performance bonuses from top to bottom. While we struggle to find a practical and manageable system, we need to be committed to the principle of performance assessment. It cannot be that we show a keen interest in the bonus, on one hand but evade the assessment and Supervisors abdicate their role in the performance management and maintenance off discipline at all material times.

Despite the economic downturn, several projects have now come to fruition. The completion of the Sharpeville Cemetery, the Sharpeville Exhibition Hall and the progress on other projects including the Evaton Paving Projects, are visible proof of the value of persistent application to the task at hand. These projects together with projects such as the Solar Heating Project reflect the possibilities that exist from seeking out funding from both government programmes and foreign donor funds.

The One-Year Bridging IDP cannot be a period of wait-and-see. Many projects and programmes to proceed at undiminished pace, and new ones as contained in this IDP must be implemented.

As we reach the end of the 2006/2011 term of office, I must take this opportunity on behalf of all the employees of Sedibeng District Municipality, to thank every single Councilor, The Executive Mayor, Speaker and the Chief Whip for their support and inspiration over the past years. Under the able and dedicated leadership of our Executive Mayor, we have been able to steer through some stormy seas. We must thank him for his support and leadership. May the dreams we've all dreamt together live on in the hearts and hands of those who will follow us, and may this 2011/2012 IDP provide a solid route into the future.

Thanking you,

Yunus Chamda
MUNICIPAL MANAGER