



Section 25(1) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, Act No.32 of 2000 (as amended) stipulates as follows:

“Each municipal council must, within a prescribed period after the start of its elected term, adopt a single, inclusive and strategic plan for development of the municipality...”

The outgoing municipal Council of the Sedibeng District Municipality, pursuant to the above-cited section, adopted a one-year Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for the year 2016/2017. As an outgoing Council it provided a foundation for the incoming Council to develop its own IDP.

Such an IDP would be based on the new election mandate which would not necessarily be the same to that of the out-going Council. This IDP is therefore a new strategic plan for the new term of office.

The 2016/2017 IDP was developed under circumstances which are significantly different from those that prevail now. In his overview in the 2016/2017 IDP the then Municipal Manager indicated that the Sedibeng District Municipality and the three Local Municipalities being Emfuleni, Midvaal and Lesedi would have to consider the following three aspects in the development of the 2017/2021 IDP:

- Review of the powers and functions assigned to the District and Local municipalities;
- Assessment of the second generation Growth and Development Strategy (GDS) which should evolve to the third generation of the GDS;

- Management of the process towards the establishment of a Metropolitan Municipality for the region.

These three aspects are now upon us and have been factored into the process of development of the new IDP. The Gauteng Provincial Government has begun a process of allocation of powers and functions between the district and local municipalities.

As a precursor to the process, a District-wide Lekgotla was held by both the Sedibeng District Municipality and the three Local Municipalities. In that engagement it was resolved that the powers and functions should be reviewed with an express intention of re-allocating them in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, Act No.117 of 1998.

The seven pillars of the Growth and Development Strategy will continue to strategic direction and guide to our IDP development. This IDP therefore is based on those pillars namely;

- Re-invent our Economy
- Renew our Communities
- Re-integrate our Region
- Revive our Environment
- Release Human Potential
- Good Governance
- Deepening Democracy

The Gauteng 5th Administration adopted a vision for creation of a Global City Region. The process towards single authority remains considerate to us towards the realisation of Gauteng City Region. Being mindful of this vision the Sedibeng District Municipality and its Local Municipalities adopted a vision endorsing the creation of a metropolitan municipality for the region.

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However further engagements are still to ensue given the current political landscape. Should the conclusion of the process dictate that the municipalities should move towards a Metropolitan form of governance, the process should start now. Processes of integration of operations between the municipalities should be embarked upon much earlier than the next elections.

The process of integration should be phased out as reflected in the diagram hereunder:



In the year 2017 allocation and reassigning of powers and functions should be finalised. As from 2018 performance of certain functions should be integrated and centralised. These are functions such as centralised planning, joint Audit Committee and internal audit departments, etc. The process of integration will unfold from then until 2020 leading finally into the establishment of a Metropolitan Municipality.

It is critical to note that this IDP was developed under challenging circumstances. As predicted in the 2016/2017 IDP the rate of increase of the costs of operations of the municipality and the rate of increase of the equitable share has shrunk to unsustainable levels. The measures that have been taken by the municipality over the years to reduce its operational costs have not yielded the expected results, given the structural problems inherent within the current form of district municipalities.

The Sedibeng District Municipality is currently under severe financial constraints which demand that drastic measures be taken if the municipality is to be viable and sustained. Key measures that need urgent attention are amongst others:

- A complete review and overhaul of the funding model of District Municipalities;
- An urgent re-allocation of powers and functions between the Province, District and Local Municipalities;
- Review of funding of agency functions such as licensing;
- Enhancement of integrated delivery of services by all three spheres of government resulting in elimination of duplication;
- Enhancement and empowerment of Inter-Governmental Structure between the District Municipality and the three Local Municipalities.

This IDP (2017/2021) though crafted under severe conditions, begins to focus on areas that are intended to turn around the region. The Transformation, Modernisation and Reindustrialisation TMR) programme pursued by the fifth Administration of the Gauteng Provincial Government has instilled a sense of hope in the region and a new impetus. The Sedibeng District Municipality and its Local Municipality in the afore-mentioned TMR programme, is projected as the future growth point of the Gauteng province. As a consequence thereof this IDP reflects all the various sector plans, which if carried out as envisaged will undoubtedly turn around the region.

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This growth trajectory is however dependent on improved stakeholder engagement, participation and involvement in processes of governance. It is our fervent hope that as the processes of public participation unfold; all stakeholders will ensure that they make comprehensive contributions towards enriching the end product, a credible IDP.

In conclusion the administration wishes to express its sincerest gratitude to the new Council under the leadership of the Executive Mayor, Councillor BJ Modisakeng, for its guidance and support in the processes of the development of the IDP.

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SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY