



SEDI

NEWS

Vol 1

Jan - Jul 2024

SediNews is back! Stay updated with all the latest news on our development projects and initiatives in our quarterly newsletter.

what's inside...

Learn more about the District Development Model and the Sedibeng DDM HUB

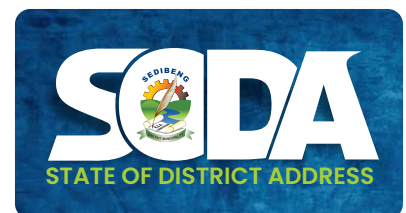
Sedibeng District Municipality is Open for Business, Job Creation and Skill Development

Successful Market Information Day Hosted at Vereeniging Fresh Produce Market

Sedibeng District Municipality Partners with Empowaworx to Empower the Unemployed Youth With Skills and Job Opportunities

Read the Presidents message for Human Rights Month

EPWP: Empowering communities for a brighter future



SPOTLIGHTING THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER OF THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



It is with great pleasure and excitement that I share with you the vision and progress of our Municipality under the guidance of the District Development Model (DDM). As your Municipal Manager, it has been my priority to ensure that Sedibeng becomes an example of development and prosperity for all who call it home.

When I was recruited to join the Sedibeng District Municipality, one of the key factors that motivated me was the opportunity to implement the DDM model. As a resident of Boiphatong, the Vaal is not just a region to me; it is my home. I believe that the DDM model, with its integrated approach across all spheres of government, is the catalyst for transforming our region into a thriving Hub of growth and development.

The DDM model brings several benefits and outcomes that we anticipate for the Sedibeng Municipality. One of the primary objectives being to align with the Gauteng city region's vision of becoming a leading metropolis. Through this alignment, we aim to establish the Vaal River City municipality, uniting all municipalities within our region under a shared vision of progress and prosperity. This vision includes

various sectors, including manufacturing, retail, office rental, residential development, and tourism, creating a dynamic and vibrant community for generations to come.

Transparency and accountability are important in our journey towards improvement. We are fortunate to operate within a highly legislated environment, ensuring that we uphold the highest standards of governance and responsibility. By aligning plans and resources across national, provincial, and local spheres of government, as well as engaging with communities and the private sector, we are fostering a culture of collaboration and accountability that will drive our success.

Our long-term goals and priorities as a Municipality are highlighted in the DDM model. Through strategic projects and catalytic initiatives, such as the revitalisation of our water treatment plants, government precincts, and fresh produce market, we are laying the groundwork for a region of choice. By aligning budgets, plans, and resources, we are positioned to achieve tangible results that will elevate Sedibeng Municipality to new heights.

The establishment of the DDM Hub brings invaluable expertise and resources to our municipality, enhancing our capacity to deliver on our commitments. With a systematic approach to monitoring and evaluation, we will ensure that our projects are implemented efficiently and effectively, leaving a lasting impact on our community. We anticipate significant changes as we continue to implement the DDM One Plan and the projects that it comprises of.

I am filled with optimism and determination. The Sedibeng Municipality, with its rich history and promising future, is on the road to greatness and we encourage all our stakeholders to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead in building a brighter tomorrow for generations to come.

Happy Reading,

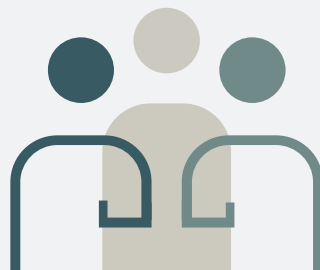
Mr Motsumi Mathe

Municipal Manager Sedibeng District Municipality



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR DDM HUB

This logo symbolises the significance of teamwork and collaboration, illustrating how collective effort can create a powerful impact by seamlessly integrating multiple functions and services into a unified entity



The people icons resemble the three municipalities integrating into one Hub

This logo was consolidated using colors to establish the brand's visual identity, this facilitates recognition, conveys emotions, and ensures a consistent and memorable brand presence

The logo is a cohesive representation of our DDM Hub brand that was created using typography, symbols, colours, and imagery

DID YOU KNOW

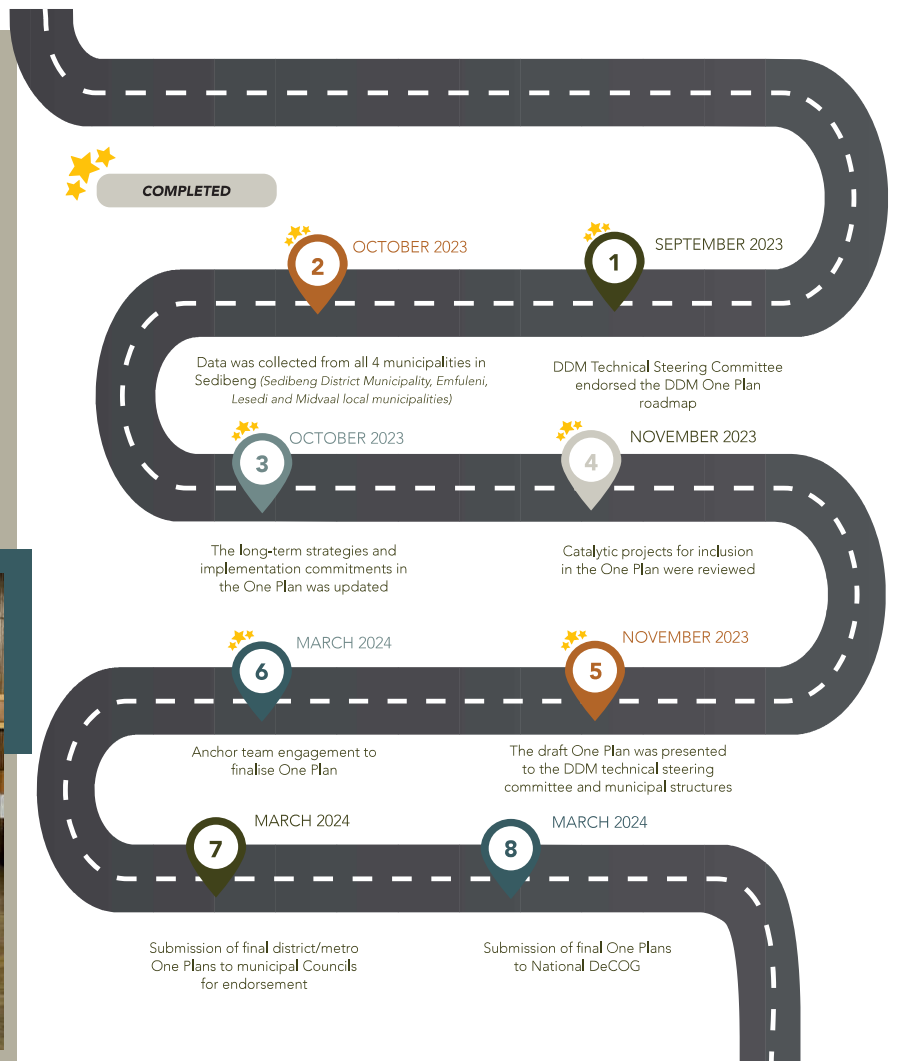


The name "Sedibeng" refers to a well or a fountain, it is a place identifiable with a pool of water.

The Vaal River is a water source for Gauteng and beyond, it is a primary supplier of water to the economic heartland of South Africa.

OUR ONE PLAN ROADMAP UPDATE

The DDM Hub has been collaborating closely with key stakeholders to conclude the One Plan for the Sedibeng District Municipality. Currently, we're in the final stages of refining the DDM One Plan as outlined in our DDM One Plan Review Roadmap. The upcoming phase involves submitting the finalised One Plans to National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and presenting the district/metro One Plans to municipal Councils for endorsement. These steps mark the conclusion of our review process, anticipated to be completed by the end of March 2024. We would like to extend a thank you to all our stakeholders that are involved in this process.



EXCITING NEWS FOR THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT: VEREENIGING FRESH PRODUCE MARKET SELECTED AS A CATALYTIC PROJECT

The Vereeniging Fresh Produce Market (VFPM) has been chosen as one of the catalytic projects under our DDM One Plan. The One Plan is positioned to revitalise key sectors and infrastructure in the region, and the VFPM was identified as one of the projects that will play an important role in this revitalisation effort.

With collaborative efforts from our implementing partners, including the Sedibeng District Municipality, Gauteng Infrastructure Financing Agency, Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development, the VFPM project is strategically aligned with the core beliefs of the (DDM), particularly focusing on Economic Positioning and People Development. By revitalising the VFPM, our aim is to establish a dynamic marketplace that not only draws in producers but also serves the needs of the extensive customer base spanning from Johannesburg to Bloemfontein.

One of the primary objectives of this project is to offer a convenient platform for producers to showcase and sell their fresh produce. This initiative will not only benefit local farmers and suppliers but also empower customers within the market's catchment area. Instead of traveling to remote markets, customers will now have access to a wide variety of fresh produce within their own community.

This initiative has obtained significant support and buy-in from the national treasury, especially considering its importance in driving economic growth and development at both the local and national level.

We extend an invitation to all our stakeholders to join us in supporting the transformation of the Vereeniging Fresh Produce Market into a hub of economic prosperity and community development for the Sedibeng district.



INTRODUCING THE THEORY OF CHANGE FRAMEWORK FOR ADVANCING THE DDM HUB: MAPPING THE JOURNEY FROM OUR CURRENT REALITIES TO OUR ENVISIONED FUTURE

In our recent activities related to the District Development Model (DDM), we went on a journey to construct a Theory of Change (ToC) framework on the 13th of November 2023. This framework serves as a visual roadmap, illustrating the evolution from our current reality to our envisioned future. Over the course of the session that was held, we explored into the details of this process, laying the foundation for change and sustainable impact.

The ToC framework will serve as our guide, in identifying and establishing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are both suitable and measurable for our projects. These KPIs will guide our progress and measure our impact along the way.

We recognise the importance of refining our ToC framework and as such, this highlighted the need for a follow-up session with the GCoGTA team aimed at putting the finishing touches on our framework, ensuring its effectiveness and relevance.

The Hub is also engaging in an iterative process with key stakeholders, including but not limited to, the DDM Programme Manager at GCoGTA, DDM Hub contributors from Zutari, DDM Leads in Sedibeng District Municipality and GCoGTA, and Mr. Diale Lodi and the Chief Director at GCoGTA to ensure effectiveness of our projects in the development and refinement of the framework.

We look forward to finalising our ToC Framework together with the GCoGTA team towards meaningful change and collective success. Stay tuned for further updates as our journey unfolds.

STEP 1 | GOAL



GOAL: Start by identifying the goals that reflect the intent of the DDM Hub strategy

STEP 2 | STRATEGIES



STRATEGIES: Identify strategies and activities that are expected to lead to our intended goals

STEP 3 | OUTCOMES



OUTCOMES: Clarify the outcomes that result from the DDM's activities and lead to goals ("the messy middle")

STEP 4 | REFLECTIONS



- Test the logic and relevance of our DDM theory.
- Review and document our key assumptions
- Analyse our external forces and context

THEORY OF CHANGE

EXPLORE UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS about our strategies, outcomes and goals, as well as overarching assumptions about the context of our work and the conditions that must exist to make progress.

ADVANCING THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT SECOND GENERATION ONE PLAN

Location
SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
Total Geographical Area: 4.185 KM²

Municipal Category
Sedibeng District Municipality
CATEGORY C MUNICIPALITY (EMFULENI, MIDVAAL AND LESEDI)

Project Categories
CATALYTIC | STRATEGIC | MAJOR | SERVICE DELIVERY PROJECTS

Total Population
IS 1.053.033, ACCOUNTING FOR 1.8% OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TOTAL

Townships in the Municipality
EVATON, SEBOKENG, BOPATONG, BOPHELONG, SHARPEVILLE, NIGEL AND DEVON

Towns in the Municipality
VEREENIGING, VANDERBIJLPARK, MEYERTON AND HEIDELBERG

DID YOU KNOW

The District Development Model was introduced by President Ramaphosa in 2019 to address the tendency in government to operate in silos, which has led to a lack of coherence in planning, budgeting and implementation and has made monitoring as well as oversight of government's programmes difficult.

THE DDM MANDATE:

To foster cooperative governance across all spheres of government and state entities, focusing on impact-oriented collaboration for service delivery and development outcomes highlighting:

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES | **ECONOMIC CONCERNS** | **SPATIAL CONSIDERATION**

SERVICE DELIVERY EFFICIENCY | **GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OPTIMISATION**

The DDM targets 52 district and metropolitan areas as spaces for joint planning, budgeting and implementation for all government and private sector investment.

THE SIX PILLARS OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL ARE:

- PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT
- ECONOMIC POSITIONING
- GOVERNANCE
- INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING
- INTEGRATED SERVICE PROVISIONING
- SPATIAL RESTRUCTURING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

THE ONE PLAN

The One Plan in the Sedibeng District is about improving the region and having a district wide impact through catalysing and advancing socio-economic transformation. It was developed in alignment with the two key national and provincial strategic drivers, namely:



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP 2030)
GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER (GGT 2030)

The one plan is a strategic intergovernmental framework not belonging to any particular sphere but is jointly formulated by all three spheres of government.

The first generation One Plans for the district and metropolitan areas were completed in 2021. Sedibeng received a rating of 2.1 out of 3 which is an indication of the effort put in by the province and the district in developing the first generation One Plan.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SECOND-GENERATION SEDIBENG DISTRICT ONE PLAN:

To address the recommendations made by the National Quality Assurance Panel

To update the existing One Plans with new data where necessary.

To address the limitations of the first generation One Plans due to time constraints at that point in time.

The second-generation One Plan for Sedibeng was updated based on the review process's outcome and feedback from stakeholders. In addition, updated statistics were released from StatsSA, and more recent economic information was obtained from the Department of Trade Industry and Competition (DTIC).

STRATEGIES FOR REALISING SEDIBENG'S VISION

OUR VISION: FOSTERING SEDIBENG AS AN ACCESSIBLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGION

PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES	ECONOMIC POSITIONING STRATEGIES	SPATIAL RESTRUCTURING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING STRATEGIES	INTEGRATED SERVICE PROVISION STRATEGIES	GOVERNANCE STRATEGIES
Focuses on implementing targeted interventions to reduce poverty, address unemployment, support vulnerable households, and enhance health services through wellness programs.	Developing comprehensive strategies to enhance overall economic performance, including diversification, resource beneficiation, leveraging comparative advantages, and fostering green practices for sustainable growth.	Involves implementing spatial integration initiatives to optimise land use and connectivity, developing sustainable human settlements with environmental considerations, and implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.	Provides additional bulk infrastructure capacity for future developments, executing integrated infrastructure delivery projects, and prioritizing human settlements development to enhance living conditions.	Involve implementing innovative approaches, leveraging Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies, fostering a culture of innovation, and enhancing essential service systems such as water, sanitation, electricity, and waste management.	Includes enhancing accountability, improving audit performance, addressing staff vacancies, strengthening ward committees for community participation, and ensuring administrative stability for effective governance.

ONE PLAN PROJECTS

THIS IS A DYNAMIC LIST OF THE PROJECTS THAT WILL BE UPDATED CONTINUOUSLY.

ONE PLAN PROJECT

Sedibeng Government Precinct
Heidelberg Aerodrome
Broadband/fibre rollout in towns and townships
Vaal Marina commercial development
Vaal River Sewer Regional Scheme and sewer rehabilitation project
Cannabis and Hemp
Vereeniging Fresh Produce Market (VFPM)
Gauteng Highlands
Heidelberg CBD
Inne-City urban regeneration of Vanderbijlpark and Vereeniging
Vaal River City Commercial and Residential Development
Doomskuil Precinct
R59 Corridor Development
Sicelo Precinct
Langzekeoigat Precinct (Agri Village)
K174 interchange
Student accommodation

Circular 10 of 2022 makes it clear that the One Plans are not plans that are developed by the districts or metros. Instead, these plans are intergovernmental plans that require the involvement and participation of all identified stakeholders, and each stakeholder is required to perform their part in the process.

PLATFORMS USED TO FACILITATE THE REVIEW OF THE ONE PLAN INCLUDE:

Gauteng DDM Intergovernmental Committees
Intergovernmental planning sessions | DDM Quarterly IGR engagements
Cross-provincial and inter-municipal planning workshops
Anchor Teams for the One Plan Review Process | Presidential Imbizo Ministers Programme | Lekgotla 2022/23 Declarations
Engagement with the National DDM Champion





STATE OF DISTRICT ADDRESS

"30 years of freedom: democracy & partnerships for growth."



Sedibeng District Municipality is Open for Business, Job Creation and Skill Development

15 June 2024



The Executive Mayor, Cllr Lerato Maloka emphasized that "Sedibeng District Municipality is finalizing partnership with Public Private Growth Initiative (PPGI) within the District Development Model (DDM) to accelerate socio-economic interventions, projects, services delivery and infrastructure development to uplift the livelihood of our residents and stakeholders in our three local municipalities" during her State of District Address (SoDA) on Friday, 15 June 2022 at Vaal Teknorama.

This year's address was delivered under the theme **"30 years of freedom: democracy and partnership for economic growth"** which coincides with the 48th anniversary of the fateful 16th of June 1976, when the youth took to the streets protesting the use of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in schools during the apartheid government. The event was attended by Emfuleni and Midvaal Local Municipality, Executive Mayors Cllr Siphon Radebe and Cllr Peter Texiera respectively, Members of the Mayoral Committees, Municipal Managers and various stakeholders.



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Audit Findings:

- 2021/22: 116 findings
- 2023/24: Reduced to 5 findings to be addressed

Key Appointments:

- CFO and Executive Directors for Community Services, and Transport, Infrastructure, and Environment to be finalized in 2 months

Private Sector Partnerships:

- Strengthening private sector involvement through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Panel of Investors:

- Appointed to provide capital funding and implement turnaround solutions for 36 months Seven companies involved in various precinct projects

Procurement Breakdown:

- Goods and services from over 350 suppliers totaling R19 million
- 80% from Black-owned suppliers, 32% from emerging enterprises
- 24% from Township-based suppliers
- 24% from women-owned businesses
- 85% from men-owned suppliers
- 9% from youth-owned suppliers
- <1% from people with disabilities

Youth Economic Development:

- EmpowaWorx partnership for Vaal EmpowaYouth Week for three years
- Food and Beverage SETA International Digital Skills Programme for 100 learners
- Food Handling and Packaging learnerships
- Partnership with Sedibeng College TVET and Services SETA for 40 individuals

District Development Model (DDM) Initiatives:

- Greening and Cleaning Programme with DMS Powders, Ceramics, and CBI
- Partnership with ArcelorMittal for Environmental Health Operation Centre
- Renovations for Environmental Health Operation Centre costing R1.5 million
- Establishment of a Landfill site in Emfuleni worth R40 million

Women Empowerment Initiatives:

- Partnership with Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)
- Hosted GBVF and Women in Business Empowerment in Emfuleni
- Gender Equality and Mental Health initiatives in Lesedi and Midvaal

SODA Summary: Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget 2024–2025

15 June 2024

Budget Overview:

- Total revenue: R420.672 million
- Main contributors: grants (equitable share, various government grants)
- Agency fees from licensing service: R74.446 million
- Total expenditure: R437.388 million
- Employee costs: 77% of operating expenditure
- Operational budget deficit: R16.716 million due to a 4.5% salary increase

Budget Challenges:

- Grant dependency with limited revenue generation functions
- Equitable share growth: 2.72% per annum (last 12 years)
- Employee cost increase: 5-6% annually
- Underfunded mandates (Disaster Management, Health, Social Services, etc.)
- Loadshedding impacts revenue from the Vereeniging Fresh Produce Market and Licensing Centres
- Revenue loss from municipal buildings due to maintenance issues

Economic Development:

- Regeneration plan hinges on Vaal Special Economic Zone (VSEZ)
- R40 billion investment commitment across 3000 hectares in three municipalities

- R8 billion to be spent in Lesedi Local Municipality in early 2025, creating 650 jobs (Chloralkaline plant and composite gas cylinders manufacturing)
- Development of a stationery fuel cell in Emfuleni in Q3 2025
- SEZ focuses on renewable energy projects to counteract loadshedding
- Interprovincial SEZ agreement with Free State adds 1050 hectares for development

Vaal Aerotropolis Project:

- Managed through a special economic zone (SEZ)
- SEZ area: 12000 hectares for agriculture, solar farming, and airport
- Estimated project cost: R22.6 billion (excluding VAT)
- Project components: bulk infrastructure (R3.3 billion), airport (R12.2 billion), trade zones (R760 million), agri and support zone (R330 million), other costs (R2.621 billion)
- Job creation: 12000 direct jobs during construction, 6000 permanent jobs post-construction



Successful Market Information Day Hosted at Vereeniging Fresh Produce Market

17 May 2024

On Friday, 17th May 2024, the Sedibeng District Municipality successfully hosted the Market Information Day at the Vereeniging Fresh Produce Market. The event addressed critical topics and compliance issues within the food value chain, including:

- The state of fresh produce markets in South Africa
- The importance of fresh produce markets
- Transformation and development of local emerging farmers
- Access to free produce markets and agents
- The regulatory framework and compliance requirements

The day was instrumental in enhancing opportunities for small-scale farmers by addressing issues such as market access, financing, professional capacity, agri-business skills, and potential partnerships.

The event received positive support from various agents, sponsors, and farmers who have a vested interest in the revitalisation of the operations of the market.

The Market Information Day showcased the Vereeniging Fresh Produce Market as a vibrant hub for high-quality fruits, vegetables, and other produce.

"The Fresh Produce Market, as a business entity of the Sedibeng District Municipality, is encouraged by the support and hopes to form stronger collaborations with agents, wholesalers, farmers, and other interested stakeholders," stated the manager of the market, Mr. Someleze Jali



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Sedibeng District Municipality Partners with Empowaworx to Empower the Unemployed Youth With Skills and Job Opportunities

24 April 2024

The Sedibeng District Municipality partnered with EmpowaWorx to host the Vaal EmpowaYouth Week in the region to empower the unemployed youth at Saul Tsoetsi Sport Complex, Sebokeng Zone 14, Emfuleni Local Municipality.

The purpose of the Vaal EmpowaYouth Week is to inspire the youth, connect them to corporates and industry role players and transform their lives. The hosting of the Sedibeng EmpowaYouth Week is the commitment of the Executive Mayor, Cllr Lerato Maloka made during the 2023 State of the District Address that "our success and development depend largely on collaboration with locals, provincial, national government and the private sector".

"2024 EmpowaYouth Week is one of the public-private partnerships to address these socio-economic challenges in our region" said the Executive Mayor, Cllr Maloka during her Opening Keynote Address on Monday. The Executive Mayor emphasized that the Vaal Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) is one of the socio-economic interventions to promote re-industrialization, business investment and job creation in Sedibeng District region.

The Vaal EmpowaYouth Week (22 -26 April 2024) is a dynamic platform dedicated to fostering real and relevant opportunities for young individuals; to engage and interact with key players in various industries and sectors and to broaden the young

individual's horizon and open doors to new opportunities. Today, 23 April 2024 until Friday, 26 April 2024 the following industries interaction and opportunities were [will be] on offer at 2024 Vaal EmpowaYouth Week:

- Retail and manufacturing
- Health and wellness
- ICT and Entrepreneurship

Simphiwe Masiza, the CEO EmpowaWorx says "EmpowaYouth Week is about acceleration of aspirations of young people by bringing industries, we have African Bank, Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority, Coca Cola SA and ABSA. We believe that private sector must play a role in accelerating aspirations of young people by creating opportunities with funding, learnerships, sponsorships and employment."

The youth is encouraged to register and join the 2024 Vaal EmpowaYouth Week for the remaining days to be inspired, get connected and transform their lives. Registration is open at Cell: +27 76 578 4624 Email: registrations@empowayouth.co.za or visit website www.empowayouth.co.za. Kindly note that all series of event are livestreamed on EmpowaYouth Accounts on Facebook and Youtube, feel free to join in.



Sedibeng District Municipality Supports Autism Awareness Event with Fruit Donation

06 April 2024



In a demonstration of community support, the Sedibeng District Municipality proudly contributed to the World Autism Awareness Month event held at the Thabo-Vuyo Resource Centre in Sebokeng. The event, organised by Gauteng Education and Youth Development and led by MEC Matome Chiloane, aimed to educate and raise awareness about autism, focusing amongst others on communication barriers

faced by individuals living with autism.

The Sedibeng District Municipality was honoured to participate in this important initiative, which aligned to its commitment to "Making education a Societal Priority". The

district generously donated a selection of fresh fruits sourced from the local Fresh Produce Market, which caters to local farmers, to the 700 learners attending the event.

"We believe that education should be a societal priority, and events like these provide an opportunity to create awareness on the importance of

understanding and embracing diversity within our communities," remarked Someleze Jali, manager of the Sedibeng Fresh Produce Market.



EPWP: Empowering communities for a brighter future

18 March 2024

The Sedibeng District Municipality's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is a multifaceted initiative aimed at tackling environmental challenges while creating employment opportunities. Collaborating with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and Environment, as well as the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, and Environment, the program addresses issues like illegal dumping, water contamination, and air quality management.

Recognizing the urgent need for intervention, the Department of



GDARDE supporting Waste Innovation with equipment to build furniture

Correctional Services Community Corrections, in consultation with the Gauteng Department of Education and local law enforcement agencies, has devised a comprehensive strategy. The focal point of this strategy is the implementation of

a cycling tour targeting schools across the Sedibeng East and West Districts. This proactive approach aligns with the National Crime Prevention Strategy and the White Paper on Corrections, underscoring the department's commitment to

enhancing social crime prevention efforts.

At its core, the EPWP empowers participants through skills development, job creation, and financial support. Training programs provided by the



SedibengDM

municipality and the National Department of Public Works equip participants with the skills needed to establish their own businesses, fostering economic independence. The program is inclusive, catering to various demographics, including youth, women, men, and individuals with disabilities.

One notable success story is the Waste Innovation group in Ratanda, which emerged from the initiative to remove alien plants. Led by Mrs. Sibongile Mashinini, a former furniture manufacturing worker turned home-owner in Ratanda, Waste Innovation repurposes this waste into furniture items. Mrs. Mashinini not only provides space and

containers for the business but also shares her expertise in furniture making with EPWP participants, transferring valuable skills.

Collaborative support from government departments and local municipalities has bolstered initiatives like Waste Innovation, providing stipends and resources for growth. Furthermore, participants like those placed in the Heidelberg Licensing Department have gained valuable experience, leading to employment opportunities beyond the EPWP.

Looking ahead, Sedibeng District Municipality remains committed to expanding job creation initiatives through partnerships, ensuring economic empowerment for its communities.



Donation of Containers for Waste Innovation Group from Lesedi Local Municipality

Sharpeville massacre victims remembered

Article source: - [SANews.gov.za](https://www.sanews.gov.za)

President Cyril Ramaphosa has encouraged South Africans to continue to honour those who fought for the rights that all enjoy today and hold dear.

President Ramaphosa delivered the keynote address at the Human Rights Day commemoration in Sharpeville, Gauteng on Thursday, held under the theme: "Three Decades of Respect for and Promotion of Human Rights".

"Sixty-four years have passed since the ground on which we gather here in Sharpeville bore witness to one of the worst atrocities committed by the apartheid regime against the South African people.

"And although many decades have passed, we still remember

with great sorrow and pain the 69 people who were killed and the many more who were maimed as they protested in peace against the grave injustices imposed upon them," the President said.

Earlier, President Ramaphosa led a wreath laying ceremony at the Sharpeville memorial site in commemoration of South Africans who laid their lives in sacrifice for the struggle for the attainment of human rights and democratic South Africa.

He also met with family members of the fallen Sharpeville Massacre

victims during the wreath laying ceremony.

Today's gathering, he said, was held to trace the journey as a nation over the last 64 years, from a state of discrimination and repression to a land of democracy and freedom.

"Ours was a journey of relentless struggle. We still recall how every



HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH 2024

Three Decades of Respect for and Promotion of Human Rights

#HumanRightsMonth2024

#HumanRightsDay2024

#30yrsFreedom

@GovernmentZA

@GovernmentZA

@GovernmentZA



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black South African - African, Coloured and Indian - was denied the basic human rights to which they were entitled.

"We recall how many generations of black South Africans were denied the right to life and dignity, the right to equal treatment, the right to vote and to be heard, the right to live where they want, to work in the trade of their choice, the right to education and health care, the right to the protection of the law," he said.

The President reflected that it was a difficult and dangerous journey travelled by community activists and union organisers, by traditional leaders and religious groupings, by freedom fighters and underground operatives, by political prisoners and exiles, and by friends and supporters across the world.

He added that it was a struggle to realise the rights contained in the Bill of Rights which called for equal treatment of all people, equal access to land, direct representation and voting rights.

"Ours was a struggle to realise the vision of the Freedom Charter, adopted by the Congress of People in 1955, of a South Africa that is prosperous and free and in which all enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

"It was these principles and these ideals, these struggles and these sacrifices, that enabled the achievement of our democracy and the adoption of the Bill of

Rights that is at the centre of our democratic Constitution," he said.

And as the country celebrates this milestone, President Ramaphosa said the country will reflect on the journey taken towards the full realisation of the fundamental freedoms contained in the Bill of Rights.

"We will count the elections that we have held every five years since 1994, elections that have been peaceful, free and fair and that have reflected the will of the people.



"We will assess the institutions that make our laws, that both represent the views and regularly seek the counsel of the South

Africans people. We will point to the independence of our judiciary, the vibrancy of our civil society, the activism of our trade unions and the freedom of our media.

"As we celebrate 30 years of freedom, we will reflect on the progress we have made in progressively realising the social and economic rights contained in our Constitution," he said.

The President said the country has much to celebrate as he detailed the progress made by government throughout the years.

He highlighted that millions of South Africans have been lifted out of dire poverty, while eight out of every 10 households have proper housing.

"Nine out of every 10 homes have electricity and access to clean drinking water. South Africans are living longer. Far fewer women are dying in child birth and far fewer children are dying in infancy.

"More children from poor families are completing school, passing matric and going on to study at



universities and colleges," he said.

The President said this has been made possible because the country has focused on correcting the injustices of the past and meeting the needs of the poor and excluded.

He highlighted that working together, nearly 4 million hectares

of land has been returned to people who had been dispossessed of their land and acquired over 5 million hectares of land for redistribution and to provide security of tenure for labour tenants and other farm dwellers.

Government has provided social grants for children, the elderly and people with disability, and

recently introduced a special social relief of distress grant for unemployed people. Government also

provides free daily meals to millions of school children and has expanded the number of fee-free schools and has massively increased funding for students from poor and working-class families to attend universities and colleges.

"As our economy has changed, more and more people have been able to exercise the right to freely choose their trade, occupation or profession. Our economy has tripled in size since 1994.

"While unemployment still remains unacceptably high, the number of South Africans in employment has more than doubled in the last 30 years. The proportion of executive management positions held by black people increased almost five-fold between 1996 and 2016," he said



Sedibeng Community Safety Forum holds Cycling Tour to Combat School Gangsterism, Substance Abuse, and Gender-Based Violence

01 March 2024

The Department of Correctional Services Community Corrections, in collaboration with the Sedibeng Community Safety Forum, has unveiled a groundbreaking initiative aimed at addressing critical issues plaguing schools in the Sedibeng region. This innovative endeavour marks a pivotal step in the final phase of the Criminal Justice System, as authorities seek to tackle prevalent challenges such as gangsterism, substance abuse, and gender-based violence within educational institutions.

Recognizing the urgent need for intervention, the Department of Correctional Services Community Corrections, in consultation with the Gauteng Department of Education and local law enforcement agencies, has devised a comprehensive strategy. The focal point of this strategy is the implementation of a cycling tour targeting schools across the Sedibeng East and West Districts. This proactive approach aligns with the National Crime Prevention Strategy and the White Paper on Corrections, underscoring the department's commitment to enhancing social

crime prevention efforts.

At the heart of this initiative lies the Community Corrections Component, tasked with the rehabilitation and reintegration of



offenders into society. By engaging in collaborative endeavours with educational institutions, the component aims to foster a culture of accountability and deterrence against criminal activities, particularly among the youth population.

Disturbing statistics reveal a concerning surge in juvenile offenders, many of whom are of school-going age. Through extensive engagement with schools and law enforcement agencies, it has become evident that students often lack a first-hand understanding of the realities of incarceration, contributing to the proliferation of criminal behaviour within educational settings.

The primary objective of the cycling tour is twofold: to underscore the importance of corrective programs for offenders preparing for re-entry into society and to shed light on the challenges faced by ex-convicts, including the enduring stigma and barriers to employment. Additionally, former inmates will share their experiences and insights with students, aiming to dissuade them from involvement in criminal activities, particularly gangsterism.

By fostering dialogue and collaboration between correctional services, educational institutions, and the community at large, this initiative represents a proactive approach to addressing entrenched societal issues. Through collective efforts and targeted interventions, stakeholders endeavour to create safer and more resilient communities for future generations.

The Sedibeng Community Safety Forum's Cycling Tour stands as a testament to the power of collaborative action in confronting complex social challenges.

Vuma Unenkinga 0800 22 88 27 Kreya Thuso

GAUTENG ANTI-SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOTLINE 0800 22 88 27

Kreya Thuso is a 24 hour toll free helpline for young people and parents to apply for nyaope addicts and other substance abusers to be placed at a state rehabilitation facility for treatment.



SedibengDM

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Empowering Youth Through Technology: The Youth Tech Expo Returns to Sedibeng District

20 February 2024

The Rus-ter-vaal Community Hall buzzed with excitement as scores of young people filled the space, eager to explore the world of technology at the Youth Tech Expo brought by eGovernment MEC Mzi Khumalo. Following the success of its inaugural edition at the Saul Tsoetsi Multipurpose Centre in Sebokeng last year, this event marked the second installment of its kind in the Sedibeng District.

The expo, which aims to enlighten young people about opportunities in the ICT sector, covers a wide array of topics including entrepreneurship, financial management, and available training opportunities. Such initiatives aim to equip the younger generation with the

knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in the rapidly evolving landscape of technology, thereby nurturing a generation of tech-savvy entrepreneurs.

Central to the expo's mission is the notion of empowerment, recognizing the potential for economic growth and community development that arises when young individuals actively engage with the technology industry and ultimately create pathways for socio-economic advancement within the community.

"The status of our country is in a dire state for young people, which saddens me that some young people fall into depression, crime, and drug use



because they have lost hope. But it is not all doom and gloom because solutions are there; it's only a matter of identifying opportunities," stated Executive Mayor of Sedibeng District Municipality, Cllr. Lerato Maloka.



Sedibeng District Municipality, GDARDE And DFFE Join Hands For Environmental Project

14 February 2024



Cleaning river streams also forms part of the greening projects

In an effort to address environmental concerns while providing employment opportunities, the Department of Fisheries Forestry and Environment (DFFE) has partnered with the Sedibeng District Municipality to implement the Clean and Green Project and remove alien plants under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The Clean and Green Project focuses on eradicating illegal dumps and promoting a healthier environment, while the removal of alien plants aims to address water consumption concerns by eliminating water-intensive trees. Overall, the project will improve environmental conditions in

certain areas within the district, while also creating job opportunities, skills development, and financial support to participants.

The Sedibeng District Municipality, has further engaged Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment as well as local companies to contribute tools and resources towards the success of the project. This led to various items such as heavy-duty plastic bags, hand gloves, nose bags, safety gear, and other essential equipment being pledged.

Over the 2023/2024 financial year, Sedibeng has created 806 working opportunities in both the Clean and Green Project and the removal of alien plants. Participants are recruited through a rigorous process across all local municipalities, including Emfuleni, Midvaal, and Lesedi. They are then stationed at different areas within municipal buildings, schools, and other public spaces to undertake tasks related to cleaning, waste removal, and greening initiatives.

Sedibeng District Municipality has further partnered with Bapela Global Concept, to 60 participants in generic management, business

administration, and new venture creation. These skills development programs are aimed at equipping participants with qualifications that can help them further their studies or seek employment opportunities beyond the EPWP program.

Additionally, discussions are underway with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Environment to finalize arrangements with a training provider who will offer training on different qualification levels. This includes providing participants without matric certificates with the opportunity to acquire them, training those with matric on basic computer literacy, and offering project management skills to participants with matric and computer literacy.

Safety monitoring of participants is also a priority, with DFFE ensuring that first aiders are regularly monitored in their duties to maintain a safe working environment.



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME



Removal of alien plants in Sharpeville

Rasethjaba Primary Farm School Receives Innovative MiDesks Donation

29 January 2024



The MiDesk, a groundbreaking wheelie schoolbag invented by Talita Boodhram at 16 years old while working on a science project, not only serves as a portable desk but also transforms into a chair, equipped with a solar light and USB charging portal. This innovative solution provides children with a versatile tool for learning, seamlessly transitioning between home and school environments. The MiDesk not only ensures that students have a comfortable chair and desk wherever they go but also integrates modern technology with its solar light and USB charging capabilities.

During her address at the handover event, which took place at Chrissiesfontein, the executive mayor further emphasized that "It is our collective responsibility to provide them with every possible mechanism and opportunity to shape a fruitful future. We are here not only to witness their journey but to sow the seeds that will bear the fruits of their success.

The Sedibeng District Municipality in partnership with Midvaal Local Municipality, MiDesk Global and the telecommunications giant Cell C donated 100 MiDesks to the Ratasetjaba Primary Farm School. The initiative is part of Cell C's Back2School-Campaign and aims to enhance the learning environment for children who lack proper learning material.

"Our current socio-economic climate presents seemingly

impossible situations for families that do not have the affordability to give their children the tools they need for a better future. It therefore becomes imperative for us as a collective—comprising of government, the business sector, and the community—to unite in supporting initiatives that uplift the lives of our people and ease the burden of their hardships" stated Cllr. Lerato Maloka, Executive Mayor of Sedibeng District Municipality.



Low-Cost Solutions for Clean Drinking Water



Clean and safe drinking water is essential for good health. Here are simple and affordable methods to purify water at home, ensuring that you and your family have access to clean drinking water.



1. Boiling

Boiling water kills any germs that might be in the water.

- Step 1: Boil water in a pot.
- Step 2: Allow to cool.
- Step 3: Keep this boiled water covered with a lid or clean cloth to protect it from being contaminated by flies and dirt.



2. Adding Bleach

Bleach is strong smelling and contains chlorine which kills harmful germs in the water.

- Step 1: Buy a bottle of bleach from your local shop.
- Step 2: Add one teaspoon of bleach to 20 litres of water.
- Step 3: Allow to stand overnight for a minimum of 2 hours.
- Step 4: Keep the water covered with a cloth or lid to keep out flies and dirt.

Your water is now safe to drink.

3. Adding Water Purification Tablets



There are a number of water purification tablets available. These can be purchased from a chemist or camping shop. Make sure you follow the instructions on the pack carefully. When the dirt settles to the bottom of the container then filter the clean water through a clean cloth. The dirt will be left on the cloth. Be sure to keep the clean water covered with a cloth or lid.



4. Solar Disinfection (SODIS)

Fill a clear plastic bottle with water and leave in the hot sun for two hours. If half the bottle is painted black and it is placed on a corrugated iron sheet, the heating process is speeded up. The combination of warm water and ultraviolet radiation from the sun kills most micro-organisms. This is particularly effective for killing the cholera bacterium.



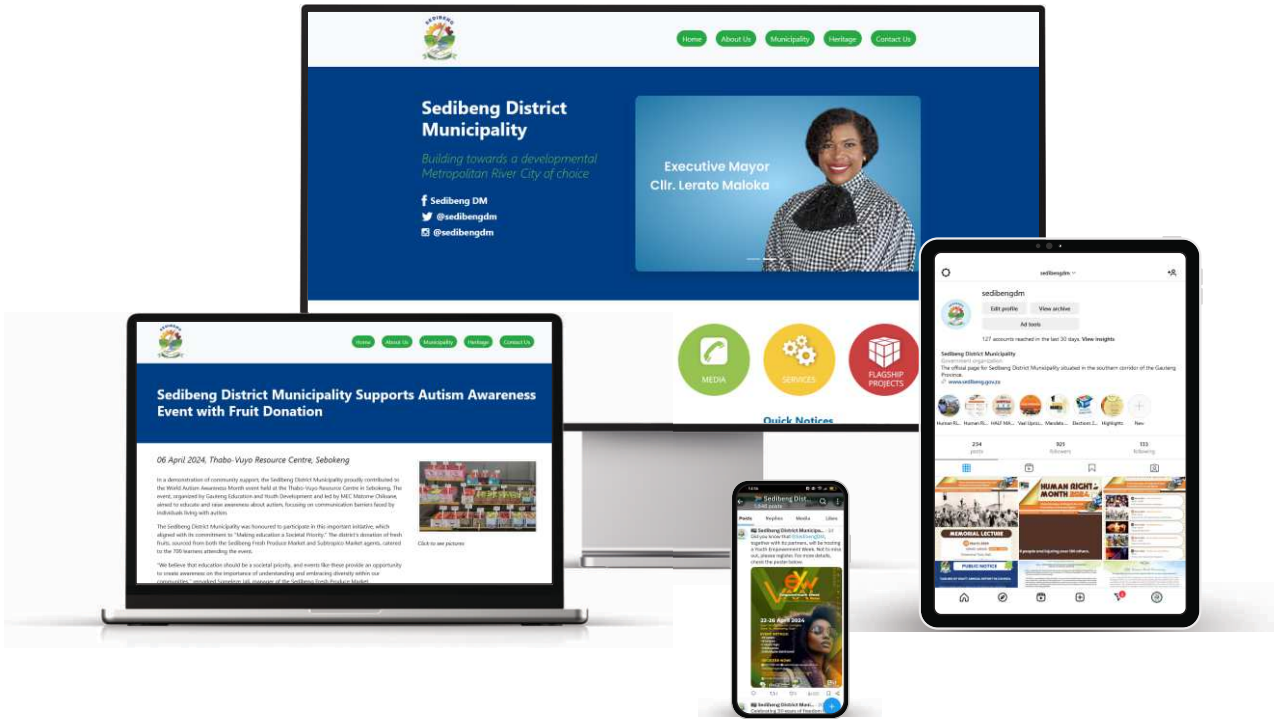
5. Biosand Filter

Biosand filters clean water by passing it through layers of gravel and sand. The filter traps dirt and germs. Helpful bacteria living in the sand also break down harmful substances. Regular upkeep keeps the filter working well and provides clean drinking water.



Upcoming Events

Keep up to date with the latest news and events on our website: www.sedibeng.gov.za and our social media platforms



 www.sedibeng.gov.za  



Towards a Metropolitan River City through a seamless service delivery



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Summary of our Service Delivery commitments, referred to as the **Five Rs plus Two**

Reinvent the economy from an old to a new by consolidating existing sectors and exploring new sectors of growth, thereby build local economies to create more employment opportunities

Renewing our communities from low to high quality through the provision of basic services,

Reviving a sustainable environment from waste dumps to a green region, by increasing the focus on improving air, water, and soil quality

Reintegrating the region with the rest of Gauteng, South and Southern African to move from an edge to a frontier region, through improving connectivity and transport links

Releasing human potential from low to high skills and build social capital through building united, non-racial, integrated and safer communities.

Deepening democracy through enabling all South Africans to progressively exercise their constitutional rights and enjoy the full dignity of freedom.

Good Governance through building accountable, effective and clean government, with sound financial management, functional and effective Councils, and strong, visionary leadership.

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