



Lejwe News *Vol 8*



EXECUTIVE MAYOR

Cllr SPEELMAN NKOSINJANI



MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Me PALESA KAOTA



FOOD GARDEN

The Executive Mayor of Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Cllr Nkosingani Speelman has heard the cry of widows. Many widows have been left homeless in our region. Cllr Speelman facilitated the establishment of a community based organisation to deal with the needs of widows. More than 3000 widows are registered. Cllr Speelman requested the MEC of Police to handover all Correctional services gardens that are no used in the district to widows as a start. The first seeds were planted during the project launch in October last year. The Executive Mayor is so passionate about the welfare of widows which seemed to be growing every day.

His commitment on the project has revived the spirit that Vegetable Gardening is such an important part of our lives and it used to mean survival for families who lived before us. They literally would have starved to death without the food they grew in the garden and the few animals they kept. We don't starve in this country anymore if we don't have a garden but it does make you think about the hardship of families that went through in seasons with poor crop results.

Food Garden is one of the most important things you and your family can do to stay healthy. When they're growing in your backyard, you won't be able to resist them, and their vitamin content will be at their highest levels as you bite into them straight from the garden.

Community gardening is a healthy, inexpensive activity for widows that can bring them closer to nature, and allow them to interact with each other in a socially meaningful and physically productive way. Community gardens increase a sense of community ownership and stewardship.

Community gardens foster the development of a community identity and spirit. According to the Executive Mayor Community gardens bring people together from a wide variety of backgrounds (age, race, culture, social class).Community gardens build community leaders. Community gardens offer a focal point for community organising, and can lead to community-based efforts to deal with other social concerns.

The generation before us has revealed that Community gardens provide opportunities to meet neighbors. We should all take note that Community gardening is recognised by many police departments as an effective community crime prevention strategy.

Watching a seed blossom under your care to become food on your family's plates is gratifying. Growing your own food is one of the most purposeful and important things a human can do-it's work that directly helps you thrive, nourish your family, and maintain your health. Caring for your plants and waiting as they blossom and "fruit" before your eyes is an amazing sense of accomplishment! Today, widows of Lejweleputswa are enjoying the fruit of their labour. These widows are harvesting their first product because of their persistence. It is because of a leader who understands the needs of the community and put their needs first.

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BREAKFAST WITH EMPLOYER

2015 ended with a high note at the Lejweleputswa District Municipality. The Municipal Manager requested the employees to conduct soul searching on what they want to do or rather what as an individual you want to achieve in life. In the year 2016, the Municipal Manager has gathered all her soldiers for a united front to plan a strategy for the battles ahead. As we journey in 2016, all of us as employees who join the organization to serve and change the lives of people on the ground are indeed appreciative of the footsteps and direction the management is embarking on. The concept of breakfast with the employer was a well calculated theme by the Municipal Manager. After hearing some feedback from different people, I was made to understand the adage that says - before you judge me hear my story. Truly speaking the Lejweleputswa District Municipality is in good hands.

It is no secret, the Municipality is awarding employees based on their performance therefore no one has stopped growth of any dedicated employee. It is on that note that the Municipality is also improving on the audit report. Ms Palesa Kaota in talking to the employees said "There is only one person who is capable to set limits to your growth...It is you. You are the only person who can influence your happiness, success and realisation."

Your life does not change when your boss, friend or company changes.....your life changes when you change...you go beyond your limiting beliefs and you realise you are the only one responsible for your life. It's the way you face life that makes the difference!

If an egg is broken from an outside force....life ends but if it is broken from an inside force life begins. Great things always begin from our inside" The Municipal Manager hereby appeals to all of us as stakeholders to think positive in 2016.

LEJWELEPUTSWA RECYCLING AND RECLAIMING CAMPAIGN

In accordance with the National Recycling Awareness initiatives as well as Environmental awareness, Lejweleputswa District Municipality has initiated an office Recycling Programme. The purpose is to improve the state of the Environment within Lejweleputswa and foster Environmental stewardship.

Plastics bottles, Papers, drink cans, broken glasses, Old Cd's, Plastics bags and ink cartridges are part of the items for recycling.

As part of the Batho Pele initiative, the collected waste will be given out to the Pickers for recycling purposes. Colour coded recycle bins are placed in strategic location to differentiate the different waste. This sends a clear message that recycling is everyone's responsibility. It is also important for people to understand that recycling is not a simple process meaning not a one bag throws all things concept; one needs to know how to take part in it. Lejweleputswa District Municipality environment unit organized a staff workshop to change the mind set of all staff members first that recycling is not a dirty or low class job but it's a responsibility and lifestyle. One of the objectives of the workshop was to cultivate a good life time recycling habit therefore it's time for everybody to play a part.

Some of the stakeholders who were part of the workshop were the 5 Local Municipalities, Department of Environmental Affairs, Lejweleputswa District Municipality, PETCO, PRASA and Private Waste Recyclers. The campaign will be visible in all the Lejweleputswa Towns.

LDA EMPLOYS NEW CEO

Lejwe le putswa Development Agency has a new captain on board. With the skills and competencies she acquired from private sector and Government the probabilities are sound to turn around Local economic development. Maybe you might not understand what I am talking about here. It took sometime but it's not always easy to find a perfect fit for what you want as an organisation more especially skilled people tend to be absorbed by the private sector than ploughing back to Government. The Lejweleputswa District Municipality has an entity called LDA which has not been having CEO for quite some time but the waiting is finally over. Ms Phumzile Nhlapo is now the new CEO of Lejwe le putswa Development Agency. She is born and raised in the Free State. She is a Free Stater at heart.

Phumzile acknowledge that the Chief Executive Officer position comes with a lot of responsibilities that needs one to be sober minded and learned. She has already set herself on achieving the overall responsibilities of effectively and efficiently manages and implements the strategy of the Agency. Her vision is to impact positively to human nature by extending a helping hand to those who need help. She started her career in Private sector and later joins Local Government. The District Municipality is proud to announce that the captain has finally landed. Within the few months she started the district is feeling her footsteps. LDA is an entity of the Lejweleputswa District Municipality and its vision is very clear to be the leading Municipal District Development Agency. Entities of this nature exist across the length and breadth of South Africa. The mandate of all of them including ours is to grow the economy of the districts they are operating and no local Municipality has its own entity therefore now is the time to put our minds together and grow the economy of this district. The existence of these entities is not to replace LED Departments of any Municipality or compete with them but to strengthen the capacity



LEJWELEPUTSWA DISASTER MANAGEMENT CONDUCTS PUBLIC AWARENESS

The Lejweleputswa Disaster Management centre staffs have undertaken public awareness, educational campaigns aimed at improving the communities' knowledge of the hazards in their areas. The purpose is to inculcate behavioural changes among the community aimed at avoiding hazards

These awareness campaigns started at schools around our district. The idea behind was to make sure learners are safe at all times. The program deals with basic emergency tips, safety and fire education programmes. The District Municipality wants to ensure that communities are taught from an early age, practical knowledge of avoiding hazardous situations.

We have introduced these campaigns after realising the ever-increasing incidents of shack fires in the informal settlement, and the devastating effects thereof. The aim of these campaigns was to teach communities the dangers of, amongst others:

- Leaving open fire flames unattended, and even sleeping while these fires are burning, eg 'imbawula'.
- That they must refrain from using unsafe fire sources such as flames which were susceptible to exploding
- To refrain from using illegal electricity connections which often led to fires due to irregular connections
- To stop children from starting open fires in the fields or veld as small sparks from these would cause runaway veld fires.

Lejweleputswa District Municipality has come in handy to render social relief assistance. People who have been badly affected received food parcels, blankets, school uniforms in cases where there are learners in the family.



A workshop was conducted to capacitate ward committees. A ward level Disaster Management Committee established in terms of the Municipal systems act within each and every ward. The ward councillor will be the co-ordinator of the ward level Disaster Management Committee. The District Municipality is doing these campaigns in order to protect the lives of people.

It is no doubt that many lives and property have been lost through disasters. The Lejweleputswa district Municipality is pleased to have reached the width and breath of the district with such information which has left people committing them to do things differently.

The Lejweleputswa Disaster Management Unit aims to counteract or mitigate the impact or consequences of disasters by increasing resilience in the communities. This comprises mainly lifesaving, the protection of property and the maintenance of those essential services that are indispensable to continuation of a civilised way of life. It is very rare to foresee where and when a disaster will occur, and experience has proved that a community having an emergency-action plan is better able to cope with the consequences, thus reducing loss of life and damage to property to a minimum. An emergency plan comprises the procedures enabling organised action to use all available resources, manpower and facilities in a coordinated and purposeful fashion to combat the consequences of a disaster as effectively as possible.

Happy Birthday!

The message is for those who had their birthdays already and my colleagues celebrating their birthdays today. Keep your dreams alive.

Understand to achieve yourself, vision, hard work, determination anything requires faith and belief in , and dedication.

Remember all things are possible for those who believe.