

The Heartland of Southern Africa- Development is about people



Ms Ennie Tema - General Manager for Municipal Finance

MUNICIPAL BUDGET ENGAGEMENT AND BENCH- MARKING EXERCISE

Polokwane- The LPT Municipal Finance chief directorate has started the municipal budget engagements and benchmarking exercise on the 11th May 2015 and will finish on the 26th May 2015, but only selected 15 municipalities out of 30 for this purpose. According to Ms. Ennie Tema the General Manager Inter-governmental and fiscal relations, section 16 of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) requires the mayor of a municipality to table the annual budget at a council at least 90 days before the start of the financial year.

The municipality had to table the 2015/16 Medium - Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) budget by no later than the 31 March 2015 prior to public participation. The MFMA re-

quires that after the tabling of the annual budget, the municipal council must consider views of the National Treasury, provincial treasury and any provincial or national organ of state. As part of its oversight role over local government finances, engagements are performed to review and discuss the municipalities' tabled budget for the financial year 2015/16 MTREF.

Provincial Treasury reviews the tabled budget by preparing a report that details the findings and provides comments/recommendation/inputs on the tabled budgets of all delegated municipalities prior to their adoption by the respective municipal councils. The tabled budgets are rigorously assessed in terms of quality and compliance with the prescriptions of the MFMA

and the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations. From a quality perspective, the budget is assessed in accordance with three criteria which are credibility, relevance and sustainability. An one on one engagement with individual municipalities then ensues where they make presentations on their tabled budgets. The LPT then robustly engages by asking questions and also providing feedback on the reviewed report.

Municipal Managers, CFO's, Senior Managers responsible for Infrastructure Services; IDP Managers; Budget Managers; senior management and all relevant officials are required to attend. CoGHSTA and SALGA are invited to form part of the panel as well.

“compliance with the prescriptions of the MFMA and the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations”

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“We are Africa - Opening the doors of learning from Cape to Cairo”

Editorial Note



Editor-in-Chief, Sydwell Sibanda

MINERAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA TANTALISE PREDATORS OUTSIDE THE CONTINENT

The natural resources of the world's poorest continent are a gold mine which has never ceased to tantalise predators outside the continent and their surrogates within. Africa is said to possess 99% of the world's chrome resources, 85% of its platinum, 70% of its tantalite, 68% of its cobalt, 54% of its gold plus significant oil and gas reserves.

The continent is also home to uranium, manganese, diamonds and bauxite deposits in very high quantities. Timber and other forests resources add to the lure including massive underground water reserves discovered in some of the driest parts of the continent.

Africa's vulnerability has been intrinsically linked to its rich resources and a history of colonialism for which the resources provided bait. Many of the civil wars that are still fought today have their genesis palpably in the struggle for control and appropriation of African wealth. In what is known as resource curse theory the blame has been incongruously vented on the resources themselves rather than on the greed of bloodsucking marauders and their cohorts. It certainly calls for reflection.

At the same time, Africa Day deserves celebrating. It celebrates African diversity and mutuality, its culture and identity, its history and heritage, its achievements and excellence and its potential and promise.

A little over fifty years ago, and with the possible exception of Ethiopia and Liberia, the entire continent was colonial territory in which the peoples were subjected to indignities and killings administered by foreign powers ironically claiming to be democratic and civilised. Assimilation, colour bar and apartheid epitomised some of the monstrous evils of colonial rule in Africa.

For Africa and Africans, Africa Day is that constant reminder of a common history of slavery and colonialism, the sign of a shared heritage and culture, the symbol of fraternity in the struggle for real progress in peace and development, and a rallying call to mobilise opinion and join effort for the acceleration of African integration and ultimate unity.

At Humanitas Afrika we wish Africans at home and in the Diaspora the enabling environment they cherish for the realisation of their hopes and dreams for a truly united Africa.
Happy Africa Month!!!

EXCOM GETS TOUGH ON NON-ADHRENCE TO THE FILE PLAN



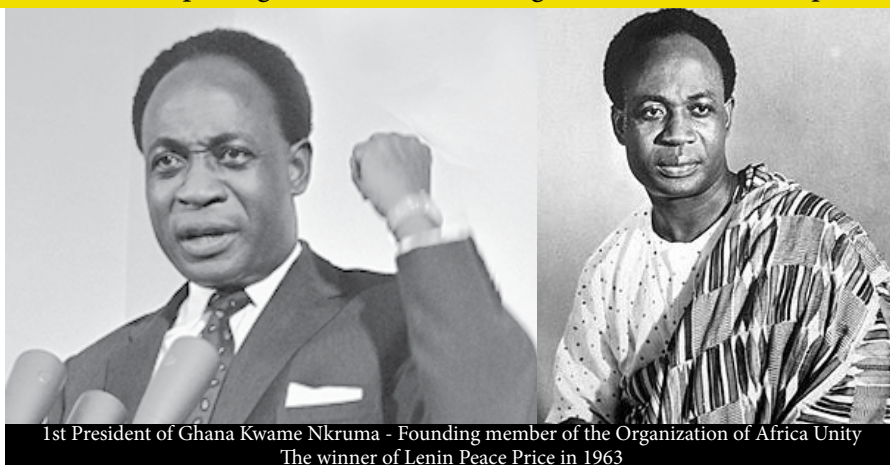
LPT held its EXCOM meeting of the 13th April 2015 and amongst others, the following decisions we taken.

- All correspondences to the Office of the HOD must have reference numbers as per LPT General File Plan
- All correspondences to other departments which do not have reference numbers will not be signed as per LPT General File Plan
- All LPT officials must ensure that they are conversant with the series with they work and should ensure that all correspondences are dealt with on the correct file.
- All correspondences must be classified. i.e. Confidential, Secret and Top Secret.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR ASSESSMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

- Tabled Budget document, including narrative information – copy of report that served at the Municipal Council,
 - AFS - Historical/Audited information as per the verification for the first three years (be mindful of restated figures in the AFS)
 - Municipal Integrated Development Plan
 - Division of Revenue Act
 - Draft Service Delivery Budget and Implementation Plan
 - Draft Procurement Plan, etc.
- The aim is to assist all municipalities to table a final budget that is credible, relevant and sustainable and funded.

"We are Africa – Opening the doors of learning and culture from Cape to Cairo"



1st President of Ghana Kwame Nkrumah - Founding member of the Organization of Africa Unity
The winner of Lenin Peace Price in 1963

25th May is Africa Day. For many years it has been a celebration of African unity. It dates back to 1963 when the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was founded in Ethiopia on the 25th of May. Before then 15th April, which marked the first Conference of Independent African States held in Ghana in 1958, was upheld as African Freedom Day.

The significance of the Day was to reflect the aspirations of people to break free from the chains of colonial bondage by dint of a collective will. Also, it was meant to help raise political awareness around the world about the state of affairs in Africa and the self-determination of its people.

Within years, the African Freedom Day was renamed African Liberation Day and the date changed from 15th April to 25th May following the establishment of the OAU. By this time the number of independent African countries had risen from 8 in 1958 to a little over 30 in 1963. When the African Union succeeded the OAU in July 2002 the African Liberation Day became known as Africa Day and has since been a statutory holiday in many African countries.

The value of Africa Day is in the unity it enjoins. Artificial boundaries impacted by colonialism have knifed through ethnic nationalities and left the continent balkanised in sovereign entities that are hardly viable individually and economically in a competitive global environment. The celebration of Africa Day throughout the continent is recognition that these boundaries are indeed superficial. Africans are one people with a shared destiny that is better served by unity of purpose, of economies and ideally of politics. Africa Day has become a global phenomenon. The African Diaspora and those who share the vision of a peaceful and prosperous Africa have made it so. Many have already put in place arrangements for celebrating this unique Day across the world this year. The African Communities Forum Inc in New Zealand will be celebrating under the theme "Celebration of African Diversity, Celebration of Oneness and Celebration of Success".

**Dr Ruth
Segomotsi
Mompoti (14
September 1925
-12 May 2015)**



Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti was born in Tlapeng Village in Kagisano-Molopo area within the Bophirima District, now called Dr Ruth Mompoti District Municipality after it (the district) being named after her. Born on the 14 September 1925, she grew up in a thoroughly rural environment. Between 1933 and 1940 she attended Vryburg United Primary Schools, where she completed her Standard six (6). Two years later, she continued her schooling at Tigerkloof Institution of Education where she received her Native Lower Primary Certificate. In 1944 she started her teaching career at the age of 19 in Dithakwaneng Primary School near Vryburg.

“She is passionately known as “Mama Ruta” within her community”

She got married in 1952 and lost her job due to apartheid laws regulated that black female teachers were not supposed to get married. Immediately after, she moved to Johannesburg and became an active member of the ANC Orlando branch. In the same year, she studied short-hand typing. In 1953 she was employed by Mandela and Tambo Attorneys as a short-hand typist. She was elected to the ANC Women’s League National Executive Committee (NEC) of and become one of the founder members of the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) the following year. She was one of the organisers and leaders of the Anti-Pass Law march in Pretoria on the 9th August 1956.

In 1962, she left the country for Military training with Umkhonto We Sizwe in the then Soviet Union. She could not return to the Country to do her underground work because her colleague had given evidence against the ANC leadership. She had to become the full-time cadre of the underground movement in exile.

In 1966 she was elected to the ANC NEC and during the same year she was transferred to the ANC’s office in Zambia, but continued between Tanzania and Zambia during the course of her work in the ANC President’s office. In 1966, she was sent to Germany by the movement as the ANC Women’s League secretary to represent the Federation of South African Women in its secretariat.

In 1990, she was chosen to be part of the ANC delegation that negotiated the peaceful transition with the government at Groote Schuur. In 1994 she was elected to the National Assembly of the Republic of South Africa

and served as a Member of Parliament from 1994-1996 before she seconded to become an Ambassador to Switzerland until 2000.

In 1996, Mama Ruth was awarded an Honorary Masters Degree in Education by the University of the North West in Mahikeng. The scholarship was named after her by Huston-Tillotson University, in Austin, Texas, USA. In 1998, the Medical University of South Africa awarded her an Honorary Doctorate. She has been the Mayor of Naledi Local Municipality from June 2000 until May 2010. In consolidating the vision of the society and the country she liberated, this true activist and daughter of the soil continues to serve community in various capacities. She serves on many Boards, including being Chairperson of the Swiss-South Africa Corporative Initiative Trust. “wathint’ abafazi, wathint’ imbokodo, uza kufa...!!! Rest in Peace “Mama Ruta”...!!!

SENIOR GENERAL MANAGER : FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE



Naazim Essa
Provincial Accountant General

NAAZIM ESSA began his career at the Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA) in 2005, where he completed his articles and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 2009. He was appointed as a manager soon after qualifying as CA and served in this position for three years before accepting the position of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the Capricorn District Municipality in December 2012.

His tenure at the AGSA assisted him in understanding the public sector with regard to its numerous legislations and objectives that enabled him to perform the role of the CFO at CDM.

Essa says that it was at CDM that tested his leadership skills to address the many challenges that local government generally faces.

Key Highlights

- He obtained CDM an unqualified audit opinion within 18 months of his appointment
- The last unqualified audit opinion obtained by CDM was in 2007
- Managed to address a five (5) year recurrent audit finding (valuing approximately R160 million in balances) that led to the audit qualifications in the past.
- No new Supply Chain Management irregular and unauthorised expenditure incurred since his appointment in December 2012.
- CDM won the 2013/14 SALGA award for the most improved municipality in Limpopo for financial management matters.
- Assisted the local municipalities within Capricorn District Municipal area in addressing audit matters and also implementing strategies on how to deal with financial statement/management challenges. As a result, local municipalities have moved away from a history of disclaimer audit opinions and one local municipality had obtained an unqualified opinion

Municipal Budget Engagement in Pictures



STRETCH YOUR LIPS

From life in marriage

A wife to her husband:

- Honey, what are you doing?

Husband - I'm reading our marriage certificate.

Wife - What for?

Husband - I'm looking for the expiry date..

Have you been there?

A client comes to a bank:

- My cheque was returned with a remark: "Insufficient funds". I'd like to know whether it refers to mine or the Bank?



House Keeping

AFRICA MONTH TO PROMOTE AFRICAN IDENTITY

The activities planned to celebrate Africa Month will be used to promote the African identity, entrench African values and ethics, as well as strengthen existing collaborations in the continent.

As part of nurturing African Identity, the Department of Arts and Culture will promote the African Union flag and anthem during the month of May.

Minister Mthethwa believes the month-long programme will also strengthen culture and creative industries and their value-add in socio-economic development, as well as provide a platform to promote the African Union institutions and policies.

Africa Month will be celebrated under the theme "We are Africa - Opening the doors of learning and culture to promote peace and friendship from Cape to Cairo".

Department spokesperson Sandile Memela said "as part of the celebrations, the department has planned an exciting programme of activities placed across the country through various forms of arts such as music, literature, theatre, visual arts, film, fashion, cuisines, seminars, exhibitions, lectures and panel discussions".

INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF SERVICE AT HOME AFFAIRS

Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba has launched the Moetapele Leadership Initiative which will ensure members of the public receive consistently high quality service from Home Affairs officials

"The old Home Affairs is gone and dead. All people visiting Home Affairs seeking services must leave happy and satisfied," he said speaking at the launch of the initiative in Edenvale, Johannesburg on Tuesday, 12 May 2015.

Under the Moetapele Leadership Initiative the department will aim to reduce long queues and prioritise the elderly and sick.

The intention is to improve the performance of officials who serve the public directly to ensure that they serve efficiently and effectively with courtesy and competently.

As part of the initiative, all Home Affairs officials are expected to have their name tags bearing their faces when serving clients. The initiative also encourages officials to practice leadership in their different areas.

The Minister also announced that as from September this year, people will be able to submit their ID applications from home using the internet and they will only have to visit the Home Affairs offices for their ID photos and finger prints to be taken.

Did you know?

Did you know?

Liberia was the first African independent republic

Did you know?

Libya is the only country in the world with only one color for its flag, with no insignias, design or other detail. It is the fourth largest country in Africa by area, and the 17th largest in the world

Did you know?

The world's biggest frog is found in Cameroon. Named the Goliath frog, their body can be one-foot long and weighs up to 8 IB. The goliath frog can live up to 15 years.

Did you know?

Afri was the Latin name for an ancient people located on the shores of the southern Mediterranean Sea near the city of Carthage, nowadays Tunisia. The Romans referred to the region as Africa terra (land of the Afri), based on the stem Afr- with the adjective suffix -ic-

Did you know?

Angola is from the Kimbundu language n'gola "lord, chief". N'gola, name as 16th century king, when Portugal colonized the country.

Did you know?

Botswana - the country (bo) of the Tswana people- was formerly called Bechuanaland.

Did you know?

Burkina Faso means "the land of upright people". It was renamed on 4 August 1984, by President Thomas Sankara to mean "the land of upright people"

VISION

Excellence in Public Resource Management for Socio-Economic development

MISSION

Empowering Provincial and Local Government for sustainable service delivery through good governance and sound public resource management

"We are the best in what we do"