

ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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MEDIA RELEASE

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES

TITLE: MAYOR JULIA MATHEBE ATTRIBUTES POLITICAL STABILITY TO GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE ELIAS MOTSOLEDI MUNICIPALITY

Elias Motsoaledi – credited for being one of South Africa’s shining examples of good governance at municipal level - today (Friday, 27 May 2016) recommitted itself to excel further in service delivery implementation to address the needs of the Groblersdal community in Limpopo during the 2016/17 Financial Year.

Named after Rivonia Treason Trialist Elias Motsoaledi, the Elias Motsoaledi Municipality which has not been plagued by any service delivery protests has been rated among the top municipalities in South Africa - maintaining a distinguished record of succeeding in creating a stable political environment.

In her State of the Municipality address before a packed crowd at the Groblersdal Council Chambers, Mayor Julia Mathebe attributed political stability in the area to “good leadership that takes into account the needs and concerns of our community”. Describing herself as “a humble servant of the people”, Mathebe said showing leadership and accountability was her approach to local challenges in the area.

“Since the advent of local government elections in 2011, we took a posture that propelled us to go back to basics, meaning that the provision of basic services should be a priority,” said Mathebe, adding: “To provide effective and efficient services to our people, there should be good governance structures and systems in place that would provide a baseline of governance.”

Mathebe said she was happy that during her tenure as Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Municipality every council meeting was attended by a quorum of council members. “This remarkable achievement has led to most council meetings to be concluded as scheduled,” she said to thunderous applause from the audience, which included community, traditional, labour and business leaders.

The State of the Municipality Address followed weeks of engagement with key stakeholders which included the community through various platforms on the future service delivery and budget plans. Mathebe said of the process: “It has been a necessary robust exercise seeking to ensure an all-inclusive process that takes on board all views and contributions. With good guidance from the Treasury, we have ensured that we prioritise and align our plans to the financial resources to impact on desired results.”

After aligning the municipal priorities with community, business and government expectations, the council came up with a 2016/17 Financial Year budget with a focus on good governance; service delivery; infrastructure development; investment; roads construction and maintenance; electrification, human settlement, tourism and solid waste – among key areas.

She explained: “In preparing the budget for the financial year 2016/17, we have aligned our priorities to the national and the provincial priorities to ensure that our programmes as Elias Motsoaledi Municipality are in line with our government’s strategic framework on service delivery. This, we are doing to achieve the idea of a seamless government.”

With the projected total budgeted revenue for the financial year 2016/2017 amounting to R403 million and the projected total budgeted expenditure set at R328.9 million, there will be a total budgeted surplus of R 74 million for the year after taking out the non-cash items - depreciation and debt impairment.

Some of the areas to be funded over the medium-term include - among others:

- Electricity related projects to be implemented at a tune of R14.5 million.
- Storm-water channels projects allocated R2 million.
- Roads related projects to be implemented at an amount of R59.8 million.
- Operational equipment allocated R1.3 million.
- Recreational facilities planning in Groblersdal town allocated R600 000.

Issued: Elias Motsoaledi Municipality

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