


November 2024



VOICE OF EMFULENI

External Newsletter



#NOEXCUSE
16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
FOR NO VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN AND
CHILDREN

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Our children are our greatest treasure. They are our future. Those who abuse them tear at the fabric of our society and weaken our nation.

As long as we take the view that these are problems for women alone to solve, we cannot expect to reverse the high incidence of rape and child abuse. Domestic violence will not be eradicated. We will not defeat this scourge that affects each and every one of us, until we succeed in mobilising the whole of our society to fight it.

Address by President Nelson Mandela at National Men's March, Pretoria - 22 November 1997

SANRAL & ELM COMMENCE WORK ON THE 'SWIMMING POOL ROAD' IN EVATON WEST EXTENSION 5 AND 7



Ward 26 Evaton West Extension where the community came in large numbers to witness the start of the new era.

By Chuchi Radebe

The Emfuleni Local Municipality (ELM) is happy to announce that the first sod was turned at Ward 26 in Evaton West Extension 5 and 7 on Monday, 18 November 2024 marking an official beginning of construction work to be done at the site. The reconstruction of the main street in Evaton West forms part of the municipality's ongoing attempts to improve quality road infrastructure in Emfuleni. The purpose-built road has been budgeted for R16 million and will cover 1,2 kilometers. The road will feature a sidewalk and a stormwater drainage system to prevent pooling.

Councillor Isaac Lekhema said he is happy that the plight of the community he is serving has been heard by the municipality and SANRAL. **“We are overjoyed as the Evaton West community that a road project we've been longing for has finally come to our area. The reconstruction of the road is highly welcomed as the community will no longer struggle to go to work and school during rainy seasons”.**

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Executive Mayor Siphso Radebe pointed out that the municipality is determined to deliver services to communities as required. "Since December 2021, our communities have been complaining about this street, now popularly known as the swimming pool road. Because of budget challenges, the municipality could not help as and when expected. After several site visits and observing how this community struggled during rainy seasons, we approached different government spheres for help, and we are thankful that SANRAL has come onboard," Mayor said.

"Reconstruction of this road means parents getting to work earlier, children getting to school earlier, emergency vehicles accessing the area quicker and most importantly, the communities of Extension 5 and 7 burying their loved ones without worrying about a bad access road. We call on the affected Evaton West community to support the project to aid its scheduled completion," Mayor Radebe added.

Below: ELM Executive Mayor, Cllr. Siphso Radebe was joined by Cllr. Tumi Mochawe, MMC Public Works, Cllr. Ndade Mokoena, MMC Public Safety, Cllr. Isaac Lekhema, Ward 26 Councillor and South African Road Agency Limited (SANRAL) representatives at the official sod turning.



BRINGING RELIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS TO COMMUNITIES

By Paulina Ndlovu

Emfuleni has introduced the main contractors for an innovative Solar High Mast energy project. This groundbreaking initiative is set to bring reliable and sustainable energy to the communities of Cape Gate and Tshepiso North Ext 3. The Solar High Mast project is a significant step towards providing the communities with access to clean and reliable energy. This initiative will not only improve the quality of life for the residents but also contribute to a more environmentally friendly and sustainable future.

The site was handed over to contractors on 18 November 2024 by the Acting MMC of Human Settlement, Cllr Mako. *“As the MMC responsible for this project, I am thrilled to welcome this opportunity, particularly as we are in the process of formalizing the informal settlements in these areas. The Solar High Mast project aligns perfectly with our vision for a more sustainable and developed community.”* said Mako.

The Ward 11 Cllr. S.J. Sefatsa, had a chance to engage with the main contractors and review the scope of work, which is expected to be completed within a month.

MMC Hassan Mako (third from the left) with his team handed over the site to contractors





CHALLENGES OF SPAZA SHOPS AS FOOD POISONING SURGE

During the Special Council Sitting held on 12 November 2024, the Executive Mayor of Emfuleni Local Municipality, Cllr Siphon Radebe pledged the municipality's commitment to ensuring compliance of all spaza shops and beefing up law enforcement with the aim to combat the spread of tragic incidents related to food poisoning. This came three days before the national address by President Cyril Ramaphosa, setting new targets to be implemented immediately to combat the challenge faced by the country. Gauteng Province has been noted as among the top provinces where food borne diseases have been reported since the outbreak in September when children were reported dead in Naledi, Soweto due to consumption of food from a local spaza.

With new targets set by the Presidency to combat this nationwide threat, ELM is working tirelessly and round the clock in pursuit to curb related incidents occurring in the area. Mayor Radebe chaired the emergency multi disciplinary intervention meeting recently where Sedibeng, Midvaal, Lesedi Municipality, Cogta, SAPS, Organised Business and other key departments met with focus on a district integrated joint and common approach to irradiated and avert this crisis.

The Local Economic Development at ELM is currently reviewing its Spaza Shop Database and has started with registration process. Through Joint Operations, the department of Health and Social Development, By-Law Unit and other Law enforcement units including South African Police Services have been conducting random operations to check and enforce compliance of local Spaza shops.

Non-compliant shops have been closed, condemnation and probation notices issued and arrests of illegal immigrants also made.

The Executive Director for Community Services raised concerns of resources, especially human capital in the By Law Section of the municipality, thus confirming the department's struggle to cover the enforcement issues adequately. The multidisciplinary focus approach seeks to streamline resources and the work of government to address issues related to compliance, immigration, lawlessness, land use management, local economic development and many others which center around this nationwide challenge.

ELM is continuing with joint operations in order to mitigate the problems faced. Those caught with food items not for consumption will be apprehended and food items disposed of. Non-compliant spazas will be closed off and those contravening the law including illegal immigrants will be arrested. Emfuleni continues with registration of spaza shops. The municipality will continue to enhance its inspection teams, pulling more resources to enforce compliance of all spaza shops and food handling facilities.



Law enforcement officers during recent operations discarding expired food items.

Emfuleni Local Municipality is embarking on registration of all spaza shops and food-handling businesses. This is in line with the directive issued by the President of the Republic of South Africa requiring all spaza shops and food-handling businesses to be registered within 21 days.

EXECUTIVE MAYOR REGRETS THE DEATH OF A BUSINESSMAN DUE TO VIOLENT PROTESTS

“It is sad that we lost an activist and a business person in Bophelong. The deceased, Mr Maphike was shot several times according to police and media reports. This is a sad development in our townships. This developing situation may spiral into uncontrollable levels if we fail to intervene in time. The public is calling for the government to protect the lives of our citizens and Emfuleni is at a centre of fulfilling these wishes of the public.” Executive Mayor Cllr Radebe said during the Special Council Sitting held on 12 November 2024.

MEC of Economic Development Lebogang Maile is concerned about Emfuleni recent violent protests. During his recent visits in Sharpeville, he engaged with the community and families affected by the recent violence and looting of spaza shops. Maile was joined by Councillor David Mokolopo and other representatives from the Emfuleni Local Municipality (ELM) Speaker's office during the engagements. The MEC has promised to follow up in order to measure progress of interventions set.



Cllr Siphon Radebe
Executive Mayor
Emfuleni Local Municipality



Registration of Spaza Shops and other food handling facilities

Emfuleni Local Municipality is embarking on registration of all spaza shops and food-handling businesses. This is in line with the directive issued by the President of the Republic of South Africa requiring all spaza shops and food-handling businesses to be registered within 21 days. **The registration will be from 26 November 2024 to 13 December 2024, 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.** Any shop that is not registered within 21 days and does not meet all health standards and requirements will be closed.

Emfuleni Local Municipality is calling on all spaza shops owners and food-handling businesses to take this opportunity to apply for registration at the following centres:

Venue	Area	Physical Address
Vanderbijlpark Library	Vanderbijlpark	Klasie Havenga Street
Sedibeng District Municipality	Vereeniging	Cnr Beaconsfield and Leslie Street
Masoheng Municipal Offices	Sebokeng	Moshoeshoe Street,
Mafatsane Thusong Centre	Evaton	Union Road, Small Farms

Spaza shops and food-handling businesses are expected to meet the following minimum requirements:

- Appropriate zoning certificate
- Approved Building Plan and Occupancy certificate
- Certified copy of Title Deed
- Letter from the landlord if the property is not owned
- Identity document for residents of South Africa
- Fully endorsed work permit/Letter from Department of Home Affairs declaring confirmation to work and manage a business in South Africa for non-South Africans
- Registration with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC)
- Latest Municipal account statement for Business address
- Tax clearance certificate (South African Revenue Service (SARS) documents);
- SAPS Clearance (not older than 3 months)
- Fire Certificate
- Pest Control Certificate
- Neighbours Consent Form
- Certificate of acceptability
- Affidavit declaring that all submitted information is true and correct

Emfuleni Local Municipality will issue business licences in terms of the Business Act, 1991 (Act 71 of 1991) to all qualifying spaza shops and food-handling businesses who have applied for registration. Fully filled registration applications forms with aforementioned requirements must be returned to the Registration One Stop Centre at the Municipal Head Office, Mayor's Parlour, 1st Floor, Cnr Klasie Havenga and Frikkie Meyer Streets, Vanderbijlpark.

This notice was displayed as required by Legislation



TRACKING PROGRESS ON SERVICE DELIVERY PROJECTS

Leading his team, Cllr Hassan Mako, MMC for Finance, also currently acting MMC for Human Settlements have been on the ground, extensively conducting oversight visits to monitor work that is being conducted in the Emfuleni municipal area by various contractors. The tail of October month started off with a visit to the Housing Project in Extension 28 and 30 in Sebokeng. This was followed by an oversight visit to the construction site in Vereeniging and Three Rivers on 31 October 2024. Among others these visits aim to monitor, assess and track progress of municipal projects.

The Sebokeng housing project entails 6 000 units aimed at housing and bettering the lives of deserving beneficiaries. The project will also include SMME hub, a public hall, revamping of Kwa-Masiza Stadium and a taxi rank among other amenities.

“The Project comes at a time when we are battling with illegal occupation of land, our people will benefit greatly from this project. Improving our housing infrastructure in Emfuleni is essential for the advancement and the well-being of our community,” Mako said.

The Three Rivers and Vereeniging oversight was mainly on sewer upgrade projects in these areas. The Infrastructure Planning Development and Metsi-A- Lekoa led projects include the replacement of the gravity sewer pipelines at the corner of Voortrekker Street and Lewis Avenue, connecting to a part of union street. A project that is intended to improve the reliability of the sewer reticulation system, improving sewer spillages in the area.

The oversight visit by MMC and the Section 80 team emphasizes the municipality's dynamic approach to the development of infrastructure and development in Emfuleni. MMC Mako has committed to revisit the sites to ensure smooth operations and that the objectives of the project are realized.



MMC and the Section 80 team during the recent oversight visit.



NEW GRASS FIRE UNITS FOR EMFULENI AS FESTIVE SEASON NEARS

By Chuchi Radebe

In advancing servicing delivery and increasing capacity of Fire Fighting, Emfuleni Local Municipality Mayor and MMC for Public Safety have launched two brand new grass fire units worth two million rands. “I stand before you proud of this latest addition to our fleet considering that the two grass fire units will vastly boost our firefighting efforts.” said Executive Mayor, Cllr Siphon Radebe.

Two Land-Cruisers, an air compressor, two sets of jaws of life and a TETRA radio system that is compatible with the South African Police Services (SAPS) radio frequency have also been acquired. “The municipality now has a notable fleet that will improve emergency response time,” Acting Chief Fire Officer, Mr. Moloi Jacob Ngubeni said. With this acquisition ELM currently boasts five grass fire units and three fire engines with a fourth fire engine expected soon.

The Executive Mayor, Cllr Siphon Radebe commended the work of the Public Safety Department “under the strong leadership of MMC Mokoena” he said. “It is only fitting to say that the lives and properties of our residents are in good hands as emergency services in the municipality improve.” The new fleet forms part of the R4.2 million funding project by the Department of

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) for the 2023/2024 financial year.

- With the festive season upon us, the municipality is on high alert to respond to fires and other related emergencies.
- Residents are urged to be responsible with open flames and managing fires in general, this includes grilling (braai) over an open fire.

In addition to practising fire safety, residents can report any fire-related incidents by contacting our emergency call centre on 087 310 9622, 087 310 9632 or 087 310 9633.



Executive Mayor Cllr Siphonela launched the New Grass Fire Units at Emfuleni Head Offices

ELM EMERGES VICTORIOUS AFTER THEIR COURT BATTLE WITH ESKOM

“We have always argued that our participation in the Debt Relief Program was still intact as only the Treasury can advise otherwise.” The Municipal Manager of Emfuleni Local Municipality said after the High Court ruling ordering Eskom to lift all bank account attachments of the municipality. In September 2024, Eskom attached four of the bank accounts of the municipality resulting in municipal staff delayed salary payments for September. The power utility attached the municipality's bank account in early September on allegations that the municipality was no longer on the National Treasury Debt Relief programme, a matter that the municipality refuted.

Emfuleni Local Municipality approached the Court to seek upliftment while also seeking provincial government intervention on the matter. Deeming the bank account attachment decision unconstitutional and unlawful, Eskom was not only ordered to release the accounts but also pay the court application fees. **This ruling was highly welcomed by the municipality as it translates to normalcy in providing services to the people, paying contractors and staff salaries including all other operations.**

“With this chapter behind us, the municipality is looking forward to progressive working relations with Eskom. This will be accomplished through the recently signed Distribution Agency Agreement with the power utility, aimed at enhancing revenue collection and settling outstanding debt. The municipality is still part of the Debt Relief Program, and we shall do everything in our power to comply with the rules until our Eskom debt is settled. This is done in the best interest of the people of Emfuleni.”, Ntuli concluded.



*Emfuleni Municipal Manager
Mr April Ntuli*



ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS

ARE
YOU
READY?



The deadline of 24 of November 2024 for the Token Identifier (TID) rollover is fast approaching. All prepaid meter upgrades must be done, failing which tokens will not be accepted, leading to consumers without access to electricity. Consumers, both business and residents are encouraged to use the final two days to check their status to avoid blackouts.

The municipality started with the rollout from last year.

REMEMBER ALL ELECTRICITY METERS MUST BE UPGRADED BY 24 NOVEMBER 2024, METERS NOT UPGRADED WILL NOT ACCEPT ELECTRICITY TOKENS.

☞ If your meter upgrade is pending or your data needs updating, please use our WhatsApp platform or contact our control room to avoid disruptions. To access the WhatsApp self-service tool, send a message to **087 250 2853** and follow the prompts for support.

☞ If you have any queries or need help, please reach out to our Electricity Control Room on **087 310 3369, 087 562 0425, 087 562 0524 or 065 871 7483** (WhatsApp)

☞ ELM recently introduced the enhanced version of Lethabo, our WhatsApp-based self-service platform, **087 250 2853** that went live on Thursday, 24 October 2024. T

As we approach the TID Rollover deadline, it is important for all customers to verify their latest information for necessary compliance on the ELM database.

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY AS THE DEBT WRITE-OFF PROGRAMME KICKS OFF

Good news for consumers owing the municipal accounts!

The municipality is owed over eight billion rands as per the financial reports dating 31 August 2024.

This exorbitant amount owed has compelled the Emfuleni Local Municipality council to approve the write off- debt programme. The main purpose of this is to provide relief to consumers, equally enhancing the municipality's financial position. The debt relief programme is planned to kick-off from 1 December 2024.

The decision to venture into the Debt Rehabilitation Programme to enhance the municipality's financial position was made in a Special Council Meeting held recently at the Mayor's Parlour in Vanderbijlpark. *“As a caring government, we are aware that not all non-payment of services is deliberate on the part of consumers, we are equally aware that issues of high unemployment and challenging economic conditions of the country have an influence on payment for services. Having said that, the municipality will pursue easing the financial burden on its valued consumers.”*, said MMC for Finance Cllr Hassan Mako.

In line with the municipal credit control and debt impairment policy, residential, business and non-profit account holders who meet the qualifying criteria will be granted a valuable 50 percent write-off once they enter a payment arrangement. We have confidence that Emfuleni consumers will use this opportunity and to work with us to deal with challenges confronting the municipality. Consumers are urged to approach the nearest Customer Care Centre for more information.

Consumers urged to make use of the municipality's Debt Rehabilitation Programme.

FOCUS ON THE UPCOMING VAAL RIVER CITY



The K174-Interchange, making Vaal River City a reality

By Richard Chaka

In 2015, the Gauteng Provincial Government in conjunction with Sedibeng District Municipality, introduced what was then estimated to be an R11 billion Vaal City Project, envisioning South Africa's inaugural 'post-apartheid' new city along the mighty Vaal River. The then Premier, Mr David Makhura unveiled the project during a sod turning event in May 2015, locating the city in Gauteng's southern corridor, in Emfuleni within the Sedibeng district, with strategic access to key roads.

Besides the attraction of the mighty river, this historic region, famously known as the "Vaal Triangle" bears significance as the site of the Sharpeville and Boipatong massacres in 1960 and 1992 respectively, the Vaal uprisings, and Nelson Mandela's signing of the South African constitution on the 10th of December 1996 thus making it attractive for investment and settlement.

The envisaged Vaal River City is poised to boast 400,000 square meters of commercial space, 60,000 square meters of retail, 20 hectares of parkland, and 5,000 residences, epitomizing a new era of work, fun and live in smart city development.

As a standard practice, all new developments are mandated to comply with municipal development requirements, including zoning laws, building codes, environmental regulations, and infrastructure standards and improvements, ensuring a safe, sustainable, and community-driven development. These processes, depending on the size and magnitude, may take long, resulting in potential investors or developers changing their investment strategies.

Zonings require that developers must adhere to land use, density, height, and setback regulations. Building Codes and Standards must be observed and adhere to. Regulations ensure safe, accessible, and sustainable construction.

Provision or upgrading of roads, utilities, and services are necessary. Hearings and planning board or tribunal approvals allow for community input. Assessments to evaluate potential development impacts on the environment and traffic are also part of this process.



Upgrading of roads near North West University Vaal Campus



PUBLIC NOTICE

EVENTS MANAGEMENT

Emfuleni Local Municipality has a well-established Events Management Committee. Events Management Committee serves an advisory role and also guide the event organisers and Community at large on staging of events. It is the committee's responsibility to ensure that events organised within Emfuleni Jurisdiction are law abiding, the committee also look on issues of event risk management and help to avoid disasters and problems during events. Events Management Committee Work is guided by **SASREA ACT** and all other applicable events management laws, by laws and regulations.

Events Management committee have noticed with a great concern **Mushrooming** of events that are non-compliant taking place within the Emfuleni, events which can pose a safety hazard to its patrons or community at large.

Event organisers hosting events within Emfuleni Local Municipality are requested to present their events to the Events Management Committee months earlier before implementation of their events. This will help event organisers to get proper guidance on events Compliance issues. Event owners and organisers must complete JOC application forms which can be obtained at Emfuleni offices at Vanderbijlpark, SE 2 swimming pool. JOC application forms should be submitted at this email address **Gauteng.events@saps.gov.za** for consideration and categorization by SAPS Province.

For further assistance event's organisers should:

- Make a booking a week prior for presentation with Emfuleni Events Management Committee which seats every Tuesday from 10 o'clock at ELM offices at Vanderbijlpark SE2 swimming pool offices corner Tanner and Macowen Street.
- The nature of certain events may require organisers to practice due diligence and consult with events committee months earlier before implementation of an event.
- Submit applications with all supporting documents at ELM SRAC offices, swimming pool Corner Tanner and Macowen Street.
- Obtain approval from the Events Management Committee before executing/ staging an event in Emfuleni Jurisdiction.

Amongst others these are crucial permits required to stage an event:

1. Noise Pollution / Exemption
2. Liquor License
3. Fire Works Permit (if applicable)
4. Health Permit or Certificate
5. Trading Permit
6. Event Permit (Risk Categorization)
7. Engineering Certificate
8. Venue Grading Certificate

9. Structural Permits (Tents)
10. Public Liability
11. All letters informing relevant People / Appointments / Partnership
12. PSIRA Certificate (Security Guards)
13. Music SAMRO and SAMPRA for venue
14. DJ's SAMRO and SAMPRA

Operational plans required depending on the nature of an event:

1. Detailed Event plan or Concept Document
2. Disaster management plan (Security Plan/ Safety Plan)
3. Evacuation plan
4. Fire protection plan
5. Crowd Management Plan
6. Medical Plan (EMS)
7. Water Plan
8. Waste Plan
9. Floor plan
10. Proof of payment to all relevant Departments (tariffs)

N.B All above documents to be submitted to the Events Management committee during presentations before event is implemented.

Approval

- Event organisers to adhere to Events Committee Time Frames and requirements, present progress report in order for their events to be supported
- All events organisers to obtain **Approval** before implementation of events

Once approval has been granted the event organiser shall ensure:

- Compliance with municipalities by laws
- Compliance with municipalities advertising laws

Indemnity Form

Indemnity form must be completed and submitted to Events Committee, in order for the municipality to be indemnified against all actions, lawsuits, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, and expenses arising.

Failure to adhere to ALL ABOVE will lead to the possibility of an event being cancelled, or Organisers to face huge fines or Imprisonment if event executed without approval.

Event Organisers are required to prepare 5 (Five) Hard copies of files for the Committee for the purpose of presenting and filling.

For more information contact: theresia@emfuleni.gov.za

BYEVENTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



STAGE 1

WATER CONSERVATION NOW IN EFFECT

Don't leave taps running. Please
limit lawn watering.
Keep showers short.
Re-use grey water for gardening.
Monitor and fix water leaks.



Take shorter showers



Check faucets and pipes
for leaks

Only water your garden
when necessary

Choose a shower over
a bath



No hosing of pavements
Turn water off while brushing
your teeth



Use a bucket to wash
your car

Wash full loads of laundry



Conserve water
in the kitchen



METSI-A-LEKOA CUSTOMER CARE CENTRE:

087 310 4095 • 087 310 3424 • 087 310 4109

010 345 1640/1

REACHING EMFULENI



Fire and Rescue Control Centre

087 310 9622

087 310 9632

087 310 9633



Electricity Department Control Room

087 562 0425

087 310 3369

087 562 0524

WhatsApp 065 871 7483



Metsi-a-lekoa Customer Care Centre

087 310 4095

087 310 3424

087 310 4109

010 345 1640 / 1

Bank Account Details



TO PAY UTILITIES

Bank - FNB

Account No. 62865705746

Account Holder:

Emfuleni Local Municipality

Branch Code 210-554

Swift Code FIRNZAJJ

TO PAY FINES PLEASE USE

ACCOUNT NO. 62865706538