In an effort to strengthen the voice of communities, Thulamela municipality executive committee led by Mayor Mahosi N.G on the 4th of December 2014 embarked on a public participation programme at Phiphidi village. The objective was to foster participatory democracy and apply batho-pele principles through caring, accessibility and accountable service. This is a response to President Jacob Zuma’s call to the public sector to ensure that they rise to the challenge and communicate with citizens on a daily basis.

Honourable Mayor of Thulamela Cllr Mahosi N. G has been on the forefront of this initiative and with the executive committee regularly visits communities to get first hand feel of issues affecting them.

Residents of Phiphidi Ward 31 of Thulamela municipality braved the rainy weather to register their concern with the honourable Mayor through established ward structures, the platform has also afforded residence an opportunity to receive government services in their door step as key government services were being rendered by various sector departments. The Thulamela izimbizo approach has been carrying the message that “working together we can change lives in south Africa” it is with conviction that the people of this country can stand up with pride and celebrate 20yrs of freedom understanding that south Africa is a much better place than it was in 1994 said the honourable Mayor during her sum-up response.
VISION
We, the people of Thulamela would like our Municipality to achieve a city status by year 2030, to promote urban regeneration and comprehensive rural development whilst encouraging Local Economic Development to improve the quality of lives of our People.

MISSION
We build prosperity, eradicate poverty and promote social, political and economic empowerment of all our people through delivery of quality services, community participation, local economic development and smart administration

MOTTO
“We serve with Dedication”

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EDITORIAL comment

It is almost unbelievable that we are approaching 2014 National Elections. Amazing how time flies when we are at hard work contributing to improving the quality of life for our people, our children, people living with disabilities and those affected by HIV/Aids pandemic.

Let us continue to encourage young people to register and vote in the 2014 general election. Our elected representatives are guided by what we say particularly when we vote. We must all heed the president's call of assuring that we live according to the lesson taught by former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

As per the IDP process, the Municipality together with other stakeholders agrees to place roads and storm water as a first priority followed by electricity, land and housing. We therefore confidently promise that we are succeeding offering our communities greater access to better quality services.

We are building achievable common purpose, aspirations and goals by intensifying our quest for good governance, by creating a good relationship with our Traditional Leaders through Mayors’ Traditional Outreach Programme. As a responsible municipality we will continue to advance the interest of ordinary people, working together with our communities and solidifying the synergy of our developmental programmes with those of the District Municipality, Provincial and National government.

Let's register and vote in the 2014 National Elections.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS OF THE MUNICIPALITY

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With the end in sight pertaining to the realisation of universal access to electricity, our focus from now will be well invested if turned to the construction of proper roads and streets.

The campaign to hasten the pace of rolling out electricity to our people was pursued in spite of the huge challenges we faced. We had no money but vision. The Auditor General had problems with our approach, We must rid the roads department and its sections off all issues or assignments that are not roads related. They must focus on this main activity of building roads. Any matter that is not related to streets and roads must be given to their mother departments. We cannot afford any more delays. Our people have had enough of this problem.

Some Streets have never been properly worked since their creation. Our schools, Grave yards tribal areas, hospitals, clinics and homes must be easily accessible. Our standards to attend to potholes must be implemented and not just remain flowers in our shelves and slogans in meetings. They must be real. Campaign teams must be established to get the campaign off the ground.

Sceptics and slow learners must be well archived that the campaign won’t wait for them. Some want to embrace victory and not the war. They will celebrate with us later as was with electricity. Our people deserve this and it can be done. Our campaign to electrify our communities should inspire everybody. We must now invite our communities to join this campaign and the work must start now. Then we can be a city in 2030.

This will require clarity of vision and foresight of those in the affected department both administrators and politicians. Council has to be commended for the name it gave to this department. In the name a Roads Department everybody gets to know that our focus is nothing else but roads. In this name we get the content of what is the main preoccupation of the sections in the department. This name should therefore be kept to inform our future campaigns to construct Thulamela Roads and Streets.

My assertion is that we can do even better on the new campaign to build roads and our streets. Communities know now that when we work together we get better results. They saw it with electricity. We have a simpler task to get them convinced, compared to when we started the electricity campaign.

We have touched base with the DBSA to check if they will be willing to support this campaign. They do not show any aversion to it. I believe that real political leaders will support this campaign. In fact some communities have already showed interest towards this directions.

Those in the roads section must be made to know and understand that no effort will be spared, from now, regarding this matter. We must rid the roads department and its sections off all issues or assignments that are not roads related. They must focus on this main activity of building roads. Any matter that is not related to streets and roads must be given to their mother departments. We cannot afford any more delays. Our people have had enough of this problem.

Those who were against the campaign today claim that the program was theirs. Is that not great? Some municipalities are sent to us to take notes and we must help them. That’s how we can serve the nation.
Thulamela Municipality held its annual ward committee imbizo at Makwarela Town Hall.

The purpose of the imbizo was to capacitate ward committee members and strengthen their roles in communication intervention and support of service delivery. As a structure of governance at a local level strengthening and reviewing their role will go a long way towards ensuring that good governance structures and a local level and public participation.

In his keynote address the Speaker of Thulamela Municipality Cllr Baloyi M.E indicated that ward committees must remember that they exist to put people at the centre of their work and that they should be champions of local platforms that bring about development in their respective communities.

He further indicated the need to have solid understanding of the plan which local government has to implement to ensure a better life for communities over the next five years.

In his closing remarks the Speaker indicated the need to have this event annually so that ward committees are given opportunity to share best practices, challenges and capacity building to be better prepared to spearhead development and become agents of change.

“You are the ambassadors of your communities”

“Prepared to spearhead development and become agents of change”
Public Protector, Thuli Madonsela visits Thulamela Municipality

Thulamela Municipality was given an opportunity to re-affirm its commitment by joining hands with the public protector to strengthen government constitutional mandate to ensue participatory governance.

The Mayor of Thulamela Municipality Honourable Mahosi N.G indicated the municipality’s commitment to restore government’s integrity by using their concerted efforts which will contribute to poverty reduction, efficient service delivery and corruption free south Africa.

Thohoyandou town hall was parked to its capacity with concerned residence who wanted to register their concern with the public protector. In her response the public protector Adv. Thuli Madonsela reiterated that “overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity but an act of justice, therefore our freedom can never be complete or stable unless the basic need of our people are met”.

“Joining hands with Public Protector to strengthen government constitutional mandate”
VEFPA in partnership with Tshilidzini Hospital and Thulamela Municipality led by CLLR NG Mahosi buried 34 unidentified corpse at mbaleni cemetery.
The 34 unidentified bodies which were piling up at Tshilidzini Mortuary, marked he highest number of unidentified bodies compared to the 17 corpse which were buried last year.
Speaking during the event the Mayor indicated the municipality’s commitment to embark on the activity in accordance with how National Welfare chapter Mandates. She further encourage citizen and non-citizen to follow all home affairs protocol to register as temporary and permanent citizen of South African.

**“34 unidentified corpses buried at Mbaleeni Cemetery”**

A sharp rise in the number of unknown bodies to be burried during paupers funeral conducted by Thulamela municipality.

**Everyone deserves a decent burial**

Vhembe Funeral Undertakers joins hands with Thulamela Municipality and Department of Health to give decent burial to unknown members of the foreginers community.
Proper Housing to the needy...

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LEFT: List of completed houses pledged by the Mayor of Thulamela Municipality.

LEFT AND BELOW: Mayor and EXCO members posing with some of housing beneficiaries.
In an effort to raise awareness and provide clarity on some of the frequently asked questions, Thulamela executive committee led by Honorable Mayor of Thulamela Municipality made a detailed presentation to Tshivhase Traditional Council at Mukumbani Royal kraal.

The presentation which was made by head of planning and development Maluleke H.E covered amongst others: criteria for exception, reduction and rebates, preparation for a valuation roll, rates policy, data collection and public inspection of the valuation roll. Relief measures offered to rate payers such as granting of exemptions, rebates and reduction in respect of owners of categories of properties such as indigents owners, owners dependent on pension or social grants were also covered.

Municipal property rate act is a national law that regulate the power of a municipality to value and rate immovable property located within the boundaries of municipalities.

In her response the Mayor of Thulamela municipality emphasized the need for property rates to be paid so that municipalities can have reliable source of revenue to provide basic services and perform their function and these includes the construction and maintenance of street, sidewalks, and street lightning and storm drainage facilities.

In his closing remark Chief Themeli emphasized the importance of Traditional Council partnership with the municipality to ensure speeding up of service delivery.

Property Rates Clarified

Chief Themeli gives closing remarks from the traditional council.
Hands on approach in infrastructure development

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, act 108 of 1996 schedule 5 part B list local sports facilities and municipal parks and recreation as functional areas of exclusive provincial legislative competence. The upgrading and construction of the facility is part of the infrastructure programme that supports the government’s Sports and recreation development programme. The municipality has set aside 7 million towards the upgrade of Thohoyandou stadium. The main purpose is to ensure that sports facilities are constructed taking into consideration issues such as accessibility, sustainability, safety and user-friendliness thereby improving the quality of playing fields and facilities. Sports and recreation infrastructure development will go a long way towards ensuring sports promotion, repositioning of sport excellence and contribution to local economic development said portfolio head of sports arts and culture.

“WE ARE THE LEADER IN THE EFFICIENT USE OF MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FUNDS”
Thulamela municipality hosted public participation feedback session with the aim to provide feedback on all issues raised during Mayoral izimbizos held in various wards. The event was in response to implementation principles & protocol for public participation programme that requires that feedback to be provided to communities promptly based on the issues and concerns raised. District based sector department provided feedback on all issues that relates to their portfolios and provided way forward on how community concerns will be addressed.

The event was used to consult with stakeholders and strengthen partnership in line with various sectors to allow government to draw attention to the progress it is making and implementation of all concerns and issues raised.

The idea was to move from the imbizo approach which deteriorated into platforms for continuous complaints by citizens and documentation of issues which were seldom adequately addressed or fed back to citizens.

It is in this platform where the municipality was able to highlight progress made with regard to issues raised and provided timelines as reflected on the integrated development planning on how other service delivery backlogs will be addressed.

The event was evident that Government is moving towards re-inventing izimbizo in a manner which will make participatory governance work. This approach requires coordination, follow-up and implementation of issues.

“All the interaction have resulted in intervention in the lives of many, as issues raised by communities have been attended to with sense of agency.” Said the honourable Mayor in her response during the feedback session.
Thulamela Municipality responded to the call of action and devoted its 67 minutes of service to Mrs Muvhulawa a senior citizen at Mhagala Vhufumba Village ward 2 under the theme “take action, inspire change, make everyday a mandela day”.

Mandela day is a global call of action to celebrate the idea that each individual has the power to transform the world, the ability to make an impact. In return for social advancement the day started by Thulamela and other stakeholders joined hand to build a four roomed house for a 74 years old granny who was staying in a one roomed Mud house.

During his address, the acting Mayor of Thulamela Municipality Cllr Netshifhefhe appealed to the members of the community not to spend 67 minutes only on the 18th of July but to create space to help community at all times.

“Mandela said at the time of the campaign's launch that he would be honoured if such a day can serve to bring together people around the world to fight poverty and promote peace and reconciliation”

In return for everything Madiba taught us, we each owe it to him to support his work and legacy by doing our own as best we can.
Thulamela is a local municipality responsible for the development of roads infrastructure and other infrastructures for the supply of basic services. The core function of this Department is to roll out an initiative in which communities are partnering with the local municipality to upgrade their community/village roads. This is an initiative that will see Thulamela as a whole reducing unemployment and alleviating poverty within these communities. The possibility exists that long after the completion of upgrading the said streets/roads, such communities will be able to continue sustaining these programs through the skills acquired during the upgrading.

In line with our vision 2030 of becoming a city, the Road Services Department intends developing business plans for all areas within the proclaimed area. This strategy will assist the municipality in lobbying funding from both prospective grant funders and other commercial financial institutions.

Our emphasis on the adapted EPWP principles known in this municipality as “Kha ri shumisane”/“Ahi tirhi swinwe” will indeed be reinforced by the two strategies namely vision 2030 and community roads surfacing

EPWP is one of the key components of the government’s drive to alleviate poverty and unemployment in South Africa.

In the year 2007, this Municipality had a concept named “The Job creation initiative”. The then Executive council “EXCO” adopted the initiative under the wing of EPWP.

The Kharishumisane Programme provides short and long term work opportunities to disadvantaged communities in the area of jurisdiction of the Thulamela Local Municipality.

The municipality’s EPWP is being championed by Cllr T.S Mbedzi whose role is to drive and foresee the implementation of EPWP.

Kharishumisane programme is being implemented across all departments within the municipality. Community Services Department also utilizes EPWP to collect waste.

The Roads Service Department has also benefited in the Kharishumisane program. The implementation of road maintenance, road marking, and stormwater drain cleaning along the municipality roads.

A pilot project such as the construction of local school sidewalks programme will be an ongoing project to help in the assisting of school learners to avoid the use of streets going and coming back from school.

Partnership with communities has also showcased a success of the Kharishumisane Programme where a community at Phindula village took an initiative to buy themselves paving bricks to be used in a steep muddy road that prevented access to their homes during rainy seasons. The community then asked assisted from the municipality where they hired to pave the road to give accessibility to the community in need.

Manyuha Access road is one of the EPWP (Kharishumisane) programme that excelled from the beginning of November 2012 where the project has acquired 31 beneficiaries. The project has minimized poverty in the area. The excellent work of construction of drifts and v-drain has made the project to be nominated in the 2013 Kamoso Awards. The awards are done to nominate excellent work been created by labour intensive work methods all around the country.

Kharishumisane is indeed a programme that sustain the eradication of poverty in the municipality which in the near future will help the beneficiaries to create work for themselves. The use of the beneficiaries in the programme helps the municipality to be fast in achieving the 2013 vision. The dedication of communities and together with the employees it is possible to eradicate poverty that will in return reflect on our Thulamela motto “WE SERVE WITH DEDICATION”.

“Partnering with communities to upgrade their roads”
As we begin the 2014 school year, I encourage every student and parents to embrace the opportunity to make this a great school year. I appreciate and recognize the fact that it is the hard work and dedication of every teacher and parents that will make our schools top performing schools that we can all be proud of. My request to the community is first of all to ensure every student’s regular attendance and secondly be supportive to our schools and become involved in the education of our students throughout the school year.

The first day of school marks the beginning of our school year. For students I have a simple message: work hard, get smart.

We can talk about your Government’s responsibility for setting high standards and supporting teachers and principals. We can talk about your parent’s responsibility for inspiring students and pushing you to learn.

We can have the most dedicated teachers, the most supportive parents, the best schools in the world and none of it will make a difference, none of it will matter unless all of you fulfill your responsibility, by showing up to those schools, paying attention to those teachers, listening to your parents and putting in the hard work it takes to succeed.

That is the focus of the message, the responsibility each of you has for your education. If we all work together, we can make this a successful year of learning, further helping us to accomplish the vision of advancing education.

Every single one of you has something to offer, and you have a responsibility to yourself to discover what that is, and that’s the opportunity education can provide.

On behalf of Thulamela Municipality, please accept my best wishes for this new school year.

From the Mayor of Thulamela Municipality, Her Worship Cllr Mahosi N.G
The Greenest Municipality (formerly The Cleanest Town) Competition has been run since 2001 on a yearly basis. Our Municipality has been receiving awards in terms of trophies and cash prices every year since 2001. This year is no exception as again Thulamela Municipality was able to prove our critics wrong and our competitors were left eating humble pie. The competition assesses municipalities in terms of Waste Management, Energy Efficiency and Conservation; Water Management, Greening, Public Participation and Community Empowerment. The Greenest Municipality Competition (GMC) starts at district and then level proceed to provincial level and the champions competes nationally for the ultimate price. Our Municipality was the last man standing at district level. We took position No.1 and was awarded a trophy, a certificate and a cash price of R20,000.00.

During the month of November 2013, we proceeded to the provincial level to compete with the best 5 Greenest Municipalities in Limpopo Province to represent Vhembe District Municipality where Thulamela Municipality took position No.3. Our Municipality received a trophy, certificate and a whooping cash price of R50,000.00.

This is no mean feast as it is a reward of hard work, commitment and dedication by all stakeholders involved and is also worth noting that during the two day assessment, there were challenges in areas like Water and Sanitation as our colleagues who are water authorities at VDM were on strike, Malamulele was also another challenge as the area could not be serviced properly because of strikes as well.

Thulamela Municipality promise the people of Thulamela, including the entire district forum area, that 2014 will be different. We are ready for the challenge and our communities are ready as well.

Please watch this space during 2014.
The best Driver in Limpopo serves in Thulamela Municipality

Thifhelimbilu Ramaano, a Machine Operator working under the Environment and Waste Management Division of the Department of Community Services, is one lady with a nerve of steel. She operates refuse removal compactors and other similar heavy machineries in Thulamela Municipality.

The South African Government runs the Driver of the Year Competition as a way of encouraging drivers, both public and private, to be sensitive to the road carnage that engulfs our country every day in our public roads; and also to take care of their most expensive commodity in any business undertaking; that is our transport vehicles. The Competition starts at district level, proceed to the provincial level and finally to the national level. The competition is run by the Department of Roads and Transport.

This year it was no different and the competition started at district level as usual. Our Machine Operator and a lady for that matter, Ms Thifhelimbilu Ramaano, took position No.1 in the Rigid category in Vhembe District. She was given a certificate for being a driver of the year and a trophy.

If that was not enough, our lady of steel proceeded to the province where she even surprised all of us by not only being No.1 in her category, but for being chosen as Limpopo Over-All Driver of the Year.

Ms Thifhelimbilu Ramaano took position No.1 in the Rigid category where she was awarded a certificate for participation, a gold medal, R5000.00 cash price and a micro-wave oven.

She was again chosen as Limpopo’s Best Driver of the Year; inclusive of all categories, leaving all gentlemen who were competing with her eating humble pie. She was awarded a certificate; a three day week-end voucher to a hotel of her choice and a R5000.00 cash price. Thifhelimbilu is going to represent Limpopo Province in the Drivers of the Year Competition nationally in December 2013.

The lady is determined and confident that she will bring back the silverware and make Thulamela very proud, and generally the people of Limpopo proud as well. The municipality is going to give her all the necessary support and hope that she will mentor other drivers to do well during the coming 2014 competition.

“she will mentor other drivers to do well during the coming 2014 competition.”
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

Key messages

BRIEF:
On 27 April 1994 South Africa cast aside centuries of discrimination and oppression to form a new society built on the foundation of freedom and democracy. It marked the end of apartheid rule and an introduction of a new Constitutional order, wherein all work towards a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

However, we must never forget that our road to democracy was not easy and was achieved because of the unyielding sacrifice of thousands of patriots. The year 2014 presents an opportunity for the people of South Africa, the continent and rest of the world to join us in celebrating the South African story.

Next year South Africa will celebrate 20 years of freedom and democracy. This momentous occasion presents an opportunity for us to reflect on how our freedom and democracy were achieved; the progress we have made the past 20 years; and on how South Africans are going to work together to implement Vision 2030.

We are indeed a country that is better off since our first democratic elections. As we approach the 20 years landmark, South Africans must be afforded an opportunity to recall the momentous events leading up to 27 April 1994.

One of the symbolic moments of the exodus from the past was the raising of the new flag in 1994. This moment aptly affirmed the pride and dignity of an unfolding country and a celebration of humanity. Another significant moment was the merger of Nkosi Sikelel’ iAfrika and “Die Stem” to form one national anthem in 1997.

On 27 April 2000 the new Coat of Arms was launched embracing the collective historical essence of the people of the country.

Government encourages every sector of society to reflect on the progress made and the challenges that the nation has faced over the past 20 years.

The 20-year celebrations will seek to involve all government departments and agencies, organized labour, business, civil society, the academic fraternity, faith-based organizations and the media.

The celebrations will also strengthen relations with other African countries and the world. In 2013 the African continent celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). We remain grateful to the continent and the international community for supporting us in the struggle for liberation.

We must never forget that our democratic birth was rightly hailed as a miracle. Doomsayers and those who wanted us to fail had predicted chaos and civil war. However, none of these things came to pass and the values of democracy and freedom of our birth still endure today.

South Africa has abandoned its shameful past and has steadily moved towards building a new culture based on respect of human rights and dignity.

There are still those who question the progress South Africa had made since 1994. Compared to before 1994 we can now proudly proclaim that millions of people now have water, electricity, sanitation and housing. By our own standards, we declare that this is not good enough; that we must not rest until all the people can claim a better life.

The release of the Census 2011 figures shows a definitive picture of a country that is rapidly changing. They paint the picture of a country that has increased income levels, an improvement in the roll-out of basic services and amenities, and increased levels of education.

While celebrating our achievements we must also look forward to the next 20 years. The National Development Plan (NDP) is our road map; the plan outlines the type of society we are striving for in 2030, where no one is hungry, where everyone is able to go to school and further their studies if they wish, where work is available, where everyone is making a contribution because each person has been provided with what they need to reach their full potential.

“While celebrating our achievements we must also look forward to the next 20 years.”
### KEY MESSAGES

South Africa has come a long way in addressing injustice, inequality and poverty.

- Our Constitution lays the basis for the construction of a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist, united and prosperous society based on justice, equality, and the rule of law and the inalienable human rights of all.
- We have risen from the ashes of apartheid to be a beacon of democracy and hope for millions of people across the world.
- South Africa is indeed a much better society than it was before 1994 when we inherited a country from the apartheid government that was both morally and financially bankrupt.
- The injustices of the past where people were judged according to their race, creed and sexual orientation have been firmly cast off.
- Our national symbols, our flag and our anthem are synonymous with the shared values and the unity of our nation.
- A national identity has emerged built on a respect for each other and our love for the country that we all call home.

Society has been totally transformed in every sphere since 1994.

- The Census 2011 results indicate that income levels have increased, education levels are up and millions of people now have access to water, electricity, sanitation and housing.
  - The number of households that had access to piped water increased from 80.3 per cent in 1996 to 91.2 per cent in 2011.
  - The proportion of households that have flush toilets connected to the sewage system have consistently increased to 57.0% in Census 2011 from 50% and 55% in both Census 2001 and 2007 respectively.
  - The number of households that used electricity for lighting increased from 58.2 per cent in 1996 to 84.7 per cent in 2011, and households that used electricity for cooking increased from 47.5 per cent to 73.9 per cent over the same period.
- Interventions by the Department of Health to improve the quality of life continue to yield results; for example the overall life expectancy of South Africans has improved significantly between 2009 and 2011 to 62 years.
  - The tide is turning in the fight against HIV and AIDS. By March 2012, more than 20.2 million people had undergone testing since the HIV Counselling and Testing campaign started in April 2010.
  - We have recently launched a revolutionary one tablet a day for people living with HIV.

We still have a long way to go in improving the lives of all South Africans.

- Undoing the damage of the evil apartheid system in a short space of time was never going to be easy and we know that more must be done.
- The triple threat of inequality, poverty and unemployment still lingers and must be defeated.
- We must continue to emphasise our unity in diversity and we must cast aside that which divides us.
- Even though our education system continues its upwards trend with more learners being enrolled and a dramatic increase in matric results since 2009, we must still do more so that we produce the highly skilled individuals we need to grow the economy.
- This year we will mark the centenary of the 1913 Land Act and efforts to undo the injustice it inflicted on millions of South Africans continue albeit at a slower rate than anticipated.
  - So far about 3 million hectares have been redistributed to communities, which constitute only 7 per cent of the set target of 30 per cent.
  - Figures from the land restitution programme show that 71 292 people have opted for financial compensation for claims over land.
- Although the levels of crime still remain high we have begun to see progress. Overall levels of serious crime are on the wane and we will continue our push for a South Africa where all citizens are and feel safe.
- To eliminate poverty and reduce inequality, the economy must grow faster and in ways that benefit all South Africans.
- The hopes and dreams of humanity for a better world were infused in our fight against apartheid; our battle espoused the universal quest for freedom, democracy and justice.
- We celebrate our freedom with those who fought with us and recognize the pivotal role they played.
- We will use the 20-year celebration to cement our relations with historical allies and our economic and trade partners.

### SUPPORTING STATEMENTS

- South Africa has come a long way in addressing injustice, inequality and poverty.
- Our Constitution lays the basis for the construction of a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist, united and prosperous society based on justice, equality, and the rule of law and the inalienable human rights of all.
- We have risen from the ashes of apartheid to be a beacon of democracy and hope for millions of people across the world.
- South Africa is indeed a much better society than it was before 1994 when we inherited a country from the apartheid government that was both morally and financially bankrupt.
- The injustices of the past where people were judged according to their race, creed and sexual orientation have been firmly cast off.
- Our national symbols, our flag and our anthem are synonymous with the shared values and the unity of our nation.
- A national identity has emerged built on a respect for each other and our love for the country that we all call home.

- The Census 2011 results indicate that income levels have increased, education levels are up and millions of people now have access to water, electricity, sanitation and housing.
  - The number of households that had access to piped water increased from 80.3 per cent in 1996 to 91.2 per cent in 2011.
  - The proportion of households that have flush toilets connected to the sewage system have consistently increased to 57.0% in Census 2011 from 50% and 55% in both Census 2001 and 2007 respectively.
  - The number of households that used electricity for lighting increased from 58.2 per cent in 1996 to 84.7 per cent in 2011, and households that used electricity for cooking increased from 47.5 per cent to 73.9 per cent over the same period.
- Interventions by the Department of Health to improve the quality of life continue to yield results; for example the overall life expectancy of South Africans has improved significantly between 2009 and 2011 to 62 years.
  - The tide is turning in the fight against HIV and AIDS. By March 2012, more than 20.2 million people had undergone testing since the HIV Counselling and Testing campaign started in April 2010.
  - We have recently launched a revolutionary one tablet a day for people living with HIV.
As South Africans we feel proud of our achievements and commit ourselves to work towards a shared future.

- South Africans from all walks of life have a responsibility to respect and acknowledge the past, celebrate the present and build the future together.
- At the centre of our democracy and freedom is our Constitution, it enshrines the rights of every South African and explains our obligations as citizens to each other and the country within those rights.
- Our rights, as enshrined in the Constitution also come with responsibilities. It is our collective responsibility to actively participate in building our country towards reaching the country’s Vision 2030 as set out in the National Development Plan (NDP).
- Raising living standards to the minimum level proposed in the NDP will involve a combination of increasing employment, higher incomes through productivity growth, a social wage and good-quality public services.
- Through the NDP we are striving to build a society as articulated in the Constitution and the Freedom Charter.
- In particular, young people deserve better educational and economic opportunities, and focused efforts are required to eliminate gender inequality. Promoting gender equality and greater opportunities for young people are integrated themes that run throughout the NDP.
- Eighteen strategic integrated projects (SIPs) are in the pipeline, they will fast track infrastructure development to transform our economy, create a significant number of new jobs, and strengthen the delivery of basic services.

**REVIEWED IDP/BUDGET PROCESS PLAN 2013/14**

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<tr>
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Rolling out Electricity to our people.
Rofhiwa Manwadu (30) from Manini village under Thulamela Municipality, being disabled did not stop him from achieving his dreams. He was born with Cerebral palsy, a situation which left him being a slow learner and he could not attend a normal school. He attended school at Fulufhelo Special School doing arts and started to be interested in sporting activities, especially athletic. He participated in Special Olympic Games since he was 17 years old. He took part within South Africa and even world-wide; he has been to Germany, United States, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sweeden, Greece, Zimbabwe, Italy and Thailand amongst the countries he was representing South Africa.

He is currently a Special Olympics ambassador in Vhembe District and his role involves organising successful Special Schools tournaments, cleaning campaigns and mobilising teams for national and international tournaments.

He is a full time employee of Thulamela Municipality