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New five year Strategy for Swartland Municipality

A good strategy is necessary to counter any downward trends regarding the functioning of the Municipality and to move the organisation to even greater achievements.

The development of a new five year Strategy for Swartland Municipality started with a strategy workshop on 9 November 2010 as part of the organisation's process of integrated development planning.

Present at this workshop were the executive mayoral committee as well as all directors and division heads. They were asked to write down the one issue that concerns them the most about the Municipality. The issues raised dealt with the Municipality's

- financial situation;
- clients;
- workforce;
- services;
- involvement in sustainable development;
- organisational structure and arrangements; and
- protection of community safety.

From this the following seven strategic outcomes (*what the Municipality wishes to achieve with all its activities*) were developed:

1. A financially sustainable municipality with well maintained assets
2. Satisfied, involved and well informed clients
3. An effective, efficient, motivated and appropriately skilled work force
4. Access to affordable and reliable municipal infrastructure
5. Sustainable development of the municipal area (with special emphasis on previously neglected areas)
6. A lean, integrated, stable and corruption free organisation
7. Increased community safety through traffic policing, by-law enforcement and disaster management

The process of developing the Strategy was continued during September, October and November 2011 when internal discussions and sessions with departments took place. This was followed by two major strategy workshops with

- all councillors, top management and external stakeholders on 1 November; and
- the executive mayoral committee, directors and division heads on 8 November.

At these workshops the following was discussed and agreed upon for each of the outcomes above:

- The major risks and the root causes for each of the risks
- The outputs necessary to mitigate or minimise the risks in order to ensure realisation of the outcomes
- The actions and accompanying processes related to each output.

The Strategy is being refined at this moment and will eventually form the core of the new Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for 2012 to 2017.

Between July 2012 and June 2017 the Strategy will form part of Management's agenda in order to monitor the effectiveness of the processes and actions. We will continuously be asking: *How is the organisation performing and are we realising our outcomes?*

We will keep you informed on the development of the Strategy and also where and how you fit in.

Temporary closure of libraries

Please note that the libraries below will be closed for stocktaking on the dates indicated:

Malmesbury: 9 to 11 Jan 2012
West Bank: 12 and 13 Jan 2012
Moorreesburg: 16 and 17 Jan 2012
Riebeeck West: 18 Jan 2012
Riebeeck Kasteel: 19 Jan 2012
Chatsworth: 20 Jan 2012
Darling South: 23 Jan 2012
Darling North: 24 Jan 2012

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Van die Redakteur / From the Editor

Clean audit is cherry on top for financial discipline

While preparing this newsletter, we learned that the Auditor-General is to issue the Municipality with a **CLEAN AUDIT REPORT** for the financial year ending 30 June 2011.

Although the Municipality has received an unqualified audit report for the past four years, a clean audit is the cherry on top for the collective effort by the Municipality's employees to take proactive action to do things right and not to wait until possible mismanagement is pointed out.

This exceptional achievement – which very few municipalities in the country manage to attain – once again confirms Swartland Municipality's pursuit of a nd dedication to managing the money that our residents entrust us with responsibly and free of corruption.

Help us go green

If you would like to receive this newsletter as well as your services account in electronic rather than printed format, and thus help us save on printing costs and paper, please send us your services account number, your cell phone and/or telephone number and e-mail address to swartlandmun@swartland.org.za.

Furthermore, if you want to receive electronic notifications of municipal notices placed in the local media, please submit a request to Nicolette Brand at brandn@swartland.org.za.

- This newsletter is distributed quarterly to all Swartland residents. The English copy of all Afrikaans and Xhosa items is available on our website.

Absa and Sondeza partner to offer bursary

Swartland Municipality has hosted the Sondeza Afri-Youth leadership camp for the past seven years at Ganzekraal on the West Coast. Twenty three schools from the West Coast region are invited every year to participate in the camp.

Absa, one of the sponsors of the event, introduced the Sondeza/Absa bursary in conjunction with the Sondeza Initiative in 2009. Delegates to the Sondeza camp, who qualify in terms of the bursary selection criteria, are considered for the bursary.

The bursary makes provision for the successful applicants to study full-time towards a Bachelors degree in selected fields of study at an accredited South African University, after completing Grade 12. Applicants must have achieved an aggregate of 75% or higher in their final Grade 12 examination.

The bursary is available to a maximum of five qualifying Sondeza delegates per year, including delegates who have attended the Sondeza camp in previous years.

Please contact Ilse Look on (022) 487 9400 for further information and application forms.

[Insert photo: Absa bursaries]

ABSA representatives Adrian Parsadh, Sulfah Osmon and Theo Steenkamp with Marguerite Holtzhausen and Ilse Look of Swartland Municipality. (Photo: *Die Courant*)

Information on placards, advertising boards and road signs

Swartland Municipality has by-laws in place that regulate the display of placards and banners as well as advertising boards. The complete regulations can be obtained from the municipal website or from Nicolette Brand at brandn@swartland.org.za.

Please note the following important regulations:

Display of posters and banners

In terms of the **regulation on the display of posters and banners** that came into force on 1 February 2011, the display of posters for purely commercial reasons or by businesses is not permitted.

The display of temporary posters, for which an application form must be completed and a deposit of R200 must be paid beforehand, is permitted, at the most, 14 days prior to the date of a function and until not more than three days after the function. Applications must be submitted to Isak Adams at the Department: Corporate Services.

Posters and banners displayed without the Municipality's permission will be removed by the municipal police and transgressors may be fined .

Advertising boards

In terms of the **regulation on advertising boards and the defacement of street fronts** that came into force on 19 April 2002, permanent advertising boards may be displayed on the premises from where businesses are operated . Proposed advertising boards must furthermore comply with the specifications of the relevant regulation.

Applications for the erection of permanent advertising signs, for which an application form must be completed, accompanied by appropriate to-scale, colour drawings, and for which an application fee of R385 must be paid beforehand, must be submitted to Herman Olivier at the Department: Development Services for consideration.

Tourism road signs

Applications for the erection of (the traditional brown) tourism road signs must be submitted to your local tourism bureau. Please consult your tourism bureau for more details.

Information road signs

Applications for the erection of (the traditional green) information road signs must be submitted to the Municipality. The prescribed application form must be completed and must be accompanied by appropriate to-scale, colour drawings and an application fee of R385. Applications must be submitted to Herman Olivier at the Department: Development Services for consideration.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES at the Ilinge Lethu Thusong Service Centre [block]

Apart from the services rendered by Swartland Municipality from the Ilinge Lethu Thusong Service Centre opposite the soccer fields in Ilinge Lethu, Malmesbury, the following government services are also rendered by the respective government departments, on the days and between the hours mentioned:

SASSA (social security) – last 2 Tuesdays of every month (07:00 -16:00)

Social Development – on a permanent basis (07:30– 16:00)

Labour – once a month (09:00– 12:00)

SAPS – every Wednesday (09:00– 12:00)

Home Affairs – once a month (09:00 – 12:00)

Health Department – on special request

Contact Nomvuyo at the Centre to get details on when Home Affairs and Labour will visit. Dates have not been released yet.

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News on social development / Nuus oor sosiale ontwikkeling

Give Me Your Hand project

Swartland Municipality and various role-players started a project called **Give Me Your Hand**. The vision for this project is to establish a network of committed individuals to help ensure that dropouts are taken up again into the system (i.e. school or a developmental programme).

The consequences of youth leaving education prematurely are drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, poverty and generally low skills in the population. The causes of the school dropout problems are the disintegration of family, the overburdening of schools, the lack of resources that assist children and the lack of coordination between services for children.

We intend to achieve the **Give Me Your Hand** vision by (a) strengthening the relationship between role-players, for example the police, business, education, volunteers, NGOs and churches, (b) identifying and strengthening the resources in communities that support youth, families and schools and (c) informing the role-players in procedures and legislation who influence assistance to children. This project could make a huge impact on these youngsters' lives, the social welfare of our communities and the strength of our economy in the long term. Organisations or individuals interested in this project can contact Clerise at 022-433 2246 or Marguerite at 022-487 9400 for more information.

Dealing with street children

There are many reasons for children being on the street. While most put it down to poverty, family abuse and community circumstances, this does not help us engage with the children.

It is very important to understand that

- **street children show normal childhood reactions** and are not different, strange or unique;
- **children are not adults** and do not understand long-term implications; and
- **often a small issue to adults is a huge issue to a child**. It is important to understand that it's not always sodomy, abuse, neglect, rape, alcoholic parents and gangs that push children towards the street.

Exploitation is a major cause for children being and staying on the street, which includes the following:

- **Informal labour.** This might include activities such as washing taxis or acting as taxi guards, informal trading, cleaning up business areas and setting out tables and chairs for restaurants. Often these jobs are provided by those wanting to help them; it is, however, exploitative and keeps them on the street.
- **Forcing or rewarding them to beg.** While parents often force children onto the street to beg, children also exploit their ability to beg for their own gain. **Giving money or food to children on the street does not help them. You actually keep the child on the street.**

If you find a child begging for food on the street and want to help, please report the child to your nearest police station or local social worker. For more information, contact Clerise at 022-433 2246. You can also contact Elkana Childcare if you are in Malmesbury or Hanlie at 022-486 4179 if in the Riebeeck Valley.

ECD Centres

All crèches, day care centres or youth centres that have not been assessed yet by the Department of Social Development will be visited and assessed in 2012. For any enquiries contact Funeka Mayembana at 022-486 4593 or Clerise du Plessis at 022-433 2246.

ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE EVENT

On 24 September 2011 Heritage Day was celebrated at the llinge Lethu Thusong Service Centre in Malmesbury.

Gloria Mzi, acting manager at the llinge Lethu Thusong Service Centre, brought gardeners and small farmers from Moorreesburg, Abbotsdale, Riverlands and Malmesbury (Saamstaan and llinge Lethu) together to organise and participate in the event. The goal was to create awareness and appreciation of our environmental heritage.

Mr Tony Brutus from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry was the speaker. He motivated communities about caring for and the use of natural resources. The various cultural groups showed their culture through music, dancing and drama. The various farming communities took part in a competition for the best food dishes using ingredients they produced themselves. The group from Riverlands won with their tasty oxtail stew.

It is planned to make this an ongoing project of which the goal is to ensure long-term sustainability of our environment considering economic, social and environmental factors. The activities that are planned are home food gardens for increased food security, river cleaning projects and participating in Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and Department of Agriculture initiatives. The Department of Agriculture donated 20 bags of compost and this was used as prizes at the event.

[insert photo: Junior Town Council]

The Junior Town Council held a very successful youth symposium with the theme **B a Fantastic U** on 5 and 6 October. About 70 high-school learners throughout the Swartland participated in the event. On the photo are members of the Junior Town Council at the youth symposium.

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Malmesbury twin town team see how funds help kids

A team from Malmesbury, England, travelled halfway around the world to visit their South African twin town of the same name.

Led by deputy mayor councillor Ray Sanderson, the group of five visited Malmesbury, South Africa, during October to meet residents and see how funds raised in Wiltshire were being put to good use in South Africa. Also on the trip was Ray's wife, Margaret, Malmesbury School governor James York Moore and town councillors Catherine Doody and Sue Poole.

The town twinning was made official in 2006 when a friendship agreement was signed by the former Malmesbury mayors.

During the team's visit to Malmesbury, they had the opportunity to spend time at the Jo-Dolphin Project, a school for children with mental and physical disabilities, which is supported by the Rotary Club in Malmesbury. The project currently borrows a minibus from a local secondary school when it is not in use. But this arrangement means the project, which is vital for the children, cannot be accessed outside school term dates. A fundraising scheme is now being planned to raise some £18 000 for a new minibus.

During the team's visit they also stopped at a preschool called Carney's Educare that was built thanks to the fundraising efforts of students and staff at Malmesbury School and other town organisations. Pupils from Malmesbury School have previously carried out exchanges with a school in the twin town and communications are ongoing.

Mr York Moore said the South African children were happy even though they didn't have much, and bundles of pencils and frisbees taken from home to hand out to the children were excitedly received.

About their visit to South Africa in general, Mr York Moore said, "I found it absolutely wonderful – to me it's such a beautiful country and the people are extremely friendly and kind."

(Adapted from an article by Laura Shack that appeared in the Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard, Malmesbury, England)

[Insert photo 1, Malmesbury delegation]

Together with officials and councillors of Swartland Municipality are, at the back, second from left to right, Ray Sanderson, Margaret Sanderson, Catherine Doody and Sue Poole. Councillor James York Moore was the photographer.

New schedule for the pumping of septic tanks

A new schedule according to which the Municipality will pump septic tanks will come into force from **1 January 2012**. This step has become necessary because of the high costs of this service.

Mondays:	Riebeek Kasteel, Riebeek West and surrounding farms
Tuesdays:	Malmesbury, Abbotsdale and surrounding farms
Wednesdays:	Koringberg, Moorreesburg and surrounding farms
Thursdays:	Kalbaskraal, Chatsworth, Riverlands, Groenrivier Farms, Rainbow Farms and other surrounding farms
Fridays:	Maintenance on the sewerage works

Darling and Yzerfontein provisionally continue as in the past.

Please establish in time when your tank starts to fill up to enable it to be listed for pumping for the day allocated to your town or farm.

NCIPHISA INGOZI ENOKUDALWA NGUMLILO

REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE

When it comes to fire, the motto "Prevention is better than cure" applies – as it does to most things.

So take note of the following do's and don'ts of preventing fires:

THE DON'TS

- Don't burn rubbish on a windy day.
- Don't play with matches.
- Don't throw away cigarette butts (or flick them out of a car window).
- Don't leave an open fire unattended.

THE DO'S

- Dispose of hot ash and coals from fires used for heating and cooking at safe places away from plant matter that can catch alight.
- Put out open fires by covering them with sand.
- Use power tools only in open, clear areas. Angle grinders, welding torches and chain-saws, for example, give off sparks, which can set surrounding veld alight.
- Make sure that there are no illegal electrical connections from your house or near your house and that all electrical equipment is wired correctly. Illegal and defective electrical connections can heat up and catch alight.
- Keep the area around your house clean of material such as firewood, kindling and rubbish that can catch alight.
- If you see someone acting irresponsibly with fire, tell the person to stop. If you see someone starting a fire, report it immediately to the relevant authorities.
- Buy a fire extinguisher and teach every member of your family how to use it properly. Keep a bucket filled with sand near a door to help put out any fires.
- Keep the emergency number of the fire station next to your telephone and store it in your cell-phone memory.

The **SMS** emergency number for fire is 022-487 9479. This is a 24-hour number.