

Chapter 1

CHAPTER 1 – MAYOR’S FOREWORD AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMPONENT A: MAYOR’S FOREWORD

MAYOR’S FOREWORD

The National development plan states. I quote: *“In many respects, South Africa has an active and vocal citizenry, but an unintended outcome of government actions has been to reduce the incentive for citizens to be direct participants in their own development”* ...unquote.

To fulfill the abovementioned mandate we as //Khara Hais Municipality has embarked on the following:

COUNCIL MEETS THE PEOPLE

Public participation serves as one of the cornerstones of local government. The //Khara Hais municipal council embarked on a Council Meets the People programme.

During this programme the Council visits all the 14 wards in the Municipal jurisdiction and interact with the community in the following manners:

- Sector meetings e.g. Meetings with the youth bodies, businesses and church organisations.
- Door to door assessment of the conditions of the residents
- Community meeting
- Feedback on the Council meets the People programme via the community radio station. The residents are invited to call in and express their views.
- A report is drafted and tabled at a council meeting for decision making on the promises that were made during the council meets the people process.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- The council also embarked on public participation processes during the IDP process.
- The council also embarked on a public participation process during the budget process.

The national development plan also states that active citizenry and social activism is necessary for democracy and development to flourish. The state cannot merely act on behalf of the people – it has to act with the people, working together with other institutions to provide opportunities for the advancement of all communities.

In trying to adhere to the projections of the National Development plan we as //Khara Hais Municipality have worked on the following projects during the 2013/2014 financial year. The following are some of the salient projects to be undertaken over the medium-term. They include:

- Connection road over the railway line between Rosedale and Paballelo;
- Extension of Louisvale Road Sewerage Works;
- Development of new parks;
- Development of new sportgrounds;
- Electrification projects for new developments;
- Abraham “Holbors” September Water Treatment Works;

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WARD BASED PLANNING

The ward committees play a pivotal role in public participation. Each of the 14 wards of the Municipality has a ward committee. They assist in organising meetings with the community. They also act as a link between the Municipality and the residents. The Municipality also conducted training for the ward committees. The role of the Municipality and the ward committees was clearly defined during this training process.

SERVICE DELIVERY

The Municipality has also started with a service delivery project which is called Operation Lungisa Konke – “*fix it all*”. The Municipality spent a week in a community and attends to all the service delivery problems of that ward during Operation Lungisa Konke. I want to thank the administration for this initiative.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the residents for their continued support for our programs and initiatives. I also want to thank the Councillors and the staff for spending long hours in enabling us to adhere to the local government requirements as contained in the Municipal Finance Management Act, the Municipal Systems Act, the Public Finance Management Act and all the other legislation which governs local government.

Signed by: _____

Cllr LA Koloi

Mayor

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