

Government planning together to improve the lives of communities

The second Integrated Development Plan (IDP Lekgotla in the current 2016-2021 IDP cycle was hosted by the John Taolo Gaetsewe district from the 07th-09th February 2018. When opening the three days session, the Executive Mayor, Councillor Sofia Mosikatsi stressed that the IDP Lekgotla is a strategic platform afforded to all the stakeholders to engage on developmental issues and plan together for the development of the district. “Municipalities must structure and manage its administration, budgeting and planning processes, to give priority to meet the basic needs of the communities and promote social and economic development. The mayor also made a plea to municipalities and sector departments to use their resources in the best interest of the communities they provide services to. She also emphasised the issue of alignment of plans to complement each other’s plan.

On the other hand the Executive Mayor addressed the challenges currently faced by municipalities. The challenges ranged from cash flow, electricity, disaster management funding, water, sanitation and roads. The mayor also encouraged strengthening of the current forums which are used as platforms to address the challenges and even shares experiences.

The Lekgotla was attended by sector departments from district and provincial departments, municipalities and mining houses. The first day of the session was dedicated to presentations and discussion around developments in the district and second and third day of the session allowed for focused strategic planning sessions and the report back sessions. There were five commissions namely community development services, good governance and public participation, municipal financial viability and basic services and infrastructure.

All commissions discussed the current challenges facing the district and came up with possible solutions and interventions.

The lekgotla ended with adoption of the resolutions and key decisions were taken to align all district plans, to develop a district plan that encompasses plans of all government departments and municipalities through strengthening the Intergovernmental relations forum, alternative funding methods, prioritising plans and allocating resources evenly. Other resolutions included municipalities taking over housing function and other bulk services such as water and electricity.

It is given that when we all put our resources and skills together much more can be achieved. It is through good governance practices that a lot can be achieved to take this district to greater heights.

Issued by JTGDM Communications

