

TRIP TO SWEDEN

The Executive Mayor, Me Sofia Mosikatsi and Municipal Manager, Me Molemoeng Bokgwathile of John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality were part of the delegation selected had recently been on a visit to Sweden as part of the delegation of the Local Democracy and Local Governance programme (LODLOG).

The programme was a two weeks training held from the 9th- 22nd March 2013 which also included a study tour.

The programme is a continuation of a long-lasting partnership between SKL International and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) since 2005. The aim of the programme is to enhance capacity of local government in South Africa.

The municipal manager had this to say about the operation of municipalities:

- ◆ That it is similar to city commission government and cabinet-style council government.
- ◆
- ◆ They are responsible for most functions directly concerning individuals (social welfare, education, health, recreation & culture)
- ◆ Levy taxes in order to perform their tasks
- ◆ Greatest employer in government

The host at Sweden is the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)

- ◆ SALAR's members are Sweden's 290 municipalities and 20 country councils.
- ◆ SALAR's operations are financed by fees paid annually and members in relation to their population and tax capacity
- ◆ It is a politically run organisation like SALGA in South Africa

The South African delegation was honoured to be hosted by the South African Ambassador, He Ms Mandisa Dona Marasha.



The Executive Mayor and the Municipal Manager with the Ambassador in Sweden