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The Emalahleni Local Municipality is a Category B municipality situated in the north-eastern part of the Chris Hani District Municipality in the Eastern Cape.

Out of 34 seats in the recent local government elections, the African National Congress won 28, Democratic Alliance 4, Economic Freedom Fighters 1 and United Democratic Movement 1.

MUNICIPAL/COUNCIL PORTFOLIOS AND THE INCUMBENTS

ClIr Nomveliso Nyukwana (Mayor)

ClIr Dumisa Kalolo (Speaker)

ClIr Nolitha Lali (Chief Whip)

ClIr Mcebisi Limba (Portfolio Head: Budget and Treasury Office)

ClIr Ncedisa Mtyobile (Portfolio Head: Economic Development, Tourism and Agriculture)

ClIr Nolitha Lali (Portfolio Head: Infrastructure Development and Human Settlement)

ClIr Thandeka Kulashe (Corporate Services)

ClIr Sibha Liwani (Portfolio Head: Community Services)

ClIr Phikiswa Mapete (Chairperson: Municipal Public Accounts Committee)

For the second consecutive year, Emalahleni Local Municipality entered the race for the greenest municipality, where it made a mark. At the provincial level it was competing with other local municipalities in the province and was the second runner-up. It was awarded a sum of approximately R200 000, with a certificate.

The award seeks to acknowledge municipalities that have done a lot to build capacity, raise awareness and use sustainable best practice with regards to issues of waste and environmental management.

The programme focuses on the following areas: waste management, sustainable energy and conservation, landscaping and beautification, greening, and public participation.

Director of Community Services Mrs Nokulunga Nyezi said, 'We are very thrilled to have managed to get the award for what we are doing, it means we did not regress. In the near future we will get the top award. Our systems regarding waste and environmental management are up and running. We recently trained recyclers, and are in a process of continuing with the construction of the regional landfill site.'

'We are happy that our strides are noticeable in ensuring that our municipality is moving towards achieving what is required per the environmental legislation. We are on the right track on issues like management of open spaces as we have taken seriously the issue of park development. On recycling, we have started, as it is one of the key focus areas.'

'We were hoping to achieve more, although we are not disappointed as we were beaten by municipalities that are further in terms of resources. The other weakness we have is with the landfill site, which is not functional at the moment,' said Nyezi.

'We were not shocked, as we were expecting something to come our way. We managed to maintain the position we got last year. There is something we are doing right, although there is still room for improvement. Funding is a challenge as there is no committed funding other than our own budget. The staff complement is not talking to what we want to achieve on the environmental issues,' said Municipal Manager Dr Sitembele Vatala.

'We were competing against the best. This great achievement is due to the support from the political leadership, collective efforts from the management, and the entire workforce,' said Vatala.

Also for the second consecutive year, the Municipality received an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General (AG). The outcome means the local authority did not regress but instead maintained the status quo. The financial statements were free from any material misstatements.



From left: ClIr Mcebisi Limba, Ncedisa Mtyobile, Nolitha Lali, Mayor Nomveliso Nyukwana, Thandeka Kulashe and Sibha Liwani.

The infrastructure development and service delivery objective was tested and no material findings were raised on the usefulness of the reported performance information for this objective.

On the internal controls, in particular on financial and performance management, the AG found that the maintenance of supporting information was deficient for performance reporting due to the municipality not having standard operating procedures, which would have assisted in identifying errors timeously to avoid material findings being raised.

Mayor Nomveliso Nyukwana speaking on the special council meeting where the audit report for 2015/16 was tabled said, 'We are on the right track to achieve a clean audit. This is as a result of a collective effort by everyone. The achievement we observe today is owned by the former leadership as the period under review is when they were in office. As the current leadership we must set our own targets towards achieving a clean audit.'

'We were commended by the Auditor-General on how we spend money, in particular on service delivery programmes we implement in-house. We thank everyone who played a role in this achievement,' she said.

REFLECTION ON OTHER SERVICES RENDERED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TERM OF OFFICE:

- Ward Committees were elected from all wards.
- Gold day was hosted as planned.
- Potential candidates for the bursary will be identified at the beginning of the 2017 academic year.
- Training of people with disabilities based on their plan, will be offered in 2017.
- On the Emalahleni Fieldband Foundation, one learner is in Norway for a year (music scholarship).
- Indigent register is updated annually and communities are encouraged to register.
- Advisory sessions with farmers were held.
- Livestock branding is in progress.
- Poultry management plan is in place
- Support given to Auto Styling Car Wash with production inputs
- Shearing shed under construction in Agnes Rest
- Policies have been developed and reviewed.
- Xonxa irrigation scheme has been introduced to fodder and vegetation production.
- Construction of municipal offices is in progress as supply chain management processes are underway for the appointment of a developer.
- Cacadu Park construction is in progress.
- 54 deed of sale signed by the Municipal Manager and submitted to the conveyancers
- Four mega development projects have been advertised and developers are appointed.
- On job creation, people have been employed on various projects.
- Safety initiatives have been undertaken by the Law Enforcement Unit.
- The municipality is currently collecting refuse from 7 992 households on a weekly basis.
- Promotion of reading is being done through library utilisation campaigns.
- Access roads are under construction in a number of municipal areas.
- Installation of electricity is in progress.