



FEZILE DABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



EXECUTIVE MAYOR MAX MASHODI

Fezile Dabi District Municipality was established as a category C municipality in terms of the Provincial Gazette issued in December 2000. It was established with a council of 32 members as the Executive Mayoral type of a municipality.

The council consists of an Executive Mayor, Municipal Manager, and Speaker of the council, and is structured politically into six portfolio committees and administratively into six departments to ensure that the vision, strategy objectives of the District Municipality are achieved.

Fezile Dabi District municipality is the second smallest District Municipality in the Free State covering about 16.4 percent of the provincial area. It is estimated that this municipality consists of a total population of 488 036 according to Statistics South Africa's community survey of 2011.

This population figure represents approximately 17 percent of the Free State provincial total population. Accordingly, the district population has grown by about 0.61% since 2007.

The vision and Mission of Fezile Dabi can be best described as follows, "Fezile Dabi Municipality strives to be a leading Municipality in delivering effective, affordable and sustainable quality services to its communities"

And our Mission is premised on the following:

- Promoting proper planning and implementation of projects and programmes
- Setting standards
- Being accountable
- Communication
- Capacity building of staff and Communities
- Having Proper Systems and processes
- Ensuring a sustainable, affordable and effective service delivery

Fezile Dabi District Municipality area is approximately 240,190 square kilometers in extent and makes up about 27 percent of the total area of the Free State Province.

An enormous amount of hard work and good planning has resulted in Fezile Dabi being the proud winner of the following awards.

- Vuna Award for the best municipality in the Free State
- Best Municipality in implementing skills development
- Best Tourist Destination Award
- Proud record of Unqualified Audit Reports for four years in a row

The main function of the District Municipality can be best described as a developmental function. Fezile Dabi District Municipality has a very crucial role to play in as far as creating a stable environment to enable good governance and uplift the deprived communities by ensuring that proper economic, social and infrastructural services are provided for their benefit.

The area of jurisdiction of Fezile Dabi District Municipality includes the regions of Metsimaholo Municipality that covers the following towns, Sasolburg, Deneyville and Orangeville.

The Mafube Local Municipality includes towns like Frankfurt, Tweeling, Cornelia and Villiers. Ngwathe Local Municipality includes towns such as Parys, Heilbron, Koppies, and Edenville. And Moqhaka Local Municipality incorporates towns like, Kroonstad, Steynsrus and Viljoenskroon.

The municipality has executive and legislative authority in its area of jurisdiction and mainly performs developmental functions. It further assists and supports its affiliates (local municipalities) with development and maintenance of infrastructural services by providing human and financial resources, skill, technology and information.

In terms of the economy of the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, the following economic sectors are the main economic drivers for the district. Manufacturing Mining Agriculture Construction Utilities, Trade, Transport Finance and Community service.

With regard to Local Economic Development (LED) strategy, the publicized national LED framework in 2006 was an important development and remains our strategic blue print in ensuring sustainable integrated local economic development.

One of our key objectives of this framework is to support local economies in realizing their full optimal potentials and making local communities active participants in the economy of the country.

In response to this and other key objectives of the framework, we have since adopted our local economic development strategy, through which we are able to play a key role in supporting municipalities within the district with the implementation of LED strategies and resolutions of our Growth and Development Summits, which takes queue from the Free State Provincial growth and Development strategy.

Our main priority remains the eradication of poverty, with primary focus on sustainable economic activity and employment for all the communities within our District.

One of our core LED strategies is creating an environment that is conducive to promoting higher levels of domestic and foreign investment in the district wide, and expanding economic ownership to historical disadvantaged individuals. And our strategic focus is on the following core areas of our LED strategic objectives.

Stimulating SMME development.

Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME) development is a strategic objective that focuses on Entrepreneurial support systems that gives Basic Business skills training and assistance with equipment and raw materials to emerging entrepreneurs.

We have established a working relationship with the Flavius Mareka Further Education and Training (FET) College, this relationship has assisted us a great deal in as far as SMME development is concerned, together with Flavius Mareka we are continuing to conduct training on basic business skills to a number of SMMEs throughout the district.

As part of the enterprise development within the district, we have designed a program called the Entrepreneurial Support System to address the challenges of unemployment in our district; this programme entails the following two critical components:

1. Training of identified entrepreneurs in basic and advanced business Management
2. Purchasing of business equipment as part of our support programme

Local Economic Development Forum

We have since established and launched the Fezile Dabi Local Economic Development Forum, whose function will be amongst others:

- Serve as an advisory body for the implementation of economic development initiatives in the district
- Facilitate linkages between the District, local municipalities, and respective organizations, institutions, and the implementation of identified LED projects.
- Mobilise various other resources necessary to implement and advance the LED Forum objectives

Tourism Development

Recently the Municipality had a Tourism Summit which was hosted by Moqhaka Local Municipality under the theme, "Time for Action, from policy to implementation".

The objectives of the Summit was to build partnerships with relevant stakeholders in order to improve the local economy by enhancing competitiveness, creating sustainable job opportunities, and ensuring that growth within our district is inclusive.

From contributions received from various sectors of our society we have learned quite a lot and our strategies as the district municipality this financial year are better informed and speak directly to what needs to happen in order to stimulate growth in the Tourism Sector.

Improving Infrastructure in our District.

For this financial year we have allocated about R12.6 million, to be used for infrastructural projects in our four local municipalities. In Metsimaholo local municipality we have launched an R 3 million sewer connection project for about 2400 houses in Gortin Zamdela.

In Mafube Local Municipality we have allocated about R 9 million also for sewer reticulation and toilet structures in Qalabothja, additional R34 000 is allocated for shortfall of sewer project in Namahadi. Ngwathe Local Municipality has been allocated about R 1.3 million for rehabilitation of streets in Parys, additional R 490 000 is made available for Tumahole Canals project shortfall. In Moqhaka Local Municipality R 350 000, is allocated for installation of second raw water pump in Steynsrus Matlwatlwang.

The fight against HIV/AIDS and TB intensified in our District.

We have initiated the Fezile Dabi HIV/AIDS benefit programme since 2004, whose intention is to create awareness and also assist Non-governmental organizations that are working with HIV/AIDS in our community, this far through this programme we have assisted more than twenty eight organizations coming across the district, and more than R 3 Million has been used for this purpose.

This financial year about R 2 Million will be availed for the same purpose, and about twenty organizations will be assisted.

We are also forming a partnership with Lentswe Community Radio and Karabo FM to launch a new awareness program on radio that is going to focus on TB as explained in our state of the district address, that we are broadening the fight against HIV/AIDS this financial year to include TB, after MEC Malokoane advised that many of our people are dying from TB, when HIV/AIDS is stabilizing in our province.

Our Municipalities are on Course to improve and offer quality Service Delivery to our Communities in this District.

In our state of the district address we highlighted our satisfaction with the municipal report as released by Statistics SA, and we said as Fezile Dabi District Municipality we are proud indeed that we are doing very well in improving the quality of the lives of our people.

From 2001 to 2011 we have improved the number of people living in formal dwellings by 83%, compared to 63% in 1996. We have decreased the number of people living in informal dwellings to 15.4% by 2011, compared to 30.7 % in 1996.

The number of people owning their dwellings has increased to 60% in 2011 compared to 58.5 in 2001; this once again proving that access to housing and proper settlement has increased. Our people are beginning to own houses, and dwell in decent settlements.

Access to electricity as source of energy in our district has increased by 90.8% compared to 80.4% in 2001 and 52.9% in 1996. Access to piped water has increased to 91.5% in 2011 compared to 84% 2001 and 77.2% in 1996.

Refuse removal by municipalities has increased by 83% in 2011 compared to 70.6% in 2001 and 66.7% in 1996. Access to toilet facilities has increased to 80.3% in 2011 compared to 62, 7% in 2001 and 54.2% in 1996.

The number of people who have no access to toilets facilities has decreased to 1.7% in 2011 from 6.4 % in 1996. This again providing a scientific proof that our municipalities are performing very well in as far as improving access to electricity, piped water, refuse removal and improved toilet facilities is concern.

Even though we are proud of all these achievements, we are still faced with many challenges as the district, but we doing everything in our power to accelerate the pace of service delivery in our district.

We have a sound relationship with our four local municipalities, and through the District Coordinating Forum we share experiences, and we are developing strategies that will assist us to completely address the triple challenges of our time, poverty, unemployment and inequality.