

## **JOBS FOR FEZILE DABI**

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**BLOEMFONTEIN** – The biggest share of the R170 million budget for the Fezile Dabi District Municipality will go towards job creation, Mayor Moeketsi Moshodi has said.

“It is for this reasons that as Fezile Dabi District Municipality we are budgeting about, R15, 1 million towards infrastructure in the four local municipalities,” said Moshodi during his state of the district and budget address on Tuesday, June 19.

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Project which is one of the major job creation drivers, especially for young people, has been allocated over R3 million to pave roads in Ngwathe Local Municipality.

Another R3 million will go towards sewer yard connections in Gortin for 2400 Erven in Metsimaholo Local Municipality, while an additional R4, 5 million will be set aside for the same project in 2013/14 financial year.

“All these projects are intended to create jobs and fight poverty in this district, MMC will give further information on these projects from the beginning of the new financial year,” said Moshodi.

At least R4, 5 million has been set aside for the installation of a new outfall sewer line between Constantia Pump Station and Sewerage Treatment Works in Moqhaka, while an additional R2 million will be allocated in the 2013/14 financial year.

“We are putting aside R3 million for sewer reticulation and toilet structures in Qalabotjha in Mafube Local Municipality for this financial year as part of budget eradication programme in our district, additional R6 million will be budgeted for the same project in 2013/14 financial year,” said Moshodi.

He said that a further R1 million will be allocated for the refurbishment of an electrical network in Vredefort, Ngwathe Local Municipality, while R100 000 has been set aside for the provision of electricity for farm workers' houses across the district.

In order to reduce and hopefully eradicate municipal debt, the district allocated over R8 million to four local municipalities to be used for the payment of loans to the Development Bank of South Africa.

"It is our feeling that local municipalities must focus on basic service delivery, and we as the district we must intervene and service these debts," the mayor stressed.

Education as a key player in the development of communities has been allocated R1 million in this year for bursaries while R 600, 000 has been set aside for special programmes focusing on issues dealing with gender, women, the elderly and children.

"Education is a very important priority of this government, in the past five years as the district we have contributed about R3 million to educational development in our community through awarding of full time bursaries and registration fees to deserving students," said the mayor.

He said that the district was paying registration fees for more than 200 students annually and that about 15 young people were studying full time at various universities across the country.

The establishment of a District Economic Agency, which was first announced last year has been allocated R1 million and is said to be near completion.

"We will in this financial year continue to embark on SMME development and assistance in the region, in this financial year we will allocate R600,000 for SMME development, and further R250 000 is allocated for Arts and culture development ," said Moshodi. "We have listened to our community with regard to making opportunities available for agricultural development, we are allocating R 500 000 for small agricultural projects this financial year," the mayor said. As a way of responding to the quality of water problem in the municipalities, the mayor reported that a laboratory would be built in Metsimaholo to test the quality of water in the region. "Our people are entitled to drinkable quality water," he said.

"Edenville is as small town found in Ngwathe local Municipality, this happens to my home town. For the past many years this town has experienced problems with water supply, water has been transported through trucks about sixty kilometers from the neighboring town of Heilbron daily in order that the community can get clean drinkable water," Moshodi said.

Other allocations included over R3 million for fire fighting vehicles in the district, R450, 000 for Environmental Health Projects, R200, 000 for Auxiliary Services, R400, 000 for Food and Water Sampling, R200, 000 for Disaster Awareness campaigns and training, R200, 000 for training of fire fighters, R 300, 000 for protective clothing , and R300, 000 for air quality management.

"We are of the firm view that the Department will continue to implement all these good programmes, aimed at promoting clean environments and better air quality in the district," Moshodi said. The fight against the scourge of HIV/AIDS one of the biggest problems the country is facing apart from poverty and crime has been allocated R1,5 million for the assistance of 20 non- governmental organisations fighting against the disease. Over R2 million has already been spent through this programme over the past three financial years.

“As Fezile Dabi District Municipality we will continue with our efforts to fight HIV/AIDS in our communities in partnership with non-governmental organisations in the district. We are going to intensify our efforts on encouraging things like Voluntary Testing and Circumcision in our communities as a way to fight this epidemic,” said Moshodi.

The district has allocated R1,2 million this financial year for Public Participation and support to ward committees, and R630, 000 is allocated to the recently launched Fezile Dabi News which aims to promote access to government information.

“We have listened to community media request and as promised in our various meeting with our community media that we will use more of their platform to communicate government programmes.

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