



Vaal River City, the Cradle of Human Rights

OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL MANAGER

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Date: 29 March 2019

Ref: Jero Mofokeng
File:

Your Ref: SAH-2019-EMF-0001

South African History Archives (SAHA)

P.O.Box 31719

Braamfontein

2017

Per E-mail: foip@saha.org.za

Attention: Mrs Vanessa Shingange

Dear Madam

RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING SEBOKENG ZONE 13

The above mentioned matter has reference.

Before we can respond to your request, please take note that the Emfuleni Local Municipality is placed under semi administration in terms of section 139(1)(b) and 139(5)(a) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, read together with section 139 of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003, hereinafter referred to as MFMA. A financial Recovery Plan has been approved by Gauteng MEC for Finance and the municipality must approve and adopt the plan. The intention of the Financial Recovery Plan is to assist the municipality to address service

delivery challenges it faces and to improve its financial position. Note must be taken that the unemployment rate within Emfuleni Local Municipality stands at 60%.

1. Request for all or any records detailing plans to build a community centre in Sebokeng Zone 13.

For the financial year 2019/2020 there are no plans to build or develop any youth or community centre in Sebokeng Zone 13. There is no budget for such a project. The municipality's financial position is not healthy.

2. Request for all records relating to waste management in the community of Sebokeng Zone 13.

The municipality has a problem of collecting waste due to non - availability of fleet. Non collection of waste is happening throughout the municipality. A regulation 32 of the MFMA was used to tender for Trucks. On the 26th of February the municipality managed to get a minimum of fifteen (15) trucks. Another five (5) trucks were delivered by the end of the week. With these trucks we expected household waste collection to go back to normal. Unfortunately, the trucks are sited at the Fleet Station because the South African Municipal Workers Union representatives are fighting for the municipality's drivers and have stopped fleet management from releasing the trucks. The problem facing the municipality is that the trucks came with their own drivers. Municipality and SAMWU are having talks on the matter and we hope that the matter will be resolved in the near future.

Attached is the schedule for waste collection marked "NGM1".

3. **Request for all or any records regarding the sewage maintenance and water supply cut offs in the community of Sebokeng Zone 13.**

Water cuts were as a result of the fact that the municipality owed Rand Water as the water supplier. Rand Water reduced the water flow and high lying areas had a problem of water supply. In terms of the Constitution the municipality nor Rand Water cannot deny people the right to water. Water flow can be reduced and not cut the water supply 100%. The municipality has signed an acknowledgement of debt and is paying the debt and the current. There are no water problem since the signing of the agreement.

The South African National Defense Force (SANDF), hereinafter referred to as the army, consisting of technicians and engineers, has at the behest of the President of the Country and Minister of the Defense Force, been deployed to Emfuleni Local Municipality to assist the municipality with its sanitation infrastructure, with a particular focus on repairing pump stations and working on Waste Water Treatment to stop sewer spillages into the Vaal River and the communities. The project is known as Operation Vaal River. This is a one-year project which started in November 2018. The Chief of the army, Lieutenant General Lindile Yam visited the project on the 6th of February 2019 to check progress of the work done by his team. He was impressed and when interviewed by the Communications Department of the municipality he was satisfied with the progress. The Boitumelo Pump Station is now fully operational after it had collapsed and the community around that area suffered spillages into their yards. The Sebokeng Waste Water Treatment has been cleaned and partly repaired, to mention a few.

In short, the army is here to ensure that the pump stations are in order and there are no spillages. All the pump stations are receiving attention.

Attached is the internal newsletter of the municipality showing the army inspecting some of the work already undertaken, marked "NGM2".

4. Request for all or any record relating to the allocation of RDP houses built in Zone 13.

The building and allocation of RDP houses is the function of Provincial Human Settlement Department. Your request has been transferred to the Department in terms of section 20 of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, Act 2 of 2000.

Hope you find the above in order.

Yours faithfully

PP 

MUNICIPAL MANAGER

D. NKOANE

NEM 1



2017/18

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & PLANNING: WASTE SCHEDULE

4th Quarter - April, May and June 2018

SW01

Sebokeng Depot Area	Vereeniging Depot Area	Vanderbijlpark Depot Area
MONDAY	MONDAY	MONDAY
Boitumelo Ph 1 Evaton West Part 1 Golden Gardens (Houses) Hostel Zone 07 (5 Routes) Zone 08 Zone 10 (4 Routes) Zone 14 Houses (2 Routes)	Three Rivers Ext (2 Routes) Three Rivers East (2 Routes) Three Rivers Proper (3 Routes) Three Rivers Drives (2 Routes)	Bophelong Bophelong : EXT 12; 13; 14; 17; 18 Flora Gardens Golf Estate SE6 SW5 (3 Routes)
TUESDAY	TUESDAY	TUESDAY
Boitumelo Ph 2 Eatonside Evaton West Ext 2, 3, 4 Golden Gardens (RDP Houses) Kanana Sharpeville (5 Routes) Zone 11 (4 Routes) Zone 17 (2 Routes)	Peaceheaven (2 Routes) Sharpeville (2 Routes) Suikerbos Vereeniging (2 Routes) Vereeniging Ext Blackwood Railway	Bophelong Ext 15:16 Bophelong Old SE1 SE2 SE7 SW2 Tshepiso Ext 3 (New)
WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Boitumelo Ph 3 Evaton West Ext 11 Small Farms Zone 03 (3 Routes) Zone 06 (3 Routes) Zone 12 (6 Route)	Arconpark (2 Routes) Drummondville Duncanville Ironsides Rustervaal Springcol Student Lake Tshepong Unitas Park Waldrift	Boipatong Bophelong Ext 9; 10;11;8;7 CW5 CW6 SE3 SE4 SW1 (Part 1 & 2)
THURSDAY	THURSDAY	THURSDAY
Evaton (3 Routes) Evaton North (2 Routes) Evaton West Part 2 Lakeside Proper Small Farms Zone 13 (6 Routes) Ext 15 Zone 24	Dadaville Falconridge Duncanville Plots Roshnee (2 Routes) Solandpark (2 Routes) Unitaspark Plots	Boipatong Bophelong: Ext 6;1;5 CE3 CE4 CW 1 & 2 CW3 Plots SE8

Sebokeng Depot Area	Vereeniging Depot Area	Vanderbijlpark Depot Area
<p align="center">FRIDAY</p> <p>Beverley Hills (2 Routes) Evaton West (Part 3) Palmsprings (4 Routes) Polokong (2 Routes) Zone 14 (RDP Houses) (4Routes) Zone 16 Zone 21 Zone 20</p>	<p align="center">FRIDAY</p> <p>Bedworthpark Debonairpark Dickensonville Homer Tshepiso Phase 4 Leeuhof Powerville Ext 1 Redan Riverband Roods Gardens SteelPark</p>	<p align="center">FRIDAY</p> <p>Bonanne Bophelong: Ext 4;3;2 CE1 CE2 CE5 CW 4 Tshepiso Vaaloewer</p>

NEM 21

WE WILL EXECUTE WITHOUT FAIL – ARMY CHIEF

The People's Army is hard at work, repairing sanitation infrastructure

By Wandisile Kunene - WandisileK@emfuleni.gov.za

Photos by Wandisile Kunene



Lieutenant General Lindile Yam seen during his visit to Operation Vaal River to monitor progress made in rehabilitating the Vaal River System (VRS).



Lieutenant General Lindile Yam (centre) is surrounded by fellow troops during his visit to the Sebokeng Waste Water Treatment Works



Lieutenant General Lindile Yam is flanked by Major General Thembelani Xundu (left) and Colonel Andries Mahapa (right) for inspection of the work done by the army at the Sebokeng Waste Water Treatment Works

THREE months into Operation Vaal River, army engineers and troops have made significant progress in rehabilitating the Vaal River System (VRS).

Technical teams comprising of engineers and other members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) have been camping in Emfuleni Local Municipality since November last year.

The army is here to assist the municipality with its sanitation infrastructure, with a particular focus on repairing pump stations and working on Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) to stop sewer spillages into the Vaal River System.

To monitor progress on the year-long project, the Chief of the Army, Lieutenant General Lindile Yam on Wednesday (06 February 2019) visited Operation Vaal River and landed by chopper outside municipal water reservoirs in Vanderbijlpark.

The Army Chief was rushed to a closed briefing on the status of the operation and later began a tour to witness the work of his engineers and troops in different sanitation facilities of the municipality.

Lieutenant General Yam was driven to the Boitumelo Pump Station, which is now fully operational after it collapsed and spilled sewerage into the nearby yards and homes.

He also visited the Sebokeng Waste Water Treatment Works where the army has successfully cleaned and repaired part of the facility, Module 3B, which will soon be commissioned.

The tour ended at the Emerald Pump Station in Vanderbijlpark where the Army Chief was shown sewerage which had overflowed into reserve areas of the facility.

Accompanied by Major General Thembelani Xundu and Colonel Andries Mahapa, the Army Chief ended his visit with a press briefing at the Army Media Centre located in Emfuleni Local Municipality offices at the OK Building in Vanderbijlpark.

Lieutenant General Yam announced retired engineers from the army had volunteered to return to work and contribute their skills to Operation Vaal River.

"It is criminal that our own people in this area have been allowed to live in feces (faeces) for this long time, but that is a matter that it going to be sorted out by the leadership over time," he said.

The Army Chief said their business was to stay out of politics and execute the instruction of the Commander in Chief.

"Let's do the work, and ensure where possible, that by the end of this year or even earlier, the people of this area can go to the river and enjoy the water, without any fear," the Army Chief instructed his troops.

He also reminded the soldiers of the importance of completing the project successfully.

"Remember, this is a military operation, and you will execute this military operation up to the last objective without fail," he said.

Lieutenant General Yam also promised to ensure that the army troops received all resources they needed to make their stay in the municipality a success, including vehicles and other needs.

The SANDF technical teams have set up camp at the Vanderbijlpark reservoir where they will be based for the duration of the intervention. The army will also work hard to protect municipal infrastructure against theft and vandalism, which have cost the municipality millions in repairs and distribution losses over the years.

The deployment of the army in Emfuleni follows an announcement by the Finance Minister, Honourable Tito Mboweni during his medium-term budget policy speech last October that the military had been called in to assist with engineering and other expertise to resolve the crisis in the Vaal River System.

Metsi-a-Lekoa, the municipality's water division, remains intact and workers in the department will work with colleagues from the army. This will help transfer skills and knowledge and share information, history and ideas on rehabilitating the Vaal River System. This is a collaborative remedial effort by government, aimed at repairing, building and maintaining sanitation infrastructure to protect the Vaal River System.



Some of the scenes outside the Vanderbijlpark municipal water reservoirs where soldiers welcomed their Army Chief, Lieutenant General Lindile Yam