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NATIONAL GRANT EXPENDITURE: INCENTIVE BONUSES AND AWARDS

The National Treasury is a key partner in service delivery without which it would be impossible for Naledi Local Municipality to carry out the massive infrastructure development it has implemented. In fact, 60% of the Municipality’s source of revenue comes from the National Treasury. Key among these grants are the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) and Integrated National Electrification Programme (INEP).

The MIG allocation is not nearly enough to build the infrastructure needed for basic services. With this in mind, the Municipality has ensured over the last couple of years that this grant is used to derive maximum impact, with the focus on priorities identified in the needs analysis phase of the IDP, wherein communities were consulted extensively. To this end, the Municipality has achieved 100% expenditure of the MIG. In recognition of this achievement, the National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and National Treasury gave the Municipality an incentive bonus by allocating an additional R7m, which was used to build seven streets in Huhudi.

This feat was repeated again in the 2014/15 financial year and this time the incentive bonus was increased to R14m. This grant will be used to build 11 more streets in Huhudi.

The provincial government awarded Naledi positions 1 and 2 in the expenditure of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and efficiency of the PMU respectively.

The Extended Public Works Programme, funded by the Department of Public Works and Naledi Local Municipality, and the Community Work Programme, funded by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, are the pillars of the service delivery workforce. Without these workers, there would be a huge crisis in terms of the shortage of staff to deliver services such as road maintenance repairs; maintenance of parks; cleaning of the

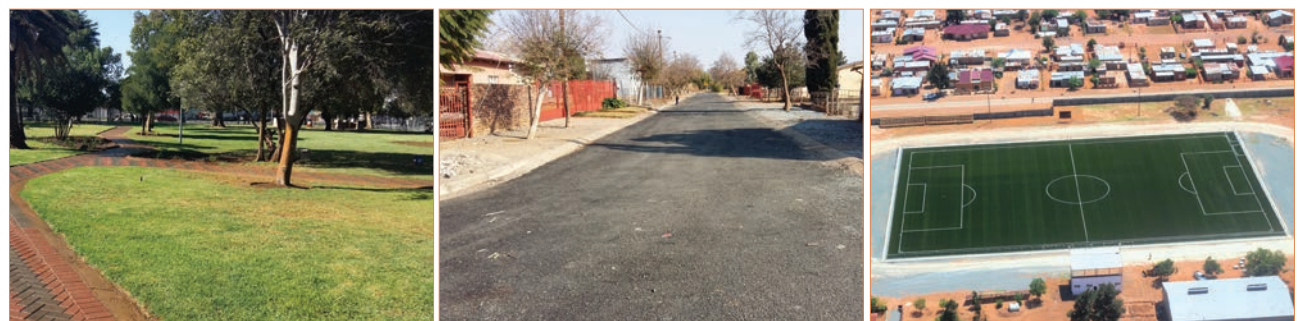
environment; refuse removal; digging of graves and maintenance of cemeteries, and cleaning of offices and public amenities.

There are 404 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) beneficiaries and 714 Community Work Programme (CWP) beneficiaries in the Municipality who deliver these essential services. Due to their commitment and hard work, some EPWP beneficiaries have graduated from being EPWP to being contract workers, the so-called capital workers. This group of temporary workers is the reason things have improved and we count on them to strive for and maintain the high standard of service. They do this without the job security and benefits that come with being employed permanently.

After years of battling to revive the project, which was to revamp Hayes Park, the Municipality managed to get the Department of Public Works and the Independent Development Trust (IDT) to honour their commitment to implement this project. New public toilets have been constructed, old toilets revamped, pathways paved, braai facilities built, lights installed, and grass and flowers planted. As a safety measure against vandalism, theft and illegal use of the park, a fence has been constructed and security has been appointed for access control.

Part of the Municipality’s function is to develop sports and recreation facilities. To this end, the Municipality embarked on a project to revamp both the Huhudi and Colridge sports facilities. The project has been completed, transforming both facilities with new surfaced athletic tracks, artificial turfs for soccer pitches, revamped dressing rooms, new caretakers’ houses, and covering walls.

The hope is that these facilities will have the youth engaged in different sporting codes ranging from athletics to football, netball, bodybuilding, boxing, basketball and so on. Ultimately, the Municipality must be able to produce professional sports stars in the class and calibre of Fabian McCarthy, Edwin Setae, Naeem Johnson, Thapelo Yawa, Rhee Mereekae, Blessing Mothusi and General Sibidla. The Municipality hopes to involve these legends in order to motivate the youth to take part in sports and emulate their success.



Above from left: The newly revamped Hayes Park; One of the many reconstructed streets in Naledi; The artificial football turf of Huhudi Stadium.