



**D**ear Colleagues, In this debut article of FROM MF's PEN I would like to draw your attention to a major shift in the Municipality's Budget. You might have already noticed the long queues at the Cashier Point of our West Street Offices in Groblersdal where the residents of Marble Hall and Groblersdal pay for their water services. This is due to an endeavor to maximize municipality's own revenue funds which has been identified as one of key focal areas within the 2014/2015 Medium Term Budget.

It is exciting to note the considerable progress made since the municipality started with introducing operational programmes for revenue collection. It all began in 2013/2014 financial year when the municipality started with investing in operational programmes that will ensure that its future own revenue is enhanced. The municipality has adopted revenue enhancement strategy that gives priority focus on stabilisation of water and sewage provision and cost recovery.

To this effect the Revenue Enhancement Committee has been established and is currently operational. The committee is made out of all internal and external stakeholders.

The strategy involves taking-over of billing and collection function from Municipality Water Service Providers. In Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality take-over of billing and collection has been successfully implemented after the expiry on WSA/WSP service level agreement in 2013/14. Greater Tubatse and Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipalities WSA/WSP contract are also ended on the 30 June 2014, of which the process of taking over is resembled by the foot traffic in our West Street Offices.



## SEKHUKHUNE District Municipality

The strategy further concentrated on stabilising the existing water service in billing areas and increasing revenue base of the municipality by billing new five villages that have access to portable water.

The 2014/2015 MTREF budget has programmes for revenue enhancement programmes includes implementation of water conservation and demand management. This will also include the preparation of asset and operation maintenance plans. Some strides have been made as far as appointment of billing officers, cashiers, operation and maintenance personnel. In the next level of this programme the District will establish paypoints in village and ensure functional and seamless meter audit, repairs and replacements.

All these strides depend on strengthening communications with consumers so that they fully appreciate the value of payment of services and improved accountability. This on the other hand must be balanced with our municipality's founding philosophy of developmental local government capable of marshalling better life for all and pushing back the past imbalances through effective plans for indigent management.

This element of the district's budget is essential and critical to ensure that the municipality remains financially sound and that the municipality is able to provide services to all communities in a sustainable manner.

*Until next time – let's Move Sekhukhune Forward!*

MF