

Rustenburg
Local Municipality



Mayor to address Challenges



Executive Mayor of Rustenburg
Local Municipality,
Cllr. Mpho Khunou



Rustenburg – The Executive Mayor of Rustenburg, Cllr Mpho Khunou, promised to look into all the challenges affecting residents living in wards 14, 15, 16 and 17 during one of the final sessions of the Mayoral Imbizo held at the Old Town Hall on 10 October. Among some of the Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs) who were present at the well attended Imbizo was Cllr Tshepo Maifala (IDP), Cllr Happy Serongwane, (Technical and Infrastructure) and Cllr Jarnett Phiri (BTO).

Residents who raised some of the challenges they were facing in their day to day lives complained of water challenges and sewerage blockages. "It is very disappointing when you have to play guessing games as you go to the tap. You will be expecting to get water and it is very disappointing when your neighbours have water and you do not have water," a resident said. "I live in Safari Gardens and we have a problem of a sewerage smell at 6 in the morning and at 10 in the evening. We would be grateful if the Municipality addresses this as a matter of urgency," added the resident.

Labourers based in the Rietvlei area also took the opportunity to highlight some of the challenges they face at their workplaces. "Our conditions as workers are appalling. We do not have access to decent housing and we were illegally evicted on a number of occasions," said one farm worker. "We do not have any tangible benefits that we can say we have after having worked as gardeners for a long time. We are not like other people who can look forward to a break

after their careers," added another Rietvlei resident. Other residents complained of a rise in criminal activities – pointing out that thieves were becoming braver because of the lack of swift response from the police.

Noting all the problems that were raised, Cllr Khunou pointed out that while some concerns would be addressed immediately, other challenges would take longer to resolve. He said: "In addition to some of the problems that you have raised, there are also more problems that we will address as a Municipality. "Rustenburg is one of the filthiest cities in South Africa. If you look at the CBD you will understand what I am talking about. It is our immediate aim to remedy this situation as soon as possible.

"Some of the problems that you have raised here today will, however, take much longer to address because we inherited a Municipality that has a lot of problems and challenges. We will look into the problems you have raised and address them."

Cllr Khunou said he would be visiting Rietvlei in the near future in order to get a firsthand experience of some of the problems that the people in the area are facing. He said: "We will be visiting you so that we can see for ourselves what you are talking about." Cllr Khunou also warned people who were operating illegal business structures in the city. "Between this month and up to the end of November, we will be closing down all the illegal structures in the city because these structures are harbouring criminals. The Municipality is also in the process of closing down the dumping site in Kremartart," he said.

