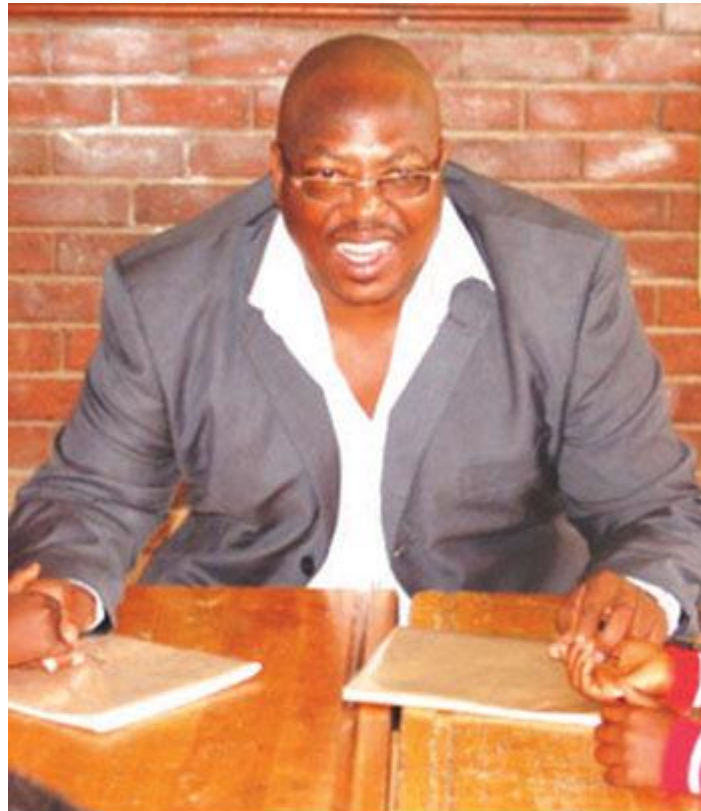


# The Weekly

## MUNICIPALITY INVEST MILLIONS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

June 8, 2012 | Filed under Latest News | Posted by editor

The Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality's Executive Mayor, Dr. Balekile Mzangwa, is geared to use R84-million budget of the municipality to improve infrastructure, create jobs, and fight poverty in the largely rural region.



Prioritising rural development... Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality Executive Mayor Dr. Balekile Mzangwa tabling his faith and hope budget

During his 2012-2013 budget speech held at the Vrede Town Hall in the Phumelela Local Municipality last Thursday, Mzangwa said the budget will focus on the building of roads, construction of sewer treatment works, installation of solar street lights, and the establishment of a disaster management centre.

To this effect, an amount of R14.8-million has been put aside to upgrade roads in the Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality, particularly in Bolata Village, QwaQwa, Petsana in the Nketoana Municipality, Setsoto, as well as Mantsopa Local Municipality.

“It is our aim to spend this money intelligently and work together with the understanding that the little we have is for the development of Thabo Mofutsanyana District communities as a whole,” said Mzangwa.

# The Weekly

The district municipality has also put aside R2.5-million for the development of sewer treatment works at Mantsopa Local Municipality to ensure that communities in the area have proper sanitation and live in hygienic conditions.

“For an amount of R2-million we will establish a disaster management centre in Warden in the Phumelela Local Municipality. This is because our area is a host of major national roads that passes through to other provinces, therefore we are prone to have road accidents happening in the area which demands us to also assist in terms of such unfortunate situations. We are also prone to other natural disasters such as veld fires, which also demand timeous reaction.”

To address crime issue in the Mantsopa and Phumelela Local Municipality, “solar street lights” to the tune of R9-million will be erected in various municipalities.

“This is our contribution to the greening of our environment and as per resolutions of the COP 17 conference held in Durban last year and we are intending to install 300 solar street lights to a tune of R9-million in the towns of Thaba Phatchoa, Hobhouse and Tweespruit in the Mantsopa Local Municipality and also in Warden and Vrede in the Phumelela Local Municipality.”

Phumelela local Municipality Executive Mayor Tlokotsi Motaung told The Weekly that solar street lights will be installed in the new township in his area.

“We are having a new township here in Vrede called Thembalihle where we are first going to install 60 solar street lights and also in Warden. We are happy for all the help we receive from the district,” said Motaung.

According to Mzangwa, SMME development will also become a key priority during the current financial year.

“Tackling the issue of poverty must go hand-in-hand with expanding the economy and the development of business and entrepreneurship will speed up the process, hence we have put aside an amount of R2-million for SMME development.”

Mzangwa said he concurs with Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel’s remark at the Black Management Forum’s third annual Youth Professional Summit recently that the foundation of strong growth and job creation lies in entrepreneurship.

For education, the district municipality has invested R800 000 to provide bursaries to previously disadvantaged matriculants to study at tertiary institutions. Two million rands has been put aside to tackle issues of food security and poverty alleviation.

[Source: [www.theweekly.co.za](http://www.theweekly.co.za)]