The wave of xenophobia which has plagued our country over the past few months, has left everyone feeling despondent, and thus it is important for me to begin my message by strongly condemning these acts of violence on foreign nationals.

This crisis is a humanitarian one, which affects each of us deeply, since no person has the right to treat another as has been done in this country recently. The economic problems facing South Africa, and indeed, much of the African continent, of unemployment and poverty, should not be blamed on each other. Rather, we should be working together to address critical challenges, and find common solutions to our problems. Our recent visits from the Kenyan and Ghanaian delegations highlighted the fact that there is much we can learn from each other, and so much more we can achieve, when we unify.

Locally, we are still challenging the Demarcation Board to halt the metro, and are confident that we have a strong case to present in court. We will continue to provide the high-quality services that our residents are accustomed to, while we proceed with the court case.

As we enter our new financial year, we are aware that people are feeling the pinch from the tough economic climate being experienced globally. As a result, we presented a very pragmatic and honest budget speech to Council on the 28th May 2015. We understand that the proposed rate increases will impact on our residents, but in order to maintain the standards of service delivery which people expect, we have to implement the necessary cost reflective increases.

The Capital Budget will fund R15 million worth of sanitation projects, including the Daleside sewer and Mamello sewer projects, R4.5 million is allocated for sports projects including the Lakeside Sports Centre and the Sicelo football field, R4.5 million for the tarring of roads, R2 million for the Vaal Marina Fire Station, R1.5 million for the Vaal Marina landfill site and almost R2 million for water projects.

We have also introduced a new water tariff, designed to benefit the low-income earners in our community. In the past, water was billed based on a 4-tier sliding scale, but those who consumed 7-20 kilolitres were charged at the highest rate. As from 1 July 2015, this will be changed towards a more pro-poor tariff, where low consumption is charged at lower tariffs and high consumption at higher tariffs. This is also aimed at encouraging consumers to conserve water.

On the new tariff scales, the cost of water (per kilolitre) is LOWER than it was in the current year, if a household consumes less than 23 kilolitres of water per month.

Our plans presented at the State of the Municipality Address to drive agriculture within the Midvaal region, and develop our area into the ‘food basket’ of Gauteng, are already well under way. As we take our first steps towards building our Midvaal of the future, we have started training small scale farmers in De Deur, Walkerville and Koolfontein and have several other initiatives in the pipeline. The next two months will see the municipality open exciting new platforms for engagement with different sectors in our community, as we strive to make Midvaal the best place to live, work and play.
MIDVAAL SHARES BEST PRACTICE WITH AFRICAN MUNICIPALITIES

While xenophobia has affected much of the country over the past few months, Midvaal Local Municipality has been working hard to strengthen links with certain African states, by hosting government delegations from Kenya and Ghana, to build mutually beneficial relationships and to support good governance across Africa.

In April, a delegation from Kenya visited the Municipality, to learn about its E Performance system, developed by Price Waterhouse and Coopers, and currently being used by Midvaal Local Municipality. In accordance with legislation, all municipalities in South Africa must have a performance management system, for monitoring and reporting purposes, to ensure that their targets and objectives are met. The delegation also visited the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality to understand how they are implementing this same system.

According to Midvaal’s Municipal Manager, Mr Albert de Klerk, one of the lessons learnt from this visit, was that South Africa is still young relative to other African countries. He noted that Kenya had, prior to South Africa, already adopted systems of governance which are very similar to the legislation that is currently used in South Africa as per the Systems and Financial Acts of South African Local Government. Discussions also focused on future information and knowledge sharing between the two municipalities. This will include discussion on projects relating to performance systems, IT, governance and the role of agriculture in the economy and society.

The delegation from Ghana hosted in May, included the following groups may qualify as indigents:

- Child-headed families
- Any household earning less than R 3 500.00 per month
- Unemployed people
- Households earning less than R 5 000.00 per month
- Indigent consumers

The delegations from Ghana also presented their road show which was celebrated on 22 March which was celebrated on 22 March and the Department of Water and Sanitation presented on the need to be mindful of. Rand Water also presented their road show which highlighted the need for conservation.

In addition, a continuation of this celebration, the Social Services Department will also arrange for learners to visit a purification station as part of their ongoing education about water.

NEW STREET SIGNS FOR RESIDENTS OF HENLEY

Residents of Henley-on-Klip will be pleased to see the new street signs which have been erected in the area during the past two months. A total of 15 signs have been erected, including Rugby, St Andrews, Abingdon, and Shiplake Streets, amongst others.

The theme for this year was “Water has scarce resource and the role water plays in eradicating poverty and under-development in South Africa. The theme for this year was “Water has insufficient supplies.”

To celebrate National Water Week locally, Midvaal Local Municipality hosted a Water Awareness Programme at the Meyerton High School. Learners from the school recited poems about water and the Department of Water and Sanitation presented on the importance of Water Week, and the demand issues related to water shortage which all South Africans need to be mindful of. Rand Water also presented their road show which highlighted the need for conservation.

In addition, a continuation of this celebration, the Social Services Department will also arrange for learners to visit a purification station as part of their ongoing education about water.

MAYORAL SOCCER CUP A HUGE SUCCESS IN SICELO

There was no better way to commemorate the opening of the new football field in Siceko than with the final game of the Mayoral Soccer Cup, held on Sunday, 12 April 2015.

The community came out in large numbers to support their teams, and the atmosphere was electric. Midvaal Local Municipality, together with Midvaal Local Football Association, arranged a series of play-off matches in the week preceding the 12th, which culminated in a play-off for third place and the final match on the Sunday.

The day commenced with the Executive Mayor, MMC for Social Services, Municipal Officials, Midvaal Local Football Association Representatives, Mayors and officials from neighbouring municipalities and other special guests witnessing the ceremonial cutting of a ribbon across the field to mark the official opening. This was followed by a friendly match between the Midvaal Local Municipality and the Midvaal Local Football Association, which ended in a 2-0 defeat for the municipal team. The Midvaal Arts Institute kept the crowd entertained with their song and dance as part of the build-up to the main match.

The finals proved to be an exciting match between Happy Stars FC and Mapoti FC, which was tied at 1-1 when the final whistle blew, before Happy Stars went on to win with a penalty shoot-out score of 2-1.

The top three teams each received trophies, medals and cash prizes, with the winners taking home a cash prize of R 5 000.00. This event has grown tremendously since its launch last year, and promises to become one of the most exciting sporting events in the region.

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REGISTER AS AN INDIGENT

MIDVAAL CELEBRATES NATIONAL WATER WEEK

Midvaal Local Municipality has embarked on an Indigent Registration Programme to register consumers who qualify as indigents, in terms of the Municipality’s Indigent Policy. In terms of the policy, ‘indigent consumers are people who are unable to pay for their services provided by the Municipality, such as basic water, basic sewer, refuse removal, assessment rates and burials’.

The following groups may qualify as indigent:

- Pensioners
- Unemployed people
- Any household earning less than R 3 500.00 per month
- Child-headed families

Community members in these categories are encouraged to visit the Municipal offices, and complete an Indigent application form, for consideration to receive the basic services free of charge from the Municipality, or they can phone the Municipality on 016 360 7400 for more information.

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Midvaal's Executive Mayor shared the municipality's successes over the past year, including the increased platforms for public participation, the instatement of a capital spending committee which has greatly improved the spending patterns within the municipality, the building of infrastructure, and the employment of local labour and contractors on various projects. He also explained the alignment of goals from a national, provincial and local level, in order to provide the context for the plans made by the Municipality.

A highlight of his presentation was the introduction of the concept of an “Agri-tropolis”, which will lie at the heart of Midvaal’s economic plans going forward. The idea behind the Agri-tropolis is for Midvaal to become a “food basket” of Gauteng; growing and packaging fresh produce within Midvaal, to be sold throughout the province. The goal is for this produce to be grown by small-holding farmers, rather than large commercial farmers, to set up stalls on the library grounds and sell their goods; Sicelo residents were treated to a cooking demonstration. In addition, puppet shows were also held at several libraries and schools, including De Deur; each library also had a display about Library Week to share information with members about the activities planned; and a “Fine-Free Week” was held across all Midvaal libraries for Library Week, where members could return books without having to pay any fines.

The 2015 national theme for Library Week was “Connect at your Library”, and Midvaal’s library staff worked hard to bring this concept to life across all Midvaal Libraries. Library Week was launched at the newly built Lakeside Library, where Merinda Behadlou, author of the “Thembis and Thembu” books, spoke to the learners of Lakeside Library about how reading turned his life around, and the opportunities that it can give to people of any age or background. His insightful talk was followed by a puppet show that proved to be entertaining and fun for the children.

Other activities in the region included a computer literacy course at the Meyerton Library, for the learners of Meyerton High School; the Henley Library provided a platform for the community to connect through an Entrepreneur Day, which allowed members of the community to set up stalls on the library grounds and sell their goods; Sicelo residents were treated to a cooking demonstration. In addition, puppet shows were also held at several libraries and schools, including De Deur; each library also had a display about Library Week to share information with members about the activities planned; and a “Fine-Free Week” was held across all Midvaal libraries for Library Week, where members could return books without having to pay any fines.

Mr. P. Mokgatla, the Assistant Director of Marketing and Communication of the Department of Art and Culture, highlighted the importance of libraries as gateways for lifelong learning. He emphasized the role of libraries in providing a space for the community to connect and access information, knowledge, and education, particularly in rural areas where access to such resources might be limited. Libraries, he argued, are essential in bridging the gap between the community and the outside world, offering a platform for social and educational development.
March 2015 saw the official opening of the newly built, beautiful and outstanding library facility situated in Lakeside. The Midvaal Local Municipality has been busy with this project since August 2013, and the building was completed in July 2014. This fully functional library boasts a computer area with 17 work-stations, a magazine area, reading station for adults, kid's area, study room and an activity room, printing and photocopying facilities. Librarians are on hand to assist learners with research, and computer training is also provided. The official opening was attended by the Executive Mayor, members of the Mayoral Committee, guests from the Gauteng Department of Arts and Culture, ward committee members and the Lakeside community.

Midvaal’s library staff highlighted the importance of modern technology being available in libraries to ensure that they remain relevant to users. The Executive Mayor urged the community of Lakeside to take care of the facility, and to ensure that it is not damaged or vandalised, especially during community protests. Midvaal’s Libraries in Meyerton, Sicelo and Lakeside have been built next to community halls, to make the libraries a central part of the community. The idea is to foster a culture of reading, and improve literacy levels for Midvaal residents of all ages.

The Mayor stands next to a plaque installed at the opening of the new Lakeside Library

The non-fiction section of the new library in Lakeside

**Opening of World Class Library Facility in Lakeside**

**Midvaal Local Municipality Budget Overview: 2015/2016 Financial Year**

*Where does the money come from?*

**Revenue Sources**
- Property rates
- Electricity sales
- Refuse removal
- Sewage
- Water sales
- Developer Contributions
- Land purchase - water
- Operating Grants and Subsidies
- Capital Grants
- Other income

**Capital Expenditure Sources**
- CBF
- Sewage City Urban Management Grant
- Network connections
- WES
- Grants Other
- OP
- External Loans
- Developer Contributions

*How is it allocated?*

**Budget Allocation**

**How will the budget be spent?**

**Operational Expenditure Framework**

**Capital Expenditure Framework**

**Relief for individuals and organisations**

The first R150 000 of the value of all residential properties* has been exempted from rates.

*for developed residential properties with approved building plans only

**Tariff Increases**

- **Electricity Tariffs**: 14.24%
- **Water**: 14.5%
- **Sewerage**: 4%

**Refuse Removal**: 8%

**Assessment Rates**: 8%

For more information, contact Wimpie on 083 460 9338

Hosted by: Midvaal Local Municipality

Sponsored by: Eye of Africa

**Midvaal 100 Cycle Challenge**

Sunday, 25 October 2015
Midvaal Raceway
Meyerton
100, 40 and 10km
Race starts from 07:00

- Enter online at www.cyclelab.com
- Organised by Performance Sport
- Proceeds will be donated to charity
- Total Prize money of over R12 000 applicable to CSA licenced riders

![The Mayor stands next to a plaque installed at the opening of the new Lakeside Library](image1)

![The non-fiction section of the new library in Lakeside](image2)
MIDVAAL – 90.6FM FUN WALK A HUGE SUCCESS

The Midvaal-90.6fm inaugural ‘Walk for Human Rights’ Fun walk, as part of Human Rights Day celebrations, proved to be a tremendous success, with local businesses, NPO’s, families and school children arriving bright and early at the municipal grounds on 21 March 2015, clearly excited to be part of the Fun Walk.

The 5km route, which began in Mitchell Street passed through Meyerton, Sicelo, and looped back along the same path to end in Mitchell Street. The atmosphere was buzzing, with children singing, various groups chanting their own cheer leading songs along the way and several groups dressed in weird and whacky costumes, to add even more excitement to the event.

There were several stalls at the municipal grounds, including the ‘Stand with Stan’ stall displaying different types of prosthetic limbs available, the CANSA stall who spray-painted people’s hair, the South African National Blood Services, Old Mutual who provided a voluntary testing station for general health, the local Community Police Forums who sold boerewors rolls, and a few local businesses promoting their business. Entertainment was provided by the Midvaal Arts Institute, who performed several dances for an appreciative crowd.

Proceeds from the event were donated to the Stand with Stan Organisation, which donates prosthetic limbs to those in need. This Fun Walk is set to become one of the most anticipated events on the Midvaal calendar; uniting the local community and providing a chance to support a worthy cause.

WINTER WARMTH IN MIDVAAL

As winter approaches, Nature’s Choice rallied together donations from Midvaal companies, as well as the local municipality, to bring some warmth to local residents for the Nature’s Choice Annual Winter Charity Drive. The sponsors who partnered with Nature’s Choice for this year’s drive included Midvaal Local Municipality, Rainbow Shades, Thomas Tyres, Voeren Saad, Rotary Club of Riverside, Thorcoat, Security Boyz and Welpac.

A total of 500 packs were distributed, which contained a blanket, a pair of Tom’s shoes, and a hot water bottle. Nature’s Choice CSR officer, Isabelle van Loggerenberg, packed the gifts with a team of volunteers, and was ecstatic about the support received from the Midvaal companies, who not only contributed towards this event, but also pledged their commitment to helping in the future. The first set of Winter Warmth packs was distributed in Sicelo to the Agape Lerato Community Services group, on Tuesday, 19 May 2015, at a ceremony attended by the Executive Mayor, Councillor Bongani Baloyi, CEO of Nature’s Choice, Gresham Mandy, and representatives from the sponsor companies. Over the past two weeks, more donations were made at the Sicelo Multi-Purpose Centre to a group of elderly women in need, to vulnerable children and unemployed parents in Rothdene, Kookrus, and Daleside, as well as to a group of car guards in Meyerton. The vision of Nature’s Choice is to help as many people as possible, who genuinely need assistance, regardless of the area and background they come from. At the handover ceremony, Mayor Baloyi encouraged mothers to ensure their children attend ECD’s and schools, to provide them with the best possible opportunities for the future, whilst Mandy noted the importance of private companies playing their role in supporting the communities in which they operate.