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NEWSLETTER – EDITION 12

JANUARY 2025

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR:
PETER TEIXEIRA**

QUARTERLY STATEMENT TO MIDVAAL RESIDENTS

Dear Midvaal Residents,

I am pleased to announce that Midvaal Local Municipality has achieved a clean audit for the 2023/2024 financial year, as confirmed by the Auditor-General. This remarkable achievement makes us proud holders of eleven consecutive clean audits, reflecting our unwavering commitment to excellence in governance and financial management.

The municipality was audited on its financial statements, performance management, internal controls, and compliance efficiency. The Auditor-General confirmed that the municipality provided valid financial records, with no material findings or misrepresentations.

Our municipality is among the most highly decorated in the country, earning accolade after accolade. We are proud of our achievements, which are primarily made possible by the support of our community, who consistently pay their rates and taxes, hold us accountable, and contribute in various ways to the functionality of our municipality.

I wish to once more reassure all our residents, that we will not become complacent. The work is never done, we are Excellence in Progress. Our mission is to ensure that these clean audits continue to translate into tangible and excellent service delivery that every resident can touch, feel and see. We want it to translate into infrastructure development that fosters an environment conducive to growth and opportunities for all.

Ald. Peter Teixeira
EXECUTIVE MAYOR



DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATIONAL PARK FACILITIES



Midvaal recently unveiled five parks that were upgraded and developed in Henley-on Klip (Oval Park), Rothdene, De Deur, Savanna City and Golf Park (Japonica Park). This is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that residents have access to recreational facilities, encouraging communities to enjoy the outdoors and promoting more

active lifestyles. Some of the upgrades include the installation of outdoor gym equipment, a children's play park and a half-sized basketball court. The development of these parks reflects our commitment to enhancing community well-being by creating accessible and enjoyable public spaces.

UPGRADING MIDVAAL ROADS



Midvaal Municipality recently completed the upgrade of Rooibok and Morris Roads in Meyerton Farms. We also upgraded Anchovy Road in Vaal Marina. The upgrades included milling the existing asphalt and replacing it with a new surface. On Rooibok Road, we added edge beams, kerbs, and a speed hump. This road carries heavy-loaded trucks, so it was essential to ensure they are durable and can sustain the load.



PROCUREMENT OF STATE-OF-THE-ART CHERRY PICKERS



In line with our Mayoral Undertaking to provide excellent service delivery, Midvaal Municipality procured and welcomed two state-of-the-art aerial platform cherry pickers, acquired at a cost of over R3 million. The cherry pickers will be deployed to our Parks Section to support tree-cutting operations whilst the other one will be utilised by the Electrical Services Section to expedite the repair of streetlights. The procurement of these cherry pickers will assist in keeping our areas neat and pristine (through regular tree cutting), as well as ensuring broken streetlights are attended to so that our areas remain well-lit and secure.



SICELO SOCCER FIELD UPGRADED TO MEET FIFA STANDARDS

We recently unveiled the newly renovated Sicelo soccer field. The soccer field was upgraded to meet FIFA standards. The municipality envisions that, through this soccer field, players will be able to hone their skills, providing a platform that meets international requirements for training and competition. This facility is more than just a field; it's a space where dreams will be built, talents will be nurtured, and our community will come together to celebrate the beautiful game of soccer.





BRINGING ELECTRICITY TO SICELO EXTENSION FIVE

In December 2024, we proudly switched on the electricity in Sicelo Extension 5, marking a historic moment as the community received electricity for the very first time. This will undoubtedly ensure a better quality of life for the people of Extension 5, eliminating the fear of individuals being electrocuted by live electrical cables stemming from illegal connections. This will also assist in the municipality's efforts to reduce electricity losses. Electricity is a fundamental necessity that empowers communities, drives development, and improves quality of life.

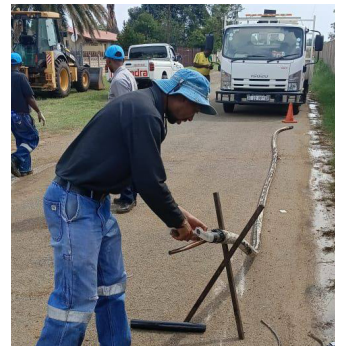
MIDVAAL INVESTS IN STATE-OF-THE-ART FUEL DEPOT TO SAVE COSTS



The municipality invested R10 million in building an innovative and state-of-the-art fuel depot. This project will assist in cost-containment measures to reduce the expenditure on refuelling municipal vehicles. Upgrading the depot allows us to purchase fuel at wholesale market value, reducing our fuel bill by 6% to 8% per annum, which is around R2 to R3 million a year. The newly upgraded fuel depot features smart technology that monitors the quantity of fuel dispensed in real-time. Each transaction is linked to the respective vehicle and odometer reading. This technology intends to reduce the misuse and abuse of fuel, theft and misappropriation.

CELEBRATING OUR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY TEAMS

While many of us were at home enjoying the festive season, our dedicated teams went above and beyond—collecting waste on Christmas Day, addressing electricity issues, and ensuring everything ran smoothly. We celebrate their unwavering commitment and sacrifice in keeping Midvaal Municipality functioning.



MIDVAAL ADVOCATES FOR RESIDENTS BY OBJECTING TO THE ESKOM TARIFF INCREASE

In September 2024, we wrote to Eskom and NERSA to object to the proposed tariff increase of over 40% submitted by Eskom for the next three financial years. We also requested an engagement with Eskom to express dissatisfaction on behalf of the people of Midvaal. Many residents are already grappling with the exorbitant electricity prices. The proposed 40%+ increase by Eskom will have a catastrophic impact on low-income and middle-class households. Businesses, especially Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs, which are the backbone of the country's economy, will also be adversely affected. Our administration is committed to advocating on behalf of the people of Midvaal against inflated electricity prices.

MIDVAAL EMBARKS ON 20-YEAR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION



Midvaal Local Municipality has initiated procurement for a Public-Private Partnership as part of efforts to become less reliant on Eskom and to improve the management of its electricity network infrastructure. This follows a comprehensive feasibility study conducted by the municipality on our entire electricity infrastructure, assessing our capacity to maintain and upgrade it to support the municipality's future development. The municipality needed to embark on this process as the financial sustainability of Midvaal is directly linked to the success of our electricity operations. Electricity is our largest single source of revenue, and we must take decisive steps to safeguard this crucial income stream. Midvaal is committed to spearheading innovative solutions that will protect residents from power disruptions and steep electricity price increases.

MIDVAAL AHEAD OF THE CURVE WITH TID ROLLOVER

Midvaal was once again ahead of the curve when implementing the Token Identifier (TID) rollover project. While many municipalities faced challenges meeting the deadline to upgrade to the Key Revision Number 2 vending system, Midvaal completed the project within 12 months, ahead of the November 2024 deadline. With over R13 million invested, the municipality converted more than 16,756 prepaid meters. These proactive efforts ensured uninterrupted electricity services for residents beyond the 24 November deadline.



INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING MEETINGS (IDP)



On 5 October 2024, Midvaal launched the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) public engagement meetings. Prior to these, cluster meetings were held with sectors like Non-Governmental Organisations, Faith-based Organisations, security groups, and the economic sector. The municipality conducts these engagements to ensure that planning is aligned with the needs of the community and that the budget is prepared accordingly.

JOINT OVERSIGHT VISITS AND RAIDS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE AND SAFETY



On 13 November 2024, we conducted a joint oversight and raids of local shops in Sicelo and De Deur. The oversight was joined by Members of the Mayoral Committee, Heads of Departments, teams and inspectors from Development and Planning, along with Environmental Officers from our Community Services Department. We conduct these site visits to ensure that shops comply with the necessary by-laws, regulations and standards. As a local municipality, we must play our part in ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities.



MIDVAAL PARTNERS WITH AFRIGUARD TO ADDRESS SKILLS GAP AMONG FORGOTTEN GENERATION



In September 2024, the Office of the Executive Mayor partnered with Afri Guard for a security guard training programme targeted at people aged 35 years and older, a group often referred to as the “forgotten generation”. The Forgotten Generation are parents to future generations and face immense familial pressure. They are often excluded from government interventions,

scholarships, internships, and empowerment programmes. We received over 1,000 applications from interested individuals wishing to participate in the programme; however, due to limited resources, we could only shortlist and enrol fifty (50) individuals. We remain committed to leading the charge in fulfilling the Mayoral Promise of Creating Opportunities for all.

EMPOWERING RESIDENTS WITH TRAINING AND SKILLS



On 19 November 2024, we handed over 40 certificates to Midvaal residents who completed training in Health and Safety as part of the Rothdene pipeline project. This project focused on replacing outdated AC pipes with UPVC pipes. We have made it a standard feature in many of our major projects for contractors to hire and train local residents. This is part of our ongoing effort to upskill our community to ensure they are more employable.



MIDVAAL SECOND ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT A MASSIVE SUCCESS



On 22 November 2024, we hosted the second annual Youth Summit. The event was a massive success, with at least 1,000 young people in attendance. The Summit brought together a range of stakeholders from government departments, private businesses, NGOs, rehabilitation centres, and youth support agencies to provide immediate assistance and guidance to young people. The stakeholders offered valuable support, including career and study guidance, connecting young people to support opportunities, upgrading their CVs, and helping them build a brighter future. The programme featured testimonials from last year's Youth Summit beneficiaries and panel discussions on education, entrepreneurship, and achieving personal goals. Numerous pledges from different companies were made, including employment opportunities, learnerships, training opportunities, internships, etc.



SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEERS

We visited Thandobuhlebakhe Community Developments in Siculo to spread Christmas cheer. The Centre assists people in need with various essentials such as clothing, food parcels, school supplies for learners, and more. The Centre relies on donations to support those in need. Our office donated hundreds of toys to children in need, bringing joy and the spirit of Christmas.



SPREAD THE LOVE



We wrapped up our 2024 Spread the Love campaign in Riversdale. We were once again joined by our partners, Lynca Meats and Harvest Fresh who donated food packages to those in need. We are excited to welcome Eco Sand and Stone, who have answered the call to assist families and individuals in need of relief. Our Team will be visiting more areas to ensure that we give support where it is needed.

CELEBRATING THE ELDERLY IN OUR COMMUNITY

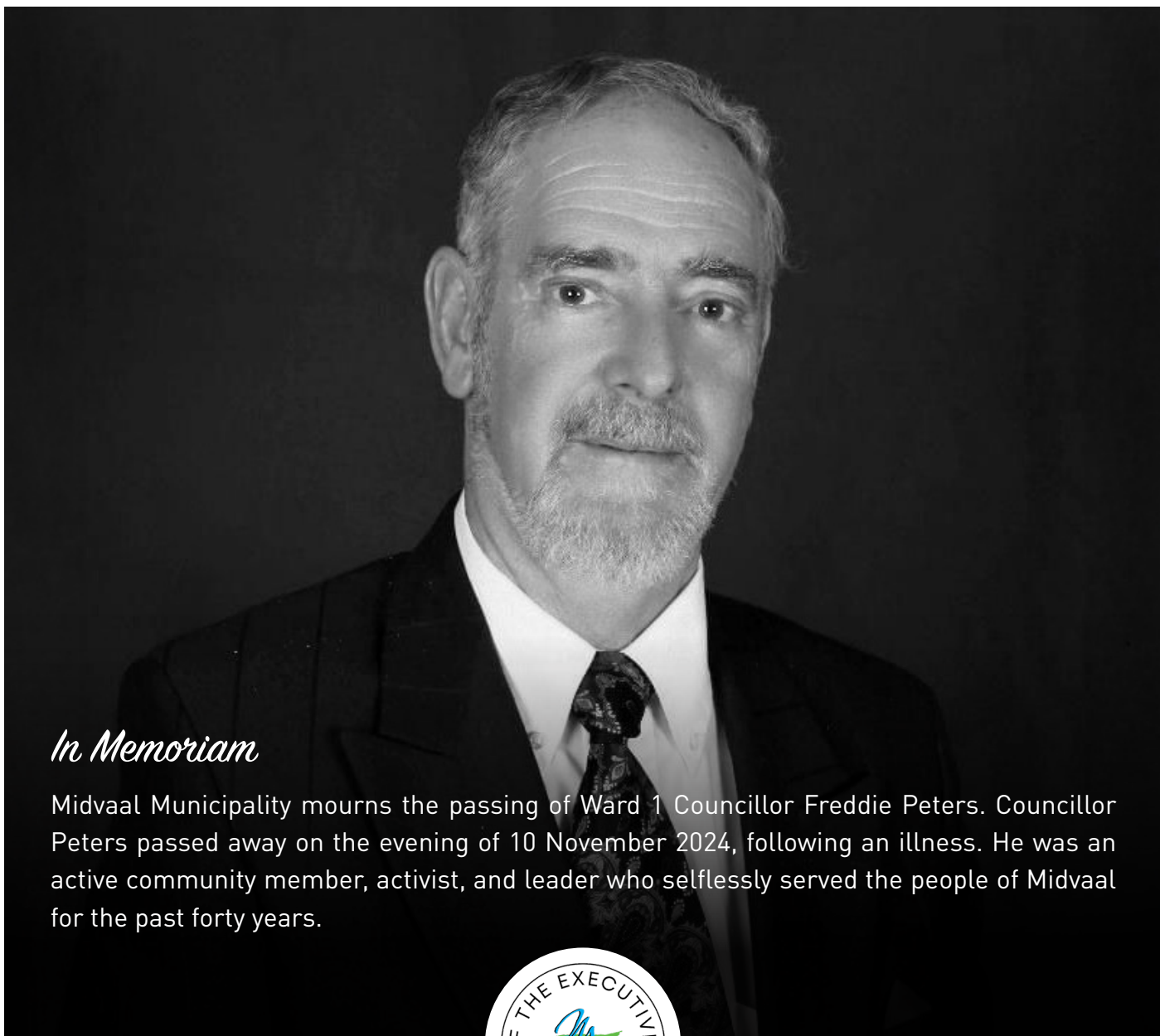


To celebrate Senior Citizen Month (October), we recently took THE elderly on an excursion to the Johannesburg Zoo. They enjoyed the day by strolling through the zoo, seeing the animals, and having a lovely picnic. These incredible elders are the pillars of our community—the ones who raised us and, in many ways, continue to nurture us. They truly deserve to be celebrated and pampered.



CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL TALENT

A special shoutout to our incredible young talent from Riversdale in Midvaal, Ayrton. He is signed to Virgin Records International and recently launched his album I will go far.



In Memoriam

Midvaal Municipality mourns the passing of Ward 1 Councillor Freddie Peters. Councillor Peters passed away on the evening of 10 November 2024, following an illness. He was an active community member, activist, and leader who selflessly served the people of Midvaal for the past forty years.





Places to Visit

Klipdraai Caravan Park is recognised as one of South Africa's Top 100 Hospitality spots. Klipdraai is located along the Kliprivier in Rothdene offering a breathtaking natural beauty that is welcoming for visitors.



MIDVAAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITY MIDVAAL MAYOR PETER TEIXEIRA

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