



Palapye Administration Authority

Palapye Administration Authority Sub Council Opening Speech

Delivered by Sub Council Chairperson

Honorable Councillor Lesedi Phuthego

On

Monday 22 February 2018

Vice Sub Council Chairperson

Honourable Councillors

Kgosi

Sub Land Board Chairperson- Palapye

Sub Land Board Chairperson – Maunatlala

Deputy District Commissioner

Senior Assistant Council Secretary

Tribal Secretary

Sub Land Board Secretary _ Palapye

Sub Land Board Secretary - Maunatlala

Media Houses here present

Heads of departments

Members of the community

Distinguished Guests,

A very good morning to you all.

Introduction

It gives me great joy to welcome you once again to this Sub-Council session which marks yet an important occasion and, yet an important milestone consultative forum achieved since we our last meeting in November 2017, to ponder and reflect on our progress, as critical stakeholders and custodians with authority to drive service delivery in Palapye Administrative Authority's area of jurisdiction.

I feel even more delighted on the timing of this session, Honorable Councilors, as it could not have come at a better time than this, when we are still full of excitement and euphoria in our hearts, and that of our respective community members, following the just ended prestigious receptions in honour of His Excellency the President Lt. Gen. Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama when he visited Palapye and Lerala-Maunatlala Constituencies on the 9th February 2018 to bid us farewell.

Let me hasten to express our sincere heartfelt gratitude collectively and, on my singular behalf as the Sub-Council Chairperson of Palapye Administrative Authority, to all those who gave it all their best – be it suggestions, preparations, donations big and small and, and most importantly God's richest blessings – for both occasions to be astonishing success it was! ***Le Ka Moso Bagaetsho.***

That said, let me take this opportunity to once more bid farewell to our distinctive leader, His Excellency Lt. Gen Dr Seretse Khama **Ian Khama**. I am pleased that during his term of office we witnessed an increase in number of housing provided for the poor, through the President's Housing Appeal, an increase in the uptake of

the poverty eradication programme, and last but not least the introduction of Constituency Community Projects, to name a few, particularly that are delivered by us, the Council.

His Legacy of a package of the good works – 5Ds will forever remain to guide and motivate us to propel Botswana to greater heights of achievements! As a parting shot, we can only say,

Tselatshweu Phuti, a Modimo o go Babalele!!

FINANCIAL STATUS

Ladies and gentlemen, let me start by sharing with you our financial status. During this financial year 2017/18 Palapye Administrative Authority was operating with a total budget of P102 034 920.

Our total expenditure stood at P84 725 256(83%) as at 31 January 2018. Thus the remaining balance was P17 **309 665** projected to be used up by the end of the financial year.

It must hasten to indicate, however, that there has been unprecedented/unforeseen budgetary increment during the course of the financial year, that otherwise had negative impacts on the already tight budget provision that we had to grapple with, as;

- Public service salary and allowances increment by 7%
- Adjustment of member's salaries and allowance and introduction housing allowance
- Increase in Village Development Committee member's allowance.

- And unprecedented high water utility bills and electricity tariffs adjustment which impacted on our provision for lighting, gas and water, especially in our Primary schools.

These adjustments were implemented after budget approval and there were no supplementary to augment the expenditure. As a result they impacted negatively towards 2017/2018 budget.

Additionally Council is experiencing increased expenditure in some few critical votes: Security services, Relief of Destitutes and Lighting Gas & water. **Therefore we are already in a budget deficit.**

Honourable Councillors, despite the dire fiscal outlook, the consoling factor however is that, there has been an increase in developments in Palapye that has resulted in increased in collection of revenue from licence fees. Licence fees revenue collected for the quarter only stood at **P504 319.50** (137%) against an estimation of **P383 287.50**.

STREET NAMING IN PALAPYE & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

Palapye Administrative Authority (P.A.A) in line with the New Urban Agenda which intend to promote safe, habitable and user friendly living dwelling areas undertook an exercise to name existing streets, of course with consultation with communities of villages in our area of jurisdiction. Fifteen (15) villages were involved in the exercise and will replicate to others in due process. Two rounds of consultations have been completed between September & November 2017.

Consultations were carried out on the fifteen (15) villages of Lerala, Moreomabele, Topisi, Malaka, Lecheng, Radisele, Mogome, Mokgware,

Mokungwane, Matlhakola, Manaledi, Go-Tau, Go-Sekgweng, Majwaneng, & Ratholo.

The Sub Council through Physical Planning Unit has collected street names from the aforesaid villages and is in the process of finalising on the exercise. The detailed report is expected to be presented at subsequent Sub Council & Full Council.

PLANNING PERMISSION APPLICATIONS

The Council continues to receive applications for change of land use mainly from single-family residential to multi-family residential, changes of land use from residential to commercial land use, and subdivisions of residential land.

Of the **402** applications received **177** were referred to the Central District Physical Planning Committee for consideration. The 43 applications being for Change of Land Use, 83 being applications for subdivision and 3 for consolidation of large scale commercial, Civic & Community and Industrial respectively.

PREPARING BASE MAPS AND DETAIL LAYOUT PLAN

Honorable councilors, I am pleased to announce that, Palapye Sub Land Board is preparing base maps within some of our villages for submission to Physical Planning Committee for layout designs during the 2018/2019 planning year.

- Mokgware and Lecheng & Malaka before end of March 2018.
- Moreomabele, Manaledi, Lecheng , Palapye Infills , Maunatlala, Mogapi, Moremi, and Kgagodi during the financial year 2018/2019.

The main objective is to identify suitable developable land and free of compensation within village's cadastral boundary for expansion of the village.

Honorable councilors, it is worth noting that we have approved detail layout plan for Mokungwane, tamasane, Mogapinyana and Lesenepole villages and it is only awaiting surveying of the plots, while the layout designs for Ratholo and Matlhakola village are still ongoing.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Palapye Dumpsite

Honorable councilors following my appeal to the wider public and private investors to bear with us and assist where possible, last year November, I am happy to announce that response from Business community has been positive. So far one prospective developer has shown interest and is still consulting with counterparts in China on possible modalities of cooperation/partnership. We remain positive for the prospective cooperation to materialize and bears fruits.

Be it as it may; let's continue to drum support more for attention and support from prospective sponsors and donors to come to our rescue.

In the mean time we have identified large scale contractors using the Palapye dumpsite to transport waste to Serowe Administrative Authority Landfill. NB: these include 3 companies outsourced by Palapye Administrative Authority for waste collection in Palapye village.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

I am happy to announce that the Sub District made it again and come on top in 2017 PSLE results with 100% pass in ABC results. We note with concern however, that some schools continue to perform badly. I challenge education secretariat to facilitate a process such that low performance bench from the best, especially for schools in the same region.

PRIMARY EDUCATION RESULTS

Performance in 2016 PSLE results (ABC) increased from 74.4% to 76.6% while the quality pass (AB) increased from 38.7% to 40% in 2017. Fourteen Schools out of 37 attained the 80% target including two that achieved the 100% mark being Moeng and Diloru. However Lekadibeng Primary School did not do well as it only managed 45.5 % ABC Therefore this calls for early plans for remediation and revision to put in place to combat below average performance in this school and others that performed below desired results (Radisele and others that performed below 70% ABC).

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS

The average academic performance for 2016 was 36.8% MABC compared to 38.3% in 2017 which makes an increase of 1.5%. Four schools recorded performance decline this year as compared to the 2016 JCE results being Mabogo. Bakgopeng, Mmaphula and Mokgalo. Mokgalo JSS has been trailing for some time even though efforts were made to try to change the situation around.

BGCSE RESULTS

Lotsane senior secondary school has appreciated in terms of performance from 29.4% in 2106 to 32% in 2017, a value addition of 2.6%. Nationally Lotsane senior is in position 6 out of 34 senior secondary schools and position one in the whole of central region. Moeng College on the other hand has declined from 20.1% in 2016 to 15.75% in 2017 which is a difference of -4.35. Moeng College obtained position 29 nationally and position 10 out of 11 regionally.

I wish also to commend Government on the introduction of improved menu at primary schools comprising of eggs, fruits (apple & orange) and vegetables (spinach, cabbage & rape) to feed pupils twice a week. The programme is doing well since it motivates the pupils to go to school. The initiative, however, has exacerbated the challenge of shortage of manpower at the kitchens as preparation of additional meals creates more work for the cooks.

SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT

Ladies and gentlemen, in our efforts to improve the livelihood of our community by development opportunities for the youth, women and other vulnerable groups, we have continued to improve as we go from year to year.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Since 2008 we have funded 202 beneficiaries for Home Improvement. 186 houses have been completed and 16 are still ongoing.

Despite the good initiative, we are experiencing low uptake of (SHHA) Scheme for Public Service employees of Grade D4 and below. Let me once again highlight that, Public Service Management Directive 8 of 2014 dated 17 April introduced a Special Housing Scheme based on the Self Housing Agency (SHHA) Scheme for Public Service employees of Grade D4 and below .The guidelines of Special SHHA are adapted from existing low income housing program (SHHA Home Improvement and Turnkey Development).

Assistance under this scheme (D4 and below), Ladies and gentlemen, is subjective to availability of funds or annual budgetary provision. Since the existence of the Scheme (D4and below) Palapye Administrative Authority has assisted only **11** beneficiaries for House Improvement and **7** are complete while 4 are on-going.

Therefore I encourage all qualifying Public Service employees to apply for this acute scheme in large numbers, to help enrich the shortfall of housing currently experienced by council staff.

WAITING LIST FOR BOTH TURNKEY AND HOME IMPROVEMENT

Palapye Administrative Authority, SHHA department has 510 beneficiaries on waiting list for both Turnkey and Home Improvement, (14 for Home Improvement and 495 for Turnkey).Top up list stands at 75 for all constituencies.

BOTSWANA NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMME

We have a total of 3276 participants who have registered for Tirelo Sechaba. Out of this number 741` have been placed in different institutions, 493 are on the waiting list, 625 have exited the programme and 1417 have declined the offer since the inception of the programme.

OSET SERVICES INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS

We have **40** beneficiaries engaged in the following projects, Floor polish, Wood carving, 2 Recycling plastic bags, Paper mache, Cow dung pottery, Vegetable production, Wood work, Compost manure production, Clay pottery and Sewing.

POVERTY ERADICATION INITIATIVE

Honorable councillors, From the ten (10) packages (bakery, Food catering, Hair salon, Fashion design, Pot Hire, Hot Dog, Welding & Fabrication, Fencing, Kiosk, Fencing, & upholstery) that are manned by the Social and Community Development Department there are 319 qualified beneficiaries, of which 235 have been funded and 283 are technically trained.

Currently there are one hundred and eighty two (182) operational projects of which only eight (8) are excelling, doing extremely well and two (2) has failed.

A number of beneficiaries have benefited in local economic empowerment programmes like supplying catering services during local mini shows and departmental exposition, training newly enrolled beneficiaries i.e Fashion design, supply school uniforms to needy students and orphans and bread for school feeding programme in their respective villages.

The department is currently working on completion of forty six (46) partially packaged beneficiaries through issuing of grants to enable beneficiaries to purchase consumables while waiting for funding of sixty nine (69) who are still waiting funding.

LIMID

Please be informed that we closed receiving the new applications for the year 2017-18 by the end of September 2017. By then we have already received 137 new applications. We are still receiving more from the extension areas. We will be processing all the applications we received during the quarter to prepare for the next quarter. 322 applicants are still waiting for their packages. We cannot package them in time because of shortage of funds. Monitoring of these projects remains a challenge to the department due to shortage of resources. Since inception LIMID has spent P12,018,057.55 on various packages of LIMID

SEPA poultry abattoir: let me take this opportunity to inform you that there has been no progress at the abattoir in question. Since the project was found to have a major construction defect, construction has been stopped and investigations and consultations are on-going to map the best solution on the progress. We plead with the potential beneficiaries to be patient with us since the issue has been elevated to the higher offices.

Artificial Insemination at Makoro: We stocked 204 cattle for artificial insemination at Makoro due to unsatisfactory grazing conditions of the ranch. We are very much aware that static AI covers only a few farmers. To extend the artificial insemination service to cover more farmers, farmers are encouraged to enrol into On-farm Artificial insemination.

Drought situation

Livestock and Water condition scores currently suggest that there is no drought for livestock since the rainy season is not over yet. However, grazing condition being fair at this time of the year we remain cautious about the prospects of drought this year. We encourage farmers to prepare themselves for the possibility of drought due to late rains and extreme high temperatures which contributed to stunt growth of grass.

PROJECTS

Ladies and gentlemen, we have 5 completed projects and two ongoing projects for this financial year. And are as follows;

- **Construction of 6 No. classroom blocks and 2 No. Toilet Blocks at Ratsie Primary School** have been completed.
- **Construction of 10 No. Teachers' Houses for Ratsie Primary School** have been completed although connection to sewer line is still pending (ITT at vetting stage).
- All **21 No. Destitute/ orphan care houses** are 100% complete and are on defects liability period (keys have been handed over to beneficiaries). These projects were **11 No. Two Bedroomed houses** funded at P100, 000.00 each and **10 No. Two Roomed houses** funded at P50, 000.00 each.
- **Construction of culvert in Mokungwane village** is complete.
- **Construction of a bus stop** near shell filling station along the A1 road is completed and in use.

- **Construction of 3 No. Teachers' Houses for Molebatsi Primary School** was awarded on the 24th November 2017 at a contract sum of **BWP 2, 460 190.88**. The project was awarded to Mintellco (pty) ltd with duration of 32 calendar weeks.
- **Asphalt overlay and road marking of Palapye Internal roads**,The project started on the 29th January 2018. Pothole patching and excavation for kerbstones is on-going.
- **Malaka – Moremi** - Dry grading and spot improvement awarded at a cost of P5.4 Million to Hybrid Technology Agency.
Status: commenced 06.02.18
- **Topisi – Serule** – Labour Based Technology awarded to Earn Projects at a cost of P4,284,912,23
Commencement Date: 24/01/18
Status: commenced
- **Radisele – Palapye** - Labour Based Technology evaluation submitted to adjudication board at the Ministry of Transport and Communication
Status: awaiting award
- **Concrete Paving, Drift Installation, stone pitching ,spot improvement and Drainage Works** at Matlhakola – to Lerala.
Status: Awaiting award
- **Maunatlala – Seolwane** reseal projects.
Status: awaiting award

PROBLEMATIC PROJECT

- Construction Maunatlala Hostels and Staff houses

The contract commenced on the 15th April 2016, and was targeted to be completed on the 20th October 2017.

The completion time of the project was extended two times; the second extension of time is still pending approval – End of March.

Current project status stands at 90%, Electrical work, and other finishes are still lagging behind.

The project is now delayed by limited manpower for completing finishing touches especially in the areas such as painting and electrical works due to **Employee turnover.**

UP- COMING PROJECTS,

We are also anticipating the following projects in the next financial year;

- ELECTRIFICATION OF MOKGWARE AND MOGOME PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

BPC has completed connecting the two villages to the BPC Alternating Current power grid and the remaining component is converting the currently Photovoltaic system powered facilities to BPC Alternating Current power grid and wiring the facilities and reticulation of power in the schools.

The project will be funded fully by the Ministry of Basic Education but all the design, supervision, and all the tendering and contract administration will be done by CDC.

Currently BPC has been paid for all the facilities (Schools and staff houses). Tender documents have been crafted and forwarded to Ministry of Basic Education for the release of funding so that the works can commence.

- LAND SERVICING AT EXT 10, by the Ministry of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services
MAINTANACE OF COUNCIL FACILITIES, under development budget and;
- ESP III

MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL FACILITIES

Completed Planned maintenance works undertaken this financial year, 2017/18 include;

- Rehabilitation of backlog toilet blocks at Mogapi, Manaledi, Lekadibeng, Kukubjwe, Ratholo, Mapulane and Masupe Primary Schools; a total of 10 toilets blocks were refurbished
- Maintenance of 18no. bats infested classrooms at Sebeso Primary school, Palapye
- General maintenance of Two bedroomed Teachers house at Moeng Primary school
- Maintenance of bats infested Classrooms at Khurumela Primary school, in Palapye

- General maintenance of School Toilets (Pit latrines) at Lerala Primary school
- Erection of 2no pump houses for Matimela at Tamasane
- Maintenance of paving at the bus rank completed
- **Maintenance of 620 Street Lights** –As at 02nd February 2018, 427 out of 620 street lights were functional (representing 69%) of the set target of 100%. Among other major works carried out this financial year, we have replaced 4no. worn out Feeder Pillars complete with electrical components and fixtures and wired at Palapye – Pinville and Palapye Hotel, Replaced faulty cable of about 50m at Northern. The cable lit about 7 poles which were loaded onto a faulty cable which alternatively loaded onto this circuit to avoid road cutting. Botswana Power Corporation under took conversion of post-paid to pre-paid meters countrywide to low consuming power facilities (60A supply).
- **Maintenance of Tribal Administration staff houses**, we have 11 No. LA2 staff houses at, Radisele, Lecheng, Malaka, Topisi, Moreomabele, Palapye, Lerala and Matlhakola planned for maintainace this financial year.
Request for quotation documents has been submitted to builders/Artisans for pricing and priced documents to be submitted on the 20th February 2018. Submission to adjudication office will be done by the 23rd February 2018

Problem encountered in regard to maintenance of facilities and roads due to;

- acts of vandalism (by students)
- Constant and frequent plant breakdowns hamper effective maintenance planning therefore causing delays in scheduled maintenance.
- Insufficient funds for maintenance

STATUS OF DAMS THAT SUPPLY PALAPYE MANAGEMENT CENTRE

Dikgatlong dam is 83.1% full and it is expected to supply water to all areas including Palapye that are connected to the North-South Carrier water supply scheme for a period of 24 months without inflow.

Lotsane dam supply 22 villages in Palapye Management Centre and it is 66% full. It is expected to supply water to the 22 villages for a period of 23 months without inflow.

WATER SUPPLY CHALLENGES

Water Quality issue at Radisele and Mogome. Water Quality issue will be solved after installation of Lime Softening plant. This project is at evaluation stage and it is expected to be completed on the 23rd February 2018

Mokgware is not supplied from Mogome Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant due to lack of booster station and dilapidated pipeline from Mogome to Mokgware village tank. Therefore Mokgware will be supplied after completion of booster station and pipeline project. The project is expected to commence in April 2018.

Water Browsers experience frequent breakdowns rendering the browsing exercise expensive. Nonetheless repairs of water browsers are being carried out.

As for Water shortage for Topisi village due to decline in yield of Molodi wellfield. The village will be supplied adequately after completion of Phikwe/Serule Water Transfer Scheme project. This project is currently at Terms of reference stage for design audit.

DEPARTMENT OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND SAFETY

It is great concerns that were receiving many complaints that taxis do not drop customers at their respective homes. Department of Road Transport and Safety (DRTS) have issued permits to taxis which are a good number to be able to provide the service to the public but they are not doing so. Those adversely affected are those in extension 4, 5, 6 7, 8 and 9. Most taxis are congested in one road from Palapye junction to old mall. Therefore I am calling for DRTS to make sport checks and take proper action to perpetrators.

My appeal to all taxi owners is that they should cooperate with us on this matter and assist people as expected. We are well aware that some areas have gravel roads but that do not stop you from delivering the required service as licenced. It should be noted that the council is working round the clock to improve the state of Roads in Palapye village as evident by ongoing roads pavement works in some roads.

Public Relations

Honorable Councillors, as we draw close to the end of the financial year, I reflect back with joy on several activities that collectively we managed to achieve across the Authority which have impacted positively in improving staff performance.

To mention just a few, we managed to host national training for Fire brigades officers twice this year;

Palapye Administrative Authority held its maiden Excellence Awards ceremony, combined with Chairman's Ball, as a way to recognise and reward excellence.

As you recall, 27 employees were rewarded in different categories ranging from Best Support staff and Best Performer per department; Overall Best Support Staff and Performer; Long Service and Good Conduct; Best Exemplary Leader and lastly SACS and Chairman's special awards.

Going forward, Honorable Councillors, I hope we should also borrow cue from the aforesaid performance initiative and challenge ourselves to come up with our own performance measures to recognize best performing Councillors.

Conclusion

As I conclude, Hon. Councillors, I wish to reiterate the need to promote team work between staff and the political wing because it is only through collaboration and team work that we can achieve more, as said ***"if you want to go fast, go alone and if you want to go far, go together"***

I want to challenge you, Hon. Councillors to continuously engage with Officers outside Council Committee meetings to learn and bring yourselves up to date with all governing statutes, policies and procedures to minimize somewhat a spirit of animosity that tends to prevail when we are not at the same level of understanding.

Let's continue to work hard, work together and support each other for the improvement of our No.1 Customer, our community members that we are here representing to serve.

Thank you. For your individual attention!!

Thank you.