



NALA NEWS

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NALA SWITCHES TO ENERGY SAVING STREET LIGHTS

Pule Sammy Monnamoncho

The Mayor of Nala Municipality recently launched a project that will affectedly reduce the consumption of electricity. The project is set to replace the conventional street lights with the more environmentally friendly LED street lights.

These lights will primarily be connected on the ingress of all towns within the Nala local Municipality leading to a full-on installation in every avenue of the municipality.

For now approximately 350 lights will illuminate entrances in Kgotsong, Bothaville, Mayerhof and Wesselsbron.

Nala Municipal Manager, Mr Boitumelo Mokomela said that the Municipality has already contracted a company to oversee the completion of the first phase. "The project is of course funded by the Department of Energy" Mr Mokomela added.

Depending on the success of the replacement of conventional lights, Nala will also commence on replacing the massive energy gobbling high mast lights with the alternative energy efficiency LED lights that will still offer maximum illumination but at low consumption of energy.

This is in line with the National Energy Efficiency Strategy of South Africa which "aims at developing measures to promote energy saving, reduce negative impact of energy use on the environment and reduce energy costs to the economy."



Nala Mayor CLLR Mogoje and Contract Worker Serame Mofokeng install LED lights



Councillors: Mabaso, Mthombeni, Mogoje, Ntseki and Sebate

NALA EXPEDITES TITTLE DEEDS RESTORATION PROGRAMME

Pule Sammy Monnamoncho



Mayor, Councillor Mogoje handing over a title deed to one of the recipients

To date more than 400 homeowners have gotten their title deeds, a legal document that signifies ownership. The second instalment of the dispensation of the deeds took place recently at a packed Boneni hall in Kgotsong.

"It is very important that you keep these title deeds at a very safe place because it serves as a proof that you are indeed the owner of your house" Nala Mayor, Councillor Theko Mogoje urged recipients of the deeds.

"I am very happy to be among those who have received these title deeds today because now it is known that there will be a legacy I'll be leaving to my children when I am dead and gone" said the ecstatic Elvis Siswane who resides in Mpumalanga section in Kgotsong.

"There are still countless deeds kept at the housing department awaiting collection." Said Mr Neo Mmutle of Nala Housing department.

Nala residents are advised to visit the housing department near them to check if their title deeds are not among those to be given-out. "It must be noted that we will hand the title deeds only to actual owners of the houses and nobody else" Mr Mmutle sent out a warning.

He further said that the members of the community will further be informed when another roll out of the title deeds restoration programme occurs. "We still have a long way to go in ensuring that the dignity of our people is returned to them in our mission to counterpoise the discriminative land act of 1937 that deprived black people of land ownership" Mmutle said.

NALA AIDS COUNCIL UP AND RUNNING

Pule Sammy Monnamoncho



Ignorance and stigma were pinpointed as factors detrimental to the fight against HIV/AIDS at the recent launch of Nala AIDS Council held at Boneni hall. "The community should be educated about this epidemic. Nala Municipality will also do its best in providing services that would be helpful in eradicating ignorance and stigma especially among the youth" said Mr Joel Nkone, Nala project coordinator.

The Mayor of the day Councillor Xakiwe Mokete said that she was hopeful that "information gathered today will be helpful in our daily quest of fighting HIV/AIDS pandemic". Said a representative from NACOSA (National AIDS Convention of South Africa)

"The start of the local council is the start of changing the landscape (of HIV diagnostics) in the country. Please do not let this die, this must grow from strength to strength"

The Free State provincial AIDS council coordinator, Mr Thomas Mguzula sent a stern warning to people who sell supplies meant to keep them healthy as people living with the virus. "You will only be reversing your progress to a healthy lifestyle if you sell porridges provided at our clinics instead of using them for your own benefit" Mguzula said. Mguzula further pledged his allegiance to the council and said that together with the Mayor of Nala will work tirelessly to ensure the sustainability of the local AIDS council.

An AIDS ambassador Ms Mpenyana Moshodi pointed to the fact that other people are quick to spread stigma attached to the epidemic without considering the odds that they themselves might be infected. She encouraged people to get tested and take their medication. "If you take your medicine you'll go up, if you don't you'll definitely go down" Ms Moshodi said.

She further stated that young people have a tendency of defaulting on their medication because of stigma attached to the disease. "Take care of yourself and disregard negativities to prolong your life. It is your life after all" said Ms Moshodi.

Moshodi further said that there are support groups available to help those infected and affected to accept their statuses and subsequently adopt a positive approach towards the virus. "HIV doesn't kill. It is a virus that can be manageable" Ms Moshodi said. With acceptance of one's status according to Moshodi the prevalence of HIV/AIDS can be put under control as people will not be angry enough to intentionally spread the virus.



The new Nala AIDS Council

NALA BEEFS UP DISASTER MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Pule Sammy Monnamoncho

In the wake of the recent devastating floods across the country, Nala Disaster Management Unit and relevant stakeholders (EMS, SAP, Agricultural Sector and many more) were engaged in a workshop about reducing the risk of disasters by COGTA. (Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs)

The research generally found that most municipalities do not have the disaster management plans nor a designated personnel. "In most cases people who deal with disaster issues are not necessarily conversant and interested in disaster management" said Mr Papi Lubise of COGTA Disaster Management Unit.

For Disaster Management Unit to be effective, there should be establishments of Intergovernmental Committee on Disaster Management (ICDM), Advisory Forums, Disaster management Framework and Technical task team. "These will be achieved if the municipalities appoint DM personnel and have a unit that is participatory in IDP structures" said Lubise.

Once the disaster management unit is operational, it will be tasked with identifying prevalent hazards. "We need to know the frequency, the speed of onset and magnitude of these hazards" said Lubise

"We also need to identify vulnerable communities and infrastructures. Estimate likely losses resulting from these hazards in order to evaluate likely impacts. By so doing, we'll be able to develop a risk profile"

Information management and communication in reducing the risk of disaster, therefore the unit should gather data and document management systems. "The unit should also disseminate information in case of looming or ensuing disasters and form communications links" said Lubise



Mr Papi Lubise



Some of the attendees

CDW's, Volunteers, Ward Committees, Government Official and Communities should also be involved and trained to promote a culture of risk avoidance." Funding will be sourced from the municipal coffers and conditional grants" said Lubise

Lubise also said that there should be extent fire training programmes and frequent fire brigade services for an effective fire management plan which is fundamental to Disaster Management.