

# VICTOR KHANYE



## Newsletter

DECEMBER 2013 EDITION

Local Municipality • Masepala wa Magae • Umas'pala Wemakhaya



**“VKLM - Towards eradicating housing backlogs by 2014”**



# Editor's Note

## Life changing commitments!



**Ass. Man. Communication,  
S Masemola... 2013, a year to  
remember**

The year 2013 is on its last legs. Soon we will celebrate, not without anticipation, New Year and 2014 in general. However, as the year draws to an end it is appropriate to ponder on exciting achievements, which not only illustrates outstanding political and administration will, but also unsurpassed service delivery - improving the lives of all citizens in Victor Khanye.

I can recall a hundred and one outstanding achievements by this municipality in 2013 - successful Mayoral Imbizo's, fruitful ministerial and provincial visits, ongoing improved service delivery, financial achievements to mention a few.

However, the three most outstanding life changing announcements were the two by the Minister for Water Affairs, the total eradication of the bucket system by March 2014 and the multi-million Rand Water project which would supplement our water supply by a massive 25 000 liters per day. The third announcement was that of the Premier of Mpumalanga, David Mabuza, that shack dwellers would be relocated and properly housed, by March 2014!

For many of us, who have the luxury of waterborne toilets it is difficult to fully comprehend the degrading and unhygienic effect the bucket system has on thousands living in informal settlements. Not forgetting the enormous strain it places on the municipal administration in providing a removal services in far outlying areas.

All these past achievements and those still to be implemented in 2014 should

instill pride in the Ruling Party, as well as in the local politicians and administrators of the Victor Khanye Local Municipality. Furthermore, encourage strong community interaction which would further enhance the development plans of both national government and that of this municipality. Think about it!

### Christmas cheer and 2014- wishes

*My wish for the citizens of this municipality is a joyful Christmas.*

*May the spirit of giving prevail amongst us and where possible, give to those less fortunate than ourselves.*

*May 2014 be a year that meets all your expectation, may it be a year of health, wealth and happiness and a year in which all of us work together towards a better life for all in Delmas Drive safely and alcohol free – look out for pedestrians!*

*-Editor*

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**. All articles & interviews by Sentebaleng Masemola  
Assistant Manager Communications and Editor**



### Switching off program -VKLM collects R2,5m

By Sentebaleng Masemola

**The switching off program of the Victor Khanye Local Municipality is effective. In a very short space of time the municipality collected more than R2, 5m from certain sector departments.**

"There is no doubt that the switching off program is successful. Some sector departments, owing substantial amounts for water, electricity, rates and taxes responded after receiving letters of demand. Since April we have managed to collect more than R2, 5m from these departments," the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Eva Makhabane, said.

The next step would be to target individual households especially in Botleng Ext. 3 where the collection rate is at its lowest because of Eskom being the supplier and VKLM unable to implement its 50:50 Policy.

Asked about the municipality's Revenue

Enhancement Strategy the Executive Mayor said it is being developed and once approved, would be implemented. "The benefit derived from this strategy would enhance the collection of extra revenue which in turn, would lead to improved service delivery."

According to Cllr. Makhabane there will be no more interrupted water supply in 2014 now that the Delmas water purification plant and the Rand Water pipeline is operational.

Sanitation still remains a problem in informal settlements. However, the recent announcement by the Minister of Water Affairs, Edna Molewa, that the bucket system will be eradicated by



**Executive Mayor,  
Cllr. EN Makhabane...  
hosted the very successful  
Imbizo Focus Week**

March next year would see then the end of this problem.

"VKLM hosted an even with various sector departments to celebrate 20 years of democracy under the theme, "South Africa is a much better place than it was in 1994".

Asked what role the municipality would play in next year's general election, the Executive Mayor said, "We will play a major role in this regard by working closely with the Independent Electoral Commission ensuring that our people are registered".

"We will also mobilize and educate our people regarding the importance of voting, Cllr Makhabane concludes.

### Executive Mayor's Christmas Message

"It is that time of the year again where people across the globe are about to celebrate Christmas. This is a very special time for most of us; a time to spend with family and friends; reflect on a year passed and plan for the New Year ahead.

"Christmas is time for sharing and for caring for each other. It is a time for reaching out the hand of friendship and reconciliation. As we are celebrating, we should not forget that there are those less fortunate than us, even during this festive season they will have nothing to celebrate. By embracing the spirit of Ubuntu, let us share the little we have with the less fortunate and give them hope.

"As a municipality, the year 2013 has been a good year in terms of the provision of sustainable services to our people. We as a council thank the communities for their patience in areas where service delivery is still lacking. Council is committed to do whatever it can to address these backlogs.

"Some of you will be traveling to various holiday destinations. I call on all of you to PLEASE OBSERVE THE RULES OF THE ROAD, and above all DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE! One death on our roads is one death too many

"As the Executive Mayor of Victor Khanye Local Municipality and on behalf of all Councillors and Officials, I would like to wish all our citizen a happy and peaceful Christmas along with a safe and prosperous New Year."



## SPEAKER

# Vote and preserve our hard earned democracy...

By Sentebaleng Masemola

**"I have observed a disappointing turnout from the Mandela generation. Therefore my message is that young people should come in numbers and exercise their democratic right to vote and choose the government of their choice".**

"If you have not yet registered, do so as soon as possible so that you can vote, thus ensuring that the hard earned democracy is preserved."

So said the Speaker of Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Cllr. RK Segone in an interview

In this interview Cllr. Segone, dealt with a number of issues such as the Service Charter, Small, Medium and Macro Enterprises (SMME's) and projects.

According to him the Service Charter is in the consultation phase and will be implemented once it has been approved in 2014.

Asked what SMME's could expect from the municipality, he said: "They have and can play an important role in providing jobs. The municipality is conscious of this fact. VKLM's Local Economic Development Plan which will assist the development of SMME's and I call on them to participate fully with the municipality."

"The end of the bucket system in VKLM is nearing. It would appear that the bucket system would be fully eradicated by March next year. Another job opportunity initiative is the development of 1231 stands, while local mining houses have pledged to create more jobs".



**Speaker, Cllr. RK Segone... sees education of the youth the catalyst for addressing unemployment**

"All in all, VKLM is concerned over the high numbers of unemployed people but I believe it is through education that we will really tackle the unemployment situation. I take this opportunity to wish the class of 2013 all the best as they await their examination results and enter another milestone in their lives," Cllr. Segone said.

"I take this opportunity in wishing the Executive Mayor, Mama Eva Makhabane, Council Whip, Henry Ngoma, members of the Mayoral Executive Committee, all councilors, staff and readers a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

## Cleansing ceremony for notorious road of death!



A prayer meeting, attended by paramedics, the South African Police Services, Department of Transport, councilors and religious groups was

held on Delmas' notorious road of death the Ruth Momphathi road.

The aim was to cleanse the road which has seen a number of horrific accidents over the years.

Victor Khanye Local Municipality's (VKLM) Traffic Officer, Paul Jiyane, called on road users to be very careful, obey traffic rules and never drive under the influence of alcohol... "Most of the accidents were caused by people driving

without licenses," he said.

*Victor Khanye, after whom the municipality is named also died in a road accident on the very same road. This was revealed by VKLM's Council Whip, Henry Ngoma*

Councilor Ngoma said the municipality saw the need to hold this prayer meeting after numerous requests from the community. The municipality has also constructed speed humps on the road to minimize accidents



# COUNCIL WHIP

## Good governance - no compromise!

**"It is imperative that we do not compromise good governance in 2014, communities are kept well informed, and that service delivery remains a high priority thus creating community wellness!"**



**Council Whip, Cllr. H Ngoma... inspiring all to work together towards community wellness**

So said the Council Whip of Victor Khanye Local Municipality (VKLM), Cllr. H Ngoma, when asked what the citizens can expect from his office next year?

He emphasized the need for ongoing interaction and sound working relations among councillors, administration and the community who expect and are entitled to transparent and accountable local government "In this we must never fail!"

"Councilors must also be proactive in their respective wards. Through such interaction; the community will be kept informed regarding municipal affairs. This is the only way we can achieve participatory democratic governance," he explained.

"I cannot emphasize enough the important role of communication in civil society. It is therefore my task to ensure ongoing communication and community interaction in 2014 and beyond. We as councilors, together with the administration must maintain the high standard of governance people have come to expect from us."

In conclusion Councillor Ngoma said that one must appreciate the structures of society from which the revolution for a better life evolved.

"If we fail, then we will not be able to steer the drive towards a better life successfully – we must at all times work towards the creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist prosperous South Africa."

### Poverty and unemployment

In his Christmas message he called on the citizens of VKLM to reach out to families who are unable to support themselves. "Working together as a united force entails drawing strength from our unmatched resolve to do what we can, to end poverty and unemployment."

### In his message the Council Whip also focused on:

- Celebrating 100 years of the 1931 Land Act
- The prevalence of high crime which blots out the municipality's plan of creating safer communities in which they can claim their right to peace and comfort.
- Praised and thanked the local

members of the South African Police Services, traffic officers and medical personnel who must leave the comfort of their homes to create a safe environment as well as saving lives

Extended his best wishes to all the matriculants who are waiting on their results and wish them the very best for the future

"VKLM will not waver to its commitment to accelerate service delivery. We will double our development efforts to further improve the lives of our people."

Council Whip Ngoma also called on all road users to adhere and obey all road regulations which are there to keep all road users safe. "Do not drink and drive. To all of you going on holiday, please arrive alive,"





# MUNICIPAL MANAGER

## Political and administrative cohesion setting the development trend in 2014

**"This time of the year most of us experience nostalgic moments. We look back at a year just about passed and with hope and deprecation at what we can expect in the New Year".**



**Municipal Manager, R M Maredi...  
political and administrative  
cohesion for 2014**

"Let me first and foremost wish the citizens of Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Councilors and my dedicated staff members a blessed Christmas and that you together with your families would experience the true spirit of Christmas – peace, happiness and above all a sense of sharing abundance with those without. May you be blessed and prosper in 2014!

"I bow my head in memory of citizens, friends and family who have passed on during 2013. May their memories be your guiding light and strength when you celebrate this Christmas without them?

"Whilst it is impossible to recall all the phenomenal achievements this past year, it is appropriate to ponder on some of the more important ones less we take them for granted:

- Through commitment 98 percent of all households have piped water; 83 percent have toilet facilities; 85 percent electricity, and 75 percent have access to waste collection

- The municipality's water supply is now stable through the Rand Water pipeline and the refurbishing of the water purification plant

- Through the Integrated Development Plan, Budget process and Mayoral Imbizos, interaction between the Council and community has improved. These forums also enhanced service delivery where it is most needed

- Ten mines are operational in the VKLM-area and provide jobs to 14 percent of the population

- The Risk Management Unit is fully functional ensuring accountable,

clean and a more effective administration

- The approved capital budget amounts to R102, 6m, the operating budget, R292m and the total municipal budget, R394, 6m which is 18, 5 percent higher than the previous year.

### Local Economic Development

- Between July and October a total of 399 Small, Medium and Macro Enterprise (SMME) and Co-operatives were capacitated in various programmes – coordinated by the municipality in partnership with other sectors e.g. Standard Bank, DEDET, SARS and SANACO

- The municipality facilitated the following: Tourism Development Programmes – Victor Khanye Memorial Lecture and the Tourist Expo. Delmas tourism brochure was launched and is being marketed regionally and nationally with the aim to put Delmas on the tourism map and increase tourism activities within the area to create more job opportunities

- Social Labour Projects (Public, Private Partnerships

- Some of the local Corporates have contributed back to the communities – Exxaro, 25 houses and the supported farming projects at Boschpoort, which currently employs six people

### Youth development

- A seminar on further training, education and skills development was held for 500 learners in grade 10, 11 and 12 from High Schools in and around VKLM. Career Expo in partnership with Vitroviem and Eskom sponsored the event.

- A plumbing preparedness

learnership programme, dealing with aspects of plumbing was attended by 27 young people - a joint venture by NYDA and MRTT. Another 30 young people are currently attending a plumbing learnership and enterprise development programme hosted by M3 Engineering and SEDA

- VKLM has just concluded an agreement with LIMCO Consulting (PTY) LTD to offer two learnerships, Business Administration and Information Technology Support, simultaneously. This learnerships will start in January 2014 and run for two years whereby some 50 young people would attend

"The New Year brings more hope and progress than most of us can imagine. Promises of total eradication of the bucket system, relocation and decent housing and services for those living in informal settlements, are but a few of the myriad of proposed projects you can expect".

"In 2014 we are going to the polls. The administration will assist where it can to ensure that voters are kept informed about election procedures and able to cast their vote".

I leave you with the words of Denis Wadley:

**"As long as we are persistent in our pursuit of our deepest destiny, we will continue to grow. We cannot choose the day or time when we will fully bloom. It happens in its own time".**



# IMBIZO FOCUS WEEK

## Historic and monumental event!

By Sentebaleng Masemola

**The Executive Mayor, Councillor Eva Makhabane and the administration of the Victor Khanye Local Municipality (VKLM) needs to be congratulated on hosting the Imbizo Focus Week, a historic and monumental occasion!**

**The Imbizo Focus Week, an African National Congress initiative, aims, among others to bring the people closer to government.**

**The large contingent of high ranking officials present is proof of national and provincial government's intention to involve people in all its developmental programmes. These augers well for improved interaction between the community and the different spheres of government.**

At this historic event those present heard first hand from two Ministers – Edna Molewa (Water Affairs) and Leshesa Tsenoli, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, as well as the Premier of Mpumalanga, David Mabuza, that shack dwellers in VKLM will be properly housed and that the total eradication of the bucket system would be March 2013. (See article on page 2, 3 and 4)

"The Imbizo Focus Week, which was recently re-launched, is an initiative to bring the people closer to government. This week will in future take place every second year," the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Eva Makhabane told the gathering.

*The theme for the week was "South Africa is a much better place than it was in 1994..." The Imbizo Focus Week, as also the focal point in the annual communication cycle for intensified direct communication between all spheres of government and the community.*

Those present also witnessed the launch ceremony of the National Bucket Education Programme by the Minister for Water Affairs, Edna Molewa.

The focus was also on the progress made in service delivery, as well as identifying further progressive acceleration of the vision for a better life, a people centered government, coordinated service delivery efforts and celebration of the country's democratic dispensation.



**A Proud moment in the history of VKLM, the unveiling of the housing plaque by the Premier of Mpumalanga, David Mabuza**

### Highlights

As part of the international celebrations of elderly in October, 25 houses, constructed by Exxaro Leeuwpan Mining Company were handed over

Legacy of the 1912 Native Land Act through the handing over of 816 title deeds to landless beneficiaries, handing over of 302 RDP houses built by the Provincial Department for Human Settlement and confirmation of 1 849 stands for the re-location of informal settlers. Last but not least, the launch of the National Bucket Eradication

### Programme.

**Present at this historic occasion were:**

- The Executive Mayor of VKLM, Cllr. Eva Makhabane
- The Minister for Water Affairs, Edna Molewa, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Leshesa Tsenoli
- The Premier of Mpumalanga, David Mabuza
- The MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Simon Skosana and Mpumalanga's MEC for Human Settlement, Andries Gamede.



# 2014 - THE YEAR

## 2014 - The year indigents would be properly housed and the end of the bucket system in VKLM

By Sentebaleng Masemola

**Indigents, inadequately housed, (living in shacks) would be relocated and properly housed while the bucket system in informal settlements would be totally eradicated by March 2014!**



"We must never forget that people living in informal settlement are being deprived of their dignity. To restore dignity amongst these people it is of paramount importance that the registration process commences immediately.

"I'm putting my head on a block. Come rain, come sunshine, whether at night or by day, but by March next year you will move to your new formal settlement with the necessary infrastructure.

"Today I am making a Vezimfundo High School Accord. This government will provide you with a new home. However, in the interim, you must not build new shacks. The Ruling Party entered into a contract with you that it will change your lives for the better, and this contract would be fulfilled by March next year," the Premier said emphatically.

During his visit, the Premier accompanied by the two ministers handed over more than 800 RDP title housing deeds, while 25 luxurious and up market houses sponsored by a local mining company, Exxaro, were also handed over.

The Premier has also donated beds, while the municipality supplied the curtains for Premier Mabuza's Kancane Kancane Housing Project.

• Earlier this year, the Minister for Water Affairs, Edna Molewa, announced a multi-million Rand Water Project for VKLM while all RDP houses would have water borne toilets preventing water related disease.

These commitments were made during the Imbizo Focus Week (7 – 13 October) held in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality (VKLM) by high ranking leaders namely the Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Lechesa Tsenoli, the Minister for Water Affairs, Edna Molewa, the Premier of Mpumalanga, David Mabuza and the Executive Mayor, Cllr Eva Makhabane – 2014 will indeed be a year of hope, restored dignity and improved living conditions for hundreds of less fortunate people in this progressive local municipality!

• The Imbizo Focus Week was hosted by the Executive Mayor of the Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Eva Makhabane, in accordance with Cabinet's decision to re-introduce the bi-annual Imbizo Focus Week. Citizens of VKLM experienced this historic and memorable occasion whereby the National Bucket Eradication Program was also launched.

### Formal settlement

Premier David Mabuza publically announced that people living in informal settlement in and around VKLM would be relocated to a formal settlement with full services by March 2014!

He also extended the deadline for the relocation of these people from December this year to March next year. At the same time called upon the MEC for Human Settlement, Andries Gamede, to assist the municipality with the establishment of the new location which will have Reconstructed Development Programme (RDP) houses, water, electricity and roads.

Mabuza was full of praise for government's initiative regarding housing delivery, but expressed concern over the many people who are still living in informal settlement without basic services and decent accommodation.



# End of bucket system in informal settlements!

**The eradication of the bucket system - a most degrading and unhygienic era in South Africa - in all the informal settlements in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality, is being envisaged by March 2014. Government recently launched its National Bucket Eradication Campaign during an Imbizo Focus Week hosted by the Victor Khanye Local Municipality in Delmas.**

The Minister of Water Affairs, Edna Molewa, announced that by the end of March 2014 the bucket system in all informal settlements in this municipality would be something of the past.

"The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Lechese Tsenoli, would be driving the bucket eradication campaign in the Delmas area," Molewa said.

She pointed out that the Delmas area had a history of waterborne diseases, but with the eradication of the bucket system and the implementation of water borne toilets such related water diseases should belong to the past.

Molewa referred to some of the water projects in the municipality namely the multi-million Rand Water Project which would supplement the municipality's water supply by an additional 25 000 litres per day via a 37,2 kilometer pipeline.

Other water related projects in the area



would include the drilling and equipping of an additional 17 boreholes and the refurbishing of the waste water treatment plant. "These water projects are part of national government's promise to the people that it would improve their lives. At the same time acknowledge the importance of water in the social-economic development of

communities,

"I believe that what we are doing here in Delmas is a huge step towards ensuring security in the supply of water and that the eradication of the bucket system would surely have sufficient support to ensure longevity," said Molewa.

## Sod turning - Premier Mabuza comes through



In October, during the Imbizo Focus Week, the Premier of Mpumalanga, David Mabuza, promised to relocate people living in informal settlements in the Victor Khanye Local

Municipality by March 2014 – 18 days later, part of this promise came true through a sod turning ceremony signaling the start of a major housing development project

This historic event saw Victor Khanye Local Municipality's Executive Mayor, Cllr. Eva Makhabane, turn the first sod of the proposed formal housing project in Ext. 5 - comprising of 1 231 fully serviced stands.

"The eradication of the housing backlog

has been a major challenge for the municipality. We have taken the initiative to eradicate surrounding informal settlements. This historic event is the first step towards providing services and decent homes to those citizens living in informal settlements," Cllr. Makhabane said.

This historic ceremony is visible evidence of VKLM's and the Premier's commitment to relocate people poorly housed in a formal settlement with decent houses and services.



# WE WILL REMEMBER...

## Victor Khanye - gallant fighter, revolutionary and selfless leader

**VICTOR KHANYE** – the man who in 1990 together with civil rights leader, Judas Mithimunya, led a protest march of some 6 000 people of all walks of life, demanding from the apartheid regime at that time, a seamless local authority, abolishment of the town committees, access to education and the allocation of more land for housing.



The Executive Mayor, Cllr. Eva Makhabane, handing over the plaque as a token of the municipality's gratitude to the family of the late Victor Khanye...We will remember, Victor

The role which the late Victor Khanye, played in changing the face of local government in Delmas and after which one of South Africa's most progressive local municipalities, the Victor Khanye Local Municipality is named, was once again brought to the fore at a memorial lecture in his honour.

This year's theme "Following the Life and Times of Victor," was attended by members of his family, learners, past teachers and fellow cadres reliving the phenomenal role this gallant fighter, revolutionary and selfless leader played in transforming a non-participatory form of government into a democratic and participatory local government in Delmas from 1990 up to the time of his untimely passing in 1998.

### Victor's achievements:

- Victor was part of the team

who negotiated in favour of a Delmas Transitional Local Council (TLC). Also played a important role in the amalgamation of the Botleng Town Committee and the former Delmas

### Town Council

- His dynamic leadership saw him elected as TLC councillor representing the African National Congress. He later became a member of the Council Executive Committee, at the time the highest decision making body

- In 1996 he became a Proportional Representative Councillor and later became the Deputy Chairperson of the Council

- Victor's untimely death robbed him to serve as a Member of Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

- Was co-founder and the first Consolidation Coordinator of the Botleng Development Association which aim was to mobilize project funding such as feeding schemes, training of health workers, funding students and enticing developers to invest in Delmas. Together with co-members SDP Skhosana, James Mhlongo and others played a pivot role in getting Cash Built, Irvin and Johnson to invest in Delmas

- Victor secured funds for



The Latter House Drama Group performs during the memorial lecture



Victor secured funds for bursaries for promising students. Among them Floyed Mashele who has completed his Civil Engineering studies and Steven Ngubeni, who graduated as Regional Town Planner

His vision was to see Delmas/Botleng expanding towards the N12 freeway, traversing Delmas and linking Johannesburg with Witbank,

Middelburg and Nelspruit. He argued that a small town like Delmas at the time, would only attract investors if it develop towards the freeway, proving easy access to and from the town

His mother recalls that tragic Sunday when Victor Khanye passed on. "Late on that Sunday, the late Sbulayi Skhosana told me of Victor's tragic passing. We all then realized, that we

were robbed of a gallant fighter, a revolutionary and a selfless leader..."

**"His spirit shall continue to direct the future development and growth of Delmas and its citizens; his sole, the radar for future leaders; his selflessness to inspire us all to unite in progress."**

## Fire service - a mean outfit!

**The fire service of the Victor Khanye Local Municipality (VKLM) has over the past ten years grown in stature and service excellence. From four members and two vehicle service, it has grown into a 24/7 emergency call centre, Station and Chief Fire Officer, trained fire fighters, a compliment of volunteers, fleet of three fire appliances, response unit and three veldt fire response vehicles.**

Said the Chief Fire Officer, Frans Bolton "It was hard work, motivation and dedication to grow the service as we have done over the past ten years with limited resources at our disposal.

There are many challenges such as the availability of resources due to the cost factor. There is also an urgent need for a fully functional fire station, additional fire personnel and at least two fire houses in this area. But here again, the availability of funds place a damper on these necessities," the Chief Fire Officer, Frans Bolton explained.

The service is working hand-in hand with the Nkangala District Municipality and the Provincial Disaster Management Centre to ensure that the focus remains on preventative rather than responsive measures.

"Regular awareness visits are conducted at schools, in particular primary and pre-primary schools. Three major disaster management awareness campaigns were conducted and through these campaigns we reached an array of people regarding disaster management," he explained.

VKLM also conducted a large disaster management exercise on the N12 to demonstrate the efficiency of its service during a major disaster. "This exercise was a huge success and we received praise for it from the Province."

Bolton also cited the high unemployment and illiteracy rate in VKLM as another



major obstacle towards rendering an effective fire services. "A large percentage of the community is unemployed and cannot read. They also do not know the emergency numbers. These factors contribute largely towards delays before services could be dispatched in most instances total destruction of property," he said.

### Equitable share

Asked how the service is coping in procuring essential equipment, Bolton explained that the municipality provides an annual budget but most of the budget is forthcoming from the Nkangala District Municipality. Government's equitable share has also been stopped.

"There are not many suppliers of fire-fighting equipment in the country. Most

of the equipment must be imported which are extremely expensive and time consuming which in itself presents a challenge," Bolton concludes.

### Responsibilities

Other than actual fire fighting the fire service is also responsible for:

- Maintenance of vehicles and equipment
- Ensure trained staff are available to respond to emergencies
- Fire risk assessments
- Fire safety inspections
- Law enforcement
- Disaster Management
- Training and awareness campaigns and fire fighting demonstrations



# EMERGENCY SERVICES

## In less than EIGHT minutes fire can destroy informal dwellings

**"The fire risk in informal settlements are huge due to dwellings being constructed of highly combustible material and could be destroyed in less than eight minutes".**

"Compounding the fire risk further is that the community tries to put out the fire instead of first calling the fire department. Another problem causing delays in the fire department's response time, is that the South African Police Services are called out to assist and in many instances people also phone the wrong number."

So said the Chief Fire Officer of the Victor Khanye Local Municipality (VKLM), FJ Bolton, when asked about the many challenges his department has to overcome.

He cited access to houses as another major challenge because of the passages between houses being too narrow to reach a burning building. "However the fire department is fortunate that the frequency of fires in informal settlements is fairly low. Four per month in the winter season and maybe one a month in the summer season," he said.

Communities admitted that they do not know the fire department's number and either call 10111 or 112 which are frequently not answered.

### Veldt fires

According to Bolton, veldt fires are mostly caused through negligence by land owners. Provincial bylaws are in place, but it is difficult to enforce, as many land owners still fail to comply. However some cases did end up in court and heavy fines imposed.

He pointed out that the municipality does respond to veldt fires, however, in accordance with the National Veldt and Forest Fire Act, land owners are

responsible to prevent veldt fires on their property in the first instance and not just phone the fire department to assist in fighting veldt fires.

*The fire services have three vehicles equipped to attend to veldt fires and one fire pumper designed for off-road use and a fire*

*tanker for fighting large fires*

"The Fire Protection Association, on which the municipality is represented, allows for equipment to be made available to fight veldt fires of paid-up registered members in high risk areas," the Fire Chief explained.

## Do Not...

Let us, in formal and informal settlements, make this festive season a fire emergency free time. If readers obey the following DO's and DON'T's, the fire department would also have an enjoyable festive season.

- Do not leave fires unattended. Make sure the fire is put out properly
- Make sure that all electrical connections on your Christmas tree is safe, do not put the tree near combustible material, power supply or a transformer, as the heat from the lights could cause a fire
- Do not make a too large fire outside and make sure it is far away from a thatch roof
- Always ensure that there are means nearby to extinguish a fire in the event of an emergency. Make sure your fire extinguisher is in a good working order
- Place the fire emergency numbers in a place where everybody can see it. (The emergency numbers appear on page 14)
- The lighting of fireworks is controlled. No fire works can be discharged within a built-up area and you need permissions from the Chief Fire Officer
- Do not hold fireworks in your hand while it is lit, it can explode and cause severe injuries
- Do not let children play with fireworks
- Unplug all non-essential electrical appliances before you go on holiday
- Refrain from drinking and driving. It is really not worth it even if you are fortunate not to be caught or cause an accident. What if you do? If you are going to over indulge, get a responsible and sober person to drive you home



# OPERATION SIYABOPHA

## You have been warned!

By Sentebaleng Masemola

A strong contingent of law enforcers from both the Victor Khanye Local Municipality (VKLM) and that of the province will be out on the roads to enforce road safety on urban as well as the N12 freeway, during the coming festive season. Offenders can expect no mercy from law enforcers!

This stern warning came from the Executive Director for Community and Social Services of VKLM, Thembi Mdluli.

"During this period special teams will patrol the roads and roadworthy inspections will also take place. Being so close to freeway to Mpumalanga, we would be assisted by the provincial authority as our human resources would not be able to cope with the high volumes of through traffic during the festive season," she explained.

Asked about challenges Mdluli cited the following:

- The main challenge is having enough personnel as well as equipment specialty equipment needed at road blocks
- Road are server damaged and cannot be repaired due to insufficient funding
- The absence a weigh bridge also



contributes to roads being damaged due to over loaded vehicles

"Considering the high number of

accidents, 1 848 in total of which 25 were serious resulting in 11 fatalities I must conclude that bad driving behavior is a concern," she said.

## Emergency Numbers

In the event of a fire phone the following emergency numbers:

(013) 665 5333 / (013) 665 2939

**TOLL FREE NUMBER: 0800 00 7267**



## COMMUNITY STORY

# Fire fighter turns actress!

By Sentebaleng Masemola

A volunteer female fire fighter in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality's fire service, Delli Sithole, has turned her hand to acting.

This young mother of a six year old daughter was given a role in the African film, Direction'o.

*The opportunity of another acting role is a possibility. She has auditioned for another film, "My Vote Counts" and is one of the five finalists chosen out of 60 entries*

"It was pure coincidence that I entered. I heard over the radio, about the auditions for the film, Direction'o. The filmmakers were looking for a young female between the ages of 20 and 29 to play the role of a woman who was born in Mozambique and moves to South Africa – later moved back to Mozambique to become the third wife. Her South African background caused friction amongst the three wives as she differs from the other two Mozambiquen born wives.



According to her she is going to remain a volunteer because she likes being of service to people and a volunteer fire fighter can do just that. "Yes, if I get the opportunity to further my acting career, I would do so," said the young first time actress.

She has no complaints about working as a fire fighter in a profession that is predominantly male. "No, my fellow fire fighters are very supportive but sometime I can see surprise on their faces with what women can do in this extremely taxing environment," she said with a shy smile.

She said her worse experience up to now was the truck accident in which the driver burned to death

## Fire department statistics

Statistics, released by the Chief Fire Officer of Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Frans Bolton, for the first nine month of 2013 shows that the department's activities was not restricted to fighting fires alone, but an array of emergencies.

Statistics:			
Vehicle accidents	133	Veldt fires	133
Informal dwelling fires	14	Industrial fires	9
Shop fires	4	School fires	1
Vehicle fires	10	Marine (boats) related fires	1
Rail (trains) related fires	1	General fires (rubbish, trees)	7
Explosions	2	Rescues of persons trapped in vehicles	14

The total man hours spend on fire incidents for the period under review was 1225; on collisions 875. No fatalities during fires were recorded but 18 people died in road accidents.



# ENERGY

## Hints for saving electricity!

The electricity supply is ALWAYS under pressure even during summer. It is every South African's duty to try and save as much electricity in his/her home as possible. Apply some of the mentioned hints, it is the right thing to do!

- Switch off lights not needed. Unplug all electricity appliances. If you have a geyser then turn the geyser to 60 degrees. Use warm water sparingly
- The average kettle operates on +- 1900 watts. The more water you boil the more electricity you use. Only boil water you need at the moment
- Energy efficient lighting options are readily available. LED and CFL light bulbs consume much less electricity than convention light bulbs and last six to eight times longer
- Use a thermostat controlled iron and iron large batches of clothes in one go. The average iron uses the same amount of electricity as ten 100 watt light bulbs
- Install a heat pump and cut your heating costs up to 60 percent compared to a regular geyser
- For every hour you use your tumble dryer you could have cooked 48 meals in your microwave – more than a month's dinners



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# VICTOR KHANYE

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**VICTOR KHANYE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IS  
100% COMMITTED TO FIGHTING  
FRAUD & CORRUPTION**



Fraud represents a significant potential risk to the Municipality's assets, service delivery efficiency and reputation. Victor Khanye Local Municipality will not tolerate fraudulent or corrupt activities, whether internal or external to the Municipality, and will vigorously pursue and prosecute any parties, by all legal means available, which engage in such practices or attempt to do so

**JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION  
AND REPORT IT!**

You can stop  
**CORRUPTION**

**FRAUD HOTLINE**

**0800 701 701**