

# The Weekly

## DIHLABENG PRIORITISE ENERGY SAVING

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Pursuing solar energy ... Dithubeng Local Municipality plans to install solar geysers

**The municipality will implement green energy projects by converting its street lights into solar energy lights as well as install solar heating geysers.**

Dithubeng Local Municipality Executive Mayor Tjhetane Mofokeng plans to save tomorrow today by strengthening the municipality's efforts on lend a helping hand in the global course of reducing the carbon emission, to preserve the environment for posterity.

He said his 2012/2013 budget will also help in the implementation of green energy projects and Turning Waste into Electricity.

"Dithubeng will be implementing green energy projects by converting our street lights into solar energy lights. Installation of solar heating geysers and converting our traffic light to use a source of energy is environmentally friendly. One of our major green energy projects to be implemented in the new financial year which we are very much proud of is, Turning Waste to Electricity Project which will be located in Bethlehem," said Mofokeng

He made the announcement during his tabling of budget delivered at the Bethlehem Town Hall last week on Thursday 31 May 2012.

Mofokeng also revealed their plans to rename public places in Bethlehem after their engagement with residents during the current financial year.

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"We earlier in this current financial term resolved as council to also celebrate within the context of local contribution made towards attainment of freedom and democracy.

To this end, we have committed this municipality to the process of naming and renaming our streets, public buildings and other sites of historical importance to honour and celebrate the role played by our heroes in the course of building a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society, championed by African National Congress.

This process of standardization of names should serve as a tool and platform to build a united society defined by a common dream and bridge the racial divide which existed for so many years. Names that we are going to give to our streets, public buildings and other sites of importance should reflect our common objective as a society to build a nation and enhance social cohesion."

He said the place includes the Town Hall, Pretorius KloofPark, Muller Street, De Villiers Street and other streets in extension and the new locations.

"During this public participation processes we have encouraged the community to identify places, streets and buildings which could be named or renamed and the public was to submit their inputs to the office of the executive mayor and the speaker. In other words the community themselves will identify such. It must be borne in mind though that this process requires each and every citizen's involvement."

He said the municipality has budgeted for the public participation process regarding name changes.

"We envisage rolling out and finalising this process during the coming financial year which resumes in July this year"

The annual budget for 2012/2013 is R512-million. The budget is higher than the previous R-462 million 2011/2012 budget and is estimated to increase to R561-million for the 2013/2014 financial year and further increase to R616-million for the 2014/2015 financial year.

The Municipality has managed to reduce the salary budget from 30% in the adjustment budget for the 2011/13 financial year to 29% in the 2012/13 budget.

"This type of discipline is necessary to ensure the financial stability of the municipality going forward.

We have also managed to increase the repairs and maintenance budget by 20% from R24 million in the 2011/12 budget to R 28, 5-million in the 2012/13 budget. We have also managed to increase the contribution by 17% from R-62 million in the 2011/12 budget to R72-million in the 2012/13 budget year. This contributes towards the budget becoming more funded and cash backed."

Total capital budget for 2012/2013 is R 84 million of which R14, 5 million will be funded internally and included in the total expenditure of R512 million.