

Press Release: Metsweding District Bontle ke Botho Awards' Ceremony

Date: 27 November 2009

For Immediate release

Metsweding District Municipality is hosting its first Bontle ke Botho (BkB) Awards since their devolvement from the Gauteng Province to local government by the beginning of the current 2009/10 Financial Year. The Awards Ceremony is taking place as follows:

Date: 27 November 2009

Time: 11h00

Venue: Zonderwater Correctional Services Centre, Bloubaai, Rayton town in Nokeng Tsa Taemane local municipality area.

Bontle ke Botho (BkB) is an environmental program initiated by the Gauteng Provincial Government in 2002 as part of a campaign of mobilising community awareness and participation in support of the 3rd September 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg and beyond the summit. It is premised on the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) adopted at the summit (WSSD) and collectively committing all stakeholders to a "development agenda guided by equity, justice, social and environmental considerations" – BkB 2005 Report.

On an annual basis since 2002, the Province engaged in partnerships with metro and district municipalities, department of education and other private sector players in the environmental scene through a competition that involved local municipalities, wards and schools across the province. Handsome prizes geared to motivate earnest and resilient work around cleanliness of towns, recycling, energy saving, water conservation as well as sustainable agriculture were up for grabs. So far, 315 schools, 423 wards and 8 municipalities have benefited directly from the campaign by winning prizes exceeding R27 million.

A new approach around BkB was announced by the MEC of Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), MPL Nandi Mayathula-Khoza in Sedibeng, on the 26th of June 2009. It essentially involved the devolution of the awards system to metropolitan and district municipalities and guided by the following objectives:

- To mobilise communities and stakeholders from all relevant sectors to participate in the protection and improvement of the environment
- Create awareness around and deepen the understanding of environmental issues
- Promote sustainable living practices by encouraging communities to embark on sustainable environmental projects with a strong focus on poverty alleviation,
- Establishment of strategic partnerships to ensure collaborative management of the campaign in wards and schools
- To empower communities through education to ensure their deeper understanding of environmental issues.

Metsweding District Municipality (MDM) extended an open invitation to all its 20 wards and schools to enter for the 2009 BkB Awards by developing and presenting Environmental Management Business Plans by the 21st of October 2009. This was preceded by a number of workshops for all potential participants to provide a guide on how to compile such Business Plans. These plans were to reflect the following campaigns and/or projects:

- Water conservation
- Energy saving

- Waste management
- Sustainable agriculture and
- Environmental awareness programmes around the above.

In total, 14 wards and 22 schools responded to the invitation and of the 36 participants, 7 wards and 8 schools met the criteria as per the guidelines around Business Plans. Today marks the first BkB Awards Ceremony of the Metsweding District with its local municipalities of Kungwini and Nokeng Tsa Taemane, where 7 wards and 8 schools are rewarded for their excellence around environmental projects and programs. The following are the wards that received awards as respectively indicated:

Ward no	Identification of ward	Municipality
06	Ward Clr Nchabeleng - Rethabiseng	KLM
03	Ward Clr L. Mahlangu - Ekangala	
09	Ward Clr P. Nkosi -	
11	Ward Clr J. Sehlangu - Ekangala	
13	Ward Clr D. Mabona - Rethabiseng	
01	Ward Clr R. Seoketsa - Stevebikoville	NTTLM
03	Ward Clr F. Kgaditse - Refilwe	

The schools that also received awards are:

Ward no	Person responsible	School & Municipality
11	Mr KC Uoane	Ekangala Comprehensive High: KLM
11	Ms Rita Mollo	Hlabelela P. School: KLM
13	Mr L Moseke	Mpumelelo S. School: KLM
08	Mr SP Sithole	Strauss S. School: KLM
05	Ms S.F. Nkambule	Vezulwazi P. School: KLM
05	Mr Mnisi	Kgoro P. School: KLM
03	Ms S. F. Ntuli	Chipa-Tabane Sec School: KLM
	Ms S Mulovhedzi	Leeuwfontein P. School: KLM

The BkB Awards Ceremony was graced by the presence of the Hon. MEC, Nandi Mayathula-Khoza and the Hon. Executive Mayors of Metsweding District Municipality - Cllr Agnes Mlondobozi, Kungwini Local Municipality – Cllr Richard Makola, Nokeng Tsa Taemane Local Municipality – Cllr Anna Digoro.

They presented the following prizes to successful participants:

WARDS	SCHOOLS
1 st prize: R60 000,00	1st prize: R35 000,00
2 nd prize: R50 000,00	2nd prize: R25 000,00
3 rd prize: R40 000,00	3rd prize: R20 000,00
4 th prize: R30 000,00	4 th prize: R15 000,00
5 th prize: R20 000,00	5 th prize: R12 000,00
6 th prize: R15 000,00	6 th prize: R8500,00
7 th prize: R10 000,00	7 th prize R 6 500,00
	8 th prize R 5000,00

NB: Trophies and Certificates will also be awarded to all winners and there will be annually rotating trophies for both categories.

The event was highly successful, with attendance in excess of the anticipated 200 invitees and also attracting all wards and schools, Councillors and officials of municipalities and the Department of Education.

This ceremony was made possible by the financial contribution of the Province and the District, as well as the partnership and cooperation of the local municipalities of Kungwini and Nokeng Tsa Taemane, as well as private sector stakeholders like Buyisa e Bag, Mondi Recycling, Eskom, and Rand Water. We thank all of them for the consistent support in this event and many other campaigns that we embarked upon throughout the environmental advocacy and activist programs.

For further information Contact:

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