

VISTA
[1 April 2010]

NEW MAYOR SWORN IN

Gerrie van Eeden

A SPECIAL meeting was held by the Matjhabeng Council last week Friday to appoint the new executive mayor of Matjhabeng. Sebenzile Ngangelizwe was unanimously elected as the new broom to sweep Matjhabeng clean.

Before he could accept the nomination, Ngangeliswe had to be sworn in as councillor of Matjhabeng. He was included on the proportional list of ANC councillors, which made him eligible for the position. During the meeting, the speaker, Lennox Rubulana, opened the floor for nominations and only Ngangelizwe was nominated.

The DA did not nominate a candidate, as would be politically expected. Cllr Ben Montshioa seconded the nomination of Ngangeliswe, after which he was asked if he accepts. As he was unopposed, he was declared elected.

During the congratulatory speeches the DA made mention of his previous tennure as council whip for Matjhabeng before being elected as mayor of Lejweleputswa. Cllr Piet Botha of the DA said: "When you were council whip it was better times. It has changed dramatically since then, as I am sure you know. You have unfortunately inherited a legacy of non-service delivery to the residents of Matjhabeng and you will have to work hard to gain their confidence, and improve their living conditions. As well as to clear the backlog."

He also urged Ngangelizwe to spend the municipality's money wisely. To this request, Ngangelizwe immediately paid heed. The customary party that was expected after his appointment did not take place. Instead, Ngangelizwe called in the main political role players for a meeting and afterwards everyone went home for the weekend.

An informed source has told Vista that municipal workers from ground level up feel inclined to perform better now that Ngangeliswe is in power. .At a special meeting held at the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Mathabo Leeto was elected as the new mayor of Lejweleputswa, but this move was greeted with mixed emotions from political parties present. Cllr Jan Marais of the DA said: "It (the election of a new mayor) is supposed to be a moment of happiness, but there is nothing to rejoice about."

He continued to express his fear that Leeto will systematically strip the resources and break down the municipality as she did at Matjhabeng. According to Cllr Marais, an informed source high up in the ANC government said that this move was only a temporary one and that the ANC wanted Leeto out.

Cllr. Ernst Botes of the Freedom Front Plus said that the move was not to the advantage of Lejweleputswa, but that his party would support Lejweleputswa at all costs.

Cllr. Senki Mabitle of the ANC defended Leeto and said that she was not arrogant, as has

been said of her, but the fact that she is a woman she is expected to be soft. He continued to say that she should be a mother for the five municipalities that fall under Lejweleputswa. Leeto herself said that she would remain a servant of the ANC and the people of Lejweleputswa.

[Source: <http://152.111.11.6/argief/berigte/volksblad/2010/04/01/VI/1/vinNGANG.html>]