



STEVE TSHWETE

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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MEDIA RELEASE:

Its official, Steve Tshwete Municipality is the 2nd Greenest municipality in SA.

On Friday 18 November, the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Rejoice Mabudafhasi announced the winners of the Greenest Municipality Competition Award for the financial year 2009/10 at a gala dinner held at Velmor Hotel and Conference Centre in Pretoria.

Steve Tshwete Local Municipality represented Mpumalanga province in competing for this prestigious award, which is most the relevant and significant at this time of the year, as we are on the eve of the 17th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, popularly known as COP17.

The Greenest Municipality Competition Awards, previously known as the Cleanest Town Competition, was established ten years ago as a national government intervention to assist in addressing some of the waste management challenges in municipalities.

During her address at the ceremony, Mabudhafhasi said, "It is no secret that climate change poses a serious threat to South Africa's long term sustainable development, economic growth and quality of life. In light of that it is critical for governments, organisations, institutions and the communities to play their part to combat climate change and save our future. To this end, it has been realised that municipalities are strategic partners with a bigger role to play due to their proximity to communities and as the coal face of service delivery".

The revised concept, which is the Greenest Municipality Competition now requires municipalities to become actively involved in advancing the objectives of the Green Economy which encompass the need to facilitate the introduction of initiatives such as solar energy, greening programmes and introduce programmes which reduce greenhouse emissions. The overall guideline is aimed at encouraging sustainable developments while providing work opportunities.

The Executive Mayor of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Mike Masina told the residents of Kwazamokuhle in Hendrina during a Mayoral Outreach meeting that the award belongs to the residents of the municipality who played a major role in ensuring that the environment is clean at all times, making it easier for the municipality to carry out solid waste duties. He said his office just went there to collect the award on behalf of the community.

Steve Tshwete Local Municipality is not a newcomer in this competition. Since 2002 until 2009, the municipality has won the competition at both the provincial and national level. Below is the performance of Steve Tshwete Municipality over the years.

2009-Provincial Cleanest /Greenest Town Award

2008-Provincial Cleanest Town Award

2007-1st runner up, provincial Cleanest Town

2006-3rd National Cleanest Town competition

2006-Champions, Provincial Cleanest Town Award

2003-Champion, Provincial Cleanest Town Award

2002-Champion, Provincial Cleanest Town Award

Municipalities that shared the stage with Steve Tshwete Municipality are Overstrand Municipality in the Western Cape who are the champions and Tswelopele Municipality from the Free State at third place.

Yours faithfully

W.D. Fouché
Municipal Manager