

Municipality achieves 95 percent of its targets

More than 95 percent of the targets set in the Municipal Turnaround Strategy have been achieved. This statement from Umtshezi Municipal Manager Nonhlanhla Njoko was met with some congratulations but more questions from councillors at Wednesday's meeting.

As a permanent point on the agenda, councillors were given monthly progress reports about the top ten priority areas. Last week the final progress report for the 2011/2012 financial year was presented. Ms Njoko summarised the ten points as follows:

1. Construction of 600-meter municipal roads is complete.

2. Two crèches in Mahhashini and Nontethe are nearing completion. Fencing and toilet installation is awaited at Nontethe Crèche.

3. The Revenue Enhancement Plan, which included incentives for consumers, was deemed successful and revenue in the bank was increased by eight percent. This, Ms Njoko added, was the best recorded at the end of the financial year in recent years.

4. While debtor's management has proven to be a challenge, Ms Njoko said that the finance department is continuously working on this. Some

councillors remarked that the number of indigents in each ward was incorrectly reflected in the progress report.

5. Access to electricity and maintenance targets have all been achieved.

6. Refuse removal and solid waste disposal targets were achieved.

7. Formalising basic service and housing for informal settlements also reported positive feedback with several applications made to the Human Settlements Department.

8. Attracting investors was described as "a challenge." Ms Njoko mentioned that confirmation of a Clover project in Estcourt is still being awaited. She added that while the municipality continues to seek investors, proposals have been invited from individuals who will seek funding on behalf of the municipality.

9. The progress on the final two points, which included establishment of a call centre and a review of the public communication strategy are ongoing.

To conclude Ms Njoko said that while she is pleased with the progress made, the municipality would be aiming for 100 percent completion in all their ten priority areas in the next financial year.