OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED

Zero-water dairy manufacturing plant
By Jethro Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

On 5 June 2018, Nestlé South Africa launched its R88-million zero-water dairy manufacturing facility at the Nestlé Plant in Mossel Bay, Western Cape. The facility will allow Nestlé to reduce the factory’s water consumption by more than 50% during the first year of implementation by reusing the water recovered from the milk evaporation process, saving 168-million litres of water a day. The facility will eventually further reduce its municipal water consumption to zero.

“The factory processes fresh cow milk, normally containing around 88% water, through an evaporation process. The evaporated water is captured, treated and used in various applications within the facility, eliminating the need for municipal water intake for these processes,” Nestlé South Africa managing director Rémy Ejel said at the launch.

He noted that the zero-water project was an example of Nestlé’s commitment to enhancing the quality of life and also contributing to a healthier future for individuals, communities and the planet. He pointed out that, between 2008 and 2010, the Mossel Bay Municipality and surrounding areas experienced one of their worst droughts in recorded history. The region was subsequently declared a disaster area and municipal water-use restrictions had to be put in place. He noted that, over the past six years, the company had installed new water recovery, treatment and recycling technologies at the factory, which is located in one of the Western Cape’s most water stressed regions. He added that the newly installed infrastructure would enable the factory to reuse and recycle water from its dairy operations.
“This project will have a positive impact on the treatment, recycling, conserving and water-use efficiencies in our Mossel Bay factory. It will also link our business directly with local dairy farmers, suppliers, local government and the broader Mossel Bay community,” added Ejel.

Nestlé corporate affairs director Ravi Pillay highlighted that the project would increase Mossel Bay Municipality’s water capacity. “Wastewater volume reduction and wastewater quality will be improved, and this will release capacity at the municipality’s wastewater treatment plant. When you compare our municipal water use in 2009, before zero technologies, with current use, the site saves approximately 467 tankers a month,” he said.

He further stated that the project has created methane gas as a by-product, which was used to power a boiler, reducing energy usage. “Phase 2 of this project consists of the first anaerobic membrane bio reactor in the Nestlé business globally, which uses biogas and biofilters.

Water and Sanitation Minister Gugile Nkwinti, meanwhile, stated that the plant was in line with the Department of Water and Sanitation’s National Water and Sanitation Master Plan, which encouraged the development of alternative water sources for water security, including recycling, reuse, desalination and groundwater optimisation. “This plant will lead to a reduction in water demand, thereby contributing to an increased life span of water and sanitation infrastructure,” said the Minister.

Ravi Pillay said:
“Nestlé believes every person has the right to water and sanitation, and therefore remains committed to supporting the ambition of the United Nations to universal access to safe water and sanitation.”

Minister Gugile Nkwinti said:
“I would like to applaud Nestlé and the Mossel Bay Municipality for responding to the water challenges. There is a fine line between responding and reacting. Today is a good example of that.”
In the recent weeks, Klerksdorp has seen a high number of incidents of crime and lawlessness. There have been daring and fatal armed bank robberies in the city centre, protests and looting of stores and tuckshops in the nearby township of Jouberton, violent and aggressive house and business robberies, and theft of motor vehicles, among other incidents. On 24 May 2018, the Klerksdorp Community Policing Forum in partnership with the South African Police Service (SAPS), Neighbourhood Watch, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), and other stakeholders, conducted a community dialogue to fight crime in the community.

Concerned community members attended the dialogue in their numbers at the Correctional Services Hall in Ellaton, Klerksdorp. The SAPS presented the area's crime statistics and the Neighbourhood Watch presented on their operations and observations. The GCIS presented on government's stance against crime and corruption. A private organisation called Namola Watch, presented their App, which can be downloaded for free on www.namola.com/watch, to assist community members who are in distress, as it sends their calls/messages and exact coordinates, to the nearest law enforcement agency, which ensures rapid response.

Community members were urged to approach the station commander or any other senior SAPS member to report police officers they suspect of being involved in criminal activities. The community also proposed that during the patrol, police should on interval stop at street corners where some of the young men gather, and take note of their names and addresses, as this would assist in averting any mischievous and criminally opportunistic behaviour.

On 1 June 2018, the Oliver Reginald Tambo District Municipality held the State of the District Address (SoDA) at the Mthatha Airport. The event focused on bringing government services to the people. The initiative showcased government’s efforts to build a better community through economic development, job creation and education. These are some of the values shared by South Africa’s struggle stalwarts, Mama Albertina Sisulu and Tata Nelson Mandela, of whom South Africa is currently celebrating their centenaries.

The Executive Mayor of OR Tambo District Municipality, Cllr Nomakhosazana Meth, noted that the SoDA of 2018 was dedicated to the two leaders and also urged community members to relentlessly pursue the economic struggle.

The Executive Mayor also mentioned that King Sabatha Dalindyebo Presidential Intervention Bulk Water Master Plan enables an integrated approach to supply five corridors: Mqanduli, Nqadu, Libode, Ngqeleni and Mthatha with portable water from the Mthatha Dam. These key projects are at various stages with strides made in the right direction towards their finalisation. The Executive Mayor added that tourism plays a vital role in the district. She also stated that through providing strategic leadership, the OR Tambo District Municipality has been working diligently to coordinate a government-wide communication system, which ensures that the public is continuously informed about government programmes and policies in order to improve their lives. This work has been undertaken together with the Government Communication and Information System, and the five local municipalities.
The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and other stakeholders conducted an activation to promote Tarlton Thusong Service Centre at Matshelapata Informal Settlement on 30 May 2018. The purpose of the activation was to promote services that are accessible from the Thusong Service Centre and also encourage people to use those services instead of travelling long distances to Krugersdorp.

During the activation, information products were distributed by stakeholders and engagements were conducted where community members needed more clarity on certain matters. Charles Chinana, the Community Liaison Officer from Mogale City said, “It is imperative that services of government come closer to community members, especially those leaving in remote places. The area that we are in now is very isolated and people do not have money to use public transport to access government services.” He further said that these type of activations need to be conducted continuously in areas such as Matshelapata.

During the activation, information products were distributed by stakeholders and engagements were conducted where community members needed more clarity on certain matters. Charles Chinana, the Community Liaison Officer from Mogale City said, “It is imperative that services of government come closer to community members, especially those leaving in remote places. The area that we are in now is very isolated and people do not have money to use public transport to access government services.” He further said that these type of activations need to be conducted continuously in areas such as Matshelapata.

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and other stakeholders conducted an activation to promote Tarlton Thusong Service Centre at Matshelapata Informal Settlement on 30 May 2018. The purpose of the activation was to promote services that are accessible from the Thusong Service Centre and also encourage people to use those services instead of travelling long distances to Krugersdorp.

During the activation, information products were distributed by stakeholders and engagements were conducted where community members needed more clarity on certain matters. Charles Chinana, the Community Liaison Officer from Mogale City said, “It is imperative that services of government come closer to community members, especially those leaving in remote places. The area that we are in now is very isolated and people do not have money to use public transport to access government services.” He further said that these type of activations need to be conducted continuously in areas such as Matshelapata.

As part of creating awareness about the South Africa Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the South African Post Office payment system, the activation was also used to assist beneficiaries to get the new SASSA cards. One of the community members, Samuel Mondalamo, said, “It is great to see SASSA here in our community giving out the new cards. We heard about this information on radio but we never understood what was requested of us. So, seeing them here inside our community engaging with the beneficiaries and further giving them the new cards is great.”

Stakeholders who were part of the activation included the Department of Home Affairs, Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa, SASSA, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, the South African Breweries, Anheuser-Busch InBev and Tarlton South African Police Service.