

## **Finances**

The council completed its first quarter of this financial year on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 and at the end of this period we achieved a 16% increase in own source revenue over the corresponding period last financial year.

As it relates to property tax, at the end of the first quarter we collected approximately 52% of the annual target. We continue with our public education drive by attending community meetings, placing ads in the electronic and print media, doing house to house visits and sending town criers around to remind property owners of their obligations. I'm encouraging everyone to remind their family and friends to pay property tax.

We are also aiming to control expenditure and it is for that reason we have started an energy audit here at 24 Church Street. The aim is to install energy efficient equipment to bring down electricity costs. The audit is expected to end in August and recommendations will be implemented shortly thereafter.

In addition, the council has been able to contain expenditure and for the first quarter actual expenditure was trailing actual revenues by approximately 4%. This demonstrates fiscal prudence as the council is living within our means whilst trying to improve service delivery.

From this increased revenue the council will be expanding its service to the public through the following:

1. Cleaning of additional corridors along the municipality
  - When we assumed responsibility for the Council, the cleaning of our corridors was done by NSWMA. We are now going to assume the responsibility of these main corridors.
2. Maintenance of selected parks across the municipality
  - We are looking at our public green spaces to determine what to do with them.
3. Ensuring there is an emergency fund in council to respond to disasters in a more timely manner

The council takes its responsibility to serve seriously and it is for this reason we implore citizens to play their part in the payment of taxes and user fees to enable us to serve our public better.

What are some of the other things that we are doing?