

## **MAYOR VISITS THE 1ST BABIES OF 2016**

**MOKOPANE:** The first babies born in the New Year at George Masebe, Mokopane and Voortrekker Hospitals respectively in Mokopane, were welcomed into the world by a delegation headed by Mogalakwena Municipality Mayor, Parks Sebatjane.

Mayor Sebatjane who was accompanied by EXCO members and Ward Councilors visited the three above hospitals on New Year's Day to celebrate the babies' arrivals with their mothers.

The team also offered the first 5 mothers of the New Year gift packages that contained baby clothes, toys and then offered same gift packages to the 26 mothers who gave birth on the New Year's eve, 31<sup>st</sup> December which bring them to the tally of 31.

“The birth of a baby is a joyous event and we know there is always interest in the first babies of the New Year. This is why we came here to welcome and celebrate their arrival and we encourage you to register these children with the Home Affairs department very soon,” Sebatjane said.

Mayor Sebatjane encouraged mothers to breastfeed their children and take them to local clinics for primary health care to ensure that they get immunization for various illness that affects little kids. He that these kids belongs to their parents, the community and the entire municipality.

He added that, apart from welcoming the New Year's Day babies, their visit also entailed observing the work being done at the hospital, and finding out if there were any immediate challenges which the municipality could assist in resolving.

“Our first obligation as a municipality is to ensure that we bring quality services to the community of Mogalakwena and we are always prepared to assist wherever possible. We thank the health professional who worked tirelessly in ensuring that they help mothers to bring this bundles of joy to the world. Without them this would have not been possible,” Sebatjane said.

Children who were admitted with injuries at the above mentioned hospitals also received toys from Mayor Sebatjane.

Speaking on behalf of the hospital CEO's, Dr Malumbethe Ralethe, thanked the mayor for his gesture, saying the gifts were very welcome to the new mothers

“Things are very expensive nowadays and we really appreciate the fact that mothers will not have to start from scratch when buying clothes for their newborn babies because the Mayor and the Health MEC Phopi Ramathuba have met them halfway. God bless them.”

Some gift packages were sponsored by Pick 'n Pay Supermarkets.