

## **2<sup>ND</sup> RUNNER UP : NATIONAL CLEANEST TOWN COMPETITION**

The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality came out as one of the cleanest areas in the country when they were awarded the price of R500 000,00 as second runner up in the National Cleanest Town Competition.

The prize giving ceremony was held at the Emperor's Palace, Johannesburg on 22 March 2007 where the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Ms Rejoice Madubafhasi commended the various municipalities with the pace at which progress was made towards complying with their constitutional obligation of ensuring a clean and safe environment.

The Cleanest Town Competition is an annual occasion through which the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism advances initiatives towards raising awareness and educating South African residents on the Waste Management Strategy and related issues. It therefore seeks to increase public awareness on the subject as well as highlights examples of clean environments.

This will enhance the socio-economic development of the country, the health of its people and the quality of environment resources, encourage the community to clean up their residential and working spaces and the promotion of tourism. Green initiatives, waste management practices, and monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are amongst some of the criteria used for assessment.

As the Mpumalanga Cleanest Town, Steve Tshwete competed against all other provincial champions through a stringent evaluation process.

This year's final national winners were:

1 <sup>st</sup> position	:	The Swartland Municipality (Western Cape)
2 <sup>nd</sup> position	:	Greater Tzaneen Municipality (Limpopo)
3 <sup>rd</sup> position	:	Steve Tshwete Local Municipality

Council therefore wishes to take this opportunity to thank the community of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality on the support and commitment to the responsibility of managing waste. Impromptu inspections will be conducted by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism throughout the year, so together let us ensure that no litter is strewn in the streets, that all areas residential, business and industrial are kept spotlessly clean at all times and that awareness is increased with as many residents as possible towards preserving our environment and the management waste in general.