

BLM CONSULTS FARMERS UNIONS ON DRAFT 2024/25 IDP/BUDGET IN BALTIMORE

Agriculture is one of the pillars of Blouberg Local Municipality's economy. On 11 April, the municipality held a consultative meeting with the farming sector regarding the draft 2024/2025 Intergrated Development Plan -IDP/Budget at Baltimore Boere Saal in Baltimore. The farmers in the areas of Baltimore, Alldays, Vivo, Tolwe, Salt lake, Maastroom, parts of Swartwater and Tom Burke among others were represented by their unions at the consultation session.

IDP is a general plan for the municipality that gives an overall framework for development,co-ordinating the work of the municipality and other spheres of government in a coherent plan to improve the quality of life for all the people living in Blouberg Local Municipality.

The Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga presented the proposed projects which includes the upgrading of access road from gravel to tar, electrification of households, construction culverts, patching of potholes among others . The Blouberg farming sector raised issues of electricity illegal connection whereby a request was made that it be attended urgently, and loadshedding which impacts the irrigation systems negatively, lack of water in the Vivo business area and that construction of new water infrastructure be considered. The Agriculture sector also requested further information on the implementation of District Development Model (DDM)in order to assess its physical impact and the positive outcome of its implementation in the municipality among other inputs.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development and Planning, Cllr Dan Mosenia indicated that the municipality has noted all the inputs and comments that are made and that feedback will be provided.

The Speaker of Council, Cllr Blanco Boloka thanked the farmers for always heeding the municipality's call to attend the consultation meetings and have their say on the service delivery planning for the municipality. Speaker Boloka also described the farmers as one of the critical stakeholders to keep the municipality moving and further thanked the farming sector for ensuring that the municipality keeps running through revenue collected from farmers and their contributions to food security to the people of Blouberg, province, the country and abroad.

Residents from cluster wards will, from tomorrow, have their say on the draft plan. The municipality has already consulted traditional authorities, business sector, sector departments, the Alldays Rate Payers Association and Ward 19 residents among other stakeholders to solicit their comments and inputs on the draft planning and budget as required.

The Mayor, Her Worship, Cllr Maria Thamaga will, on May 3 presents the final IDP/Budget together with the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) and budget related policies for the implementation from July 1.

