

## BLOUBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY HOLDS COUNCIL MEETING AND IMBIZO



The Council of Blouberg Local Municipality yesterday, March 28, 2022 adopted the Draft 2022/23 - 2026/27 Intergrated Development Plan IDP/Budget and budget related policies, Municipal Public Accounts Committee MPAC Oversight among other reports during its ordinary meeting held at Raweshi Village in Ward 01.

The Mayor is, in terms of the Municipal Systems Act of 2000 and Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) Section 22 required to table the draft IDP/Budget atleast 90 days before the start of the new financial year. Guided by these acts, the municipality will soon consult with various stakeholders namely; traditional authorities, government institutions, mining houses, farming communities and the general community to solicit their inputs and comments on the draft planning and budget before final approval as required.

The draft IDP/Budget take into account the existing conditions and problems and resources available for development. The plan look at among other issues; economic and social development the Blouberg area as a whole. It also set a framework for how land should be used and what infrastructure and services are needed among other things.

After formal meeting of Council, community members were afforded the opportunity to raise their service concerns with the Mayor and her team.

Most of the issues raised by residents under Ward 01 made up of Kgatlu, Raweshi, Cracouw, Norma, Lewaneng, Vienna, Sadu, Uitkyk No3, Aurora, Earlydawn and Oldlongsigne villages included bad roads conditions, water shortages in some areas, poor/no network coverage in most of the villages in the ward and the need for government houses.

However some residents applauded the municipality for its services; electrifying of extensions and the district municipality's uninterrupted water supply in some areas.

Community members also requested the municipality to engage other government institutions to extend their services to Raweshi Multi-Purpose Community Centre(MPCC) as it is the central point for the benefit of communities of the ward and surrounding areas.

Responding to the concerns raised, Blouberg Local Municipality Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga, extended her gratitude to the community of Ward 01, for setting aside their activities on the day in favor of the Council's Community Outreach Programme. The Mayor indicated that, it is the responsibility of the municipality to ensure that the basic needs of its communities are met.

" I have heard all your service delivery concerns and noted them down. I will meet with the Acting Municipal Manager and his team as well as responsible portfolio committee chairpersons to find solutions for these concerns. We will visit the affected communities and see how we can resolve on them. We are currently engaging other role players; the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure on roads and he Capricorn District Municipality to assist in resolving water challenges in some of our communities. As the municipality, we are happy that Premier Mathabatha in his State of the Province Address(SOPA) last month indicated that Road 3278 from Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek will be upgraded from gravel to tar between 2022/23 - 2023/24 financial years." Said Mayor Thamaga.

The Mayor said, the municipality is unable to implement projects in every community in one financial year due to budgetary constraints, however it is committed to resolve challenges raised by communities.

Mayor further indicated that, the municipal leadership is currently in communication with private sector - the mining companies operating within the municipality for them to focus their Social Labour Plan(SLP) programmes mainly on funding infrastructure projects and further call on community members to play their part in the delivery of services by paying for municipal services to enable the municipality to fund more community projects.

