

CHEF BRINGS FRESHNESS AND FLAVOUR WITH BLENDS OF SPICES

● Products can be found online and local markets

By **KOKETSO RATSATSI**

For Pumla Brook-Thomae, founder of PumlaFood Spices, the love of cooking runs deep in her blood.

Growing up surrounded by her mother and grandmothers, all talented cooks, it was almost inevitable that she would find herself drawn to the kitchen.

Her time studying at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, with its rich Indian market culture, further fuelled her passion for spices. Her father, a herbalist, also played a role, inspiring her to incorporate herbs into her seasoning blends.

Brook-Thomae completed her degree in BA speech and drama in 2007.

Starting as a self-taught chef and entrepreneur in 2018, Brook-Thomae, who hails from Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, faced her share of challenges. “The biggest challenge is being mocked by ‘trained chefs’ who see me as underqualified.

“But I believe cooking is part of my DNA and experience counts for a lot. Access to high-quality spices was another hurdle, especially in the Eastern Cape, prompting me to source ingredients from Cape Town suppliers,” she said.

Her first attempt at spice blending began with masala. While working at Ralphs Restaurant in Cape Town in 2007, she was inspired by chef Ralph’s aromatic masala, which led her to create her own version. Encouraged by the enthusiastic response from family and friends, Brook-Thomae officially launched her spice-making journey in 2018.

“New blends often come to me in the early hours of the morning. Through continuous experimentation and documentation, I have crafted favourites

like my “Caprika Spice” – a vibrant blend of cayenne pepper and paprika,” she said.

What sets PumlaFood Spices apart is the attention to freshness and flavour. All products are made in small batches to ensure maximum quality.

Brook-Thomae initially sold her spices through a Facebook group called Masiphekisane, catering to friends and family. Today, she markets her products both online and at local markets in Gqeberha and other areas in Eastern Cape.

She has also been a Rotarian for eight years and is a published author. She released her first cookbook, *PumlasFood – Family Style*, in 2016, followed by *Familyfood – Simplified* in 2018. In 2022, she achieved international recognition through *The Rainbow Nation Cookery Guide*, a collaborative project with 11 other

chefs and cooks, powered by the Rotary eClub of Greater Cape Town.

A major milestone in her journey was being profiled as an agri-preneur by Food for Mzansi, a moment she describes as her proudest achievement. Looking ahead, the 51-year-old hopes to firmly establish her brand across the Eastern Cape within the next five years.

Expansion is also under way, with the addition of sauces and condiments, including a sweet chilli sauce and a range of fermented hot sauces.

“If you are



Pumla Brook-Thomae, a businesswoman and a self-taught chef. /Supplied

looking to start your business, make sure you don’t believe the hype – experience and hard work matter. Keep your business finances separate, stay tax compliant, deliver excellent customer service and embrace constructive criticism,” she said.

When it comes to her personal favourite, she doesn’t hesitate on her “Veggie Sprinkle” blend.

“I use it in creamy spinach, roasted vegetables, fried chips, roast potatoes – just about everything.”

Through dedication, innovation and deep-rooted passion, Brook-Thomae is proving that great flavour begins with a love for tradition and a fearless drive to create something new.



BLOUBERG MUNICIPALITY

P.O. Box 1593
SENWABARWANA
0790
Tel: No.: 015 505 7100
Fax: No.: 015 505 0296
E-mail:
Info@blouberg.gov.za

RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE SENIOR POSITION DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
(Re-advert)

DEPARTMENT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
DIRECTOR: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER
TYPE: PERMANENT POST

NB: QUALIFYING WOMEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR THIS POSITION.

Remuneration: Total remuneration package will be in terms of Government Notice No: 50737 dated 30 May 2024 (Minimum: **R913 969** Midpoint: **R1 026 932** Maximum: **R1 123 501**) per annum plus 4% remote allowance.

The successful incumbent will be on a permanent basis and will be required to sign an employment Contract, a performance agreement and complete the disclosure of financial interest form. Will also be required to undergo a competency assessment, screening and security vetting. He/she will be stationed at Blouberg Local Municipality’s head office in Senwabarwana.

Minimum requirements: Bachelor of Science Degree in Building Science/ Architect/Bachelor Degree in Town Planning and Regional Planning/Development Studies or equivalent. Project Management Certificate of Diploma or registration as professional planner in accordance with the planning Professions, Act, 2002(Act No. 36 of 2002) will be an added advantage. The incumbent must have minimum of five years’ relevant experience at Middle management level and have proven successful Professional Development/ Town and Regional Planning experience. Proven successful institutional transformation within public service. The incumbent must be computer literate and have a valid driver’s license and own road worthy vehicle. Certificate in Municipal Finance Management Programme.

Competencies: The incumbent must have the following core competencies as per government gazette no. 37245: Strategic direction and leadership, people management, program and project management, finance management, change information management, communication, results and quality focus.

Knowledge: Good knowledge and understanding of relevant policy and legislation, Good understanding of institutional government system and performance management, Good knowledge of understanding supply chain management regulations and the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2000(Act no. 5 of 2000), knowledge of geographical information systems and knowledge of spatial, town and development planning. Good understanding of council operations and delegation of power, local economic development, building regulations, Spluma, audit, and risk management.

Key Performance Area: Provision of strategic and operational plans for the Municipality. Develop policies aimed at improving the social economic conditions of communities. Advice Municipal Manager on national and regional trends affecting the Municipality. Ensure that a Local Economic Strategy and Tourism Strategy that are linked to the IDP of the Municipality is developed and implemented. Ensure that a Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and Land Use Management System (LUMS) are developed and linked to IDP of the Municipality.

Emailed or faxed applications will not be considered

NB. All applicants should list names, occupants and contact details of at least three non-relative individuals who may attest to their abilities. Shortlisted applicants may be screened for criminal records, qualifications verification and/or any pending criminal or disciplinary cases. Council reserves the right not make any appointment.

Applications must be submitted on an official application form (for Senior Managers) obtainable from the municipal website (www.blouberg.gov.za) and must be accompanied by comprehensive curriculum vitae, certified copies of academic qualifications (including computer literacy certificate), academic record, identity document and driver’s license. Shortlisted candidates will be required to produce original copies of qualifications and identity document on or before the appointment.

NB. Shortlisted candidates will be subjected to a compulsory security vetting, reference checks by contacting current or previous employer, validity of qualifications, verifying whether a candidate has been dismissed previously for misconduct or poor performance. Recommended candidates will be subjected to competency assessment test. The successful candidate will be required to submit disclosure of financial interest, be expected to sign an employment contract and performance agreement. Correspondences will only be entered into with shortlisted candidates.

Applicants will be penalized for canvassing.

Blouberg Local Municipality is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer committed to the implementation of Employment Equity Act and other Labour Laws. It is our intention to promote representation (race, gender and disability) in the municipality through filling of this positions. The Municipality reserves the right not to fill any of the advertised positions.

Please forward the application form (for senior manager) with CV, certified copies of academic qualifications, Identity Documents and Driver’s License: by **Courier or hand delivery/** to Blouberg Municipality Head Office, 2nd Building Mogwadi Senwabarwana Road at Senwabarwana. Enquiries: **Ms Phuti Malatji @ 015 505 7100**

Women who applied previously are urged to re-apply

Closing Date: 06 JUNE 2025

Should you not hear from us within six weeks of the closing date kindly accept that your application has been unsuccessful.

RAMOTHWALA RJ
MUNICIPAL MANAGER



MODIMOLLE - MOOKGOPHONG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality is an equal opportunity employer subscribing to the Employment Equity Act, and hereby invites applications from suitably qualified persons to fill the under-mentioned post:

DIRECTOR SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

LOCATION: MODIMOLLE - MOOKGOPHONG (HEAD OFFICE)
REFERENCE: HRM 01/05/2025

REMUNERATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Package: R965 958 per annum (all inclusive) • Midpoint Package: R1,103 953 per annum (all inclusive) • Maximum Package: R1,224 083 per annum (all inclusive)
TERM OF APPOINTMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent
QUALIFICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor Degree in Social Science/Public Administration/ Law or equivalent

GENERAL:

More detailed advert information can be obtained from the municipality website at www.mmlm.gov.za

All general enquiries should be directed to Human Resources Management at (014) 718 2037 or (014) 718 2012 during office hours (07h30 -16h15).

Closing date: FRIDAY, 30 MAY 2025 @12PM

NB THOBELA - MUNICIPAL MANAGER