

BLM 21st ANNUAL WARD COMMITTEES CONFERENCE | MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

Blouberg Local Municipality Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga has commended the ward committees for their hard work and dedication in serving communities. Blouberg Local Municipality is today hailed champions of public participation and good governance throughout the country because of, amongst other things; the effectiveness of its ward committees system.

The Mayor was delivering the opening remarks at the 21st Annual Ward Committees Conference. The conference which is currently underway at Karibu Leisure Resort , Tzaneen (6-8 November 2024) is held under the theme: "Capacitating Ward Committees Towards Progressive Communities".

This critical municipal stakeholder was established in terms of the Local Government Municipal Structure's Act. It all started in 2003 with sixteen (16) wards, thirty-two(32) councillors and one-hundred-and-sixty(160) ward committees. To date, the municipality boasts 22 wards, 44 councillors and 220 ward committees. Each ward is manned by 10 committee members and are allocated various services delivery portfolios. For the previous 20 years , the municipality successfully convened the conference affording ward committees the opportunity to share their day-to-day challenges and success stories they come across as foot soldiers and a liaison between the Council and the community.

"Honourable Speaker Cllr Boloka, keep up the good work of ensuring that our public participation machinery stand the test of time. Re mo ngwageng wa bone wa term ya rena morago ga dikgetho tša mebasepala ka November 2021. Re rile ge re tsena ra tshephiša gore Every day at Blouberg should be Mandela day. Le gore re swanetše go kitima ka lebelo go abela batho ba rena ditirelo.

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In her speech, Mayor Thamaga gave service delivery highlights from 2021 - the time she took the office to date.

"Mo mengwageng ye mene re kgonne go fihlelela tšeo di latego; Re kgonne go abela metse ye meketekle metšo ye senyane mohlakgase yeo e akaretšago di village tše; Witten(625 households), Lekgwara(40 households) Diepsloot(19 households), Swartz (45 households), Bayswater (30 households), Mochemi (25 households), Mongalo (50 households) and Sweethome (70 households) mohlakgase. They are now having electricity like all of us. Mošomo wa go aga Senwabarwana sub-station o tšwela pele. We are currently constructing phase 3 of the sub-station.

Programme Director Re kgonne go aga ditsela tše latelago Witten 2,4 km, Alldays 4 km, Senwabarwana phase 11A 2,8 km & Senwabarwana phase 11 B 2,4 km, Lethaleng to Pickum 6,2 km, Mochemi 4,4 km. Ka mašelang a disaster grant re kgonne go dira Sefihlampanyana le Kgatla (under construction).

Re kgonne go reka di grader tše tharo tše di swa gore re kgone go kaonafatša ditsela tša rena.

We have also handed over sites to contractors for construction of the following roads for 2024 financial year; Kwarung, Thalane, Senwabarwana D1200 (other critical streets within the town) and Alldays internal streets.

Re leboga le ba Public works ka maitekelo a go kaonafatša tše dingwe tša ditsela tša rena go swana le ya Blouberg to Buffelshoek clinic le Taaibosch internal streets. Re tshepha gore ba tla re thuša ka tsela ya D1589 from Makgato to D 3287 Eldorado to Ga Dankie on D3292 towards Kibi, Ga Moleele to Schoongezicht to Ga Dikgale to Uitkyk le tše dingwe.

Bjalo ka karolo ya rena ya go tsenya letsogo mererong ya early childhood development, re kgonne go aga Mongalo le Danzig creches. Di filwe community di a šoma.

Through the local economic development grant we were able assist 8 LED Projects over the past four years.

Re kgonne go aga Senwabarwana sport complex le Pinkie-Sebotse sport facility. We are happy that these facilities are utilized by our communities. We were able to do more with little. Lebelo la rena le re thušitše gore re kgone go hwetša di tšhelete tša kokeletšo ka Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG), Integrated National Electrification Programme (INEP) le Municipal Disaster Recovery Grant (MDRG).

Re kgonne go dira tše ka moka ka baka la tšhomišano le tlemagano le Magoši a rena, Makhanselara, bašomi, di ward committee le ditšhaba tša rena. Diphihlelelo tše ga di re gore ga go na ditlhotlo. Le a tseba gore molapo-motle ga o hloke semenya".

The service delivery progress report presentation reflected municipal achievements as part of contribution to this year's conference theme so that ward committees can know and appreciate the achievements of the municipality and take the information to communities. Mayor Thamaga expressed her deepest appreciation to ward committees and all stakeholders for their roles in municipal governance.

"We have officially received the good governance award. As if that was not enough, yesterday, November 5, SALGA gave us an award best performance on Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) spending getting additional funding. Re tla ba ra bitšwa Masepala wa difoka. We should celebrate all these achievements. Ke difoka tša badudi ba Blouberg ka moka; Makhanselara, Magoshi, Bašomi, Di ward committee le ditšhaba tša rena. Re na le mabaka a go dira moletlo wa ditebogo".

The conference is also attended by councillors, Capricorn District Municipality (CDM) Council Speaker and Whip of Council, Cllr Kholofelo Lehong and Cllr Lesiba Matsemela, senior management, community development workers, traditional leaders and representatives from various government and private institutions as well as previous municipal officials that played a pivotal role in shaping the municipal public participation service to its greater heights.

#blm21stwardcommitteesForum2024

