

BLOUBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY MEETS IRONVELD AND WATERBERG JV MINING COMPANIES

Today, 02 November 2022, the Blouberg Local Municipality Executive Committee (EXCO) led by the Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga had engagements with mining houses operating within the municipality. The leadership earlier today had fruitful engagements with Ironveld and Waterberg JV mines in Senwabarwana respectively.

The Waterberg JV mining project in Ward 01 is currently at pre-construction stage with R380 million pre-construction work program approved for the project which will now focus on; early infrastructure, de-risking and project optimization.

On February 17, 2021, Waterberg JV President, Mr Michael Jones announced to Blouberg Local Municipality and Capricorn District Municipality, a R9 billion investment after it was granted a license for mining at Raweshi that will mainly benefit residents with 1 100 jobs.

Ironveld Mining Company has been granted mining licence by the Department of Mineral Resources and will also have its operations in Ward 01. Among others, Ironveld is looking to upskill locals, by providing training relevant to mining sector that will make them employable when the company commences with its operations and better position them for employment in the mining industry in general.

The mining companies were there to update the municipality on progress regarding operations and their social and labour plans (SLPs).

Facilitating the meeting, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development and Planning, Cllr Dan Mosena, indicated that, the mining companies SLPs must be aligned to the municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and that, projects implemented should enhance the municipality's job creation strategy and respond to challenges faced by communities.

The Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga, indicated that, main challenges facing the Blouberg communities are poor road conditions and shortage of water. The Mayor further indicated that, the municipality and mining houses should work together towards a common goal of development for the benefit of Blouberg communities.

"As the municipality, we need mining companies to partner with us to eradicate poverty by creating employment, skilling the youth and implementing long lasting infrastructure development projects. We need partnerships with the mining sector to grow the economy of Blouberg. The mining houses operating within Blouberg should transform the lives of our people through their SLPs. People of in Raweshi and the surrounding need road infrastructure and water projects."

The session will be followed by technical committee meetings for further engagements on SLPs and subsequently public participation programmes.

