

MAYOR MEETS DE BEERS VENETIA MINE GENERAL MANAGER IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Blouberg Local Municipality Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga yesterday, April 26, met with De Beers Venetia Mine General Manager, Mr Gerrie Nortje following a protest march by the Alldays community. The Mayor called on the mine management to work with the municipality in resolving community challenges to avoid continuous protest marches which will hamper production.

The Alldays community yesterday handed over a memorandum detailing their concerns to the mine management. The community felt that they are overlooked by the mine in terms of employment and business opportunities.

The community demands that; the mine contractors should have a percentage of employment of the Alldays community, some construction projects at the mine be given to the community as there are capable businesses to render such service, establishment of a labour desk, local community development, inclusion of people living with disabilities in the mine employ among other things.

Addressing the meeting, Mayor Thamaga indicated that the mine should involve councillors in their recruitment process to assist with the verification of addresses as it was reported that some job seekers utilize fraudulent proof of residence to secure employment at the mine.

"My request is; when the mine advertises posts to accommodate Blouberg and Musina people, as the residents of Blouberg we know each other, our ward councillors should be roped in to identify people from their wards, but if our councillors are not involved we will always encounter problems where communities will keep on marching due to employment of wrong people whom would have occupied the positions that were meant for Blouberg residents. We can not keep on having community protest marches over somethings that can be easily resolved. We do not want that. Let us do things accordingly to avoid marches".

The mine was yesterday able to resolve on some of the concerns/demands raised to the benefit of the community and it is expected to give feedback on all issues raised in seven days time.

The Mayor was accompanied by the Speaker, Cllr Blanco Boloka, Chief Whip Cllr Johanna Rangata members of the Executive Committee (EXCO), Cllr Daniel Mosena who heads the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development and Planning and also serves as the liaison between the municipality and the mine, Cllr Shirley Raphasha - Community Services, Cllr Prince Motswabe- Corporate Services, Cllr Agnes Raseruthe-Infrastructure Development, Cllr Martin Tlouamma- EXCO member and the Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Refilwe Ramothwala. The leadership was also joined by the Community Engagement Forum(CEF) representatives from Blouberg and Musina and Alldays community representatives.



