

## **Mayor Thamaga reaffirms her commitment to quality service provision**



# NEWS

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**BLOUBERG**  
**MUNICIPALITY**



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### Blouberg News

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## MAYOR'S FOREWORD

### JULY-DEC 2023/2024 MAYOR THAMAGA REFLECTS ON THE SIX MONTHS GONE BY

We have started our new financial year on a high note. July 1 – to us means a renewed mandate for delivery of better services to our people. As the Council, we reaffirm our commitment to provide quality services and improve the lives of Blouberg citizenry for the better.

We have done what is expected of us in terms of Integrated Development Plan-IDP and Budget processes. We have consulted all our communities to solicit service delivery concerns and inputs before adoption of the final 2023/24 IDP and Budget.

That is not by any means a favour but a requirement as the statutes oblige us to do so. Our minds and energies are all focused on creating an effective, efficient, accountable and responsive municipality. We have done well concerning our 2022/23 capital projects.

We have already handed over the Senwabarwana Phase 11A and 11B Internal Streets projects, Alldays and Lekgwara extensions electrification projects, Dantzig Creche project and Senwabarwana Sport Complex project among others.

We are now moving at breakneck pace, the spirit as envisioned by the District Development Model . We have handed sites to the contractors for most of our 2023/24 projects; Mochemi Access road, Lethaleng to Pickum Access Road, Sefihlampsyana Regravelling and Stormwater project.

We are at the final stages of filling in vacancies for senior management positions. There is no doubt that the senior managers are a key component of the municipal structures. It is thus important that we follow regulations, guidelines and certainty on the processes and procedures relating to their appointments.

On July 18, we joined the nation and international communities in celebrating the world's greatest day – former President Nelson Mandela's birthday. I call on all of us to continue to exercise our humility and renew our commitment to making South Africa a better place to live in. Our appreciation to Agriculture and Rural Development, MEC Ntate Thabo Mokone for establishing an orchard and a food garden in one of our Agriculture schools, Rakgari at Montz as well as Social Development MEC , Mme Nandi Ndalane for donating much needed school uniforms to vulnerable learners and orphans from ten schools around Blouberg.

Let's continue to honour this gallant freedom fighter who put up a relentless fight against the apartheid government in order to free us. We can only reciprocate by being useful within our communities especially by coming through for the vulnerable not only on the 18th of July but all year round - let's make everyday a Mandela Day.

The 1995, 2007 , 2019 , 'miracle' repeated itself. We are once again holders of the coveted Webb Ellis trophy by virtue of being champions of the 2023 Rugby World



*Her Worship*  
**Cllr Maria Thamaga | Mayor**

Cup. Though the win in Paris, France can be attributed to the collective guts of the players, the country and everyone concerned. The victory gave the nation a common purpose and enhanced a sense of belonging across the colour lines. South Africans had forgotten their differences and rallied behind their team a true reflection of "Stronger Together".

As we observe the 16 days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children, I would like to call on men to protect women instead of killing them. We've observed in recent months the gruesome murders of women by men throughout the country. To Blouberg men; let's break the circle of violence, let's act against abuse, and let's not look away. I challenge you Blouberg men to shun this barbaric act and embrace the "not in my name mentality".

We cannot hide our public participation coordination successes, congratulations to team Blouberg for successfully hosting 20th Annual Ward Committees Conference. My appreciation to the Speaker, Cllr Blanco Boloka and his team. I will be doing injustice if I fail to acknowledge Ntate Herbert Masipa for the unbroken service in public participation.

We have resolutions in place to enhance our revenue collection, internal controls in order for us to attain clean audit status.

We have just entered an exciting period of the year, the festive season. As another year comes to a close and we approach the festive season, it is always appreciated that we reflect on the year gone by, most importantly we have to be thankful for the gift of life. As the season is well upon us, I hope that we can all take time to think about those who are less privileged. In an

area such as ours which is relatively underprivileged there will be many who face a bleak Christmas. Our gratitude go to stakeholders who have walked with us and talked to us into becoming a better municipality. Our traditional leaders, service providers, employees, customers who all put their hands up to help us move forward.

It is also of utmost importance to be responsible. To motorists we call for calm, full adherence to the rules of the road; do not drink and drive, please stick to the correct load as required of the vehicle. This is no exception to pedestrians- please respect the rules applied to you.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

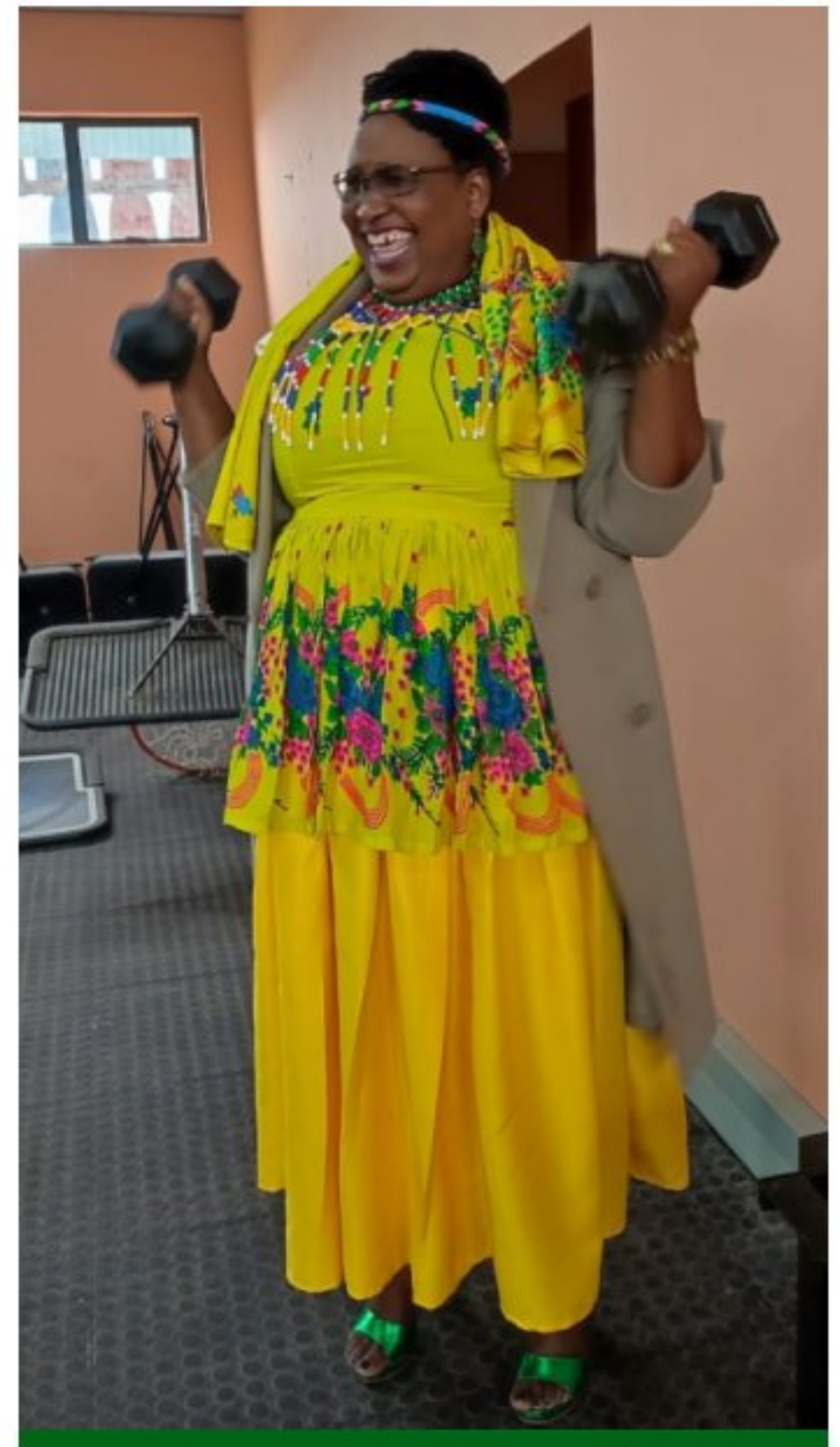


# SENWABARWANA SPORT COMPLEX OFFICIALLY OPENED

Blouberg Local Municipality Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga on October 30, 2023 officially opened the much awaited multi-use state-of-the-art sport facility for young people in Blouberg.

Mayor Thamaga indicated that the sport facility will address the lack of activities and sporting opportunities for young people of Blouberg and support the Council's ambitions for sport development. The Council took a resolution to construct this facility after identifying lack of places and good quality facilities for the children to engage in youth activities, stay active, and participate in sport.





"The opening of this facility reaffirms the Council's commitment to using our assets to invest in the community and utilising sport to bring about positive change for young people.

The municipality will work closely with community partners in sport and recreation to ensure we use sport and physical activity to support young people's personal and social development, as well as their physical and mental health and wellbeing".

The project was constructed in five(5) stages and comprises a soccer field with artificial grass, netball court, tennis court, volleyball ball court, athletic tracks, gymnasium, boxing building and offices.

The Mayor thanked all the teams that were involved including councillors, officials and contractors in helping to bring this fantastic facility to fruition.

**Blouberg Local Municipality leadership: The Mayor, Cllr Maria Thamaga, Council Speaker, Cllr Blanco Boloka ,the Whip of Council, Cllr Johanna Rangata and Municipal Manager Mr Refilwe Ramothwala testing the new workout machines from the new gymnasium.**

## MAYOR THAMAGA HANDS OVER SITES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF

# MOCHEMI AND LETHALENG TO PICKUM ACCESS ROADS



The freezing weather of July 12 couldn't stop the residents of Mochemi, Lethaleng and Pickum villages to join Her Worship the Mayor of Bloubaai Local Municipality, Cllr Maria Thamaga when she handed over two access roads projects. The Council has, in this financial year, 2023/24 set aside budget for the construction of Mochemi Access Road in Ward 14 and Lethaleng-Pickum Access Road in Ward 11. This comes after concerns were raised by the community members, that children are unable to access schools during rainy seasons and that in cases of emergency ambulances are unable to access the areas among other challenges.

The Mayor conducted sod-turning ceremonies marking the official commencement of the construction of the two projects and also introduced the consulting engineers and contractors to the community.

Scores of Mochemi residents converged at Mphateng Tree, while Lethaleng and Pickum residents gathered at Mankgakgatla Secondary School to welcome their projects. The Mochemi Access Road project has been budgeted for R29.9 million and will cover 4.5 kilometers of road with construction works scheduled to run for a duration of eight (08) months.

Meanwhile, the 6 kilometers Lethaleng to Pickum Access Road project will cost the municipality R42.6m to construct with a twelve (12) months construction schedule.



Mayor Thamaga breaks ground, marking the commencement of the construction of Mochemi Access Road.



# LETHALENG TO PICKUM ROAD PROJECT LAUNCH

Peggy Ramafemo from Pickum said she is happy that the municipality has heard their plight and was able to bring the road project in their area" I'm happy that our access road is going to be upgraded. Our children will be able to go to school during rainy season without any challenges like it was the case previously, I am also happy that the project is coming with job opportunities for us".

On behalf of Kgoshi Maleboho, Mr Dan Leboho, welcomed both projects, indicating that they are happy as the traditional authority about development the municipality is bringing to the community which comes with temporary job opportunities. He further called on the communities to cooperate with the contractors and whenever there are challenges engage the ward councillor instead of resorting to protest actions which may delay the completion of the projects.

Mayor Thamaga indicated that the municipality is delivering services to communities as mandated. The Mayor further indicated that, she is pleased the projects will bring relief to some families without income as temporary employment will be created.

"Our communities have been complaining about bad roads and the Council of Blouberg has set aside the budget to address those challenges. Your Ward Councillor, the late Cllr Hlengani Baloyi called us here(Lethaleng and Pickum) to see for ourselves the challenges children and residents go through during rainy seasons. Children couldn't go to school, ambulances couldn't access the areas, it is also difficult for them to bury their loved one hence the Council took the decision to implement the projects. Our Ward Councillor is no more and I want to assure you that we can't change the decision and take away the project from you. We are also happy that, the municipality has done wonders in terms of Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) spending thus, receiving additional funding to carry other service delivery projects".

Mayor Thamaga further called on members of the community to refrain from organizing protest marches as that will delay the completion of the projects and delivery of services in general.

The Mayor was accompanied by members of the Executive Committee(EXCO), councillors and the Municipal Manager.



**Mayor Thamaga breaks ground, marking the commencement of the construction of Lethaleng to Pickum Access Road.**



## **MAYOR MARIA THAMAGA HANDS OVER COMPLETED MODERN CRÉCHE PROJECTS TO DANTZIG AND DITHABANENG COMMUNITIES**

Research shows that children who participate in quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme from an early age are more ready to learn when they begin school and are less likely to repeat grades or drop out of school.

To date, the Blouberg Local Municipality has built over forty(40) early childhood development centres to ensure good foundation for the rural Blouberg children.

Jubilation was the order of the day on November 15th at Dantzig Village, Ward 09 when the Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga unveiled the plaque marking the official opening of the newly built state-of-the-art Dantzig Creche project.

On August 18, the Mayor officially handed over the completed state-of-the-art Kgobuki Pre-School project to the community of Dithabaneng in Ward 03.

Parents and community members gathered to witness the handing over of their children's new play and educational area.

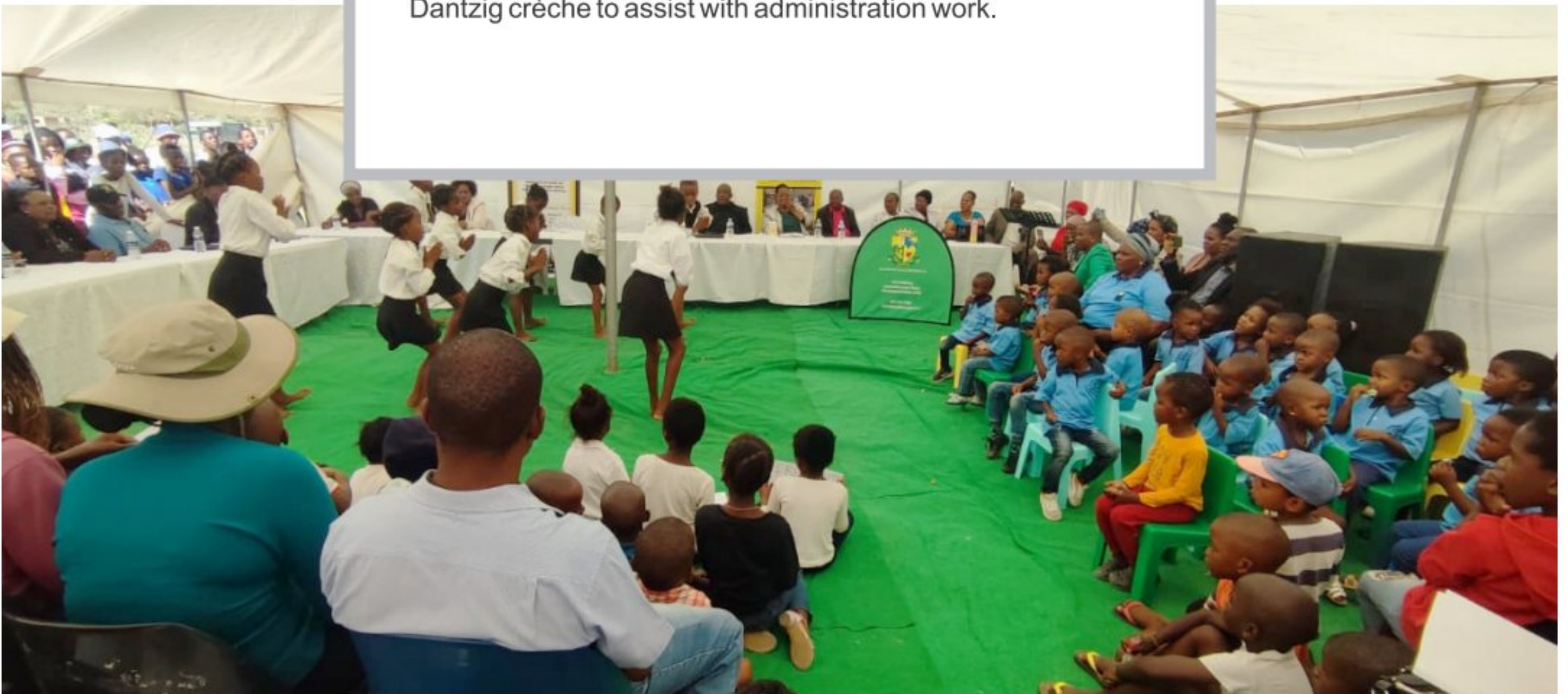
Mayor Thamaga indicated that education is a societal matter and on that note, the municipality had to step in and play its part in ensuring that blouberg children gets good start in education. The young children at this village were previously housed under unsuitable structure without adequate resources and not conducive for teaching and learning.

"Blouberg Local Municipality is proud to have set aside budget to ensure that children at Dantzig and Dithabaneng Villages are equipped with a quality foundation phase education to ensure that they have a chance of better life".





The two crèche projects are fully functional; with running water, classrooms, playrooms and teachers office with furniture, fully equipped kitchen, playground with jungle gym as well as educational toys to unlock their minds and opportune them to engage in various educational and social activities . The Mayor also donated a laptop computer to Dantzig crèche to assist with administration work.



# BADUDI BA MOTSE WA LEKGWARA BAO BABEGO BA SENA MOHLAGASE BA KGAOLETŠE NGWAGA KA GARE GA SEETŠA



Tše dingwe tsa dikatlego tše kgolo tša Masepala wa Blouberg ke gore badudi metseng ka moka yeo e welago ka tlase ga Masepala banale Mohlagase. Se se diragala kage Masepala o filwe maatla a go ikabela le go tlabakela badudi ka mohlagase ntle le go emela lekala la Eskom. Efela ka lebaka la go gola le go naba ga metse ngwaga ka ngwaga, Masepala o tšwela-pele go netefatša gore metse yeo e katologago e tlabelwa ka mohlagase ka lebelo.

Ngwageng wo wa ditšhelete badudi ba motse wa Lekgwara wo o katološitšwego ba 40 le bona ba bile karolo ya bao ba hlegago lenaneong la tlabelo ka mohlagase. Meyara Cllr Maria Thamaga o goteditše semmušo mohlagase ka la 18 August 2023. Meyaya o ipiletša go badudi go reka mohlagase le go kgaogana le mathadi-nthako a go amana le go se reke mohlagase. O boditše badudi gore bao baka hwetšwago boradieng bja go amana le mohlagase batla kgaolelwa mohlagase gomme ba lefišwa kotlo ya diranta tše dikete tše 10 (R10 000)

Ngwageng wo wa ditšhelete 2023/2024 Masepala o beetše thoko diranta tše R33 Million go aga steišene sa mohlagase ka Senwabarwana le go tlabela badudi mohlagase. Metse yeo e tlabakelwago ke: All-Days phase-2 metse ye 60, Byswater-metse ye 30, Ga-Mochemi – metse ye 25, Swartz – metse ye 45, Mongalo – metse ye 50, Simpson – metse ye 25 go akaretšwa le Sweethome ka metse ye 70. Tšhelete ya go lekana R 6.3 Million eya go šumišwa go kaonafatša mafarahlahla a mohlagase go ralala masepala.



# PROJEKE YA GO KAONAFATŠA TSELA YA SEFIHLAMPSYANA E THAKGOTŠWE



Badudi ba Sefihlampsyana batla thoma ngwaga ka lethabo kage tsela yeo ebego ele tlhoba-boroko etlaba selo sa maloba. Meyara Cllr Maria Thamaga o thakgotše semmušo go thoma ga goya go aga leswa tsela ya Sefihlampsyana fao go yago go thibja meedi le go lokela maporogwana.

Tsela yeo ke yennngwe ya ditsela tšeo di fetišitšwego ke lekgotla la Masepala wa Blouberg ngwageng wa ditšhelete wa 2023/2024. Se e bile go arabela tlhobaelo yeo e tlišitšwego ke badidi lebakeng la ge Masepala o ikopantšha le bona malebana le IDP. Tsela yeo ya diKhilo-mitara tše 4 e hlotše mešomo ya nakwana ya batho ba 14.





**SENWABARWANA INTERNAL STREETS PHASE 11A AND 11B PROJECT COMPLETED AND OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER TO THE COMMUNITY**



**NEW TRAFFIC CIRCLE IN SENWABARWANA TOWN**

Blouberg Local Municipality Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga impressed by the newly constructed traffic circle in Senwabarwana Town. The municipality has constructed the circle in a bid to improve traffic flow in town.

**BLOUBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY MAYOR, HER WORSHIP CLLR MARIA THAMAGA AND COUNCIL SPEAKER, CLLR BLANCO BOLOKA CONDUCTING INSPECTION ON ALLDAYS INTERNAL STREETS AND STORMWATER CONTROL PROJECT**





## Acting Mayor on the day, Cllr Dan Mosena welcomes water supply projects on behalf of the municipality



# BLOUBERG WELCOMES TWO(2) WATER PROJECTS FROM CAPRICORN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

The Capricorn District Municipality on August 18 launched the water supply projects to benefit communities of Blouberg Local Municipality. The Acting Mayor on the day, Cllr Dan Mosena, welcomed two(2) water supply projects from the Capricorn District Municipality(CDM) to benefit the communities of Mohlabeng wa Malokela and Silvermine. The Malokela Bognafarm water supply project which will cost the district municipality over R24m commenced on August 25 and is expected to be completed and supply water to the community by February 25, 2024. Twenty-five(25) jobs have been created.

**SCOPE OF WORK** | Equipping and electrification of three boreholes. Construction of approximately 11,700m of uPVC pipelines which consists of the bulk water supply and reticulation with different diameters. Installation of ninety standpipes. Installation of a new 150,00kl elevated steel tank. Installation of 100,00kl grounded stacked steel tank. Installation of water treatment package plant.

Construction of brine water ponds. Fencing of boreholes, storage facilities and water purification package plant with palisade steel fence.

The district municipality handed the second water project valued at over R5m to the community of Silvermine. The project commenced on August 25, 2023 and scheduled to be completed by February 24, 2024.

**SCOPE OF WORK** | Sitting, drilling and testing of one borehole. Equipping and electrification of one borehole. Construction of approximately 1,500m of uPVC pipelines which consists of the bulk water supply and reticulation with different diameters. Installation of ten standpipes. Installation of a new 150,00kl elevated steel tank. Fencing of boreholes and storage facilities with palisade steel fence.

The project created ten(10) temporary job opportunities to locals.



# BLM 20TH ANNUAL WARD COMMITTEES CONFERENCE | TWO DECADES OF UNPARALLELED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TRAJECTORY

Blouberg Local Municipality is hailed champions of public participation throughout the country because of amongst others; the effectiveness of its ward committee system. The municipality has always regarded its ward committee members as the important mobilizing agent for community action.

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 and to date the municipality boasts twenty-two (22) wards. Each ward is manned by 10 committee members and are allocated various services delivery portfolios. For the previous nineteen(19)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.

Twenty-two(22) awards = Two-hundred-and twenty(220)ward committee members. Each ward is manned by 10 committee members who are selected from broad range of interest groups that are most relevant to the key performance areas of the municipality and the government in general. The areas include services such as water and sanitation, electricity, housing, roads and storm water and drainage, social services including health, safety and security, special programmes, education and sport, arts and culture amongst others. This year, ward committee members, Community Development Workers (CDWs), council members, traditional leaders, senior management, government and private stakeholders converged at Elephant Spring Hotel in Bela-Bela for the 20th Annual conference. The milestone conference was held under the theme: "Two Decades of Unparalleled Public Participation Trajectory: The Journey Continues".

Through municipal ward committees system, communities are well informed of what is happening in their wards and are able take part in the programmes of government.

The Speaker of Council, Cllr Blanco Boloka commended the ward committees for their continued hard work in mobilising the communities to take part in municipal and general government programmes in a bid to enhance participatory democracy and service delivery. He further thanked the former municipal leadership for paving the way.

"We all have a mammoth task to ensure that we keep the fires burning and keep improving our much heralded public participation trajectory. That said I really wish to thank all my predecessors for laying a very solid foundation which makes is thrive to this very day. 20 years of relentless public participation is no mean feat. There are several awards bestowed upon us over a period of time that bear testimony to our claim of being undisputed champions of public participation".

Mayor Maria Thamaga also sang praises for the ward committees for their hard work and dedication in serving communities. "Blouberg Local Municipality is today hailed champions of public participation throughout the country because of, amongst other things; the effectiveness of our ward committees system. We are happy with the attendance of all stakeholders that play a pivotal role in shaping the municipal public participation service to its greater heights"

