



Blouberg News

"Fetisa Molaetsa"

OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER JAN - MARCH 2015



**Blouberg in a relentless
quest to open
the doors of learning**





Blouberg News

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Contents

Main Reports

The Keynote Address	3
From the Speakers Podium	7
Administrative Overview	9
Declaration of the 12th Annual Ward Committees' Conference	12

News

Opening the doors of learning from formative years	5
Mayoral Indaba bears imminent fruits Blouberg embarks on Back to School campaign	6
Council reaches out to Alldays	8
Blouberg embarks on BathoPele campaign	11
Venetia Mine honours top achieving students from Blouberg and Musina	12

Profile

Emergence of Stock Farming in Blouberg - Rise of the giant	13
------------------------------------------------------------	----

Capital Projects

Progress Report on 2014/2015 projects	14
---------------------------------------	----

Sport

Mayor Sekgoloane honoured for his role in sport development	19
-------------------------------------------------------------	----





His Worship Cllr Serite Sekgoloane
Mayor

THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

AUDIT OPINION

We are continuing to relate a good story to become a history, but to us it does not mean living in the past but it means dwelling with a history side by side. The story is told and the history is narrated but living a legacy behind is much better than living a story that will one day become a history. For a legacy is always a good story but for history is not always a good story to tell or share. We vehemently would like to pay homage to the speech of our president J.G Zuma who at one stage proclaimed that **"We have a good story to tell"** and indeed Blouberg has a good story to tell. Our good story is that our Municipality has for the first time in our history moved from a very unsound financial opinion to an unqualified opinion. The said opinion has put us amongst the six municipalities in the province who did well in terms of financial accountability. We took our strength from Manoj Arora who said **"To achieve what 1% of the worlds population has, you must be willing to do what only 1% dare to do.. Hard work and perseverance of higher order"** and indeed we persevered since the birth of our municipality. We will remain focused to prove our critics wrong until the lives of our people change to the better. All the above efforts will not be enough until we are able to circumvent the scourge of unemployment and under development in our Municipality.

In the year under review we held a very successful youth summit addressing issues of unemployment and education and training. We have so far since the last summit solicited at least few job opportunities within the Venetia Mine underground project and our own capital projects. We have enlisted a sizeable number of our youth to the training opportunities in various SETAs to make them ready for the job market. We take this opportunity once more to encourage our grade 12 learners to consider taking mining fields when applying at higher institutions to match the demands.

ANNUAL REPORT, IDP & BUDGET PROCESS PLAN

In terms of Section 72(1) of MFMA a Municipality is expected to assess its performance as of 31st December and submit a report on the assessment to provincial treasury and national treasury. In juxtaposition consider an adjustments budget if necessary and review of the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan. Blouberg Municipality like any other municipality in the country has underwent that litmus tests and we report that all has been done to date as enshrined in the act. We have generated the annual report as per the dictates of the above act and it will be posted on our website as per MFMA 75 (1),(C) and be taken to our communities by MPAC for public participation.

We will be crisscrossing the length and breadth of our municipality and touching base with every community member in every ward in preparation of our budget and IDP. Such meetings need our people to attend in huge numbers to contribute in building Blouberg Municipality and maintaining the status of best model participatory

OUR NEW CITY DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

In one of the last years' edition we wrote an article about the likelihood of Chinese investment in our Municipality. The progress to date is that we have advertised for such developers with interest and the Chinese have shown interest in both Senwabarwana and Alldays. If such are anything to go by or are solicited we shall have lived up to the objectives of the National Development Plan of turning local areas into urbanized areas. In fact such developments will find us having vastly moved because we are presently building mega projects from our own budget. We have opened pre schools at Mmotlana, Bognafarm, Slaaphoek, Motadi and Kgwale villages. It is true that **"We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many things can wait. The child cannot"** proclaimed Gabriel Mistral. Our PMU is now monitoring the work at Ben Seraki Stadium, Laanglaagte MPCC and other projects and all this are happening to actualize our decentralization plan.

BATHO-PELE GAMES

We hosted the most highly attended fanfare Batho Pele games event for the whole three days duration. Indeed we followed the Latin phrase that echoed "mens Sana in corpore sano" literally meaning a healthy mind in a healthy body. The games were elevated as well by the masters' games which produced a humdinger performance with the sole intention of striving for a healthy body in support of a healthy mind. The said games were just a marvel to watch from the 28th till 30th December, we could not afford to waste a minute away from the games.



We take this opportunity to applaud all teams that participated in our 2014 Batho Pele Games edition for being so highly disciplined for the entire duration of the tournament. You guys made us proud. We give special bravo to the winners of the 2014 edition of Batho-Pele Games, The Dolphin FC. We are proud to announce that this team is representing us in the Vodacom League and we would like to wish them well this season.

As for the ladies we as well applaud Eldorado Ladies for emerging as champions for the tournament. It is worth appreciating the efforts of Mr. Laka (Kgatlou Ward 1), Mr. Lephalala (Senwabarwana ward 19) and Mr. Manabalala (Letswatla Ward 21). The three gentlemen are playing a very critical and fundamental role in as far as Amateur Boxing Development is concerned. Out of their efforts we witnessed in the history of this tournament a Boxing competition. We wish you gentlemen a very successful journey on your quest to make Boxing a Blouberg sports. No written words would really express our happiness after seeing your boys in the ring, please don't be pulled down by nay Sayers or any eventuality whatsoever. We have seen a tremendous improvement and we wish to applaud the coordinators of the tournament in the person of Mr. Isaac Manyekwane, Mr. Maritlana, Mr. Maoto, Mrs. Machoene Ngoepe and Mr. Solly Sikiti for an incident free tournament. We would like to put it succinctly that had it not been the above named coordinators the games shall not have been what we were all proud of. Keep the good work gentlemen. All the 32 team managers, you played a very strategic role of maintaining high moral and discipline in your various teams and you out of all people deserve a credit.

We would as well take this opportunity to thank the Events Management Team of Blouberg Municipality for been there at all times to circumvent all hindrances with a potential to make the event a flop. You guys as always played a very important role for the

games to play to the finish, bravo unto you all. We would not agree less that sports remains a catalyst for social cohesion and economic development. We believe the crime rate during the time of the event in Eldorado policing area and beyond might have been low although it remains empirical but we so hope.

BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

We take this opportunity to congratulate our learners who wrote grade 12 in the 2014 school calendar for a good job well done. We in particular without overlooking some hindrances in other schools congratulate learners from the following schools: Mmatsela (Bahananwa, Pax), Raphatlha (Maleboho East, Sefihlampyana), Rapetsoa (Maleboho west, Matikiring) and Ramokgethi (Maleboho Central, Radimang) for obtaining a 100% pass rate. The story of Raphatlha is unbelievable because this school in the last 2013 calendar year performed very badly and we paid them a visit early January and they have turned the tables around. We pay homage to them as well this year to encourage them to keep the good work. We believe if other schools in our jurisdiction could learn a lesson or two from the above schools Blouberg will be a better place. It is through education and nothing else that a child of a farm worker shall become a CEO of a bigger company as our late former statesman Dr Nelson Mandela put it. We take this time to encourage our parents to start taking education of their children serious because their children have a potential to change their living conditions to the better. It is just a matter of commitment on the part of parents to avail themselves whenever there is a call from the SGB and any education related gatherings.

During our back to school campaign, we visited a sample of schools and we came to realize that parents are somehow reluctant to take charge of education of their children. Through education we can be able to combat crime, drug abuse and other societal ills that are damaging the future of our children. We as well applaud residents of Blouberg

for not having involved our learners into their uprisings during the year because that might have impacted negatively like it did in some parts of our country. That stance tells a lot on how the people of Blouberg value education as the apex priority of our government. We will do injustice if we do not applaud our teachers who heeded to the call of President J.G Zuma, who at one stage said "teachers must always be in class teaching". Such talks maybe rhetoric to some but they mean a lot to those who listened to act as expressed. To the class of 2015, you have a foundation and it is for you to raise the bar beyond what was achieved by your predecessors. It is for you to start a new chapter, set your goals and keep to your study programme. It is only for a year and it takes only a year to either make it or break it.

Our last ideological epoch of intelligence is "No one is born poor, but we are all born as ordinary humans; it is the poor mindset that makes poor choices that qualifies one as poor in spirit and in the mundane" so hinted Wayne Charisa. We are in fact as rich as our will power.

BEST NEW YEAR WISHES

I would like to welcome you all to the new season and believe you have set yourself SMART and achievable goals with timelines, and that you have made amendments to what is believed to have led to your failure last season. The 2015 calendar must be looked at through the eye of a child as a new beginning. A new beginning which shall mean failures of yesteryear has come and gone. It starts but here. It is true and it always will be that "a journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step" so said a Chinese philosopher.

GOOD FRIDAY MESSAGE

The Easter Season is beckoning us and we take this opportunity to wish all of our people a precious and marvelous Good Friday.

Continues on page 18

Opening the doors of learning from formative years



Bognafarm Pre-school



Motlana Pre-school

Research shows that shows that children who participate in quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes at an early age are more ready to learn when they begin school and are less likely to repeat grades or drop out of school. Blouberg municipality has also place high on the priority list early childhood education. Reports on educational achievement in South Africa demonstrate that far too many of our school-going children are performing very poorly often failing to acquire functional numeracy and literacy skills due to non exposure to early childhood education.

On the 2nd of February 2015 residents of Bognafarm got to experience the true meaning of service delivery as Blouberg Municipality under the leadership of Cllr Serite Sekgoloane unveil the new Matjeketlane Pre-school.

The pre-scholars on their beautiful orange uniform also joined in to witness the official opening of their new play and educational house that will help them further develop into childhood and adulthood.

The municipality forked out R1.7m to ensure that children at Bognafarm get the best early childhood facility regardless of the rural status. The new state-of-the art

facility is fully functional with running water, class rooms, sleeping rooms, playrooms with furniture, fully equipped kitchen, play ground with swings as well as educational toys to unlock their minds and opportune them to engage in a variety of educational and social activities. The development is crucial in readying the children for school.

On the 3rd of February the Mayor also handed over state-of-the art Tshedikwana pre-school to the community of Mmotlana in ward 13. The municipality spent R1.7m for the project. Giving his keynote address, Cllr Sekgoloane indicated that only two villages in ward 13 that are without pre-schools. According the municipal programme of constructing pre-schools 2032 was the deadline to cover the backlog in all 123 settlement of the municipality but that had changed since we've added to five the number of centres the municipality is building every financial and the assistance from Venetia mine will assist in early completion of these projects, from 2032 to 2024.

He said Blouberg Municipality 'is taping

into the nation's Vision 2030 which aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequity by 2030 the long term plan that also emphasises ideas such as growth and prosperity as the best way to fight poverty and unemployment, and involving individuals and communities in their own development.

The Mayor officially handed over the keys to the centre principal Mme Morapedi. Morapedi who could hold back her excitement danced with joys as appreciation to what Blouberg Municipality did. Deviliersdale pre-school was also handed over in February and two more are currently under construction at Slaaphoek and Ga-Motati.

Among other dignitaries who attended the event to witness as Blouberg Municipality celebrate yet another mile stone in service delivery was the leader of the Bahananwa people



The Mayor Cllr Serite Sekgoloane and members of the Executive Committee appreciate the beauty of one of the many Pre-schools.



Maphuti Bodiroa(left) and Khomisani Bila (mentor) with some of the learners who patiently hone their skills courtesy of CETA

MAYORAL INDABA BEARS IMMINENT FRUIT

Maphuti Bodiroa struggled to get employment as he lacked necessary and requisite skills to enter the job market, but today thanks to the Mayor's Indaba on Youth Employment and Skills Development organized by the Blouberg Municipality, Maphuti is well in the process of acquiring the much needed skill.

Bodiroa hails from My Darling village in Ward 06 of the Blouberg municipality. He matriculated in 2012 and just like every child he dreamt of becoming something meaningful in life but couldn't proceed with his studies due to lack of finance as both his parents were unemployed and found it a herculean task to make ends meet in supporting the three siblings including Maphuti.

Maphuti's dream of becoming an artisan was on the verge of going up the smoke due to budgetary constraints as was the case in respect of numerous Blouberg youth. He had been twiddling his fingers at home but a massive turn around was in store for him.

Maphuti was among the 530 young people who had been placed on an 18-months learnership programme by the Construction Education and Training Authority(CETA). Training thereof commenced on the 29th of July 2014 and candidates were expected to complete the programme by December 2015.

The Mayor's Indaba was necessitated by the high rate of unemployment especially amongst the youth; skills mismatch since most if any of the skills possessed did not fare well in the job market and could therefore not impress potential employers. The Indaba was primarily aimed at creating dialogue amongst various role players to come with possible solutions that would enable sustainable

long term employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for young people.

According to the unemployed database held by the municipality, most of the skills possessed by the young people did not adequately respond to the requirements as set out in the job market.

The training would assist them to bridge the skills gap shortage and equip them with the necessary training and experience needed to enter the job market.

The alluded to learnership classes were currently been conducted throughout the Blouberg municipal area. Maphuti and his group are stationed at Springfield village. They attend classes from Monday to Thursday where they are still focusing on the theory aspect of their studies and would at a later stage engage the cardinaly important practical work.

Maphuti said the learnership was a dream come true for him and that he felt very fortunate to be amongst the 530 learners as he surely would be skilled and possibly have a competitive advantage over his contemporaries in the job market." I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Blouberg Municipality, and particularly the Mayor for coming up with this great initiative that has restored hope to the many hopeless Blouberg youth which will hopefully change our lives for better".



Learners strutting their stuff

Learners are being trained in various construction disciplines such as building and civil construction, plumbing, bricklaying and Small Medium Enterprise in construction amongst others.

BLOUBERG EMBARKS ON BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

Year after year as South African learners gear up for the new academic year the government is always fully behind them motivating them to realize their dreams and encouraging them to do well in their studies as aspirant leaders of the country.

The quality of life for people will improve only if people acquire education hence government listed education as one of its key priorities. In Blouberg a year never passes by without the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane and his Executive Committee taking part in the Back to School Campaign thus in the process congratulating the best performing schools and motivate learners who failed their Grade 12 to never loose hope.

The Blouberg back to school programme kicked off in full swing on the reopening of schools day on Wednesday, the 14th of January 2015 at Seikgone High school in Diepsloot, ward 21 of the municipality. The 2014 class of Seikgoni recorded poor performance by achieving only 9.1% making them the worst performing school in the entire Blouberg

Some of the 2014 worst performing school in Blouberg included Makangwane(Non- Parella village (13,6%), Letshega (Buyswater 15.0%) and Maphutha (Indermark 23.02%) However members of the Executive Committee led by Corporate Services and Budget & Treasury Portfolio Committee chairpersons Cllr Elina Sethukga and Cllr Rahab Masikwameng encouraged learners to work hard and improve the academic year's results and encouraged those who didn't make it to never lose hope but get up, dust themselves and continue with the race.

On their visit to respective schools, Cllr Sethukga reiterated to the learners that they should seriously consider enrolling for both Mathematics and Physical Science subjects given the massive opportunities presented by the two and taking into consideration the trends in respect of the job market and future prospects. Cllr Sethukga also called on learners to apply for Municipal Mayor's bursary, but stated clearly that only the hard working and those that are financially disadvantaged will be considered.

Cllr Masekwameng took the opportunity to conscientize learners of the dangers of teenage pregnancy which will delay their education progress and drug abuse. Cllr Masekwameng urged learners to prioritize their school work and respect their educators.

However some of the schools managed to post drastic improvements from the 2013 results and the schools include Raphahla (57.9% - 2013, 100% 2014) , Rapetsoa (2013 -63.3% , 2014 - 100%) Mmatsetla (76.2% - 2013 , 100% 2014) Mphengwa (57.7% - 2013 - 96.2% - 2014). Another school visited during the campaign was Nakedi Secondary School at De Vreede village. Nakedi dramatically dropped from over 60% in the previous year to 31% in 2014, which was a major point of concern.

Cllr Masekwameng urged educators to be more dedicated to improve the results and put their respective schools on the map. Masekwameng said by educating the nation that would ensure reduction on dependency from government. Parents were also urged to monitor their children's school work.

During the EXCO's visit to schools, many challenges which were believed to have also played a role in the poor performance were raised in various schools; those ranged from shortage of teachers, furniture, textbooks, additional classrooms and renovations.

Schools identified to be in dire need of urgent intervention in terms of renovations include Letshega, Malekwane, Makama, Mphengwa as well as Mmamuduwane Secondary Schools. Cllr Sethukga gave learners message of hope encouraging them to study hard and become tomorrow's great leaders and build better communities.



Cllr Maria Thamaga
Speaker

FROM THE SPEAKERS'S PODIUM

It is our sincere hope that all of us had fulfilling vacations, safe for a few reported accidents involving Bloubergers and we still live up to the deluge that "one death is one too many". Hopefully the upcoming Easter ones will reflect a completely different picture altogether with us on a quest for zero defect. Heartfelt condolences are hereby expressed to the families who experienced any fatalities during the Christmas period and congratulations are in order to those who hosted various festivities over the same period. The Blouberg Municipal council remains unequivocally steadfast in our journey to better the lives of Blouberg citizenry.

The highlight and cherry on top of the season thus far is the Unqualified Audit findings from the Auditor General for the 2013/2014 Financial Year. It gives us unparalleled joy to have contributed in the fulfillment of a commitment to the countrywide acclaimed 2014 Operation Clean Audit. That speaks volume of our sound financial management, strong political will as well as ethical and transparent administration. The Auditor General has in his findings declared that the Blouberg Municipality's financial statements present a fairly, in all material respects, the financial performance of the municipality as at 30th June 2014. No significant deficiencies were found in our internal controls but it is however, expected that an action plan will still be drawn and vigorously pursued in order to leave no stone unturned in making sure that the few matters of emphasis pointed out are appropriately dealt with. We commend everyone involved and warn that the stakes have been upped which calls for more hard work to avoid any possible regress.

After many twists and turns which were basically not of our own making

and therefore beyond our control, the 12th Annual Ward Committees' Conference finally took place at Karibu Leisure Resort in Tzaneen from the 14th – 16th November 2014. It was, as usual, a highly involving affair characterized by robust debates particularly in the commissions which were deliberately designed to try and shape the direction that the municipality needed to pursue in an effort to seamlessly deliver services to our deserving communities. The exercise culminated in a Declaration of the 12th Annual Ward Committees' Conference (included elsewhere in the edition) and was subsequently adopted by Council of the

29th January 2014 which then renders the recommendations thereof legitimate council resolutions. Members of the ward committees will continue to, as a standing item in their bi-monthly meetings, receive feedback in respect of progress regarding the referred to resolutions.

All council committees met as scheduled in the second quarter which also saw all ward public meetings with the exception of four wards which ultimately held theirs in January 2015. The postponements were much to my chagrin as custodian of the public participation matters because I do not

all meetings were ultimately convened, we will in future not tolerate any overlapping of activities as that impacts negatively on other programmes and have a bearing on the council adopted schedule of meetings. In order for us to avoid actions reminiscent of Malamulele, you are urged to attend the upcoming Municipal Demarcation Board's public participation programmes to have a feel on the direction of municipalities post 2016 local government elections.

We are also rubbing our hands in glee, anticipating that public hearings on the Annual report will run as smoothly as ever. It is our wish that the turn out at the various clusters will confirm that we do not merely pay lip service to the community involvement aspect, but rather that we walk the talk.

Let me reiterate that in our bid to strengthen our mettle as the undisputed champions in the participatory democracy stakes, we have included the Councillors-Mantona Forum, the Community Safety Forum as well as the Women Caucus among a plethora of our council activities.

The alluded to fora, will undoubtedly add further impetus while at the same time consolidating our efforts of consolidating our efforts of ascertaining much needed synergy in respect of the much vouched for intergovernmental relations. As a rural, less privileged and highly ambitious municipality, let us draw solace and inspiration from John Maxwell's words that "Successful and unsuccessful people do not vary greatly in their abilities. They vary in their desires to reach their potential"

Senior Manager: Office of the Auditor General Mr Lawrence Nevhutalu officially announcing Blouberg's clean bill of health



COUNCIL REACHES OUT TO ALLDAYS



Council speaker Mme Maria Thamaga during the Council proceedings



Community members were afforded ample time to raise their concerns during the Council sitting

In a bid to foster transparency and enhance participatory democracy Blouberg Municipality held the first ordinary Council Outreach Programme for 2015 at Alldays (ward 18) on the 29th of January 2015.

The municipality holds Council meetings on a quarterly basis to report back to the community where the Mayor presents the Executive Committee's report on progress in respect of the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan to the public. Formal sessions are normally succeeded by Imbizos. The purpose of Council Imbizos is not only confined to providing the municipality with the platform to communicate its programmes but also to give community members an ear.

Members of the public were also afforded an opportunity to raise their service delivery complaints, concerns and comments to the Mayor, the Council as well as the top management as mandated by in terms of Section 19 of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, No 32 of 2000.

Delivering his keynote address Mayor Serite Sekgoloane spoke of Blouberg service delivery in general how far the municipality had gone in terms of providing services to its communities as mandated. The Mayor also shared with residents the municipality's achievements in relation to clean management of the municipal purse.

Blouberg Municipality has for the first time in 14 years of existence obtained an Unqualified Audit opinion. Unqualified Opinion is an independent auditor's judgement which gives credence to the fact that an institution's financial records and statements are fairly

appropriately presented, and in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Cllr Sekgoloane told residents that the process of expanding Alldays town was at an advanced stage. The underground project by De Beers Venetia mine resulted to number of people seeking residences in the vicinity for purposes of proximity to their work place. He further told residents that the municipality was in the process of contracting service providers to service part of the town where municipality will expand its residential area.

Unemployment and inaccurately billed statements topped the list of residents' complaints on the day. A number of residents also aired their dissatisfaction over the recruitment of manpower by the diamond giant, De Beers Venetia Mine and its contractors.

Residents complained that many of the mine employees were not from the purported mine's labour sending areas even in cases where the posts did not require specialized skills. Residents requested the municipality's intervention in engaging the mining authority to resolve the matter.

Another heated complaint was that of inaccurate bills that the municipality issued to residents. Community members complained that despite settling their rates and taxes the money keeps increasing instead of decreasing.

Another issue raised as a serious concern was the operation schedule for the Alldays Clinic. Residents demand that the clinic operate 24 hours and 7 days a week. Alldays Clinic currently operates from 7h30-16h30 from Monday to Friday and remain closed on weekends and holidays.

Before responding to the service delivery concerns raised by members of the community the Mayor, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane thanked the residents for heeding the municipal call to attend the meeting in their multitudes.

On the issue of the residents dissatisfaction over the employment of staff at the mine the Mayor indicated the municipality will assist residents to establish community trusts that will on behalf of their respective communities engage various companies operating within the municipal area for negotiations aimed at addressing among other s ; community beneficiation, recruitment as well as Social Corporate Investment. Cllr Sekgoloane also made a call to the unemployed people to register themselves on the municipal database of unemployed people for easier access whenever job opportunities avail themselves.

The Mayor acknowledged his awareness of problems relating to the municipal billing system particularly in the Alldays Satellite Office and assured residents that the matter will be resolved as a matter of urgency. On the issue of the clinic he made an undertaking to engage the clinic authority through Community Services Department in a bid to find solution to the matter. Some residents thanked the municipality and its partners for a providing dumping site for the Alldays community and other services so effervescently rendered. The meeting served to substantiate the fact that Blouberg Municipality remains the beacon in the participatory democracy

**MR KGOALE TMP : MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

the issues raised by the AG in order to imprint an organisational culture synonymous with high performance model. Of course, in any circumstances there are always doomsayers who are hard to please and those we can do without.

Following the disclosure of the good news, the Council of Blouberg Municipality deemed it befitting to wind down the sweats of its workers with Excellence Awards for the job well done. The Accounting Officer was bestowed permission to reward the good work for the entire staff hence the implementation of the Special Bonus to all employees as per the approved categories and levels. It must also be noted that it was for the 1st time too for the Municipality to reward good performance. So the rewarding of workers in a way afforded such an opportunity to pilot the Performance Reward System. As usual the winning team did not stop to amaze itself and the following categories of rewards were drawn up.

Eldorado Stadium was pulsated in hilarious End of the Year function mood on the 15th December 2014 where the following categories of Awards were scooped. Local Government sector is known to be a tough terrain indeed that when recess periods advances, many of its workers usually get impatient as to when such vacation arise, it was however, different though as the newly acquired accolades invigorated us to face all service delivery challenges with fortitude.

During the above excellence awards and end year function we saw a number of officials who scooping awards in various categories for their contributions in the overall Municipal performance. The following were categories presented during the excellence awards:

a). Most improved employee of the year (Manager: Public Safety;Mr Kenny Dikgari),

b).Most innovative employee of the year(Manager: Internal Audit;Mr Walter Kgowa)

c).Most punctual employee of the year,Ms Refilwe Meso)

d). Most committed employees of the year were to Manager:Electrical;Mr Maleka Jacob;Supervisor Roads:Mr Wiliam Serakalala;General worker:Mr Joseph Moradu and Handy man: Mr Piet Mathumo).

(e) Most dedicated employees of the year went to two managers (Manager:Office of the Municipal Manager;Mr Peter Mankga and Chief Licensing Officer: Mr Jimmy Mpya)

(f) Most consistent performing employee of the year (Manager PMS:Mrs Daily Maputla)

(g) Best managed Department of the year(Department of Budget and Treasury)

(h) Mayor's Special Awards for most valuable employees was shared amongst three people being (Manager PMS:Mrs Daily Maputla and Grader Operator: Mr Marcus Mabolola)

(i) Most valuable employees of the year was shared by two employees (Sports officer:Mr Bethuel Mabeso and Supervisor Roads,Mr Jordan Mohlola and Director of the year (Director :Economic Development and Planning,Mr Johnny Kgorane).

Though it was the first time awarding such tokens of appreciation to our employees following our greatest achievement after a decade of visible paucity of excellence or good performance in the history of the Municipality's existence, we urge all other employees who were not counted amongst the alluded categories to continue putting their hands on the deck and by so doing the "Sky remains the limit".

It is imperative to remind our communities that we are at the middle of our financial year wherein in terms section 72 of Municipal Finance Management Act "the Accounting officer of a municipality must by 25 January of each year assess the performance of the municipality during the first half of the financial year and submit same to the Mayor, National Treasury and the relevant Provincial Treasury. And we are therefore highly gratified to report that our municipality continues to comply with set legislations as both Mid- Year reports coupled with necessary budget adjustments were judiciously carried out.

In our December edition we reported that the municipality attained an Unqualified Audit Opinion during 2013/14 financial year for the first time after 13 years of its existence, the monumental achievement that is worth celebrating. Big ups to all and sundry in the municipal administration who continues to serve our people selflessly and diligently.

We however can not afford to rest on our laurels as this audit opinion and many accolades we achieved as the Municipality in the 2nd quarter of our financial year , requested more concerted efforts in maintaining the bar as set. We, as management working closely with the political wing have already kick started with our usual Audit Steering Committee meetings every Tuesdays to track all

All and sundry are called upon to find courage in the words of the writer **"Ralph Marston" who rightfully said "Don't lower your expectations to meet your performance ,rise your level of performance to meet your expectations. Expect the best of yourself, and then do what is necessary to make it reality".**

Once more it is worth praising the sterling work done by our traffic officials during hectic festive season in ensuring safety of our beloved motorists and public members.

Comparing with years that drifted, the recent festive seasons recorded twenty eight (28) incidents with minor injuries in our statistics and we call upon motorists to observe rules and regulations consistently, we salute our traffic Officials for improved and visible enforcement of traffic rules though we are worried of allegations of corrupt activities.

SERVICE DELIVERY ANNOTATIONS

Eleanor Roosevelt once proclaimed "Do what you can with what you have where you are", we want to applaud the good work performed by all contractors appointed for capital projects for the current year who managed to complete their responsibilities before the lapse of the completion period.

Our MIG performance on spending is counting amongst the improved

municipalities in the province. Congratulations are in order for Technical Services; we urge the team to remain steadfast for consistent managing of the contracts as expected..

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

We have committed in the last edition to strengthen Community Services Department in employing more traffic officers to intensify law enforcement throughout the municipality and indeed we count a number of 05 additional experienced new recruits from metro councils and provincial traffic department ie. Misters Tlou Mokuru, Franz Mokala, Prince Mkhlabuki, Daniel Mabote and Simon Ramoroka.

The municipality continues to uplift the morale of its employees wherein one of the longest serving traffic official, Ms Shierly Twala has been appointed to the position of Superintendent Traffic Law Enforcement attached to Alldays Satellite office from 01st December 2014.

It has been tough to recruit female engineers into rural municipality evidence to that was experienced after we suffered the resignation of former Director Technical services Ms Betty Tlhabane since January 2014 and now we can relay good news to our people that her replacement boasts the kind of fortitude and character in the persona of the newly appointed

Ms Motlanalo Patricia Morokolo. With her insight and knowledge of civil engineering services in the municipal environment and exposure gained in various municipalities she served, her presence will certainly add value in Blouberg Local Municipality. The bar we set so high for ourselves requires more tightened screws and all hands shall remain on the deck consistently from both the political and administrative wing in line with Back to Basics principle.

With the right combination of traits, skills and attributes Blouberg Local Municipality will continue to surprise many of its detractors and become one of the best local government sphere of Governance model the world will benchmark from. With all the accolades attained in the year passed by, we need to heed the advice of the writer Eleanor Roosevelt who once said "You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you can't do". This words of wisdom are grandly suited to the situation we found ourselves in as we can't afford to regress to the position we were in then, therefore persistence to brightening your little corners will also be appreciated. Let this Financial Year 2014/15 be closed with a bang.

We take this opportunity to wish every one of you a joyous Easter Season and take caution of the rules of the road and other jurisprudence and not be overtaken by the joyous ambience we find ourselves in.



The Mayor Cllr Serite Sekgoloane flanked by deserving awards recipients as well as members of the Executive Committee



The Mayor awards the most committed employee of the year: Mr Piet "MM" Mathumo.

BLOUBERG EMBARKS ON BATHO PELE CAMPAIGN



Scores of citizens turned out for the Batho Pele event that highlighted the role of the municipality

Blouberg Municipality through Corporate Services Portfolio Committee led by its chairperson Cllr Elina Sithukga is currently embarking on the Batho -Pele awareness campaign in a bid to educate people of Blouberg about services rendered by the municipality. Batho Pele principles require government institutions to provide citizens with full and accurate information about their services and regularly consult with them about service levels and quality and, as far as possible, given a choice about the services offered.

The first leg of the campaign saw chairpersons of respective portfolio

committees visit various communities throughout the municipality to interact with citizens with the aim of addressing their service delivery concerns and account to them about service delivery status of the municipality and make the complaints mechanism accessible to citizen and to intensify service delivery provision by various stakeholders that include departments operating in the municipalities, NGO's and parastatals. It was pointed out that some of the services are rendered by the National Departments, Provincial Departments as well as the District Municipality.

Members of the community were also afforded an opportunity to raise their services delivery complaints. Residents complaints from various wards ranged from shortage of water to poor road conditions including the need for RDP houses and schools. All complaints were noted and commitments made whereby residents will be duly furnished with feedback and further that the reports would be submitted to concerned departments with regards to services not rendered by the municipality.

SATELLITE OFFICES

Alldays – 015 575 1144

Eldorado – 015 592 9927

Tolwe – 014 767 1594

Raweshi – 082 220 5975

Senwabarwana - 015 505 7100

SERVICES RENDERED BY BLOUBERG MUNICIPALITY

TECHNICAL SERVICES 0155057131	Electricity, Access roads, Internal Streets and Storm Water Control and Water and Sanitation which is the direct mandate of the Capricorn District Municipality
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING - 0155057137	Rezoning of sites from residential to business, Business licensing, Tourism attractions, SMMEs Support
BUDGET AND TREASURY 0155057151	Tariff structure, Development Fund, Database, Indigent register
COMMUNITY SERVICES- 0155057158	Waste Management, Environmental Management, Traffic and Licensing
CORPORATE SERVICES - 0155057129	Bursaries, Learnership programme, By-laws
SPECIAL FOCUS	Youth Development, Women and Children, Elders, People living with Disability, HIV/AIDS, Sport

The municipality also has in place Suggestion boxes, Complaints registers, Municipal Contact Centre and Social Media for the public to log in their complaints and compliments about services offered.



Chairperson of Corporate Services Cllr Sethukga SE (standing) emphasizes a point supported by the Chairperson of Budget and Treasury Cllr Masekwameng RM and member of EXCO Cllr Tjuma MM during the Batho Pele campaign

General Manager Mr Ludwig von Maltitz hosted Principals, top learners and other important stakeholders for breakfast at the mine.

VENETIA MINE BOSS HONOURS TOP ACHIEVING STUDENTS FROM MINE LABOUR SENDING AREAS

"South Africa needs top achievers who return to their communities and use their education to plough back. Our country needs graduates who stimulate the local economy, create jobs and become true leaders in their field." So said General Manager, Ludwig von Maltitz at a breakfast held to honour top achieving students from communities neighbouring Venetia Mine.

Ten students and six principals from Alldays Combined, Nakedi Secondary, Mabea Secondary and Mathipa Makgato Secondary as well as Musina High and Eric Louw High Schools from both Blouberg and Musina Local Municipalities respectively, were treated to a morning of recognition and motivation from De Beers. Held on the 19th of January 2015, the event also hosted tertiary students currently enlisted in the De Beers Financial Assistance Programme. The latter students continue their second and third year studies in the current academic year with financial assistance from De Beers which goes towards funding their tuition at a university or technical institutions of their choice.

Tshepo John Semata, the highest achieving student from Alldays Combined School is currently in his first year studying towards a degree in Mining Geology at the University of Limpopo. Semata who also got an invitation to attend the breakfast event couldn't hide his excitement and had this to say, *"Breakfast with the General Manager is an opportunity any student would die for! I walk away from today determined to 'be the change agent' and to influence and inspire others, regardless of where life takes me."*

In 2014 De Beers spearheaded numerous education programmes in Musina and Alldays including the De Beers Saturday School and the De Beers Financial Assistance Programme. Last year their Teacher Subvention Programme funded twenty-seven additional Mathematics and Science teachers for Eric Louw High School, Musina High and Messina Primary School and offered school fee subsidies to needy, academically deserving students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Similarly, De Beers' contractor, Basil Read invested in three additional Mathematics educators and one additional Science educator for Alldays Secondary School.

De Beers believes in ensuring that children from their labour sending communities have access to the best possible education and takes great pleasure in witnessing the achievements of our local matric students. We wish them well in their future endeavours and encourage them to use their education to create a future as bright as diamonds, as that resonates well with De Beers' punchline that "Diamonds are forever".

Aisha Khan (Senior Human Resource Manager), Ramsten Mosena (Top Achieving student from Mathipa Makgato) and Ludwig von Maltitz (General Manager, Venetia Mine).



EMERGENCE OF STOCK FARMING IN BLOUBERG

RISE OF THE GIANT

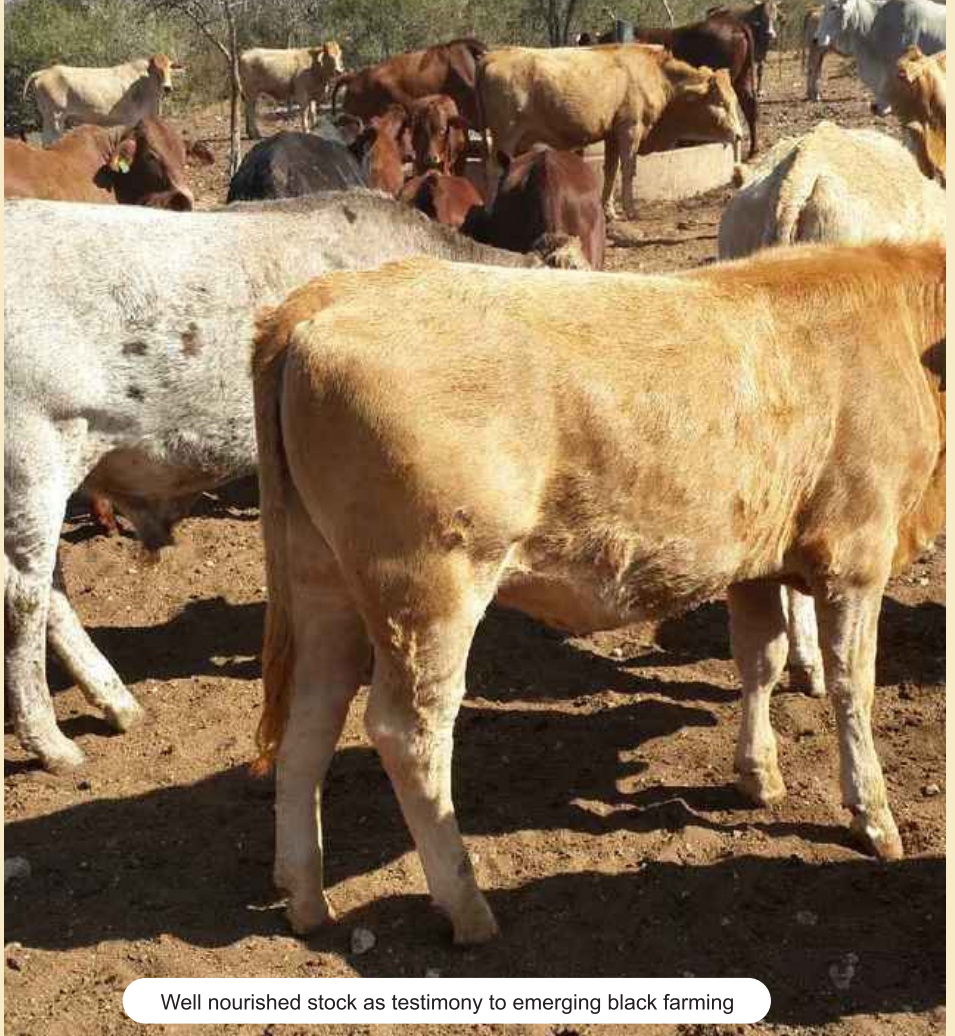
Agriculture forms a critical part of South African socio-economic and socio-political stability. Livestock contributes approximately 48% of the country's agricultural output in terms of value. The largest chunk for the Agriculture sphere in South Africa. Blouberg News traced one Blouberg emerging farmer to get the low down on their survival in the hurly burly world of the white dominated agriculture fraternity.

Moyahabo Josias Sebola's love for cattle dates back from childhood. Little did he know that he would some day make a living out of livestock. Sebola, who hails from Letswatla village in ward 21, ventured into the industry over two decades ago and has never looked back ever since. Stock breeders concentrate on the development of

breeds that are well adapted to diverse climates and environmental conditions.

Sebola boasts over one -hundred and fifty mixed breed cattle ranging from Bonsmara to Brahman among his collections. The live stock was being kept at Tolwe where he shares a farm with other local emerging livestock farmers. One cow gets easily sold for prices in the range of between R5000-R7000. The stock gets auctioned and part of the stock is also sold to the community at large and has since created a few job opportunities for the locals.

He indicated that among many major challenges he and other livestock farmers are confronted with is their livestock being devoured by wild animals. Other problems that seem to be common amongst emerging livestock farmers include, shortage of water, lack of secure title to the land, lack of



Well nourished stock as testimony to emerging black farming

investment and working capital and limited access to credit, poor veld conditions, highly variable climate and insufficient farm size.

Others are inadequate infrastructure, poor access to funding and a highly competitive industry context.

Sebola however, believes that many of these problems can be resolved at sector departmental and national government levels. "The problem of financial and property management can be addressed by training and support to emerging farmers. We call on the department of Agriculture in the province to assist with training for us to compete with big business" added Sebola.

He also made an impassioned plea to the municipality and the local leaders to assist with the land for lease for grazing. He advised aspiring live stock farmers to be patient, build strong and sustainable businesses.

Mr Josias Sebola: Blouberg emerging livestock farmer



CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT

2014/2015

NAME OF PROJECT	BUDGET	OVERALL PROGRESS
Senwabarwana Internal Streets/Storm Water road Phase 3	R 6 300 000.00	Contractor handed over site on 07/03/2015.
Cracouw Creche(2013-2014)	R 1,605,939.22	100% Completed, -on retention stage
Lethaleng Creche(2013-2014)	R 1 602 562.26	100% Completed, -on retention stage
Ben Seraki Upgrading of Sports Complex phase 1(2013-2014)	R 2 600 000.00	55% Complete – Busy with Earthworks and Preparations for Artificial Pitch. Challenges with artificial pitch delivered on site has to be returned back to the manufacture be changed to the correct one
Laanglagte MPCC(2013-2014)	R5 290,500.00	65% completed - busy with roofing and plastering
Rehabilitation of Indermark internal Streets and storm water	R 4 000 000.00	70% Complete- Busy finalizing road patching, stone pitching and drift
Slaaphoek creche	R 1.769 366.00	80% completed- Busy with internal finishes in Main building. Playground, VIP Toilets , equipping of borehole and perimeter fence outstanding.
Devilliersdale creche	R1.769 366.00	100% completed and officially handed over
Berseba creche	R 1.769 366.00	95% Complete – Practically complete. Busy with snags on internal finishes and borehole.
Motlana creche	R 1.769 366.00	100% completed and officially handed over
Bognafarm creche	R 1.769 366.00	100% completed and officially handed over
Dilaeneng internal street and storm water road	R 4 000 000.00	100% completed - Completed and on retention
Inveraan Multi purpose centre	R 6,700.000.00	45% Completed- Foundations Complete. currenly busy with wall brickwork.
Electrification of Ward 20 Ext	R 480 000.00	40% completed - Contractor busy with pole planting and stringing of MV and LV
Electrification of Silvermyn Ext	R 264 000	50% completed - Contractor busy with stringing of MV and LV reticulation
Electrification of Diepsloot	R 264 000	50% completed - Contractor busy with stringing of MV and LV reticulation
Electrification of Mongalo	R 360 000	30% completed - Contractor busy with digging of holes and pole planting.
Electrification of Ward 17 Ext	R 1 632 000	On construction stage

EXCO members led by Chairperson of Infrastructure Development Cllr Seleka Ratladi conduct inspections in loco on MIG projects



DECLARATION OF THE 12TH ANNUAL WARD COMMITTEES' CONFERENCE HELD FROM 14 - 16 NOVEMBER 2014 AT KARIBU LEISURE RESORT (TZANEEN).

We, the people of Blouberg gathered at Karibu Leisure Resort in Tzaneen from the 14th – 16th November 2014 under the theme: “Celebrating 20 years of democracy – ensuring seamless service delivery through enhancement of community participation”, as Councillors, members of Ward Committees, representatives from Sister Municipalities within the Capricorn District, Magoshi, CDWs from our 21 wards across the municipality, Senior Managers as well as

APPRECIATING MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FROM:

1. Traditional Authorities from around our Municipality;
2. Capricorn District Municipality;
3. Aganang Local Municipality;
4. Molemole Local Municipality;

NOTING:

1. Progress made in respect of the 11th Ward Committees' Conference Resolutions
2. The Overview and Performance report on Ward Committees;
3. The Municipality's State of Ward Committees.
4. Annual Status Quo Reports on the performance of Ward Committees for the 2013/14 financial year.

BELIEVING THAT:

1. Effective Community Participation remains the most viable mechanism to sustainable Service Delivery.
2. A concerted effort needed to be put in the fight against poverty, inequality and unemployment
3. The three commissions: i. Good Governance and Public Participation, ii. Economic Empowerment and Sound Financial Management; iii. Basic Infrastructure Development and Community Services as well as iv. Financial Viability and Local Economic Development will assist in the shaping and realization of the Municipal developmental objectives;

COMMISSION 1

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Noting challenges in respect of:

- a) Coordination and feedback meetings

RESOLVED THUS:

1. Do away with the tendency of continued reporting on matters that have been long resolved which have to be wholly withdrawn from the ensuing reports;

2. Purchasing of recording devices which will assist in ensuring that issues are appropriately captured.
3. Ensure timeous issuing of notices and messages in respect of events and other municipal activities;
4. Utilize the services of both Mohodi Community Station and national broadcaster Thobela FM as well as the local newspaper subject to the local Community Radio Station obliging to the recommendation that they expand/increase their radius and the local newspaper printing at least twice per week; it was further recommended that in the event the suggested inputs take effect then ward councillors provided the latitude to articulate on matters relating to their respective wards;
5. In case the municipality expected to be flighted for one reason or the other, SMSes be sent through to Ward Committees notifying them of the media house and time of broadcast;
6. Consider the feasibility of utilizing flyers for dissemination of information in respect of projects and activities since the newsletter was only produced quarterly.

b) Performance Management Measurement RESOLVED THUS;

1. Ward committees actively participate in the monitoring and evaluation of projects and that municipal hotline be created for reporting of any developments or lack thereof regarding same.

c) Political involvement of Ward Committees RESOLVED THUS:

1. Depoliticization of ward committees and that they at all times while in the line of duty desist from wearing regalia that depict any political affiliation;
2. The ward committee members raise their displeasures and complaints at appropriate avenues rather than hold pocket meetings that were conflict with their founding objectives;
3. Focuser meeting(s) be held to clarify and update ward committee members on matters relating to them to avoid the inconvenience of having such matters addressed at inappropriate platforms like conferences;

4. The ward committee members' conduct be locatable within the code of conduct and that at all material times protocol be observed.

**d) Ensuring political and administrative interface
RESOLVED THUS:**

1. It is further recommended that a formal request be made for local municipalities to become water authorities' services.

**COMMISSION 2
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND SOUND FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT**

**The commission noted the following as revenue
generation weaknesses:**

1. Unreliable billing system (incorrect bills to rates payers).
2. Weak mobilization strategy of informing communities on the payment of development fund.
3. Payment receipts from revenue collected by field cashiers not loaded/captured in the system.
4. Indigent register not updated.
5. Unavailability of electricity vending machines at some of the wards.
6. Erroneous capturing of rate payers information into the system.
7. Huge occurrence on electricity bridging.

The commission RESOLVED THUS:

1. Municipality to improve its billing system to boost rate payers' morale.
2. Field cashiers must develop programme and share it with key community stakeholders to assist in the collection of revenue.
3. Once the programme of field cashiers had been tabled before key stakeholders, such a kgoro must be shared with ward committee members who must popularize it and mobilize community members.
4. Satellite Managers to safe keep monies collected by field cashiers to minimize risks.
5. Communities including ward committees to alert municipality about people who bridge electricity. (Izinyoka).

**On expenditure management, the commission
NOTED the following:**

1. The Municipality is perceived to be spending unnecessarily on subsistence and travelling as there is duplication emanating from a number of cars that unnecessarily travel to same events

The Commission RESOLVED THUS:

1. Regulation of travelling costs be improved to reduce unnecessary spending.

**On Supply Chain Management and local suppliers
support, the commission NOTED the following:**

1. Local service providers not often considered when awarding tenders (implement of capital projects and soft services such as catering services in respective wards).
2. Supply chain benefits few and empowers individual companies.
3. Some of the local suppliers charge exorbitant prices (catering services, transportation and cleaning materials).
4. Inaccessibility of procurement opportunities existing in the municipality (notices to invite service providers to procure services are pasted in the municipal information boards only).

The commission RESOLVED THUS:

1. Local Empowerment Strategy be fully implemented;
2. Rooster system be developed to benefit all SMME's registered in the data-base and that a rotation practice be utilized;
3. The Municipality should at all times procure goods and services from service providers within the wards where events and activities take place;
4. Encourage establishment of cooperatives e.g security and cleaning services to bid than to empower individual companies.
5. Seminars/suppliers' day be conducted to conscientize service providers on how to bid and price.
6. To avoid exorbitant prices being charged, the Municipality should establish base prices and ceiling prices that will guide suppliers in pricing for goods and services supplied to the municipality. The maximum mark-up should remain 30% as per the local empowerment strategy.
7. Training and capacity building sessions be conducted to support local SMMEs. The Blouberg Business Forum and ward committee members should assist with the mobilization of local SMMEs during capacity building sessions.

**On Hawkers' Management the commission NOTED
the following:**

1. There was a poor management and regulation of hawkers,

2. Municipal by-laws were ineffective e.g. improper buildings in Senwabarwana and Alldays towns.

The commission **RESOLVED THUS:**

1. Operation Clean Up be conducted at Senwabarwana and Alldays to rid the towns of illegal hawkers. The Municipality should ensure that adequate communication is done in regulating the affairs of hawkers.
2. Buildings that are not compliant with regulations be demolished.
3. Full enforcement of by-laws be done.
4. Ward committee members must ensure that they communicate municipal by-laws to community members.

COMMISSION 3 BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Noting the Role of Ward Committees with regards to:

- a) Establish or strengthen Rapid Response Teams (Trouble Shooting Team) to address challenges occurring throughout the wards.
 1. Conduct Door-to-Door Campaigns in villages to identify individual challenges.
 2. Voluntarily engage in efforts aimed at addressing identified challenges.
- b) Ensure proper maintenance and immediate address of outages to ensure continuity of service provision.
 1. Timeous communication and notification of affected communities regarding maintenance.
- c) Improve mechanisms to deliver new infrastructure at a fast pace adhering to the relevant standards (weaknesses and challenges of Project Steering Committees)
 1. Misunderstanding between PSCs and contractors.
 2. Incapacity in Project Steering Committee (PSCs).
 3. Certain relationships prevailing between contractors and PSC.
 4. Delayed intervention in challenges between contractors and labourers.

RECOMMENDED AS FOLLOWS::

1. Training of Project Steering Committee before hand over of capital projects.
2. Provide for clarification on the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved.

- d) Increase community work program sites targeting the unemployed and vulnerable groups.

1. Provide accredited training to targeted community groups.

**On Community Works Programme (CWP) and
Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)
Labourers it was NOTED as follows:**

1. Mostly did not want to work in cemetery sites.
2. Not reporting for work on time.
3. No link between them and their coordinators.
4. Lack of Personnel Protective Equipments (PPE).
5. Some were not productive enough.

RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Regular site visits to EPWP and/or CWP
2. Improve visible policing by establishing Street Committees and Public Safety Forum.
3. Street Committees be constituted by all social groupings/stakeholders.
4. Create harmonious relations with SAPS to combat crime.
6. Promote community safety continuously throughout the entire ward.
7. Street committees be made in blocks or villages which will meet on monthly basis.
8. Ward Committees who head Safety and Security desks be part of CPF meetings.
9. Develop ongoing programmes that address crime.

On Traffic Licensing and Law Enforcement NOTED the following:

1. Alleged tendency of traffic officials to accept bribes.

RESOLVED THUS

1. Rotation and regular monitoring of traffic officials.

FURTHER:

NOTING THAT:

1. There were still some dilapidated schools in some villages like Makangwane and others;
2. Roads conditions were so bad especially during rainy seasons;
3. There are still some clinics operating in RDP houses notably one such at Schoongezicht ;.
4. Only few clinics were still to be built in areas like Puraspan, Monyebodi and others.

RESOLVED THUS:

1. Relocate CDW functions and activities to the Office of the Speaker as a focal point;
2. Write a letter to the new MEC for Public Works and Roads with regards to the well documented and clear intentioned municipal Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) for possible support in the realization of same;
3. Write a letter to the MEC for Education requesting immediate intervention in respect of dilapidated schools;
4. Revisit the criteria on the appointment of Community Liaison Officers for capital projects and in the process rescind an earlier resolution that stated that CLOs be the exclusive terrain of ward committees and further that the powers to appoint them (CLOs) reside in the Office of the Mayor in collaboration with councillors of the affected wards;
5. There should be unannounced visits by the newly incepted Rapid Response (Trouble Shooting) Team at identified wards in an effort to try and address persistent service delivery challenges;
6. EPWP labourers make concerted efforts to clean up the town streets at least every Tuesday to have them looking more presentable and upholding their statuses as Blouberg towns;
7. The Community Safety Plan be implemented to the latter in order to ensure complete safety of the communities.



Multitudes of Ward Committees pose for a photo with the leadership during their 12th Annual Ward Committees Conference

Continues from page 4

We say unto you the symbolic language of crucifixion is the death of the old paradigm; resurrection is a leap into a whole new way of thinking. Easter tells us of something we can't understand, because it addresses things we don't yet have to know: the weariness of life, the pain, the profound loneliness and hovering fear of meaninglessness. Yet it is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal and new life.

We wish our fellow Bloubergers safe journeys home as they will be crisscrossing rivers and valleys to our mother land. Please keep an Eagle eye on the signs of the road and don't over speed, don't over load, don't drink and drive. Take a rest if you feel tired so that you arrive safe than never. May our mighty God guide you to the Promised Land. God bless you richly!



Ward Committees afforded an opportunity to report on the state of their respective wards during the conference.



The Speaker Cllr Maria Thamaga presenting the state of the Ward Committees report during the conference.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2015 (GOVERNANCE)

	APR	MAY	JUN
Council		28	
EXCO	23	21	30
P.Cs	16	14	18
PPP	01		
EDC	02		
Women Caucus	15		
MPAC	16	14	18
W.Cs	01- 10		01- 10
MMF			02
CMF	16 - 31		
MCF			03
IPRF	16		
WCF			
LLF	14	12	09
LUM	01	04	01
Energy Forum		06	
Housing Forum		06	
CSF		07	
Transport Forum		07	
DMF		08	
WMF		08	
LEDf		04	
Tourism Forum		05	
LCF		05	
WPM		08-20	

EXCO (Executive Committee); **P.Cs** (Portfolio Committees); **PPP** (Petitions and Public Participation Committee); **EDC** (Ethics and Disciplinary Committee); **MPAC** (Municipal Public Accounts Committee); **W.Cs** (Ward Committees); **MMF** (Mayor Magoshi Forum); **CMF** (Councillors Mantona Forum); **MCF** (Mayor/Chairpersons Forum); **IPRF** (Institutional Performance Review Session); **WCF** (Ward Committees Forum); **LUM** (Land Use Management Committee); **DMF** (Disaster Management Forum); **WMF** (Waste Management Forum); **LEDf** (Local Economic Development Forum); **LCF** (Local Communicators Forum); **WPM** (Ward Public Meetings); **CSF** (Community Safety Forum); **LLF** (Local Labour Forum)



Renowned Football Players Agent Jazzman Mahlakgane offers the Blouberg Mayor a token of appreciation for his role in sport development

MAYOR SEKGOLANE HONOURED FOR HIS ROLE IN SPORT DEVELOPMENT

Blouberg Mayor, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane's dedication and efforts in sport development has not gone unnoticed. FIFA accredited and South Africa renowned Football Players agent Jazzman Mahlakgane honoured the first resident of Blouberg for the positive contribution and tireless efforts in nurturing sport talent during the 7th Annual Batho-Pele Off-Season Games held in Eldorado last December.

In his 2014/2015 Budget speech Sport and Recreation Minister Fikile Mbalula said, "development remains the critical foundation for progress at grassroots level through to elite sport and high performance. Hence our theme for this year's budget speech is correctly coined "accelerating sport development: our non negotiable mandate". We implore all stakeholders to walk hand in hand with us in addressing the issue of development across all sporting codes in South Africa.

Mahlakgane applauded Sekgoloane for coming up with initiatives like the Batho-Pele games as they play a vital role in young people's lives by keeping them off the streets and enhance sport talent among other things.

Eldorado village came to live between the 28th -30th December as multitudes of sport fanatics from and outside Blouberg converged at the Sport Complex to attend the unrivaled off-season games organized by Blouberg Municipality working together with the Blouberg South African Football Association (SAFA).

As a token of appreciation Mahlakgane presented a framed jersey signed by Premier Soccer League players managed under his agency who also took part during the inaugural Batho-Pele Games in 2008 and 2009 respectively.

Cllr Sekgoloane thanked Mahlakgane for the gesture. He said the municipality aims to utilize sport to fight poverty, crime, entertain Blouberg residents during festive season and motivate aspiring sport stars. He applauded Mahlakgane for always staying rooted in Blouberg despite his business achievements.

32 men soccer teams battled it out for a whopping R20 000, a trophy, medals and soccer kit while 8 ladies teams were in for R10 000. The 7th Batho-Pele games also introduced boxing under the tutelage of the esteemed Mr Laka which featured 8 bouts at the closing of the three-day tournament. The Dolphins FC defeated Taaibosch Mighty Killers by a 3-1 scoreline. In the ladies finals, hosts Eldorado FC walloped Radira FC bagging R10 000 in the process. With the kind of support experienced, the games are surely headed in one direction – and that's up.



2014 Batho Pele off-season tournament champions, The Dolphin FC



MAYOR
Cllr. Serite Sekgoloane



www.blouberg.gov.za



BLOUBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

VISION

A participatory municipality that turns prevailing challenges into opportunities for growth and development through optimal utilization of available resources.

MISSION

To ensure the delivery of quality services through community participation and the creation of an enabling environment for economic growth and job creation.

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