



Blouberg News

"Fetiša Molaetša"

October - December 2010



Blouberg Municipality salutes the new Executive Mayor of
Capricorn District Municipality, Councillor Lawrence Mapoulo

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THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

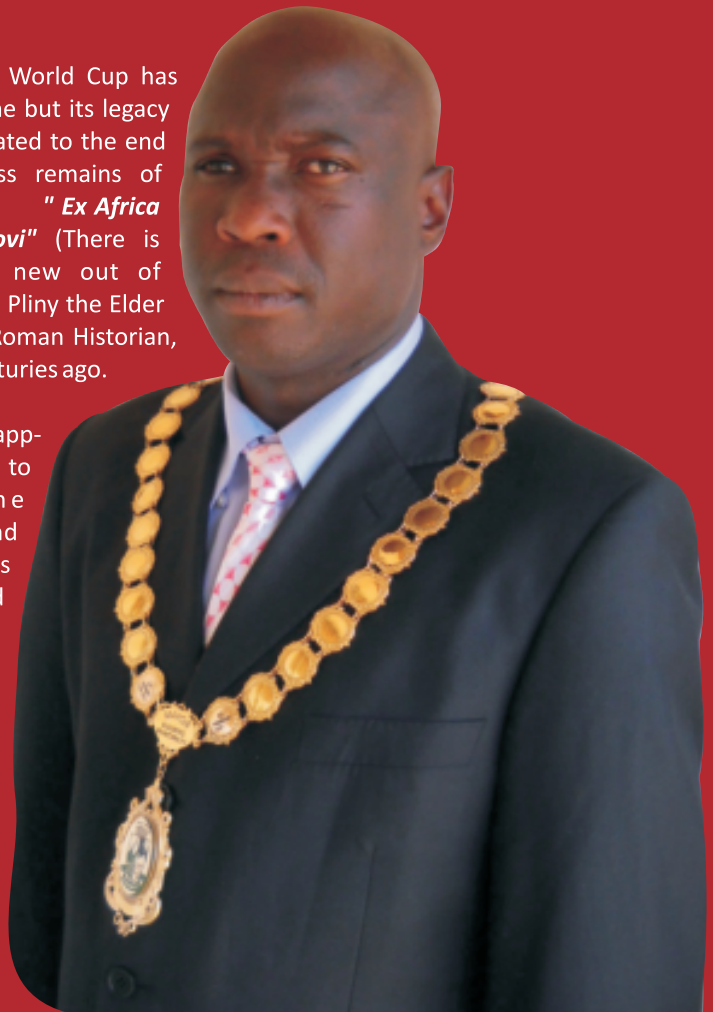
The 2010 FIFA World Cup has come and gone but its legacy will be celebrated to the end of time. Its success remains of cosmic proportions. *"Ex Africa Semper Aliquid Novi"* (There is always something new out of Africa)." This is what Pliny the Elder (23 AD - 27 AD), a Roman Historian, said about Africa centuries ago.

Africa has not disappointed. We crashed to smithereens the timeless myths and negative perceptions about Africa and laid bare our uniquely African humanity and unity. Out of Africa came the vuvuzela; the disk dance and above all we gave the world our African *ubuntu*.

In us the world saw nations united in diversity. We doff our hats to every Blouberg soul that made a contribution to

the success of the World Cup in whatever capacity - as volunteers; as fans who filled the local Peter Mokaba Stadium and other stadiums elsewhere in the country (more especially our Eldorado Sport Complex which was used as a District Public Viewing Area); and as tour guides and hosts.

We are in an exciting period of the year, the festive season. This is a celebratory moment. We hope it replenishes all of us to start 2011 on a positive note. As we reunite and celebrate with our family and friends we should not lose sight of those who have not been as much fortunate. Our area is awash with the destitute; the sick; the orphans; the elderly and other vulnerable mortals. Let's put smiles on their faces as well by extending a giving and helping hand. Our land is overpopulated with graves in which lay the victims of HIV/AIDS; road accidents and domestic violence, to mention just a few.



Cllr Serite Sekgoloane - Mayor

As we commemorate the victims of HIV/AIDS we should open the next page in the fight against this scourge, in our individual and collective capacities. We should go for voluntary counseling and testing and pursue living styles that this pandemic detests. To all the selfless men and women who have volunteered to care for the infected and affected, we bow our heads believing that yours is not a struggle in vain.

It is during this time of the year that death will cheat us of our loved ones through road accidents. It is common knowledge that our road carnage is mainly caused by drinking and driving; exceeding speed limit; overloading; road rages and the use of unroadworthy vehicles. We pray and hope that the people of Blouberg will distance themselves from all these untoward conduct and spare all of us our deserved tranquility and exuberance of the festive season.

THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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Abuse of women and children is a *faux pas* and a relic of the patriarchal system that only the feeble minded still relish. That the whole society should dedicate 16 days in a year to highlight its stance against the abuse of women and children is clear a message that the practice has become a taboo. Women and children have always looked so beautiful that only the macho

ones don't realize they deserve our protection; love; respect; and care. We cannot be activists against the abuse of women and children unless we create neighbourhoods in which such abuses have no space.

We wish all the people of Blouberg a happy christmas and prosperous 2011.



"We cannot do great things on this earth, only small things with great love" (Mother Theresa). May generosity (especially for the needy) characterise this festive season

IT IS THAT TIME TO APPLY FOR BURSARIES

Matriculants are advised that application forms for the Mayor's Bursary Fund for the 2011 academic year are available at the Municipal Offices including satellite offices, all the secondary schools in the Blouberg Municipality, councilors and circuits offices and on: www.blouberg.gov.za from 01 September 2010.

Applicants are also advised to ensure that they have applied for admission at tertiary institutions for the 2011 academic year.

Priority will be given to students who want to study in the following fields: Town & Regional Planning; Land Surveying; Medicine (MBChB) and Electrical Engineering)

For any other information on bursaries, matriculants are also encouraged to contact:

Mr. Maenetja K. J on 015 505 7122.

Class of 2010



Administrative Overview

We have entered an extremely exciting stretch on our service delivery voyage. We are now in an overdrive mode thanks to our Municipal Turnaround Strategy that, like the literal navigation system, ensures we take the shortest of routes to our service delivery targets. With it we have turned our back on unnecessary bureaucratic red tapes. Our recruitment, selection and appointment of personnel used to be a frustratingly long process.

We proudly report that this time around it took us half the traditional time to fill all our funded posts. The period could have been shorter had it not been that we have only three HR officials that have to sit in all the short listing and interviewing panels.

It cannot be less exciting with all hands on deck to help accelerate service delivery. We in Blouberg are blessed to have key stakeholders who understand that theirs is not to criticize and condemn municipal officials but to partner and assist them in their service delivery endeavours. The commitment made by stakeholders at our watershed Ward Committees Conference, especially towards addressing water challenges, has spurred us into frenzy. If every stakeholder could honour their commitments we should not have a better way to make local government work better.

We cannot bask in our participatory democracy prowess because there remain many other challenges. Our major challenges include turning around our financial performance and refreshing our brand. We seek to improve our revenue collection rate; financial reporting and accountability; internal controls; etc so that we are counted in with the best come 2014 (Operation Clean Audit).

There has been one strategy after the other on revenue enhancement and collection which, surprisingly, have not achieved the ultimate. We could have been moving with our hand brake up. Recently Management has repositioned itself to ensure that its weekly and monthly meetings effectively monitor



Mr Machovani K.E - Acting Municipal Manager

implementation of resolutions. We can't fix that which is not broken.

Our internal controls have received a major boost with the appointment of finance officials including cashiers; debtors clerks; billing clerks; budget clerks and financial interns whose appointment will allow segregation of duties and release our senior officials to spend most of their time on strategic duties. The appointments also attest to our resolve to improve our revenue collection. We have as well finalized our Risk Register and would like to express our appreciation for the support given by our Provincial Treasury.

It is our understanding that we need the support and cooperation of all our customers and clients to achieve our objectives as discussed above. To this end we need to position ourselves in a way that projects us as a Municipality that keeps every promise it makes and performing optimally within its resource constraints; a Municipality that is caring and accountable. We are already finalizing our branding programme.

We have outdone ourselves in customer complaints management. Customer

complaints management has become a standing item on the Management; Corporate Services Portfolio Committee and Executive monthly Committee meetings wherein progress reports are provided on complaints received through our internal systems and the Presidential Hotline and how those complaints have been addressed.

We have since received accolades as one of the best public institutions in the District in terms of responding to the Presidential Hotline queries.

At the other end of the continuum members of our local community have certain duties to compliment us and make theirs a viable Municipality that is grounded to deliver sustainable services.

Section 5 (2) (a) of the Municipal Systems Act of 2000 makes it a duty of members of the local community to, where applicable, pay promptly service fees, surcharges on fees, rates on property and other taxes, levies and duties imposed by the municipality.

You have been invited to play the responsible citizens so that together we make local government work better.

To the Class of 2010

Levels of poverty and under-development remain unacceptably high. Education of society in general, and that of our children in particular, is the panacea.

We need world class engineers; medical doctors; accountants; farmers and economists to turn the tide both socially and economically.

The Class of 2010 has a role to play in turning this tide. With the hosting of the 2010 Fifa World Cup, 2010 has become synonymous with success. We are challenged to hold up the sun.

It is a tough call that cries for extraordinary answers, hence our motto "kodumela." Kodumela is the mother of all the local mottos. Kodumela means persevere.

Persevere means soldier on to your goal no matter the difficulties and adversaries.

It is derived from our entrenched conviction that nothing valuable comes on a silver platter.

Kodumela is our war song, our rallying point, our answer amidst trials and tribulations.

It is the bedrock of our strategies and tactics to achieve a better life for all.

It ignites our resilience, we never give up.

2010 was the shortest of academic years, the longest to the self starters.

When you sit for your final examinations a

(stepping stone to a brighter future remember to persevere).

Let there be no room for despondency. Let there be no room for complacency.

Failure is failure in every other definition.

No amount of excuses justify it; no amount of excuses turn it into success.

Inversely, "winning is not everything. It is the only thing" (Henry Sanders).

With perseverance you should pull through.

On behalf of the Council and the people of Blouberg,

I wish you good luck in your 2010 final examinations.

Kodumela !!!!!

Gh Serite Sekgoloane

Mayor, Blouberg Municipality

BOSTEC CELEBRATES NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

A host of schools in Blouberg Municipality converged at Bokamoso Science and Technology Centre (BOSTEC) to experiment a thing or two in science and technology as part of National Science Week (NSW). Initiated by the National Department of Science and Technology (DST) the programme is aimed at improving career awareness among youth, parents and educators, especially

encouraged learners to take their school work seriously. He said the duties of learners are to study to improve their lives and eradicate poverty in the community. "Let us dispose the umpteen myth that science can only be studied by those who are extraordinarily intelligent. We want to see engineers, architects, pilots, etc here in Blouberg," he said.

Unions representing educators, Professional Educators Union (PEU) and

increase the number of young people entering the science, engineering and technology and remaining there as part of the national pursuit of sustainable socio-economic growth.

Speaker after speaker urged schools to tap into the BOSTEC expertise and facilities. Manager of the Bahananoa, Mr Mothemane D, said most improved schools in science and technology are those taking extra lessons at BOSTEC. He however clarified that BOSTEC doesn't replace normal teaching but was more of a bonus ball that assists learners to improve their results and educators to enhance their teaching skills. He however challenged primary school educators to start enrolling kids at BOSTEC for extra lessons. 'Since BOSTEC started we have not had any primary school coming here for science and technology lessons. Let us have primary school kids here so that they can appreciate science and technology at an earlier stage of their development,' he said.



The Mayor and the who's who at the BOSTEC science week agreed that community builders like Mr Morudu (second from right - back row) deserve honor in their life time

those from previously disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and advance science literacy among youth and the general public, amongst others. This year's Science Week was celebrated under the theme: The role of Science and Technology in Economic Development. The 5-day programme took place on 02-07 August 2010.

This year BOSTEC celebrated Science Week for the 10th year on the trot. Situated at Burgerreght Village in ward 05, BOSTEC has for the past years been advancing science and technology skills for the learners around the rural Blouberg. Mr Mabitsela S.N, School Manager of Mabotha Secondary School, whose learners attend Saturday lessons at the Centre said the school has been producing best results. He applauded the centre for its unequalled role in advancing science and technology in Blouberg. Kgosi Malebogo TJ of the Bahananoa

South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU), expressed their disappointment over the minimal utilization of the centre. They called upon educators to establish a good relationship with the Centre for the advancement of science and technology in Blouberg schools. The NSW plays a crucial role towards further development of human capital and underlines efforts to

Mr William Rapholo, top student of science and technology at Mabotha High school has been taking extra lessons at BOSTEC. Rapholo has since improved in mathematics and science. He advised fellow learners to stop loitering over the weekends and focus on their education.

Giving a keynote address, The Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Cllr Serite



The next generation of scientists, thanks to BOSTEC

Continue next page

BLOUBERG MOTORISTS SMILING ALL THE WAY TO SENWABARWANA

The notoriously bumpy road D1468 (Senwabarwana Ga Machaba) has now been transformed into a smooth sailing thanks to Limpopo Roads and Transport Department. The completed project was officially handed over to the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, on behalf of the Municipality and the Department on 28 July 2010.

The Department forked out over R50m to upgrade the road from gravel to tar. The 13.5 km tar starts from Senwabarwana and end at Ga-Machaba village. Upon welcoming the people Kgosi TJ Malebogo of the Bahananoa thanked the government for developing the rural communities of Blouberg, saying it is a clear indication that the government has not forgotten the poverty stricken areas in terms of services delivery. 'We'll be happy to see the whole of Blouberg main roads tarred, we know that will happen in our life time' he said.

Mr David Lebogo of Bochum Taxi Association said the Association was ecstatic given the impact of conditions of roads on the taxi industry. "Now our cars will last long, we'll also appreciate it if the government can complete the 10 kilometers that is left to link this road with



The Mayor, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, officially activates the D1468 road

Indermark and Vivo' he said.

Giving the keynote address Cllr Sekgoloane applauded the massive development in Blouberg, also highlighting the new mall under construction at Senwabarwana. He said

the Municipality had submitted ten major roads to Roads and Transport Department to be considered in their planning. He urged road users to drive safely and observe road rules and look out for stray animals.

BOSTEC CELEBRATES NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

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Sekgoloane, urged the centre management to broaden their science and technology horizons. The Mayor said nothing is impossible as everyone can study science and technology. In his address he also singled out Mr Mamadi Mabu as an example who has against all odds made it to the top despite his rural background.

The Mayor praised the project manager (BOSTEC) Mr Solly Morudu for his dedication in community building. He said the Municipality is in a process of arranging an event to honor community builders mentioning Morudu as one of those to be recognized 'it is beneficial to



Some of the dedicated BOSTEC Staff members

BLOUBERG MAYOR CELEBRATES MANDELA DAY WITH THE NEEDY

When he officially switched-on the Makgabeng Electrification Project on the 30th June 2010, Blouberg Mayor, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, also promised to pay the elders a visit one of the good days. 18 days later that good day arrived when the Mayor came to celebrate Mandela Day (18 July) with the senior citizens of Makgabeng.

The purpose of this day is to encourage volunteerism with every responsible citizen spending at least 67 minutes making contribution for the betterment of society. "On Mandela Day, people are called to devote just 67 minutes of their time to changing the world for the better, in a small gesture of solidarity with humanity, and in a small step towards a continuous, global movement for good." (Nelson Mandela Foundation).

For his part the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality spent 67 minutes with elders at Makgabeng village where he distributed over 70 blankets to pensioners. It was ululation and dances as they received what they called the 'best winter gift'. It was a heart moving experience seeing the smiles on the faces of people who have little to celebrate all year.

The Mayor also paid a special visit to the eldest person at the village, Ms

Mamolatelo Sebola. Sebola who is 113 this year can't walk long distances anymore. She couldn't hide her excitement when the Mayor presented her with her blanket. When asked how she feels about the gift, Sebola who is taken care of by her grandchildren, told the Mayor that "Re monwana le lenala, o mphelele otle ompoloke" she said.

On the same day the Mayor together with local businessman and ANC Deputy Chairperson in the Blouberg Sub-Region, Mr Solly Pheedi, handed over food parcels to the child-headed family of Kobola in Senwabarwana Township. Mr Pheedi also adopted one of the five kids and promised the Mayor that he was going to take responsibility for the child's educational needs.



Mayor and Mr Pheedi (second from right) visited and brought hope to the child headed Gobola family at Senwabarwana



Mayor Sekgoloane (Yellow shirt) giving blankets to the needy

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BIGGER AND BETTER

SHOPPING COMPLEX FOR SENWABARWANA

The lives of the people of Blouberg will be changed for the better with a new shopping complex being constructed in their area. In the past the people of Blouberg used to travel hundreds of kilometres to do basic shopping in Polokwane. With 138 settlements the current shopping complex at Senwabarwana is just not big enough for the entire community. The massive development underway signals the end of shopping trips to Polokwane as people will have variety of shops here at their door steps.

The 2nd Senwabarwana shopping complex is being constructed in Senwabarwana opposite the show grounds. The development is geared to play a pivotal role in boosting the local economic development by creating employment to locals. 450 temporary employments will be created during construction. The R120m shopping complex will take fourteen months to build and create 450 - 500 permanent jobs on its operations which will raise between R9-16 million on salaries annually. Kgosi TJ Malebogo of the Bahananwa said this is the best thing ever for the Blouberg community. Maleboho also called upon the business community to invest in Blouberg.

Speaking on behalf of the developers, Mr Selamolela of the Selamolela Group JV thanked the Council of Blouberg for their availability whenever they were needed. He urged the Municipality and the business fraternity to join hands in bringing development to Blouberg. Giving a keynote address at the sod turning ceremony attended by, among other, a Member of Provincial Legislature Ms Patricia Mahlo, Mayor of Molemole municipality Cllr Monica Mohale and Mayor of Aganang Municipality Cllr Manoko Masehela, the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, applauded McCormick Property Developers and Selamolela Group JV for investing in Senwabarwana "Investing R120m shows their commitment, they've



From left: Mr Leboho Lawrence (Kibi Traditional Authority), Mr MA Selamolela, MPL Patricia Mahlo, Kgoshi TJ Leboho, Mayor Sekgoloane, Mr Mathew McCormic and Mr MF Selamolela

risked and invested in Senwabarwana despite its rural status. This will immensely boost government's rural development programme" he said. He said it is the government's target to meet the millennium development goals of halving poverty by 2014. "This can be achieved also by the contribution of other stakeholders, especially business." He said amongst the resolutions taken by the Council included focusing on making Senwabarwana a better place to attract investment. "We'll be launching a new satellite office here in Senwabarwana that will focus on issues of environmental management and improvement on infrastructure development," he said.

He mentioned that R10 million (from Capricorn District Municipality) has been set aside for the installation of Bulk Water to cater for the fast growing town. He further mentioned that the municipality is engaged in talks with the Provincial Department of Roads and Transport to consider tarring main roads in the Blouberg area.

The new complex will accommodate about fifty tenants (shops), which will include amongst others SHOPRITE, MR PRICE, JOHN CRAIG, VODASHOP, JET, JOSHUA DOORE, LIQUOR CITY, ROOTS, PHARMACY and DOCTOR'S ROOMS.

Community members say the construction of the new shopping complex is the greatest news they have heard to date. 'I'm so happy now that the new mall is coming, the currently shopping complex is very small and does not have enough shops, it was strenuous for us, spending a lot of money on transport to go to Polokwane, I can't wait for the opening of the new complex,' said one ecstatic community member.



Mr Mathews McCormic of McCormick Property Development dramatises the beginning of construction of Senwabarwana shopping complex

Council Reaches out to its People

Residents of ward 04 have had a chance of interacting with the Council of their Municipality. The Blouberg Municipality ordinary council meetings are held quarterly in villages to afford communities an opportunity to build good relations with their leaders, have their say on municipal affairs and raise their services delivery challenges. The 1st quarter meeting took place at Montz village on the 29th of July 2010.

When given time to raise their services delivery challenges residents from different villages raised a variety of issues with water topping the list. Other issues raised included bad conditions of some roads, electrifications of extension, street lights, clinics, RDP houses and a need for schools in some of the villages.

In response to questions regarding electricity the Mayor told residents that Blouberg Municipality has reached its target in terms of electrifying its settlements. He said the remaining projects are being completed and that 2011/12 electricity budget will consider electrifying extensions.

Responding to water problems particularly the issue of delays in repairing water engines, the Mayor made an undertaking to investigate the causes

while making it clear that he was disappointed with his officials if they were responsible for the poor service. "Failure to prioritise basic services like water will make communities undermine the government. Water is a service that should be provided without fail," he said. He cited illegal water connections as a main cause that hinders the channels of water circulation. He urged the residents to refrain from such activities as offenders would be prosecuted.

On bad conditions of roads the Mayor told residents that a Division dealing specifically with roads maintenance has been established to address the problem. He told the residents that the Municipality has noted the need for health services (clinics/mobile) and that the Health Department would be engaged on the matter. One senior resident raised the issue of apollo lights provision citing crime as the main reason. In response the Mayor told the residents that the Municipality would be meeting all the police station operating within the Blouberg area to come up with a community safety plan and identify the most crime host spots and see how they could be assisted to curb crime.

The Mayor lashed at the illegal occupation of municipal land in Desmond Park



Blouberg communities have a say in the affairs of their Municipality

Senwabarwabana. "We will not tolerate communities who disrespect the government. The law will take its cause," he said.

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LEPHALALA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

BLOUBERG LAUNCHES YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (YARD)

The day aspiring farmers have been waiting for has arrived. Blouberg officially launched its chapter of YARD to fight poverty. Youth between the ages of 18-35 heeded the call made by YARD Chairperson, Mr Willy Maseka, two months ago inviting youth to come and learn about YARD and its benefits. The aim of this programme is to promote an active participation of the youth in the agricultural sector which has been viewed as the old man's trade.

Emerging and aspiring farmers packed the Eldorado Thusong Service Centre hall to grasp what YARD is to offer and how it'll assist in taking their farming to the next level. YARD is and was established by the National Department of Agriculture to promote and develop skills of youth as leaders at all levels in agriculture and rural development.

Upon welcoming the delegates, Kgosi Malebogo TJ of the Bahananano Tribal Authority described the 11 of August 2010 (launch date) as a turning point in the local economic transformation. He encouraged the youth to stand up and do things for themselves and help improve the socio economic conditions of Blouberg.

The Manager of LIBSA Blouberg, Mr Morris Lamola, shared with the youth programmes that his organizations has in place to assist young people who want to venture into farming and those that are already in the industry. He mentioned the services rendered by LIBSA such as business advisory services, basic business training; business information dissemination; etc

The Department of Agriculture also indicated that they have programmes in place to assist young farmers in growing their farming businesses and assisting in commercializing them.

Giving a message of support, the National



The Mayor, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, explains how the youth can find their way into the first economy. Closest to the camera are members of the Executive Committee of the Blouberg Chapter of YARD

African Farmers Union urged emerging farmers to work hard saying there are no quick rich schemes in the farming industry as one needs to work hard to be at the top. Addressing the gathering the newly elected chairperson, Willy Maseka, said he's happy now that YARD has been launched in his Municipality.

Maseka said the young farmers are ready to do farming for business and create employment. Maseka cited unavailability of farming land as a major problem to grow their business and humbly requested Magoshi to come with interventions to remedy the situation. Maseka and three other participants including a primary school from Blouberg have scooped major Young Farmers Awards in the Province recently.

Director of Economic Development and Planning, Mr Johny Kgorane, indicated that the Municipality would assist YARD

with capacity buildings, logistical support, economic development and partnership and linkages among other things.

Officially launching the project the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, congratulated Mr Maseka and other participants for putting Blouberg on the farming entrepreneurship map. Cllr Sekgoloane said farming is in the hands of the youth and that young people need to eradicate the notion that farming is for old people.

'We would like to see aspiring young farmers succeed in this industry, supply shops in Blouberg with agricultural products and contribute to our Local Economic Development by creating jobs for locals' He concluded.

To join or for more information on YARD, call Mapula Moshokoa at: 072 679 1380

MAKGABENG SWITCHES ON

Over 150 households and businesses at Makgabeng (Oldlongsigne) are now connected to grid electricity thanks to Blouberg Local Municipality's "Operation Leswiswi o Kotsing." To boost its socio economic plans the Municipality decided three years ago to embark on this specialized operation aimed at prioritizing and fasttracking electrification of its villages so that after 2009/10 financial year there would be no village

without access to electricity. The economic spinoffs from electricity need no introduction.

Though people at this dusty and mountainous village have been waiting for electricity for quite some time they never resorted to protest actions to make their voice heard. On the 30th June 2010 the village bid farewell to dark nights. People from the surrounding villages such as Brana and Mokumuru came in numbers

to celebrate this success with the residents of Makgabeng.

The Mayor of Blouberg, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, told the community that nothing pleased him more than seeing people being happy with their government's provision of services. He applauded the residents of Makgabeng for their patience.

The Municipality's "Operation Leswiswi O Kotsing" targets are within reach as all the outstanding villages are currently being electrified - contractors are busy at Morale; Devilliersdale; Kgwale; Vienna, Ga - Mashamaite, Sadu and Ga - Nailana. Ga - Maphoto will be electrified by Eskom this financial year (2010/11). Recently the electrification projects of villages of Ga Mochemi; Hlako B; and Ga Raweshi were completed and energized.

This followed the building of more than 20km feeder lines that caused the serious backlog in energizing over 800 households.

"We have surpassed the Millennium Development Goals in terms of which all villages must have access to electricity and free basic water by 2012,"

boasted the Mayor. Residents were advised not to temper with electricity meter boxes as they risked having their electricity disconnected and heavy fines being imposed.

The Mayor also handed over electrical appliances (stove, kettle, iron; etc) to the poverty stricken family of Makgoshing where the symbolic switch-on took place. It is a given that Cllr Sekgoloane has a soft spot for education. Upon delivering his keynote address he strongly urged young people to go to school to curb poverty in their area. He maintained that education is the key to success as there are no short cuts in life.



There's light all over Blouberg, thanks to Operation Leswiswi o kotsing



From left Cllr Serite Sekgoloane (Mayor); Cllr Maria Thamaga (Speaker) and Kgoshi TJ Malebohu handing over one more project

Blouberg holds the 8th ward Committees Conference and 1st Water Summit

“Gere kwana re dira mehlolo” roughly translated means when we work together we can achieve miracles. When these are the lyrics of your conference signature song that punctuates every telling moment of the three day conference comprising magoshi; headmen; ward committees and CDWs a logical conclusion is that people in this municipality drive development together. The passion; emotion and spontaneity with which this song was sung told a story that no phraseology could.

The miracles that Blouberg Municipality had achieved through the gumption told in the said song crystalised as speaker after speaker rendered their item during the Municipality's 8th Ward Committees Conference and 1st Water Summit that was held at Elephant Spring in Bela Bela from 27 - 29 August 2010 under the theme “Turning around participatory democracy to accelerate service delivery.” As if they had compared notes the Mayor, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane; Kgoshi Joseph Maleboho; Kgoshi Oliver Kibi; Cllr Maboya of Aganang Municipality; Mr Hlengani Baloyi of SANCO Blouberg SubRegion; all waxed lyrical about the Municipality and stakeholders' commitment to participatory democracy and vowed them not to change lanes. One after the other they recommitted their constituencies to working together to make Blouberg a better place to live in.

Delivering the keynote address the newly elected Capricorn District Executive Mayor, Cllr Lawrence Mapoulo, succinctly captured the aspirations and mood of the Conference as he said “It is our belief that this forum reaffirms the reality that the greatest treasure of any nation is its people; and that the greatest asset of any democracy is the participation of its people in shaping their own future and that of their country; and further that true freedom can only be realized when our people are taking charge and full responsibility for their own destiny.” The Executive Mayor committed to continue working with Blouberg Municipality to come up with cost effective ways of



Executive Mayor, Cllr Mapoulo addressing the 8th Ward Committee Conference of Blouberg Municipality

investing in training of the ward committees as well as intensifying partnership with Magoshi in implementing service delivery projects and resolving “any kind of community bickering for the smooth running of projects.”

When all the speakers had spoken the Conference went into the rigours of finding unpleasant but real causes of water problems. Each of the five Commissions dealt with water challenges and interventions required to turn around each of the five local water schemes in whose wake communities continued to experience poor water supply.

Each commission comprised water experts and beneficiaries of particular water scheme - local ward councilors; ward committees; CDWs; and headmen to diagnose the causes of water challenges and come up with home brewed remedial actions.

Back to plenary a consensus was reached that the following are major causes why the people of Blouberg continue to experience water shortages despite Government having implemented water project in almost every village :

- illegal connections caused by the municipality's failure to enforce by-laws
- weak water sources, poor response to water challenges and breakdowns by municipal officials
- theft of motor engines and copper meters and dysfunctional and incomplete



The mood of the 8th Ward Committees Conference

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Bahananoa Celebrate their Heritage

The first president of Botswana, Sir Seretse Khama, once remarked that "A nation without a past is a lost nation. And people without a past are a people without a soul" Good reason why heritage is worth celebrating. Hundreds of people from as far the United States of America and other parts of the country converged at Ben Seraki Sports Centre at Buffelshoek village for the Malebogo heritage celebration.

Held annually, the event is aimed at concientizing people about their heritage and reminding them of their traditions and values. Year after year the Malebogo celebration is characterised by traditional dance and poetry in remembrance of kgosi kgolo Ratshaatshaa, a great leader of Bahananoa people and freedom fighter of note.

The struggle of Bahananoa and Malebogo began way back when the two Boer republics where founded, namely the Zuid Afrikaansche Republic (ZAR / Transvaal) and the Orange River Sovereign (later Orange Free State.) Within these Boer republics, just like in all other parts of South Africa, there were independent Black Traditional authorities which until then enjoyed their freedoms.



Some of the cultural riches that were displayed at the 2010 Maleboho heritage celebration

Boer Republics were faced with a huge challenge of bringing those independent chiefdoms (some of them powerful) under their authority. Kgosi kgolo Ratshaatsha Lebogo (Malebogo) and the Bahananoa were not prepared to submit under the ZAR. The Boers and the ZAR expected the Bahananoa to be counted on a census, pay taxes and recognise their authority just like all the black communities within what they viewed as their jurisdiction.

Malebogo has been declared a provincial heritage side. Kgoshikgolo Ratshaatsha statue was unveiled four years ago on heritage day (24 September).

Representing Blouberg Tourism Association Mr Patrick Morata, said the area of Malebogo is rich in culture and diversity which people need to explore. These include the mountains of Malebogo, rock paintings, Makgabeng and the Malebogo nature reserve among others. He said the association is working hand in glove with the traditional councils to make sure that heritage is not forgotten.

Representatives from the Limpopo Department of Security Safety and Liaison

raised major concern over the issues of crime by youth. They urged youth uphold their heritage and traditions and by so doing they will help minimise crime as traditions are totally against wrong doings.

The Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, called upon communities to respect their culture and traditions and never to look down on traditional leaders as the custodians of culture. He said Kgosi Ratshaatsha deserved a status of Kingship as he was in the same league with King Makhado, King Nghunghunyane and King Sekhukhune as freedom fighters of note.

In his address Kgosi Joseph Malebogo described heritage as the country's pride. He said heritage month should enable people to pull together all the various strength and resources for nation building and national reconciliation. He thanked his guests for taking their time to celebrate with the Bahananoa people the legacy of Malebogo.

The legacy of this great kgoshi of Bahananoa continues to inspire people even today in the pursuit of justice,



Kgoshi TJ Maleboho appreciating the support the Maleboho heritage celebrations continue to enjoy

2010/11 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORTS

NAME OF PROJECT	BUDGET	PROGRESS
Desmond Park internal streets/storm water Phase 2	R3,450,000	The project was officially launched and handed over to contractors on 01/10/2010
Witten internal streets/storm water	R4,100,000	The project was officially launched and handed over to contractors on 28/09/2010
Eldorado Sports Complex Phase 2	R9,800,000	The project was officially launched and handed over to contractors on 30/09/2010
Eldorado Satellite Office	R3,000,000	Tender adjudication stage
Alldays Multi Purpose Centre comprising of community hall; offices and taxi rank shelter (2009/10 project)	R3,500,000	92% complete

ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS

NAME OF PROJECT	BUDGET	PROGRESS
Ga-Mochemi (480 units)	R4,600,000	100% Complete and energized
Nailana(87 units)	R1,920,000	60% complete
Morale (100 units)	R1,200,000	99% complete
Hlako B (180 units)	R1,200,700	100% Complete and energized
La-Rochelle(10 units)	R100,000	99% complete
De-Villiersdale (195 units)	R1,720,000	Preliminary design stage
Kgwale(99 units)	R1,694,000	Preliminary design stage
Vienna(150 units)	R2,100,000	90% complete
Mashamaite(99 units)	R1,414,000	99% complete
Sadu(120 units)	R2,200,000	55% complete
Ga-Raweshi(140 units)	R3,001,000	100% complete and energized
Oldlongsigne(159 units)	R1,192,500	100% complete and energized

BAHANANOA CELEBRATE THEIR HERITAGE

freedom and a better life for all. Today, Kgoshi Malebogo's name has become a rallying point and an embodiment of noble-anti colonial battles of the bahananoa people.

Other dignitaries at the celebration included Member of Limpopo Provincial Legislature, the Honourable Mr Jack Matlala, Speaker of Blouberg Municipality Cllr Maria Thamaga, Professor Meyer of the University of Pretoria and traditional leaders from in and outside Blouberg



Some of the dignitaries who graced the 2010 Maleboho heritage celebrations included Kgoshi ML Mamadi of the Babirwa ba ga Mamadi (middle) and the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane (left)

BLOUBERG HOLDS THE 8TH WARD COMMITTEES CONFERENCE AND 1ST WATER SUMMIT

Continued from page 13

water projects. In the Conference Declaration all the major challenges; remedial actions; timeframes and responsible persons outlined making this year's conference a ground breaking approach to improving water service delivery and stakeholder engagement. As he was closing the Conference the Mayor, Clr Serite Sekgoloane, threw his weight behind total implementation of the Conference resolutions. Once again Blouberg Municipality has raised the bar in participatory democracy.



The 8th Ward Committees Conference through the eyes of the photographer



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“We fight frustration”

The speaker speaks

We are scaling a new summit in our mandate to enhance public participation in the affairs of the Municipality. The 2010 Ward Committees Conference was one of a kind. Not only did it bring in new role players in the form of SANCO; Headmen and Chairpersons of bought farms from across the Municipality, but it also targeted a single most serious community challenge and subjected it to collective wisdom for a lasting solution.

The achievements of the Municipality since 2000, as tabled by the Director of Economic Development and Planning, Mr Kgorane, pleased the Conference and received a thunderous applause. But the supply of water left a bitter taste. Over two days the Conference discussed and agreed on remedial actions that would ensure that every Blouberg citizen enjoys access to water.

Indeed the 8th Ward Committees Conference, through its theme "Turning Around Participatory Democracy to Accelerate Service Delivery," has heralded in a paradigm shift in our endeavours to improve the effectiveness of our participatory democracy. The Mayor, Clr Serite Sekgoloane, dubbed it the People's Assembly and commanded that we make the next one even bigger - inclusive of every other stakeholders.

We made an undertaking in the previous

edition that we would unpack our Municipal Turnaround Strategy. Indeed the Strategy is in place and being implemented. In respect of participatory democracy it demands of us to turn around public participation and communication systems; functionality of ward committees; and complaints management systems. The results that have already come through speak volumes of our commitment to this Strategy.

We have mentioned above how the 2010 Ward Committees Conference has consolidated progressive forces under one behemoth People's Assembly providing a new beginning and a foretaste of better things to come in our participatory democracy. The resolutions of the Conference and the ward committees annual plans commit ward committees to specific performance targets. Some of the critical interventions lined up to improve the functionality of the ward committee system include capacity building programmes and improvement of compensation for their out of pocket expenses.

Elsewhere the Acting Municipal Manager reads the script on how we have fared on complaints management, becoming one



Clr Maria Thamaga - Speaker

of the best in the District in responding to the Presidential Hotline queries. However we appeal to our people not to abuse the Presidential Hotline by sending in frivolous queries and or complaints. We also appeal to our people to exhaust the internal processes before resorting to the Presidential Hotline, not because we have anything to hide, but to preserve the integrity of the Presidential Hotline and release it to deal with more substantive matters.

Once again we are pleased to announce that all our governance structures continue to enjoy a clean bill of health. The portfolio committees; Executive Committee and the Council remain functional and were able to meet per the annual schedule of meetings and take decisions that move the Municipality forward.

The only intervention necessary was in respect of a few ward committees that had to be replaced in line with the dictates of the Ward Committees Constitution. It is important that ward committees remain apolitical and continue to serve their communities with the integrity that has always characterised them.



Part of members of the public who attended the recent Council meeting at Montz

KGOTHA KGOTHE !!!! (October - December 2010)

Ka ntle le dikopano tša Council le Executive Committee dikopano tša makgotla ka moka di tla swarelwa dikantorong tša Masepala Senwabarwana ka mokgwa wo o latelago. Dikopano tša Council le Executive Committee di buletšwe maloko a setšhaba. Le mengwa go

	October	November	December
Council	28		
Executive Committee	21	25	03
Portfolio Committees	14	18	02
Ward Committees		01 -07	
Mayor - Magoshi	05		
Institutional Performance Review Forum	08 - 09		
Land Use Management Forum	07	08	01
Energy Forum		09	
Water Forum		09	
Housing Forum		10	
Transport Forum		10	
Disaster Management Forum		11	
Waste Management Forum		11	
LED Forum		08	
Tourism Forum		12	
Local Communicators Forum		12	
Ward Public Meetings		01-28	



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BLOUBERG WELCOME SPRING IN STYLE

The 1st of September is Abour Day and also marks the beginning of Heritage Month. Blouberg Municipality, in conjunction with SAPS Senwabarwana and Mogwadi, joined the nation in Abour Day celebrations. Abour is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care.

Held at Machaba Community Hall at Ga-Machaba village the event was aimed at concientizing communities about the importance of greening; highlighting the role trees play in sustainability and the livelihoods of people and their environment.

Speaking at the event Kgosi TJ Malebogo of the Bahananoa Tribal Authority made a call to people to take care of the environment. He encouraged communities to participate in all activities aimed at improving the livelihoods.

As part of the 'Green Limpopo' campaign 40 000 trees will be planted in Blouberg alone.

Two-hundred and fifty trees were planted at public institutions and along the streets at Ga-Machaba. The Mayor of Blouberg Cllr Serite Sekgoloane made a call to the community to volunteer in taking care of the trees. He urged people to stop chopping the trees and to plant them instead for the purpose of food security; protection and oxygen. 'Green Limpopo,' an Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) was launched in May 2010 at Eldorado village.

This year's Abour Day celebration was combined with the launch of Heritage Month. Traditional dances by young and old filled the day with fun. Cllr Sekgoloane told the people that the Municipality is in the process of organizing an annual show on heritage to show case and promote the local cultural riches the same way the eastwhile "School Shows" were conducted.

"This will propel us into the festive season when we host the Mayoral Cup and the Off Season Tournament in which we bring professional soccer players on to our



Kgoshi TJ Maleboho (above) and Mayor Serite Sekgoloane (right) led the tree planting tsunami in Blouberg Municipality

shores," the Mayor said. He however encouraged residents to celebrate their cultural heritage and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions every day.



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