



# Blouberg News

*"Fetisha Molaetsa"*

OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016



**HEEDING THE CALL FOR IMPROVED  
SERVICE DELIVERY AS BLOUBERG LAUNCHES  
YET OTHER PROJECTS**



## Blouberg News

### THE TEAM

**Editor-in-Chief:**

**Cllr. Solomon Pheedi (Mayor)**

**Editors:**

**Ms Nonhlanhla Mashele (Manager: Communications)**

**Mr Thabo Magabane (Director: Corporate Services)**

**Mr Machaba Junias (Acting Municipal Manager)**

**Contributors:**

**Mr Herbert Masipa (Manager: Council Support)**

*For an advertising space or contribution of news items in the widely read Blouberg News please Contact: Ms Mashele 015 5057 112*

### VERY IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**Blouberg Municipality: 015 5057 100**

**Capricorn District Municipality: 015 294 1000**

**Presidential Hotline: 17737**

**Fraud & Corruption Reporting: 0800 205 053**

**Premier's Hotline: 0800 864 729**

**Helen Franz Hospital: 015 5050 750**

**Ratshaatshaa Health Centre: 015 592 0044**

**Blouberg Health Centre: 015 501 0505**

**Ambulance: 015 5050 750 / 10177**

**Police: 015 5050 151/0800 10111**

**Traffic: 015 5050 575/10177**

**Disaster: 015 5057 511/015 293 9777**

## Blouberg 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.

2nd Building, Mogwadi / Senwabarwana Road  
Limpopo, South Africa  
P.O. Box 1593, Senwabarwana, 0790  
Tel: +27 15 505 7100 | Fax: +27 15 505 0296  
info@blouberg.gov.za

## FESTIVE SEASON WISHES FROM THE MAYOR

The time of incredible happenings and unusual habits has dawned. That time of spontaneous gatherings, high traffic volumes, unusual undertakings, impromptu encounters and exhilarating theatrics has arrived. The momentous time of jolly, cheers, captivating humour, exchanging gifts and experience of unprompted social occasions has reverted. It is the most vibrant period with myriad range of merriments and happenstances. It is that spell for hospitality vigour and congenial flame of charity in voluminous hearts. It is once more that instance of giving without thought, a state of mind to cherish peace and Goodwill.

Perceptively festive season has had that habit of bringing up some bizarre decisions, unexpected discoveries, coincidences, frictions and tensions that spoil the holidays. Knowingly Christmas of course ignite the passion for hospitality, the congenial flame of charity in the heart, waves a magical wand, arouse delusions of childhood and youthful pleasures. It is that family time which even incite the essence of nativity, reminds most of reunion with families and relatives. Admitting that where there's high population compactness despite impact of alcohol abuse and misunderstandings logically hearten crime activities, pointless slips, tensions and conflicts. Understandingly the festive season is always wild, mesmeric; sensational, youthful and eventful in nature. It is therefore requisite to exercise high level of vigilance not to be wallowed; swallowed, consumed or swindled by the impetus of cheers, excitement, joyous vein, and/or elation of the twinkling in response to the festivities. We must not tolerate insensibility, haste and booze take away the Christmas vibe or wane off the future.

As for Santa Claus visit once a year, it comes with the atmosphere of miracles, magical wand, breath-taking occurrences and spectacular revelations. Notwithstanding that it brings about a joyous sensation of impulsive spending and overindulgence in delicacy. As festive season is precisely acknowledged as a respite from consuming work schedules, and so let us confer on these holidays as a reflection time on mischances, undue actions and indecisions in the quest to arrive at reformist New Year tenacities particularly for the betterment of wellbeing, livelihood and the economy in general. On the same vein, Christmas comes with the high price on negligence, high risks of accidents, STI infections, and unfortunate twist of fate. It is therefore significant not overindulge in the festivities, pleasures, and sleep around recklessly, but sparingly adjust spending as well as demeanour.

Nonetheless, festive mood organically inspire madness which to an extent if not fared suitably may result in fatalities and as a result we therefore denounce any form of casualty and carnage either by intent, accidents, violence or inattention. Let us not waste away, dampen down and wane off our hard earned dignity and prestige in the enjoyment, hype, vibes and imprudent acts. We urge everyone to stay away from all sorts of dramas and troubles.

Blouberg Municipality therefore enthusiastically take this moment in time to wish you benign cruising, tragedy free and disaster free festive season, a jovial Christmas and an incredible New Year.

CLLR PHEEDI MS  
MAYOR



# THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS



**His Worship Cllr Pheedi MS - Mayor**

**L**et me hasten to mention that it is that time of the year which is fun filled with loved ones converging for one purpose or the other. We are quite elated at the prospect of encountering our first festive season as the newly installed council and we hope it will be a fulfilling one. Summer vacations in their nature have that uncanny ability of bringing extremes from both ends – too much merriment or unsavoury incidents.

We make the appeal to the entire Blouberg citizenry in particular and South Africans in

general not to overindulge. A semblance of balance needs to be struck between over exuberance and responsible behaviour. We are especially enthusiastic and have a programme aptly titled “Maboyagae” lined up to engage with respective communities. For all its intents and purposes, the programme is aimed at introducing ourselves to the multitudes of Bloubergers who for obvious socio – economic reasons have become modern day migrant workers. By our own admission, we maintain that they have all the rights to be conversant with developments, the ins and outs of their municipality.

## On Municipal Transformation and Organizational Development

Shooting straight from the hip, we are confronting a very critical period of the financial year. The phase in which we are inadvertently defines the state of the municipality through the audit outcomes. We are keeping our fingers crossed for an improved outcome with the worst case scenario anticipated to be retaining of the status quo, a qualified opinion hopefully with less matters of emphasis. We reiterate that regardless of the outcome, we are satisfied with the efforts put up by our administration in attempting to tip the scales in our favour. It has been noted that there have been regular management and Audit Committee meetings aimed at putting into place whatever is required in respect of the energy sapping audit process. It is however, not in our nature to sulk and wallow in self pity whenever things do not go our way. We have always maintained that we will always assume collective responsibility in that regard and that is not about to change. Regular meetings with management were found to go a long way in assisting us as the political leadership, to expressly state our expectations as well as having a practical feel of the direction the institution is taking.

Following the First Quarter Institutional Performance Review Session held from the 20th – 21st October 2016 and subsequent Section 79 and 80 committee reports, the political component could from an informed position identify areas of weaknesses and recommend some corrective measures. It is against that background that there are moves vouched for organizational and structural adjustments aimed at fast tracking the service delivery aspect. That in essence means that in our endeavour to give more impetus to the provision of services, management will be compelled to systematically whittle down turn - around times and ensure that we have appropriate horses for courses. We are intent on optimally utilizing available resources. Rest assured that we do not pass unfounded judgements and we will always support positive planning that is underpinned by the determination to do the right thing.

The idea of decentralization of municipal services was mooted some time back and quite frankly, not enough has been done in that regard. Be reminded that the idea behind the move was to take services to our communities in a cost

effective manner by reducing travelling distances for our communities through the establishment of municipal satellite service points. It is our wish and desire that we have all satellite offices at the standard of, if not surpassing the Alldays one. The Tolwe Satellite Office had more glaring shortcomings and our administration has been told in no uncertain terms that the days where communities around the area travelled long distances to Lephale and Mogalakwena municipalities should be over. We hope prioritization of having that office, along with others up and running shall take precedence.

## On Basic Service Delivery, Infrastructure Development and Spatial Rationale

There are a number of capital projects lined up for the financial year ranging from construction of internal streets and storm water (Senwabarwana Phase 5 and 6; Avon Phase 2; Indermark Phase 3; Kromhoek Phase 2 and Dilaeneng Phase 2), crèches (Essaurinca; Barnen; Matoana; Mosehleng; Mamoleka; Miltonduff and Sadu), Alldays Landfill Site Phase 2 upgrade, high mast lights (Letswatla; Inveraan; Taaiboschgroet and Senwabarwana Phase 2), Senwabarwana Sports Complex as well as electrification of extensions to mention but a few. In all honesty, we are not overly impressed with progress thereof and all that can be attributed to the local government elections, which inevitably delayed appointment of contractors and thus inadvertently retarded progress. We are however hopeful that come December 2016 we shall have reached the fifty (50%) percent threshold in respect of Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) spending. The Department of Technical Services, along with the broader management are working round the clock to ascertain that the intended targets are met.

We appeal to our communities to jealously guard against any vandalism to property as that only assists us in taking one step forward and three backwards – not an ideal situation by any means. The implication thereof is that we have to start by fixing damage to already existing infrastructure before unleashing any other service delivery related initiative. Recent incidences of vandalism to sports and electricity infrastructures did not go unnoticed and only serve to deter and deny our own children of opportunities to cave some niches for themselves both in the sporting and education fraternities.

Another Achilles heel is the persistent illegal occupation of land by members of the community. We are calling upon everyone involved to dissuade from such activities with cases in point being around the Senwabarwana (Batau Tribal, Hospital View) as well as the adjacent Broekman areas. A few of the cases have made their way to the courtrooms and it can never be prudent for us to be engaging in such exercises. The municipality is not oblivious of the fact that there is a massive demand for both residential and business sites, but our appeal remains that we go about it the right way. Some of the areas occupied are disasters in waiting while others have been earmarked for future developments.

## On Local Economic Development, Financial Viability and Public Participation

There are ongoing talks with mining powerhouses like Venetia Mine, Platinum Group Metals, Sylvania Group Mining, Ironveld and Sun Edison. In some instances we are about to finalize the Social Labour Plans (SLPs) while in others applications for mining licenses are on the verge of completion. The proposed ventures, if God willing they take off, will immensely go a long way in eradicating the triple challenges of inequality, unemployment and poverty around the municipal area. We reiterate that we are unapologetic with our deliberate bias towards the locals in that regard.

For our municipality to maintain its liquidity, cash flow is of paramount importance hence our call for communities to pay for services and assessment rates. We commit that whatever shortcoming is experienced particularly in relation to billing, will be tackled but that should not stop anyone from paying any rates and taxes as they'll only accumulate. Ka sepedi ba re bo seka bo eja. We urge you to do the right thing for us to remain sustainable and continue to provide more services to other needy communities.

Last but not least, we are hell bent on maintaining our mettle as champions in the participatory democracy stakes. Ward committees have been elected and we appeal to all and sundry to cooperate and effectively utilize the services of these cadres of a special kind. Council and Executive Committee meetings will continue to be held on a rotational basis and it is urged that communities actively participate in the upcoming annual report public hearings and IDP/Budget representative processes. To communities from the former Aganang municipality, you are home. Ours is indeed an insurmountable task as Stephen R. Covey remarked, “Our ultimate freedom is the right and power to decide how anybody and anything outside ourselves will affect us”.

# THE SPEAKERS PODIUM



**Cllr Maria Thamaga - Speaker**

The honeymoon, if ever there was one in any case, is officially over and it is now hands on deck across the municipal spectrum. Our concerted effort towards realization of efficient and effective service delivery mandate goes unabated and like we maintained before, there is no vacuum expected in that regard. We are extremely humbled by a barrage of capacity building workshops deliberately thrown at us councillors in general and speakers in particular, with a view to honing, enhancing and sharpening our all round leadership skills and abilities. We can thus without any fear of contradiction, declare that we are nonchalantly ready to navigate our way through the local government conundrum.

First off the starting block was an internal workshop, held on the 24th August, intent on familiarizing councillors with the nitty gritty relating to their roles and responsibilities. Though superficial, the workshop came in handy as it addressed areas that could be deemed domestic in their nature and had an inward inclined approach. The Code of Conduct for Councillors, the Rules of Order, the institutional Integrated Development Plan (IDP) as well as the Budget took centre stage. We appreciate the eagerness and esteem with which all councillors, regardless of party political affiliation, took to the workshop. We say big ups to our internal staff for making it a point that they crafted and made well researched, educative and interactive presentations. We are confident that we have appropriate personnel at our disposal and that are as good as they come. Next in the firing line was the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) sanctioned induction workshop held from the 5th to the 9th September 2016 at MJ Gateway Lodge (Polokwane). It was an energy sapping affair held over a period of five days and conducted by consummate veterans who undoubtedly had served their dues in the local government discourse. The workshop was characterized by among others; dissecting of every little piece of policy and legal framework affecting local government, intergovernmental relations (cooperative governance), functions of key structures and office of councils, key municipal processes, municipal integrated development planning, municipal finance, performance management, public participation and citizen involvement as well as meeting procedures to mention but a few. The mock Imbizo (community meeting) came in very handy in that it gave a practical sense of what lay ahead in so far as our roles and responsibilities as councillors are concerned.

Hot on the heels of the workshop followed the Inaugural District Speakers' Forum also launched in September 2016, suffice to mention that yours truly bar the Capricorn District Municipality's one, remains the only surviving speaker from the immediate past councils that comprised the referred to forum. That can only be attributable to the confidence that the majority party has shown on us. Local sister municipalities namely Molemole, Polokwane and Lepelle – Nkumpi have all installed new speakers and we heartily welcome them to the fold and conscientise them

upfront that being a council speaker is not by any long shot a mean feat. It requires grit, determination and nerves of steel. Lest we forget the disestablished Aganang Municipality to whose former communities we still reiterate as the broader Capricorn District, that they need not despair as we have it all measured out. Council meeting of the 25th October held at Borome Primary School (Cooperspark) only served to reaffirm our commitment to the former Aganang Municipality residents that we are on course as we resolved to amend our earlier adopted 2016/17 IDP/Budget to accommodate some of the projects/programmes inherited from the said municipality.

The launch of the Inaugural SALGA Provincial Speakers' Forum held at Karibu Leisure Resort (Tzaneen) from the 2nd – 4th November 2016 also served as the right tonic for speakers around the entire Limpopo Province. It was also an all action affair as apart from legislative frameworks, it also included elements relating to councillor welfare as it is quite disheartening to see some of our former counterparts reduced to nonentities due to lack of proper knowledge on particularly pension funds, medical aid schemes and South African Revenue Services' (SARS) tax related matters. It is incumbent upon the Office of the Speaker to see to councillors' welfare inclusive of the capacity building aspect. We have the firm belief that well capacitated councillors are more than a fraction plus in ensuring seamless services provision.

A momentous period that we as Blouberg council will forever cherish is election and subsequent induction of ward committees for the 2016 – 2021 Term of Office. Not only did we come out trumps in the district sphere, but arguably in the province as a whole. Section 72 (3) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act of 1998 as amended provides that only municipalities of the ward participatory type may establish ward committees. Blouberg Municipality had during the 2011 – 2016 term of office had twenty one (21) wards which have since increased to twenty two (22) with ten (10) members per ward. It was a long and winding road but we ultimately emerged unscathed with the cherry on top being the highly successful 14th Annual Ward Committees' Conference from the 28 – 30 November 2016 at Karibu Leisure Resort (Tzaneen) whose resolutions/declaration appears elsewhere in the edition. The conference also took the form and shape of an induction programme and it was quite evident, if what ward committees themselves had to say is anything to go by, that they were prepared to hit the ground running. It is our sincere wish that our foot soldiers strive to surpass the record set by their predecessors and jealously guard our long held mettle as the undisputed champions of community participation.

Are kodumeleng!!!

## ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

### Towards an inspiring service delivery



**Mr Junias Machaba  
Acting Municipal Manager**

Our council had during the period under review, completed the process of establishing council committees including ward ones, approved the service delivery charter, delegation of powers, as well as adopting the consolidated the IDP/Budget 2016/17 financial year, which included wards from the disestablished Aganang Local Municipality. The foundation laid tantamount to having ducks on rows which then leaves management in a very enviable position having put all systems in place. The effective oversight by our political principals through weekly reporting sessions continue to strengthen our resolve to overcome challenges we face during the implementation of the service delivery programmes.

The staff establishment framework and organizational structure of our municipality served to highlight our communities' plight, hence the need to decentralize services to our satellite offices. Decentralization thereof can never be realized lest the referred to offices are well-resourced. As we finalize the review of our structure, additional

they deserve. There should never be any margin for error in that respect. We also wish to congratulate Mr. Thabela Phanuel at having been appointed by council as Acting Director: Department of Economic Development and Planning and by the same vein Mr. Makobela Morris on having his tenure as Acting Chief Financial Officer extended for a further three months subject to granting of concurrence by the MEC for Local Government in Limpopo. Good work ethics and astuteness shown by Mr. Moremi Stanford who preceded Mr. Thabela in the Department of Economic Development and Planning, did not go unnoticed. He did a sterling job and in the process left a sound and stable department which Mr. Thabela inherited.

We are at our wits' end and pressed for time with regards to realization of the service delivery mandate. Our plan is to have all contractors having established site by the end of the November 2016. On the institutional side, we experienced the misfortune of having our plant such as excavator, TLB and Waste truck breaking down almost simultaneously. They have, however all gone for repairs and will in time be hitting the streets particularly given the fact that rainy seasons are yonder. We desperately need them to provide the much needed essential services in the upcoming hectic period and beyond. Other plant inherited from the disestablished Aganang Municipality such as a grader will come in very handy and will also beef up our service delivery programme. A trouble-shooting team is on the cards and will be ready to deal with any impending disaster during the festive season. Our electricians, traffic officers, road maintenance team, waste management teams, etc. shall be on stand-by to face the festive seasonal challenges.

Municipalities across the length and breadth of South Africa are in a learning process for a new financial management model called Municipal Standard Charts of Accounts (mSCOA), which should be implemented from the 1st July 2017. It is a web-based system that will easily assist us to link our satellite offices, which has been a long-awaited project. It is expected to be user friendly in that as customers would be paying their monthly bills, they'd at the same time be updated on their balances. We also impatiently await the municipal 2015/16 audit outcome. On the same note, appreciation should be given to the entire municipal steering committee for the hard work done during this process.

We find ourselves utilizing more resources towards the fight against land invasion. As indicated elsewhere in the edition (The keynote address by the Mayor), we really make the appeal to residents to follow proper processes and procedures whenever they need portions of land within our jurisdiction. We are always available to listen to all proposals regarding land development.

The learnership programme for the youth is progressing very well across our municipality. This is a programme meant to train some one thousand two hundred (1200) learners for a three-year period. So far six hundred (600) learners have been recruited and have already started attending their classes at various designated venues across the municipality. Furthermore, the municipality is in a process of recruiting an officer for youth programmes, who will ensure that the interests of the youth are taken into cognisance.

"The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand." The hard work and dedication by our entire staff to provide services deserve mentioning. We commit to always serve as agents of inspiring service delivery.

staff, vehicles and other equipments will be evolved to these offices for services to be rendered in proximity to respective communities. The position of Raweshi Satellite Office Manager has already been advertised. Some of the staff members from the disestablished Aganang municipality are already on site and allocated duties, while others are still finalizing the external audit process at their former municipality and will join the mini exodus in due course.

Recruitment for the filling of Chief Financial Officer and Director: Economic Development and Planning positions are well underway and those being senior management ones, are expected to be handled with the utmost care

# BLOUBERG RESPONDS TO CITIZENS' REQUESTS MADE DURING IDP/BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

Following numerous requests for services during 2016/2017 Integrated Development Plan IDP/Budget by community members, the Blouberg Municipality has heeded the citizen's demands. The Mayor Cllr Maseka Pheedi on the month October broke ground marking the commencement of various project construction of some of the capital projects to be implemented in the current financial year in order to improve the lives of Blouberg citizenry.

As required by the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 the municipality consulted with the communities regarding the Draft IDP/Budget before approval for adoption. Through the municipal public participation on the Revised Draft IDP/Budget for the financial year 2016/2017, the people have spoken and the municipality is walking the talk by ensuring that the municipal budget for this year responds to the issues as raised by the respective communities.

To improve the conditions of the internal streets and controlling the storm water the municipality is currently upgrading (from gravel to tar) internal streets at Dilaeneng and Senwabarwana township respectively. Following numerous calls by members of the community to have a sport complex around the vicinity of Senwabarwana as the centre, the construction is well underway. While officiating various sod-turning ceremonies the Mayor Cllr Maseka Pheedi indicated his satisfaction over the fact that the governing party is delivering on the promises made during door-to-door campaign ahead of the August 3 local government elections.

Blouberg Municipality has also placed high on the agenda the early childhood development that's the main reason why the municipality has set aside the budget to cater for the construction of seven crèches at Brana, Mamoleka, Ezoringa, Matoana, Brana, Miltonduff, Sadu and Mosehleng villages.

To ensure safety in the communities, the municipality has put aside the budget for the installation of high mast lights at strategic areas. High mast lights will be installed at Ga-Mamadi, Letswatla and Inveraan. With regards to electrification projects, the municipality has already surpassed the target of electrifying all its villages and is currently concentrating on the electrification of extensions. The electrification project of extension for this financial year will be Swartz, Mentz, Witten, Grootpan and Simpson while Eskom will further electrify thirteen extensions. More information on municipal capital projects can be found on 2016/2017 Capital Projects Progress Report.



Mayor Pheedi and Speaker Cllr Maria Thamaga break ground to mark the official commencement of the construction of Senwabarwana Internal streets project.

## Mayor Pheedi visits former school to wish the class of 2016 goodluck

The grade 12 learners of Mabea High School at Burgerrucht Village in Ward 13 have had the golden opportunity of receiving a message of support before they sit for their final examination. The motivation was from none other than the Mayor of Blouberg Local Municipality Cllr Maseka Pheedi who is also a former learner at the school.

Mayor Pheedi pledged his well wishes to the class of 2016 as they walk through the last portion of 2016 and towards the finishing line.

"The time for harvesting the fruits of the seeds cultured in your previous classes has finally dawned. In so far as the 2016 has come and bidding goodbye to our previous New Year resolutions and targets, we hope that even those who did not have that good a start will spur up their ante, adjust or redirect their energies to make the most of their final marks".

Mayor Pheedi appealed to the learners to work harder as preparations for better life starts today. We would like to emphasize that the onus of ascertaining success largely depends on what you put in at the deciding moment of your academic calendar. In 2015, Mabea achieved 62.2% pass rate.

He also called on learners to emulate the local role models who have made it in education. We encourage you to look upon the shining examples that came before us as George Bernard Shaw once said, "That we are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." We wish you'll be counted amongst those shining stars who'd come home dancing.

Despite its rural status Mabea has produced stars who have made it big in the corporate world. Some of its products include Mr Mabu Mamadi an Information Technology Guru who own his own consulting company Mabu Management Solutions, Former Blouberg Municipality Corporate Services Director and current Capricorn District Municipality Council Support Manager Mr Fannie Mothibi, Mr Stanford Makgato Engineer at NERSA, Ms. Matlou Molangoane Engineer at ESKOM and Mr Solly Morudu Principal at Mabea High School. A former teacher himself, Cllr Pheedi praised the headmaster Mr Morudu on his passion for education and despite his educational achievements remained rooted at the village in order to groom and empower the upcoming generation for them to become better people tomorrow.

Other schools visited include Marumofase and Maphutha Secondary School (Maleboho East Circuit) at Indermark Village in Ward 12. Marumofase was one of the best performing schools in the circuit back in the day but made dramatic turn in the previous years. However, the class of 2015 brought the glory days back. The school achieved 81% positioning as the best performing school in the circuit for the year 2015. Maphutha Secondary School achieved 42%.

The challenges indicated by the school management upon visit to both the school in Indermark during Back to School Campaign include lack of Infrastructure to such an extent where learners use the library as examination room, shortage of staff, dilapidated buildings, furniture and

social problems such as substance abuse, school dropout, child headed families,

Other schools visited include Kgalushi and Mmatsetla Secondary Schools in ward 16. Kgalushi Secondary School at Hlona village was the worst performing school in the Bahananwa Circuit as they recorded 31.1% in 2015 - a serious decline compared to previous year (63.6% - 2014). The school management indicated challenges such as lack of parental support, lack of resources like textbooks, lack of co-operation from learners as the main contributing factors to the decline in the pass rate. Another school visited was Mmatsetla High School at Pax village. Mmatsetla High School was the best performing school in the Bahanwa Circuit in 2015.

The school pass rate from the previous year (2014) was 100% but dropped to 83.3% (2015). However the school management has identified the cause of the drop in pass rate and made an undertaking to work very hard to reclaim the glory.

Learners were further urged to refrain from all sorts of misguided acts, wrongdoings and troubles that may waste valuable study time as the future, achievement of developmental goals and pride of Blouberg lies in the willingness of the young generation that is capable and prepared enough to work hard.



Mabea Secondary School learners listen attentively to Mayor Pheedi who undoubtedly still has that educator flair.



The inspiring message was sweet music to the ears of pupils, educators and officials alike



Pupils showing off their goodies as they pose for a group photo with the Mayor Cllr Pheedi, Headmaster Mr Morudu Solly as well as councillors and educators



# Blouberg is Home to Potato Farming

A new Potato Production Hub has been opened in Blouberg, thanks to the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Production Hub was officially opened by the MEC Mme Mokaba Phukwane during World Food Day commemoration at Marobjane village.

Managed by Mr Solly Ratjomane the plant is a state of the art hub which incorporates specialised units that make potato production very easy. The 2016 World Food Day was celebrated under theme "Climate is changing, so is Agriculture". According to the Department of Agriculture the primary agricultural sector contributes about 3% to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and it represents about 7% of formal employment. If the entire value chain of agriculture is taken into account, its contribution to GDP reaches about 12%.

The Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Cllr Maseka Pheedi has commended Mr Solly Ratjomane for his commitment to actively alleviate poverty in Blouberg through his farming career spanning for more than 30 years. Mayor Pheedi further encouraged the community at large to engage in various agricultural activities. He indicated that Ratjomane's potato production hub is not only benefiting the community within Blouberg Municipality but the larger community throughout South Africa. Ratjomane's products are being exported to other countries.

MEC Mme Mapula Mokaba Phukwana called on members of the public to forward proposals, suggestions or questions pertaining to agriculture to her department. Mokaba-Phukwana indicated that her department will continue to support initiatives that promote agriculture and food security. Small scale farmers and cooperatives raised their challenges ranging

from lack of water machinery and thus request support with production inputs.

Members of the public mainly small scale farmers from all corners of the province came in numbers to celebrate the day and grab the much needed information from the department. Community members who do not participate in any form of agricultural activities were urged to establish small gardens at their homes to produce vegetables. The MEC and the Mayor concluded the event by handing over food parcels to child headed families around the Marobjane area.



Farm workers busy preparing potatoes for exportation purposes.



Top farming luminary, Solly Ratjomane (in striped shirt) witnesses as MEC for Agriculture Mme Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana and Blouberg Mayor unveil the plaque



## Blouberg Council Consults Aganang Cluster on 2016/2017 IDP Budget



Residents seeking assurance from Blouberg Municipality following their relocation from the diestablished Aganang Municipality

The communities of the defunct Aganang Local Municipality, some of whose villages fall within Ward 21 and 22 of the Blouberg Municipality heeded the municipal leadership call to attend the 2016/2017 Integrated Development Plan (IDP)/Budget public participation meeting. The consultations were held on the 25th & 26th October 2016 at Cooperspark and Mamehlabe respectively. Those were the community's first contact with the Blouberg Municipality leadership since the disestablishment of Aganang Municipality following the 2016 Local Government Elections in August 2016.

The main purpose of the consultation sessions was to communicate the effected amendments on the 2016/17 IDP. Chapter 4 of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act (32 of 2000) requires that the newly elected council must amend the IDP of the preceding council to accommodate projects and programmes of the incorporated areas (in this case villages from the disestablished Aganang Municipality).

The Mayor, Cllr Maseka Pheedi, Council Speaker, Mme Maria Thamaga, Chief Whip, Cllr Billy Choshi, Executive Committee (EXCO) members and the entire leadership core met with the communities and listened to their service delivery concerns. "We came here as Blouberg Municipality with a list of previously prioritized services to be delivered at your communities, we are here to confirm with you if these are the services initially planned", said His Worship Mayor, Cllr Pheedi. Mayor Pheedi further made an undertaking that Blouberg Municipality will take care for the community as the Aganang Municipality did as it was basically the same government. He concluded by officially welcoming the community to Blouberg Municipality "We are today officially welcoming you into Blouberg Municipality, you are part of us, and we are one municipality"

The following villages from the then Aganang Municipality now form part of Blouberg: Mamehlabe, Pinkie-Sebotse, Leokaneng, Ngwanallela, Ga-Manthodi/Cooperspark, Ga-Motlakgomo/Burgwal, Ga-Mokobodi/Boslagte, Ga-Lepadima/Prospect, Ga-Mankodi/Welgelegin, Ga-Lamola/Rosenkrantz and

Ga-Keetse/Terrebrugge.

The following are services to be rendered to the affected villages as per the 2016/17 IDP:

PROJECTS	VILLAGES	BUDGET	COMMENTS
Free Basic Electricity	Terrebrugge, Mankodi, Mamehlabe, Ngwanallela, Prospect & Burgwell	R5,3 m	2016/17
Free Alternative Energy	Terrebrugge, Mankodi, Rosenkrantz, Mamehlabe & Ngwanallela,	R3,3 m	2016/17
Free Basic Water	All Villages	R2,3 m	2016/17
Electrifications of Extensions	Terrebrugge, Mankodi, Rosenkrantz, Mamehlabe & Ngwanallela,	R1,7 m	2016/17
CDM Water	Refer CDM	Refer CDM	2015/16 Commitments
Bridge	Cooperspark	R2,5 m	2015/16 Commitments
Halls	Cooperspark	R800 K	2015/16 Commitments
Eskom	Prospect Extensions	R569 600	2016/17

## Premier Makhura ploughs back to the community

Son of the soil David Makhura (Premier of Gauteng Province) from Marobjane village launched a charity fund in 2015 as a plough back programme. The main objective was to assist young people who are passionate about education and also those who are talented in football to realise better prospects in their respective fields of speciality. Last year, six learners from Blouberg Municipality who passed grade 12 with flying colors received full bursaries from the David Makhura Charity Fund to pursue their studies at the University of Johannesburg. The remaining were scouted and ultimately played development football club and finally broke through to the senior ranks. All that was made possible through a collaboration with renowned football agent Mr Jazzman Mahlakgane and it is no coincidence that he also hails from the very part of the world. The charity fund charged Blouberg reserve league with the responsibility of coordinating and managing the mini league comprising of some seven streams ie. Marobjane/Indermak stream, Devrede, Taaibosch, Kibi, Alldays, Maleboho and Sekhung. All the streams culminate into 49 teams that get trimmed down in preparation for the main youth games.

All the winning teams from the referred to streams received money to the value of a whopping R10 000. The leadership of Blouberg Municipality Mayor, Cllr Maseka Pheedi, Speaker Cllr Maria Thamaga and the Chief Whip Cllr Billy Choshi were amongst the dignitaries invited to grace the ceremony. The Mayor Cllr Pheedi was inspired by the initiative (David Makhura Charity Fund) and undertook to support the programme as it stood to bring more positive spin offs to the entire Blouberg community.

The charity founder Premier David Makhura also committed to provide support to Blouberg's Mayor's Cup tournament forthwith unleash the hidden potential around our predominantly rural municipality. This year will see the fund hosting 32 teams locking horns from from the 18th - 21st December 2016. The patron, Premier Makhura has also vowed to increase the number of the participating teams from 32 to 64 in the following year.

He (David Makhura) further pronounced that the champions of the referred to competition will pit their skills against randomly assembled side of professional football players at a date to be confirmed.



Elated team officials and players receive their prizes from both Premier Makhura and Mayor Pheedi respectively



# BLOUBERG REHABILITATES ALLDAYS LANDFILL SITE

On the 10th of November 2016 Blouberg Local Municipality launched the rehabilitation project for the Alldays Landfill Site in Alldays Town ward 18. The project will integrate the old station which was donated to the municipality by Basil Read, a company contracted to De Beers Venetia Mine. The project will ideally alleviate poverty and create much needed jobs to the locals as well as providing a very essential service to the community.

In his interaction with the community, the Acting Mayor on the day Cllr Mashalane MS indicated that the municipality is responding to the needs of the community as per the consultations during Integrated Development plan (IDP) public consultations held earlier this year. Cllr Mashalane indicated that the council, upon receipt of a grant for waste and environmental management unanimously took a decision to carry out a project to rehabilitate the Alldays Landfill site.

On the scope the project will carry out among other duties; the rehabilitation of cells, construction of office block, guard house, erecting perimeter fencing and the installation of electrical and water connection. Residents expressed their happiness saying the project will help better their lives.



Councillors, community members and council officials led by Mayor Cllr Simon Mashalane and speaker Cllr Maria Thamaga officially launch the rehabilitation of the Alldays waste and landfill site project

Other dignitaries who attended the ceremony were Blouberg Local Municipality Speaker Mme Maria Thamaga, accompanied by members of the Executive Committee Cllr Morapedi M.A (Chairperson: Corporate Services), Cllr. Makobela SR (Chairperson: Budget and Treasury), Cllr Ntlatla MW (Chairperson: Economic Development and Planning), Cllr Maila MP (EXCO Member without Portfolio) as well as the host Ward 18 Cllr Modingwana MG.

Meanwhile eleven settlements currently benefit from the municipal waste removal services. Such include amongst others, Senwabarwana, Alldays, Witten, Indermark and Dilaeneng. The Community Services Department came up with innovative methods to provide waste storage facilities in Alldays and Senwabarwana towns without impacting on the fiscus of the municipality. With the 2016/2017 Revised IDP and Budget, the municipality expanded the waste removal service to other needy settlements. The municipality in this financial year has consolidated operation while expanding to new areas such as Puraspan, Harrietswhich, Tolwe and Eldorado. Industrial and household bins have been distributed to a sizable number of areas and households respectively.

## Eldorado & Alldays Licencing centres now enabled with E-Natis System



Examiner Sebyeng MC assists Michael Phalane with the eye test for his application for Learners' Licence

Alldays and Eldorado licensing departments have now been equipped with electronic national administration traffic information system (e-natis) to ensure the smooth running of the centres. As part of decentralization system the Blouberg Municipality has evolved the licensing services to both Eldorado and Alldays Satellite Offices as part of bringing services closer to the people. Back then residents residing in the far flung areas from the Senwabarwana Driving License Testing Centre (DLTC) complained about the inaccessible testing and licensing services which could only be obtained at the Senwabarwana DLTC. Residents around Eldorado, Alldays and other remote villages used to travel many kilometers to access learners' testing, licensing and vehicle testing services. Upon visiting the stations to bear testimony, the Blouberg News caught up with some satisfied residents like Michael Phalane who was there to book for his learner's license. Phalane said he was pleased that he and other community members will get everything at the door step unlike travelling distances to Senwabarwana.

Meanwhile the road safety certification drive-through system has now been enabled at the Senwabarwana DLTC through advanced e-Natis system. Unlike before the drivers can now drive their vehicles through the cabin, then the system reads it and then generate the report system the print the details of the car and the results thereof without hustles.

Trips to Polokwane and the nearest stations outside Blouberg for certification of heavy vehicles such as buses and trucks as well as general vehicle testing have been cut shorter following installation of the systems. Unlike before the stations now issue

roadworthy certificates for light motor vehicles and heavy vehicles with the advanced driving through machinery system.

According to Licensing Manager Mr Jimmy Mpya the installation of the system the stations now accommodate a high number of people because of the pace with which work is done.

Residents thanked the municipality for continuing to deliver quality services to the people and applauded utilization thereof.

### SERVICES RENDERED AS PER DRIVING LICENSES' TESTING CENTRE

#### ELDORADO SATELLITE OFFICE

- Application for learners' License,
- Examination of learner's license
- Issuing/Releasing of learners' license
- Renewal of Professional Driving Permit (PRDP) Public
- Application of PRDP
- Eye test
- Duplicate learner's license

#### ALLDAYS OFFICE

- Application for learners' License,
- Examination of learner's license
- Issuing/Releasing of learners' license
- Renewal of Professional Driving Permit (PRDP) Public
- Renewal of Driving licence
- Application of PRDP
- Eye test
- Duplicate learner's license

# HIV Test Drive and Awareness Campaign taken to Farms

The Blouberg Local Municipality in conjunction with the Department of Health (Gideon Clinic) and Agri AIDS SA hosted a successful HIV Test Drive and Awareness Campaign aimed at empowering farm workers with knowledge relating to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The event was held at Wilnick Boerdery Farm near Tolwe. The event was held on the 9th of November 2016 under the theme: "Be Wise and Get Tested and know your status".

The Blouberg Local Aids Council adopted the Municipal Multi Sectoral 2016/2017 HIV/AIDS STI, TB (HAST) operational plan guided by the 2012 - 2016 Limpopo Provincial Strategic Plan during their meeting held in October 2016. As part of the implementation plan a need to identify the key population areas or high transmission areas to conduct the HAST awareness campaign came forth. Farm workers and the farming community at large were identified as key population vulnerable or a higher risk for HIV infections.

Farm workers in the main lacked information relating to sexual violence, discrimination and other violations of their human rights which in turn increases their vulnerability to HIV infections and in the process undermine their ability to access the available HIV related services. The Council detected that failure to address the risk of violence and improve their access to key HIV and violence related services will result in increased HIV prevalence.

"There is a need to remind the public and government that HIV/AIDS has not gone away and there is still a need to raise funds, increase awareness and fight the stigma

attached to people who live with HIV," indicated Selokela Bohashu. She emphasized the need for a person to at least go for HIV test twice a year and to lead a healthy lifestyle. Bohashu further indicated that every year the annual international AIDS day is celebrated and that these days can be used to unite people to fight the stigma of HIV and also to show support to those living with the virus. "This should also be in commemoration of those who died of AIDS"

Bohashu says it is the responsibility of the Department of Health and municipalities to work together in ensuring that young people are concientised on issues relating to the virus and urged abstinence from sexual activities and/or practice safe sex at all times. "Despite the progress made by working together with our municipalities, what worries us a lot is that many young people continue to get infected with HIV/AIDS every day and that should not be undermined," "It feels painful that several numbers of youths still get infected every hour regardless of awareness campaigns. We all need to be part of the movement to fight the HIV epidemic and the first step is getting tested and knowing your status," she says.

In conclusion Bohashu urged farm workers to use condoms whenever they engage in sexual activities and continue visiting their nearest health facilities for voluntary testing and counselling. Speaking on behalf of Willnick en Seuns Boerdery farm workers, Akila Senwamadi, said that efforts put together by the local municipality, Health Department and AgriAIDS insuring that they receive education on HIV/AIDS subjects play a crucial role in their lives.



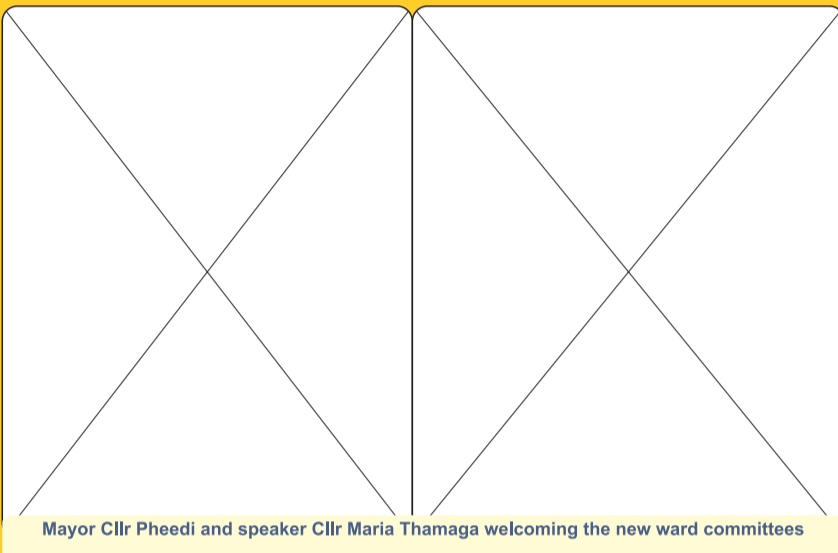
More farm workers and dwellers participated in the campaign in their bid to know their status

# CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT 2016/17

NAME OF PROJECT	BUDGET	OVERALL PROGRESS
Senwabarwana internal street phase 5	R6500 000.00	On construction stage.
Senwabarwana internal street phase 6	R8300 000.00	On construction stage
Indermark internal street and storm water phase 3	R6500 000.00	Practically completed
Avon internal street and Storm water phase 2	R6500 00.00	practically completed
Senwabarwana Sports Complex phase 1	R7 000 000.00	On construction stage
Kroemhoek internal street and storm water phase 2	R6500 000.00	On tender stage for appointment of contractor
Essorrinca crèche	R1 789 000.00	On tender stage for appointment of contractor
Brana crèche	R1 789 000.00	On tender stage for appointment of contractor
Matoana crèche	R1 789 000.00	On tender stage for appointment of contractor
Mosehlang crèche	R1 789 000.00	On tender stage for appointment of contractor
Mamoleka crèche	R1 789 000.00	On tender stage for appointment of contractor
Milton duff	R1 789 000.00	On tender stage for appointment of contractor
Sadu crèche	R1 789 000.00	On tender stage for appointment of contractor
Construction of Alldays Landfill site	R 4000 000.00	on construction stage
Dilaeneng internal street phase 4	R2 363 484.00	On construction stage
Taaibosch High mast light	R1 464 516.00	On construction stage
Letswatla High mast light	R1 464 516.00	On construction stage
Electrification of Swartz & Montz	R1 860 000.00	On construction stage
Post connection for ward 01 ext 2, Ward 03 ext 3, Ward 04 ext 2, on Construction stage & Ward 17	R2 415 000.00	On construction stage
Electrification of Witten	R3 875 000.00	On construction stage
Electrification of Grootpan and Simpson	R850 000.00	On construction stage
Post connection for Ward 01 Ext 2 , Ward 03 Ext 3, and Ward 04 Ext 2		On construction stage

# Declaration of the 14th Annual Ward Committees' Conference

held from 28-30 October 2016  
at Karibu Leisure Resort (Tzaneen)



Mayor Cllr Pheedi and speaker Cllr Maria Thamaga welcoming the new ward committees



It was all glitz, glamour and hardwork as councillors, CDWs and officials convened for the 14th Annual committees conference



Ward committees pose with the leaders following an exhausting induction programme

**W**e, the people of Blouberg gathered at Karibu Leisure Resort in Tzaneen from the 28th – 30th October 2016 under the theme: “Capacitating new cadres of a special kind in an effort to enhance service delivery through participatory democracy”, as Councillors, members of Ward Committees, representatives from Sister Municipalities within the Capricorn District, Magoshi, CoGHSTA, CDWs from our 22 wards across the municipality, senior managers as well as other officials.

## APPRECIATING MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FROM:

1. Traditional Authorities from around our Municipality;
2. Capricorn District Municipality;
3. Polokwane municipality;
4. Lepelle - Nkumpi Local Municipality;
5. Molemole Local Municipality;

## NOTING THE FOLLOWING PRESENTATIONS:

1. Overview on the 2011 – 2016 Ward Committees' Term of Office;
2. Ward Committees' Code of Conduct;
3. Performance Management System;
4. The relationship between Councillors, CDWs and Ward Committees by CoGHSTA;
5. Institutional departments and;
6. ESKOM

## RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. Traditional authorities should not be seen to be meddling in aspects relating to ward committee elections but rather await assumption of the mediation and conciliation role in case of any disputes in that regard;
2. The Mayor – Magoshi Forum should be strengthened to put more impetus to the already cordial relationship between the institution and the entire Blouberg traditional leadership;
3. There is a need to always uphold the rule of law as opposed to the common sense approach in settling any governance related matters and disputes;
4. Consultation with traditional authorities should remain of paramount importance whenever projects are handed over;
5. It should always be of utmost importance for ward committee members to maintain the high moral ground for the respective communities to have continued confidence in them;
6. Ward committees remain an important

vehicle in ensuring full implementation of Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) as well as other municipal and government driven programmes;

7. It is urged that the powers vested in ward committees be utilized for positive change and not personal aggrandisement;

8. Ward committees should at all material times be seen to be supporting their ward councillors and should never be seen to be instigating any undue action or pressure on them;

9. Ward committees should never consider themselves to be beyond reproach nor be seen to be intent on hogging the headlines but as having the interest of communities at heart;

10. Ward committees should dissuade from impeding any community based projects but rather be seen to be supporting such;

11. Ward committees should not define themselves outside the collective leadership scope;

12. Appointment of Project Steering Committees should be depoliticized and freed from any undue influence;

13. The Capricorn District Municipality (CDM) should be held to their commitment to assist local municipalities with enhancing of ward committees' human resource capacity and also undertake to forge partnerships with other stakeholders in realisation of the course;

14. Ward committees also need to be provided with requisite skills to enhance their strategic ability to execute their mandates;

15. Acknowledgement that the current number of Community Development Workers (CDWs) was far from enough given the diverse nature and number of wards in the municipality though that was attributable to budgetary constraints;

16. All stops needed to be pulled to avert and/or stop energy cable and transformers' theft at all costs;

17. Ward committees were urged to play a pivotal role by reporting any illegal activities relating to abuse of any form of electricity.