



Blouberg News

"Fetisa Molaetsa"

OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - October - December 2015



**Kgatlu residents' hope in government revived
as Mayor Selamolela delivers good news**



Blouberg News

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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.



The keynote Address

In shaping our nation and its practices, prayer is one of the elements which could uplift the soul of those who are affected by tragic events in their lives. It has been quite a turbulent and stressful period in the municipal area with a number of cold blooded, dastardly and heinous acts of terror which leave shivers in one's spine reported. The amount of gun related and mutilation killings that engulfed our municipality over the past months are a major point of concern and are if anything, very foreign in our otherwise laidback and tranquil environment. Be rest assured that the alarming rates with which such deeds occur perturb us deeply as the million dollar question becomes who is next? We are all in agreement that some kind divine intervention is required in order to rid and cleanse ourselves of the apparent forces of darkness in our midst.

Enough of the sombre stuff and zooming straight into council business, we are almost at the halfway point/mark of the financial year and it is thus of cardinal importance for us to take stock, reflect back on where we come from and also ponder the road ahead. This has been a calendar year worth a page in our history as it has been an eventful one. It has just been six months in office and every moment of it has been worthwhile with everyday being approached with hope abound and one mission only - to change the lives our people for the better. We have opened a sizeable number of capital projects across the municipal spectrum in the form of electrification, sports facilities,

early childhood centres and internal streets to mention but a few. We are also intent on coming up with new innovations including but not limited to a waste transfer station and high mast electricity lights in the not so distant future. Surely the foot prints of the advent of democracy are clearly visible for everyone to see the good intentions of the government of the day.

We are sincerely delighted at progress in respect of projects for the current financial year. Given the level of commitment and fortitude exhibited by both the political component, that plays oversight and administration, that shoulders the responsibility of being implementing agents, we are extremely optimistic that we'd pull all the projects off with no rollovers in sight. The speed and efficiency with which the referred to projects are being carried forward are indeed a marvel to watch. We anticipate landing of some additional funding from the Department of Treasury given the diligent and prudent spending on our Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funding and that would come in very handy since there are other projects deferred for want of budget. We say that with utmost authority since we were recently confirmed to be amongst the best performing municipalities in the province as we are now ranked fifth in respect of MIG spending.

It should be recalled that among the overriding objectives behind the establishment of municipalities is improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the



His Worship, Cllr. Sammy Selamolela
Mayor

citizenry. We are therefore not oblivious of the fact that there's more to human development than just projects as evidenced by our continued dominance in the Community Safety and Public Participation accolades at provincial level. The much maligned but yet crucially important Disability and Local AIDS Fora/Councils are in full swing. The institution still reaffirms its long held view of doing the right things right. We reiterate that the milestones reached will continue to be put to good effect as it would not help in any way to have good policy frameworks that are not corroborated by hard work and the practical aspect. Be rest assured that we will keep everyone involved at their wits' end in ascertaining that we are worth more than the paper we are written on. There's a need to always have our hands on the deck lest we encounter what Will Rogers warned, "Even if you are on the right track, you will be run over if you just sit there".

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KGATLU RESIDENTS' HOPE IN GOVERNMENT REVIVED AS MAYOR SELAMOLELA DELIVERS GOOD NEWS



Mayor Selamolela and the community leaders break ground marking the official commencement of the construction of Kgatlu Creche.

What could have been a day full of service delivery complaints and anger turned out to be a day full of dances and praises when the Mayor of Blouberg Local Municipality, Cllr Sammy Selamolela told residents of Kgatlu in ward 01 about the services the local municipality, the Capricorn District Municipality and the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) will be bringing to their village.

Before breaking the ground to mark the official commencement of construction work for Kgatlu Pre-School, Mayor Selamolela met with the residents at kgorong to find out what their day to day service delivery challenges were. When given the

opportunity to speak, community members told the Mayor and his Executive Committee how the government had forgotten about their existence. They reiterated that felt abandoned as there was nothing service delivery related that was forthcoming. Residents complained about inadequate water supply, allocation of low cost houses, dark nights at the village extension and bad roads condition.

In response to the residents' concerns, Cllr Selamolela delivered the good news residents have long waited to hear. The Mayor indicated that the electrification of the village's extension will be carried out in the current 2015/2016 financial year. He further put the icing on the cake by also mentioning that at least twenty (20) houses have been allocated to the

village to cater the needy.

Responding to the issues pertaining to bad road conditions, the Mayor pointed that officials from the municipality's Road Maintenance division and the Department of Roads and Public Works will from henceforth meet on monthly basis to assist each other in tackling with speed what has now become a headache for the municipality. He further indicated that funds have been set aside to outsource plant (pilot project) to deal with the challenge as it was not unique to ward one in particular but was a thorn in the entire municipality's flesh. He also mentioned that the water problem will soon be addressed as the district municipality will be procuring additional water tanks for Kgatlu.

After hearing all this residents expressed their happiness, heaping praises and thanking the Mayor for being the bearer of such good news having initially thought of themselves as the forbidden community.

The Mayor also introduced the contractor Bakone-Mathekga and Mokganyetji Business Enterprise (for the pre-school project) to members of the community and called for a transparent process when hiring labourers and then proceeded to the site for a sod-turning ceremony. The project is set to be on for four months and the service provider is expected to hand back the completed project to the municipality on/before January 2016.



**Cllr Maria Thamaga
Speaker**

FROM THE SPEAKERS'S PODIUM

We have in some quarters been ridiculed as empty tins that made a helluva lot of noise, while in others we were castigated as no hopers in the public participation stakes presumably given the sparse resources at our disposal. We were also labelled judge, jury and executioner of our own destiny whilst the truth was that, we at all material times exuded confidence despite the meagre budget, to put to good effect the public participation trajectory. Without sounding like a scratched record, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA)'s Provincial Assembly held from the 19th – 21st October 2015 formally endorsed our long held assertion of being the undisputed masters of the game by declaring that we remain in pole position as they awarded us the coveted “Most consistent municipality with the best public participation model” mettle.

It is neither our intention nor desire to rest on our laurels and get lulled into a false sense of security. The saying that goes “uneasy lies the head that wears a crown” resonates quite sensibly as we are in no compromising mood to, by any long shot take the foot off the pedal. We are hell bent on staying vigilant and always looking over our shoulders in an effort to fend off any pretenders to our hard earned throne lest we be sucker punched. The good work done particularly by the Council Support division which resides within the Department of Corporate Services deserves special mention for their continued commitment almost a decade since the unravelling of arguably the best model to ever grace our country's shores since the advent of

democracy. The entire political (councillors) and administrative (management) components' tenacity and drive in accommodating public participation programmes need to be lauded as that bears testimony to the serious light with which the aspect is taken.

The 13th Annual Ward Committees' Conference has come and gone and the declaration thereof, having been adopted by council of the 30th October 2015 appears elsewhere in the edition. The conference itself was a highly charged affair with all scheduled speakers making their way as anticipated. Their lively and insightful presentations were followed by very robust interactions. We remain indebted to the Capricorn District Municipality (CDM), ESKOM as well as the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) who sent through their big guns in the respective fields to make beautifully crafted presentations and thus giving more credence and stature to the event for they also promptly articulated policy positions and made commitments where necessary. The addresses were deliberately pencilled to respond to pertinent service delivery challenges relating particularly to water (CDM), electricity (ESKOM) and housing (CoGHSTA) respectively and boy did they do a sterling job in fielding all questions and concerns relating to same.

It should be succinctly pointed out that the conference was not an all honky dowry affair without any unsavoury incidents. My office wishes to put it on record that the few identified individuals whose behaviour was deemed in contravention of the provisions the Ward Committees' Code of Conduct will have to account for their alleged misdemeanours. We however, reiterate that we subscribe to the *audi alteram partem* notion and as such, the

alleged transgressors will be afforded fair hearings and will be subjected to all manner of disciplinary procedures. It should be emphasised that we are not about to let slip of any moral code in the name of the upcoming local government elections. The Code of Conduct will be enforced to the last day and under no circumstances are we going to let any acts of wanton hooliganism reign supreme as that has no justification whatsoever - whether purportedly precipitated or not .

Council as well as its committees continue to function like the well oiled machine they have always been. The cherry on top is the Petitions and Public Participation Committee's proposal to the effect that they undertake road shows meant to highlight members of the broader community of the various other mechanisms of engaging the municipality at their disposal. Mechanisms such as Deputations and Interviews as well as Motions and Petitions have to be laid bare in order for the public to have a direct line to the municipal council. The ward delimitation process as spearheaded by the Municipal Demarcation Board is on the verge of completion, and though it is still to be officially pronounced, our municipality is likely to have its wards increased from twenty one (21) to twenty two (22) having acquired some wards from the soon to be dis-established Aganang Local Municipality. We hope to live up to standard and given the amount of awards we rake in these days, the incorporation will find us prepared since the council appointed committee to ensure a seamless transition is also hard at work.

The Christmas vacations are upon us and you are urged to act responsibly and with restraint. Remember one death is one too many, so please don't drink and drive. Let us meet in the new year!!



Mr. Kgorane MJ - Acting Municipal Manager

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

Municipality, as well as our neighbouring municipalities for sharing our vision with us and for their understanding that we all serve one master, the people of South Africa in general, and the communities of Blouberg in particular.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

In the Mayor's report earlier in this edition mention is made of the implementation of all capital projects approved in terms of the Integrated Development Plan and we need to reiterate that the attainment of this improved project implementation efficiency and effectiveness could not have been realized had it not been for the hands-on approach adopted and implemented by the political leadership of this Municipality. Every month the Executive Committee, the Speaker, Chief Whip and the Management of the Municipality conducts full inspection of all capital projects implemented by the Municipality to assess the level of progress, challenges encountered and interventions required so that a speedy, efficient and effective implementation of such projects is achieved thereby avoiding projects rollover. The role of the Municipal Publics Account Committee (MPAC) led by Chairman William Ntlatla cannot be overemphasized to ensure that the quality and quantity of the projects the Municipality delivers is not compromised. Through the MPAC's regular projects visit management is held accountable to provide efficient, effective and quality products to beneficiaries of our service delivery machinery. It is on this oversight and support that we are confident that by February 2016 ninety percent of our capital projects would be completed. It is common knowledge that internal streets upgrade and storm water control projects for Indermark, Avon and Senwabarwana are practically completed and in use, save for the installation of minor items such as kerbs and road markings in Senwabarwana. All the four preschools are at roof level, Witten electrification project is complete and energized.

This may mean that the Project Management Unit (PMU) may have very little to do for the remainder of the financial year. Le seke la re le

bona ba khuditse la re ba tshaba mmereko, akere ba tla ba ba feditse mmereko wa bona wa ngwaga. A full report on the implementation of each capital project is included in subsequent columns in this edition.

We need to commend the provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for the good work done in the implementation of pedestrian sidewalks for Alldays and Senwabarwana towns and one can clearly see that the implementation of the project has positively changed the face and shape of the two towns for good. The project is in line with the development and implementation of town master plans for Alldays and Senwabarwana, as well as urban renewal strategies of the two areas. Furthermore, the full use of the sidewalks will promote healthy living and mitigate the use of motorised transport with its resultant release of global warming gasses.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL TRANSFORMATION

In the previous editions we have always mentioned that the Blouberg Municipality is an organic state that keeps on growing in leaps and bounds for the betterment of the lives of its people. Our organic nature found expression in the development, adoption and implementation of the Blouberg Decentralization plan. It is that plan that witnessed the administration of the Municipality expanding its wings and bringing services closer to its communities through the establishment and operationalization of satellite offices at Alldays, Eldorado, Tolwe, Harriet's Wish and Puraspan service point. The Municipality has recently completed the construction of Laanglagte and Inveraan Multi-Purpose Community Centres and as part of business reengineering management saw it fit to cluster some of the satellite offices under one manager in the short to medium term with the long term plan being to delink such once we have build all the necessary resources capacity. Eldorado and Tolwe satellite offices have been put under one cluster with one satellite manager supported by administrative officers. The same goes for Inveraan and Laanglagte.

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FROM THE CHIEF WHIP'S CORNER

The Office of the Chief Whip is one of the least understood particularly in local government circles as some misconstrue it to be merely ceremonial as opposed to the high tempo and extremely involved office it is. There is an array of responsibilities attached to the office and herewith follows a synopsis of what goes down in the referred to office. The new system of government represents a paradigm shift from the old system since it incorporates a vision of a developmental local government system. The Office of the Chief Whip was established to create synergy and to maintain discipline among Councillors from various Political Parties. The Role of the Chief Whip of Council covers both the political and administrative domains of Council with emphasis on the political aspect.

Four political parties namely; the African National Congress (ANC), the Democratic Alliance (DA), the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) and Congress of the People (COPE) are represented in Council and the Chief Whip has to ensure that relationships are constructive and focused on key issues that are aimed at improving the lives of the residents of Blouberg. The Office of the Chief Whip is the nerve centre of the ANC's political management system and the engine of cohesion, discipline and accountability of all the public representatives to the structures of the movement and their constituencies. The Chief Whip ensures that there is equitable representation in Committees of Council and that is inclusive of both section 79 and 80 committees.

The Chief Whip of Council also serves as the Chief Whip of the ruling party and his responsibilities include the management of the Whippers of the ANC, supervision and management of the ANC Caucus as well as the efficient running and coordination of constituency work of councillors. The Chief Whip and Caucus leadership bear the leadership responsibility of motivating, advising and instilling discipline



Blouberg Municipality Council Chief Whip;
Cllr. Derrick Seduma.

among all members of Caucus.

The role of the Chief Whip of Council has specific functions set out as follows:

- Caucus and Constituency Management
- Councillor Capacity Development
- Councillor Performance Management
- Proportional Deployment of Councillors to Committees
- Multi-Party& Caucus Management
- Political Liaison
- The Office of the Chief Whip is charged

with the following responsibilities:

- Governance work

The Chief Whip plays a key role in promoting good governance. The Chief Whip ensures that all committees of Council quorate through an equitable distribution of councillors to these committees

- Political Accountability

One of the key roles of the Chief Whip is to ensure that councillors are accountable to wards and their political parties.

- Conflict Management

The Chief Whip on a continuous basis is called to intervene in disputes between communities and Councillors.

- Council Decision Making

The Chief Whip plays a key role in facilitating consensus between different parties in Council

- Discipline of Councillors

The Chief Whip and the Speaker of Council have a co responsibility to ensure adherence to the Code of Conduct by Councillors

- Caucus and Constituency Support

The Chief Whip of Council also ensures that all Councillors do their Constituency work and that the necessary resources are provided.

- Councillor Support

The Office of the Chief Whip provides administrative and secretariat support to all Whips.

The Office is also responsible for providing Councillor Capacity Development.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- To ensure good governance and political accountability of Councillors
- To maintain discipline among Councillors
- To maintain sound relations between various parties.
- To ensure that all parties are proportionally represented in various committees of Council
- Serious strides have been made on our part to ensure harmonious relations among the different political parties in our municipality. The whippers, comprising of whips from different political parties meet regularly in an effort to ensure seamless interaction relating to council activities which would ultimately be beneficial to our communities as the bigger picture. We hope to continue working together and learn new things in the process as confirmed by Albert Einstein who said, "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new". The Blouberg constituency deserves better and we intend to do so through our commitment to enhance the element of collectivism in our shores as the adage goes, "bokhutšetšwa bo ya lakanwa, wa khutšetša o le tee o tla jiša bangwe mathekgā".

MAYOR TACKLES SERVICE DELIVERY CHALLENGES DURING IMBIZO



As part of government's concerted commitment to enhancing participatory democracy, the Blouberg Municipality held an EXCO Imbizo at Avon Village on the 25th of November 2015. It is standard practice that the municipality on a monthly basis visit different communities where the Mayor, Cllr Sammy Selamolela presents a service delivery and budget implementation progress report to the public as well as affording members of the public the opportunity to raise their service delivery concerns with the Mayor and his team comprising members of the Executive Committee and the top management.

Residents filled the marquee erected at Seakamela Tribal Office to capacity to listen and interact with their leaders. The purpose of the EXCO Imbizo gathering is not only to provide the municipality platform to communicate its programmes but also give an ear to the community members' plight.

When given the opportunity to raise

their concerns community members thanked the municipality and the government in general for trying their best to ensure that the much needed services are delivered to the residents of Marobjane.

Residents requested among other things; that Blouberg Municipality engage the Departments of Health and Education respectively regarding issues that relate to their core mandates. Residents would appreciate it if the local clinic were to operate 24 hours given to amount of population it is meant to serve while the Department of Education was urged to extensively renovate schools in the area as they were dilapidated and on the verge of collapse. Elders also requested an old age centre for them to be involved in various projects to keep them busy.

Other issues raised were the need for

upgrading of the remaining portion of D1468 (road between Machaba and Indermark), the need for RDP houses and the re-gravelling of the road linking Marobjane and Bull Bull. The Blouberg Local Municipality is currently implementing an internal streets project at Marobjane for the financial year 2015/2016.

Kgoshi Abram Seakamela thanked the municipality for the internal streets project currently underway in the village and alluded to the fact that it also contributed immensely to the alleviation of unemployment though as a stop gap measure. Kgoshi Seakamela called on Mayor Selamolela to stretch the internal streets project to cover the bigger portion of the village and continue to deliver services to his subjects.



(Top Left) The Mayor Cllr. Sammy Selamolela addressing members of the community during Imbizo.

(Above) The community also had their voices heard.



The main internal streets in Marobjane usually get flooded making it impossible for motorists to travel during rainy seasons.

In his keynote address, Mayor Selamolela indicated that the municipality was still far ahead of its contemporaries when coming to public participation in the country. The municipality scooped the top award during the SALGA Executive Assembly sitting in Polokwane last month. To answer on the issue raised by Kgoshi Seakamela about the

extension of the current internal streets project, Mayor Selamolela pointed out that the Marobjane internal streets projects will be implemented on a multi-year basis (three years). He further mentioned that the Executive Committee and the management visit projects to ensure that service providers complete their work in time to avoid roll overs and that true value for money was obtained from the projects.

On upgrading from gravel to tar of the remaining portion of the D1468 road, the Mayor indicated that his

office had met and made presentations to the MEC for Roads and Public Works Mr Jerry Ndou in a bid to solicit his buy in for the road which had somewhat become a nightmare for the municipality given its bermuda nature, to be completed in the next financial year.

The Mayor indicated that there were plans for the department to in the not so distant future, upgrade the road in question.

from page 3

We were unfortunate in the past to find ourselves in an undesirable position where our plant was overstretched and over utilised resulting in unnecessary breakdowns that somehow persistently derailed our noble intentions of providing much needed servicing to our internal streets and access roads. The impending purchase of a lowbed will go a long way in alleviating the strain and battering experienced by our plant when inevitably moving from one area to the next in a municipality as geographically vast as ours.

Critical areas like Grootpan, Grootdraai and Inveraan to mention but a few, are however currently receiving attention and we hope to come good on our roads infrastructure pilot project whose details you will be filled on in subsequent editions. There are ongoing engagements with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure regarding upgrading from gravel to tar of the smaller portion of D1468 road adjoining Senwabarwana and Indermark and we remain hopeful

that the gods will smile on us as and when official announcements are made regarding the 2016/2017 instalment of provincial roads projects.

Good working relations have clearly been forged with De Beers Consolidated Mines (Venetia) and with our Social Labour Plan (SLP) incorporating larger portions of our municipal area, we hope they alternatively come on board in that regard.

As we fast approach the 2016 Local Government Elections, we appeal to all concerned to make decisions with their hearts at their right places as those decisions, stemming from the choice at political party level of representatives through what we normally refer to as list processes to actual election of their public officials, have the potential of impacting on the well being of our municipality in the short and long terms. History will judge us harshly if we stumble right on the crossing line since it is our children and grandchildren's

futures at stake. We also appeal to the various political formations to exercise restraint and refrain from intolerance of any form and shape. Albert Camus summed it up by stating, "A profound thought is in a constant process of becoming".

The ward delimitation process is almost complete and believe me, it was a very emotionally intriguing process which also had a bearing on our organisational development as all vacant positions had to be canned while the process was unfolding. We hope the internal cosmetic changes brought about by our administration in respect of staff establishment will go a long way in giving much needed zeal and impetus to our quest for provision of basic services to the Blouberg citizenry. We hope Alexander Graham Bell's assertion, "Concentrate all your thoughts on the task at hand. The sun's rays do not burn until brought to a focus", is taken heed of. A re kodumeleng!!!

Mayor's *Festive Season Message*

As you take time off from the hectic year that was, please do so in peace and harmony;

Looking back in the past twelve months of our lives, it is common course that life is a double edged sword;

Characteristically each one of us went through trials and tribulations; This past year has however, been a year of many accomplishments; We have been particularly impressed with the amount of good work that goes on in our municipality, notably getting projects off the ground; Let us use this time to reflect and count our blessings;

It is time for family and friends to get together and reflect on the year gone by and celebrate the new one; The celebrations should extend to good fortune and blessings that we share and appreciate;

As we all join together with our loved ones this festive season, let us take time out to think of those less fortunate than ourselves; Let us strive for reaching out the hand of friendship, a time for reconciliation and ensuring

inclusiveness in the promotion of Blouberg Municipality among our community folks;

To build ours as a responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government needs our collective wisdom and positive approach;

Your devotion to the business of government will continue to guide us as we pursue the mandate that you gave us almost five years ago; You remain our strategic partners and together we can build a much better Blouberg;

It is always maintained that success



is not so much attained by the status that one achieves but rather by the obstacles that one overcomes; We commit to go full throttle in our endeavour to overcome any impending obstacle and empower the people of Blouberg; Rejoice the spirit of the festive season with friends, family and colleagues;

If you will be travelling, obey the rules of the of the road and do not drink and drive, have enough rest before taking to the wheel, respect other road users and make sure your vehicle is roadworthy; May the festive season fill your life with bright and precious moments and bring lots of sweet and pleasant memories in the New Year and beyond.



His Worship, Cllr. Sammy Selamolela
Mayor





BLOUBERG RESPONDS TO CITIZENS' DEMANDS

To improve the lives of its citizenry, Blouberg Municipality is currently implementing various capital projects to address the need of the respective communities. As required by the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 the municipality consulted with 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 2015/2016, the people have spoken and the municipality is walking the talk by ensuring that the IDP/Budget for this year responds to the issues as raised by the citizens.

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 Marobjane(Avon), Kromhoek (Ga Makgato) and Senwabarwana (Phase 1) Township. The Mayor of Blouberg Cllr. Sammy Sekgoloane officially opened the rehabilitated Indermark



Mayor Selamolela and EXCO members are happy that the Witten Electrification project was completed in time.

Internal Streets and Stormwater road and the Senwabarwana Internal Streets phase 2 projects respectively. However the municipality is also implementing the second phase of the said projects.

Blouberg Municipality has also placed high on the agenda the early childhood development of the children that's the main reason why over R10million was budgeted to

cater for the construction of six crèches currently underway at Kgatlu , Indermark,Thalane, Pappegaai, Ditatsu and Thorpe. Venetia Mine has currently invested R2.2 million towards the construction of another one at Sias which brings to seven the number of crèches for the current financial year.

Meanwhile the EXCO, Management and Political Management Team led by Mayor Selamolela have placed as a priority the project visits to track progress and ensure that service providers completed the projects on time.

After being awarded a gold accolade for a successful Community Safety project in the category of service delivery during the Premier's Service Excellence Awards held in Polokwane early this year and safety complaints raised by the community Blouberg Municipality shifted gears on issues of community safety. To ensure safety in the town of Senwabarwana and its township, the municipality has put aside the budget for the installation of high mast lights at strategic areas.

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 for this financial year at Witten extension is well underway and the project will be energized soon.



Ben Seraki Sport Complex taking shape.



CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT 2015/16

NAME OF PROJECT	BUDGET	OVERALL PROGRESS
Senwabarwana Internal Streets/Storm Water road Phase 4	R 6 150 000.00	80% complete Finalising kerbs and road marks
Avon Internal Streets Phase 1	R 6 150 000.00	100 % practically completed
Kromhoek Internal Streets Phase 1	R 6 150 000.00	60% complete Final base stabilisation, awaiting surface.
Indermark Internal Streets Phase 1	R 6 150 000.00	100% complete Officially Launched.
Indermark Internal Streets Phase 2	R 6 150 000.00	95% completed
Ben Seraki Sports Complex Phase3	R 6 150 000.00	75% - Busy with finalisation of the installation of concrete precast for grand stand.
Kgatlu Creche	R 1 789 462.50	30% complete Window levels o brick work
Indermark Creche	R 1 789 462.50	50% complete Brick work and plaster complete
Thalane Creche	R 1 789 462.50	30% complete Brick work to window level
Thorpe Creche	R 1 789 462.50	50% complete Busy with brickwork play ground and VIP toilets
Taaibosch Waste Project	R 50 000.00	10% complete Site establishment and foundation
Sias Crèche (Venetia Mine)	R 2 500 000.00	95% complete –awaiting Electrical connections
Witten Electrification Extension phase4	R 700 000.00	100% complete – and officially handed over
Senwabarwana Internal Streets/Storm Water road Phase 3 (2014/15)	R 6 300 000.00	100% Complete Officially Launched.
Laanglagte MPCC(2013-2014)		100% Complete awaiting for official launch
Inveraan Multipurpose centre (2014/15)	R 6,700.000.00	100% Complete Currently busy with snags
Electrification of Silvermyn Ext (2014/15)	R 264 000	100% completed – Officially Launched.
Electrification of Diepsloot (2014/15)	R 264 000	100% completed – Officially Launched.
Electrification of Ward 17 Ext	R 1 632 000	100% completed – Awaiting official launch



FIRST MATRIC BALL FOR ALLDAYS COMBINED SCHOOL COURTESY OF VISION AFRICA COMMUNITY



Every year grade 12 learners throughout the country take part in matric dance, a formal ball for scholars in their final year marking the end of their journey in secondary education. That had not always been the case with learners in Alldays town, until a good Samaritan stepped in.

Ninety (90) learners from Alldays Combined School finally had the express joy of taking part in a matric dance like their counterparts, thanks to Vision Africa Community.

On the 1st of October 2015 the grade 12s converged at Alldays Community Hall to bid their basic school education days farewell in style. Vision Africa organised the event and assisted in financially covering delicacies and must have aspects like food and beverages, photographer and DJs.

Founded by Emma Peniston, Vision Africa Community is a company that works with international volunteers. It works closely with different departments and helps to find ways to help the community by engaging local businesses, farmers, and wild life conservation companies to help in social upliftment.

According to Peniston, Matric dance was part of the company's program to help the learners in their communities by providing activities and leisure for them, as Alldays was very small and not much was available to them in terms of leisure.

“Our aim is to give the children of our community the same experience as

would any other well resourced school in the country. But most importantly to motivate the learners during their last and final high school year. We hope that by laying the foundation the teachers will keep it up every year with our help,” said Peniston.

Alldays Combined School is a government school with limited funding. The school facilities are very bare and not much available for the children development and stimulation.

Teachers and learners at the school were also involved in arranging the function to skill them in professional events management for them to organise events such as matric farewell in future as well as how to generate income through events and sponsorship. Vision Africa Community also involved grade 11s to help with the set up and decoration for the event. The grade 9

learners did the opening of the evening function with a small choreographed dance.

Vision Africa has been actively involved in a number of social programmes for children and youth in Alldays. “Our after school program offers these learners a safe place to be at and is also a way to get them active and partake in positive and healthy activities which will ultimately build their confidence and expand their experience in front a formal and proper audience”, Peniston added. Vision Africa Community has been very active in the Alldays Community doing Cleaning Campaign, organising community fun runs, keeping the children entertained by organising movie nights at the local hall and much more. Vision Africa has been more involved in quite a number of programs aimed at empowering children in the small town. The organisation currently runs group classes that helps children from different grades to find their talent and skills through music, drama and singing.



Vision Africa Community founder Emma Peniston (Black dress) with Alldays Combined School learners and event sponsors

NEW WASTE TRANSFER STATION FOR TAAIBOSCH AND THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES

The Mayor of Blouberg Local Municipality, His Worship Cllr Sammy Selamolela on the 12th October 2015 launched the waste transfer station project at Taaibosch Village. The R5m project is scheduled to run for six months. The project will ideally alleviate poverty and create much needed jobs to the locals as well as providing a very essential service to the broader community.

Giving a keynote address Mayor Selamolela reminded the Taaibosch community that theirs was the first village he visited soon after his deployment as the Mayor of Blouberg Local Municipality in June 2015. In his interaction with the community, it was requested that since there was already a hive of activity in relation to the waste programmes in the area, they rather be provided with a waste management project as well as having their internal streets fixed. Cllr Selamolela indicated that the council, upon receipt of a grant for waste and environmental management unanimously took a decision to carry out a pilot project at Taaibosch. With internal streets, the Mayor indicated that the EPWP workers and municipal officials responsible for road maintenance and storm water should work together to fill the potholes and fix the streets in the area.

Mayor Selamolela and Kgoshi Mamadi of the Babirwa Tribal Authority conducted a sod-turning ceremony and introduced to the community, the consultant engineer and the contractor for the project.



Mayor Selamolela breaks ground marking the commencement of the construction of Taaibosch Waste Transfer Station.

Other dignitaries who attended the ceremony were Blouberg Local Municipality Speaker Mme Maria Thamaga, Chief Whip Cllr Derrick Seduma accompanied by members of the Executive Committee Cllr Ratladi S.D, Cllr. Sithukga S.E, Cllr. Masekwameng M.R, Cllr. Morapedi M.A, Cllr Tutja T.P, Cllr Moetji N.T as well as the host Ward 18 Cllr Kobe D.M

The Taaibosch station will also be utilised as a waste transfer hub for the surrounding villages. Residents expressed their happiness saying the project will help better their lives.

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 2015/2016 Revised IDP and Budget the municipality is set to expand the waste removal service to other needy settlements. The municipality in this financial year will consolidate 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 but the downside has always been the record keeping which left a lot to be desired. It is hoped that there'd be an improvement on that score and that households as well as recipients of those bins utilise them for their intended purposes.



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new wards from into our Municipality the disestablishment of Aganang Municipality through an application by the Minister of Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the inclusion of its (Aganang Municipality) into Blouberg, Molemole and Polokwane Municipality. The latter gets the lion's share of settlements from the disestablished Aganang. The finalization of the disestablishment processes by the Municipal Demarcation Board also laid the foundation for the reconfiguration of municipal ward boundaries. The Municipality will comprise of twenty two wards in the upcoming local government elections. Most of the wards have remain unchanged in the next political administration while some slight changes are encountered at the current ward 21, ward 8, 1, 13, 16 amongst others.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The second quarter edition of this newsletter for the 2014\15 financial year reported a huge milestone in the attainment of an unqualified audit opinion by the Municipality from the Auditor-General of South Africa for the audit of the annual financial statements (AFS) and predetermined objectives (performance) for the 2013\14 financial year. We need to indicate that for the 2014\15 audit of the AFS and performance we have regressed from an unqualified opinion to a qualified one. The main areas that led to the qualification relate to debtors management, electricity distribution loss, misalignment of planned targets and reported targets in the SDBIP and annual performance report. Management has already developed a turnaround action plan to ensure an improved audit report for the 2015\16 financial year. the Audit Committee, which has been beefed by the appointment of two new audit committee members, will play a key role in this regard.

On a positive note the functionality of council and council committees has been sustained through the vigilant oversight by the office of the Speaker and Chief Whip. There is good work by the Whippers to facilitate the work of caucuses prior to sittings of all council committees.

LOCALECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Local Economy has been given a huge boost by the construction of the first modern retail centre in Alldays by the Gilfillan Family

Trust. This will bring the much needed commercial activity in this mining town and further contribute to job creation for local residents. A total of 175 temporary job opportunities have been created by the Municipality through the Expanded Public Works Programme, while the implementation of municipal capital works projects has to date created over 150 short term work opportunities. Community Works Programme and Rakibang Development Forum have cumulatively contributed over 1000 job safety net opportunities in the field of waste management, environmental management, education, health development to mention but a few. We appreciate the good relations the Municipality has with its five traditional leaders that culminated in the successful hosting of heritage and cultural celebrations for all traditional authorities...a first 100% achievement in the last six years! A full report is covered in subsequent columns of this edition. The promotion of our heritage and cultural activities cannot be concluded without mentioning the good work by son of the soil, Dr Tlou Setumu. Through Mark Herp CC with the support of the National Department of Arts and Culture, Dr Setumu has made it a point that cultural groups in the area are given the necessary recognition through Arts and Cultural music festivals across all wards of Blouberg. There is a special column on these initiatives in this edition.

On the other front, developments are underway to activate the construction of HACRA mine by Ironveld company with Harriet's Wish as the starting point for the mine's activities while a smelter will be constructed at Altona farm in the Mogalakwena Municipality to process raw materials from the HACRA mine. The prospecting activities for Platinum Group Metals at Lewaneng, Kgokonyane, Kgatlu and surrounding farms are at an advanced stage and it is envisaged a mining licence may be obtained soon. This will drastically culminate in the establishment of serious mining economies and settlements at Harriet's Wish and ultimately have rippling effect on the town of Senwabarwana. You just watch this space.

SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The pre-approved general plan for the township of Tolwe with about 212 erven has been submitted to the Surveyor-General for approval, thanks to the provincial Department

of Co-Operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. The township is currently a beneficiary of 50 low cost housing units out of a total of 300 units allocated for the Blouberg Municipality for the 2015\16 financial year. Other benefitting settlements include, inter alia, Kobe, Taaibosch, Dilaeneng, Terwischen and Puraspan. Contractors have been appointed and handed over to communities with planned completion being targeted for the end of March 2016.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

All the good plans and projects that the municipality has put in place for the current financial year and beyond cannot be accomplished if there is no strong fiscus to provide the necessary financial resources which are key enablers for the implementation of the IDP. It is against this background that council has adopted a financial turnaround plan that will also serve as a strong baseline for the budget adjustment in January 2016. The plan looks at maximizing all avenues of revenue generation while tightening the purse on the expenditure patterns of the municipality. A detailed report on this plan will get special attention and separate column in the next edition of this newsletter.

To further help the Municipality to attain full financial sustainability and viability the Municipality has successfully applied for financial technical support from the National Treasury. A seasoned and competent financial management practitioner, Mrs Sheila Phoshoko, has been appointed on a two year programme as Technical Advisor for the Blouberg Municipality and she has already conducted due diligence on the financial status of the municipality which has led to the identification of weaknesses and gaps that need to be addressed to give the municipality a clean bill of financial health. A support plan has been developed and approved by council.

The Municipal administration and leadership will go on full throttle to recover all debts owed to the Municipality from all categories of debtors, including government department. We encourage municipal customers to approach our billing office if they have issues pertaining to their bills that need to be resolved. By so doing we will be helping the municipality to render quality services in a sustainable manner.

Till we meet again.

DECLARATION OF THE 13TH ANNUAL WARD COMMITTEES' CONFERENCE HELD FROM THE 09TH – 11TH OCTOBER 2015 AT ELEPHANT SPRINGS HOTEL AND CABANAS



Blouberg Local Municipality Speaker; Cllr. Maria Thamaga.

We, the people of Blouberg gathered at Elephant Springs Hotel in Bela Bela from the 09th - 11th November 2015 under the theme: "Back to Basics - Participatory democracy remains the key towards provision of sustainable basic services", as Councillors, members of Ward Committees, representatives from Sister Municipalities within the Capricorn District, Magoshi, CDWs from our 21 wards across the municipality, Senior Managers as well as other officials inclusive of those from sector departments and parastatals.

PLEDGES BY TRADITIONAL LEADERS

We further recognise and appreciate pledges and the presence of all traditional authorities from around the municipal spectrum namely: Babirwa; Seakamela; Bahananoa; Makgato and Kibi Traditional Authorities.

APPRECIATING MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FROM:

1. Capricorn District Municipality;
2. Aganang Local Municipality;
3. Molemole Local Municipality

NOTING:

1. Progress reported in respect of the 12th Annual Ward Committees' Conference Resolutions
2. The Overview and Performance report on Ward Committees;
3. Review of the Ward Committees Constitution and Code of Conduct;
4. Presentation on Electricity by ESKOM;
5. Presentation on Water and Sanitation by Capricorn District Municipality;
6. Presentation on Housing by the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA);
7. Presentation on capital projects by Blouberg Local Municipality's Department of Technical Services, on Local Economic Development by the Department of Economic Development and Planning and on

Community Safety Strategy by the Department of Community Services;

8. Annual Status Quo Reports on the performance of Ward Committees for the 2013/14 financial year.

BELIEVING THAT:

1. Going back to basics would assist in the speedy delivery of sustainable basic services;
2. Targets not met/resolutions not implemented in respect of the 12th Annual Ward Committees' Conference declaration could still be achieved/implemented;
3. More could be achieved though removal of the silo mentality among different departments and council committees;
4. Traditional councils were masterstrokes and hold significant authority which warranted full respect of the institutions;
5. Community Liaison Officer (CLO) positions were to some extent perceived to be entitlements for some ward committee members;
6. There was a dire need to develop and support local emerging contractors and SMMEs;
7. More could be done in the effort towards alleviation of housing shortages and challenges across the length and breadth of the municipality;
8. The electricity challenges emanating from vandalism of infrastructure and illegal connections can be arrested;
9. Uncertainties relating to water and sanitation projects by the Capricorn District

The 13th Annual ward committees conference in pictures



Municipality due to poor communication or lack thereof;

10. Illegal connections were still running rampant in our communities;

11. Reviewing of the ward committees' constitution and code of conduct would move our ward committee system and participatory democracy trajectory to even greater heights;

12. Additional training of ward committees will further enhance their skills in discharging their daily functions.

RESOLVED TO:

1. Encourage all concerned to revert back to the original and most basic way of doing things;
2. Ensure that targets/resolutions not achieved/implemented be deferred to the current financial;
3. Work towards complete synergy within different departments and committees by holding regular meetings aimed at addressing any impending disjuncture;
4. Councillors, ward committees as well

as CDWs needed to touch base with their respective traditional authorities in case of upcoming projects and/or any other important engagements;

5. Community Liaison Officer (CLO) positions would henceforth be occupied interchangeably as opposed to the previous set up where they were meant for a few under whose watch projects were implemented;

6. Ensure deliberate bias towards local emerging contractors and SMMEs who would also be encouraged to pursue the joint venture route in an effort to raise their profiles and ensure that they amass the necessary expertise and improve their grades;

7. Submit the list entailing the number of houses required from the municipality as per the Housing Charter as well as blocked and incomplete ones to the Department of CoGHSTA for their immediate intervention;

8. Work in tandem with members of the broader community and police services to ensure resolution and possible prosecution of such perpetrators while also reporting same to the electricity authority;

9. Request the Capricorn District Municipality to make available the abridged version of their IDP/Budget entailing all projects intended for the Blouberg local Municipality;

10. Encourage the Capricorn District Municipality, along with the local municipality to make available by laws and run campaigns aimed at deterring community members from illegal water connections.

11. Effect the changes to the ward committee constitution and those that relate particularly to the code of conduct be immediately applicable upon approval by council;

12. Enlist the Capricorn District Municipality to provide additional training for ward committees and funds permitting have all of them trained seeing it was the last year of their term.

BLOUBERG MUNICIPALITY CELEBRATES HERITAGE MONTH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES



Blouberg Municipality Speaker Cllr Maria Thamaga addressing Kgoshi Mamadi' subjects during Babirwa ba Mamadi Heritage Day celebration

South Africa celebrates heritage and Tourism month on annual basis during September month. This year the Blouberg Municipality joined the nation in celebrating heritage month in partnership with Magoshi. This year South Africa celebrated heritage/tourism month under the theme "A BILLION TOURISTS, A BILLION OPPORTUNITES".

According to the department of Tourism the 2014/15 Financial Year one billion tourists visited our country and a lot of job opportunities were created. International tourists visited South Africa in 2014 grew by 4.3% to 1.133 billion hence a "Billion Tourists, a billion opportunities. Within these 1 billion tourists some of them visited Blouberg heritage sites located at Thabana-nhlana, Blouberg Mountain and other heritage attractions around Blouberg area. According to Blouberg Municipality Tourism and Marketing Officer Mr Jonas Tlouamma Blouberg residents in general do not visit the tourism attractions.

The Municipality has set aside R125 000, 00 to support the traditional Authorities to celebrate heritage month at their respective authorities. Each Traditional Council receives R25 000, 00 for the heritage event. This is also part of making awareness to local communities to preserve heritage. During the official launch of Tourism month 2015 at Euphoria Golf Estate, Limpopo Province, the Minister of Tourism indicated that tourism; culture and heritage tourism in particular, brings people together and promotes mutual understanding and a sense of common humanity irrespective of their diverse cultures and traditions. In the respect the municipality donated R125 000, 00 to local traditional authorities so that they celebrate their heritage together with government.

Giving the message of support on behalf of the Mayor, Cllr Sammy Selamolela during of the heritage month celebration at Ga- Mamadi (17 October 2015) Speaker Cllr Maria Thamaga said the municipality pride itself with the relationship created with the five local Traditional Authorities to promote heritage.

The Mayor meets Traditional Authorities through Mayor/Magoshi meeting where Mogoshi favoured with progress in respect of projects implemented by the Municipality and other partners in service delivery e.g. Venetia mine and government departments. Cllr Thamags said "as local government we are making sure that our Traditional Authorities participate in the affairs of Local Municipality through this arrangement.

Our priority number on our IDP document is "Local Economic Development and Partnership, So all stakeholders are key to service delivery as long as they partner with us with mutual interest".

The municipality has forged a partnership with Wits University to assist us with tourism programmes. In 2014/15 financial year, Wits appointed seven Heritage Collectors to research on the history of our Traditional Authorities. The information collected will be packaged and placed at the Senwabarwana Tourism Information Centre for public consumption especially Researchers and learners.

Part of our programme is that we visit local schools to conscientize learners about the significant of heritage and also to encourage them to learn more about their origin and history. We challenge schools to participate in heritage celebrations and also host heritage day at their schools.

We appreciate the Mamadi Traditional Authority for hosting this event as it means a lot to communities as well as government. The municipality celebrated with Seakamela Traditional Authority on the 19th September 2015, Kibi on the 29th September 2015 and Bahananwa Tribal Authority on the 3rd October 2015. and Makgato on the

The municipality support your initiative and continue promoting and preserving our heritage and instill a culture of discipline to those who destroy it.



SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2016 GOVERNANCE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Council	28		28		26		26			26		
EXCO	21	26	17	21	19	28	19	25	27	20	24	08
P.Cs	14	19	10	14	12	16	14	18	15	13	17	05
PPP	16			01			01			04		
EDC	21			04			07			04		
Women Caucus	19			13			08			12		
MPAC	14	19	10	14	12	15	14	18	16	13	17	01
W.Cs		05-12		04-11		01-10		09-16		03-10		01-08
MMF			01			07			06			08
CMF	11-29			11-29			12-30			17-28		
MCF			04			01			01			09
IPRF	15			14			15					
WCF								26-28				
LLF	10	16	09	12	10	07	14	16	13	11	15	06
LUM	06	01	08	06	05	06	06	01	06	07	04	05
Energy Forum		04			07			03			07	
Housing Forum		04			04			03			07	
CSF		05			05			04			01	
Transport Forum		05			05			04			01	
DMF		08			06			05			02	
WMF		08			06			05			02	
LEDF		01			02			01			01	
Tourism Forum		11			03			10			04	
LCF		11			03			10			04	
WPM		13-21			07-19			12-24			07-16	

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



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