

## January to March 2015 Newsletter article

### Audit opinion

We are continuing to relate a good story to become a history, but to us it does not mean living in the past but it means dwelling with a history side by side. The story is told and the history is narrated but living a legacy behind is much better than living a story that will one day become a history. For a legacy is always a good story but for history is not always a good story to tell or share. We vehemently would like to pay homage to the speech of our president J.G Zuma who at one stage proclaimed that **“We have a good story to tell”** and indeed Blouberg has a good story to tell. Our good story is that our Municipality has for the first time in our history moved from a very unsound financial opinion to an unqualified opinion. The said opinion has put us amongst the six municipalities in the province who did well in terms of financial accountability. We took our strength from Manoj Arora who said **“To achieve what 1% of the worlds population has, you must be willing to do what only 1% dare to do.. Hard work and perseverance of higher order”** and indeed we persevered since the birth of our municipality. We will remain focused to prove our critics wrong until the lives of our people change to the better. All the above efforts will not be enough until we are able to circumvent the scourge of unemployment and under development in our Municipality. In the year under review we held a very successful youth summit addressing issues of unemployment and education and training. We have so far since the last summit solicited at least few job opportunities within the Venetia underground project and our own capital project. We have enlisted a sizeable number of our youth to the training opportunities in various SETA’s to make them ready for the job market. We take this opportunity once more to encourage our grade 12 learners to consider taking mining fields when applying at higher institutions to match the demands.

### Annual report, IDP & Budget process plan

In terms of Section 72(1) of MFMA a Municipality is expected to assess its performance as of 31<sup>st</sup> December and submit a report on the assessment to provincial treasury and national treasury. In juxtaposition consider an adjustments budget if necessary and review of the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan. Blouberg Municipality like any other municipality in the country has underwent that litmus tests and we report that all has been done to date as enshrined in the act. We have generated the annual report as per the dictates of the above act and it will be posted on our website as per MFMA 75 (1),(C) and be taken to our communities by MPAC for public participation. We will be crisscrossing the length and breadth of our municipality and touching base with every community member in every ward in preparation of our budget and IDP. Such meetings need our people to attend in huge numbers to contribute in

building Blouberg Municipality and maintaining the status of best model participatory Municipality.

### **Our new city development concept**

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

### **Batho Pele Games**

We hosted the most highly attended fanfare Batho Pele games event for the whole three days duration. Indeed we followed the Latin phrase that echoed **"mens Sana in corpore sano"** literally meaning a healthy mind in a healthy body. The games were elevated as well by the masters' games which produced a humdinger performance with the sole intention of striving for a healthy body in support of a healthy mind. The said games were just a marvel to watch from the 28<sup>th</sup> till 30<sup>th</sup> December, we could not afford to waste a minute away from the games. We take this opportunity to applaud all teams that participated in our 2014 Batho Pele Games edition for been so highly disciplined for the entire duration of the tournament. You guys made us proud. We give special bravo to the winners of the 2014 edition of Batho Pele Games, The Dolphins. We are proud to announce that this team is representing us in the Vodacom League and we would like to wish them well this season.

As for the ladies we as well applaud Eldorado Ladies for emerging as champions for the tournament. It is worth appreciating the efforts of Mr. Laka (Kgatlu Ward 1), Mr. Lephallala

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

We would as well take this opportunity to thank the Events Management Team of Blouberg Municipality for been there at all times to circumvent all hindrances with a potential to make the event a flop. You guys as always played a very important role for the games to play to the finish, bravo unto you all. We would not agree less that sports remains a catalyst for social cohesion and economic development. We believe the crime rate during the time of the event in Eldorado policing area and beyond might have been low although it remains empirical but we so hope.

### **Back to school campaign**

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

because their children have a potential to change their living conditions to the better. It is just a matter of commitment on the part of parents to avail themselves whenever there is a call from the SGB and any education related gatherings.

During our back to school campaign, we visited a sample of schools and we came to realize that parents are somehow reluctant to take charge of education of their children. Through education we can be able to combat crime, drug abuse and other societal ills that are damaging the future of our children. We as well applaud residents of Blouberg for not having involved our learners into their uprisings during the year because that might have impacted negatively like it did in some parts of our country. That stance tells a lot on how the people of Blouberg value education as the apex priority of our government. We will do injustice if we do not applaud our teachers who heeded to the call of President J.G Zuma, who at one stage said **“teachers must always be in class teaching”**. Such talks maybe rhetoric to some but they mean a lot to those who listened to act as expressed. To the class of 2015, you have a foundation and it is for you to raise the bar beyond what was achieved by your predecessors. It is for you to start a new chapter, set your goals and keep to your study programme. It is only for a year and it takes only a year to either make it or break it.

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

### **Best New Year wishes**

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

### **Good Friday message**

The Easter Season is beckoning us and we take this opportunity to wish all of our people a precious and marvelous Good Friday. We say unto you the symbolic language of crucifixion is the death of the old paradigm; resurrection is a leap into a whole new way of thinking. Easter

tells us of something we can't understand, because it addresses things we don't yet have to know: the weariness of life, the pain, the profound loneliness and hovering fear of meaninglessness. Yet it is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal and new life.

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