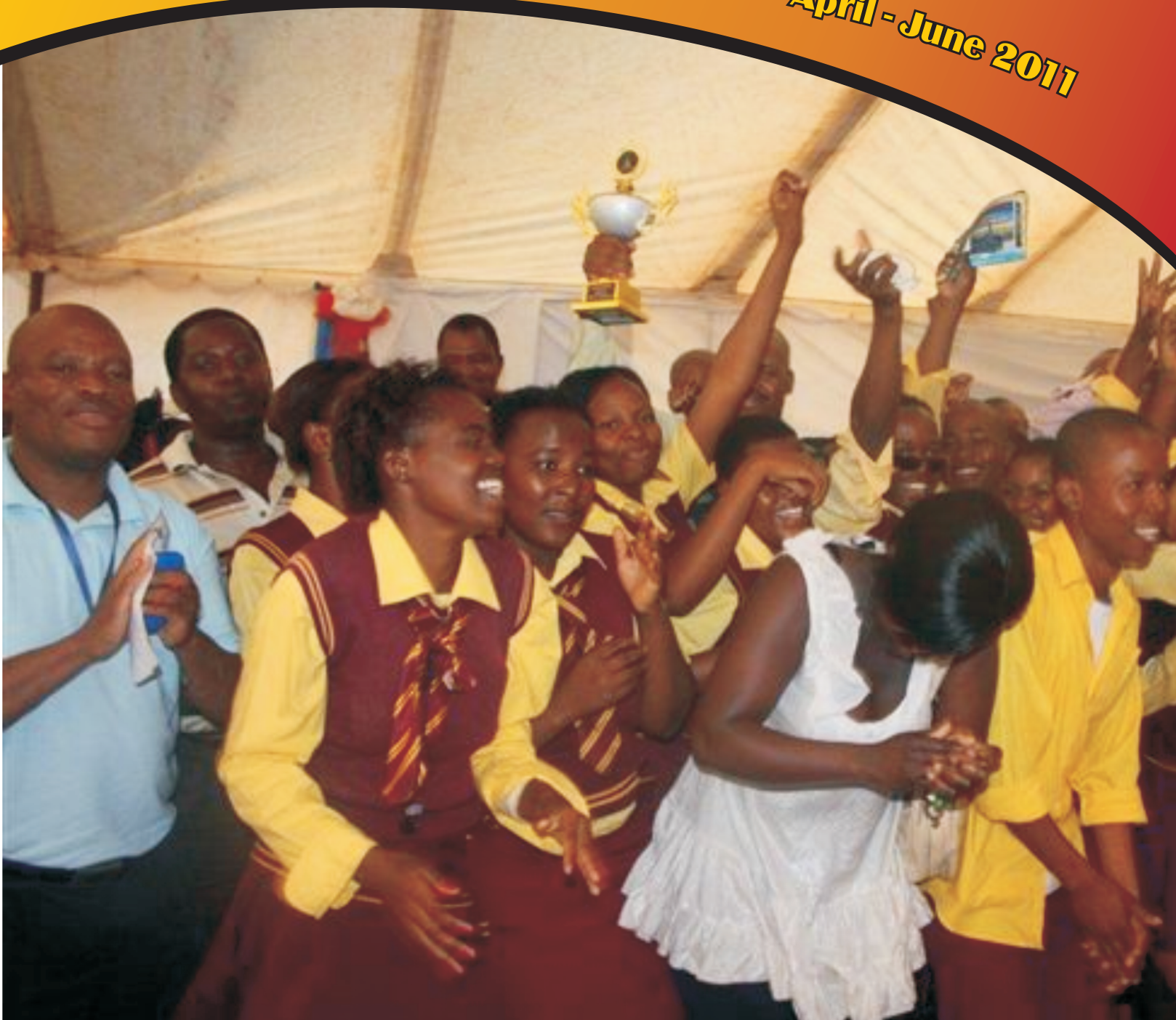




# Blouberg News

*"Fetisa Molaetsa"*

April - June 2011



## EDITORIAL TEAM

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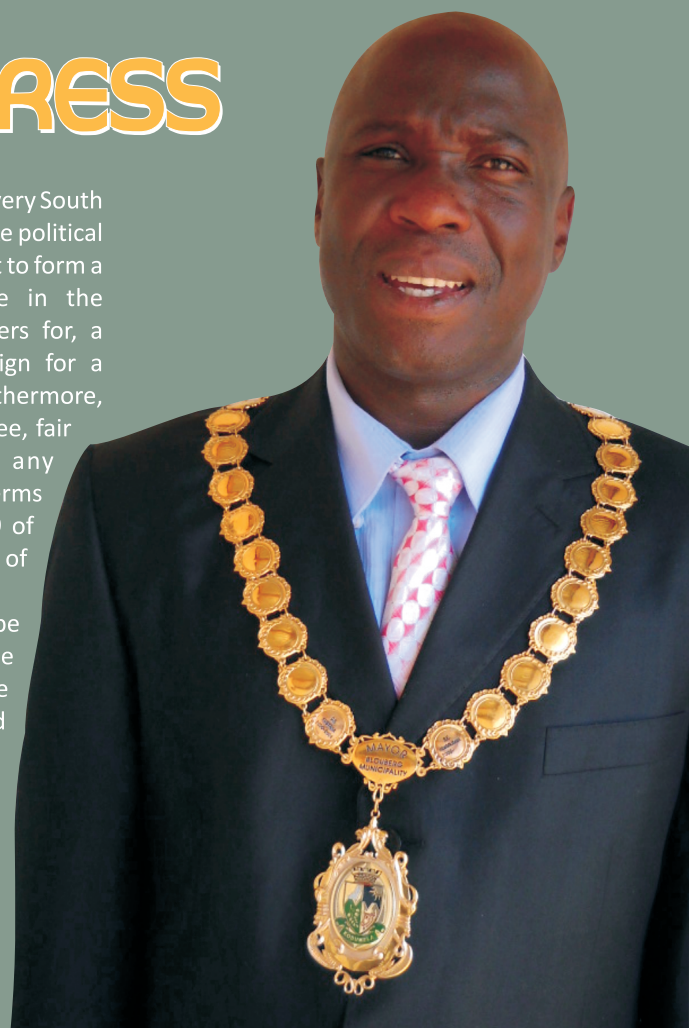
# THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The 18th May 2011 is upon us. It is another momentous day in the history of our young democracy. On this day all eligible revolutionaries will invade the polling stations throughout the country to point out who should govern their local affairs in the next five years. The duty to actively participate in these third local government elections needs no further emphasis. We said over and over again that too many lives and time have been invested into bringing about our democratic dispensation in which people decide every five years who should lead them. No responsible citizen should find reason not to take an active part in the election because "They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety" (Benjamin Franklin). There is evidence aplenty today that no other governance system is fair and just for the majority of citizens. There are upheavals throughout the world and Africa in particular against life time leaderships and dictatorships. Their common denominator is that ordinary citizens are demanding the right to decide who should govern them. We have achieved that right and now we should jealously defend it by participating in the elections in large numbers to ensure the legitimacy of the ensuing government. We must ensure that elections are free and fair so that bad losers would find no excuse to complain. The crises that marred elections in Kenya; Zimbabwe; Ivory Coast, etc. are a result of dishonesty; greed; intolerance; lack of fairness; and a plethora of other shenanigans which should be avoided at

all cost by all of us in Blouberg. Every South African citizen has a right to make political choices, which includes the right to form a political party; to participate in the activities of, or recruit members for, a political party; and to campaign for a political party or cause. Furthermore, every citizen has the right to free, fair and regular elections for any legislative body established in terms of the Constitution (Section 19 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa).

After the elections there shall be life no matter who wins. The needs of the majority of the people of South Africa, and Blouberg Municipality in particular, would still be the same. Universal access to basic services; employment opportunities; decent housing; safety and security; and participatory democracy would be among the priorities that need to be achieved in the next five years. Much ground has been achieved in the last five years but there is still much to be done. To that effect, President Jacob Zuma has made a clarion call for a "faster change." One thing certain is that "when the drumbeat changes, the dance changes," (Nigeria, Hausa), lest there is disharmony and obviously the need to rest the dancer. The drumbeat has changed for every councilor and municipal officials.

Indeed the last five years have favoured us with the experience and capacity that allow the Municipality to engage the next



**Councillor Serite Sekgoloane - Mayor.**

gear for faster service delivery. All our settlements, bar the extensions, have now been electrified, releasing substantial resources to tackling the backlogs in the other areas of basic services. Having met all our communities during the IDP public participation meetings from the 7th to 18th March 2011, we know the Municipality's top most priorities. Water and roads top the list. We have had the First Water Summit involving all the local stakeholders and agreed that almost all villages have water infrastructure, most of which, unfortunately, is damaged by self serving individuals in the community. We have also agreed that water by – laws be implemented forthwith without fear or favour. We have established three road maintenance teams stationed at Indermark; Buffelshoek and Eldorado respectively, to make sure that our roads get daily make up. There have been some teething problems in implementing these revolutionary initiatives. One thing is certain, when implementation goes full throttle everybody will rejoice.



**Once more the people have spoken on what needs to be done in the next five years.**



# ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

**N**ot once, not twice, but repeatedly we committed to turn around the financial management and position of the Municipality. It is top most on our agenda. By the way, we have finally pulled out of the ignominy of disclaimers to a qualified opinion of the Auditor General. One of the Auditor General's basis for his qualified opinion is that some plants (property, plant and equipment) could not be properly accounted for while his emphasis of matter includes the fact that the Audit Committee and internal audit did not adequately fulfill their responsibilities per the requirements of section 166 (2) and 165 (2) of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA). A turn around plan is in place. We are already firing on all cylinders. On the 3rd February 2011 we launched our new Audit Committee and on the 1st of March 2011 our new Internal Auditor assumed office. We are in the process of recruiting a qualified Assets

Officer who should assume office before the beginning of our new financial year, 2011/2012. Members of the Audit Committee include a Chartered Accountant (Mr Vonani Mathebula); an Attorney (Mr Dickson Phukubye); and an audit expert who happens to be the Chairperson; Mr Obed Thenga (B.Com; B.Com(Honours); Certified Government Auditing Professional) who is currently the Chief Director : Internal Auditing for the South African Police Service (Pretoria). The Mayor, Clr Serite Sekgoloane, said at the launch that he was impressed with the credentials of the Audit Committee members and hopeful for a clean audit report before the compulsory date of 2014. He pledged Council support for the Committee. Internal auditing is "an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisations's operations," and in the process "it helps the organization accomplish its



Mr K.E. Machovani - Acting Municipal Manager.

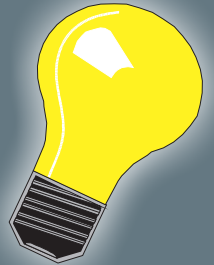


Part of the multitudes who came to the Kromhoek Community Hall to receive and interact with the 2009/2010 Annual Report.

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# GA-NAILANA RESIDENTS FINALLY GET THEIR ELECTRICITY



Acting Mayor on the day, Cllr Matee Seduma, sharing the historic moment with the Ga-Nailana residents.

The lives of the people of Ga-Nailana village in Ward 14 have been changed for the better as Blouberg Municipality continues with its mandate of delivering basic services to its people. The battle between the service providers couldn't stop the Municipality from providing electricity to this village. Ga-Nailana electrification project was marred by controversy resulting in work stoppage

for some time due to differences between the engineer and the contractor, forcing the Mayor to step in to make sure that nothing hinders service delivery.

The quarterly October 2010 ordinary council meeting of the Municipality was then organised at Ga - Nailana for the Council to clarify the community about the status of the project. The Mayor pleaded with the residents for patience as new service provider had been appointed to carry on with the project. He told the residents that the project would be completed in two months time. And indeed two months later the Municipality officially switched-on the project on 21 January 2011. Jubilation was the order of the day as residents bid farewell to the darkness and say hello to bright nights.

Excited residents told Blouberg News that gone are the days when they had to walk

long distances to the neighbouring villages to have their cell phones charged and watch television. Learners say studying will now be easy compared to when

they had to use candles and paraffin lamps, which were not user friendly. 'With electricity being provided to them maybe we will see improvement in their matric results,' the Programme Director of the day, Cllr Seleka Ratladi, said jokingly.

The Municipality's target of electrifying all its settlements by 2010/11 financial year will soon become a reality as few remaining villages are being electrified. Residents of Mochemi, Mashamaite, Hlako and Morale have had the same joy earlier as their villages were energised.

Giving a keynote address on behalf the Mayor, the Technical Services Portfolio Committee chairperson, Cllr Matee Seduma, told residents that water remained a headache for the Municipality due to broken water pump machines and other equipment. He said with the allocation of Operation and Maintenance budget provided by the Capricorn District, the Municipality will prioritise villages that are in dire need. He said the Municipality will continue delivering water using mobile tankers to the villages most affected by water problem.

Residents were advised not to temper with electricity metre boxes as they risked having their electricity disconnected and heavy fines being imposed. Municipal Speaker, Cllr Maria Thamaga, handed over electrical appliances (stove, iron, and kettle) to the Seanego family (where symbolic switch on was conducted) on behalf of the Mayor.



The moves that defined the feeling of the village as Ga-Nailana Electrification Project was switched on.

## Tips on saving electricity

- Reduce the temperature of your geyser to around 55 degrees so that you don't need to add too much cold water when you shower or do the dishes.
- Remember to keep the lid on the pot when you cook to conserve heat and energy. The size of the pot should match the size of the stove plate - this can save you up to 25% on the electricity you use while cooking.
- Close the windows and doors when the heater is on and save money!
- Close the door every time you take things out of the fridge and also check that it seals properly.
- Soak beans, samp and other related dry food over night. This will save time, money and several hours of cooking.
- Try to boil only the water you need instead of boiling a full pot or kettle every time.
- Insulate your geyser by wrapping newspapers, old blankets or other insulating materials around it and the hot water pipes.
- Switch off lights, fans, computers and other energy consuming appliances when you leave the room. It will save you money



# THE SPEAKER SPEAKS

In one of the 2011/2012 IDP/Budget public participation meetings a member of the community suggested that we shouldn't be consulting with them because their needs had been repeatedly voiced out in previous meetings. He said that all that communities were asking for, before any other thing, were water, roads and electricity. In his Keynote Address the Mayor provides progress and plans regarding provision of these fundamental needs. The beauty of this statement for us in charge of public participation is that it is an acknowledgement of the Municipality's accountability and consultation track record. Over the years Blouberg Municipality has prided itself in its public participation prowess. We have always believed that you cannot shave a man in his absence. It is important that community consultation be understood as a municipal service in the same way as we consider the provision of water; electricity and road maintenance services. Local government has five Constitutional objects (Section 152), viz

- (a) **To provide democratic and accountable government for local communities;**
- (b) To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner;
- (c) To promote social and economic development;
- (d) To promote a safe and healthy environment; and
- (e) **To encourage the involvement of communities and community organizations in the matters of local government.**

The highlighted objects, (a) and (e), are our point in issue. We are not expected to consult or meet with our communities



Councillor Maria Thamaga - Speaker

only when we have funds and want to launch a project. Neither are we expected to involve our communities only when we develop our IDP/Budget. We are enjoined to show up in our communities in good or bad times. Our Constitutional mandate is to involve and account to our communities in every step of the way. This is to ensure that elected leaders remain servants of and grounded in their communities. Otherwise communities would become important only when it comes to catapulting individuals into higher offices and be abandoned thereafter as Brutus suspects of Julius Caesar in William Shakespeare's Play, Julius Caesar :

*"But 'tis common proof (that) lowliness is young ambition's ladder,  
Whereto the climber – upward turns his face;*

*But when he once attains the upmost round, (he) then unto the ladder turns his back,*

*Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees (by) which he did ascend."*

We have done much towards the achievement of the above Constitutional mandates in the last five years. The last edition of the Blouberg News (January – March 2011) provides detailed information in this regard. We have functional participatory policies and platforms such ward committees; Mayor/Magoshi Forum; Energy Forum; Land Use Management Forum; Disaster Management Forum; Waste Management Forum; Local Economic Development Forum; Council and Executive Committee Outreach Programmes. Having come thus far, we know what needs to be spiced up to enhance participatory democracy. Among the many aces up our sleeves is to empower and resource ward committees and communities to ensure their effective participation in Council's decision making processes.



Pictures don't lie. We have always interacted with our communities.



# BLOUBERG LAUNCHES TUBERCULOSIS CAMPAIGN



Local traditional healers came out in their numbers to support Government in its initiatives to stop TB. Posing with them is Cllr William Moshuhla (green shirt).

Home Based Carers, Councillors, community members and NGO's came in large number to learn about Tuberculosis (TB), one of the major health challenges facing the country. Launched on the 9th of March 2011 at Eldorado Sports Complex in Eldorado, the TB campaign is aimed at raising awareness about TB to the rural communities. World TB Day is commemorated throughout the world every year on the 24th of March. The disease is said to be contagious and spreads because of the difficult social conditions under which people live. These poverty related challenges which government is determined to address include poor nutrition and inadequate housing.

TB volunteers staged a play dramatizing, among others, the importance of completing TB treatment.

Giving a keynote address, the Chairperson for Community Services Portfolio Committee, Cllr William Mushuhla, said the campaign is intended to make people aware of the seriousness of TB. He said TB can be cured as long as patients adhere to the TB treatment procedures including completing the six months treatment. He mentioned that by working together volunteers, traditional leaders and other relevant stakeholders, awareness about the dreaded disease can be able to reach every community member.

Signs of TB include coughing for more than two weeks; coughing up sputum and later

blood; loss of appetite; chest pains; feeling of tiredness or weakness of the whole body; night sweats and shortness of breath. He urged people to immediately visit the clinic or doctor if they have any of these signs.

The Department of Health's goal is to ensure that TB cases are detected and treated as early as possible to boost treatment success. According to the Department, the main challenge surrounding the disease remains the patients' failure to complete treatment, which leads to the development of drug resistant TB – which is more difficult and expensive to treat.

## LEPHALALA SECURITY SERVICES



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## LEPHALALA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE



# BLOUBERG MUNICIPALITY PRIORITISES EDUCATION

**L**ong walk to education is history to over 150 learners in schools across Blouberg Municipality. This is after the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Councillor Serite Sekgoloane, handed over 150 bicycles in January 2011 as part of the back to school campaign. As the schools opened for the 2011 academic year, Councillor Sekgoloane and his entourage comprising Executive Committee members; Manager of Bahananwa Circuit, Mr Kgabo Mothemane; and municipal officials joined the nation in the back to school campaign, delivering messages of support to schools; congratulating best performing schools and encouraging those who failed not to give up and to hand over bicycles to the disadvantaged learners. *Shova ka Lula*, an initiative by the Department of Roads and Transport is aimed at providing affordable mode of transport to those disadvantaged pupils who walk long distances to access the nearest school.

Joy was the order of the day at Sekhung Combined school where the Mayor handed over bicycles to 25 learners. Sekhung Combined is a farm school situated in the farming area of Tolwe. Most of the learners at this school are farm dwellers and their parents struggle to make ends meet. These learners were previously forced to walk long distances to be educated.

Mabea High school in Burgerrecht is one of those schools that also caters for far flung villages such as Ga – Maphoto; Mmotlana; and Mokoena. 90 bicycles were donated. The School Manager, Mr Solly Morudu, thanked the Municipality for having identified his school as beneficiaries of the project saying most of their learners were from poor backgrounds and deserved Government support to survive in the education system.

Another 35 bicycles were handed over to the learners at Matsiokwane High school in Mukhurumela village. The Mayor and the team's first stop of delivering messages of support was at Mmatsetsela High School at Pax village. Mmatsetsela is the best performing school (qualitatively) for 2010 matric results in



Mayor Sekgoloane (black suit) hands over bicycles to the happy kids at Sekhung Combined School.

the Bahananwa Circuit with 14 bachelors. The school made a surprise u - turn following a drop in 2009, thus earning an award during the Bahananwa Circuit Excellence Awards on 15 March 2011 along Kola Leboho and Ntsose as the most improved schools. Mr Mothemane said they are proud of Mmatsetsela for putting Bahananwa Circuit on the map. He urged 2011 grade 12 learners to remain focused and determined as everyone has the ability and capacity to pass matric. He advised learners to seek financial assistance from different institution including Blouberg Municipality to further their studies. He thanked the Mayor for his unwavering support in educational activities. Delivering the keynote address, Councillor Sekgoloane reiterated that there are no shortcuts to success and that only education can enable people to have better life and alleviate poverty. He told learners that to have a decent job one has to be educated. He advised learners to study hard, seek assistance from their educators and remain focused on their goals. Councillor Sekgoloane congratulated the class of 2010 for making Blouberg proud in

education and encouraged those who didn't make it never to despair. Mr Mashudu Godzwana, an HOD at Mmatsetsela School, attributed their improvement to hard work and right strategies. According to Mr Godzwana Mmatsetsela matriculants were registered with Bokamoso School of Technology (BOSTEC) for extra lessons at the weekends and school holidays. They also took an extra effort by attending morning and evening lessons. The school also hosted winter school programmes for all schools in the Bahananwa circuit. Kola Leboho High School at Mokoena Maswikeng was another school visited by the Mayor as part of the back to school campaign. Last year Kola Leboho registered 9 learners for National Senior Certificate. All but one learner passed, catapulting the School to the summit of



Mayor Sekgoloane (2nd from right - back row) with part of Mmatsetsela staff.

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Continued from page 7

the best performing schools in the Bahananwa Circuit. The Mayor praised the school manager, Ms Monyemangena, for achieving the best

results despite the lack of proper educational facilities at the school. Currently Blouberg Municipality has six learners enrolled at tertiary institutions

through the Mayor's Bursary Fund with many more having completed their studies and now working. The current beneficiaries are as follows :



Mr. Mathemane (black suit) giving motivational talk to Kola Leboho learners. With him is Mayor Sekgoloane (white shirt); Cllr Adeline Morapedi (left) and Ms. Monyemangena (right), the school principal.

| Beneficiary       | Course of Study                         | Institution                      | Progress    |
|-------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Rammutla Collen   | Bachelor of Pharmacy                    | University of Limpopo            | Final Year  |
| Rabumbulu Hermina | ND : Civil Engineering                  | Tshwane University of Technology | Final Year  |
| Sebola Milton     | Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning | University of Venda              | Third Year  |
| Molele Arthur     | Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning | University of Venda              | Final Year  |
| Malete Praise     | ND : Civil Engineering                  | Vaal University of Technology    | Final Year  |
| Mashilo Maphuti   | MBChB                                   | University of Cape Town          | Second Year |

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# MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO

A major study conducted by the Social Issues Research Centre (SIRC), commissioned by Hudson, the United Kingdom based professional services recruitment and talent management consultancy, on the IMPACT OF SPORT ON THE WORK PLACE revealed that sport and conversations between staff and managers, men and women can have a positive impact on boosting morale and improving the mood, motivation and productivity in the working environment, hence the idea of Blouberg Inter Departmental Football League came into existence.

Following his appointment Mr Bethuel Mabeso, a seasoned football administrator, was quick to prove his capability and excellence in the world of sport. Mr Mabeso is SAFA Deputy President for Capricorn Region. Within weeks of his appointment he proved his mettle with the launching of Blouberg Inter Departmental Football League and the successful hosting of OR Tambo Games comprising of six clusters from all corners of Blouberg.

The Inter Departmental League comprises of government institutions in the Blouberg and some part of the

neighbouring Molemole Municipality, namely Blouberg Municipality; Senwabarwana SAPS; Helene Franz Hospital; Maleboho SAPS; Alldays SAPS; Department of Public Works; Department of Education; Educators (SADTU); Department of Roads & Transport and Mogwadi SAPS. The initiative is inspired by the adage "*Mens sana in corpore sano*" (a sound mind in a healthy body).

The League was launched on the 2nd March by the Blouberg Mayor, Councillor Serite Sekgoloane, a sport fanatic himself. The Mayor reiterated the Municipality's passion for sport which it believes has a critical role to play in fighting unemployment; crime; and diseases. He applauded the grannies of Marobyane and Witten who have started their own football teams to keep fit and healthy and called upon grand mothers and grand fathers through out the Municipality to follow suit. "To the youth out there look no further than Punch Masenamela of Kaizer Chiefs and Tefo Mashamaite of BidVest Wits, our local icons, and you'll agree that your talent can be your employer. We have no reason to blame our rural and poor background" said the Mayor.

According to Mr Mabeso through sport the employees and employers can learn valuable lessons in sport; the value of working as a team; the importance of work commitment; the importance of collective responsibility; dedication and creative thinking. He maintained that it is not just a set piece sporting events that trigger such responses amongst employees day in and day out, "talking sport is a way of breaking down barriers, enhance creativity and promote sharing of ideas. This programme will on the other hand also motivate the community to take part in sport," he concluded.

Participants praised the initiative saying it will help them shape up and burst stress. While others maintained that it will encourage team work and allow them to interact with one another. Matches will be rotating from one institution to another until July 2011. At the time of going to print, the mighty Blouberg Municipality were the log leaders with six points; seven goals for and one goal against, after two games. Maleboho SAPS were facing relegation at the bottom end of the log with no point.



Mr. Mabeso (left) poses with one of the many ladies' teams he is helping establish throughout the Municipality.



# SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON MEC MEETS TOLWE RESIDENTS



People came in their numbers.



Everyone was given a chance to raise their concerns.



The leadership, Clr Ratladi; MEC Magadzi and Lt General Mashego provided on-spot responses.

**M**en and women in blue including Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant – General Amon Mashego, accompanied former Security, Safety and Liaison MEC Dikeledi Magadzi to meet the residents of Tolwe following negative media reports where black community members accused Tolwe Police Station of racism. Before meeting the community the MEC had a briefing session with the Executive Committee members of Blouberg Municipality, Provincial Police Commissioner, Tolwe Station Commander and other important stakeholders to discuss the status quo of the station.

Tolwe is situated approximately 100km from Senwabarwana town. Most people here work and stay on farms. Community members came in large number to present their dissatisfaction over Tolwe police and to listen to the plans the MEC has in place to rescue the situation. People from the surrounding farms like Maastrom, Baltimore, Swartwater and others were ferried by busses to also meet the MEC.

When given platform to raise their problems most people pointed out racism as the sickness that needed urgent cure. Residents told the MEC that cases including the schedule 6 crimes (that are regarded as serious crimes like murder) reported by black people are usually struck off the roll without being investigated. They claimed that police drag their feet where cases are reported by black people and act swiftly where white people are involved. Some residents told the MEC that they fear for their lives as criminals walk free without being apprehended despite tip-offs by the community members. They requested to have the Community Policing Forum (CPF) that will comprise balanced number of both black and white.

Responding on behalf of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) Mr Lesetja Manamela said dissatisfied residents have the right to request the case numbers and forward them to the NPA for investigations.

Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant- General Mashego, urged community members not to report cases and later drop them as this makes the police work very difficult. He called on all the Station Commanders from all Waterberg Cluster to dish out their numbers for the community members to contact them whenever they feel short changed. He also gave out his mobile number and that of his deputy as the last resort for the community members to report any dissatisfaction.

Responding to the community concerns MEC Magadzi told people that Tolwe used to be one of the best Police Stations in the Province and that her Department would make sure that the station reclaims its status. The MEC was disturbed by a concern raised by one woman about dangerous criminals who roam around without being arrested who pose danger to the community, more especially to school going kids. “Crime prevention is for everyone, let us work together to create a crime free environment, police must do their job, police must act whenever they receive tip-offs from the community,” Magadzi said. She said crime has no colour and people should be treated equally and fairly. She ordered the restructuring of Tolwe CPF to comprise of both black and white as crime knows no colour. She undertook to investigate the unattended cases.

On behalf of Blouberg Municipality Clr Seleka Ratladi told the MEC that the Municipality will resume with the registration processes for the RDP houses to be constructed in Tolwe. He said the Municipality donated bicycles to learners at Sekhung combined school who have been walking long distance to school. The municipality currently delivers water to farm dwellers. He told residents to register their service delivery problems to their acting Ward Councillor, Clr William Mushuhla and Tolwe Satellite Manager, Mr Domola Moleya whom he introduced to the community members.



# BAHANANWA CIRCUIT EXCELLS IN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

In their quest to produce results that every stakeholder can be proud of, the Bahananwa Circuit of Education annually holds a ceremony to recognize and reward schools; educators and learners who go beyond their normal call of duty. On the 15th March 2011 the who is who in the education fraternity were brought together at the Eldorado Sports Complex to celebrate the Class of 2010 and motivate the Class of 2011 to surpass the feat of their predecessors. Messages of support came from Learner Representatives; Educators trade unions (SADTU and PEU); SGBs; Blouberg Municipality; Department of Education; events sponsors and the motivational speaker, Dr Kwenza Masha of the University of Limpopo. They only differed in semantics but all said the same message: If the class of 2010 could do it despite its many disturbances such as the four weeks 2010 Soccer World Cup and the three weeks public servants industrial action, nothing can stop the Class of 2011 from achieving their dreams.

Dr Masha talked about "journeying into the horizons of our dreams," to illustrate the point that everybody must believe in their dreams and be determined to achieve them no matter what. He quoted and spoke passionately about the timeless dreams of Martin Luther King Jr and Nelson Mandela. Dr Masha advised that one need not take the journey they don't believe in, and worse of a kind is a dream that is never expressed. Journeys are not always smooth rides and one should never give up but look around for solutions whenever approaching difficulties/deserts along the journey. He made example of former president Nelson Mandela who had a dream of what South Africa should be like. Mandela realised his dream of a democratic and united South

Africa. Another example was that of a little girl from Ga-Matlala. Against all odds Ms Asnath Mahapa has since realised her dream of becoming a pilot, the first black female pilot. The message he was driving across was that everyone is the master of his/her destiny and that nothing is impossible.

The Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Clr Serite Sekgoloane, indicated that education is Government's first priority, hence the Limpopo Provincial Government's biggest allocation of over R20 billion to the Department of Education in the 2011/2012 financial year. He outlined the Municipality's plans to turn the rural Eldorado Village into a town with economic spin offs that will restrain the Blouberg citizens' migration to current urban areas. "This dream needs local engineers; architects; planners; etc to realize, and those professionals are in our midst today, the Class of 2011," The Mayor said. The Mayor invited members of the community to support Government's upcoming programme to eradicate liquor outlets that are built near schools as well as outlaw sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 21 instead of the current 18 years.

The event's most exciting moment came with the awarding of certificates; medals and trophies for the best learners; educators; and schools. Kola Leboho romped home with the award for the highest pass rate (89%) while Mmatsele produced the best results in terms of quality (14 bachelors). Mabotha High

School were celebrated for producing the Circuit's top two learners, Rudolf Sebyeng and Lephy Sebola. The beauty of these awards was that they brought out the ultimate fulfillment and joy in the achievers. Whether the winner was an educator; a learner or school, that school's community (educators; learners; and parents) openly shared the celebration as they would dance in *en masse* to the stage to collect the winner's award. The Circuit Manager, Mr Mothemane, promised a pass rate of not less than 80% in the 2011 examinations. Mr Mothemane's target may not be doubted if his track record is anything to go by. He inherited a Circuit that had been classified under dysfunctional categories (those that failed to produce a minimum of 50%). Last year he promised over 60% pass rate, and that is what he got (60.9%). This is an achievement above the Provincial average. While he was still a principal at Mmatsele High School, Mr Mothemane consistently produced excellent results, prompting the Department of Education to appoint him to run the Circuit. He however admitted that his dream would come to nothing unless he gets the support of educators; learners and parents. Mothemane also thanked the Blouberg Municipality, particularly the Mayor, Councillor Sekgoloane, for their unwavering support in school events and programmes. He said this is a clear indication that the Municipality prioritises education.



Kola Leboho celebrating their achievements.



The main guests included (from left) Mayor Sekgoloane, Dr. Masha and Mr. Mpyanya (Snr. General manager - Institutional Development).



# LUXURY LODGE FOR BLOUBERG



Mr. Fortune Mabeba (white shirt) having a memorable occasion in the company of the District Executive Mayor, Clr. Mapoulo and Mayor Clr. Sekgoloane.

A luxury farm lodge opened its doors to boost Blouberg tourism industry. This three star facility is situated 10 kilometres from Senwabarwana and approximately 90km from Limpopo's capital, Polokwane.

The who's who in politics, business and other sectors converged at Werden for the official launch of the Makgabeng Farm Lodge on the 27th January 2011.

The farm lodge is owned by Mr Fortune Mabeba and his wife Lorraine Mabeba who boast vast experience in the tourism industry acquired from Mr Mabeba's previous employment in the field.

Giving a message of support partner and mentor of the Mabebas and tourism guru, Mr Mike Gardner, described the Mabebas as hardworking and passionate about tourism. He said the opening of Makgabeng will help develop tourism in the area. He said Blouberg has a lot to offer in the industry and that its diversified, fantastic attraction and landscapes need to be exposed to the world.

He expressed concerns over the degradation of heritage sites. He called upon the government and communities to preserve and protect nature as it may not be resurrected once damaged.

The Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Clr Serite Sekgoloane, described hospitality /tourism as part of the Municipal growth point. He said the Municipality will propose a road link to the facility to enable tourists and holiday makers easy access to the facility. The lodge has also played a pivotal role in local economic development by creating

employment to the locals. The Mayor applauded the Mabebas for investing in Blouberg, "It takes bravery to invest money in a deep rural area, it shows your confidence in the leadership of the Municipality," he said.

Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Councillor Lawrence Mapoulo, said the celebrations are more than just about business but rather serve as a monument for which people can learn about African civilization and history. "This launch represents our efforts and advances as a government to pushing back the frontiers of poverty". He said the District will ensure that the project lives up to its objects. "We shall incorporate this venture and others alike into our IDP to form part of LED strategy and our recently launched Tourism Guide" he concluded.

"Discover with us" according to management is the experience guests of Makgabeng Farm Lodge enjoy when visiting the beautiful lodge, nestled deep in the Limpopo Savanna Bushveld area, cushioned between the massive Blouberg Mountain and the Makgabeng plateau, famous for its ancient rock art paintings.

The lodge offers accommodation; two conference facilities (20 – 130 delegates); corporate functions; and social events like weddings and parties. It also offers a pool a traditional kitchen where people can enjoy/taste authentic African traditional meals. For more information contact 015 505904 or visit [www.makgabenglodge.co.za](http://www.makgabenglodge.co.za).



For Makgabeng Lodge, beauty is the name of the game, from the conference facilities and rooms to the swimming pools.



# 2010/11 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT

| NAME OF PROJECT   | BUDGET      | PROGRESS  |
|---|-------------|---|
| Desmond Park internal streets/storm water   | R3,450 000  | The project was officially launched and handed over to contractors on 19/11/2010. Earthwork is 90% complete.  |
| Witten internal streets/storm water   | R4,100,000  | The project was officially launched and handed over to contractors on 28/09/2010. Laying of interlocking pavement brick is in progress (90% complete) |
| Eldorado Sports Complex Phase2  | R9, 800,000 | The project was officially launched and handed over to new contractors on 14/01/2011 after the original contractors pulled out.                       |
| Eldorado Satellite Office   | R3 000 000  | Construction stage (15% complete)   |
| Alldays Multi Purpose Centre comprising of community hall; offices and taxi rank shelter(2009/10 project) | R3,500,000  | 92% complete  |
| Ga- Mochemi(480 units)  | R4,600,000  | 100% complete and energized   |
| Nailana(87 units)   | R1, 920,000 | 100% complete and energised   |
| Morale(100 units)   | R1, 200,000 | 100% complete and energized   |
| Hlako B (180 units)   | R1, 200,700 | 100% complete and energized   |
| La-Rochelle(10 units)   | R100,000    | 100% complete   |
| De Villiersdale(195 units)  | R1,720,000  | Construction stage(90% complete)  |
| Kgwale(99 units)  | R1,694,000  | Construction stage (75% complete)   |
| Vienna(150 units)   | R2,100,000  | 99% Awaiting closing span.  |
| Mashamaite(99 units)  | R1,414,000  | 100% complete and energized   |
| Sadu(120 units)   | R2,200,000  | 55% complete The project was halted in August 2010 due to misunderstanding between the Joint Venture partners. The project is                         |



# LIMPOPO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM MEC VISITS BLOUBERG



MEC Moloto (second from left) inspects some of the "made in Blouberg" wares.

Heeding the government call of insuring transparency and accountability to citizens, Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism MEC, the Honourable Mr Pitsi Moloto, took his public participation programme to Blouberg Municipality to listen to the challenges faced by the public in relation to his Department.

Before meeting the public the MEC visited the renowned Thlona Wetland at Thlona village. A year ago this wetland was on the spotlight as the host of the World Annual Wetland celebrations organised by the department (LEDET) in conjunction with the Municipality and the Provincial Department of Agriculture. The significance of the wetlands is that they provide ecosystem services that purify and store water. Thlona wetland has been the main source of water for many communities of Blouberg dating back to the 1800s. The Headman of Thlona, Mr Maela, requested the MEC to assist them with initiatives to restore and preserve the wetland which could become their best investment in the Local economic Development and teach the generation to come. Mr Johan Kruger, responsible for Protected Areas in the Department, said assessments and audits about the Wetland will be conducted and the outcome will determine whether the place should be declared a protected area.

Another project visited was the long awaited Marula Processing Project which was funded by the National Department of Environment and Tourism in 2006. It is one of Blouberg Municipality's Local Economic Development Projects and was identified due to abundance of marula fruits in Blouberg area. The project envisages producing body lotions, marula beer and juice, among others, and creates jobs. The building still stands empty without processing machines, transformers and operating capital.

Challenges ranging from tourism and environment, among others, were presented to the MEC by organised co-operatives during the public meeting.

Major issues included lack of recognition from government, as well as lack of education and training. Mr Charlie Lebogo of Blouberg Liquor Board complained that monopoly is still rife in the industry and that small and medium liquor traders are not given a chance to venture into other territories such as distribution.

Mr Patric Morata of the Blouberg Tourism complained that some nature reserves have been running with either skeleton staff or without proper resources. He said that Blouberg is rich in heritage and tourism and this will come to zero if resources are not available. He requested that the Department assist with resources for nature reserves and game farms and marketing strategies that will assist and

position Blouberg as preferred tourist destination.

Giving the status of development particularly in the areas of Eldorado, Blouberg Municipality Mayor, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, mentioned that Eldorado area has been identified as the provincial rural nodal point. He further reported that new municipal satellite offices are already under construction and

that an investor is on board for the construction of the a new shopping complex . 300 residential and business sites have been demarcated. Another Local economic development project the Mayor spoke about was the Aqua culture fishery project that the Municipality is working on jointly with diamond giant De Beers Venetia mine. The is project is intended to produce, among other things, bottled water.

The Mayor also indicated that the Municipality is in the process of establishing business forums that will among others give support to small businesses throughout Blouberg and the establishment of a clean village campaigns that will promote safe and healthy environment and provide jobs at the same time.

He further explained that the Municipality supports the call made by the national government that of reviewing liquor trading."The Municipality is in full support of the call and we will strengthen our alcohol trading by-laws in consultations with other spheres of government, we will make sure that no taverns exist near schools, churches and playgrounds," the Mayor said.

The Mayor requested assistance from the Provincial Government through MEC Moloto of bulk water infrastructure and construction of road links to Eldorado and

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Continued from page 3

objectives, by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance process." It is statutorily obligated to advise us on internal financial controls and internal audits; compliance with laws; risk management; performance management, to mention but a few. Council has also established the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) to replace the erstwhile Oversight Committee. The objectives of the MPAC are to ensure effective financial management, good governance and accountability of the Municipality as well as to serve a watchdog function from a political, compliance and service delivery perspective over the financial governance of the Municipality. Among others, it is armed with the power to institute investigations on any matter if deemed necessary. Already the MPAC was in full flight on 23rd and 25th March 2011 at Ga – Makgato (Kromhoek) and Ga – Maleboho conducting public hearings on the Municipality's Annual Report for 2009/2010. Given that this Committee

will be meeting monthly and comprising of non Executive Committee members, we have reason to expect it to make a serious impact in our march to a clean audit report.

Our Achilles' heel remains the growing debt as a result of some Senwabarwana Township residents boycotting payment for municipal services. We continue to try every option to resolve the standoffs as we are truly committed to maintaining good relations with all our communities. Overtures already made include writing off or reducing certain debts by up to 50%. We appreciate residents who have subsequently resumed their noble civic duty of making sure that our democratic local government works, by paying for services rendered by the Municipality. Withholding payments for services enjoyed is not only unfair but has crippling effects for the whole Municipality. It delays development and subtracts on our capacity to render services by our own standards.

Once again we introduce and welcome new members of our staff : Mr Bethuel Mabeso (Sports Officer); Mr Walter

Kgowa (Internal Auditor); Mr Jimmy Madupe (Personal Assistant to the Mayor); Ms Berlinda Masera (IDP Researcher) Mr Michael Makwela (By – laws Enforcement Officer); Mr Lloyd Seima (By – laws Enforcement Officer); Mr Lucky Malejane (Traffic Officer); Mr Daniel Ledwaba (Traffic Officer); Mr Fulufhezani Malelelo (Traffic Officer); and Mr William Serakalala (Supervisor : Roads and Stormwater).

We are all excited about the 2011 Local Government Elections. We encourage our staff members to participate in ensuring the success of this democratic process. However we wish to advise staff members, especially those who may be participating as candidates, of the existence of regulations applicable to all staff members of municipalities issued by the Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on the 10th March 2011 (No R. 210). The long and short of it is that such staff members are not allowed to use municipal property or resources for purpose of their election campaign.

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other areas of importance.

Responding to issues MEC Moloto said that Blouberg needed to be developed like any other areas. He mentioned that Blouberg has potential in tourism that need to be developed and that the Department will work together with

relevant stakeholders to make sure the nature reserves are well resourced. He pledged to engage the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism regarding the funding of Marula Processing project for it to operate. He further mentioned that he will look into all

the challenges raised regarding the maintenance of the wetland and other challenges raised by the co-operative and that his Department will work together with the Municipality and be able to assist the Municipality achieve its strategic objectives.

## BLOUBERG SCHOOLS SHINE AT THE PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

**H**ard work on improving and promoting safe and healthy environment had paid off for schools in the Bahananwa Circuit of the Blouberg Municipality. Nine schools from Blouberg scooped top awards at the Limpopo Eco-Schools Award Ceremony held earlier this year in Polokwane.

Projects undertaken by the schools include focus on Climate Change through electricity saving campaigns; water conservation campaigns through rainwater harvesting tanks and basins under taps to catch grey water for their permaculture gardens; tree planting; recycling and protecting wildlife, among other things. All projects were accompanied by lesson plans in order to incorporate the environment into the curriculum. Promoting a safe and healthy environment is also one of the five constitutional imperatives of the South African Local Government (municipalities).

The schools won three gold certificates, three silver and two bronze and the prestigious WESSA/ WWF Eco-schools green flag respectively.

Participating schools emerging victorious were Mpebe Primary, Malenkwa Primary, Leboho Primary, Moshokoa Secondary, Pokanong Primary, Maloloane Primary, Selelo Primary; Tlhona Sedimong Primary; and Masete Primary, who came second to none. The awards were handed over by MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, the Honourable Mr Pitsi Moloto.

De Beers Venetia Mine has been praised for its leading role in supporting the Blouberg Eco-Schools Node and the entire



**Mpebe and Masete Schools receiving awards for their excellence in the ECO Schools Competitions.**

Programme in the Limpopo Province. Several more sponsors like HSBC, Blouberg Nature Reserve and Lajuma Research Centre made field trips possible for the Eco-Schools in the Blouberg area. For their efforts the schools were honoured with medals; certificates and trophies during the Bahananwa

Excellence Awards Ceremony on 15 March 2011.

**For more information on the Eco-Schools Programme please contact Judy van Schalkwyk, Blouberg Node Coordinator: [judy-enviroeducation@hotmail.com](mailto:judy-enviroeducation@hotmail.com) or 072 455 2252.**



# KGOTHA KGOTHE !!!! (APRIL - JUNE 2011)

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

|   | April   | May     | June    |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
|   | 28      |         | 30      |
| Council                                   | 21      | 31      | 23      |
| Executive Committee                       | 14      | 24      | 11 - 19 |
| Portfolio Committees                      | 03 - 10 |         | 15      |
| Ward Committees                           |         |         | 20      |
| Mayor - Magoshi Forum                     |         |         |         |
| Mayor - Chairpersons (Bought Farms) Forum |         |         |         |
| Institutional Performance Review Forum    | 07 - 08 | 03      | 01      |
| Land Use Management Forum                 | 01      | 04      |         |
| Energy Forum                              |         | 04      |         |
| Water Forum                               |         | 04      |         |
| Housing Forum                             |         | 05      |         |
| Transport Forum                           |         | 10      |         |
| Disaster Management Forum                 |         | 10      |         |
| Waste Management Forum                    |         | 03      |         |
| LED Forum                                 |         | 11      |         |
| Tourism Forum                             |         | 11      |         |
| Local Communicators Forum                 |         | 01 - 17 |         |
| Ward Public Meetings                      |         |         |         |



# MAYOR TACKLES SERVICE DELIVERY CHALLENGES DURING THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

**T**he Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Councillor Serite Sekgoloane, said government is moving swiftly in a bid to create better life for all. Sekgoloane was addressing community members during the public participation programme held at Avon Village. The Municipality has public participation programme to reinforce accountability to citizens through public participation events throughout the year, close gap between government and citizens and allow two-way of communication where communities will have their say in government matters.

Delivering a report back on 2010/11 midyear IDP/budget, Councillor Sekgoloane said the ruling party, ANC fought for its people to have primary health care, education, water and electricity among other things. He said the lives of black people have been improved since the dawn of democracy though challenges might still be there.

On electricity progress the Mayor told the community that the Municipality has outdone itself in ensuring universal access to electricity. Few remaining villages like Sadu, Kgwale, Devilliersdale, Vienna are currently being electrified. The only settlement remaining a challenge is Hananwa Village at the top of the Blouberg Mountains due to its inaccessibility. However a feasibility study by experts has been conducted and concluded that solar system is the answer. The Municipality will soon oblige. Earlier the Municipality officially switched on electrification projects at Ga-Nailana, Ga-Mashamaite, Ga-Hlako and Ga-Mochemi.

On Water the Mayor indicated that almost all villages have water infrastructure with some of it damaged by members of the community through illegal connections, which has become a major cause of water shortage in Blouberg. "We took a resolution during our maiden Water Summit in August 2010 with our stakeholders: magoshi, SANCO, and ward committees to disconnect illegal connection, and to that effect we have employed two law enforcement officers



Mayor Sekgoloane delivers the Municipality's service delivery progress report.

who would soon be on the ground to ensure that residents abide by the Municipality's by – laws on water and every other aspect," the Mayor said.

On roads, Councillor Sekgoloane indicated that a Five Year Plan of tarring Blouberg roads has been approved by the Roads and Transport Department. The roads approved for upgrading from gravel to tar include the remaining 8km of D 1468 to link Senwabarwana –Indermark and Vivo by 2012/2013. Another one will be the completion of the road linking De Vrede and Eldorado in 2011/12 financial year. Councillor Sekgoloane has urged community members to have hope in the government of the day. Meanwhile the unit dealing with roads has been established in the municipality and the officials have been

stationed in different camps all over Blouberg working together with the Department of Roads and Transport officials to address roads maintenance problems.

On job creation the Mayor reported that 1000 jobs have been created through Extended Public Work Programme (EPWP) since November last year. Beneficiaries were identified by ward councillors and communities based on their social background. Special preference was granted to children and women headed families. The beneficiaries work three days a week and earn about R60 00 per day. Councillor Sekgoloane said the government is currently improving the lives of the needy by providing aid through social grants; food parcels and many other interventions.

Better known for his soft spot for education,

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the Mayor told the community members that education is the number one tool to reduce poverty and unemployment in the communities. He urged youth to focus more on their school work and never to give up on education to better their lives.

On the youth the Mayor reported that the Municipality is in the process of re-launching its Youth Council to empower the youth of Blouberg. He promised that the Special Focus Unit in his Office would soon be consulting with the communities about the launch.

The Mayor also called upon community

members to cooperate with officials from Statistics South Africa who will be registering households in the villages in preparation for Census 2011 campaign.

Whoever said street names can only be found in suburbs and township got it all wrong. Villages in Blouberg Municipality will soon boast street addresses. Councillor Sekgoloane told residents that the Municipality will soon be in a process of establishing village street naming committees in all villages. The committee will be established for a sole purpose of assisting in street naming processes for easy

identification.

The Mayor told residents that the Demarcation Board has allocated the Municipality three additional wards meaning that the Municipality will now have 21 wards. He explained to the communities that the new set up doesn't mean that some areas will be disadvantaged in terms of delivering services but instead there'll be an improved service delivery. He urged people to register to enable them to exercise their democratic rights in the next local government elections.



People came in their numbers, fielded questions and concerns with the Blouberg Council Speaker, Clr. Thamaga, at hand to help with responses.

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