



Blouberg News

"Fetisha Molaetsa"

January - March 2012



EDITORIAL TEAM

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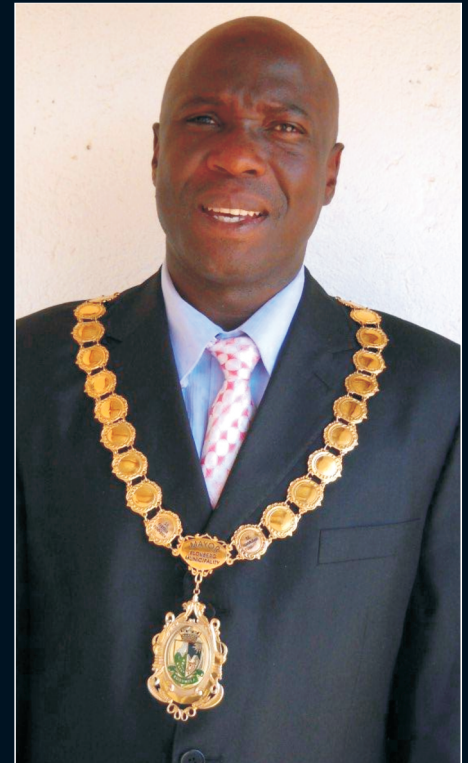
THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Once again we give thanks and praises to the Almighty that we have lived to see the dawn of yet another new year, 2012. The beginning of each year proffers everyone a new lease on life. Like its predecessors, 2012 is littered with opportunities and difficulties; trials and triumphs; ups and downs and many other dialectical complexities of our time. We have all drawn up our smart plans for the year. We should be vigilant against decidophobia; indecision; prevarication and momentary lapse of focus; which make up the four corners of challenges that militate strongly against us achieving our plans. Those who have not only made resolutions but have put up firewalls against these and other notorious interlopers are on their way to success. The rest will traverse the year only to age; complain and regret. We should hasten and confront our dreams now while we are still spruced up and invigorated by the new beginning and inspirational messages we received from the people who love us the most: relatives; friends; leaders; followers or supporters. In no time 2012 will give way to 2013 and we believe no one wants to look back only to see a wasted year. We must be able to look back with triumphant pride not only at the achievement of our personal goals but at the contribution we shall have made to change the lives of others for the better.

2012 presents us with the opportunity to witness rare moments of unparalleled historic importance. Throughout this year

we would be celebrating 100 years of the existence and contributions of the African National Congress (ANC) to the creation of the South Africa we all proudly call our home today. A truly democratic state founded on one of the world's most enlightened and liberal constitutions. As we pause with history to salute our selfless and visionary leaders, from John Dube in 1912 to Jacob Zuma in 2012, we should all candidly reflect on the vision and values that bonded Africa's oldest liberation movement for so long a time. It can't be faulted that which survived generations; ideologies; and difficulties that the 100 long years threw at it. Something is right in or about this movement. This centenary should turbo charge this year's annual celebration of our human rights; heritage; and the contributions made by our youths and women in the struggle for our political emancipation.

As a municipality, we have just turned twelve years of age. In legal terms a person who is twelve is a minor closer to infancy than majority and requires a lot of support and assistance to make up for their lack of capacity. Notwithstanding all these realities, our overall conspectus defines us in the same league with the majors. It is our considered view that we are bound to sail high seas during the 2012 calendar year, which traverses two of our most important financial years, 2011/2012 and 2012/2013. We have mastered the art of putting together and executing our short to medium term plans. Despite being on an overdrive,



Councillor Serite Sekgoloane - Mayor.

there continues to be some disquiet about the speed with which we address service delivery backlogs. That we work within the confines of highly limited budgets don't seem to absolve us. We have since decided on a long term plan (Vision 2030) which we believe will put everybody at rest and help us attract the much needed private sector investment. We have no doubt that our people are visionaries. In one of our recent monthly Executive Committee outreaches a member of the community dared us to start planning towards having a university in Blouberg. In another meeting another visionary challenged us to start thinking of building a huge dam that will be fed by all the water falls from the Blouberg Mountains and become an answer to our unreliable water sources. This came against complaints that all roads along the Blouberg mountains were washed away every time it rains. Not everybody could immediately see the vision in the two scenarios. Some people laughed at these as pipe dreams. To us these are the kind of ideas that should go into Blouberg Vision 2030. Baswana ba boletse bare thoka ya go bolaya e kwagala marethong. Haak 2012 and good luck to all!!!!



Mr Robert Manaka, a member of the public, gives free tips to the Executive Committee.

2011 Festive Season's Message

As we deservedly dine and wine in exuberance,
 Amid the fanfares, bells and whistles of the festive season
 With Father Christmas doing his annual door to door rituals of showering each household with blessings.
 As we celebrate the year that was and anticipate the year that will be
 As we set ourselves new targets in pursuit of our visions
 We should be thankful for still being alive. Life is the first of all treasures.
 Looking back in the last twelve months of our lives, it is common course that life is like a double edged sword.
 Characteristically each one of us went through trials and tribulations
 We made friends and foes
 We won and lost battles
 Of utmost importance is that we learnt lessons.
 Your government has had a year that is a success story.
 We had the third and most successful all inclusive democratic local government elections that ushered in new
 leaders and fresh hope to achieve our vision.
 We had successful third Census that will ensure proper government planning and resource allocation.
 We had a peaceful and interactive year.
 To build ours as a responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government needs our collective wisdom
 and positive approach.
 It needs many of you who see half full where others see half empty glasses.
 It needs many of you who have mastered the art of raising arguments in debates where others raise their
 voices.
 It needs many of you who always listened to understand where others listen to respond.
 It needs many of you who accept and respect each other's opinions.
 This has been a golden rule from time immemorial and is eloquently exclaimed in Terence's (185BC 159
 BC) time honoured perspicacity "Quot homines, tot sententiae (there are as many opinions as there are men).
 To the noble men and women who continued to volunteer their time and resources to improve the lives of the
 needy, yours is a cause worth continuing.
 "When we have chosen the vocation in which we can contribute most to humanity, burdens cannot bend us
 because they are sacrifices for all. Then we experience no meager, limited, egotistic joy, but our happiness
 belongs to millions, our deeds live on quietly but eternally effective, and glowing tears of noble men will fall on
 our ashes" (Karl Marx 1835)
 Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Clr Serite Sekgoloane
 Mayor

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

On the 27th October 2011 the Council of Blouberg Municipality took no less than twenty five resolutions which are on all fours with the Municipality's unbridled permutations towards being effective, efficient, accountable and responsive. These ranged from resolutions that establish requisite structures; policies; processes; and plans that supplement; supplant or suffuse that which already obtains. The availability and efficiency of committees such as Ethics and Disciplinary Committee; Petitions and Public Participation Committee; Municipal Public Accounts Committee; and the Local Labour Forum complement our many other efforts to exterminate any residual forms of misconduct, corrupt tendencies; dilatory and or substandard performance by both our councilors; employees and service providers.

The Communication Strategy was revised and an annual programme for 2012 adopted to interface and lubricate cohesion between and among our listless governance structures. To further propel our participatory democracy, plans and programmes to bring all special focus groups into the mainstream of the municipal business were approved. Much ink is used elsewhere in this edition providing detailed and tangible developments on sport and special focus following the said Council resolutions. The Special Focus Summit on 15 December and sports festival of 28-30 December 2011 are an index of our growth in efficiency and responsiveness. These huge and complex programmes were executed in style within two months of the authorizing Council decisions.

Subsequent to Council approving the annual Roads Maintenance Plan, our communities cannot be heard to complain about the state of our roads as much as they did before. Our roads maintenance teams under Messrs William Serakalala; Jordaan Mohlola and Robert Mnisi have done extremely well despite the trying circumstances under which they render this service. Beside the scarcity of



Mr KE Machovani - Acting Municipal Manager.

resources, floods have become their enemy number one. Everytime it rains they have to go back and start all over again. We further commend our electrical team that, despite being under resourced has kept all the home fires burning. This team went beyond the call of duty and completed the Sadu electrification project after it was abandoned by the appointed contractor.

Our departments are doing very well save for Community Services and Budget & Treasury, where we have identified some significant challenges. It should be understood that the two departments are currently under caretaker Directors. All signs are there that the Community Services Department under the tutelage of Mr M.J. Machaba has begun to locate its key buttons. In the short to medium term the Department's performance should be judged by the cleanliness of Senwabarwana Town; visible traffic law enforcement in the Senwabarwana Town where motorists seem to have usurped the oddity of being a law unto themselves; increased intake and processing of learners and drivers' licences; improved

customer care; and the maximum functionality of all our satellite offices. Budget & Treasury Department has short changed us in terms of revenue collection. As at the end of December 2012 our total collection stood at 47%, the chunk of which came from once off payment of assessment rates on government buildings by the Department of Public Works. We are pleased with the Department's cooperation in this regard. Unless turn around plans are put in place, we may face cash flow uphill in the next two quarters of the year. We have however reread our script to inform our mid-year review processes. We are accordingly making a request to all our customers who are in arrears to come forward and settle their accounts so that we may continue to render the municipal services as expected. Non payment by residents means we should cut expenditure in both our operational and capital budgets. We are loath to this eventuality given the dire effects it has on everybody, including those paying for the services and the fact that it flies in the face of all our efforts to become an effective, efficient, accountable and responsive municipality.

THE SPEAKER SPEAKS

The festive season might have come and gone, however the service delivery mandate and our quest for deepened public participation mechanisms remain unfazed. We hope that the entire Blouberg Municipality citizenry had fulfilling vacations. Our municipality continues to make strides as we put up a concerted effort to achieve what has been set out in relation to the much vaunted participatory democracy.

Two Executive Committee meetings as well as a Council meeting were held respectively at Bull Bull, Sesalong and Ga Hlako during the period in issue. The vigour and passion in which our people robustly raised issues in the post formal sessions public participation interactions inspired throughout the entire leadership core a sense of continued stock taking and a feeling of relentlessly, though within the confines of a very meagre budget, accelerating the efforts towards addressing most of the service delivery concerns. It thus became commendable as mentioned elsewhere in the previous edition, that the Petitions and Public Participation Committee Charter as adopted by Council on the 27th October 2011 would go a long way in interrogating and addressing in the most subtle of ways, community needs. By the same token the reviewed Support for Councilors Policy which was also given the thumbs up in the same Council sitting would surely go a long way in ensuring a transparent, efficient and effective, councilors support system.



Councillor Maria Thamaga - Speaker

The November 2011 versions of Portfolio Committees and other Council committees met as scheduled. The in-house councilors workshop envisaged for November 2011 had to inevitably make way for other pressing and urgent council commitments. The workshop has since been earmarked for January 2012. Since the inception of the new council, all the twenty one (21) wards held their first scheduled ward public meetings suffice to mention that they all did that with flying colours as they easily formed quorums. The disturbing factor remains our inability due to want of budget, to transport people to meeting places which leaves a bit of an indelible mark on our participatory democracy efforts given the sparse nature of most of our wards. The December 2011 edition of ward committee meetings took place without any hindrances and evidently members were steadily but surely getting

to grips with what was required of them. Their monthly reports bear testimony to the alluded to statement.

The 15th December 2011 will forever be entrenched in the records of the institution and the entire Capricorn district as it marks the day in which the first ever Special Focus Summit was held. It is hoped that the resolutions, a culmination of ideas from commissions comprising women, the disabled, youths as well as sports people will see the light of the day and bring about much needed oomph to the groups that invariably play pivotal roles in the different sectors of our society. The landmark accolade adds a further cap to the continuous journey of making Blouberg Municipality the beacon in the public participation space.

All power, to the people!!!



Everybody has a voice in our scheme of things.

PROGRESS REPORT ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

NAME OF PROJECT	BUDGET	PROGRESS AS AT 31/12/2011
2010/2011 PROJECTS		
Desmond park Internal streets/storm water	R3, 450 000	100% complete and handed over to the Municipality on 20/09/2011
Alldays Multipurpose Centre Comprising of community hall; offices and taxi shelter	R 1,500,000	Phase 2 of the project (fencing; upgrading of ablution blocks and access road) is at evaluation stage for appointment of Consulting Engineer
Eldorado Satellite office	R3 000 000	98%. Project is practically completed and is expected to be handed over and officially opened in January 2012
Eldorado Sports Complex Phase 2	R 9 800 000	85% complete. Contractor has completed the concrete work for the grandstands and is expected to complete brickwork in early January 2012
2011/12 PROJECTS		
Senwabarwana Ext 5 Electrification project	R5 000 000	75% complete. Contractor is currently busy on stringing of both MV and LV conductors
Witten Extension Electrification project	R 3 250, 000	80% complete. Contractor is currently busy with installation of transformers and household connections
Hananoa Electrification Project	R 1, 200 000	Service provider has been appointed on turnkey approach and is currently busy with the scoping for the project
Alldays (Speaker Park) Internal Street and storm water extension	R7 200 000	75% completed. The project is at construction stage with the contractor currently busy with road surfacing, kerbing and concrete work. Contractual completion date is 2 March 2012
Puraspan Internal Street and Storm water Extension	R7 500 000	75% completed. The project is at construction stage with the contractor currently busy with road surfacing, kerbing and concrete work. Contractual completion date is 4 March 2012
Senwabarwana Traffic Station	R7,200,000	Contractor was appointed on 22/12/2011. Completion target is April 2012



DEPUTY PRESIDENT KGALEMA MOTLANTHE UNDERTAKES AN ANTI POVERTY VISIT TO GA-KGATLA VILLAGE

Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe visited Ga-Kgatla village in Blouberg Municipality on the 8th of October 2011, where he assessed progress made by government in implementing the War on Poverty Programme and service delivery to the communities.

Deputy President Motlanthe's delegation, which was received by the Premier of the Limpopo Province, the Honourable Cassel Mathale, included Minister of Energy, Dipuo Peters, Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Gugile Nkwinti, Minister of Economic Development, Ebrahim Patel, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Elizabeth Thabathe, and senior government officials. Local dignitaries included the MEC for Corporative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Soviet Lekganyane, Capricorn District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Lawrence Mapoulo, and Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane.

The War on Poverty Programme broadly seeks to confront and uproot poverty by improving the quality of life amongst the poorest of the poor. This is achieved by profiling the needs of families and immediately linking them to a basket of community, household and individual services.

During the launch of the War on Poverty programme in Ga-Kgatla village in 2008, the baseline survey identified unemployment, water shortages, poor sanitation, poor housing, seasonal flooding, no energy supplies, school drop-outs, high level of teenage pregnancy, a lack of early childhood development facilities, a lack of food security and poor access roads as amongst the main priorities requiring urgent attention.

Following his assessment, the Deputy President remarked that the difference since the launch of the Anti-Poverty programme in 2008 is quite satisfactory. Significant achievement includes the rollout of social service such as social



Deputy President Motlanthe meets the Premier of Limpopo, Mr Cassel Mathale (left); Kgoshi Ngoako Maleboho and the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane.

grants, social relief of distress, health screenings, food gardens, and the establishment of early-childhood development centre services for 150 toddlers.

Furthermore, water supplies to the village have been restored and a new pump installed. The Municipality assigned a pump attendant to carry out the daily monitoring and maintenance of the water pump station. Deputy President Motlanthe also learned that water harvesting is now being done following the installation of water tanks as a result of the War on Poverty, which will go a long way in seeing the Ga-Kgatla community through the dry seasons. Government through Capricorn District Municipality announced additional investment in the water infrastructure to the tune of R177 million, which provides more impetus for sustainable water supply to the area.

As a result of more reliable water provision the majority of households visited had flourishing food gardens, which has significantly improved food security and nutrition in the area.

Other notable achievements in the Ga-Kgatla village since the launch of the Anti-Poverty programme are the electrification of the whole village through a Public Private Partnership led by the Limpopo Provincial Government.

Deputy President Motlanthe was humbled by the commitment shown by the community in taking education as a priority. All children of school going age have been

taken back to school and more-than 21 youths were sent for skills training at various centres. Further education and training arrangements have been made for those who did not complete their education and are over 18 years of age.

The skills development opportunities availed by government have been taken up by youths in the village, a number of whom have now found permanent employment in various fields, including through government's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and other initiatives.

As he rallied his troops for further assault on the retreating poverty, Deputy President Motlanthe committed government to investigate the potential and benefits that could be derived from the sunny and hot condition of the area, which makes solar energy a practical alternative energy source for residents in Ga-Kgatla village, a perfect application of the the Municipality's vision : A Municipality that turns prevailing challenges into opportunities for growth and development....

The Deputy President said that the successful implementation of the War on Poverty programme will help to transform communities in Ga-Kgatla village and country-wide. Government further calls on all South Africans and sectors to play their part in graduating communities out of poverty.

In concluding his visit, Deputy President Motlanthe commended Vuk'uzenzele spirit of the Ga-Kgatla community and called upon all other communities to emulate them in fighting poverty.

NOT ALL STREET TRADING IS ILLEGAL

Informal hawkers operating in the town of Senwabarwabana will now trade freely after Blouberg municipality awarded them operating permits. Over two hundred hawkers were presented with trading licenses in a bid to regulate illegal hawking and address the current disorganized street vending outside and around town and in turn beautify the Municipality's economic hub.

In order to address the situation the municipality through Economic Development and Planning Department earlier handed hawker's stalls to Small Medium Micro Enterprises (SMME's) to enable them to do their business under dignified and habitable structures. The municipality has handed permanent structures where these aspiring entrepreneurs will be able to operate and in turn sustain their families. However plans are afoot to allocated mini bays to hawkers still operating along the streets in dilapidated structures.

Hawkers applauded the municipality for the move saying they can now do their business without fear of being removed by the municipal officials because of some

restraining by laws.

The Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, said this is the commitment made in the Freedom Charter that was adopted at the Congress of the People in Kliptown on 26 June 1955

that "All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and enter all trades; crafts and professions. We will never in our life time renege on this vision," he told Blouberg News.



Proud holders of hawkers licences can now trade freely in Senwabarwana.

MORE PEOPLE GET JOBS

The life of Ms Anicky Mapunya, from Desmond Park, and that of ninety-nine others have been changed for the better thanks to Blouberg Municipality's self crafted Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP), dubbed Community Works Programme (CWP).

In a move to alleviate poverty and improve the lives of its community members, Blouberg Municipality has initiated its own CWP. With this the Municipality has evinced a clear determination to providing short to long

term work opportunities and training to unemployed and unskilled individuals. The historic programme was officially launched by the Municipality on 31 October 2011 at the municipal offices in Senwabarwana.

In his 2011 State of the Nation Address President Jacob Zuma indicated the need to improve the lives of South Africans by creating 5 million jobs in the next five years. Blouberg Municipality is perfectly rising to the occasion.



Cllr Moshuhla talks job creation.

Continued on next page

TUBERCULOSIS GETS A KICK IN THE TEETH

The Provincial Health and Social Development Department in conjunction with Blouberg Municipality joined hands in hosting a Tuberculosis (TB) awareness campaign at Ga-Machaba Village on the 3rd November 2011. TB is a bacterial infection that primarily affects the lungs and remains one of the major challenges facing the country. Themed 'Kick TB' the campaign was aimed at conscientizing communities about the seriousness of the disease.

Department of Health and Social Development Area Manager, Ms Veronica Legodi, said many lives lost due to TB were caused by the lack of knowledge and information about the disease. Legodi mentioned that TB can be cured if detected at an early stage. TB patients were reminded about the importance of completing treatment which takes about six months.

According to the Department, the inability of patients to complete the treatment remains a challenge leading to the development of drug resistant TB which is more challenging and expensive to treat. The disease continues also to spread 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.

Senior Manager at the Department of Health and Social Development :Capricorn District Office, Ms Mahomela MB, said the national target to cure TB is 80% and Blouberg stands at 90% which she describes as a sign of good work that is being done in Blouberg.

Giving a keynote address, the Acting Mayor of Blouberg Municipality on the day, Cllr Phillemon Tutja, urged people to

visit their nearest health care facilities to be tested. He said by working together 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. People were urged to immediately visit the clinic or doctor if they have any of these signs.

Community members participated in kicking a ball as a sign of kicking TB out of the village. Meanwhile TB is commemorated throughout the world every year on the 24th of March.



Cllr Tutja says TB can be stopped and everybody agreed.

Continued from previous page

MORE PEOPLE GET JOBS

The 33-year old Ms Mapunya, who never had a job before, has applauded the Municipality for the initiative. Mapunya said with the income she receives she will be able to support her two children.

The Acting Mayor on the day, Cllr William Moshuhla, said the initiative will assist to improve the lives of the poor and further contribute to the strategic goals of government in eradicating poverty and unemployment.

Beneficiaries were drawn from all wards

of the municipalities and will be responsible for, among others, cleaning of

streets and graves; and cutting of encroaching trees.

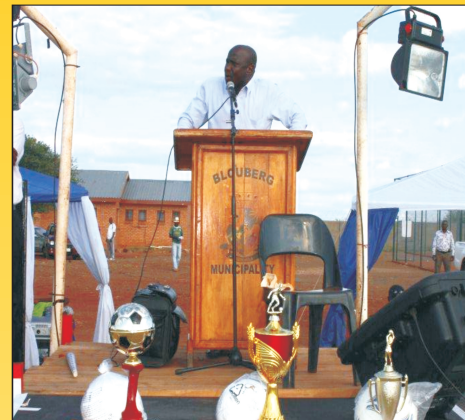


Happy beneficiaries of the Municipality's CWP pose with the leadership.

BLOUBERG MUNICIPALITY OPENS ITS



FIRST EVER STADIUM (ELDORADO) IN STYLE



BLOUBERG LAUNCHES FIRST EVER STADIUM

“A building for sports, consisting of a field surrounded by rows of seats.”

This is a dictionary meaning of a stadium. On the 28th December 2011 the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Clr Serite Sekgoloane, officially opened a project consisting of more than a field surrounded by rows of seats. This state of the art facility boosts a beautiful natural pitch, grand stands; netball and volleyball courts, athletics pitch; changing rooms and an all-round brick wall. A further conundrum, the facility is built in a deeply rural village of Eldorado and on what has always been ploughing fields for the local small scale subsistence farmers. “We said a few years ago that we would turn the ploughing fields that were right here into playing fields. We said then and we are saying now that Eldorado will become a town in our life time,” said the Mayor, Clr Sekgoloane. Eldorado is one of the Municipality's growth points, alongside Senwabarwana; Alldays; Ga-Raweshi and Tolwe. These are the areas the Municipality wants to concentrate development on and turn into economic hubs that will hold on to the local talents that are currently being lost to urbanization in droves.

The Mayor said the handing over of the sport complex represents another step

forward in developing sport from early childhood and emphasized that effort had been made and will continue to be made to ensure that the facility caters for all sporting codes. “We are in time and in line with the school sport that the national sport Ministry is introducing as these affords local schools a facility to cater for almost all their needs. We are moving mountains to have funds to lay out athletic tracks of professional standard.” He said. He spelt out the Municipality's commitment to sport development which included the appointment of a sport officer in the Office of the Mayor, Mr Bethuel Mabeso; the introduction of an annual Mayor's Cup; the giving out of soccerballs, poles, nets and other basic equipments to various teams across the municipal area; and , as an aside, spoke with magnanimity about his personal love for sport.

Community members expressed their happiness over the project. Amon Phologa said lack of proper sport facilities was a major worrying factor for Blouberg sport enthusiasts. He said that competing with people from town and other areas that are exposed to better facilities had always been a daunting task. He said with the handing over of the Eldorado Stadium sporting has been made easy.

Ngoako selamolela, the recently elected national President of SASCO, who hails from Ga – Mashamaite near Eldorado, enthused on his facebook page “the ANC government is delivering massive infrastructure development in my Municipality, Blouberg Municipal Council rea leboga.” Kgoshi Ngoako Malebogo applauded the Municipality for investing in sports. “It is a meaningful and practical initiative that appropriately demonstrates the mayor's commitment to grassroot sports development,” he said.

The stadium officially opened with a soccer tournament featuring 32 teams from six Blouberg clusters battling for a first place title in the Blouberg off Season Tournament. Taaibosch Mighty Killers FC walked away with R10 000 first prize and a floating trophy. Edwinsdale ladies team scooped R2 000 and a floating trophy after beating all the ladies teams.

Amongst dignitaries at the ceremony were all magoshi from Blouberg, South African Football Association (SAFA) Capricorn Region president Abel Rakoma and Capricorn District Municipality Chiefwhip, Clr Hlengani Baloyi.



The Mayor, Clr Sekgoloane, and kgoshi Ngoako Maleboho displaying the priceless cup at stake.

MAYOR CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY WITH SENIOR CITIZENS

Blouberg elders were spoilt rotten the day Blouberg Municipality Mayor, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, celebrated his birthday.

Since he took over the highest office in 2008 the Mayor has vowed to share his special day with the less fortunate. Elders from all 21 wards were showered with gifts and a special lunch to mark the Mayor's 41st birthday. This is part of the Municipality Special Focus Programme that its focal point is around issues of women and children; people living with disability, HIV/AIDS; elders and youth, amongst others.

The prestigious event was hosted on Saturday the 17th of December 2011 at Alldays Multipurpose Centre in Alldays. This gesture brought smiles and amusement to more than 100 wrinkled faces as they had an opportunity to join in celebrating a birthday of Blouberg's first resident.



The Mayor and the First Lady hand over the blankets at the Mayor's birthday celebration.

Cllr Sekgoloane said he has decided to spend time with elders this year as a way of appreciating their presence, celebrating and honouring them for the role they play in our lives. Wise words for the day were for elders to pass more wisdom to their children and teach them for them to follow in their footsteps. The Mayor called upon the young generation to accord elders the respect they deserve.

"I am grateful today we are able to spend time with our elders, as we do not get enough space and time to meet elders during our community meetings," he said. Joy was the order of the day as the Mayor handed them new colourful blankets. The elders were over the moon saying the special gifts will keep them warm during the freezing season coming soon.

In July 2010, the Mayor donated blankets to elders in honouring and celebrating iconic freedom fighter and former president Nelson Mandela. The event was held at Oldlongsight where Koko Sebola; the eldest person in Blouberg resides.

On his birthday in 2010 the Mayor handed over cell phone kits to the people living with disabilities. In 2009 the Mayor celebrated his birthday by dishing out Christmas toys; toiletries and food parcels to the vulnerable and orphaned children.

For more information on Blouberg Municipality Special Focus Programmes Ms Ramahuma Metse and Mr Makwena Mathiane can be contacted at 015 505 7100 during office hours.

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VENETIA MINE PROVIDES FINANCIAL AID TO SMME's



Cllr Adeline Morapedi and Venetia Mine representatives inviting SMMEs to come forward for help.



Diamond Giant, De Beers Venetia Mine, through its initiative, Venetia Business Hub, is making a call to aspiring and emerging SMME's within its area of operation to apply for funding in a form of loans.

The Venetia Business Hub which commenced with its operation from April 2011, is an investment fund that helps to develop Black Economic Empowerment and fight poverty through the creation of sustainable SMMEs in Vhembe and Capricorn Districts. It provides loan funding, business skills transfer, mentoring and support.

Since its inception three workshops have been conducted in the Blouberg Municipality in partnership with Local Economic Development and Planning Department as the coordinator in a bid to communicate the opportunities available at the mine to the residents of Blouberg.

Successful poultry trader, Capricorn Poultry Cooperative in Senwabarwabana, tells a better story about this initiative. According to its Manager, Ms Martha Maruma, the Corporative that was on the brink of collapsing, was funded by Venetia Business Hub. Last year (2011) the

corporative scooped the Kamoso Award for Best Co-operative: Economic Sector.

Representatives of the Mine indicated that the initiative focuses on assisting mining communities and impoverished labour-sending areas. They also advised SMME's of opportunities available at the Mine ranging from catering, cleaning services, and security services, among others.

Economic Development and Planning Chairperson, Cllr Adeline Morapedi, urged the SMMEs to grab the opportunity presented by the Mine. "Opportunity like these will help eradicate unemployment and poverty and give birth to the society that can sustain itself," she said.

De Beers Venetia Mine has urged the interested parties to submit their applications. For more information on how to make an application Venetia Business Hub can be contacted at 015 534 9125.

Meanwhile Small, Medium and Macro Enterprises (SMME's) got a major boost in line with their official status as one of the aces in accelerating economic growth and development. On the 2nd December 2011

Blouberg Municipality, in conjunction with the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) hosted a Flea Market in Senwabarwana. The purpose of this flea market was to expose local entrepreneurs to their own local market through exhibition and selling of their products. Data on small and medium enterprises suggest that these enterprises contribute about half of total employment, and more than 30% of total gross domestic product. Also, one out of five units exported is produced in the small and medium sector in the country.

The Municipality arranges the flea market and SMME's Workshop on a quarterly basis in a bid to assist entrepreneurs to acquire knowledge, the capacity and the skills for the supplying of products and services. The workshops also strengthen SMME's capacity to better take part in the development of regional production and distribution networks. Meanwhile the government has therefore targeted the SMME sector as an economic empowerment vehicle for previously disadvantaged people. Amongst items on sale at the flea market were beads, furniture and traditional clothing.

MEC DIPUO LETSATSI- DUBA VISITS BLOUBERG STOCK FARMERS

Blouberg municipality is a deep rural area that is characterised by poverty and unemployment. Nevertheless, the residents of this area have devised some means for their survival. They have opted for SMME's, Agri-farming and stock farming for their survival. Key amongst them is stock farming which serves as a rural bank to pay for children's education and maintain or run families.

Shortage of grazing land poses a serious threat to this means of survival. Farmers at De Vrede have grouped themselves in order to formalise and grow stock farming in Blouberg. Their main predicament is shortage of grazing land. This challenge has also caused skirmishes and divisions amongst De Vrede and Kibi farmers.

The MEC Letsatsi Duba visited the area in order to encourage and boost these poor stock farmers morale and also to assist them to get or access farms in a form of

caretaker status. In her address the MEC said: "We have programmes in our department that are meant to support farmers. It is in our plans that we want to see Stocksenfeld abattoir fully functional. We want you to take all your cattle there for selling. We believe your cattle will be bought on market related prizes. South Africa has a shortage of red meat and Blouberg has a potential to become the hub of Limpopo's production of the red meat. The envisaged launch of Blouberg integrated livestock projects will be pioneered for the first time in the said area in 2012\2013 financial year as part of rural development initiatives. She also applauded the fact that women are also participating in livestock farming. The chairperson of De Vrede stock farmers Mr Phineas Mpashi appreciated the MEC's visit and said it serves as an encouragement that they are also recognised as people who contribute to food security and supply in the South African market.



MEC Letsatsi-Duba has gathered all the information on the needs of the Devrede livestock farmers.

BLOUBERG LAUNCHES OPERATION MPHIHLIŠE



The Mayor and Kgoshi Maleboho launching Operation Mphihiše.

With road accidents statistics rocketing high, Blouberg Municipality; Limpopo traffic officials; Senwabarwana SAPS, and Senwabarwana Fire Station, joined efforts in trying to reduce road carnage during the 2011 festive season. In his message Blouberg Mayor, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, said: "Life is so precious and it can't be lost

to careless driving. We appeal to our drivers to rest if they feel tired and always strive for the safety of everybody else who uses the road. The pains and effects of accidents cost by reckless driving are unbearable. Children are keen to meet their parents, brothers and sisters. They can't afford to accept new clothes for Christmas and new year with mixed feelings of having lost their loved ones. It can't be a happy new year if someone in the family so dearly loved is lost because of someone's mistake."

In an effort to motivate the motorists, the Mayor spent half his day on the 15th December 2011 at corner Indermark/Mydarling in Senwabarwana

dishing out his Christmas message cards and sharing happy moments with motorists. It was smiles and head nodding as they appreciated the message and the Mayor's indulgence under the scorching sun and in the same mood indicated their promise to drive carefully. Kgoshi Maleboho N I was also there to share a word or two with motorists.



Motorists were happy to meet and receive the Mayor's festive message.

EMPLOYEES WELLNESS IS AT THE MUNICIPALITY'S HEART



Part of the Blouberg Municipal employees that had fun all the way to Durban.



The fun and joy of the trip defined.

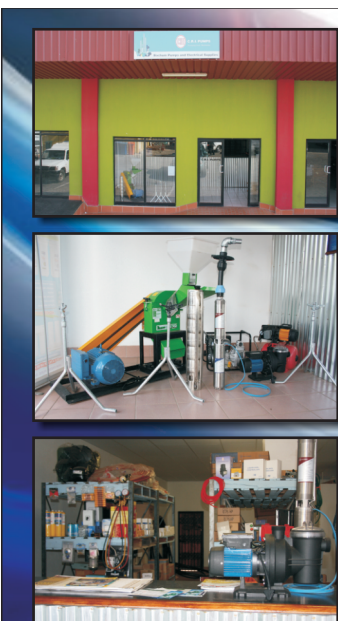
Blouberg municipality employees had to pack their sports attire with smiles on their faces in appreciation of their employer's determination and effort to have them physically fit and mentally ready for their work by allowing them to undergo a sporting trip to Durban on 24th - 27th November 2011. Employer-Employee relationship reached its peak when Blouberg Mayor, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, gave them a message for the trip. In his address the Mayor said: "We want you to refresh your minds away from your work environment so that when you come back

you will be mentally fresh and ready to carry your duties diligently. Go there and interact with other municipal employees and learn a lesson or two from them. We take your wellness programmes seriously because healthy minds produce enormous outputs."

It was fun all the way to and from Durban. It was a show of 3 municipalities viz : Blouberg, Ethekwini and Inyanda municipalities. Blouberg soccer team excelled in all their games, winning their final game with 4-1 score. On the other hand Blouberg netball team run out of

time in their games against their Durban and the Cape Town colleagues.

More fun was displayed at the Durban beach when all employees had a chance to swim in the Indian Ocean. The sports Officer Mr Mabeso said: "We thank our management and employers for the marvellous support they gave us throughout the year by affording us opportunities to exercise. These sports activities help to raise our morale and inject the spirit of healthy working relationship."



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BLOUBERG HOLDS ITS 1ST SPECIAL FOCUS SUMMIT

Our mettle as torch bearers in respect of coordination and pulling out best public participation programs, events and practices was put to a test when on the 15th December 2011 under the theme “Real Emancipation, Real Development, Real Empowerment”, we hosted the 1st Special Focus Summit. True to its billing it became the first of its kind in the Capricorn District as throngs and multitudes of people with disabilities, youths, sports gurus, women, well wishers including Kgoshi Maleboho N.I and leaders from the corporate world descended on the Helen Frans Special School Hall in Senwabarwana for the maiden event.

True to his enthusiastic and forthright self, the Mayor of Blouberg Local Municipality, Councilor Serite Sekgoloane, in his opening address declared, “We have in the past unwittingly indulged in wasteful expenditure of sorts by hosting youths, women, sports and the disabled fora in silos which subsequently bore no fruition. I am however, confident that as we disperse this day, we shall have come out with concrete and tangible measures of ensuring that the deliberations by the respective commissions shall find expression through a formal declaration which would ultimately be adopted by Council”.

No sooner had the Mayor completed his opening address than the close to four hundred strong delegates retreated into respective commissions comprised as follows: People with disabilities; Sports; Youths; as well as Women. After one and half hours of intense deliberations, the delegates returned to the hall for presentations which culminated into the Declaration of the 1st Special Focus Summit of the Blouberg Municipality abridged as follows:

We, the Blouberg Municipality Special Focus groups gathered at Helen Franz Special School, Senwabarwana, Limpopo Province, under the theme: “Real Emancipation, Real Development, Real Empowerment”, as Councilors, members of various Ward Forums, Magoshi and

representatives of corporate institutions:

Appreciating:

- The presence, welcome and keynote address by the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Clr. Serite Sekgoloane.
- The presence of Kgoshi Maleboho N.I;
- The chairperson of DBSA Limpopo, Mr. Tsebe P.H and;
- ABSA representative Mr. Alfred Singo.

Noting:

a. Disability

*Lack of representation at various forums and panels; *Lack of amenities convenient for use by people with disabilities who are also confronted with various challenges; *Minimal or no access to both formal and informal education system; *Lack specialized personnel to cater for the various and individual needs of the disabled; *Lack prompt attention from government institutions/sector departments as well as private sector resulting in unnecessarily long and undue waits whenever service is required; *Lack of business opportunities; *Lack proper transport facilities; *and lack specific budget for the disabled.

b. Youth

*The current institutions of higher learning are not accommodative of the volume of matriculants produced; *Scarcity of bursary opportunities; *Continuous poor matric pass percentage rate; *Non-availability of communal land for utilization with regards crop and stock farming; *Lack of variation in respect of educational institutions which are mostly one dimensional; *Need for capacity building and skills development; *Lack of sports and recreational facilities; *Lack enough programmes in respect of stemming the tide of HIV/Aids prevalence and crime; *No proper dissemination of information with regard to opportunities presented by national, provincial as well as private entities/institutions such as NYDA, LIMDEV, LIBSA, etc;

c. Women

*High rate of unemployment; *Women continue to be subjected to various forms of abuse such as mental, physical, sexual, emotional etc; *Continued discrimination with regards to appointment to strategic and other positions.

d. Sports

*Lack of proper structures e.g. Associations; *Lack of facilities like playing fields and equipments; *Lack of coaching clinics; and *Lack of operational funding.



The Chairperson of Special Focus Portfolio Committee, Clr Phelicity Sekwatlakwatla addressing the summit.

Therefore resolve that:

*The Municipality facilitates the availability of the disabled sector of the community in all panels and forums that have a bearing in their being; *Further that the municipality communicate with other sector departments and private

Continued on page 18

Continued from page 17

entities in ensuring that there are relevant amenities e.g. humps and toilets, for convenient usage by the disabled; *Mainstreaming of the education system should take effect as a matter of priority from primary school to ensure early integration for particularly the disabled; *Extra dedicated personnel be employed to cater for the diverse nature of disabilities and /or outsource the function; *The municipality encourage establishment of cooperatives as well as initiate funding by engaging such institutions as LEDET on behalf of the disabled; *The municipality, sector departments as well as the corporate world strive to employ the disabled at strategic positions and at the same time flexibly disregarding the two percent equity threshold by having more disabled people employed; *The municipality be deliberately biased towards offering business opportunities to disabled; *The municipality source a minibus meant to transport the disabled complete with all accessories convenient for wheel chairs' carriage and/or alternatively engage the local taxi associations to do same; *Identify some neglected buildings for utilization and teaching of Braille since outright building of the centre might prove to be financially cumbersome; *A disability vote be specially created from the municipal budget that would concentrate solely on the disabled interests and projects they may desire to engage in; *Provision be made for the disabled to be seen to be fully participating in sports and not being

reduced to mere cheer leaders all the time; *There be building and fully equipping of libraries and laboratories in a concerted effort to draw youths out of streets; *Introduction of VCT posts with the sole aim of encouraging HIV/AIDS testing and counseling; *A database be created comprising out of school youths as well as post secondary schools graduates; *The municipality introduces skills development programmes including but not limited to internships, apprenticeships and learnerships with clear exit plans; *Organize continuous commemorative events for HIV/Aids and not only be confined to but supplement and add impetus to the customary 1st December one; *Encourage and revive physical education and school sports in an effort to resuscitate the dwindling sports culture in schools; *Youth Councils be encouraged to continuously monitor youth campaigns; *Municipality and other sector department to pump more funding into bursaries; *National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) decentralize and ensure proper information dissemination to the local municipality; *The youths acquaint themselves with new syllabuses and encourage career exhibitions; *Learners be encouraged to report to relevant authorities sexual harassment at schools by educators; *Agencies like the LIMDEV and LIBSA come up with capacity building workshops in an effort to strengthen the skills capacity of the youths; *A full scale fight be declared against the scourge of teenage pregnancies and the ever

escalating child headed families; *Consideration be given to a program of allocating sanitary towels to schools and that the youths initiate and actively participate in back to school campaigns; *The SAPS continuously conduct searches at schools to dissuade learners from engaging in criminal activities; *It be encouraged to put a stop to the use of social networks such as Mixit, *Facebook, Twitter and etc which had proved to be distractions and encourage ill discipline particularly infidelity by learners; *It be encouraged that there be skills enhancement programs specifically designed for women; *The municipality encourages the establishment of gender based violence organizations equipped with trained personnel; *Women be assisted with being initiative in respect of kick starting projects; *It is encouraged that a conducive environment be created wherein women would be able to voice out their concerns on any kind of abuse; *There be advocating for imposition of stiffer sentences to transgressors particularly rapists, murderers and abusers of all kinds; *The municipality come up with recognition and rewarding of achievements mechanisms promptly and within acceptable timeframes after activities; *There be creation of clusters which is envisaged to be a means of job creation through employment of coordinators who would run same; *There be intensive training for referees, coaches and managers; *Sports facilities be made available at identified municipal nodal points; *A sports development fund be created; *Make facilities and equipments such as standardized poles available to other sporting codes other than soccer; and *Encourage networking with other external stakeholders as well as NGOs and encourage them to avoid being centrally concentrated and spread their wings throughout the municipal area.

It is envisaged that the summit will become an annual event which would then assist in the tracking of progress in relation to implementation of the above resolutions. Two things emerged out of the summit, one being that the Special Focus groups would henceforth operate as a united front and that the Blouberg Municipality public participation model is has leaped forward.



Members of the team elected to ensure that special focus needs are a priority second to none.

KGOTHA KGOTHE !!!! (JAN - MAR 2012)

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



	January	February	March
Council	25		30
Executive Committee	16	29	21
Portfolio Committees	10	21	13
Petitions & Public Participation Committee	11		
Ethics & Disciplinary Committee	17		
Municipal Public Accounts Committee	18	08-15	01
Ward Committees			02
Mayor - Magoshi Forum			
Mayor - Chairpersons	12-13		05
Institutional Performance Review Forum	06	01	
Land Use Management Forum		02	
Energy Forum		02	
Water Forum		02	
Housing Forum		03	
Transport Forum		06	
Disaster Management Forum		06	
Waste Management Forum		01	
LED Forum		07	
Tourism Forum		07	
Local Communicators Forum		16-24	
Ward Public Meetings			



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