



Blouberg News

"Fetiša Molaetsa"

October - December 2012



**CELEBRATING A DECADE OF
SUCCESSFUL WARD COMMITTEES SYSTEM**

EDITORIAL TEAM

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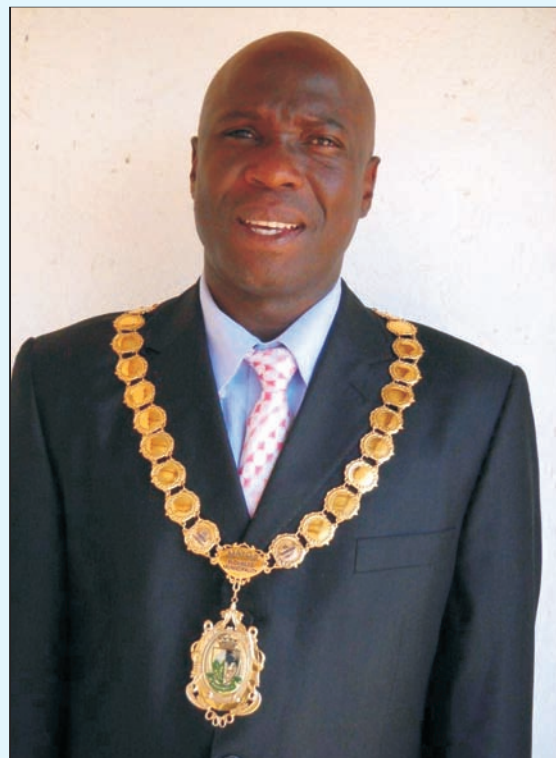
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THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

October is Transport Month. According to the National Department of Transport, this year's Transport Month aims to elevate road safety under the banner of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety Campaign. We have used gallons of ink on scripts to educate and implore our people to promote roads safety, for themselves and other vulnerable and helpless road users. The Minister, provincial MECs and Mayors have always taken turns on various media platforms and road junctions across the country appealing for restraint by drivers and pedestrians alike. Another festive season is upon us and we are already wary of losing valuable lives to the same old causes. People will lose lives to drinking and driving; speeding; driving while fatigued; road rages; use of un-road worthy vehicles; loitering or parking their vehicles in unsafe areas; and overloading. Deaths from these and other common causes can be avoided. Much as there has been many lives lost notwithstanding these Government campaigns, many more lives have been saved in the process. We will continue to intensify our municipal campaigns to promote road safety. Our recent upgrade of the positions of the traffic personnel seeks to motivate and strengthen our law enforcement capacity. We are building a bigger traffic station in Senwabarwana.

The Council has resolved to establish a new traffic satellite station at Alldays. This decentralization is aimed at aggressively enhancing our presence and visibility on all our roads as well as ensuring that our services are economically accessible to the majority of our people.

In the same way that we fight the scourge of road deaths we are enjoined to intensify our offensive against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In HIV/AIDS our main deterrents remain ignorance and stigma. Researchers have made a spectacular breakthrough towards reducing the once deadly epidemic to a mere chronic medical condition. It is disheartening to discover that there are still people who continue to link their HIV/related conditions to phenomena such as witchcraft, and in the process indulge in unscientific treatments that only further damage their immune systems, hasten the terminal stages of the disease and in some instances render the initiation of anti-retroviral treatment ineffective. None of us is immune from this scourge. We are all either infected or affected by this pandemic and there should therefore be no room for anyone to laugh at or despise those known or suspected to be positive. As they say, you are positive until proven negative. As a Municipality and the Office of the Mayor we can only do as



Councillor Serite Sekgoloane - Mayor.

much to coordinate the people's war against the pandemic. We have assigned Ms Nkoana, M.C. in the Office of the Mayor, to coordinate HIV/Aids programmes in the Municipality. On the 22nd September 2012 we formally visited and spread the HIV/AIDS message to the much vulnerable part of our communities, the farm workers around Alldays. Our campaign is indebted to councillors who led by examples by publicly testing on the day of the event. As we commemorate the World Aids Day on the 1st December and roll out further programmes and new strategies to save lives lost to ignorance and fear, we must find in us ways of making those infected feel courageous.

We are on a roadshow to promote our planning paradigm shift, from our traditional five year to 20-30 year stretch and from our standalone planning to the one in concert with the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy and the National Spatial Development Perspective. The National Development Plan envisages 70% of South Africa being urbanized by 2030. This does not entail people migrating from the current rural areas to urban areas but bringing



Cllrs Modishetjie, Rangata, Lehong and Tlouamma lead by example by publicly taking HIV/Aids tests at our recent HIV/Aids campaign.

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urbanization to where they are currently living. Towards the urbanization of our countryside we have identified Senwabarwana; Alldays; Eldorado; Ga-Raweshi and Langlaagte as our first nodal points. This is where we will concentrate development and create front line economic centres. Gradually we will move to new nodal points to be identified in due course. Fact is, 20 years from now 70% of Blouberg should be urbanized. This is a vision for all of us to rally around. It is said that for us to achieve the vision espoused in the National Plan we need change, hard work, leadership and unity. Achievement of this vision aggregates to the best we can contribute to tackling the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

We are pleased with the pace at which Senwabarwana is growing. Senwabarwana is a classic example of how possible it is to transform our rural areas into urban areas. Beside the newly opened shopping mall that caters for all our people's shopping needs, there are other multi million capital projects currently being implemented in and



Municipal councillors and officials will be happy to join law enforcement officers to promote road safety during the festive season and beyond. Here the Council Speaker, Cllr Maria Thamaga, is seen in action.

around Senwabarwana, viz Electrification of 400 new sites in Witten; Construction of traffic station in Senwabarwana; Upgrading of 1.8km of Senwabarwana internal streets from gravel to surface; Water and sanitation projects for Senwabarwana and Witten; to name but a

few. A few years ago, Senwabarwana was just a countryside!

Wishing all the Blouberg News readers and the people of Blouberg a happy Christmas and prosperous 2013. The journey continues.....

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ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW



Mr T.M.P. Kgoale - Municipal Manager.

We are keeping our fingers crossed for an improved audit report. This is what matters most to us now and in the future. A good audit report means we use tax payers' money and public resources in compliance with applicable legal prescripts and are able to account for every transaction. It means our annual financial statements and performance reports accurately reflect the financial position and financial performance of the Municipality as well as the organizational performance against its pre-determined objectives. So far so good. We submitted the Annual Financial Statements and the Annual Performance Report on time on the 31st August 2012. Our senior officials; Internal Audit and Budget & Treasury personnel have been on high alert since the arrival of auditors on site, ensuring that every request is responded to appropriately. Our Audit Committee; department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGSTA) and Capricorn District Municipality (CDM) have pleasingly spoilt us with the much needed guidance and support.

Much progress has been made towards implementing the Council approved budget and other resolutions. Consultants and contractors have been appointed on all our capital projects. There are clear timelines for implementation of the projects which we cannot fail to keep.

Keeping within or ahead of the contractual timelines has spin-offs for all parties involved. Beside increased profits, the consulting engineers and contractors concerned get their names into the good books of the Municipality, thus lining themselves up for future appointments. The

spinoffs for Management are common cause. These are employees who are appointed on fixed five year term contracts and enter into annual performance agreements with the Council. When projects are delivered within promised timeframes, the Mayor, the Ward Councillor, the Council, and the community concerned, all win. We have made it clear from the onset that we want to create a high performance organization and will definitely not be friends to those who don't see anything wrong in unmet deadlines. To us there must always be consequences when deadlines are missed. We are enjoined to help create the type of local government that is efficient, effective, responsive and accountable. That is Outcome 9 to the initiated.

Our administrative machinery will for some time continue to be under repair and service. To achieve the aforesaid Outcome 9 objectives and the Municipality's Vision 2030 needs modifications in some areas and total overalls in others. We are looking into creating a Strategic Directorate to champion Vision 2030 and provide strategic and operational support to the office of the Municipal Manager. We are concerned about our track record in respect of dealing with disciplinary and labour issues. We have not been visible enough in enforcing our own by-laws. There remain a couple of municipal

functions we have not been able to perform. These are structural gray areas that need our immediate attention, and must be achieved within the confines of the approved budget and staff establishment.

Our first ever satellite traffic station at Alldays becomes operational at the beginning of October 2012. We have finalised employment of the required traffic and licensing personnel. Traffic vehicles and related equipment have been delivered. The opening of the Alldays traffic satellite office provides a further factual backdrop against which the Municipality's commitment to taking services closer to the people should be critiqued. We are alive to the teething problems concomitant to these kinds of bold initiatives and are spruced up by the fact that "a rose by any other name would still smell like a rose" (William Shakespeare). We are looking forward to operationalising a further satellite office at Ga-Rewishi as soon as construction is completed. This is a new Satellite Office to be built from the ground at a budget of over R5m. Already, consultants have been appointed to do designs.

All our other vacancies are almost filled. Most of the appointments have been slightly delayed by the requisite pre-employment vetting processes. Verification of candidates' qualifications and academic records have disappointingly been cumbersome. Nonetheless we have found efficient ways of dealing with same and expect all our new recruits to assume duties early in the second quarter of our financial year.

May we take this opportunity to applaud all our teams that always go an extra mile to serve the people of Blouberg with love and pride. Just to mention one, the Community Services team under the stewardship of Acting Director, Mr Johnny Kgorane, has been at work to transform the face of our Senwabarwana town and thus melt the hearts of those who have invested their fortunes to do business in the one and only fastest growing town within our horizons.

THE SPEAKER SPEAKS



Cllr M.N. Thamaga - Coucil Speaker.

Every year since 2003 Blouberg Municipality has been holding Ward Committees Conferences during August/September in order to maintain and strengthen the Ward Committee system. This year the Municipality held the mother of all conferences in celebration of the tenth anniversary of this proud legacy. The Conference was held on the weekend of the 14th - 16th September 2012 at the Elephant Spring Hotel in Bela Bela under the theme "A Decade of Relentless Effort Towards Quality Service Delivery – The Journey Continues." It was a Conference to reflect on the past and ponder the future.

The Conference brandished signs of a system that has been refining itself over time. Instead of reading a book on the last ten years of the existence and character of the ward committees system and the eventful annual conferences of the era, the story was captured and told on a thirty minutes corporate video, researched, composed and performed by the Municipality's own staff. The breathtaking video received a standing ovation and every delegate, including Magoshi and representatives of neighbouring municipalities, filed for its copies.

An account was made of all the resolutions that had been taken by all the previous ward committees conferences; performance of individual wards; the

role of Community Development Workers and their integration into the Ward Committees' system; as well as rating the performance of individual Community Development Workers. This overwhelmed the Senior Manager responsible for Community Development Workers, Mr Stan Maila, who confessed that there was nothing new to teach Blouberg Municipality on what is expected of municipalities in relation to the work of Community Development Workers in particular, and participatory democracy in general. He praised the Municipality's consistency and practical implementation of conference resolutions.

Giving a message of support on behalf of the Blouberg Magoshi, Kgoshi Oliver Leboho of the Kibi tribe, minced no words in promising Magoshi's continued support to the Municipality, which he said had proved genuine in its commitment to working with all stakeholders, in particular Magoshi. He said traditional authorities were ready and willing to urge their subjects to cooperate with the Municipality, particularly in respect of payment of services. He further welcomed on board the newly incepted Kgoshi Seakamela and dissuaded the municipal community from working with any traditional leaders except those approved by the Office of the Premier.

The best thing to have come out of the Tenth Annual Ward Committees Conference was the initiation of the Municipality's cyberspace revolution. In his opening address the Mayor, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, rallied the Municipality's communicators; councilors and ward committees to join him in communicating the Municipality's affairs through the social media, in addition to the use of traditional platforms. "The modern generation is too busy for our conventional meetings. They convene meetings, discuss issues and take resolutions in the comfort of their homes through cellphones." If we need them to participate in our democracy we need to reach out to them through their preferred platforms," The Mayor emphasized. This clarion call made up more than 90% of the message he delivered to the Conference, and was without doubt all the Mayor wanted to talk about on the day. By the time the Manager for Communications, Ms Nonhlanhla Mashele, formally delivered a presentation on the Municipality's social media strategy, delegates were already asking- "How do we join Facebook and Twitter?" which are the two accounts the Municipality has already activated. At the end of the Conference a resolution was taken that the Municipality would assist councilors; ward committees; senior officials and CDWs to join the social media. Within a

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week of the Conference huge numbers had already joined Facebook.

A gala dinner wrapped what will go into the history of Blouberg Municipality as a sign post of excellence in participatory democracy. Speakers and representatives of Molemole; Aganang; Polokwane and Capricorn District municipalities all praised Blouberg Municipality for continuing to set trends and putting Capricorn District on the map with its contributions having found their way into national literature on participatory democracy. Recognitions were given to the all-time best performing wards and individual ward committee members who had been there since the inception of the ward committees system. Ward 17, led by Cllr Dan Mojodo, romped home with the title of the best performing ward in public



As always, our Ward Committees had views on how the Ward Committees System can be improved further.

participation while Ward 10 of Councillor Bishop Nabana won the category of best performing ward in community development. Five ward committee members received recognitions for having served in three consecutive terms of ward committees; namely Modiba Ngoako Rufus; Kgare Mokgatjana Emily;

Diala Seepi Violet; Raphiri Tlabo Strauss and Moitsi Modimo Lucas.

Peter Mabula, a Blouberg gospel music sensation, took the celebration to its zenith with his live performance that run into the wee hours of the night of the 15th September 2012.

MORE JOBS CREATED AS CWP IS LAUNCHED



The Mayor (blue jacket) hands over working tools and equipment to the newly recruited CWP workers.



One of the many community works CWP workers render to communities daily.

In a bid to fight unemployment and poverty within its communities, Blouberg Municipality launched a community works programme during July and August this year.

The Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, launched the programme in different wards around the month of July as part of Mandela month celebrations and August as part of Women's Month celebrations.

More than 700 men and women of working age from all 21 wards of the Municipality benefited from this government initiative. This brings the number of people employed by this programme since its inception last year to 1000, 300 people from wards 9 and 21 benefited.

This is an initiative by the National Department of Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs to address the high unemployment rate in the country. It compliments government's existing social protection measures and it is designed to ensure that people with limited alternatives can rely on at least a minimum level of regular work to provide a predictable income stream.

Launching one of the programmes at Dantzig village as part of Women's Month celebrations, the Mayor said the programme consists of more women to improve the social and economic conditions of women in Blouberg.

He said the programme will assist in providing training to unemployed and unskilled individuals and contribute to the strategic goals of government in eradicating poverty and unemployment.

The programme will offer participants a minimum number of regular days of work, focusing on labour intensive activities that include food gardens at clinics, schools, churches, home-based care, developing recreation spaces and sporting facilities, environmental rehabilitation, general maintenance work, cleaning schools as well as other tasks to support schools.

During the launch of the programmes, municipal officials and councillors, led by the Mayor, volunteered their time by cleaning community buildings, graveyards, tree planting and donating sporting equipment among other things.

THE LONG AWAITED BLOUBERG SHOPPING MALL FINALLY OPENS DOORS

The Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, His Worship Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, on the 30th of August 2012 officiated the plaque unveiling event; marking the official opening of the long awaited new Blouberg Mall.

With 21 wards, translating to over 130 settlements and about 190 000 population, the current shopping centre just couldn't cope. Pay days were just a nightmare as everyone would flock to the Senwabarwana Complex. With the opening of the new mall, traffic congestions and long queues have been minimized. The R120m development is geared to play a pivotal role in boosting the local development by creating employment to locals. The Mayor applauded McCormick Property Development and Selamolela Group JV for investing in Senwabarwana. "Investing more than R120m in a rural area just goes to show the investors' commitment to support government's rural development programme," he said.

He further mentioned that the Municipality, through its vision 2030, will be concentrating on developing more new towns in Blouberg by turning Alldays, Eldorado, Tolwe, Langlaagte and Ga-Raweshi amongst others into municipal mini towns.

The commencing of construction of the mall was a bit delayed as the Provincial Public Works Department experienced a few glitches in transferring land to the Municipality. Community members said they are happy that the wait is finally over.

The municipal social pages were filled with comments from happy people: "No more Polokwane for KFC", Grace Morongwa commented. Tebogo Mabeso wrote "Development is one of the municipal key factors, I'm really impressed by the hard work Blouberg is doing. Keep up the great job".

Tlabo Abram Setjie continued "I really appreciate that, I hope more development and job creations will continue like that. More people will be hired and this will be a centre of training for graduated students, time money save vs long distance to Polokwane, Shine Blouberg, shine".

The opening of the mall created over 500 job opportunities to locals. The McCormick Property Development has thanked the municipality for affording them an opportunity to do business in Blouberg.

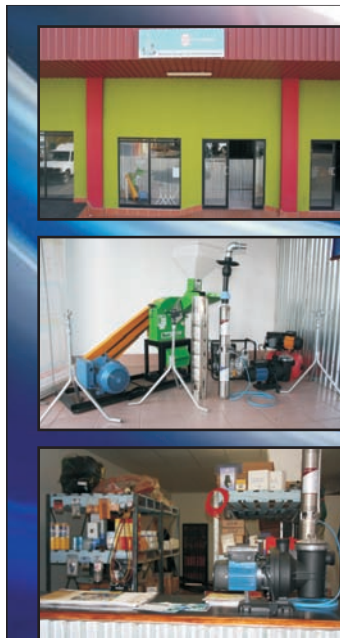
Shoprite; Mr Price; Edgars Active; Pep; Roots; Capitec Bank; ABSA Bank; Mr Pieman; and KFC are amongst the established businesses operating at the new mall.



The Mayor, Cllr Sekgoloane (left), and Kgoshi Ngoako Maleboho officially opened the new Blouberg Mall.



The new shopping mall at Senwabarwana.



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TO THE CLASS OF 2012

Dear Learner

Here now a brighter future beckons, a future in which life is a melody that knows no melancholy

The asking price is determined, and it is within your means

The asking price is hard work, hard work and hard work - the same old thing you mastered over the years

You have done it before, you can do it now and in the future

You have crossed rivers, scaled mountains and survived untold drawbacks

It is so close you must not slip up, sleep on it or succumb to new challenges disguised as difficulties

As they say, that which brought you here cannot take you there

All your previous school years were a preparation for a take off, a take off into the skies, so you can cruise above the clouds, mountains and rivers

You have gathered the required momentum, thanks to the guidance, push and support by your educators and parents who deserve our respect and praise

Your Municipality has a vision to urbanise at least 70% of all human settlements by 2030

It means winning the war against the triple challenges of inequality; unemployment and poverty

It means building above standard roads; electricity; water and sanitation infrastructure and networks everywhere

It means creating economic activities and job opportunities within the preferred living areas of our people

It means towns emerging and growing at Senwabarwana; Alldays; Eldorado; Ga-Raweshi; Langlaagte and everywhere else within the four corners of Blouberg

To that end we will need economists; engineers; medical doctors; town and regional planners; and educators

These are skills that have always come in short supply, and these are skills that almost all our settlements must have in abundance twenty years from now

And you are our hope, now that you have come thus far

Like a jumbo jet please take off into the skies so your entire village and Municipality can enjoy a full view of a giant you have been developing into all your years in school uniforms

A few years later you will return a man or woman of letters; our pride and cadre for our deserved socio-economic emancipation

Good Luck!!!

Clr Serite Sekgoloane
Mayor





TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS



General Hints

- Only drive a motor vehicle or motor cycle if you have a valid drivers licence;
- Drive at or below the speed limit;
- Stop at red traffic lights and stop streets to prevent accidents;
- Stay sober – don't drink alcohol and then drive;
- When you are tired, don't drive;
- Prepare and plan your trip to include rest breaks and stopping times. Allow regular rest breaks – stop after every two (2) hours of travel or 200 km in order to stretch and get the blood circulating;
- If your vehicle is unroadworthy, leave it at home;
- Passengers: choose a safe taxi, not the fastest one.

Hints About Your Attitude

- Accidents are not the only cause of death on the road – so is road rage. Be patient, considerate and courteous. Respect one another and preserve the GIFT OF LIFE;
- Do not react to provocation by other drivers, nor attempt to provoke them;
- Do not flash your lights or use your horn in order to pass other vehicles;

- While travelling, motorists must maintain at least a three second following distance. This is equivalent to at least 2 car lengths.

Vehicle Safety Hints

- Tyres are very important and should be inspected for wear and tear and correct air pressure. There must be sufficient tread on tyres for them to operate effectively. Wheel balancing and alignment should also be checked regularly;
- Windscreen wipers should be effective and in good working order. New blades are inexpensive and easy to fit;
- The windscreen washer container should be filled to clear the windscreen of bugs and road debris. Windscreen cracks and/or blemishes should be repaired;
- Worn shock absorbers have a detrimental effect on a vehicle's handling. Have shock absorbers checked before a long journey;
- Brakes should be thoroughly inspected;



Blouberg councillors, police, fire fighters, EMS and traffic police have always found a good reason to work together to promote road safety.

- Lights and headlamps should be in good working order and be properly adjusted;
- Mirrors should be properly adjusted;
- Brake and indicator signals should be in good working order.

Overloading

- An overloaded motor vehicle is dangerous and illegal;
- Overloading can cause tyres to overheat and result in a possible tyre blow out;
- Never load more passengers/goods than is allowed per vehicle;
- Overloading damages our roads and costs the economy/taxpayers millions of Rand each year.

Courtesy of Department of Transport.



These are sights motorists can expect in Blouberg this festive season.

THE TENTH WARD COMMITTEES



The speakers



The attendance



The winners



The gala evening



CONFERENCE IN PICTURES



The speakers



The attendance



The winners



The gala evening



Dr Dlamini-Zuma leaves office on a high note in Blouberg.

A child must be registered with Home Affairs within 30 days. Marriages must also be registered. Women should avoid by all means getting trapped to illegal immigrants' tricks to marrying them in order to obtain citizenship. These are among the free lessons the former Home Affairs Minister (now African Union Commission Chairperson), Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, came to dish out to the people of Blouberg on the 11th September 2012. Ga- Machaba Village was the place to be on the day and Blouberg people did not disappoint as they came in their numbers to the Minister's launch of Home Affairs Community Stakeholder Forum.

HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER COMPLETES HER OFFICE DAYS IN BLOUBERG

Dlamini-Zuma kick started her Limpopo event with a Gala dinner with stakeholder's in Polokwane on the 10th of September, a night before the main function.

The launch of Stakeholder Forum throughout the country has been the hallmark of Minister Dlamini-Zuma's strategy to involve communities on the governance process within the Department of Home Affairs with the aim of improving and accelerating service delivery.

According to the Department, so far over 270 stakeholder forums have been launched throughout the country. The forums are established along municipal jurisdictions to reach out to every citizen thus giving credence to the notion that the people shall govern.

Minister Dlamini-Zuma is credited with having brought about fundamental

transformation of the Department of Home Affairs resulting in caring, effective an efficient service delivery levels while taking its rightful place as security department within the JCPS cluster of Governance. Under her watch the Department achieved an unqualified audit opinion in 16 years since the dawn of democracy. Dlamini-Zuma also advised people to register deaths regardless of the age of the deceased.

The launch of the Stakeholder forum in Blouberg was preceded by a visit to the Blouberg Home Affairs Offices and Helena Frans Hospital before the delegation proceeds to Ga-Machaba to launch the Stakeholder forum.



Community members lining up to enquire about Home Affairs services and to wish Dr Dlamini-Zuma success in her new role as the AU Commission boss.

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DAYS OF ILLEGAL STREET TRADING ARE OVER

Vendors operating in the Senwabarwana Central Business District (CBD) without permits have been warned. On the 6th September 2012 Blouberg Municipality in conjunction with Senwabarwana Police and Blouberg Traffic Department took to the streets to evict them. The Municipality initiated plans for the swoop after several complaints about vendors crowding the streets were lodged by the public and the Senwabarwana Hawkers Association, the body representing hawkers in Senwabarwana.

The Municipality, through Economic Development and planning Department, issued trading licenses to over three hundred hawkers in December 2011 in a bid to regulate hawking and address the current shambolic street trading in town and in turn beautify the Municipality's economic hub.

There are a limited number of spaces available for street vendors in the town of Senwabarwana, and hawkers are only allowed to sell their goods in the demarcated areas in order to keep the town neat. The operation also included the confiscation of pirated CD's, DVD's and goods that are not by law permitted to be sold on the street.

Vendors who failed to produce legal permits issued by the Blouberg Municipality have had their goods confiscated and fined R500 to have them released. The operation will continue in the form of unannounced swoops to sophisticate the fight against the notorious illegal traders who keep on returning to areas they have been warned to vacate. The Municipality has in its employ two by-law enforcement officers who are being prepared to ensure that street trading is strictly monitored in

accordance with the Municipality's Street Trading By-law passed in 2008.

"We are enjoined by law, and in particular section 152 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, to promote a safe and healthy environment, and illegal trading poses a serious risk to the safety and health of our people," says the Chairperson of Economic Development & Planning, Councillor Adeline Morapedi, in justifying the Municipality's resolve. Since the start of the operations, hawkers have flocked to the municipal offices to service their debts on payable monthly permit fees of R30.

For more information on street trading and permits feel free to contact Mr Stan Moremi on 015 505 7169 / 082 599 4042 or Mr Jomo Selamolela on 078 758 4968.



Municipal officials have vowed to continue to raid illegal street traders.

FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS TAKEN TO FARMS



Cllr Lehong leading her ward by example by publicly testing for HIV/AIDS.

Blouberg Municipality in conjunction with the Department of Health - Capricorn, USAID and Agri-AIDS took a two-day HIV/AIDS test drive to farming communities and the residents of Alldays from the 21st - 22nd September 2012. According to the Department, Alldays has the highest prevalence of HIV in Blouberg.

The Department, together with the Municipality and other stakeholders, launched the farming sector HIV testing and counseling campaign at Pietersburg Farm near Alldays to encourage farm dwellers from surrounding farms to take part in the fight against the pandemic. The Department further pointed out that the campaign would involve a massive voluntary HIV counseling and testing drive, a mass mobilization drive and the early detection and management of sexually transmitted infections.

The aim of the campaign, according to the Department, is to ensure that farm workers know their status early, as well as to create a healthy environment for themselves and their families.

Those found to be HIV positive would get access to treatment, care and support

leading to a reduction in the transmission of HIV and Aids.

Day-two of the event was held at Alldays Multi-Purpose Centre. The testing drive continued, followed by the presentation on Sexual Transmitted Diseases (STI's) and Tuberculosis, amongst others.

Giving the keynote address, the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality, His Worship, Cllr Serite Sekgoloane, said: "HIV is not a death sentence and encouraged people who are already living with the pandemic to look after themselves by following the treatment guidance given by their health professionals. It is trite that you take medicines without fail; exercise regularly; avoid alcohol and smoking; use condoms in order not to infect others or reinfect yourself; etc. This information is everywhere and you can live longer if you heed it." The Mayor further

mentioned that the Municipality in partnership with the Department of Health will establish Aids Ward Councils and will cascade it down to Village Aids Councils in a bid to conscientise communities about one of the country's priority health challenges. The Blouberg Aids council was launched in April last year by Capricorn District Executive Mayor, Cllr Makgabo Mapoulo.

HIV/AIDS is transmitted primarily via unprotected

sexual intercourse, contaminated blood transfusions and hypodermic needles, and from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding and it is the world's most significant public health challenge. However, with the advent of anti-retroviral therapy (ART), HIV positive people can now live longer and healthier lives. This has transformed the once life-threatening emergency to a manageable chronic disease.



Farm workers filing to know their status, thanks to the Municipality's campaign.

DECLARATION OF THE BLOUBERG MUNICIPALITY'S 10TH WARD COMMITTEES CONFERENCE CONVENED AT ELEPHANT SPRINGS, BELA-BELA FROM 14 - 16 SEPTEMBER 2012

We, the Blouberg Community, gathered at Elephant Springs in Bela-Bela, Limpopo Province, in the tenth Ward Committee Conference under the theme: "A decade of relentless effort towards quality service delivery - the journey continues", as Councilors, members of Ward Committee, Representatives from Sister Municipalities within the Capricorn District, Magoshi, SANCO, Partners from the corporate world, CDWs from our 21 Wards across the municipality, Managers and officials:

Appreciating:

- The presence and welcome address by the mayor of BelaBela Municipality, Clr Hlungwane F.S,
- The keynote address by the Honourable Mayor, Clr Serite Sekgoloane, of the Blouberg Municipality,
- The presence and message of support on behalf of Magoshi by Kgoshi Leboho K.O,
- The presence and messages of support by Speakers and/or representatives from Sister Municipalities,
- The awards presented in recognition of exceptional performances and long service of certain ward committees and ward committee members.

Having viewed/presented on:

- Blouberg Municipality Corporate Video,
- Overview and Performance report on Ward Committees,
- Communication Strategy: The Role of Social Media,
- Relationship between Community Development Workers and Ward Committees,
- The National Development Plan.

Noting comments and progress reports on:

- The Corporate Video depicting the Blouberg Municipality's journey over the decade in respect of Ward Committee model,
- The indicators for functionality of Ward Committees as follows:
 - o Conduct door to door campaigns,
 - o Hold their meetings as scheduled,
 - o Handle complaints,
 - o Convene ward public meetings,
 - o Disseminate information,
 - o Submit reports to the Office of the Speaker,
 - o Ward profiling,
 - o Ensure involvement of public in the affairs of government.
- The roles and responsibilities of Community Development Workers as :
 - o To conduct door to door campaigns,
 - o To do ward profiling,
 - o To compile ward service delivery audit reports,
 - o To provide early warning on challenges relating to



Mr Oscar "Papi" Tshidi (ward 10) says their ward will be the first to implemet the Ward Committe Conference resolutions.

- service delivery,
- o Being one of the stakeholders in identification of beneficiaries for government services and interventions,
- o Being public participation practitioners,
- o Being able to identify and alert relevant authorities of challenges at hand,
- o To mobilize members of the public for public participation programmes.

Therefore resolve that:

- The Corporate Video be edited to incorporate clips of messages from the Municipal Manager, Chief Whip, Speaker, Mayor as well as Kgoshi Leboho K.O respectively,
- The Corporate Video be copied and duly distributed to all interested parties viz. Sister Municipalities, Magoshi, Ward Committees etc.,
- Engage MTN as an official communication partner with a view to provide data bundles for Ward Committees,
- Revolutionise Ward Committees; municipal officials and key stakeholders to affiliate and participate in the available municipal-based social media networks,
- Enjoin the Municipality to ensure strict adherence to departmental service standards in an effort to ensure efficiency in responding to issues/problems emanating from Ward Committees reports,
- Encourage potential local service providers to register on the municipal database, so that they be deliberately given first preference in respect of empowerment,
- Collaborate with CoGHSTA in consolidating questionnaire for the door-to-door campaigns and discussions on the development of Ward Profile,
- Customize the National Development Plan with the purpose of soliciting inputs from members of the broader community.

CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT

NAME OF PROJECT	CONSTRUCTION AMOUNT	CONSULTING ENGINEER	CONTRACTOR	COMPLETION DATE	PROGRESS
Eldorado Sports Complex Phase 3 (4)	R6,335,264.34	Mont Consulting Engineers	LFP Trading	03/04/2013	30% - Construction Stage. Site handed over on 10/09/2012
Ga-Hlako Crèche	R1,703,003.02	MJT Consulting Engineers	Mudzhadzi Mmagongwana JV	15/01/2013	30% - Construction stage. Site handed over on 04/09/2012
Driekoppies Creche	R1,693,270.22	MJT Consulting Engineers	Zookie Saks JV	15/01/2013	20% - Construction Stage
Burgerrecht Creche	R1,696,205.29	MJT Consulting Engineers	Tihaatshane Construction	15/01/2013	20% - Construction Stage
Raweshi Multi Purpose Centre	R5,096,025,025.15	Semone Consulting Engineers	Not yet appointed	-	Engineers are finalizing designs
Alldays Multi-Purpose Centre (Phase 2)	R1,266,098.96	Dolmen Engineers	Bakone Mathekga Water Services	29/08/2012	100% Completed. Awaiting official opening
Senwabarwana Traffic Station (Phase 1)	R7,673,164.01	DDBS (Principal Agent Architects)	Mabkol Projects/Riaphela JV	27/07/2012	75% - Construction Stage (Extension request has been granted to 30/10/2012)
Senwabarwana Traffic Station (Phase 2)	-	DDBS (Principal Agent Architects)	Not yet appointed	-	Final design stage. Appointment of contractors is expected by October 2012
Alldays Upgrading of Cemetery	R918,817.07	Mulalo Consulting Engineers	Pallent Investments	20/10/2012	75% Construction State (Contractor is currently constructing ablution facilities)
Indermark Upgrading of Cemetery	-	In-House	Not yet appointed	-	Bid adjudication stage
Senwabarwana Internal Streets	-	Manes Consulting Engineers	Not yet appointed	-	Final design stage



BLOUBERG PARTICIPATES IN SAIMG



Blouberg employees invading Gaborone.

Botswana's Capital City, Gaborone, came to a standstill on the 23rd of October 2012 as municipalities from SADC countries paraded in the city's streets marking the official opening of the Southern Africa Inter Municipal Games (SAIMG).

Blouberg Local Municipality got the loudest cheer for its stylish parade and branding which led to publicity by one of Botswana's publications, presenting them as the darlings of the SAIMG.

The games are an international event taking place annually in different countries with the purpose of promoting wellness, friendship and working relations through sport and culture.

The theme for this year's games was 'Coming Home to Relieve a decade of African Renaissance through Municipal Sport'.

Blouberg Municipality was one of the 54 municipalities in the SADC and amongst the 12 in Limpopo that took part in this year's games. This sport event brings together municipalities from various countries in the subcontinent. This year's games were held at the University of Botswana from 23-29 September 2012, featuring 10 sporting codes.

Blouberg Municipality entered for soccer, netball and volleyball, fishing and snooker. Blouberg netball and soccer teams won all their first round games and later knocked off at the last 16 by Botswana's Kweneng City Council. However the Volleyball squad and the Snooker team managed to pull through to the quarter finals.

Blouberg Municipality Sport Officer, Bethuel Mabeso, said they are happy to have been part of this year's games.

Shirly Twala, a municipal Traffic Official who is also part of the Municipal Netball team, said the trip was worthwhile "we had fun, the trip assisted us a lot in terms of getting to know each other well as Blouberg officials, meeting new people and of course learn from winning teams".

SAIMG President, Mr Sono, said nothing is more exciting than nations coming together for one common goal where everyone is united by the love of sport. The 2013 SAIMG games are scheduled to take place in Namibia.

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MUNICIPALITY HOLD BATHO PELE BUILD UP EVENT

Residents had a rare opportunity of accessing government services on their doorsteps on the 7th September 2012 when the Municipality held its annual build up event to the District Batho Pele Day to be held in Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality. The event was held at Ga-Raweshi where the Municipality is building a R5m multi-purpose community centre during the current financial year to ensure that government services are easily accessible to all citizens.

Municipal leadership interacted with residents with the aim of addressing their service delivery concerns and account to citizens about service delivery status of the Municipality (achievements, challenges and future plans) and make the complaints mechanisms accessible to citizens. The main objective of the event hosted by Blouberg Local Municipality in conjunction with Capricorn District Municipality was to intensify service delivery provision by various stakeholders that include departments operating in the Municipality; NGOs and parastatals.

Residents had the opportunity to access services of various government departments and entities such as South African Police Service; South African Social Security Agency; LIBSA; Departments of Home Affairs; Department of Labour; Agriculture; Traffic; Disaster and Fire; Public Works; Stats SA; ESKOM; SARS; Stats; and Limpopo Gambling Board.

Batho Pele principles require government departments to provide citizens with full and accurate information about their services and

regularly consult with them about the service levels and quality, and as far as possible give them a choice about the services offered.

The Municipality has in place suggestion boxes; complaints registers; municipal contact centres and is on social media (Facebook and Twitter) for the public to register their complaints and compliments about the services offered.

Batho Pele principles were developed by government to guide and give assurance of the standards and levels of services members of the public can expect from all public institutions and are aligned with the ideals of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, viz:

- Promoting and maintaining high standards of professional ethics;
- Providing service impartially, fairly, equitably and without bias;
- Utilizing resources efficiently and effectively;
- Responding to people's needs;
- Encouraging citizens to participate in policy making; and
- Rendering an accountable, transparent, development-oriented public administration

To that effect there are eight Batho Pele principles to be observed, viz

1. Consultations;
2. Setting service standards;
3. Increasing access;
4. Ensuring courtesy;
5. Providing information;
6. Openness and transparency;
7. Redress; and

8. Value for Money.

Our documented community outreaches are but one of our many ways of ensuring that we always consult users on the services rendered. Our Service Delivery Charter, outlining standards in respect of each of the services we provide is obtainable from www.blouberg.gov.za. Elsewhere in this edition there is talk about efforts to ensure services are rendered closest to communities. Currently the Municipality has opened four satellite offices at Alldays; Eldorado; Tolwe; and Senwabarwana (Ga-Mareis) and is building the fifth at Ga-Raweshi during the current financial year. This year the Municipality is opening the first ever traffic satellite office at Alldays.

Satellite Offices ensure that communities access services and information at their doorsteps. The Municipality continues to lead the pack in management of citizens' complaints or concerns raised through both the Presidential and Premier's Hotlines. As on the 31st August 2012, 17 cases had been reported through the Presidential Hotline and all of them (100%) had been resolved. For the same period, 68 cases had been reported through the Premier's Hotline. Of these only 1 remained unresolved at the time of reporting. The Municipality had in the process achieved 98.53% positive response rate. These are but a few examples to illustrate how far Blouberg Municipality has gone towards complying with the Batho Pele Principles. For more information on Batho Pele and customer care issues contact our Customer Care Officer, Ms Vinolia Makhura at 015 505 7123.



Residents enquired and learnt about government services at the Ga-Raweshi Batho Pele event. Cnr Tutja (far right) is seen here talking to residents on behalf of the Council of Blouberg Municipality.

KGOTHA KGO THE !!!! (OCT - DEC 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 o latelago. Dikopano tša Council le Executive Committee di buletšwe maloko a setšhaba. Le mengwa go ba gona.

	October	November	December
Council	31		
Executive Committee	23		
Portfolio Committees	15	30	14
Petitions and Public Participation Committee	08	20	06
Ethics and Disciplinary Committee	09		
Municipal Public Accounts Committee	10		
Ward Committees	02-07		
Mayor – Magoshi Forum			01-05
Mayor – Chairpersons (Bought Farms) Forum			14
Institutional Performance Review Forum	18		13
Land Use Management Forum	01	01	03
Energy Forum		02	
Water Forum		02	
Housing Forum		05	
Transport Forum		05	
Disaster Management Forum		06	
Waste Management Forum		07	
LED Forum		01	
Tourism Forum		08	
Local Communicators Forum		08	
Ward Public Meetings		09-18	



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