

# *Blouberg Municipality*



P.O. Box 1593  
SENWABARWANA 0790  
Tel: No.: 015 505 7100  
Fax: No.: 015 505 0568 / 0296  
E-mail: [info@blouberg.gov.za](mailto:info@blouberg.gov.za)

**13 October 2014**

## **MEDIA ARTICLE**

### **12 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY**

Today Blouberg Municipality is hailed champion of public participation throughout the country because of, amongst others, the effectiveness of our Ward committees System. Blouberg Municipality has always regarded its Ward committees as the important mobilizing agent for community action. This critical municipal stakeholder was established in terms of the Local Government Municipal Structure' Act ( 117 of 1998). It started with 16 wards and today the Municipality has 21 Wards and has for the past twelve years been convening Ward Committee's Forum/Conference affording them an opportunity to share the problems and success stories they come across as foot soldiers between the Council and the community.

The 21 wards translate into 210 ward committee members. Each ward is manned by 10 ward committee members who are selected from a broad range of interest groups that are most relevant to the key performance areas of the Municipality. The areas include municipal services such as water, electricity, housing, sanitation, roads, storm-water and drainage and social services including health, safety and security. The Blouberg Annual Ward Committee Conference dates back from 2003 and have been running year after year without fail.

The best practice of public participation model in Blouberg has been shared with various municipalities throughout the country and has featured in two of the most prominent publications commissioned by the national Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

This year the ward committees, The Council, Management, Makgosi and other important stakeholders will converge at Karibu Resort in Tzaneen for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ward Committees' to tackle issues of service delivery, how best they can work together to serve the community of Blouberg moving forward as well as sharing challenges and successes. This year's forum will be celebrated under the theme: "Celebrating twenty years of democracy – ensuring seamless service delivery through enhancement of community participation".

**DATE: 24-26 October 2014**

**Issued by Communications Division**  
**Enquiries: Mashele N.**  
**015 505 7100/0790559588**

