



Media Article

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COUNCIL REACHES OUT TO ITS PEOPLE

As part of government's concerted commitment to enhance participatory democracy, the Blouberg Municipality had a Council Imbizo programme at Leokaneng Village in Ward 22 on the 29th of March 2019. The Blouberg Municipality ordinary council meetings are held six times per annum in villages to afford communities an opportunity to build good relations with their leaders, have their say on municipal affairs and raise their service delivery challenges and compliments.

The formal council sitting kickstarted with the presentations of the Executive Committee reports emanating from the six portfolio committees of the municipality, the presentation of the draft 2019/2020 Integrated Development Plan (IDP/Budget by the Mayor Cllr Maseka Pheedi followed by the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) report presented by its Chairperson; Cllr Jonathan Sekgoloane.

After the formal proceedings of the council, members of the community were afforded an opportunity to raise their service delivery concerns with the Mayor and his entourage comprising the Political Management Team, The Executive Committee, councilors as well as top management.

Poor roads condition, incomplete low cost houses and water shortage topped the list in respect of residents' major concerns. With regards to the roads; residents requested that the municipality regravell the access between Leokaneng and Boslaagte, install the culverts where roads get flooded to insure easy access during rainy days.

They also requested the upgrade (gravel to tar) of the major road to ultimately link Gilead road for easy access to the shopping complex and other amenities.

Residents also raised concerns over the shortage of water in certain parts of Leokaneng and raised the alarm over the unavailability of water pump operators during pay days saying that they ultimately stay for days without water and the need for a clinic.

Other issues raised to mention but a few; were the completion of blocked RDP housing projects in certain areas of Ward 22, the increment of the allocation of Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP), and Community Works Programme (CWP) casual workers.

Responding to the upgrading of the electrification project from two-phase to three-phase, the chairperson of Infrastructures Services Cllr. Simon Mashalane indicated that ESKOM is in a process of resolving the matter.

On the issue of incomplete RDP houses the Chairperson of the Economic Development and Planning Cllr William Ntlatla indicated that the municipality is aware of the problem and that the Department of Corporative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional affairs together with the municipality with the assistance of the Ward Councilor have identified such houses and that the contractor has been appointed to fix them.

The Mayor's Bursary Fund were well responded to by the Chairperson of Corporate Services Cllr Adeline Morapedi.

In his response, His Worship Cllr Maseka Pheedi indicated that the municipality will now focus attention on the access roads. He said the municipality in terms of upgrading (gravel to tar) has been focusing on the upgrading of internal streets in the villages and towns.

The Municipality as the organ state works hand in hand with other government departments to service communities. He indicated that the complaint raised regarding the need for a clinic and the tarring of main roads will be escalated to the departments Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Health and agriculture respectively.

Mayor Pheedi also thanked the residents of ward 22 for heeding the call, by setting aside their daily activities to attend the municipality's council outreach programme.

Issued by Communications Division of the Blouberg Municipality
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