



## MEDIA ARTICLE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ATT: NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS**

### **BLM HOLDS 18TH ANNUAL WARD COMMITTEES' CONFERENCE IN CLUSTERS**

Blouberg Local Municipality Mayor, His Worship Cllr Maseka Pheedi said the municipality is today hailed champions of public participation throughout the country because of, amongst other things; the effectiveness of the ward committees system. Blouberg Local Municipality has always regarded its ward committees as the important mobilizing agent in ensuring that communities take part in municipal programmes.

Mayor Maseka Pheedi's message of the concluding annual ward committees' conference under 2016-2021 Council was presented by Cllr John Makgaka, Executive Committee (EXCO) member and the chairperson of the portfolio committee on Infrastructure Development.

The municipality clustered the 2021 conference in order to comply with the lockdown regulations around gatherings.

Last year the municipality could not hold the forum as large gatherings were mostly prohibited throughout the year.

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**Communications Division**

"The very same Coronavirus has robbed us of a great opportunity to engage with you in the previous year. The restrictions imposed on gatherings also impacted negatively on this type of gatherings as we could not hold a single conference as per the norm." said Mayor Pheedi.

The Cluster A conference which comprised wards; 03,08,09,10,11,14,12 and 19 was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2021 at Inveraan Multi-Purpose Community Centre.

Ward 04, 05,06,07 and 20 under Cluster B held theirs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Langlaagte Multi-Purpose Community Centre.

Mayor Pheedi commended the ward committees for their team spirit and dedication to serve their communities throughout the years.

"This gathering marks our final year in the 2016-2021 Council. As the Council of Blouberg Local Municipality, we are appreciative of the team work in the past five years wherein we tackled service delivery challenges head-on and serve our respective communities with distinction."

This critical municipal stakeholder was established in terms of the Local Government Municipal Structure's Act. It all started in 2003 with 16 wards and to date the municipality boast 22 wards. Each ward is manned by 10 committee members and are allocated various services delivery portfolios. For the previous 17 years, the municipality successfully convened the conference affording them the opportunity to share their day-to-day challenges and success stories they come across as foot soldiers and a liaison between the Council and the community.

The 2021 conference is held under the theme: "The year of Charlotte Maxeke: Ensuring efficient delivery of services and community safety against the backdrop of gender-based violence and the COVID-19 pandemic."

Mayor Pheedi indicated that the municipality will continue to put needs of the community first, he condemned gender-based violence and call for total adherence to COVID-19 regulations.

"President Cyril Ramaphosa has called on all spheres of government, to move with speed in attending community challenges and delivering services to the people and the fight by all of us to end gender – based violence and femicide. We all have a crucial role to play in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic by adhering to public health protocols in order to curb the spread and avert the threat of third wave"

Research shows that children who participate in quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme from an early age are more ready to learn when they begin school and are less likely to repeat grades or drop out of school.

To date, the Blouberg Local Municipality has built over forty(40) early childhood development centres to ensure good foundation for the rural Blouberg children.

**ENDS/**

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