



MEDIA ARTICLE

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BLOUBERG MUNICIPALITY'S NEW LEADER MEETS THE PEOPLE

Remember the difference between a boss and a leader: a boss says "Go"-a leader says "Let's go". He came, he left and he came back again! First he came as a municipal elected representative in the Transitional Local Council (Bochum\My Darling TLC) prior to the 2000 municipal elections. The ruling party, the African National Congress, deployed him to serve as the first Speaker of the Blouberg Municipal council after the 2000 first local government elections...a position he occupied until 2009. In 2009 he resigned from the Blouberg council to pursue an administration career in the Limpopo Provincial government. In December 2014 he left his administrative cap to join the Blouberg Municipal council as a councillor and EXCO member responsible for leading the Special Focus portfolio committee. Throughout his adult lifetime in both political and administrative capacities he has always worked with people and communities from all walks of life.

Having being elected third Mayor of Blouberg Municipality on the 17th May 2015, councillor Selamolela saw it fit to settle in his assigned position by meeting with key municipal stakeholders in what we coined 'Mayor's meet and greet sessions'. The purpose of the 'meet and greet' sessions was to create a rapport between the Mayor and key municipal stakeholders. The dust of his election and swearing in ceremony had hardly settled when the Mayor met with internal stakeholders that include senior management, organised labour, EXCO, PMT and the entire municipal work force on the 19th June 2015. The Mayor concluded the first phase of meetings with internal stakeholders on Tuesday, 23rd June when he met with all councillors. The same day from late morning the journey continued with the meeting with Maaparankwe, our traditional leaders, at Senwabarwana. The marathon of the "meet and greet" sessions continued the same week wherein leaders from key stakeholders such as, inter alia, Taxi Associations, Driving Schools Associations, Blouberg business forum, Blouberg Local Football Association, Blouberg boxing Association, CBOs, leaders and representatives of Special Focus Groups, as well as members of the local Inter-Governmental Relations Forum that represents various government departments and agencies offering their services in Blouberg.

Mayor Selamolela, in all these "meet and greet" sessions, explained the reasons for his deployment as the third Mayor of Blouberg, that his brief is, first, to bring stability and unity to the Blouberg Municipality and its people from all walks of life and, secondly, to accelerate service delivery. He stressed that the success of his mandate to Blouberg communities will not be created by his wisdom, leadership qualities and ability alone, but by the support and collective involvement of all municipal stakeholders in the affairs of the municipality. In all these meetings stakeholder

after stakeholder reaffirmed their unqualified support to the Mayor and also outlined the challenges they encounter in their organizations and the desired solutions they expect from his office. The Mayor further committed that there will be targeted meetings with individual stakeholders to hear, in details, their challenges, opportunities and more advices on how to improve the lives of Blouberg communities. As the new man at helm of the Blouberg Municipality leadership he was agreeing with what one philosopher, Lao Tzu, once said; “ a leader is best when people know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves”.

His second week in office was blessed by the presence of the Minister of Mineral Resources, Advocate Ngoako Ramahlodi, the MEC for Education, Honourable Kgetjepe and the Chief Executive Officer of De Beers Consolidated Mines, Mr Chris Barton during the official handover of the state-of-the-art hostel facilities for the Ratanang Special School on Friday, 26 June.

Readers, you will be kept abreast of the Mayor's stakeholders engagement session in the next edition of this newsletter

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