

MAYOR SELAMOLELA MS'S BRIEFING NOTES TO THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF RATANANG SPECIAL SCHOOL HOSTEL

As we welcome you to this peaceful municipality it calls on all of us to give you a brief on the state of our Municipality

- Blouberg local municipality was originally established in the year 2000 after the amalgamation of the Bochum- My-Darling TLC, Alldays –Buysdorp TLC and other portions of Moletji- Matlala TLC. This municipality is one of the five municipalities constituting Capricorn District municipality. Other municipalities constituting the Capricorn District municipality are: Aganang, Lepelle- Nkumpi, Molemole and Polokwane.
- Blouberg Local Municipality is situated approximately 95 kilometers from Polokwane towards the far northern part of the Capricorn District municipality. It is bordered by Aganang on the south, Molemole on the southwest, Makhado on the northeast, Lephalale on the northwest, Mogalakwena on the southwest and Musina on the north.
- In the year 2006 the government approved the decision by the municipal demarcation board to incorporate settlements of Vivo, Tolwe, Maastroom, Swaartwater and Baltimore which were in the Makhado Local municipality and Lephalale Local municipality. (Notice 642, Gazette 1314, December 2006) The new settlements demarcated into the Blouberg municipality are Uitkyk No. 01 and Overdyk villages which has increased the number of settlements to 125.
- The municipality has an estimated population of 194 113 (Statistics South Africa 2007 Community Survey). It covers approximately 9257.8 square kilometers. The number of wards is 21 with 125 settlements and 35 598 households. The recent statistics by Stats SA Census 2011 gives a different picture with regard to the population. The population has declined drastically from 194 119 Community Survey 2007 to 162 625.

The number of the households had however increased from 35 595 to 41 416

- ⊙ TOTAL POPULATION= 162 625
- ⊙ ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION (15-64)= 53.70%\87 330
- ⊙ BLOUBERG % OF UNEMPLOYMENT=39.20%\ 34 233
- ⊙ YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE=47.20 OF 39.20%\ 16158

From where we are we can safely indicate that our challenges of unemployment will require joint efforts by all stakeholders.

APPRECIATION

1. THE RULING PARTY-ANC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY UNDER PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA FOR;

Having prepared the country from economic transformation with the adoption of the freedom Charter at **Kliptown** in 1955.

The Freedom Charter was the statement of core principles of the South African Congress Alliance, which consisted of the **ANC** and its allies-the SA Indian Congress, the SA Congress of Democrats and the Coloured People's Congress.

The Freedom Charter is characterized by this opening demand; **"THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!"**

I must state it, without doubt, that the Freedom Charter is a product of the ANC. For the benefit of those who do not know, in **1955**, the ANC sent out 50,000 volunteers into townships and rural areas (then known as the countryside) to collect freedom demands from the people of South Africa. The plan was to give South Africans equal rights.

The charter was officially adopted on the **26th June 1955** at a Congress of the People in Kliptown with an attendance of over 3000 South Africans.

When the ANC came into office (after the release of Nelson Mandela on 11th February 1990) in 1994 it adopted a Constitution that included many of the demands of the Freedom Charter.

One of the components of the Freedom Charter which is relevant to this event states that "the people shall share in the wealth of the country." That included the national wealth of the country such as minerals, banks, industries and trade.

The promulgation of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act no 28 of 2002 was a step in the right direction for mines to implement the dictates of the Freedom Charter. The Act gave way for mining houses to develop Social and Labour Plans which serve as social contracts for mines, the government and mining communities to foster socio-economic development in areas where mines operate, as well as mines' labour sending areas.

APPRECIATION TO THE DE BEERS CONSOLIDATED MINE, IN GENERAL, AND THE VENETIA MINE, IN PARTICULAR

As I welcome you to this peaceful province and this progressive municipality I must indicate that we have a good relationship with the sponsors of this event, **Venetia mine**.

Our relationship dates back to the year 2000 since the establishment of this municipality in its current form.

Honourable Minister, today we can safely state that the partnership we have with the mine goes beyond the dictates of the MPRDA. The mine is a full member of the Blouberg Municipality's Local Economic Development Forum (which sits, at least, once per quarter). The mine also sits in the Limpopo Education Trust and the fruits of such membership are visible for all to see today.

In his address to the centenary celebrations of the African National Congress in Bloemfontein, **8th January 2012**, Comrade President JG Zuma said: "the party and the country had to face up to the 'triple challenge' of unemployment, poverty and inequality."

Working together with the mine we have made serious strides in the eradication of the triple challenges that face our communities. The mine is one of the biggest employers of our young people. The mine, in employing our people, has drastically pushed back the frontiers of poverty in our communities.

As I welcome you all I must indicate that, in the implementation of its SLPs the mine has developed our communities by, amongst others, providing the following:

- The electrification of settlements such as Mongalo, Kgatla and Mashamaite.
- The provision of Early Childhood Care facilities at Alldays, Grootpan, Mokwena (Glenfernis) and Sias (under construction).
- The provision of educational facilities at Wegdraai, Matsela, Bostec, and the current state of the art hostel facility that we officially hand over today.
- The renovation of Alldays combined school, provision of Alldays bus shelters, the renovation of Alldays swimming pool and the provision of the state of the art sports facility at Alldays.
- The list is endless.

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

As much as there is much appreciation by our communities on the efforts of the mine to develop our people I must stress that our people still feel that the mine's development impact is not enough until the following service delivery challenges are addressed:

- Roads infrastructure
- Water and sanitation infrastructure
- Adequate health facilities
- Equity stake by local communities-we must state that we have already secured a 10% stake for three communities in a mine that will soon start mining within our shores. We expect all mining houses to follow suit.

From the public participation sessions and stakeholders' engagements with our magoshi the general sentiment is that future Social and Labour Plans must address the challenges raised above.

I thank you