



THE BLM MOUTHPIECE

Your News. Your Eyes. Your Voice.



What is Inside...

Page 07



Minister of Arts And Culture And Community Members Tackle Gender-Based Violence Issue

Page 10



+ Health Walk And Sports Day Event For The Elderly

Page 12



+ Thuma Mina Program Brings Joy To BelfastDay

Our Vision

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality strives for a developmental and prosperous life for all.

Our Mission

The municipality commits itself to provide affordable and sustainable services by community participation, through accountability, transparency and responsible governance.

Our Core Values

- + Transparency
- + Responsible Governance
- + Efficient Service Delivery





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Note



Communications Manager, Mr. Aubrey Mnisi

Meet The BLM Communications Team

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Executive Mayor's Desk



Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo

It is that time of the year again when we come together with our families, friends and relatives to celebrate our family bonds and reflect on all that has transpired during the course of the year.

We gather to celebrate our cultural and traditional norms. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a truly Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

In the meantime, South Africa is heading towards its sixth (6th) national democratic elections next year (2019) and I urge all members of the community to ensure that they verify their voter registration with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in order to be

able to vote. I would like to plead with all political parties to refrain from using the election time as an opportunity to attack one another and incite violence within communities.

People of South Africa and Bushbuckridge in particular need and deserve better and improved quality services from us, and we shall only provide such.

Water, proper housing, roads and bridges, sanitation, creation of job opportunities, quality free education and healthcare remain at the top of the agenda for the government, led by the African National Congress (ANC).

As Bushbuckridge Local Mu-

nicipality (BLM), we will continue to strive for development in order to ensure a progressive life for all.

Accountability, transparency, responsible governance and efficient service delivery make up our core values and will continue to uphold responsible governance in our day-to-day work.

Furthermore, I urge all South Africans particularly those who will be travelling long distances to spend quality time with their families and friends, as well as all those who will be spending time away from home, to ensure that you ask neighbours or families to safeguard your assets while you are away.

To those travelling to Bushbuckridge to spend time in the Kruger National Park, rest assured: your well-being and safety is our number one priority.

The municipality will launch an extensive road safety awareness campaign that seeks to highlight the importance of protecting our local and international tourists who will be visiting

our shores for the festive season. I continue to urge members of our community to defend the safety of these tourists since their stay on our shores is beneficial to our people in the form of economic development and job creation.

To all staff members of the municipality: I want to take this opportunity to appreciate your commitment and hard work towards serving the community of Bushbuckridge. May the mighty God bless you and your families.

2018 has been one of the driest years we've experienced, despite which you have managed to pull through to beat the odds and loyally serve the people of Bushbuckridge with honour and dignity.

Let's collaborate to make our roads a safe place to drive on and our communities clean places to live in. It has undoubtedly been a fruitful year that has seen the municipality achieve most of its objectives.

Nevertheless, we do know that more still needs to be

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S DESK

To Council, staff members and the community of Bushbuckridge at large thank you for affording me the opportunity to contribute to the development of the municipality and to better improve the living standard of our communities.

I would like to call all stakeholders including officials of the municipality to continue putting in more effort on service delivery in order to improve the financial viability of this municipality.

In the past year or two, the municipality has attracted significant economic investments from retail and tourism - the latter has led to the creation of jobs, both permanent and temporary. This trend will continue and act as stimuli of economic development through the attraction of investors, particularly in the Tourism and Agricultural Sectors and through the Economic Development, Planning and Environment (EDPE) Directorate.

Bushbuckridge is vastly rural, lacks industrial activities and has a high unemploy-

ment rate, however, the municipality has worked hard to create opportunities such as the bursary scheme that helps previously disadvantaged but academically deserving students to further their studies at a tertiary institution of their choice.

These initiatives serve as a tool to eliminate illiteracy, create skills and boost the knowledge base from local young people to be better equipped for participation in the mainstream economy.

Tourism and Agriculture have proven to be the economic backbones of the municipality. Tourism has boomed, especially with Bushbuckridge - the gateway to the world-renowned Kruger National Park and the R40 Maputo Corridor.

We anticipate that the EDPE and Bushbuckridge Local Tourism Organisation (BLTO) will be of great benefit to both local and rural tourism. These will see tourists enjoying our locality before reaching the Kruger National Park, thus creating exciting new job opportuni-



Municipal Manager, Mrs. Cynthia Nkuna

ties for our locals.

The festive season is known as a period to spend some quality time with family and friends. However, the municipality condemns reckless behaviour on our roads, which includes drinking and driving. To all staff, especially those who will be driving to long distance holiday destinations, and those who will be staying local, please set a good example for our community and drive safely. Arrive alive, because we need your skills and dedication to continue serving our people.

To those with plenty, I urge you to reflect and share with those who are needy during this festive season, so that all members of the community feel loved and accommodated during this festive season.

On behalf of Council, I would like to wish everyone, including our staff, stakeholders and community members of Bushbuckridge, a Merry Christmas and an extraordinarily Happy and Prosperous New Year.

May the merciful God bless and keep you safe.

WE STRIVE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL & PROSPEROUS LIFE FOR ALL

Water is life. Sanitation is dignity. Accessible roads are needed for attracting investments and boost economic development. These are the cornerstones of development in a municipality like Bushbuckridge.

The South African Constitution dictates that all citi-

zens shall have the right to clean drinking water, sanitation and accessible roads, amongst other basic social needs.

Therefore, the municipality vows not to rest until all members of our community have access to clean drinking water, sanitation,

accessible roads and proper housing.

The capital project allocation reaffirm the municipality's stance of prioritising water provision to all corners of Bushbuckridge.

Some of the following projects, if not all of them

has been handed over to the contractors for the 2018/19 financial year to improve the living standards of our people, and to aid in the development of various communities within the municipal area of jurisdiction.

WE STRIVE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL & PROSPEROUS LIFE FOR ALL

WATER PROJECT		
Project Name	Type of Project	Allocated Budget
New Forest and Orinocco Bulk Supply (B14)	Water	R3,500.000.00
Bulk water supply to Belfast, Lillydale, Justicia (pipeline) B21A	Water	R2,500.000.00
Completion of outstanding works Tsakani Branch (A5)	Water	R3,000.000.00
Inyaka/ Marite Bulk Line to Cunning moore A & B	Water	R8,500.000.00
Provision of Water Reticulation at MP Steam Phase 1	Water	R11,419.286.23
Provision of Water Reticulation at MP Steam Phase 3	Water	R6,500.000.00
Provision of Water Reticulation at Mpenyatsatsi 1	Water	R3,000.000.00
Provision of Water Reticulation at Mpenyatsatsi Phase 2	Water Reticulations	R2,205.492.27
Reticulation and yard meter connection at Sandford phase 1	Water Reticulations	R2,000.000.00
Provision of Water Reticulation at Sandford phase 2	Water Reticulations	R3,242.040.82
Provision of Water Reticulation at Madras phase 1	Water Reticulations	R8,199.366.90
Provision of Water Reticulation at Madras phase 2	Water Reticulations	R7,000.000.00
Provision of Water Reticulation at Alexandria	Water Reticulations	R16,930.817.34
Provision of water reticulation at Belfast phase 1	Water Reticulations	R5,000.000.00
Provision of water reticulation at Belfast phase 2	Water Reticulations	R4,825.290.40
Reticulation and yard meter connection at Rolle	Water Reticulations	R15,000.000.00
Provision of water reticulation at Zola , Mambhumbhu and Songeni	Water Reticulations	R10,000.000.00
Provision of water reticulation at Tsakani Madile and Khalanyoni	Water Reticulations	R23,047.898.04
Provision of water reticulation at Tekamahala phase 2	Water Reticulations	R13,938.144.00
Reticulation and yard meter connection at Goromane	Water Reticulations	R10,000.000.00
Reticulation and yard meter connection at Allendale A and B	Water Reticulations	R10,000.000.00
Reticulation and yard meter connection at Violet bank	Water Reticulations	R10,000.000.00
Reticulation and yard meter connection at Thusanang	Water Reticulations	R10,000.000.00
Reticulation and yard meter connection at Welverdien	Water Reticulations	R10,000.000.00
ROADS AND STORM WATER		
Tarring of Cork via Kildare to Ronaldsey road phase 2	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
Upgrading of Internal Streets at Shatale	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
Upgrading of Internal Streets at Agincourt	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
Upgrading of Internal Streets at Dwarsloop	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
Upgrading of Internal Streets at Maviljan	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
Upgrading of Internal Streets at Marite	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
Upgrading of Acornhoek CBD By-Pass Ring Road	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
Upgrading of Internal Streets at Mkhuhlu	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
Paving of Internal Streets at Hluvukani	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
Paving of Internal Streets at Lillydale	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
Upgrading of Internal Streets at Thulamahashe	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
Extension of Mokhulilne/Motlamogatsane road	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
Paving of Internal Streets at Matsikitsane	Roads and storm water	R10,000.000.00
SOLID WASTE		
Construction of Thulamahashe Regional Landfill phase 1	Solid waste	R2,500.000.00
Construction of Thulamahashe Regional Landfill phase 2	Solid waste	R9,000.000.00
PUBLIC LIGHTS		
Construction of public Lights	Public	R7,166.753.00
SPORTS		
Acornhoek Sports Facility Phase 1	All regions	R12,532.964.00

Executive Mayor: 200 Days In Office Report

History was made after the 2016 Local Government Elections when Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo was inaugurated as the first female Executive Mayor of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM). Below are some of the achievements and intervention that she attained.

Strengthening of Relations With Tribal Councils

Barely a week after her inauguration, the Executive Mayor embarked on a consultative programme

whereby she visited all tribal council within the municipal area of jurisdiction to resuscitate and establish a sound relationship with them. She also shared with them the role that she expects them to play in terms of service delivery and despite her busy schedule, the Mayor always and continues to attend Umemmo or cultural functions as and when an invitation is extended to her.

Community Engagements

The Executive Mayor has

hosted 10 mayoral imbizo in different wards to assess the level and progress of service delivery. And she will continue using such platforms to promote public participation in the affairs of the municipality as well as giving ordinary citizens a chance to vent out their frustrations and challenges in terms of service delivery.

Water Provision

The municipality has been making strides in terms of water provision to communities and the acknowl-

edges that there are areas when there is no yard water reticulation. A huge chunk of the budget is channelled to water provision.

Financial Management

The municipality has managed to increase the revenue collection rate from 37% in 2017 to 57% in 2018. Under her leadership, the municipality also managed to obtain two successive unqualified audit opinions.

The Mayor is, however, disappointed is to learn that the municipality has

Department of Public Works, Roads And Transport Constructing New Thulamahashe Library

Annually the municipality submits a library development proposal to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport for the planning, budget and construction consideration - the department is currently working on the Thulamahashe Library construction that will benefit the people of Bushbuckridge as a whole.

We have entered the fourth industrial revolution which

is driven by information technology therefore our communities need to be well equipped with technological resources and information. Which will be a role played by this new library. It is a relief to those who are unable to buy data to access the internet.

The library will help develop a culture of learning, promote wider reading and provide a place for

collaborative learning and developing independent research.

The Thulamahashe library construction is worth R16 545 406, 87 and the government's mandate in the construction of such projects is to create jobs, thus employing youth in a fight to eradicate hunger and reduce the unemployment rate. The project has eighteen (18) people and six

(6) of the eighteen (18) are young people. The project is progressing well and no challenge has been reported so far.

Libraries preserve published documents, make them accessible and ensure that knowledge is not lost for the purpose of research and the enrichment of the mind.



Thulamahashe Library underconstruction



Thulamahashe Library underconstruction

Minister of Arts And Culture And Community Members Tackle Gender-Based Violence Issue



An offender Ms E Mokoena sharing her experiences with community members during the Ministerial Imbizo on Gender Based Violence held at Acornhoek Sports Complex

In an attempt to curb gender-based violence in communities, the Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Nathi Mthethwa accompanied by his Deputy, Gerhardus Oosthuizen hosted an Imbizo at Acornhoek Sports Complex on 23 November 2018. Acornhoek was chosen to host the Ministerial Imbizo because it has a high number of domestic violence cases reported since the start of this year.

Prior engaging members of the public, the Minister visited victims of gender-based violence at a Victim Empowerment Centre wherein he had bilateral with them. Speaking at the venue, the Minister of Arts and Culture warned perpetrators to stop abusing

women and children and he alluded that the society is expected to protect and defend women and children all the time.

The Minister urged those who are victims of this violence to break their silence and report the perpetrators to the Police. "Beating up defenceless people like women and children is not an act of bravery, but a stupendous act that could land you in jail. Let us protect and love them," concluded the Minister.

Delivering a message of Support on behalf of the Men Council, Mr Ubbisi echoed the sentiments uttered by the Minister by saying that it is the duty of every man to love and

protect their women and children. Real men protect women and children - they don't abuse them physically and sexually said Mr Ubbisi.

Two offenders who are currently serving jail time at Barberton Prison were roped in to come and share their experiences with the community members on gender-based violence. One of the offenders, Ms Elizabeth Mokoena who is currently serving her sentence for killing the perpetrator who raped her 14 years daughter shed tears as she was narrating her story.

She told them that she did what she had to do for what has happened to her daughter, and she urged

them not to take the law into their own hands if something similar was to happen to them. Instead, she implores them to let the law take its course in the event of domestic and gender-based violence.

By hosting the Imbizo the Minister was hoping to address and find shared solutions on gender-based violence through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach. The Ministerial Imbizo coincided with the centenaries of former President Nelson Mandela and Struggle stalwart Mama Albertina Sisulu call for all of us to recommit ourselves to their principles and values of building a nation bound by a common destiny.

Municipality Appeals To Community Members To Follow Right Procedures In Acquiring Land



Municipal By-Law Officers removing illegal pegs in Cunningmore where land invasion took place

The municipality has been experiencing large-scale land invasions lately and the land invasions took place in the following farms: Rolle -235 KU (Thulamahashe Section B), Cunningmore -275 KV, Excelsior 271 KV (Nkanini) and Inyaka -267 KV (Former Coffee plantation).

The municipality is appealing to community members to follow the right procedures in acquiring land for

residential or business use. And it should be noted that the municipality is the custodian of co-ordinated and properly planned land use management and it has been vested with powers to destroy and demolish illegal structures which were not approved by the Municipal Land Use and Planning Unit. It does not matter who allocated the land for development or settlement.

The Spatial Planning and

Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) is unequivocally clear, “any development or settlement that needs to happen within a municipal area, it must be approved by the relevant local government authority”. Any settlement which is not approved by the municipality is deemed illegal and the municipality has the right to destroy and demolish the illegal structure on the land in question.

There are also allocation and illegal demarcation of sites and stands on the buffer zones along the R40 Road from Marite to Acornhoek and the municipality would like to caution community members to refrain from demarcating stands on the buffer zones, because this puts their lives in danger in the event whereby a car loses control on the road and plunges into their houses. This might result in

injuries or even death.

In terms of the South African Road Agency (SANRAL) a house should be built 10 metres away from both provincial and national roads. The municipality is making a solemn plea to Tribal Councils to work hand-in-hand with it in terms of allocating land for residential and business purposes. As this will result in a smooth, hassle-free and seamless acquisition of land by community members.

Community members are urged to exercise patience and not invade unoccupied land. The municipality will do everything in its power to curb out land invasions within its area of jurisdiction and it will enlist the service by law enforcers to curb out this practice. Land invasions have an adverse impact on service delivery.



Municipal grader removing illegal pegs in Cunningmore

BLM Hosts Municipal Waste Indaba



Associate Professor F Macheke sharing his experience during the Waste Management Indaba held in Swadini Forever Resorts

In ensuring compliance to the National Waste Management Act, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) hosted a Waste Management Indaba on 29 - 30 November 2018, at Swadini Forever Resort.

The objectives of the Waste Management Indaba were as follows:

- Ensure effective implementation of the Na-

tional Waste Management Act.

- Promote community involvement in waste management.
- Discuss ways of tackling waste management in a sustainable manner whilst protecting the environment.

Speaking at the venue, the MMC of LED, Cllr Leonard Malomane alluded that

landfilling is not a sustainable form of waste management and he implored the Indaba to come up with ways of harnessing the green economy and growing the local waste economy. "We need to come up with sustainable ways which will not result in harming our environment," said the MMC.

Various stakeholders in the waste and environmental sector were invited to make presentations on the "Best Waste Management Practices" and they included Buhle Waste, Bushbuckridge Business Chamber, Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Agency, Local recyclers, Hawkers Association and the South African National Parks (SAN-parks).

The municipality also enlisted the services of an Associate Professor, Prof F Macheke from the University of South Africa (UNISA) who made a presentation on the "Best Waste Management Practices" and he also committed to sending

UNISA students who are studying towards an Environmental Management qualification to conduct research on which waste management practices can be utilised within the municipal area of jurisdiction.

Commissions were formed and given ample time to discuss and report back to the Indaba on the following issues:

- Illegal dumping.
- By-Laws and enforcement.
- Waste collection (Fleet) and Revenue generation.
- Disposal Site management.

There is a high prevalence of illegal dumping perpetuated by shopping complexes and community and this paints a bad picture in terms of protecting and preserving a clean environment. As a long term solution - the municipality will in future construct a regional landfill to thwart illegal dumping practices.



Local Recyclers showcasing their products made from dumped beer bottles

Health Walk And Sports Day Event For The Elderly



Ms D. Shai Thulamahashe Pensioners Member Acting Executive Mayor Cllr. L. Nkuna and Cllr. Mthisi C. with some of the beneficiaries during the health walk and sports da

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM), the Department of Health and the Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation held a successful Health Walk and Sports Day for the Elderly at the Manchester United Sports Field on 14 November 2018 in Burlington, near Hluvukani.

The main objective of this initiative was to promote a healthy lifestyle and fight chronic illnesses through various exercising models, including the health walk, soccer and aerobics to mention but few.

International Day for Older Persons is commemorated annually on 1 October worldwide and in accordance with the United Nations.

Older person's Human Rights were celebrated and championed on the day, this year's theme points to the leading role of older persons in championing human rights. The municipality is following in the footsteps of the United Nations by advocating that older people should be taken care of at all times.

The elderly are widely believed to be the sources of wisdom and knowledge in most cultures and traditional practices and beliefs across the globe, and as a result, they deserve to be honoured and celebrated.

The Department of Health ran screenings for diabetic illness and other chronic illnesses before the health walk and all other activities

commenced. The day kicked off with the 1.5 Kilometer health walk, followed by various sporting codes which were facilitated by the Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation. The municipality arranged "stress balls" to keep participants focused and relaxed during the proceedings.

Furthermore, the Department of Social Development condemned all forms of abuse against elderly people. They further advised the elderly on tips to keep them safe, such as not allowing strangers to assist them at ATMs or on any platform where there is access to the withdrawal of their money.

The elders were also reminded to visit their nearest

social development offices for further assistance on any social issue, and those who can't walk can arrange for home visits by officials of the department.

The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) echoed these sentiments by inviting senior citizens to visit their offices in order to verify their pension cards.

They further assured pensioners that no further unauthorised deductions will take place from their SASSA accounts and that the takeover by the Post Office will result in the cheapest and most convenient way for pensioners, and other grant receivers, to access their pensions and grants.

Local Municipality Reports Successful Traditional Health Practitioners Workshop



THP's opening the even with a ritual

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) hosted a successful Traditional Health Practitioners (THP) Workshop at the Secret Hill Lodge on 24 October 2018, the main objectives were to educate THPs about healthy use of traditional medicine, the importance of conservation, safe water use and were also encouraged to register themselves on the municipal database.

Mr B. Ndlovu, a National Tree Ambassador gave a presentation on the importance of protecting plants and cautioned THPs about the dangers of cutting down trees since they use plants to produce traditional medicine. After consulting the Council, Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi published the regulations for Traditional Health Practitioners - in terms of Section 47 and Section 21

of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act, 2007 (Act No 22 of 2007).

THPs are urged to realise the importance of registering their practices and exercise this right legally. The specific focus of the regulations is to set out the process for registration of the different HTPs categories and other pre-requirements including, but not limited to: the training of students, standards of educational training and codes of good ethical practice associated with ensuring the safety of the public and overall patient satisfaction. This was done in order to remove the stigma of marginalising traditional practices.

Mr Fannie Mashaba the Provincial chairperson of THPs explained some challenges in the THPs arena, which in-

cluded: lack of communication amongst Traditional Health Practitioners, fellow THP's giving traditional medicine to people who want job positions as those people tend to abuse power. Lastly, Mashaba urged current THP's to train upcoming THP's.

Ms Tebogo from Mpumalanga Tourism Parks Agency (MTPA) spoke about indigenous knowledge, she explained that their main task is to go around collecting data in communities. They also identify plants that are endangered. Ms Tebogo advised that elders and THPs should educate children about plants they use so that when they pass away they should be able to pass on their knowledge.

The Republic of South Africa's National Water Act No. 36 of

1998 recognises the protection of quality water resources to ensure sustainability of the nation's water in the interests of all water users and recognising the need for the integrated management of all aspects of water resources.

The duty of the National Water Act is to involve municipalities and ensure participation in the investigation of water pollution and create a dialogue with the public. The responsibility of the municipality is to maintain water sewage. The municipality should take reports from complaining customers and make it a priority.

All involved stakeholders should have a meeting and reports be taken into consideration. These were the recommendations of the Department of Water Affairs. The public

>>Continued on pg. 12

Local Municipality Reports Successful Traditional Health Practitioners Workshop

>>Continued from pg. 12

The public and THPs were advised to save water by using dirty water to water gardens.

THP's should not throw dead animals in the river, as they sometimes use animals as part of their rituals.

Traditional Healers' Organization National Coordinator, Phephile Maseko has her own business that produces natural remedy products that don't only include traditional medicine but also include modern technology in its creation.

She has manufactured seven (7) products in her own name encouraging fellow THPs to register as business people so they too can take ownership of their products. She is funded by the Department of Science and Technol-

ogy and she also encouraged THPs to strive for education so they can understand matters arising that involve their practice especially in the government.



THP's opening the even with a ritual

Thuma Mina Program Brings Joy To Belfast

"Christmas is not a season. It is a feeling." - Edna Ferber. Living to the true meaning of the latter on 06 December 2018, members of the Bushbuckridge Mayoral Committee led by the Executive Mayor and the Department of Human Settlements handed over early Christmas presents in a form of a house and food parcels to the Sowana Family and eleven other families in Belfast near the Kruger National Park.

It is the Government's mandate to ensure that people live in decent shelters. Ms Sowana with tears of joy expressed her gratitude to the municipality by changing her life. Ms Sowana's family spent many years in a shack and as a domestic worker in Rustenburg, she was always far from her children. She was over the moon after

the Executive Mayor officially handed over her the house and food parcels. The contractor, Nomajola is doing her part in eradicating poverty and ploughing back to the community by employing Ms Sowana as her children's

parents, children need guidance from their parents, said Ms Mnisi (Nomajola Contractor).

The Executive Mayor urged people to take care of their kids during this time of the

education is the key to success and that if you are educated no one can take your qualification away.

The following people were thanked during the event: Ward 23 Cllr Mdluli who always interacts with the people as part of serving and taking care of them.

The Contractors: Nomajola who already appointed Ms Sowana and Ms Fundiswa from Sereadima Consulting Engineers for providing food parcels to the twelve families in Belfast Village near Kruger National Park and Department of Human Settlements because as the municipality we could not be able to provide housing without the department.



reminder on daily basis with effect from 02 January 2019. It is painful to live without your

festive season. Honourable Mayor urged Sowane's children to work hard at School as

Department of Social Development And Alzheimer's South Africa Celebrate Senior Citizens

One of the quotes about education by Albert Einstein reads. "Education Is What Remains After One Has forgotten What One Has Learned In School". On 15 November 2018, the municipality, in conjunction with the Bushbuckridge Libraries, Department of Social Development and c South Africa held a successful Senior Citizens Celebration Day at the Numbi Hotel, under the theme "Devote Yourself to Public Reading".

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) Council Speaker, Cllr. Ruth Raganya who was the programme director for the day hailed praise to senior citizens for devoting themselves to learning and particularly reading.

The Speaker mentioned that the senior citizens were setting a very good example for our young generation so that they too will come

to realise that education is the key to a bright future.

Giving messages of support, the official from the Department of Social Development expressed concern over the abuse of senior citizens and cited that these elders are exposed to various kinds of abuse, ranging from rape, physical and emotional and financial abuse.

The official went on to say that the department has a special unit that deals specifically with issues related to the health of senior citizens and to help prevent these various forms of abuse.

A representative of Alzheimer's South Africa, an organisation that works hand-in-glove with the Department of Social Development, advocated that Alzheimer's is, in fact, a mental disease and that many senior citizens die from. She went

on to inform those present at the event that people with such a disease have symptoms such as sleep-walking, hallucinations, and at times, even walking naked on the streets.

She advised that if these signs become apparent at any point, medical intervention should be required immediately, rather than accusing them of witchcraft and harming or killing them.

Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr. Violet Nkuna echoed these sentiments about senior citizens being especially vulnerable and exposed to abuse.

As a result, the municipality has taken a stand against the abuse of senior citizens, and the day of celebration serves as a token of the government's appreciation to senior citizens.

Cllr. Nkuna said, "As the municipality, we totally condemn the abuse of senior citizens and the terrible conditions they live in, which is why we are urging NPO's and Home Based Carers to ensure that the elderly live in environments that are conducive to their optimal health and safety."

She concluded by urging senior citizens to continue reading and educating our youth about their preserved cultural and traditional practices for their benefit.

Cllr. Violet Nkuna, and Cllr. Ruth Raganya presented senior citizens with early Christmas gifts in the form of blankets, umbrellas, stress balls and sun hats and they were further treated to a five-star meal to conclude the celebrations.

BLM And Society Discuss HIV Prevention Strategies

In order to promote the well-being of the Bushbuckridge society, the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) presented a two day HIV prevention summit at the Sabi River Sun Resort near Hazyview from 22 - 23 November 2018. The event was aimed at discussing the prevention strategies gathered by different stakeholders thus providing ways on how to implement these vital strategies.

Stakeholders including the Department of Health, condom logistics, Hast, Victim Empowerment (VEP), Nhlengelo HBC, Obrigado, Love Life, LGBTI, Wisani HBC and Social Development were all part of the summit as they revealed all necessary information that will help the community of Bushbuckridge fight these socio-economic issues.

The Department of Health came out with the following prevention strategies: HIV testing, circumcision, PMCPPT programme, treatment, condom distribution pre-exposure prophylaxis (is the

use of drug to prevent disease in people who have not yet been exposed to the disease-causing agent, the term typically refers to the use of antiviral drugs as a strategy for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and post-exposure prophylaxis –PEP).

The above strategies have been collected by the department to fight social behaviour, children born with HIV, high rate of defaulters challenges. Mr Mdluli from LGBTI addressed the stigma and discrimination that surround HIV, he gave a talk that teaches people living with HIV/AIDS, TB and other diseases on how to overcome the stigma and discrimination.

Mpumalanga Traditional Practitioners (MTP) Chairperson, Mr Mbuso Siwela reported that many defaulters have surfaced to traditional practitioners demanding help by claiming that they have been bewitched. Furthermore, Mr Siwela requested the Department of Health to collaborate with Traditional

Practitioners in their quest to discover these defaulters. Condom Logistics companies are facing challenges since it was reported that people are using condoms to tie their socks instead of practising safe sex.

The Department of Social Development is using the HIV awareness campaign, Men Sector (campaign used to target men) and the YOLO programme to encourage young girl children to stand firm and accept who they are instead of having sex with "Sugar Daddies" in exchange for money.

The Department of Social Development gave a report on Substance User Abuse (SUA) and other personal problems like domestic violence which often result in people missing their treatment, furthermore the Department of Education reported that parents must take charge in educating their children about social issues, and not leave the responsibility to churches or schools because children are being raped at churches

and are dating teachers - according to recent reports.

Wisani HBC deals with TB through house-to-house visits, schools, Local Chiefs and HTS screening visits for testing and referring people with TB to clinics or other relevant departments if necessary. Love Life is empowering young women through sports in order to keep them occupied.

All participants have vowed to implement the gathered strategies which include, creating a link that will enable all departments including Traditional Practitioners to communicate with the Department of Health in terms of patient referrals and targeting the right segments when running future awareness and prevention campaigns. Condom Logistics will expand to all those unreachable communities, distributing condoms and not cease teaching people on how to use it thus encourage people to value their life by using all prevention methods made available to them.

60 % payment discount advert



INVITATION FOR BURSARY APPLICATION FOR 2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality hereby invites new students who qualify for bursary assistance to apply for one of the fields below to apply.

REQUIREMENTS

- *Certified copy of grade 12 mid-year results or Grade 12 certificate*
- *Proof of income of Parent/Guardian*
- *Certified copy of ID or birth certificate*
- *Valid proof of residence in Bushbuckridge*
- *Proof of indigent status*
- *Proof of admission*

ENGINEERING
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMPUTER SCIENCE
TOURISM MANAGEMENT
B.COM ACCOUNTING
AUDITING
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNER (TOWN PLANNER)
QUANTITY SURVEY
ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURAL STUDIES
PUBLIC MANAGEMENT
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT
ECONOMICS
CHEMISTRY
COMMUNICATION
LAW
SOCIAL SCIENCE
STATISTICS
OTHER MANAGEMENT STUDIES

CONDITIONS: Enquiries shall be directed to Mr Maunye S, Cell no: 071 607 8090. Applications should be submitted at Head Office or nearest Regional Offices. Only new students qualify to apply and if you are not contacted a month after closing date consider your applications unsuccessful.

NB: People with disabilities are also encouraged to apply for a bursary.

**CLOSING DATE
18 JANUARY 2018**