



THE BLM MOUTHPIECE

Your News. Your Eyes. Your Voice.



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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 enhancing community participation, through accountability, transparency and responsible governance.

Our Core Values

- + Accountability
- + Transparency
- + Responsible governance
- + Efficient Service Delivery



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Meet The BLM Communications Team

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Editor's Note



Communications Manager, Mr Aubrey Mnisi

Sanbonani. Minjani. Dumelang. Greetings

It is once again an honour to bring to you our valued readers and followers the 2018 second edition of the municipal newsletter, one of the many platforms meant to keep members of the public abreast with service delivery news, developments and programs.

Let me thank those who like, comment and share our social media platforms content; your comments allow us to improve service delivery and your inputs on matters of regarding rendered services are strongly valued. Developmental communication is about communities having a say and contributing to the affairs of the local sphere of government.

Through the office of the Executive Mayor, we will continue engaging the public via Mayoral Imbizos. It is critical for people to attend such public consultation forums.

In order for the municipality to provide efficient and effective uninterrupted services to communities, it needs a strong financial base hence we are appealing to all municipal account holders; businesses and departments to pay their municipal accounts for services offered to them such

as water, refuse removal, street cleaning, sewer management, property rates and taxes.

We recently installed indoor TV screens in all our municipal regional offices, libraries and Driver's License and Testing Centres.

It is in line with our efforts to improve our communication platforms and disseminate information to the community about the municipality.

The screens will also give our local business people an opportunity to market their businesses, please regularly check the TV screens for more information.

The municipal website is still running where everyone can get information and updates about the municipality.

The municipality contact telephone numbers have changed, the new telephone numbers are: 013 004 0291/92/95.

The **EMERGENCY** number has also changed to 013 004 0454/55.

I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter.

Executive Mayor's Desk



Executive Mayor Cllr, Sylvia Nxumalo

The 2017/18 financial year just ended and we are starting the 2018/19 financial year with vigour. The Council passed the 2018/19 IDP and budget within the stipulated and legislated timeframes. It is a record milestone that Council should be proud of and work hard to maintain.

June is a month that South Africa commemorates the youth of 1976.

We have encountered a loss of one of our own icons a month before we celebrated June 16, the veteran and our struggle photo journalist - Sam Nzima who put Bush-buckridge and South Africa

at large on the world map by exposing the evil of apartheid.

It is now in the hands of the current youth to continue with the struggle to defend our hard earned democracy.

I urge young people to be serious and take education even more seriously. It is a powerful tool that can change their lives and the lives of those around them.

Let us use this youth month to honour the sacrifice of uTata Nelson Mandela and uMama Albertina Sisulu towards a free, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Let us fight to economically emancipate our youth and build an economy that is beneficial to everyone.

I condemn the high rate of teenage pregnancy in our communities, I urge the health and wellness unit under Community Services Directorate to organise a dialogue to deal with the challenge of teenage pregnancy. Parents, educators, pastors and health practitioners should talk to children about engaging in sex at a young age and the negative consequences thereof.

Provision of water remains a priority, it is important to note that municipality depends on grants from National Treasury in order to provide services.

We urge our communities to pay their municipal services and in so doing, municipal officials and councillors should lead by example.

The payment of monthly service charges is vital as this will help the municipality expand the services to other communities who are currently not receiving these services.

Council is hell-bent on ensuring that the level of water

supply is normalised. We are in the advanced stages of realising the latter and announcements will soon be made.

Protesting is one of the legislated mass mobilisation strategies available for our communities to use as a means of raising their voices.

I urge our people to rest the rights of other people when they protest and, refrain from damaging and burning down schools.

By burning down a school, you are not solving the problem instead this action puts more strain on the government's budget and not to mention that our learners lose valuable learning hours and have their lives disrupted.

I urge everyone to follow proper channels when lodging complaints and partaking in a protest.

Community members should know that government infrastructure belongs to them and therefore, it is everybody's responsibility to protect public infrastructure.



ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S DESK

I continue to thank Council, officials and the community for entrusting me with the responsibility of steering the municipality forward in advancing the constitutional mandate of making the municipality work for its people.

It is indeed an undoubted fact that the municipality has made inroads in most of the service delivery imperatives.

Despite the remaining challenges faced by the municipality, we are working around the clock to ensure that we build and improve on the foundation we have built and to ensure that the municipality continues to work for its people.

The remaining pockets of water, roads and housing

challenges will be strategically addressed in the next 2018/19 financial year.

We are in coordinating efforts and budget together with the district municipality, provincial and the national government to address those service delivery backlogs.

A huge amount of our capital budget is still channelled towards water provision.

Infrastructure development boasts the local economy,



Acting MM, Mr Emmanuel Mashava

hence we believe that the construction of the new Mapu-laneng Regional Hospital, the Dwarsloop Mall, an extension of Thulamahashe Plaza and the Acornhoek Mall will certainly boost the local economy, create jobs and improve our health care system.

The municipality is supplementing this capital infrastructure development through capital, bulk water and electricity projects in various wards within the municipality. Refuse removal and solid

waste management are some of the many services the municipality is investing in, and we are also trying to improve on the currently available tools of trades.

The council is at an advanced stage of appointing an Accounting Officer. Together with all the officials of the municipality we have committed and strived for a clean audit opinion from the recent outcome of an unqualified audit opinion.

Council has adopted the idea by the National Treasury that all government departments and municipalities must achieve clean audit outcomes and as administration, we work tirelessly to realise that goal.

Bushbuckridge Promotes A Healthy Lifestyle

In promoting a healthy lifestyle amongst community members, the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) hosted a three in one (3 in 1) marathon at Ximhungwe Sports Ground on 23 June 2018.

The 3 in 1 marathon comprised of the following dis-

- tance runs:
- 5km - from Croquet lawn to Mathankeng
- 10km - from MP stream to Gakopeng Bridge
- 21.1km - from Thulamahashe to Ximhungwe Sports field.

The marathon started at 07H00am and attracted am-

ateurs and professional athletes within Bushbuckridge.

It was also opened to all age groups, from 15 to 70 years of age.

The marathon also included a 5km fun walk from Croquet lawn to Mathankeng.

A 74-year senior citizen defied all odds when he completed the 21.1km race.

Prizes were given to those who obtained position one (1) to four (4) in all the race categories.



MMC of Arts , Culture and Sport Cllr Violet Nkuna with contestants of the 21.1 km at Ga-orlando in Thulamahashe

Dwarsloop To Thulamahashe Road Gets a Face Lift

On 11 October 2017 the Department of Public Works in partnership with Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) conducted a Sod-turning, at Buyisonto in preparation of the overhaul rehabilitation of the Dwarsloop to Thulamahashe Road - Phase A and B.

Currently, the road is getting refurbished and it is envisaged to be completed by November 2019.

The reconstruction of the road will cost the Department of Public Works, Roads

and Transport over R175 million.

The rehabilitation and refurbishment of this road will ensure that motorists drive in a smooth and safe environment.



Dwarsloop to Thulamahashe road refurbishment in progress

The road is a major economic hub that is connected to the busy R40 road that links South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The road project has created the much needed temporary job opportunities for community members.

The Thulamahashe road was riddled with huge potholes and the municipality hopes the reconstruction will help reduce road carnages whilst promoting road safety.

Marite To Hoxane Road To Receive An Upgrade

There were ululations and excitement on 02 May 2018 when the MEC of Public Works, Roads and Transport Ms Sasekani Manzini accompanied by the Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo unveiled the contractor appointed to upgrade the road between Marite via Goromani to Hoxani in a community meeting held at Shatlaleng sports ground.

The road upgrade between Marite and Hoxane will stretch from ward 1, 2, and 4 respectively - it is a 13.5 kilo-

metres long road. It will cost the Public Works, Roads and Transport R176 million.

The project is envisaged to take 18 months to conclude with completion expected to be November 2019.

Community members have had difficulty driving through the gravel road during the rainy season.

Not only will the road upgrade improve the driving experience of community members, it will also create

business and job opportunities for community members from the three (3) benefiting wards.

Local businesses will also benefit through sub-contracting and supply of materials.

Speaking at Shatlaleng Sportsground was the MEC of Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ms Sasekani Manzini where she assured community members that the contractor will build a high-quality road infrastructure that will last for 20 years.

The Executive Mayor welcomed the intervention by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport as a way of resolving road backlogs within the municipal area of jurisdiction.

The Mayor also made a clarification call for drivers to slow down and take precautionary measures during the construction period.



Public Works MEC officially unveiling the contractor for the construction of marite via Goromane to Hoxane tar road

DHS Presents A Family of Physically Challenged Individuals With A New House



BLM Executive Mayor Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo congratulating blind gogo Msimano after a ribbon cut during an official hand over of her house

As part of celebrating freedom day, the Department of Human Settlement (DHS), Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) and Disability People of South Africa (DPSA) gave back a family of 23 physically challenged individuals their dignity by officially handing over a newly and fully furnished house.

Handing over the keys to the elderly member who is blind, Gogo Kate Msimano, the Executive Mayor of BLM Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo alluded that when the African National Congress (ANC) led government took over in 1994 vowed to strive for a better life for all and improve the living standards of ordinary South Africans.

'Not only are we as the government focusing on housing but rather all spheres of service delivery in the coun-

try,' concluded the Executive Mayor Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo.

The celebrations continued to the church where the Executive Mayor interacted with members of the community and delivered her keynote address.

She pleaded with members of the community to refrain from criminal activities including buying material meant for building RDP houses for the poor which often results in poor quality built houses.

Partaking in these kinds of criminal activities leaves the municipality in disarray in the community's perception, as the municipality takes the blame for poor workmanship. The Executive Mayor further urged members of the community to ensure that government should and

will account for every action including their own councillors. She again applauded the hard work displayed by the Community Development Workers (CDWs) in identifying the family. Their act is in line with the constitution's Bill of Rights as everyone has a right to a shelter.

Executive Mayor said, "I would like to ask the members of society to be patient with the three spheres of government (National, Provincial and the Municipality) in terms of delivery of services.

The municipality's eyes and ears are the CDWs, and the Ward Councillor as well as all other relevant stakeholders of the society. It is therefore imperative that the society follows all the necessary steps before engaging in any illegal community protests."

"Should at any given time not to be assisted from all the above stakeholders I have mentioned above, the Municipal Regional Office, Office of the Speaker and my Office are always open to serve the needs of the people.

The municipality is also on a drive campaign to ensure an improved standard of living. We will continue to work hand in hand with the DHS and all relevant stakeholders including our Local Councillors and CDWs and deliver decent houses and other services," continued the Executive Mayor.

She also handed over title deeds to gogo Lemita Malope and Lilly Malele. She alluded that a further 3700 houses will be delivered to the needy community members by the DHS.

Municipality Conducts Budget And IDP Roadshows

18-25 April 2018 were the dates set aside especially for the budget and Integrated Development Plan (IDP) public consultation roadshows in Maviljan Hall, Marriam Mogakane Community Hall, Margareth Manana Community Hall and Mkhuhlu Community Hall.

All the public consultation meetings were led by the Executive Mayor and chaired by the Council Speaker.

These roadshows are in line with the 1998 white paper on local government where it identified the IDP as a guiding tool for the development of local government and a yardstick for measuring development against the set objectives and the available budget.

Local government is the cold face sphere of service delivery and the main entry point of planning.

Section 152 of the Constitution of the Republic, 1996 stipulates that the responsibility of this sphere of the state is to provide a democratic and accountable government for local communities, to encourage the involvement of communities and its organisations in the matters of local government.

It is in accordance with these pieces of legislation that the municipality practised participatory democracy by involving the communities in developing the IDP and the budget through the budget consulta-

tive road shows.

The main objective of the IDP is to coordinate the work of local and other spheres of government in a coherent plan to improve the quality of life for all people living in an area.

It should take into account the existing conditions, problems and resources available for development.

The municipal IDP and budget will enable the Council and administration to speed up service delivery, guide development and efficient use of funds, redress the legacy of apartheid, strengthen democracy and promote co-ordination development between the municipality, district muni-

cipality and other sector departments.

The IDP as a municipal service delivery blueprint assists the municipality with its multi-year budgeting and planning.

The engagement of the communities through the public participation processes made sure that the voices of local people were heard and that their needs were prioritised and accommodated.

The BLM Executive Mayor, Members of the Mayoral Committee, Councillors, Acting Municipal Manager, Directors and Managers were part of the public consultation roadshows.



Members of the public who attended the IDP, Budget and Tarrifs public participation meetings

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality Holds LGNC Summit



MMC of Arts and Culture Cllr. Violet Nkuna addressing the Local Geographical Name Change Summit

From 22-23 May 2018, the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) hosted a Local Geographical Name Change (LGNC) Summit at the Gannet Place.

The main purpose of the summit was to educate ward committee members and representatives of traditional authorities about the procedures to be followed when naming and renaming streets, community halls, bridges sports ground, mountains and rivers.

The naming and renaming of streets is done to promote a common identity because most of the names are euro-centric.

The summit took the resolutions below:

- LGNC should be constitut-

ed in line with the legislative framework.

- LGNC should be a section 80 committee and chaired by either the MMC responsible or by the Council Speaker.
- Traditional Councils should serve as ex-official members on the LGNC.

- Ward for the LGNC should be established.
- An adequate budget must be set aside for LGNC.
- Introduce stipends for LGNC committee members.
- Public participation should be considered on all submitted names.

- All local stakeholders including organised formations to be thoroughly involved in the name and renaming processes.
- Names should be gazetted without delay.



Community development Workers who attended the Local Geographical Name Change Summit held at Gannet place from the 22-23rd of May 2018

Deputy Minister of Public Service And Administration Assesses Service Delivery

In a quest to assess service delivery and governance in public institutions as well as convening an engagement consultation under Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM), the Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration, Dr Chana Pilane-Majake with the support of the Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo hosted a Service Delivery Imbizo.

The Service Delivery Imbizo was held on 08 June 2018 at Rolle Worshippers Church. Before interacting with members of the community, the Deputy Minister and the Mayor conducted unannounced series of frontline service points.

They asked officials at the Thulamahashe Department of Home Affairs, Mhala SAPS and Rolle clinic to assess service delivery and take stock of the service delivery challenges.

Addressing members of the community at the Imbizo venue, Dr Pilane-Majake

alluded that Godide High School was built using mud hence the appalling state and she said that the Department of Education has been made aware of the situation. On Rolle Bridge, the Deputy Minister said that the Depart-

ment of Public Works has appointed a service provider to submit designs of the bridge.

In the same breath, she indicated that the Rolle-Manyeleti road cannot be attended

to as the Department of Public Works did not allocate a budget for it in this financial year.

She concluded her address by making a clarion call to all people to head the call by President Cyril Ramaphosa for each of us to lend a hand and for each of us to say, *"Send Me"* and help resolve the challenges faced by South Africans. "Government cannot resolve challenges on its own. We are stronger together. And the destiny of our nation resides in our collective hands," said the Deputy Minister.

Members of the public were given ample time to ask service delivery questions and both the Deputy-Minster and Mayor responded timeously.

Dr Chana Pilane-Majake also made mention of the Kildare bring which is currently under construction and is almost complete.



A senior citizen asking a question during the joint-service delivery imbizo on 08 June 2018



Bridge under construction at Kildare about to be completed

BLM Supports OVCs



MMC of Social Development Cllr Krisjan Mokoena delivering a Keynote Address during the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Summit held at OTJ Guest House on the 11-13th May 2018

In a bid to address the plight of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) hosted a summit for OVCs from 11-13 May 2018 at the OTJ Guest house.

The main purpose of the summit was to create an environment full of care, support and protection for orphans and vulnerable children in line with the Children's Act.

The summit was attended by 60 learners from schools that are experiencing a high

rate of teenage pregnancy, drop-out and child-headed families.

The summit was so to address and curb some of the challenges that OVCs have to contend with on a daily basis such as poverty, substances abuse and teenage pregnancy.

Speaking at the summit was the MMC of Social Development, Cllr Krisjan Mokoena he urged the learners not to feel like outcasts due to their impoverished backgrounds, but to soldier on in pursuit of

better lives.

He told them that their future is not dependent on their current family status. "If your parents are not educated, it does not mean that you too will be uneducated," alluded the MMC.

He further urged academically excelling poor pupils to take advantage of the municipal bursary scheme, meant to help the poor and previously disadvantaged pupils to further their studies at various institutions of higher learning.

Commissions were established to address the issues which continue to rage teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and killing of the girl child.

The Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo is calling upon community members to rally and protect OVCs and she expects the businesses to support them as well.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has an estimate of 153 million children worldwide who are orphans.

Greenest Region Competition Crowns Marite



Executive Mayor Cllr. S Nxumalo with officials from Marite Regional office and Cllr E Sihlabela during the Greenest Region Competition

Marite Regional Office was crowned the greenest region at the 1st annual Greenest Region Competition prize-giving ceremony which took place at Edhawini Lodge near Thulamahashe on 13 June 2018.

The main purposes of the Greenest Region Competition are:

- To promote a clean and healthy environment in all the regions within the jurisdiction of the municipality through greening, cleaning and beautification exercises.
- To inspire regions to clean up, fix and conserve their environment.

The competition was divided into two (2) categories namely: Built-up and Rural

regions. The Built-up regions category comprised of Thulamahashe, Dwarsloop, Mkhuhlu, Shatale, Acornhoek and Maviljan. The Rural regions category consisted of Hluvukani, Casteel, Marite, Agincourt and Lillydale.

The regions were evaluated based on the following elements:

- Waste Management
- Energy efficiency
- Landscaping and beautification
- Community involvement
- Presentation

A Steering Committee was established to adjudicate over the competition and it was constituted by officials from the municipality, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environment Affairs

(DARDLEA), Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Agency and Kruger National Parks.

Speaking at the glittering event, the Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo urged regional offices to work around the clock and ensure that the municipalities contribute towards the green economy and she alluded that the Greenest Region Competition should be seen as a dress-rehearsal for the most coveted prize, the Greenest Municipality Competition.

Winners per categories are as follows:

Built-up regions

1. Dwarsloop
2. Acornhoek
3. Thulamahashe
4. Shatale

Rural regions

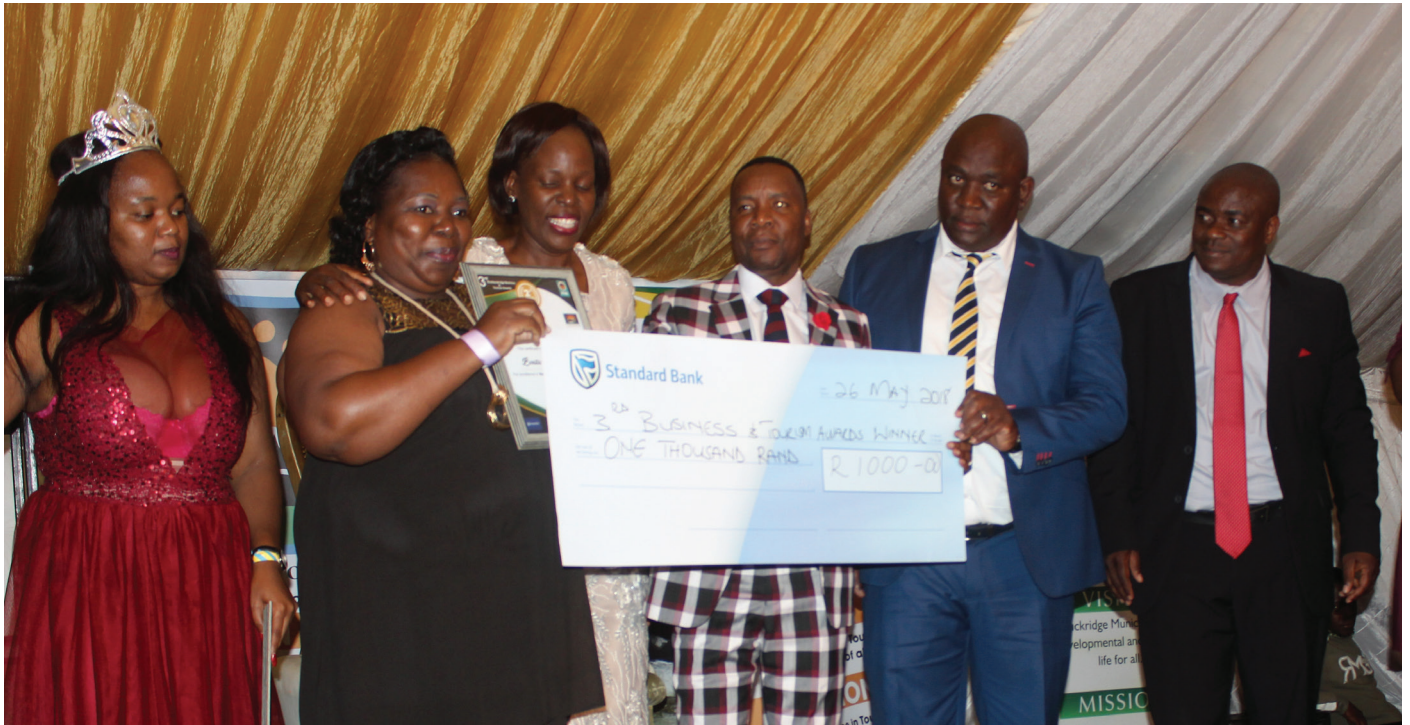
1. Marite
2. Casteel
3. Agincourt
4. Lillydale
5. Hluvukani

Prizes were awarded as follows:

First prize: R5000 worth working equipment, **Second prize:** R3000 worth working equipment and **Third prize:** R1000 worth working equipment.

The Greenest Region Competition was derived from the Greenest Municipality competition which encourages municipalities to adopt green practices which will ensure a seamless transition towards a green economy.

BLM Hosts Third Annual Business And Tourism Awards



BLTO Deputy Chairperson Ms. T. Shirindzi, Award Winner Ms. G. Usinga, BLM Executive Mayor Cllr. S. Nxumalo, EDPE MMC Cllr. L. Malomane, BBC President Mr. T. Chiloane, BLTO Chairperson Mr. S. Ndlovu

The municipality has taken a decision to support local businesses; hence on 26 May 2018, the municipality hosted the third annual glamorous Business and Tourism Awards at Micanolia Guest House in Dwarzloop. People in business, tourism and members of the community from various sectors came in their numbers to witness this most anticipated day.

The Business and Tourism Awards honour and recognise locals for building, promoting, improving and excelling in both the Business and Tourism Sectors. The award ceremony followed a well-represented case by the municipality and its Tourism organisation at the 2018 Africa Travel Indaba in Durban.

Outlining the welcoming remarks MMC for Economic Development, Planning and Environment (EDPE), Cllr. L. Malomane expressed his pleasure for hosting yet another successful Business and Tourism Award ceremony and how this initiative has grown both in number, quality and value. The MMC further guaranteed

local business people that the municipality's mandate from the EDPE's portfolio is to create conducive conditions for business, attract investors and stimulate local economic development.

Delivering a keynote address the Executive Mayor Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo said, "I am very pleased to see how big this initiative has grown over the past two years when we started with this programme many thought it was just another waste of money by the municipality.

The gist of the initiative is to recognise and admire the contributions and hard work of our local people in both business and tourism.

We are aware that the incentives we are giving in partnership with our sponsors: KNP, FNB, Standard Bank, EDM and NDT are not enough and we will continue to better and improve the incentives in the fourth Business and Tourism Awards programme."

"I would like to urge our people

to be more innovative and help the government fight unemployment and poverty by coming up with ideas that will ensure the establishment of companies and factories owned by you and not rely only on government tenders," Executive Mayor added.

The awards categories and the winners were:

Best Accommodation

Lodges: Hoyo-Hoyo Acorn Lodge
Guest Houses: Mantiteng Guest House

Tented camps: MZ Singitana

Best Tour Operator: Mathendlo Tours and Safaris

Best Attraction: Manyeleti Game Reserve

Best Construction and Manufacturing Company: Morwalela General Dealer

Best Agricultural Cooperative/Business: Ngivusa Labashan Farm

Best Chef: Esther Ndlovu
Lifetime Achievement Award: Mr. Hendry, Mr. Daniel Matyeke, Mr. Bushy Letswele and Mr.

Reckson Mashile
Excellence Performance in Arts and Crafts Award: Hendry Ngobeni

Best New Comer in Business Award: Life Style Meat Lounge
Best Security Company Award: Wenzile Phaphama

Best Corporate Business Award: Boxer Store based in Thulamahashe

Best Young Entrepreneur: Ms. Nelisiwe Ndlovu

Acknowledgement of Traditional Dance Award: Ngungunyana Muchongolo Association, Mnisi Muchongolo Association and Hoxane Muchongolo Association, Amashangana Muchongolo Association, Amankonyane Traditional Association and Dilayi Traditional Dance.

The Best Woman in Business Award: Ms. Lucy Mkhonto and the

Acknowledgement of Media House: R. FM, Radio Bushbuckridge and Mkhuhlu News.

Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation And BLM Working on Sixth Public Library



Construction of MP stream Public Library in session

The Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation is working together with the municipality in constructing the sixth public library in the MP Stream, which is situated near Thulamahashe at a tune of 14 million rands. The proj-

ect has created 14 job opportunities for the local community and it is envisaged to be completed by September 2018.

Once completed, the library will provide support to ed-

ucation and it will be at the heart of the community. Members of the public can access books, the internet and conduct research.

The Executive Mayor is appealing to community mem-

bers to jealously safeguard the soon to be completed library and use of it for their personal, and professional and community development.

BLM Reports Successful Travel Africa Indaba 2018 Showcase

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) set the bar at the Travel Africa Indaba 2018 in Durban when it launched a video exclusively showcasing tourism products within the municipal area of jurisdiction.

There were ululations, rousing applauses and stirs as Mchonglo dancers made their way through the throngs of buyers and exhibitors.



Promoting A Healthy Lifestyle Amongst Those Living With A Disability

James Charlton produced a ringing indictment of disability oppression, saying “Nothing About Us Without Us”, and definitely people living with a disability walked the talk when they participated in the Sport Day activities that were held at the Thulamahashe stadium on 07 June 2018, the event was hosted and organised by the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality's (BLM) Wellness Unit to promote active minds, bodies and encouraging a healthy lifestyle, help fight chronic illnesses and diabetes.

People living with disability enjoyed themselves by competing in various sporting codes

ranging from: wheelchair basketball, tug-of-war, soccer, Morabaraba, netball, skipping rope and casino.

Messages of support came from various stakeholders who echoed the very same message that physical challenges should never be an obstacle to realising one's dreams.

Disability is not an obstacle and participation in sporting codes, it is just a challenge that motivates one to do more and be able to fulfil their dreams.

Epilepsy South Africa, Mpumalanga Association for People

with Disability, Mental Health, Disability People of South Africa, Department of Social Development, Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, and the Ehlanzeni District Municipality all urged the people with disability to keep up with the slogan that says “Nothing About Us Without Us”.

Delivering a keynote address was the Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr. B.K. Mokoena: MMC responsible for Social Development where he articulated that the municipality has prioritised people with disability in the municipal programmes, the Sports Day is one of the programmes dedicated to people

living with a disability. “The municipality in conjunction with the Bushbuckridge Disability Forum has made inroads in various sections of development that aims to develop people with a disability,” alluded Acting Executive Mayor.

Wrapping up the day before sporting activities resumed, the Acting Executive Mayor urged people with disability to unleash all their strengths on what benefits them, health-wise and to gain skills which help them secure decent jobs and other endeavours, Acting Executive Mayor concluded.



People with Disability on wheel chairs during sports day celebrations



People with Disability on a Tug-of- War during the Disability Sports Day Celebration



People with Disability busy playing Morabaraba

Bushbuckridge Focuses on Climate Change Through BRICS Summit



BRICS Summit delegates inspecting the Lillydale Home Based Care

Climate change refers to switch in the statistical distribution of weather patterns and that change lasts for an extended period of time.

According to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Earth's climate has changed throughout history. Just in the last 650 000 years, there have been seven cycles of glacial advance and retreat,

with the abrupt end of the last ice age about 7000 years ago marking the beginning of the modern climate era - and of human civilisation. Most of these climate changes are attributed to very small variations in Earth's orbit that change the amount of solar energy our planet receives.

Mpumalanga, Bushbuckridge is committed to fighting climate change

while making sure food and water security are not affected. These were the two (2) main point of discussion during the BRICS

Summit which was held at the Protea Kruger Gate Hotel from 20 to 22 June 2018.



BRICS Summit delegates outside the Home Based Care in Lillydale

MEC And BLM Strengthen Safety And Security In Acornhoek

Acornhoek has the highest rate of crime in the Bushbuckridge area, in an attempt to tackle this issue, the Department of Community Liaison, Safety and Security (DCLSS) in partnership with the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) and the South African Police Service (SAPS) hosted a safety Imbizo in Acornhoek, on 24 June 2018 at the Ehlanzeni TVET College (Mapulaneng Campus) Sports Field.

The participants were community members from wards which constitute and fall under Acornhoek region.

Speaking at the event was the Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo who pleaded with community members to refrain from barring pupils from going to school

when they picket. She alluded that there are groups who barricade roads and demand money from motorists and keep burning down schools. She urged parents to report their children who come home with stolen goods to report them to the police, she believes that this will help reduce crime.

During the Imbizo, community members were given the opportunity to ask questions which were answered by Cluster Commander, Ms Mashele.

One community member when given the platform mentioned that, he opened a case of assault at the Acornhoek Police Station yet the perpetrator is freely roaming in the streets. Ms Mashele assured the community

member that, she will do everything humanly possible to ensure that the perpetrator faces the law.

Before delivering his keynote address the MEC of Community Liaison, Safety and Security, Hon Pat Ngomane thanked the members of the public for their honest comments and views regarding the state of affairs in Acornhoek and encouraged them to work hand in gloves with the Community's Police Forums and the SAPS.

He said that the government is committed to providing a safer environment to all citizens of this country and he urged community members to safeguard government's infrastructure by ensuring that they are not broken into and torched down by hooli-

gans.

The MEC also took the opportunity to lash out at corrupt police officers who commit crimes. He assured members of the public that 90% of police officers are committed to creating safer environments in our communities.

"We need to go back to the culture and practices whereby when people come to our villages to seek refuge - the relevant tribal authority is engaged.

This is done to ensure that when those people commit crime, we are able to track them down and let the law take its course," concluded MEC Ngomane.



MEC of Community Liaison , Safety and Security delivering a keynote address during Security Imbizo held at Arconhoek Sports Field on the 24 June 2018