

# BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



## STATE OF THE MUNICIPAL ADDRESS

BY

THE HONOURABLE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR M.J. MOREMA



## INTRODUCTION

Programme director, Madam Speaker, Chief Whip, MMCs, honourable councillors, Acting Municipal Manager, Directors, Municipal employees, Makgošhi arena ma apara nkwe, Civic movements, sector departments, religious leaders our spiritual healers, traditional healers, disability organizations – nothing about us without us, ward committees, CDFs, NGOs, CBO's, Private Sectors, Parastatals, service providers, political parties, comrades, friends, compatriots, ladies and gentlemen, I salute you all in the name of our municipality, Bushbuckridge, the very same oasis of peace and stability even today.

Thobela !

Avuxeni !

Molweni !

Machero !

Goei more !

Good morning!

We are gathered here today to give the state of the Municipal address, the last address of our term of office which is ending on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2011. We are indeed gathering today four days after the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre by the then apartheid machinery of 69 people who were peacefully demonstrating against the carrying of dompases – 21 March 1960 – the human rights day. It is, ladies and gentlemen, important to mention these historic matters because for us to continue with the struggle of transforming the historical injustices, it is crucial not to ignore the historical realities hence **Amilcar Cabral**, one of the sons of the soil of this continent, from **Guinea Bessau**, a soldier for the birth rights of the people, a fighter for freedom and self determination of the African masses, once said, I quote," The ideological deficiency, not to say a total lack of ideology within the liberation movements, which is basically due to ignorance of the historical realities which the movements claim to transform – constitutes one of the greatest weaknesses of our struggle."

So, let us not forget and ignore the realities of the past like the 1960 Sharpeville massacre and other cruelties of the lilly whitish apartheid killing and suppression machineries while at

the same time we should forgive but not forget so that we do not repeat the same historical mistakes.

We are also gathering here today, left with **237** days towards the celebration by not only South Africans and the African continent but by also the rest of the World of the centenary of the African National Congress, the tried and tested organization of you the people. The 100 years of the ANC existence in the struggle for the liberation of blacks in general and Africans in particular from oppression, suppression, domination, degradation, humiliation, neo-colonialism and poverty. The centenary celebration of the people, united people, the movement of the people still even today in the struggle for the creation of the National Democratic Society – a non-racial, non-sexist, united, democratic and prosperous society – a society where the state will be based on the will of the people.

As we will be celebrating this centenary next year, let us not forget that the freedom that we achieved in 1994 democratic break through was a political freedom and we are now in the phase of struggle for economic emancipation. Political freedom without economic emancipation is meaningless. The land and wealth of this country is still in the hands of the minority – the lilly whites.

Moreover and above, South Africa shall never be completely free until people without clean water will be having water, unemployed employed, shelterless with houses, the hungry with food on their tables, free education until tertiary level, food for our children at all schools including secondaries, free health care through the national health insurance, electricity for all, untarred roads tarred, underdeveloped developed and crime and corrupt free society. So the struggle continues hence the ANC is still a revolutionary movement, a movement for change. Therefore, we would like, with due respect, honour our fallen heroes and heroins, our martyrs, who should not be forgotten and invite their revolutionary spirit to bless this occasion today and these are martyrs in the name of O.R. Tambo, who stayed in the bush for 30 years leading the struggle, Ruth First, who died of a letter bomb in Mozambique in the 80s, Chris Hani, who was gunned down on the door step of his house on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1993. Hector Peterson, the first young blood to be shed on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 1976 Soweto youth uprising. Govan Mbeki, Walter Sisulu, Robert Sibokwe, Peter Nchabeleng, Steve Biko, Nick Mahlakoane, Moses “black Moss” Mkhabela from Green Valle who even today his parents do not know his where about, Ripho Machate, Sam Mkhabela, Kaizer Mgiba, Star Mkhonto, George Mokena, Merriam Mogakane, Mathews Thibela, Elvis Malatjie and many more cadres who died in action. May their revolutionary spirit continue to bless the unity of the people of Bushbuckridge for sustainable service delivery and development.

## DECLARATION OF THE YEAR 2011

In honour of the above-mentioned fallen martyrs and in ensuring that what they stood, fight and died for, is consolidated, deepened and defended, we are therefore declaring 2011 as the year for consolidation of people's power for the National Democratic Society with a loud clarion call to all the Bushbuckridgeans to work together in order to build better communities. To build better communities, key challenges facing our communities must be taken head on together with our communities. And we will continue to keep our focus on the following:

1. Build local economies to create more employment, decent work and sustainable livelihoods as one of our pillars of our struggle for the creation of a national democratic society.
2. Improve local public services and broaden access to them.
3. Build more united, non-racial, non-sexist, non-tribalistic, integrated and safer communities.
4. Promote more active community participation in local governance through strengthening of ward committees, SGBs, CDFs, CSFs, Traditional leaders, Religious leaders, NGOs, CBOs, and others.
5. Ensure more effective, accountable and clean local government that works together with national and provincial governments.

Once more, we want to thank you the people of Bushbuckridge for the commendable and immeasurable support and participation on the day to day activities of this poor municipality. Bushbuckridge, Sudan.

You have shown our adversaries that it is reality when we say that "Tau tsa hloka seboka di sitwa ke hare e hlotsa". And that, "Rintiho rinwe a ri nusi hove." Divided we fall and united we stand.

## ADMINISTRATION

In ensuring more effective, accountable and clean local administration, in our 2010 state of the Municipal Address, we indicated that certain Regional Managers will rotate from their regions to others in the spirit of working togetherness. It happened without challenges as few resisted and took us to court. However, credit and praises must be given to those who cooperated. We will continue to press ahead with this exercise as it revives morals of people and allow space for people to learn new environments and challenges, at the same time increase the capacity of people to lead than redundancy while service delivery is consolidated.

Moreover, it should be reported formally that after realizing that the Municipal Manager was becoming redundant on effectiveness, accountable and clean administration, was charged, taken through disciplinary processes and ultimately found guilty hence he is now fired and Mr. A.D. Mapaile is the Acting Municipal Manager for six months so that the new council should appoint its own Municipal Manager after the 2011 May 18 local elections.

However, the administration is fully functional with another unqualified report of 2009/10 financial year from the Auditor General. We just need to ensure that issues raised by the Auditor General, which are minor, must be improved on so that by 2014 we are part of the municipalities which will be celebrating their 100% clean audits.

Furthermore, the municipality is being upgraded from grade three to four. Revenue collection is at 50% which is still a challenge. We urge people to pay services. Moreover and above, a Director for policy, monitoring, evaluation and implementation in the office of the Executive Mayor will be appointed as soon as possible.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

### WATER

The struggle to improve local public services to build better communities is still continuing, without water, there is no better community hence this is still the main priority of Bushbuckridge and a challenge of course.








In 2010/11 financial year we have been focusing on the following water projects after public input through the IDP public participation processes:

- (1) Waterval water reticulation phase 2. The project has kick started and is at 89% work in progress.
- (2) Phelandaba water reticulation is at tender stage.
- (3) Bulk water reservoir project at Agincourt, Lillydale, Marite and Mkhuhlu areas, already contractors appointed and sites established.
- (4) Bulk water supply in Alexandria and Marite – Site established.
- (5) Bulk water pipeline project at Agincourt, Lillydale, Marite and Mkhuhlu site established.
- (6) Matsikitsane, Moloro, Burlington, Nkotobona water reticulation – at tender stage.
- (7) Thabakgolo, Shatale water reticulation – tender stage.
- (8) Ludlow water reticulation – evaluation stage
- (9) Connection of water from canal to Orinoco – tender stage
- (10) Upgrading of Thulamahashe sewer reticulation – tender stage
- (11) Shatale transfer pipeline – completed
- (12) Reconstruction of Dwarsloop to Acornhoek by DWA is on adjudication
- (13) Connection of pipeline from borehole to jojo tank at MP stream completed
- (14) Agincourt and Clare water reticulation – tender stage
- (15) Completion of Tsakani branch pipeline and reservoirs – 50% work in progress

- (16) Installation of bulk meters at reservoirs phase 2 – tender stage
- (17) Marite Bulk main phase 2B – site established
- (18) Acornhoek sewerage plant – site established
- (19) Construction of Ireagh Metsi water reticulation – tender stage
- (20) Supply, storage and delivery of pre-cast material for VIP toilets completed.
- (21) Refurbishment of Cork raw water pump station – completed
- (22) Construction of Goromane water reticulation phase 2 – tender stage
- (23) Upgrading and refurbishment of water treatment plant in Bushbuckridge – 60% work in progress.
- (24) Extension of reticulation at Dumphries C – Completed
- (25) Refurbishment of Biofilters at Thulamahashe and Dwarsloop – Completed
- (26) Acornhoek 5ml terminal reservoir completion of outstanding work – site established.
- (27) Lillydale bulk water supply B reservoir – site established
- (28) Bulk water supply in Hluvukani phase one – contractor appointed
- (29) Acornhoek sewerage plant, supply and installation of mechanical and electrical equipment – contractor appointed.
- (30) Brenda water reticulation – 80% work in progress.

We are therefore convinced that we are at hard work. Those who are saying the contrary, they have got a problem, because in reality, we are of course at hard work, for the creation and building of better communities as the rock foundation of the creation of a National Democratic Society. Moreover, to add flash on the above-mentioned work, we want to remind the audience that in our last year state of the Municipal Address, we did not promise, but committed ourselves for 60% of the capital budget for water projects including erection of new and refurbishment of boreholes.

Progress on boreholes is at 99% towards completion. Hence some are still non-operational due to delay by Eskom on electrification. R25 million has been allocated in the last financial year as we alluded in the last year SOMA.

-  Newly drilled boreholes =31
-  Operational =20
-  Non-operational =11
-  Refurbishment of borehole by service provider =79
-  Boreholes repaired by the Municipality = 186
-  Number of new 10 000 litres storage tanks = 35
-  Total number of refurbished boreholes = 265

**Villages benefited from new boreholes are as follows:**

1. Hluvukani -1 = operational
2. Islington – 2 = Operational
3. Cottondale -1 = Operational
4. Ka-Zitha -2 = 11
5. Sgagula -1 = 11
6. Bodlayabongolo – 1 = 11
7. Brooklyn – 1 = awaiting Eskom connection
8. Salique – 1 = awaiting Eskom connection
9. Zimbabwe – 1 = operational but also need a mini pipeline from the tank to the reticulation system
10. Wales – 1 = operational
11. Zoeknog – 2 = one operational and the other awaiting Eskom
12. Casteel – 1 = awaiting slab to be re-erected due to rain
13. Rooiboklagte – 1 = operational
14. Dingledale A – 2 = one operational and the other awaiting Eskom
15. Buffelshoek – 2 = operational
16. Hlamalani – 2 = one operational the other awaiting Eskom
17. Marite – 1 = awaiting Eskom
18. Cargo – 2 = awaiting Eskom
19. Tsakani – 1 = functional but disturbed by the rain as pipe layout should be re-fixed
20. Alexandria -1= operational
21. Mkhuhlu – 2= awaiting Eskom

22. Goromane -1 = Awaiting mechanical intervention

23. Phelandaba – 1 = Operational

The outstanding task on water battles is to request service providers to work overtime and appeal to cable thieves to stop stealing boreholes electrical cables as it is no longer a crime but a genocide as is like killing the whole community that benefit from there. Political parties especially some of the opposition parties must stop their counter revolutionary tendencies of tempering with boreholes equipments more especially during elections to create conditions conducive enough for communities to blame the governing party that it is not delivering, so that the masses must loose confidence on Government and the movement that lead government and create political fruit salads of scoring cheap populist politicking in search of poor votes. That must stop as it is a political genocide.

It must be noted that as we said in our 2010/11 budget speech that we are going to ensure that local entrepreneurs as contractors or sub-constructors are empowered, we are proud to announced that 80% of the contractors appointed are local ones as out of 35 appointed already including sanitation work 28 are locals.

## **SANITATION**

In order to fight diseases like typhoid, cholera etc, in the 2010/11, we allocated R30 million and R11 million from Human settlement department for the provision of VIP toilets. From the municipality, 3804 units were allocated while from department 1395 was allocated. To date, out of a total allocation of 5199, 2616 has been completed. The villages that have benefited are as follows:

1. Rolle
2. Zola
3. New Forest
4. Marite
5. Huntington
6. Songeni
7. Marcia
8. Ga-Joseph
9. Casteel
10. Mathule
11. Mpheti
12. Vuyelani

13. Musavaneni
14. Tshunelani
15. Happy Dam
16. Fontana
17. Mandiyane
18. Thorndale
19. Kumane
20. Sondela
21. Lillydale

We will continue to provide VIP toilets in other villages that did not benefit in the financial years to come. We urge middle and high income earners to construct VIP toilets for themselves by themselves to help in fighting diseases. Together we can build better communities.

## **ELECTRICITY**

In improving local public services, since 1994, the entire Bushbuckridge by then is electrified. We have contributed in the load shedding that hit the whole country since 2008. However, due to the growth of new locations and stands as Bushbuckridge grows, which also led to the increase of our wards from 34 to 37, has also increased the demand for electricity. In the 2010/11 financial year, the following villages have been electrified and some still to be electrified are as follows:

1. Mphenyatsatsi – 39 = completed
2. New Forest – 42 = completed
3. Newington – 51 = completed
4. Nkotobana – 90 = completed
5. Orinoco (Sibambayana) – 28 = completed
6. Tshembanenge – 298 = completed
7. Xanthia (Sickline, Newskom) – 28 = completed
8. Lephong – 124 = completed
9. Edinburg/Rolle/ Half Rolle – 99 = completed
10. Buyisonto (Sam Mnisi, Bengisi, Tshamisekani) – 150 = completed

11. Boikhutso (Bamba Matches) – 371 = completed
12. Athol – 34 = completed
13. Agincourt/ Makaringe/ MP Stream (Nyamande opposite Hokwe) – 9 = under construction
14. Matsikitsane – 550 = Nearing completion
15. Goromane – 10 = completed

**In the next financial year, 2011/12, Eskom has confirmed the following villages for electrification:**

1. Arthurseat (Ga-Joseph extension, Shortline/ Ga-Theko) = 172
2. Buffelshoek (Matikareng, Bafaladi, Letsamaile, Tshabelang, Jerusalem, Four ways) = 289
3. Casteel (Ndzaku ka xintavana/ Thembisa/ Dikwengeng) = 30
4. Marcia opposite Waterval RDP = 66
5. Dingledale A (Homestead set up) = 15
6. Mandela Kofifi extension = 101
7. Shatale = 90
8. Dospan / Rivoni = 51
9. Mkhuhluline = 64
10. Rooiboklaagte B = 71

**The following areas will be electrified by the municipality:**

1. Zola extension = 168
2. Ireagh ka Masuku (Khomanani) = 238
3. Oakley, Soweto = 150

### **High mast lights**

We have already started to install high mast lights in all the areas indicated in the last SOMA, only Motibidi excluded as the community demanded 3 high masts and agreed to be jumped for 3 in the next financial year. Due to surplus of the earmarked 2010/11 budget, we added

through the office of the Mayor additional villages as crime hot spot. We want to re-iterate that the purpose of this project is to build safer communities from criminal activities in our communities. It is not an installation for the sake of installation, because the municipality spend close to R11 000.00 per high mast lamp per year.

We therefore reaffirm the following villages that are benefiting now:

1. Goromani = 3
2. Mashonamini = 1
3. Mathibela = 1
4. Alexandria = 1
5. Shangaan Hill = 1
6. Township Ga-Moreku = 1
7. Setlhare (Khielang) = 1
8. Mahaseh (Wisane) = 1
9. Ka-Zitha = 1
10. Thulamahashe section C = 1
11. New Forest = 2
12. Tsuvulani = 3
13. Violet bank = 2
14. Islington = 1
15. Lillydale = 4
16. Casteel = 1
17. Shatale RDP = 1
18. Serishe = 1
19. Rooiboklaagte = 1
20. Lekete = 1
21. Xanthia = 1

The Total installation is 30.

In the next financial year, 2011/12 in consultation with relevant authorities by the office of the Executive Mayor, the following villages will be provided with high mast lights:

1. Motibidi = 3
2. Cork = 2
3. Belfast = 1
4. Ronaldsey = 1
5. Brooklyn = 1
6. Boelang = 1
7. Bodlayabongolo = 1
8. Ludlow = 1
9. Summerset = 1
10. Gottenburg = 1
11. Newline next to Diamond = 1
12. Mkhuhlu RDP = 1
13. White City = 1
14. Allandale = 1
15. Ga- Relane = 1
16. Casteel (Lekanang) = 2
17. Thulamahashe section C = 1
18. Oakley = 1
19. Athol = 1
20. Justicia = 1
21. Wales = 1
22. Buyisonto = 1
23. Mkhululine = 1
24. Moloro = 1
25. Songeni = 1
26. Malubane = 1

## HOUSING

The department of Human settlement has allocated 750 instead of 850 for the last financial year in consultation with the municipality to house the shelterless. To date, 99% of the 400 PHP has been completed in the following wards:

1. Ward 11
2. Ward 21
3. Ward 28
4. Ward 31

90% of the 300 rural subsidies has also been completed in the following villages:

1. Buyisonto = 100
2. Mariti = 100
3. Casteel = 50
4. Mashonamini = 50

Including 90% completion of the 50 individual subsidies at College view.

In the next financial year, 2011/12, 960 RDP units have been allocated as follows:

1. Ward 30
2. Ward 33
3. Ward 34

Units per ward will be determined by a need of houses by beneficiaries. In addition, 50 units for youth have been allocated and more clarity will be made in a meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 with the Municipal officials.

## STATE OF THE 2010/11 ROADS AND BRIDGES

### 1. Roads

- Green valley to Salique 7km has been completed by Ehlanzeni District and 60% of the work done has been destroyed by this heavy rain. Ehlanzeni District is aware and has applied for disaster funds for repair from Cogta nationally. Whereas even the bridge between Brooklyn and Moloro is damaged to such extent that it is a booby trap/ death trap. The Department of Roads and Transport with Ehlanzeni District have been alerted and we hope urgent measures will be applied to deter disaster.
- 2. Ximhungwe to Lisbon road has been kick started with a lot of problems regarding the service provider while even the breath of the road was questioned by communities, which prompted the municipality to intervene. Moreover, additional R6, 9593 000 has been added by the municipality to increase the kilometers from 500 m to 1,9km.
- 3. Arthurseat to Green valley road the phase one is complete and R8, 809.000 has been added for this financial to increase the 1km to 3,4km.
- 4. Bridge Way to Sigagule phase one has been completed and now the Department of Roads and Transport is proceeding with phase 2 to increase the 2km to 6.8km which will reach Sigagula village.
- 5. Shatale to Violet bank phase 2 has been kick started and an additional amount of R4, 5 million has been allocated to increase the 1, 5 km to 2,8km.
- 6. Rolle via Ximhungwe to Oakley implemented by the Province for 7.8 km is about to be completed while its second phase is on the pipeline which will kick start when phase one is completely complete.
- 7. Mandiyane to Tsakane 1 km road complete awaiting phase 2.
- 8. Thusanang to Marhonwane phase two 0,6km complete awaiting phase 2 in the next financial year.
- 9. 1,5km Halemela road completed
- 10. The 900 metre extension of Mphenyatsatsi and rehabilitation of 1,1km and storm water is complete.
- 11. Hoxane to Goromane and Madras phase 2 is also complete awaiting phase 3
- 12. Mkhuhlu to Mashonamini phase 2 - 1km at completion stage.
- 13. Shatale zone one to main road – 1,4km completed
- 14. New Forest to Tshuvulane- 1,5km phase 2 completed

Furthermore, as we said last year that the Share bridge will be given the necessary attention in this financial year, indeed construction has already been started.

15. 1km rehabilitation of Bridge Way to Tintswalo hospital has also been completed.

16. The R40 road extension by the national government is adding employment opportunities as of now 73 people are employed and accidents will be reduced.

### **Internal streets in the R293 Township**

1. Tarring of 1,7km in Dwarsloop completed
2. 1,5km Maviljan access road completed
3. 1,4km Thulamahashe internal street completed
4. 1.9km paving of Mkhuhlu street completed

However, we have noted that the heavy rain has destroyed some of our work. This cautioned us that in the next budget 30% of the capital budget must be on repairs and maintenance of roads and internal streets.

We made a commitment last year that we will re-introduce Gundulashu while we repair our Graders to empower regional offices to render services of our rural internal streets. R8 million has been put aside in the 2010/11 financial year to fulfill this commitment. We did not want to start before the rain as it would have destroyed all our works.

Therefore, we are proud to announce now that this programme will be kick started before the end of mid April 2011 as we believe that the rain would have subsided.

As we indicated that this is an extended local public works programme – to use your own wheel barrows, shovels and other equipments to repair rural or trust internal streets as some of them need backfilling where even a grader can not operate.

Therefore, 1320 employees at a rate of R2000.00 per month and 120 per region will be recruited from the first week of April 2011. We hope this programme will also help to alleviate poverty while proper services will be provided. Hence the poor of the poorest will be the ones to be recruited.

In the next financial year 2011/12 other bridges will be prioritized including the Rooiboklaagte, bridge as more noise was made by the communities in our Izimbizo outreach programme and IDP public participation.

## **SPORTS FIELD**

All the Dwarsloop and Casteel phase 2 sports field are complete and the Mkhuhlu stadium phase 2 is nearing completion.

## **MARITE DISABLE CENTRE**

This project is at 80% stage and we hope before the end of the financial year it will be complete to allow our disable communities to expose their talents.

## **MAPULANENG DLTC**

This project is one of the projects that we are proud of as it is compete and offering services of international standard. We have however noted with serious concern about the aborted demonstration by Driving School owners association before they can even come to the head office. Complaining about lack of relationship with the station management. In future we will request that we first used all avenues for engagement before putting our dirty linens in public. At the same time we want to accept the apology made thereof and move forward in unity. We must therefore pronounce that the Driving School owners association will bring their 21 people from Monday to Thursday and Fridays will be opened for the public for 21 people. And that in order to fight corruption as it is alleged, if the public will be more than 21 on those Fridays, tossing will be the order of the day by the usage of IDs. We must also remind the public that other DLTC services are rendered at the following offices:

1. Hluvukani
2. Mkhuhlu
3. Shatale
4. Acornhoek

## LIBRARIES

To enhance knowledge to the people of Bushbuckridge especially the young blood, the following libraries have been built with the assistance of the province.

1. Mkhuhlu – functioning
2. Dwarsloop – functioning

The following community facilities are under construction:

1. Hluvukani community library
2. Maviljan community hall and child care centre

In the next financial year, 2011/12, the following areas have been prioritized:

1. Acornhoek community library
2. Renovation of Shatale Resource centre

## LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In building better communities, the municipality is proceeding with the intensification of the struggle for the building of local economies to create more employment, decent work and sustainable livelihood.

The following are local areas:

1. Urbanization of Bushbuckridge –

Already completed phase one of this project where two way traffic road and traffic circle has been constructed. Street lights installed and Tourism Information Centre constructed which is not yet functional, busy processing the appointment of personnel to mend the centre with the necessary skills. All in all 62 people have been employed in this project. Furthermore, a five star hotel we will be built right on top of the mountain next to the nursing college.

2. Champaign chicken arbotoir – ready to operate at anytime. Already posts have been advertised and 39 permanent jobs will be secured. We are busy influencing the investors to consider local people with full participation of the municipality in the short listing and interviews.

3. Mangwazi nature reserve – under construction where 32 jobs have been created.
4. Manyeleti game reserve – the renovation started and 74 employed.
5. Mnisi resort – accommodation under construction and 141 jobs created.
6. Tsonga cultural village – accommodation under construction and 43 people employed.
7. Greening project – two parks established at Shatale and MP stream where 106 people employed. However, there are challenges with the Shatale service provider who ran away but we are on top of the situation.
8. Street cleaning – 283 jobs for two years have been created for Acornhoek, Maviljan, Thulamahashe and Mkhuhlu. The strategy of the municipality is its continuation as our CBDs and streets are clean we are no longer looking like Marabastad which has got a potential to attract tourists.
9. Siyantetela – 1061 jobs have been created for the cutting of grass along the provincial road. At the moment the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport is busy recruiting in consultation with the municipality for extra 3000 new workers. The work will increase to cleaning and greening of government offices and patching of potholes. At the end 4061 will be working.
10. Lima – 1152 jobs created in various categories – Agriculture, construction, health and education.

The following LED areas have challenges which we are busy trying to address:

1. Bushbuckridge clay bricks – 500 jobs were initially created and now the project has collapsed due to :-
  - Poor communication between the community and the management.
  - Noise and air pollution
  - Non compliance to environmental legislation
  - Unlawful removal of graves

We will be involving all affected stakeholders with an intention of reviving the project so that people can have jobs.
2. Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant
  - Project regeneration strategy developed
  - Project delayed due to arbitration proceedings and now the arbitration has been suspended.

- Currently waiting for project assessment report from National Treasury, which will amicably put the project back on track.

In totto, 2993 jobs have been created where it will sky rocket to 7313 when public works finalises its recruitment of 300 new Siyantetela this year and the municipal Gundulashu employment of 1320.

We will continue with the interaction with the private sector, parastatals, NGOs, Government departments, CBOs, etc to strive to work together to build our communities by building local economies for economic development, employment and decent work. Creation of job cannot be the responsibility of government alone as South Africa is not a Communist State where the means of production is centrally in the hands of the state. However, government will create friendly and attractive environment for investment and job creation opportunities.

## WOMEN, YOUTH AND DISABILITY

This is the most important sector of our communities. To build a more united, integrated and safer communities, we have already started giving a serious attention on these sectors.

### 1. Youth

- ✚ Mayoral youth izimbizo, summits, camps, seminars and celebrations were held
- ✚ Youth council established
- ✚ Youth advisory centre established
- ✚ Youth benefited from the following programme – 46 Mashupatsela, 23 project management
- ✚ Course, 90 municipal bursaries from 2006, 40 fruits and vegetables learnership, 180 Theta internship
- ✚ Participation in the Mayoral tournaments through their soccer teams
- ✚ Please note that the re-establishment of Champaigne chicken arbotoir was ignited by the Mayoral Youth Imbizo held at Mariti in 2010 November, hence young people will also benefit in the employment. And also unemployment still remains a challenge for young people. We will forge ahead a working relation with NYDA, parastatals, private sector, NGOs, SEDAs etc to work towards youth empowerment and development.

Economic freedom in the life time of the young people is paramount, as it is with all of us.

## 2. Women

- ✚ While doing well with gender equality. SAWID and Women council have been established in the municipality.
- ✚ Women Economic – Socio Summit was held to deal with challenges facing women.
- ✚ Women caucus on widowhood, teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS was convened.
- ✚ All the above-mentioned activities were aimed at building capacity for women empowerment, to have women entrepreneurs in big businesses more especially as engineers and contractors. We are saying “Malibongwe le gama la makhosikazi,” a nation will never be free until women are free.

We will continue to empower women in their various community based projects e.g. community gardens etc.

## 3. Disability

- ✚ 4 people with disability are contractors in the working for water project.
- ✚ 4 members of disability are working as community based rehabilitation field workers
- ✚ Disability forum functional
- ✚ Disability coordinator employed in the municipality
- ✚ Recently 13 wheel chairs distributed by the municipality across the area where there was a need.

The challenge is that we still have families that are hiding people with disability at their houses and that applicant for various posts when advertised do not indicate their disability in their applications. We need to intensify door- door and encourage this sector of society to get out and participate fully in the building of our communities to become better communities as there is nothing that can be done about the disability without them.

## SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

This section is one of the most important sector as is brings people together, it integrates people into one a united and safer communities that at the same time give space for young blood to expose their talents. We therefore want to pronounce the following programmes:

1. Executive Mayor 2011 Easter soccer tournament, which will start on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and shall include netball and other sporting codes. The total budget is R180 000.
2. Executive Mayor Soccer development clinic for talent exposure of young people and future developments which will be conducted by either Doctor Khumalo or Michael Manzini. The event was suppose to be on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Thulamahashe new stadium but postponed until further notice as there are concerns raised by schools sports committee.
3. Bushbuckridge Inter-Faith prayer rally which will be held at Mkhuhlu on the 02/04/11. The theme is "Heal our land" a prayer for peaceful local elections. It is important for Government to involve God in all our attempt to build better communities. With God everything is possible hence God is always on the side of the poor and oppressed. That is why we believe strongly that Jesus Christ was a revolutionary as he was and he is still for change.

He wants those who are hungry to be fed.

He wants the devils to change into peaceful beings.

The heathens to be transformed into Christianity.

Bad into good

Evil into holly

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

As we said we will continue to empower our communities, especially women, people with HIV/AIDS, disable, youth etc, as it is also our vision to build economies for sustainable livelihood, we therefore pronounce the following:

1. Donation to Khomanani Vanhu project at Islington in ward 34 for R50 000.00 to fence their existing project.

2. Motlamogatsane pre-school in ward 16 in township Ga-Moreku will receive R40 000.00 for building materials
3. Tshemba Hosi school and care centre for the disable at Lillydale will receive R60 000.00 for purchase of learning and teaching aids and office equipments.
4. Oakley community home based care will receive R50 000.00 for the purchase of equipment and food for the drop in terminally ill patients, orphans and elders.
5. Marite women community food garden will receive R30 000.00 for purchase of fence for their food garden.
6. Zenzeleni sewing project of Casteel at Lekanang, a non-profit organization for disable and women will receive R50 000.00 for purchase of equipments and materials.
7. Siaka Borara Day care centre at Brooklyn ward 15 will receive R15 000.00
8. Reyamogetswe crech from Phelendaba will also receive R15 000.00
9. Andries Inama pre-school at Boelang in ward 15 will be donated R15 000.00

The purpose is to assist in early childhood development battles with our communities.

The above last three pre-schools will be receiving a grant in aid. In addition to all these efforts, R20 000.00 will be donated to Induna Mnisi of Cottendale for graveyard fencing and sanitation.

## HEALTH AND EDUCATION

### 1. Health

#### 1.1. Infrastructure plan – 2010/11

- Utah clinic – operational
- Dwarsloop clinic upgrade – completed
- Xanthia clinic upgrade – completed

#### 2011/12 financial year

- Hluvukani CHC – contractor on site
- Oakley clinic for upgrading
- Serville clinic to be contracted and permission to occupy has been obtained.
- Goromane visiting point to be upgraded into fit mobile point

## 1.2. Mobiles

- Four mobiles vehicles have been procured in 2010/11 financial year

## 1.3. Poverty projects initiatives

- Greenery projects for 22 self sustained projects
- Home Base care funding = 10 – namely

1. Maviljan

2. Obrigado

3. Nhlegelo

4. Wisani

5. Ecoplan

6. Cunningmore

7. Radiobush

8. Arthurseat

9. Zigna

10. Ebenezer

- Cuban scholarship = 1
- Staff compliment = 637

## 1.4. New services offered at PHC (Primary Health Care) facilities

- 37 facilities offer for HIV counseling and testing
- 24 facilities initiating – Ant retroviral.
- MMC – (Men Medical Circumcision) will be offered in 2 clinics at Cottondale and Mariti
- 2 CHC doing TOP (Termination of Pregnancy)

## EDUCATION

- 2011/12 financial year
- Mud and unsafe structure = 22
- New and additional facilities = 12
- Irreparable storm damaged schools = 1 which is Mugidi Primary
- New schools = 2 at Casteel circuit named Mothaileng and Morithing primaries
- Unsafe schools = 3 at Thulamahashe circuit namely Sabeka Primary and Samuel Mhlanga primary plus Cottondale circuit which is Moses Mnisi secondary.

- Special schools = 1, which is about the construction of 10 classrooms, 6 storerooms, 4 admin offices, 10 toilets, media centre, school hall, two vehicle garages, large staff room, 6 workshops, home economics, wood works, Art, sewing, metal work, brick laying and hostel for 100 learners. This school is called Bohlabela special school in Green valley circuit which will add value to the other special schools for instance Mzila special school in Agincourt.
- Storm damages schools including cause of fire = 19

Furthermore, 41 schools will benefit in 2011.12 financial year for toilets. **Attached is annexure A which illustrate more details about the above mentioned projects for more information.**

The above initiatives are commendable in nature, as they add impetus to a more effective, accountable and clean local government that work together with the provincial and national government to build better communities. However, while appreciating the improvement in the matric results of 2010 academic year from 28% to 40%, but we are not impress. Education is the most important weapon to fight poverty. Hence we will convene before the end of April an Education summit to deal with challenges facing education in Bushbuckridge. Where all stakeholders will be invited. Well further in that summit, come out with a program for the implementation of the establishment of education forum from ward level upwards.

## TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

This is the leadership heritage of ours as the African people. We have been all along striving to harmonise unity, cooperation, and respect and working togetherness. We will pursue this route until it is at the perfection. In the spirit of promoting active participation for better communities, traditional leaders have a big role to play. Also for rural development, the role of tihosi is very much paramount. Any problem of one of our traditional leaders is a problem of all of us. And we believe that in the next council sitting our traditional leaders will start attending to ensure that we pass a budget that they have contributed.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To strengthen participatory democracy and in building together better communities in the spirit of more active community in participation in local government, we intensified Izimbizo programme, Youth and women summits, including disability interaction. Involvement of communities before the adoption of the IDP and the budget. So that development should be people centred and driven. All the projects that we alluded about are the products of our communities. We will never compromise participatory democracy as history is not made by kings or generals of the Army, but the masses themselves are the makers of their own history and determiners of their own destiny.

For 2011/12 financial year public participation for the adoption of the IDP and budget will be held as follows:

1. Bushbuckridge south on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Mkhuhlu community hall
2. Bush midland on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Mapulaneng multipurpose hall
3. Bush north on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Merriam Mogakane hall.

Please note that starting time is 10h00 for all venues.

The reason of this tight schedule is that before the end of April all municipalities should have passed the IDP and budget, no longer the first of July as usual. The process will create a smooth transfer of the chain from the old layer to the next layer of the new generation. Let us all participate in the building of this municipality regardless of political affiliations because service delivery does not have political membership, although the ANC is in charge.

Constructive criticism is encouraged by the ruling party. Not inconstrutive criticism as it does not help to build but destroy.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to officially send a message of condolences to all the families who experience mayhems from the February thunder hail storm disaster that hard hit people around Songeni, New Forest, Dingledale A and B and Marite. We must also commend the disaster team with social workers who visited them and ensure that the necessary work is done. We have requested the premier to come and see if a disaster can not be declared.

We will also wish all political parties well in this difficult and demanding time of campaigns.

May these political parties when they campaign, stop campaigning about the names of other parties and concentrate on their manifestos. If this can happen, peaceful and tolerable conditions for campaigning would have been created. No declaration of no go areas by any party at the expense of others.

This is democracy, it must be defended and protected, and the only way to defend and protect it is one way only, for one to exercise his or her democratic right, which is a birth right, of choosing one's government of his/her choice. This is what made the people of South Africa to meet in Mangaung in 1912, to form their organization so that they can fight for this birth right.

People died for this birth

People are crippled for this right

People are now deaf or blind for this right

People are even today missing because of this right

People have been eaten by crocodiles because of this right

People spent lengthy periods in prison because of this right

People were tortured because of this right

People are orphaned due to this right

Sufferings occurred fighting for this right

So there is no one who should attempt to take it away from the people as it is the responsibility of the people to defend it and no one can stand on the way of the people when they make their own history.

When we vote on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011, let us not forget those councillors who passed on while communities have given them mandates to accomplish:

1. Cllr Collert Mnisi
2. Cllr Siphon Malele
3. Cllr Dephney Mashego
4. Cllr Lillian Machitela
5. Cllr Thandiwe Dilebo
6. Cllr Lizzy Mthabane
7. Cllr happy Thibela
8. Cllr Levios Nkuna
9. Cllr Herold Molobela
10. Cllr Matsikitsane Mashile
11. Cllr Johan Ndlovu
12. Cllr Million Sgudla

May their spirit continue to bless all the people of Bushbuckridge for their united action towards the building of better communities and make this year 2011, a revolutionary, as we contribute in the national efforts of consolidating people's power for the national democratic society – our Canaan.

Finally, I'm wishing all of you a prosperous 2011 and a successful and peaceful Easter holiday.

A revolutionary celebration of the freedom day on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011. When we celebrate this freedom day, let us not forget former president Nelson Mandela and wish him long life as others were wishing him bad things.

Once more, we wish all Christians for successful prayers during the Easter and request that as they will be praying, let them pray for peaceful elections, let them pray for Marry the queen of peace that there should be peace in Libya and Ivory coast. Let there be no foreign interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign states. And let states not use military power to quell peaceful marches on their people unless the protesters are armed disguising in the good name of peaceful demonstration like the Libyan's case. America with its allies must stop their hidden agenda of wanting to plunder the Libyan oil resources. That oil belongs to Libyians from God, whoever attempts to steal it, will be trying to steal it from God, and God will punish him. Just like what happened when the American plundered the Iraq oil, there followed recession which first hit America before hitting the whole world for allowing America alone to steal in Iraq. The people of Ivory Coast must learn to accept democracy and to defend it, not to defend an individual. I think the people of Ivory Coast need political education from South Africa.

Please always arrive alive. Don't drink and drive and speed kills

Always apply ABC as HIV/AIDS is still a monstrous killer. Let us test to know our HIV status and be counseled. Thank you for exercising a vulture's patience in listening to the State of Municipal Address of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.

MAY GOD BLESS BUSHBUCKRIDGE

IKE EE! XARRA IIKE !

PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT NATIONS COME TOGETHER FOR BETTER LIFE FOR ALL.

RISE BUSHBUCKRIDGE RISE!