



THE BLM MOUTHPIECE

Your News. Your Eyes. Your Voice



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Our Vision

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality strives for 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

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



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Meet the BLM Communication Team

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Editor's Note



Communications Manager,
Mr Aubrey Mnisi

Hello again to you our valued readers. Our third quarter mouthpiece issue comes out at a month where we just celebrated Heritage month and moved to alert level one of the Disaster Management Act.

Bushbuckridge is a culturally diverse community with at least three ethnic tribes who live in harmony. It is worth to mention that we have 11 Traditional Councils in Bushbuckridge. We are a deep-rooted cultural community that has the ability to adjust to the ever-evolving environment and technological world.

The novel Coronavirus pandemic brought a new way of life and a new way of doing things and as a society, we are compelled to adjust. Our cultural norms and beliefs have been challenged and to a certain extent changed. Just to cite an example, we used to bury our loved ones on weekends with a large number

of mourners gathered and large catering for mourners. The latter has changed due to restrictions brought by the novel Covid-19 lockdown regulations.

As a recovered Covid-19 patient, I want to warn all Bushbuckridgeans about Covid-19. It is real and you can die from it. We have seen people dying from the Coronavirus and some do survive Covid-19. So let's stay safe, obey the Covid-19 health protocols and save each other's lives in the process.

With the current lockdown restrictions at alert level one, the municipality will continue using online and social media platforms to consult and engage the public on matters of service delivery. Let's continue to wash hands regularly, wear masks, keep a safe social distance at all times.

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Executive Mayor's Desk

Allow me to take this opportunity and applaud every South African and in particular Bushbuckridge members of the community for the commitment, they have shown in heading the President's call since the inception of the National Disaster Management Act stipulating "stay home and only go out when accessing food and medical attention".

Through your best behavioural patterns and commitment to ensuring that the Coronavirus can only be moved by us when irresponsibly making unnecessary movements. South Africa has since moved from alert level five (5) to alert level one (1) thanks to the kind of behaviour displayed throughout the entire period. Although many lives have been lost, most were saved and are continuing to be saved because of the manner in which you are at your best behaviour.

Not only did the Coronavirus bring shivering waves down our spines in terms of our lives but changed our way of living and how we socialize in the "new-norm" days. Most our people have lost their jobs and others had to rely on government aid in terms of food parcels and the relief grant for survival.

Our prayers and commitments have allowed our scientists and the health experts to have the President announcing the move to alert level one and reopening most of the economic activities. It is a number one priority to save as many lives and as many jobs as possible during this



Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo

time period, the government of the day pulled on all corners from food parcels distribution, Covid-19 relief grants, the business loan bail-out and other modes of assistance to its people. We have no doubt that as South Africans we are stronger together and we will rise again socially and economically.

I have together with the Local Covid-19 Command Council ensured that all precautions

pertaining to Covid-19 measures are observed in all public and private facilities and where needs be -personally visiting their sites. As the Executive Mayor I sit and head the Local Covid-19 Council that meets twice a week where all matters pertaining to Covid-19

infections are deliberated.

The centre reports directly to the Provincial Covid-19 Command Council and I am proud to announce that both the centres have done a great deal in terms of saving lives. The President's recent announcement that the country is now placed on alert level one following the decline in numbers of infections per ratio and the number of recoveries seen by far, the storm is not over yet and I urge

you to continue being on your best behaviour. Keep social distancing, sanitize and wear a mask at all times.

I also would also like to applaud our essential services team for the outstanding job they have shown since the inception of the National Lockdown alert level five (5) to- date. There has never been a day where the members of the community embarked on service delivery protest with regards to water shortages, though there has been fewer incidents in terms of water and other related matters. However, our essential services team has been up to the task and I appreciate that.

Consumption of alcohol in licensed premises has been allowed and it has been proven that alcohol is a major cause of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and other incidents leading up to overloaded health facilities thus depriving those who need emergency services the right to be treated.

I therefore urge you to continue your best behaviour under the alert level one (1) as that can assist in avoiding the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic which may lead back to higher alert levels with stricter measures.

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Social, religious and other gatherings are permitted with the following conditions:

<p>The number of people in any venue must not exceed 50% of its normal capacity</p>	<p>A maximum limit of 250 people applies to indoor gatherings</p>	<p>A maximum limit of 500 people applies to outdoor gatherings</p>	<p>A maximum of 100 people may gather at funerals. Night vigils are not permitted</p>	<p>Masks must be worn at all times and social distancing must be maintained</p>
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Municipal Manager’s Desk

It is undoubtedly a fact that Bushbuckridge Local Municipality’s (BLM) essential employees and other various stakeholder’s employees in particular the health sector, the police and the South African National Defence Force have indeed been our heroes and heroines since the emergence of the Covid-19 Coronavirus. These brave men and women daily put their lives on the line to ensure that their country’s people are safe from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Bushbuckridge is in no way been spared from the Coronavirus and as a rural municipality, we are in for a big challenge owing to the lack of resources. We are however grateful for our provincial and the national government who have since played an important role in the fight against the spread of the virus and saved many lives through the various interventions introduced at all spheres of governance.

In the struggle for a better life for all through the emancipation of public participation in the affairs of the municipality - we have had all our essential employees

and water services technicians out in the space assisting our communities with an adequate water supply and other essential services. However, there had been some lack of water supply in some areas

criminal elements to the South African Police Services (SAPS) and illegal water connections to the municipal offices.

We are urging members of the community to report all those

water license for farming. The municipality only supplies water for domestic purposes only.

The placement of the country to alert level two does not necessarily mean the upliftment of Covid-19 regulation adherence, I urge you to be more vigilant than before and exercise social distancing, sanitizing, and putting on of your masks at all times especially in public places. As a municipality, we are really appreciative of your commitment to saving as many lives as possible by observing Covid-19 regulations.

In conclusion, the municipality will continue serving you with a purpose to bring development and social cohesion. It is also in the interest of the municipality to ensure that Bushbuckridge becomes a place of interest and attraction for all people from all walks of life.

We continue to commit to providing affordable and sustainable services by enhancing community participation through accountability, transparency, and responsible governance.



Municipal Manager, Mrs Cynthia Nkuna

and the municipality moved with speed to address such.

I would like to reassure members of the community that they will still receive the kind of quality services which they received whilst the country was still on alert level 5.


I am also urging members of the community to report all

using municipal water for watering of plants or farming purposes to the municipal offices.

Should any member of the community wish to apply for a license for watering plants or purposes of farming they must direct their application to the Department of Agriculture as the custodians of all agricultural activities including

Additional health measures to prevent a second wave


STAY SAFE PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA



The number of tests will be increased, and the criteria for testing expanded



South Africa is participating in vaccine trials and investing in local capacity to produce and distribute vaccines



A national antibody survey will be conducted to assess the true extent of infections and determine how many people may have been previously infected

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2030 NDP

Executive Mayor Hosts R40 Road Expansion Information Session



BLM and SANRAL Entourage during R40 road Expansion Information Sharing Session

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) Executive Mayor, Speaker of Council and entourage played host to the South African National Road Agency Limited Team (SANRAL) for an information-sharing session on the expansion of the R40 Road Project.

Due to the Covid-19 regulations the session only took in a total of fifty (50) Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMMEs) representatives to both the Maviljan Community Hall in Maviljan and Merriam Mogakane Community Hall venues respectively.

SANRAL is a government parastatal responsible for the management, maintenance and development of South Africa's proclaimed National Road Network which includes many (but not all) National ("N") and some Provincial and Regional ("R") segments.

It is also committed to the creation of economic value for the nation, through the provision of road infrastructure.

The information-sharing session with the SMMEs was aimed at giving out crucial information in terms of what

the requirements are for one to qualify and what one's company must be in possession of for a bid to be approved. Subcontracting will also need up-to-date documentation and the process will be an open tender process hence a company's documentation must be up-to-date.

The expansion of R40 road project is anticipated to create much-needed development and job opportunities for the locals in particular the SMMEs. It is also expected to improve the grading of these many inexperienced SMMEs and ensure that the well-established companies empower the small upcoming companies.

The expansion of the R40 road project is expected to run for a period of over three years and Bushbuckridge will benefit from Marite to Klaserie for a total of 67KMs, however, because of the small number that Bushbuckridge will be benefiting from it will have to partner with Mbombela municipality with R36 and R37 roads expected to be refurbished.

Addressing the SMMEs the Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia

Nxumalo alluded to the issues of understanding what this whole project means to the community of Bushbuckridge. "It is not about the money, it is about your company development in terms of getting more scores in grading and accumulating more experience."

"There are a number of opportunities coming along with the project and I am urging you not to involve yourselves in engagements seeking to stop the project from commencing for selfish gains. The project is here to develop the Mpumalanga province' road infrastructure in particular, Bushbuckridge, I, therefore, plead with you to not involve yourselves on such

activities as this will bring the project to a halt and the full force of the law will have to come into effect," said Mayor Nxumalo.

In conclusion, the Mayor urged our community members to practice patience and avoid unnecessary arguments like what we saw at Acornhoek Merriam Mokgakane Community Hall with people aiming to force themselves in. SANRAL has given every SMME an opportunity to be part of the proceedings from outside the hall by connecting to the link provided and also had a live stream thus adhering to the National Lockdown of Coronavirus regulations.



BLM Executive Mayor addressing the SMMEs

Service Delivery Ranks High On The List Of The Municipality's Priorities

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) remains committed to bettering the lives of all its people within its jurisdiction and beyond. As a matter of fact, the municipality is constitutionally obliged that it achieves government goals as service delivery front liner. However, the emergence of Covid-19 has hampered the day-to-day programme of the municipality to deliver basic services.

The municipality remained committed and will continue to deliver service to the people as mandated by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Since the introduction of the national lockdown (National Disaster Management Act) the municipality through its Technical Services Social Development Directorates ensured that basic services such as uninterrupted water supply to mention but few continue to be rendered.

The further easing of the national lockdown from alert level three to alert level two as announced by the State President Cyril Ramaphosa gives the municipality space to also cautiously add more of its basic services to be rendered. Due to Covid-19 most of the projects such as the installation of bulk pipeline and reticulation, construction of roads and internal streets were halted, the municipality has gradually but cautiously allowed some projects to resume.

The following projects are currently underway and are aimed at ensuring that the lives of the most vulnerable people are improved:

COMPLETED WATER, ROAD AND STREET PROJECTS

Matsikitsane Phase Two Paving

The municipality is pleased to announce the completion of Matsikitsane phase two paving project and owing to financial capability the municipality will soon announce the implementation of phase three project.

Cottdendale/Andover Water Reticulation

The Cottdendale/Andover Water Reticulation Project has been timeously completed and the municipality is urging members of the community to refrain from vandalising water resources as well as illegal water connections. Illegal water connections particularly on the Bulk water supply does not only cost the municipality a fortune but water supply challenges as the supply of water cannot



Heavy Machinery constructing the Acor

reach to other intended destinations resulting in unprecedented violent service delivery protests.

The municipality acknowledges that there are existing villages beyond Cottdendale/Andover which needs water supply and is urging members of the community to refrain from connecting water illegally so not to hamper water supply to those areas beyond them.

London-Kingston, Sekgule and Kofifi Water Reticulation

The municipality is also pleased to announce the completion of the above-mentioned project and that the project has seen a handful of young females and male employed. It is the municipality's goal to ensure that the living standard of the people is improved, sufficient clean drinkable water supply brings relief in terms of fighting contagious diseases and helping people lead a healthy lifestyle. The municipality is urging members of the community to report all sorts of criminal activities on water infrastructure systems and all other government properties.



Acornhoek-Cottdale Road

revenue. The ANC led-government within the BLM is committed to developing the lives of the ordinary members of the community within its area of jurisdiction. Community development is an important part to investment and sustainable living standards.

UNDER-CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Majembeni road construction

Prior to 1994 and the dawn of our hard-earned democracy Bushbuckridge has been notoriously underdeveloped with poverty and illiteracy been the order of the day. Post 1994 under the ANC led-government Bushbuckridge has seen a number of improvements in terms of roads, bridges and streets infrastructure as well as water supply.

The Majembeni road construction is currently under-way and the project will bring relief to members of the community as the gravel road become slippery during rainy seasons. Community members have been complaining about the road's inaccessibility during the rainy season for some time and the government of the day heeded their call and came on board to rescue the situation.

Ga-Motibidi road construction

Another feat that the municipality has achieved through intergovernmental relations is the construction of Ga-Motibidi via Masakeng to Mphenyatsatsi which has resumed. The demand of a tarred road has seen the burning down of municipal property including vehicles, the blockading of roads and burning of heavy-duty vehicles which the Executive Mayor has condemned in the harshest possible way.

BLM is urging members of the community not to embark on violent service protests when asking/ demanding something from the government. The government and the municipality are in the process of ensuring that the needs of the community are met and that members of the community must familiarise themselves with government processes and not allow hooligans to mislead them into destroying government and private property when venting out their frustrations.



Acornhoek-Plaza By-Pass Road under construction

Cunningmore A and B Water Reticulation

Another feat that the municipality is pleased to announce is the completion of the Cunningmore A and B water reticulation project, the project has brought some relief to the members of these two communities especially women who used to walk distances to draw water. The municipality is urging members of the community to safeguard these properties and report all criminal elements that seek not to realise the improvement of living standards.

Kutong Road Upgrade

The municipality announced the appointment of a contractor that will construct phase one of Kutong road upgrade in its January-March 2020 newsletter edition, we are pleased to announce that face one of Kutong road upgrade project has been timeously completed. Kutong road upgrade was built to ease accessibility and mobility of movement by means of road or pedestrians.

It's a feat for a municipality like Bushbuckridge to develop road accessibility in the non-Townships where it cannot even collect



Saselani-Buyisonto water reticulation underway

Cork-Kildare phase three road construction

The construction of the Cork-Kildare phase three road construction is one of the successful road projects undertaken by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in the Bushbuckridge municipal area of jurisdiction. The project has seen a number of young men and women employed and has improved driving experience of motorists between the two villages and beyond.

It is undoubtedly a feat for the two communities that after so many years of struggle in terms of bad-traveling roads, finally, the two communities have realised their dream come true. The municipality is urging members of the community not to allow power mongers to lead them into burning roads, schools, clinics and other government properties in demand of another.

Marite road construction

Another road that has headlined the news before been constructed is the Marite road construction that has seen the closing down and burning of schools, road blockages and other fatalities in demand for a tar road. The municipality is once again pleading with members of the community to refrain from violent service delivery protests especially if there has never been a proper following of channels.

Bushbuckridge has been on the watch by the rest of the country and the international community as it is engulfed into a politically fuelled violent service delivery making it almost impossible to travel on the R40 road connecting Mpumalanga and Limpopo. These unrests have seen a number of people losing their jobs due to a shaky local economy and we urge members of the community and South Africa at large to refrain from such acts.

The tar road construction is currently underway and a number of people have been employed thus enabling them to make a living. We pleading with the Marite community, in particular, to follow due processes before embarking on an illegal violent protest which is something the constitution of the country approves not.

Newington road construction

The tar road construction comes along with many benefits for the community of Newington and the surrounding areas because of its adjacency to the world-renowned Kruger National Park Game Reserve. This means easy access to the area and that more

Service Delivery Ranks High On The List Of The Municipality's Priorities

Continued. . .



Heavy machinery on Saselani

investment will now be easily directed to the area due to its road standard. It means that the government has created a conducive environment for the private sector to operate on and create job opportunities for the people.

It further means that the public transport, goods transportation will now be smooth thus attracting more investment into the tourism-focused area. The municipality is very pleased with the development because the more investment comes, the more it collects revenue which enables it to embark on more developmental projects like building roads, bridges and deliver basic services like water.

Islington tar road construction

Another under-construction developmental feat that the municipality is pleased to announce is the construction of the Islington tar road which leaves locals and tourists with many traveling options to access the Manyeleti Nature Reserve. The road connects many villages and a number of other roads leading to the Manyeleti Nature Reserve, it also allows tourists to experiment village/cultural tourism as they travel towards Manyeleti.

The building of these roads are an investment for generations to come and the current as it gives access to anywhere smoothly and quickly. The municipality continues to urge locals to safeguard these precious roads as they give them investor opportunities and multiple options of establishing themselves businesses to empower themselves.

Acornhoek to Cottondale tar road construction

The more than ten kilometre tar road reconstruction has been



ni-Buyisonto water reticulation project

After the address by the former MEC for Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport Ms. Sasekani Manzini flanked by the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality Executive Mayor that the tar road would be reconstructed, normality was restored. When construction finally resumed members of the community breathed a sigh of relief allowing for normal day to day business to run.

The municipality is pleading with members of the community to ensure that criminal elements and property destruction becomes a thing of the past. Members of the community are further urged to refrain from falling victims of been used by opportunists for political gains.

Agincourt phase two tar road

The municipality continues to live up to its constitutional obligation to strive for a developmental and prosperous life for all by providing affordable and sustainable services through community participation, accountability, transparency and responsible governance. Community participation is taking charge of municipal and government affairs by ensuring the protection of government property.

Community members are urged to safeguard any asset built within their communities and in this regard roads, upgraded streets, clinics, schools to mention just a few. The construction of Agincourt tar road has come at a high cost and the municipality is pleased to announce that the project is proceeding well. The tar road will improve people's lives in the biggest possible way one can ever imagine. Political criminal encouraging members of the community to fill the streets and tarred roads in violently and illegally under the pretext of protesting against poor service delivery by burning roads, schools and clinics.



Saselani-Buyisonto water reticulation underway

Saselani water reticulation project

Water is life and the Bushbuckridge community is constitutionally obliged to have the supply of clean drinkable water running in their yard taps as proclaimed by the ANC led-government. Saselani and the village will soon cease from having to buy water and travelling longer distances to draw water as the reticulation project comes to finish.

BLM is a nodal point municipality that relies mostly on Treasury for the financing of major service delivery projects like water, roads and bridges. We, therefore, urge members of the community to play a role in the safeguarding of everything municipal and government property as these properties continue to change our way of living for the better.

Kildare water reticulation

Kildare Village is one of the most rural areas in the Bushbuckridge municipal area and is dry land. Community members in this area have had it hard to access clean drinkable water running in their taps and the municipality's introduced water reticulation projects aim to bring to end the lack of water supply in the area.

Tintswalo village water reticulation

Another success that the municipality is celebrating is the reticulation of Tintswalo village in which the project has created job opportunities for both young men and females. The municipality is urging members of the community to ensure that the water infrastructure laid down is in safe hands. The hooligans that take advantage of the unmonitored infrastructure underground for criminal purposes, the municipality is urging members of the community to report any kind of criminal activity.

on the spotlight for quite some time, the road was constructed before the dawn of democracy and its state of affairs have been completely dilapidated. The road's notoriously poor state has seen investor confidence dramatically drop and triggered local community protests for a longer period.

BLM Seeks Devine Intervention With Three Days Prayer Session

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality's (BLM) Social Development Portfolio Committee led by the Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo, Council Speaker Cllr Ruth Raganya, MMCs in partnership with the Bushbuckridge ministerial council embarked on a three-day prayer session. The main purpose of these sessions were to urge the front liners workers to soldier on and keep the good work going under these trying times.

Three local hospital CEOs (from Mapulaneng, Tintswalo and Matikwane) alluded that certain staff members have been infected by the Coronavirus while on duty, however, most have since recovered and others are still recovering at home and the health facilities have no reported death case of front line workers. The CEOs showed their appreciation to the Executive Mayor and her entourage for coming to their facilities and encouraging them to soldier on.

The prayer sessions started at the Mapulaneng to Tintswalo and concluded at Matikwane hospital

where it was reported that more than 20 of the staff members (nurses and admin clerks) tested positive for Coronavirus and that though they are recovering well, the workload keeps piling up.

Addressing staff, the Executive Mayor applauded the hospital management and staff for the outstanding job they are doing of saving lives while risking their own lives and that of their families.

The Executive Mayor further expressed her concern over the safety of the staff members (front liners) who especially have been infected by the virus. She also admitted that the numbers in the Bushbuckridge region have been on the rise since moving to alert level three (3) but what gives us hope is that since the heatwave hit our shores the number of recoveries is promising.

Pastor Maswanganyi and Bishop Mashele gave uplifting sermons at three local hospitals to both the municipal Executive Council, Hospital Management, and staff that everything shall pass and so

is the Coronavirus. They urged the hospital management and staff to look up to God for the wisdom and solutions of tackling this virus during these trying times.

Both the Bishop and the Pastor highlighted the importance of protecting our mothers, sisters, and daughters as another scourge that terrorises our societies. 'We men are the perpetrators of these incidents and only us as men are the solutions to these incidents,' said the Pastor as he urged all men to take responsibility for

their actions especially with protecting women at all costs.

In conclusion, the Executive Mayor encouraged the Matikwane hospital staff to ensure that they take the precaution of every move they make when attending patients as by doing so, they are protecting themselves, families and everyone around them. She further advised everyone to ensure that they lead by example at the workplace, their homes, shopping complexes and wherever they may be.



Community members attending the prayer session

BLM Cleans Illegal Dumpsites

The Constitution of South Africa guarantees everyone the right of access to a clean environment that is not harmful to their health and wellbeing and to have the natural environment protected.

In adherence to the above mentioned constitutional provision, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) embarked on a mass clean - up the campaign to remove illegal dumps along the roads, vacant stands and watercourses. This resulted in 30 illegally dumped waste been removed within the municipal area of jurisdiction. The piling of illegal waste was starting to pose harmful health effects on the quality of life and health of communities. The Executive Mayor is appealing to members of the public to refrain from practices of littering and

dumping waste on areas that are not designated as dumping sites. She is pleading with residents of Bushbuckridge to recycle waste and become more environmentally conscious. The Mayor alluded that illegal



After clean up campaign in Riverside in Thulamahashe

dumps affect service delivery in the sense that the municipality

has to spend money and time to clean-up illegal dumping areas at the expense of other equally important municipal services. Research has revealed that property prices are also lowered in areas where littering and

illegal dumping has taken centre stage.

This will also affect the tourism sector within the boundaries of the municipality, less tourists will visit the area due to bad smell caused by a pile of waste that was illegally dumped.

"Let us ensure that we do not create harmful environments by illegal dumping and littering as this will create health hazards and lead to diseases," concluded the Executive Mayor.

The municipality has partnered with the University of South Africa (UNISA) to address waste management issues through a research project. However, the project was put on hold following the outbreak of the Coronavirus and The subsequent introduction of the National Lockdown.

Municipality Adds Four UD Tipper Trucks To Service Fleet



Brand new fleet

The municipality has added four (04) new UD Tipper Trucks to its service delivery fleet system. These trucks come as demand for the ever-growing waste and environment pollution continues to show its ugly head in the Bushbuckridge municipal area of jurisdiction. The municipality hopes that the fleet comes in handy as it continues the fight against environmental pollution as it is a health hazard in the municipal vicinity.

Waste management is key to ensuring that the environment is protected from the impact of waste. The main objective is to ensure that waste is managed to save people's lives, prevent pollution and achieve compliance as guided by National Environmental Management: Waste Amendment Act 26 of 2014.

The municipality has further realised the need to improve the standard of its road and street maintenance which led to the four tipper trucks being split into two. The waste management will be a beneficiary getting a share of one tipper truck added to the already existing number of skip loaders for refuse and waste removal. The other three tipper trucks will add to road maintenance unit in a bid to assist in giving Bushbuckridge members of the community accessible streets.

The three tipper trucks are also going to be used for assistance in the graveling of poorly maintained streets and roads, Bushbuckridge is one of the rural and underdeveloped municipalities due to its geographical location with a high number of unemployment. The notoriously underdeveloped

state or bad maintenance of streets and roads within the municipal area hampers a number of investment opportunities for the residents of Bushbuckridge.

However, the municipality would like to turn the notion as a thing of the past by realising a newly revamped, developed and maintained Bushbuckridge and it hopes by so doing investor confidence shall grow thus creating more job opportunities for our local people. The poor state of development does not only affect investor confidence but also impacts the healthy standard of living as this means that there are not enough marked areas of waste disposal.

The municipality is optimistic that it is only through development initiatives that people's lives could be

improved for the better. The municipality is urging members of the community to refrain from destroying government property while it embarks on its journey to refurbish and give the municipal area of jurisdiction a new facelift. It is indeed a constitutional mandate for the municipality as the closest sphere of government to deliver better services to the people.

Please let there be no further burning of roads, libraries, clinics etc. as the municipality will enforce the full force of the law to bring all those responsible to book. Bushbuckridge has in the past few years indeed had a number of developmental projects to its area of jurisdiction with a number of employment opportunities realised.

Belfast-Cork Receives Water Purification Package Plant



The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) in partnership with Kruger National Park are pleased to announce the official handover of the Belfast-Cork and surrounding areas water purification package plant. The completion and handover of the package plant puts an end to the risk of lives for the people of Belfast, Cork and surrounding areas as they'll no longer have to draw water or wash their clothes from the crocodile infested Sabie River.

This comes after a member of the Cork narrowly escaped from the jaws of a crocodile while trying to draw water from the Sabie River - a few years ago. This was as a result of water shortages in the area and the municipality urgently intervened by supplying water through water tankers and resuscitating of boreholes. It has always the municipality's

interest to strive for a developmental life for every member of the community.

The Belfast, Cork and many other villages are adjacent to the world-renowned Kruger National Park to which the Sabie River runs through, the Kruger National Park and Bushbuckridge Local Municipality partnership is

seen as a feat for the affected communities as it has created jobs for some members of the community and improved the living standards of the communities.

The municipality is urging members of the community to safeguard the water purification package plant and refrain from stealing

and burning of government properties during protests. Should members of the community be dissatisfied over something, the municipality is urging you to consult with your local Ward Councillor or regional municipal office and/or visit the Speaker's or Executive Mayor's Office if all else has failed.



DBSA And BLM To Provide Clean Water To Communities



One of the installed Jojo tank stands by DBSA in Bushbuckridge

As part of Covid-19 relief, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has partnered with Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) to help provide communities with clean portable water.

The following villages will benefit from the partnership between DBSA and the municipality:

- Casteel - Ga Josepha Extension
 - Casteel - Mapaletja
 - Dwarsloop/Sasekani
 - Lillydale - Huntington
 - Lillydale - Kunyamahembe
 - Thulamahashe - Mambumbu
 - Acornhoek - Mapalaneng
- Brand new boreholes will be

drilled and installed in the above-mentioned villages to ensure the community members have access to water. DBSA will also donate 210 000 litres of water tankers to the municipality.

The boreholes will be connected to a solar energy system and it is envisaged that the projects will be completed within a period of one month.

The Mayor is urging community members to jealously safeguard the soon to be installed water infrastructure and to report acts of criminality to the municipality.

Speakers Blog: We Rely On Each Other's Good Behaviour To Keep Our Communities Safe

As the custodian of public participation office, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) Council and appreciate members of the Bushbuckridge community, for the commitment and discipline they displayed during our worst-case scenario in the fight against the spread of the Coronavirus. From since the President of the country introduced the national lockdown as the National Disaster Management Act, you have proven to be united and law-abiding citizens.

As of 27 September 2020 we have reported 848 incidents of Coronavirus infections, 789 recoveries and there were 17 death cases reported. The move to alert level one as announced by the President does not necessarily mean that the coronavirus is over, but to allow for certain activities of

the economy to run. It further means that the easing of much more needed services to be available to all South Africans.

Statistics South Africa announced that the economy of the country contracted by a staggering 51% in the second quarter due to the national lockdown which has seen more economic activities halted as the country reeled the consequences of Covid-19. As the custodian of public participation, I would like to urge members of the public to continue observing Covid-19 regulations.

Health experts have warned of a second wave of the Coronavirus infections should we behave as though the pandemic is over - we see the country being reverted back to level five. It is, therefore, necessary to continue observing social distancing, wearing a mask especially in

public areas, washing of hands or sanitizing and ensuring that the number of people gathering either for funerals, church worships, etc. is limited to not more than 100.

Pupils have returned to school, we request parents and educators to be more vigilant over children and ensure that their safety is a priority. I urge Educators, School Management Teams and School Governing Bodies to ensure that their schools adhere to all safety protocols as advised by the Department of Education (DoE). Schools should be closely safeguarded in the sense that whoever is entering the school premises should be screened.

South Africa has been on the decline in terms of the Coronavirus infection cases and the number of fatalities by far, this feat could be attributed to our frontline Health Professionals, Health

Experts, South African Police Services (SAPS), South African Defence Force (SADF), South African Citizens in particular and I urge to continue being a united country. We have by far defeated a number of challenges and we will conquer this one too, being on alert level one means we must now be more committed to fighting this virus than ever before.

In conclusion, I appeal to all members of the community to continue adhering to the Covid-19 rules and regulations as this will ensure that we keep our communities safe.

We rely on each other's good behaviour to keep our communities safe, it is without a doubt that our efforts together have kept us safe and it is for this reason that infection numbers have been declining.

BLM Supports Newly Appointed Sabie Sands Wildtuin CEO

After his appointment as the very first African Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to the Sabie Sand Wildtuin Mr Oscar Mthimkhulu, the Municipal Manager of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) engaged in an introductory stakeholder meeting which was held for mapping a way forward on how the two institutions can work together to protect the environment and create job opportunities for the local people.

Mr Mthimkhulu hails from Kwazulu-Natal (KZN) and is a qualified Conservationist from the Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT). His work experience includes but not limited to working as a Field Ranger and a Conservation officer before being in management.

BLM is the gateway to the world renowned Kruger National

Park, Sabie Sand Wildtuin, Manyeleti, Andover and other



Newly appointed Sabie Sand Wildtuin CEO

reputable reserves but villages adjacent to these reserves have not yet benefitted from these organisations and Mr Mthimkhulu is keen on addressing misfortunes of the past.

Municipal Manager, Mrs Cynthia Nkuna has vowed that her

led municipality will not only support Sabie Sand Wildtuin in its programs and initiatives but will also support all other nature reserves operating from its area of jurisdiction and beyond. Mrs Nkuna is adamant that the Tourism sector is the new gold for the BLM and could play an enormous role in poverty eradication and unemployment alleviation.

The municipality is sharing the same sentiments as the new CEO that the youth should in their numbers follow careers in nature conservation and similar fields. Bushbuckridge is a tourism destination given its geographical location and it is for this reason that as a municipality we ask young people to tap into space and take advantage of these opportunities.

BLM is also a strategic location for tourism practice and has a

number of opportunities for people to invest. As per the result of the municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) will be implementing its Injaka Master Plan which comes with a number of opportunities from accommodation, resorts, fishing and other forms of investments.

The Bushbuckridge Nature Reserve is also another investment opportunity that the municipality is aiming to bring into the picture. This juncture will also bring other opportunities such as jobs and nature reserve conservation. The municipality will ensure that project does not become another white elephant project and/or taxpayers money disappearing into the thin air.



Sabie Sand Wildtuin CEO and BLM Municipal Manager Mrs Cynthia Nkuna during an Introductory Stakeholder Meeting

BLM Reminds The Public About General Valuation Roll



Standing Row: Mr W. Winckler - (Municipal Valuer), Mr J Kobus (VAB), Mrs S Serfontein (VAB), Ms V.A Macdonald (VAB), Mr WS Nkosi (Deputy Chair), Mr E Baleni (VAB), Mr M Matlala (BLM Deputy CFO) and Mrs T Ndhlovu (BLM Income Manager)
Front Row: Ms M Stoop (Valuers Afrika) and Ms B Mtsweni (COGTA VAB)

Every four years, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) compiles and produces a General Valuation Roll - a document that consists of property information of all registered properties, inclusive of the market value and property category. The information on the General Valuation Roll has been garnered by the appointed municipal valuers whose main role is to value properties within the municipal area of jurisdiction.

The Municipal Property Rates Act (MPRA) is a national legislation that regulates the powers to municipalities to value and rate immovable properties, that is - land and buildings within municipal jurisdiction.

Municipalities derive their powers to levy property rates from section 229 (i) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The MPRA commenced operating from the 2 July 2005 and it has consequently repealed the Provincial Ordinances.

In determining the value of properties, the valuers make use of aerial photography, house by house physical

inspection and the deeds offices. Once all properties valuation has been done; the municipality will compile a General Valuation Roll and issue individual letters and text messages to all registered property owners to come and inspect the valuation roll. Print media advertisements are also placed on local and provincial newspapers to create hype and awareness about the valuation roll.

The copies of the valuation rolls are accessible from all the municipal regional offices, libraries, Driving Licence and Testing Centres (DLTC's), and on the municipal website (www.bushbuckridge.gov.za). During the inspection of the valuation roll, property owners are urged to check if their property category is correctly captured, because rates are levied in line with the property category.

For example, residential properties are levied in line with the applicable property tariffs and if the categorisation is incorrect; wrong property rates will be applied. Every property in formalised areas is supposed to have a municipal valuation ascribed to it by municipal valuers.

In the event a property owner is not happy with the market value of his or her property; he or she will have to complete an objection form and attach supporting evidence and or documents to enable valuers to re-adjust the market value before the closure of the objection period.

Objection forms can be obtained from the Revenue Section and on the municipal website. It should be borne in mind that being dissatisfied with the amount of rates payable does not constitute an objection. It must also be noted that once the closing date for objections has lapsed, objections will not be considered.

In the event an objection is rejected by the municipality, property owners may appeal to the Valuations Appeal Board within 30 days from date of the receipt of notification of the outcome of the objection. The appeal forms can be obtained from the Revenue section and on the municipal website. Once accepted by Mpumalanga Valuation Appeal Board; the appellants will be notified and given 21 days to prepare themselves for appeal hearing which will be chaired

by the board.

The valuation roll is updated on a yearly basis through a supplementary roll used primarily for the following reasons:

- Inclusion of omitted properties from the general valuation roll
- New property registrations
- Property developments and or amendments
- Change of property category

The municipality has in place a property rates policy which is reviewed on yearly basis to ensure compliance to the provisions of the MPRA. The Municipality has received 18 objections in terms of Section 52 of the Municipal Property Rates Act. The objections were taken to the Mpumalanga Valuation Appeal Board (MVAB) for adjudication.

The Mpumalanga Valuation Appeal Board hearing sitting took place on the 18 August 2020; the municipal valuers explained why adjustments were made to certain properties and also why adjustments were not made as well. The municipality is awaiting the outcome of the (MVAB) with a bated breath.

BLM Celebrates Tourism Month In Style



BLM Council Speaker- Cllr Ruth Raganya, Acting Executive Mayor Cllr Learnard Malumane and MMC-EDPE Cllr Liza Lekhuleni

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) and Bushbuckridge Local Tourism Organization (BLTO) in partnership with the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) celebrated Tourism month in style.

Owing to the Covid-19 regulations, the celebrations were limited to a total of 200 people and the celebrations took place at the Bushbuckridge Nature Reserve on 29 September 2020.

The proceedings were directed by the Council Speaker, Cllr Ruth Raganya who on her opening remarks urged the audience to observe social distancing, put on their masks and sanitize. She applauded the audience for putting on their various cultural and traditional colours as they celebrate their heritage and tourism of the region.

Giving messages of support, the MTPA's Bushbuckridge Nature Reserve Manager raised concerns over the

destruction of the fence on the reserve. She pleaded with stakeholders, in particular, Traditional Leaders and the South African Police Service (SAPS) to urge members of the community to refrain from



Xibhelana Traditional Dance Group performing at the Tourism Month Awareness Campaign

vandalizing the fence under the pretext of seeking grazing land.

She alluded that the of all the reserves MTPA is controlling only the Bushbuckridge

Nature Reserve does not collect revenue and the continuation of these criminal acts may lead to job losses and the MTPA abandoning the site. Communal Property Association (CPA), Kruger

to Canyon (K2C), BLTO and People & Parks Mpumalanga raised the same concerns as the MTPA.

Mr Mogakane of People and Parks Mpumalanga urged

members of the community to partake in the conservation and tourism issues. Harming the environment has consequences and will not only lead to loss of jobs but bad and dangerous weather systems. He went on to plead with Traditional Leaders to ensure that they lead from the front in protecting the environment by getting involved in park-related issues.

Giving the keynote address - Acting Executive Mayor, the BLM Chief Whip of the Council, Cllr Learnard Malumane highlighted the importance of tourism in our lifetime. He alluded that tourism is not only about vacation but a necessity to an extent where it creates jobs, help protect and conserve nature's best, it also protects us against the scourge of terrible weather conditions.

He concluded by urging the audience to take back home every lesson and piece of advice received from the various stakeholders.