



THE BLM MOUTHPIECE

Your News. Your Eyes. Your Voice



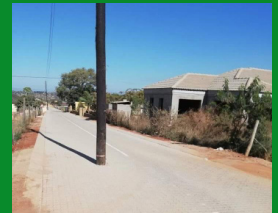
What is Inside...

Page 08



+ Local Municipality Celebrates The Power of Women

Page 10



+ Eskom To Correctly Place Electricity Poles in Matsikitsane

Page 12



+ BLM And BTO Host Successful Women In Business Seminar

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

Editor's Note

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Editor's Note 2
- Executive Mayor's Desk. 3
- Municipal Manager. 3
- Meet the BLM Moyaral Committee. . . 4
- Council Appoints New Chief Whip and EDPE Member of The. 5
- BLM Teams Up with UNISA In Addressing Waste Management Challenges. . . . 6-7
- Environmental Management Learnership Participants Receive Their National Certificates. 7
- Local Municipality Celebrates The Power of Women. 8
- Malubane Phase 1 Now with Upgraded Internal Streets 9
- Acornhoek Plaza View Internal Street Now Open. 9
- BLM Announces Mkhulu Line Road Donga Gabious Rehabilitation Project. 9
- Eskom To Correctly Place Electricity Poles in Matsikitsane. 10
- Local Municipality Completes Water Network and Water Pump Station Installations in Belfast. . . 11
- Municipality on Marite Street Upgrade. 11
- BLM And BTO Host Successful Women In Business Seminar. 12
- BLM Shuts Shangaan Hill Reservoir. 12
- Bushbuckridge Celebrates Heritage And Tourism 13
- CWP Unblock Drain. 14
- BLM Not Part Of Illegal Beestekraalspruit 270 KU Stand Sales 15
- I Am A Bushbuckridgian. 16



Communications Manager, Mr Aubrey Mnisi

The Department of Basic Education recently led a reading and spelling campaign through the annual National Spelling Bee championship program. The Spelling Bee competition targets learners from Grade 4 to 6 and is aimed at improving learners' language performances, especially English.

The President of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa opened the Sandile Present community library on Heritage Day (24 September 2019) in Upington - Northern Cape. He participated in a reading session with pupils as part of the Heritage Day celebration. The President further encouraged all citizens to become enthusiastic readers and read in their indigenous languages.

The e-Funza program through the SABC Education also promotes a culture of reading amongst children from an early age. Education enriches one's mind and broadens the knowledge and understanding thereof, hence the necessity of government programs currently in progress.

Recently, I listened to a well-written poem about being a Bushbuckridgian written by a bright young mind -

Malphia Honwane from Gottenburg village near Hluvukani. It is an articulate piece of work, check it out at the back of this Mouthpiece. Honwane also penned down an enriching and mind intriguing book titled "Dry Tears".

I encourage everyone to read our Mouthpiece as it gives insight about what the municipality is doing from a service delivery point of view and other social programs aimed at building social cohesion, fighting crime and social ills.

Literacy is a powerful tool with lifelong benefits. Research indicates that reading books and stories influences one's choices, it gives value to lives, it enhances critical and creative thinking and encourages personal development. Reading and writing is a fundamental pillar of education. Education is the foundation of a healthy, stable growth-oriented society.

Hope you enjoy your reading and we gladly welcome your comments and inputs.

Until the next issue.
Enjoy!

Meet The BLM Communications Team

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Executive Mayor's Desk

Domestic violence amongst women and children, sexism and inequality are still a huge problem in most parts of the country - particularly in the deep rural areas, this is despite government's efforts to curb these practices. The government introduced various campaigns and programs in a bid to educate and urge members of the community in particular men, to stop the acts of violence against women and children.

The country commemorated women's month in August, the commemoration didn't only seek to celebrate the lives, strength, perseverance and power of women who took upon themselves in August 1956 to act against pass laws, but to advance and address the efforts that government has put in place to curb women abuse, domestic violence and

other forms of abuse. As the country has been engulfed with negative stories of brutality against women and children.

During the month of July, the whole

world

celebrated the life of the late icon struggle, father of our democracy, first black and democratically elected President - Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Various programmes including the

"46664 concert" are aimed at improving the lives of ordinary South Africans and to keep the Mandela legacy alive forever.

September month is Heritage month and the



Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo

government uses this month to encourage South Africans to know who they are and where they come from. South Africa has a rich and diverse culture some are fused together in areas e.g. Gauteng

province.

To the people of Bushbuckridge, the municipality continues to be committed to a developmental and prosperous life for all and providing basic services like roads, accessible streets and in particular, water remains top of the municipality's priorities. I will further like to urge members of the community to engage their local councillors for issues on service delivery.

It is the government's goal to ensure that South Africans live a better and prosperous life irrespective of their colour, gender and language; therefore I urge all South Africans to join the government in creating a safe and working Bushbuckridge and South Africa as a whole.

Municipal Manager's Desk

The transition and takeover of the bulk water provision by the municipality has so far been smoothly done and could be announced as a successful process, however it has its shortcomings. Change is sometimes painful and some people embrace it while others resist it.

We noted with disappointment the element of sabotage of the water reticulation network that negatively affects water supply in some areas. Regardless, the municipality is still committed to supplying basic services, including water to our communities.

We have been embarked on several water supply and reticulation projects to ensure that the community members' constitutional right to clean drinkable water is realized. It remains our number one

priority to ensure that our communities receive clean water from their own yards.

There are several streets, roads and water projects that are

currently underway within the municipal area of jurisdiction that are funded by both the municipality and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport.

These projects include the Acornhoek to Cottendale

tire road, Dwarsloop to Thulamahashe tire road, Cork via Ronaldsay, Ramalema to MP Stream. With 11 paving streets projects and the Agincourt water reticulation project to mention just a few.



Municipal Manager, Mrs Cynthia Nkuna

The municipality further embarked on internal street paving projects which include Matsikitsane, Hluvukani, Thulamahashe, Shatale and Mkhuhlu this is one of the ways that the municipality striving for a better and prosperous life for all.

Council in its last ordinary meeting held in August 2019 witnessed the promotion of MMC: Economic Development, Planning, and Environment (EDPE) - Cllr L. Malomane into a Chief Whip position which was previously held by Mr. M. Makaringe and Cllr L. Lekhuleni is now the new MMC: EDPE.

In conclusion, South Africa is facing economic challenges that also affect the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) and its citizens where we see a rise in unemployment, crime rate, poverty levels and substance abuse by teenagers. We call upon on all Bushbuckridge citizens - young and old to work with the government in creating employment, fighting social ills and actively participating in the municipality mainstream economic activities.

Troika



*Speaker
Cllr Ruth Raganya*



*Executive Mayor
Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo*



*Chief Whip
Cllr Leonard Malomane*

Mayoral Committee



*MMC Social Development
Cllr Krisjan Mokoena*



*MMC Finance
Cllr Phineas Selowe*



*MMC Corporate Services
Cllr Sylvia Mathebula*



*MMC Technical
Cllr Bhunu Malandule*



*MMC EDPE
Cllr Laizah Lekhuleni*



*MMC Sport Art Culture Heritage
Cllr Violet Nkuna*



*MPAC Chairperson
Cllr Mandla Mapiyeye*



*MMC Public Safety, Disaster Management & DITC
Cllr Lindiwe Sithole*



*MMC Chairperson Service Delivery
Cllr Lebelelang Malebe*

Council Appoints New Chief Whip and EDPE Member of The Mayoral Committee



Newly appointed New EDPE Cllr Laizah Lekhuleni and Chief Whip Cllr Leonard Malomane

Former Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) responsible for Economic Development, Planning and Environment (EDPE), Cllr Leonard Malomane has been elected as the ruling party's and Council's new Chief Whip in an ordinary Council Sitting meeting held on 29 August

2019.

The position of Chief Whip became vacant after the resignation of Cllr Million Makaringe who has since been appointed as a Member of the Provincial Legislature.

As the new Chief Whip, Cllr

Malomane will be responsible for creating synergy and maintaining the discipline to ensure that the growth and development of the municipality always come first and that the integrity of the Council is maintained.

On the same day, Cllr Laizah

Lekhuleni was appointed to fill the void left by the newly-appointed Chief Whip as the new MMC for responsible EDPE.

Council wishes them all of the best in their new respective roles.

BLM Teams Up with UNISA In Addressing Waste Management Challenges

In an attempt to tackle and address the issues of waste management, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) has partnered with the University of South Africa (UNISA) to study waste management issues that affect residents.

UNISA is the biggest open distance e-learning (ODEL) university in Africa. The university's Department of Environmental Science has expertise in Municipal Solid Waste Management and African indigenous knowledge systems which are relevant to

Bushbuckridge.

It has seasoned researchers with a track record in research and are dedicated to servicing the historically disadvantaged communities in Africa.

UNISA's Department of

Environmental Science leadership and academics are currently conducting waste management research to assess the challenges and indigenous waste management practices prevalent in different communities of Bushbuckridge.

BLM Teams Up with UNISA In Addressing Waste Management Challenges

continued...

The outcomes of the study will be used to document and develop a waste management model that can be adopted by the municipality, to deliver better and improved waste management services in different settings instead of copying waste management strategies from extended countries or other municipality systems which do not necessarily work in Bushbuckridge.

The success of the Bushbuckridge waste management model may in future be extended to other South African and African communities. Currently, the municipality only collects refuse from 27.6% of its households whilst 72.4% of households are not receiving refuse removal services. According to Statistics SA 2016, the municipality has 13 7419 households and 37 902 receive the service of refuse removal once per week whilst 99 517 are not receiving the services at all.

This has resulted in the occurrence of illegal dumps all over the municipal area of jurisdiction. Despite the fact that the municipality has distributed 150 skip container bins all over Bushbuckridge; waste collection remains a challenge in rural areas where no formal collection system exists.

Some of the major challenges in waste management that the municipality has to contend with are as follows:

- Residents not paying for refuse removal services.
- Low capacity to handle large volumes of waste.

- Shortage of fleet, budget and human resources.
- Lack of awareness of

particular, is colonial hence they have not addressed the challenges. It is imperative



UNISA Professor Mr Fanie Machete at Xikoxeni Waste Management site in Lilydale

good waste management practices.

The municipality hopes that the research which

for South Africa and Africa to develop service delivery systems that are native to its communities.



Recycled beer bottles at Xikoxeni Waste Management Site in Lilydale

is underway spearheaded by UNISA academics will bring forth cheap and effective methods of waste management which require less transportation. And the municipality is adamant that the research outcomes will help decrease the large backlog in refuse removal.

The current waste management practices used in South Africa in general and Bushbuckridge, in

UNISA will help the municipality to develop a waste management model that is synonymous with the culture of the local communities in Bushbuckridge and the municipality is adamant that the community will embrace and endorse it. The current study is a pioneering step towards a historic future thus the municipality is leading the process.

The municipal partnership with UNISA is not restricted to waste management issues, the university will also investigate opportunities of formalizing and industrializing recycling within the municipal area of jurisdiction.

One of the immediate focus is to establish a database of different recycling activities across the municipality, types of and estimation of available recyclables, and potential of processing ..these recyclables in Bushbuckridge and finding formal markets within the municipal communities.

This includes negotiating recyclables buying contracts with government and local retails to source their products from Local recyclers and this will help create myriad jobs and reduce youth unemployment.

This project is also underway, data collection has already started, and progress will be reported from time to time. Meetings with recyclers have also started, but more still needs to be done.

Recycling activities within the municipality are peaking and the municipality always supports waste recyclers from all over Bushbuckridge. The municipality hosts several workshops to build technical capacity for new and established recyclers. To date, the municipality has managed to help 80 recyclers register their companies.

Recyclers are offered protective clothing and tools of trade continuously to avoid health hazards.

BLM Teams Up with UNISA In Addressing Waste Management Challenges

continued...

In 2018, two groups were referred to the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land and Environment Affairs which adopted the groups into their Zonda Intsila Programme which offers individual recyclers a monthly stipend.

The economic spins for the community and local recyclers once the research project has been completed

are as follows:

- The formalization of recycling will create several green jobs in Bushbuckridge.
- The industrialization of recycling will create well paid green jobs and help reduce unemployment, levels of poverty and inequality.
- This will also build local capacity to process raw

recyclables into useful products or goods needed by local markets as inputs or final products to their production systems.

- Finding markets for local recyclers will increase the demand for recyclables and thus accelerate the rate of recycling, cleanliness of the general.

UNISA has registered

the municipality's waste management officials for postgraduate studies (Masters or Doctorate) to build local capacity to conduct quality research within Bushbuckridge communities and to understand the real waste management challenges and opportunities in their local areas.

Environmental Management Learnership Participants Receive Their National Certificates



Graduate of the Waste Management Learnership programme

The participants of the Environmental Management Learnership programme have graduated with a National Certificate in Environmental Management NQF Level 5. The graduation ceremony was held at the municipal PMU Boardroom on 13 September 2019.

The National Department

of Environmental Affairs appointed the Elective Training Institute, an LGSETA accredited training provider to train unemployed youth on environmental management and about 20 young people participated in the programme. The programme started in April 2018 and was completed in February 2019.

The municipality as the host employer assisted by allowing the learners to do practicals at landfill sites, sewer plants and the cleaning of towns.

The learners will be assisted to register their own companies by both the Elective Training Institute and the Department of Environmental Affairs.

In recruiting the participants of the leadership programme, an advertisement was issued and successful applicants had to undergo some assessments to partake in the programme.

Local Municipality Celebrates The Power of Women



Ms Sasekani Manzini, MEC of Health during her keynote address

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) hosted a successful Women's Month celebration at Majembeni Village under the theme "celebration of 25 years of freedom and democracy".

The main objective of the event was to encourage the communities to continue celebrating the month as it's has a historical day dedicated to 9 August 1956 where a march by women from across country took to the Union Building

demanding the end to pass laws which were sought to control the movement of black women across the country.

Delivering the keynote address, MEC for Health, Ms Sasekani Manzini spoke about the importance of celebrating Women's Month to the fullest as it forms part of the nation's celebration of 25 years of freedom and democracy and is an important day that provides an opportunity to recognize

the crucial role played by women during the struggle for the liberation against colonization and apartheid.

This year marks 63 years since the march to the Union Buildings in 1956, by 20 000 women.

The women challenged the oppressive system that had deepened inequalities in terms of race, colour and gender, and has contributed to the current triple challenge of inequality,

unemployment and poverty. These burdens are heaviest on the women. Therefore, when women of South Africa converged 63 years ago, they created an enduring legacy of our country's history.

She also emphasized that this year's commemoration coincides with the 65th anniversary of the women's charter. All women in attendance were showered with gifts and blankets.



Women listening to the keynote address



Women listening to the keynote address

Malubane Phase 1 Now with Upgraded Internal Streets

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) has officially completed the 1.3kilometres Malubane internal street Phase 1 road upgrade and the project was completed at R 11 648 250.35. The project started on 23 November 2018 and was completed on 11 June 2019.

The internal street links the location and the busy R536 route between Hazyview

and Kruger Park gate.

The project created much-needed job opportunities on a short-term basis for 12 local people.

The project scope included 90mm paving blocks, construction for erosion protection, Concrete V drains, Kerbs and culverts precast units.



Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo handing over upgraded internal streets at Malubane phase 1

Acornhoek Plaza View Internal Street Now Open



Upgraded Acornhoek street

The upgraded Plaza view internal street phase in Acornhoek was officially opened by the Executive Mayor on 18 July 2019. The construction of the internal street started on 12 December 2018 and was completed on 24 June 2019 at the tune of R 9.5 million.

It's a 1.3kilometers internal street that was upgraded from gravel to asphalt (tar) road and is situated next to Acornhoek Traffic lights.

Prior to the road upgrade, it was a gravel road full of

dongas and motorists had difficulties driving especially near the bridge.

The project created 11 job opportunities for the local people plus laborers from subcontractors who were appointed on an Adhoc basis. The Mayor would like to thank the community members for exercising patience whilst the road was being upgraded.

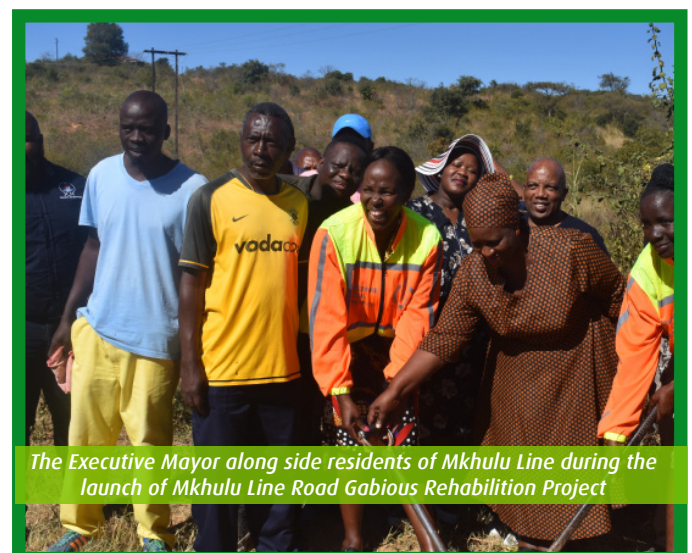
BLM Announces Mkhulu Line Road Donga Gabious Rehabilitation Project

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality's (BLM) newly launched Mkhulu line Road Donga Gabious Rehabilitation project amounts to R1.9 million.

The road is an economic anchor that links the village to the busy R40 Road and future plans on the road

include the construction of sidewalks for pedestrians.

The Executive Mayor believes that once the project has been completed, it will ensure the safety of commuters. It's a 5 months project which will create 20 temporary jobs for the local community.



The Executive Mayor along side residents of Mkhulu Line during the launch of Mkhulu Line Road Gabious Rehabilitation Project

Eskom To Correctly Place Electricity Poles in Matsikitsane



Eskom pole in the middle of the road



Eskom removed the pole in the middle of the road

The municipality has over the years advocated and pleaded with our Traditional Councils and in particular our Indunas to follow correct procedures and town planning regulations when establishing new settlements within the municipality.

Matsikitsane is one of the many areas that came into existence without following due processes.

Residential sites or stands were demarcated without proper town planning processes which resulted

in poor planning and implementation of projects.

The electricity pole being in the middle of the recently paved street in Matsikitsane is a reality known by the municipality and the municipality has engaged Eskom to relocate the electricity poles that were installed from March 2019.

Before the paving of the internal streets in Matsikitsane, the electric poles were there and the contractor was given the green light by the

municipality's consulting engineer to proceed to pave the streets with the view of having the poles relocated in due course.

The same situation occurred in Plaza View and Acornhoek but has since been corrected through Eskom as the relevant authorities.

We continue to urge our Traditional Councils to follow due processes when establishing new residential areas to ensure that our streets, water, electricity, businesses sites and

recreational facilities are in line with the municipal Spatial Planning and Land Use Management policy.

We are appealing to the residents of Matsikitsane to exercise patience while Eskom prepares to remove and relocate the poles.

Necessary temporary risk and safety measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of communities and road users in Matsikitsane. We apologize for the inconvenience caused.

Local Municipality Completes Water Network and Water Pump Station Installations in Belfast

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) is delighted with the completion of phase 1 of Water Network and raw water pump station installations in Belfast at the amount of R14 736 779.73. The project started on 18 January 2018 and was completed on 18 June 2018.

About 363 households will benefit from yard connections and the project created 17 job opportunities for the local people.



Belfast water project steel tank



Construction of water structure

Municipality on Marite Streets Upgrade

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality has completed the upgrade of internal streets at Marite (Cargo inn and Marcia) at the tune of R9 970 056.25.

The 1.5 kilometers road project started in December 2018 and was completed on 30 June 2019.

It was a project that created 22 temporary jobs for the local community members.



Upgraded road in Marite Marcia

BLM And BTO Host Successful Women In Business Seminar



Ms Lucy Mkhonto a successful business woman delivering motivational talk during the Women in business event held at Sagwadi Hotel

In an attempt to contribute to the welfare of women, the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) with the support of the Bushbuckridge Tourism Organisation (BTO) hosted a successful Women in Business seminar on 30 August 2019, at Sagwadi Hotel in Mkhuhlu.

The main purpose

of the event was to create a platform for aspiring and experienced businesswomen to interact and share their experiences and knowledge. The event was attended by 100 women in business.

The Managing Director of Tops Funeral and Financial Services who also has a Catering and Training

Services Company - Ms. Lucy Mkhonto was roped in to share her experiences in the business sector.

She told the attendees that at some stage her business collapsed, but she did not give up. She had to hang in there she eventually made it.

Delivering a Keynote

Address, the Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo urged women to take advantage of the programmes that the government has put in place to advance and empower women in all fronts i.e. business opportunities and funding and scholarships to mention just two.

BLM Shuts Shangaan Hill Reservoir

The municipality acknowledges the dirty water coming from the Shangaan Hill Reservoir and for safety precautions, it resolved to close the water reservoir from the 26 August

2019 to 07 September 2019 to allow cleaning and routine maintenance of the reservoir.

As a short-term water supply relief, municipal

water tankers were dispatched to provide community members of Shangaan Hill, Health Centre, Malaining, Maviljan, Mandela, Matengteng and surrounding areas with

water.

Members of the public were urged to exercise patience whilst the municipality worked around the clock to remedy the situation.

Bushbuckridge Celebrates Heritage And Tourism



Shangaani Cultural Group during Heritage and Tourism Day

Traditional and cultural practices play a pivotal role in the upbringing of a child and the building of society at large.

Bushbuckridge is a diverse and dynamic cultural and traditional place where various traditional practices are part of our daily lives. In a bid to preserve and conserve cultural and traditional practices which have been practiced ages before, the municipality in conjunction with the Bushbuckridge Local Tourism Organisation (BLTO) hosted a successful Heritage And Tourism Celebration Day.

The main objectives of the event were amongst others to educate the younger generation about the importance of practicing and preserving cultural and

traditional practices. The importance of looking after our beautiful environment and what men can do to prevent destroying the eco-system and most importantly the relationship between men and the environment which can be summed up into how men can make tourism work better for their lives.

Bushbuckridge's economic activity relies entirely on Agriculture and Tourism and lodging an attack on tourists who are boosting the local economy by visiting our shores and assisting in the creation of jobs is an attack on the state. The Executive Mayor took the opportunity to plead with the members of the community not to embark on such illegal activities and indicated how culture, heritage and tourism marry each other in

the development of one's life and the nation as a whole.

The event also focuses on leading a healthy lifestyle, this was attested to the 15kilometre, 10kilometre and 5kilometre fun walk in which people of all ages were allowed to participate. To ensure who can participate in which race, the Department of Health was on-site to run the screening process while the Municipal Traffic Police and the South African Police Service ensured the safety of racers along the road.

Delivering the keynote address the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo further urged members of the community to ensure the safety of tourists particularly when they're traveling between our

roads and villages. She alluded that she would one day like to see a tourist eating and sleeping in one of our villages than only experiencing the big five in the Kruger National Park.

The Mayor also highlighted the importance of how one could make tourism work for them instead of always relying on government hand-outs.

In conclusion, the Mayor advised various cultural and traditional groups to register themselves with not only the municipality but rather the various departments and the private sectors, in particular, those dealing with tourism so they can be lured into entertaining tourists whenever they visit tourism destinations closer to their living places and other areas.

The event was graced by amongst others, Hoxane and Jongilanga Traditional Councils, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, Ehlanzeni District Municipality, South African Police Service, Various Tourism Agencies, BLM Executive Mayor's Office, Office of the Speaker, Office of the Chief Whip, MMC's Culture, Sports, Heritage and Tourism, Economic Development, Planning and Environment and Corporate Service Offices, Community Police Forums, Ward Committee, Community Development Workers and the Community at large.

CWP Unblock Drain



CWP workers working tirelessly to unblock the drain

Community Work Programme (CWP) workers helped in unblocking a drainage system located on the main road in Edinburg, ward 36 under the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM). The blocked drainage system was causing excessive flooding on the

main gravel road which resulted in dongas on the road.

During the rainy seasons, motorists had to use alternative routes because of the excessive flooding and dongas on the main road. The CWP workers are excited to have made a

difference to the livelihoods of the people of Edinburg.

However, CWP workers have a challenge of limited tools of trade and they are appealing to good Samaritans to donate to them so that they can continue contributing to the development of public

assets and services in poor communities. CWP is a means to alleviate poverty by getting the unemployed to do something for their community in an exchange for a stipend.



CWP workers working tirelessly to unblock the drain



CWP workers working tirelessly to unblock the drain

BLM Not Part Of Illegal Beestekraalspruit 270 KU Stand Sales

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) announced that it is not part of the illegal sale of stands for both residential and business purposes at the Beestekraalspruit 270 KU farm and areas around Injaka dam. The municipality would like to put it on record that no application was brought to the municipality for approval and any structure that will be erected on the piece of land -

will be demolished.

The municipality is urging community members not to fall for the scam as no application for development and settlement on the piece of land was made to the municipality as required in terms of the spatial planning land use management act. Those selling the stands are not agents or representatives of the municipality, they are

working on their own.

The act which serves as a national framework for spatial planning and land use management within the republic clearly states that every development that needs to happen within a municipality area must be approved by the relevant municipality prior development and settlement.

Community members are

advised to check with the municipal town planning unit before buying stands or site to ascertain if the land has been approved for development and settlement.



Beestekraalspruit space where people are trying to occupy the land illegally

I Am A Bushbuckridgian

Inspired by President Thabo Mbeki's "I Am An African"

I owe my being to the hills of Secret Hill and the valleys of Makerepeni, the small mountains of Acornhoek, the curvaceous roads of Mambhumbhu, the beautiful shades of Cottondale and the rivers of Hlalakahle, the trees of Ka-Shorty, the flowers of Clare, the small dams of Seville, the feel-at-home experience of Mthunzi Omuhle Guesthouse, and the ever-changing seasons of Agincourt that define the face of our Bushbuckridge.

My body has frozen in our abandoned farms in Xidakeni and those in Shatale and Casteel.

The scary cracks of the river between Gottenburg and Tlhavekisa have been the cause of my misery, and subsequently, remind me of the generous people of Mariti.

The calm waters of the Inyaka Dam, the sharp sunrays of Cunningmore, the streams of Belfast, the beautiful songs of birds in Sibambayani and Greenvalley, the thorny bushes of Thorndale and the red soil of Tsvulani and Dwarsloop, bear testimony to the diversity of our beloved region.

The smell of nature in Chochocho and Justicia has been as pleasant to us as the sight of the citizens of the veld in Ngala, Tintswalo and Timbavati game reserves. The fresh breeze of Ka-Million, the elegant grassland of Ka-Share, the togetherness of the people of Saselani and MP Stream and the beautiful stars of Lephong combine to paint a picture of what a complete view should be.

The dramatic shapes of Utah, the gigantic houses in Matsikitsana, the aerial view of Buffelshoek from the top of the railway line, the warm weather of Dixie, the soil-coloured waters of N'wandlamhari river, the bumpy bushy roads of Welverdiend and the sands of Khokhovela river, have all been panels of the set that ensure a smile on our friendly faces.

I hail from the bottomless



Author of the I Am A Bushbuckridgian Poem, Malphia Honwane

pit of Demulani, where the mark of the great Qokiso and Siboyiye can be traced. I am a beneficiary of the roots that give life to the branches of Mazembheni, Mabarhule and Metsi.

In my veins courses the blood that planted the seed of courage and fearlessness in the mind of Sam Nzima of Kwinyamahembe, and also inspired the immeasurable resilience of the residents of Dumphries and Allandale.

My spirit has been strengthened by the pillars

that anchor the villages of Somerset, Cork and Croquet Lawn. At times, and in fear, I have wondered whether I should concede equal citizenship of our region to the leopard in Imbali, the lion in Djuma, the elephant in Skukuza, the fish in N'wamukhelemba Dam in Edinburgh, the hyena in Singita, the black mamba in Londolozu and the locust in White City.

My knowledge was formed

by the dedicated teachers at Manyeleti and Dayimani, and also by the victories that are the jewels in Hluvukani, the victories that ensured the construction of many schools and a beautiful hotel, which we visit as a recreational facility.

In my dreams, I fantasise about the great that is yet to come out of Huntington, Xanthia and Violet Bank. These are the same dreams I had before Shatale, College View and Arthurseat came into being.

I am the grandchild who lays fresh flowers in Swikwengweni in Ludlow, to show my appreciation of life. My sweat is evident in the great hands that built New Forest, Ximhungwe and Matsavana.

I am inspired by the chief's kraal at Ka-Madizi in Islington, where our title deeds office is located and our residential permits are obtained. I am the distant child of the great Buyisonto, Thulamahashe and Magwagwaza, who unfailingly made it possible for our region to thrive to greater socio-economic heights. I am the indirect recipient of undocumented lessons dished by King Mpisana, who always advised his people not to let anyone look down on them.

I am a descendant of the warrior men and women who were displaced from Andover, Mala Mala, Manyeleti and many other areas that have since been turned into nature conservation havens, where we visit to witness the beauty of nature.

I hold with high regard the people of Mkhuhlu and Rolle, the gate in Mavhalindlela, the bridge drowning in a river in ka-Kumani, the freshwater in Phororweni, the grazing land in Mankonzola and the scary bushes in Marhapyani, that serve as perfect examples of regional diversity.

With all these experiences and many others that my ink could not paint, no one dares challenge me when I say, I am Malphia Honwane and I am a Bushbuckridgian.