



THE BLM MOUTHPIECE

Your News. Your Eyes. Your Voice



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Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

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

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Editor's Note



Communications Manager, Mr Aubrey Mnisi

Hello once more, please allow me to welcome all our valued and highly esteemed readers of the municipal Newsletter, an information sharing and disseminating tool.

We always strive to ensure that communities and interested stakeholders are kept informed about service delivery, programs and developments happening within the municipal area of jurisdiction.

We don't only restrict our communication and information dissemination through this platform, we also make use of the municipal website, social media platforms, print and electronic media outlets, notice boards, flyers and posters to communicate and disseminate community-related information.

I would like to take this opportunity to make a solemn plea to members of the community to refrain from torching municipal property during protests as a way of venting out their frustrations and anger. Community members are therefore encouraged to follow the right procedures in

registering their dissatisfaction about the municipality and other government departments matters.

The municipality has introduced a system which allows members of the community and concerned groups to lodge their dissatisfaction directly to the municipality and the system is dedicated for complaints, compliments and suggestions.

In this issue, we have dedicated a number of pages for which are service delivery developments currently under implementation in all the wards.

We would like to hear from you, our valued and highly esteemed readers. Please send your letters through to the municipality via email at mnisia@bushbuckridge.gov.za.

Happy reading!

Meet The BLM Communications Team

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Executive Mayor's Desk



Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo

We are soon going to be celebrating our various religious beliefs from Africanism, Christianity, Islamic, Judaism, Buddhism to mention just a few. Let me take this opportunity and

urge everyone to respect each other's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion by allowing everyone to celebrate their religious, traditional and cultural practices.

The 2019 Easter Holiday is celebrated around the time when the nation is also heading to its sixth general elections, set to take place on 08 May 2019. I want to take this opportunity and remind everyone that as per the Constitution of the Republic and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) guidelines and Code of Conduct, all parties are free to campaign and advertise their manifestos from anywhere in the country.

However, as it stands all three spheres of government (Local, Provincial and National) which are currently experiencing a high number of violent service delivery protests and the destruction of government property as

political parties are taking advantage of the national and provincial election period. I would like to plead with our people not to be used by selfish and political scavengers who encourage communities to get involved in violent protests and the destruction of properties for their selfish gains.

My plea to all motorists and pedestrians is that we should work hard in making our roads a safe place to drive on by ensuring that we wear visible clothing at night (pedestrians), we also do not drink and drive, we buckle up, be patient with one another and also adhere to the rules of the road in order to arrive alive.

Municipal Manager's Desk



Municipal Manager, Mrs. Cynthia Nkuna

It is no secret that the municipality is experiencing water supply challenges in some parts of its jurisdiction.

Let me take this opportunity and thank members of the Bushbuckridge community for your patience and understanding in your wait for the municipality to solve

the water supply challenge. It is our aim and wish to reticulate water supply into your yard and village.

Council and management came up with a strategy that will help the municipality collect revenue and sustain itself. These measures include amongst others - the

60%/40% discount when you settle your outstanding municipal account. We urge all our household and business clients to take advantage of this discount offer and settle their municipal accounts.

The municipality together with Rand Water, the office of the MEC CoGTA, Department of Water and Sanitation and Ehlanzeni district municipality are in a process to take back the bulk water supply process from Rand Water.

The process will give the municipality full responsibility from the production point of clean water supply. We believe the process will be affordable and sustainable from a financial point of view.

The municipality is a grant depended municipality which means due to lack of sufficient and sustainable revenue

base, the municipality capital investments are funded through National Treasury.

The municipality cannot embark on several projects all at once, meaning we have very limited resources against a number of service delivery needs. With the limited resources we are hard at work implementing the IDP and ensuring that we cover the needs of our communities.

We urge our communities to work with us and protect all the investments the municipality has made in all various wards.

Service Delivery Update

In an attempt to ensure that communities from all walks of life enjoy the fruits of our democracy and in compliance to the constitution of the country which states that “everyone has the right to clean water”, the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) has been hard at work resolving and reducing the water provision backlog within the municipal area of jurisdiction.

1. Goromane Water Reticulation (Madras B)

The municipality is busy reticulating Goromane village and 736 households are going to benefit yard stand taps. The project started in November 2018 and it is envisaged to be completed by the end of June 2019 at the tune of R 18 484 930.00.

At this stage the project is 48% completed and it has created 40 temporary jobs for the local community.

2. Soweto Water Reticulation

A service provider has been appointed to reticulate the Soweto Community, 867

households will benefit from this project and the project has created 48 temporary jobs for the local community. The project started in November 2018 and will be completed by the end of June 2019 at a whopping tune of R 29 Million. At this stage, the project is 30% completed.

3. Alexandria Water Reticulation

The municipality is busy reticulating Alexandria and 900 households are going to benefit yard stand taps. The project is 92% completed and it is envisaged to be completed by the end of July 2019. The project amount is R14 Million and the project has created 34 temporary jobs for the local community.

4. Shatale London Water Reticulation and Steel Tank

A service provider has been appointed to reticulate both the community of London (Ward 7) and Bafaladi (Ward 13) and 320 households will benefit yard taps. The project started in December 2018 and will be completed in June 2019 at the tune of

R11.9 Million. Designs and drawings for the steel tank to be built and installed at Ga Burney have been concluded and sent to the supplier of the steel tanks for approval. Once approved, the tank will be installed and connected to the Ga-Mamba reservoir in order to supply the Bafaladi households with water.

5. Sanitation Services

The municipality has built 1448 Ventilated Improved pit toilets in all wards that constitute Bushbuckridge North zone. The toilets cost the municipality a whopping R12 Million to build and they form part of the municipality’s mandate of restoring the dignity of the poor who are unable to dig and build their own toilets.

A senior citizen, Ms Nkuna from ward 24 has expressed words of gratitude to the municipality for building her a proper toilet.

ROAD PROJECTS

Upgrading of internal streets at Shatale
A service provider has been

appointed to refurbish and upgrade the two-kilometre-long internal street from Ga-Makgato to Shatale Bar Lounge Street. Earthworks on the project have not started yet but the project amount is R 11 Million.

Upgrading of road between Marite and Hoxane in progress

The Department of Roads and Transport is currently upgrading the road between Marite and Hoxane. This road stretches from ward 1, 2, and 4 respectively and its 13.5 kilometres long. It will cost the Department of Roads and Transport R176 Million to complete, the project is envisaged completed by November 2019.

Community members have had a difficult time driving through the gravel road during rainy seasons, but this will soon be a thing of a past once the road is completed. The Mayor is urging community members to exercise patience while the road is being upgraded.



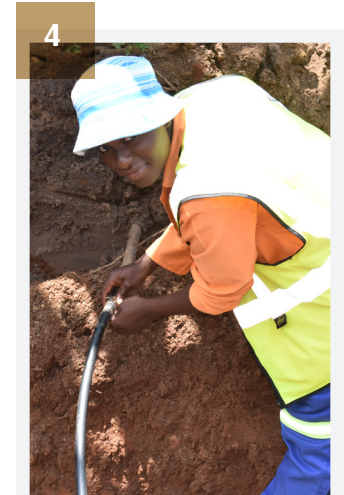
Laying of pipes at Goromane (Madras B) in progress



Laying of pipes at Soweto in progress



Laying of pipes at Ga-Burney (Bafaladi)



Construction worker showing the illegal water connection pipe in Goromane

BLM And DoH Provide Taxi Operators And Hawkers With Health Screening

On 11 January 2019, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) in partnership with the Department of Health (DoH) hosted a health screening campaign at Toronto Taxi Rank targeting Taxi Operators and Hawkers.

have time to go and visit clinics for health check-ups. Hence the municipality deemed it important to bring such essential services to them. The services rendered during the campaign were as follows:

The municipality has realised that most Taxi Operators and hawkers work long hours; they start work early in the morning and finish late at night and as a result, they do not

- HIV, TB and STI's screening
- Hypertension and diabetes screening
- Eyes screening
- Cervical Cancer Screening



Hawkers during the health screening campaign



A Hawker undergoing a health screening at Toronto Taxi Rank

- Checking of any minor ailments
- Condoms distribution

Taxi owner and driver thanked the municipality for bringing the health services to the taxi rank and he urged his colleagues to the same. "At this day and age it is important to undergo health screening so that minor ailments can be diagnosed and treated," said Mr Mashego.

Those who were screened and found to be suffering from minor ailments were referred to Maviljan Clinic and Mapulaneng for further assessments.

Ehlanzeni District has high rate of Tuberculosis death and the Mayor hopes the campaign will help prevent the spread of the pandemic. Mr Prince Mashego a

BLM Terminating Rand Water Contract

In a media briefing held on 30 January 2019 at the Council Chamber where the Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo announced that the municipality is in the process of terminating its contract with Rand Water as the bulk supplier of water in due course.

The Mayor alluded that the municipality has realised that its budget does not allow it to continue using Rand Water, as the municipality's debts with Rand Water accrues interests despite the municipality

paying R24 million per month.

She said that the decision to part ways with Rand Water has been

communicated to the office of the Premier, MEC for

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs as well as the Ministry of Water



Executive Mayor Cllr S. Nxumalo addressing members of the media during a press conference of the Bulk Water Function Transfer Process

Services. The Mayor also said that the municipality will save approximately R12-15

million monthly compared to the R24 Million that is paid to Rand Water. The municipality will be absorbing 147 employees who are currently employed by Rand Water to work under the municipality to ensure uninterrupted distribution and supply of water to communities.

And a budget of R30 million has been set aside to remunerate the staff that will be absorbed by the municipality.

Executive Mayor Hosts Mayoral Imbizo For Feedback Purposes



Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo addressing the public at Anthol Mayoral Imbizo

The municipality hosted a Mayoral Imbizo at Christ for Africa Church in Anthol in the Hluvukani region near Manyeleti Game Reserve, on 31 January 2019.

The aim of the Imbizo was to give feedback and to communicate municipal future plans to the community of ward 30, 33, 34, 38. The mayoral outreach also gave the community an opportunity to ask the Mayor questions and have input on the future plans of the municipality.

The Executive Mayor informed the communities about the municipal water issues and that the municipality held a media briefing on 30 January 2019 in the municipal Council chamber to inform the media about the relationship between the municipality and Rand Water. Bushbuckridge is a nodal point and there is low revenue collection, the municipality planned to take the bulk water supply

into the municipality's core function and business. The Rand Water contract will be terminated in due course, the reason to take back this function is to enable the municipality to supply water without paying any service provider,

will enable the institution to deliver services to all Bushbuckridge communities.

The municipality is paying over R24 Million every month, yet the debt owed to Rand Water continues to

clinics and graveyards roads.

The Executive Mayor urged everyone to guard government infrastructures because most of the community members vandalise and steal transformers which then leads to a crisis of water in some villages. After the completion of Injaka bulk water supply all villages will have enough water, the Mayor urged people not to misuse water and avoid unnecessarily watering their gardens but use water saving ways to do so, as water is a scarce resource in our area.



Community members of ward 30, 33, 34, 38

as the municipality believes that we will save money from this exercise.

After the termination of the Rand Water contract, the municipality will be able to save R12 million that

grow.

The Mayor also updated the community about PHP housing units in ward 33 and ward 38, high mast lights in ward 30, 33, 34 and 38, paving of schools,

"Irrigation is the function of the Department of Agriculture, not the municipality," said the Executive Mayor and other villages are receiving water from boreholes as a short term remedy. The event was graced by Amashangaan Traditional Council, South African Police Services and BLM Councillors.

Islington Community Receives Temp Borehole

Following a water supply outcry by the community of Islington, during an Imbizo held at the Athol Sports Ground on 31 January 2019, the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo vowed that the municipality shall introduce a contractor who shall drill and install a borehole as a temporary measure while awaiting the Injaka Dam water project.

Living up to her words, the Executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) went back to the Islington community and this time to introduce the contractor known as Katlin

Construction.

The borehole fills two Jojo Tanks with a capacity of 10 000 litres each.

The Mayor said that this was not a permanent solution but a temporary one while the municipality is still in the process of bringing the Injaka Dam Water Project to this area.

Handing over the contractor, she urged members of the community to safeguard the borehole since it wasn't only the municipality that was involved in the project but ESKOM will ensure the supply



Islington community listening to the Mayor's address

of electricity. "Ensure that you safeguard this water infrastructure which will for a short period be supplying you with water, thieves stealing these machines (ESKOM Transformer

and Borehole) are the people living amongst us and we should really guard against such through our various community structures," alluded the Mayor.

BLM Determined To Keep Girls In School



Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo with the recipients of the sanitary towels

In an effort to restore the dignity of a girl child, the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) handed over 5500 sanitary towels to girls from three high schools: Ben W Mashego, Eric Nxumalo and Madlala as well as three community based centres:

Bushbuckridge Health and Social Services consortium,

Mbhumba and Mabharule Home Based Centre.

The handover of the sanitary towels took place from 5-7 February 2019 at different times. Speaking during the handover, the Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo alluded that a sanitary towel is not a luxury, but a necessity for a girl child. The Mayor hopes that the

sanitary towels will help keep the girl child in school because research has revealed that a girl child misses school lessons during their menstrual periods due to lack of sanitary towels. "Lack of sanitary towels sometimes often results in the girl child dropping out of school and as the government we don't want to see that hence the handover," said the mayor.

She is making a clarion call to the business sector to help keep the girl child in school by donating sanitary towels to the destitute and needy learners.

"The municipality alone cannot touch every corner and sector of the community as our budget is limited," concluded the Mayor.

Municipality Hosts Successful Strategic Planning Session



Director Corporate Services, Mr Richard Khoza; Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo; MPAC Chairperson, Cllr Mandla Mapiyeye and Regional Manager, Mr Richard Shilenge

From 19 - 21 February 2019 the municipality had a Strategy Planning Session at Ingwenyama Lodge in White River.

The purpose of this session was to measure the progress on implementations made from the 2017/18 financial year and also to stock and re-strategise in order to effectively and efficiently serve the community of Bushbuckridge. The office of the Premier guided the proceedings of the session.

Integrated Development Planning (IDP) and the budget assisted the municipality in focusing on the basic needs of local communities, taking into account the limited resources available that don't match the unlimited community needs.

The session was a meeting for the political and administrative leadership to discuss and agree on what best actions can be taken in order for the municipality to achieve its goals and objectives.

The strategic session

went into commission and focused on six key strategic areas as explained below:

1. Finance and Governance Commission

- Strategic budgeting and projection.
- Improving cash flow management.
- Maintaining proper MSCOA financial management system.
- Improving the audit outcome.
- Promoting proper governance and public participation.

2. Infrastructure Development Commission

- Addressing the current status quo of projects.
- Addressing service delivery challenges.
- Outlining projects and programs for the next financial year.

3. Socio-Economic Commission

- Provisioning of transversal services: sports and recreation, arts, culture and heritage, community bursaries, library services, gender services, children,

elderly and disability affairs.

- Ensuring safety and community liaison.
- Providing awareness programmes and disaster management.

4. Municipal Works Commission

- Increasing access to safe, adequate, sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene services.
- Improving and sustaining roads, streets and stormwater.

5. Local Economic Development and Environment Commission

- Identifying and implementing projects that will address socio-economic disparities within the municipality particularly with regards to job creation and sustainable human settlements.
- Protecting the environment and enhancing sustainable development.
- Promoting and supporting local economic development.

6. Spatial rationale commission

- Providing Spatial Development Plans and management within the context of the IDP facilitate.
- Implementing and managing a number of interrelated spatial, land, human settlements, waste, environment and economic development investment plans and programmes.

The Municipal Manager and the administration team is committed to implementing the resolutions of the strategic planning session.



GIS Officer, Mr V Mcunu; IDP Manager, Mr T Chavane; Town Planner, Mr H Hlabane and Environment Manager, Mr L Mokoena

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality Flights STI Condom Week Campaign



Community members with condoms

In raising awareness of Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI's) and the use of condoms, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) with the support of the Department of Health (DoH) hosted a three-day (19 - 21 February 2019) STI Condom week campaign at Mkhuhlu Plaza, Thulamahashe Mall and Hlukukani Taxi Rank under the theme: *Know your STI Signs and Symptoms and use condom correctly and consistently.*

The theme focused on encouraging members of the public to take personal responsibility and know STI signs and symptoms as well as encouraging the use of condoms when engaging in sexual activities.

Several sex surveys by

South African Publications and organisations such as Durex, Right To Know and the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) have revealed a disturbing decline in the use of condoms amongst South Africans. The numbers are particularly petrifying among the youth of the country, mainly those between the ages of 18 and 24.

In South Africa, STI's remain a big problem, even though most of the infections are curable. Some people are reluctant to seek medical treatment as they fear being stigmatised.

The MMC of Social Development, Cllr Krisjan Mokoena implores people to use condoms when they engage in sexual activities.

“Not only do condoms prevent unwanted pregnancies, but they also help in curbing the spread of HIV and AIDS,” alluded the MMC.

He is urging members of the public who might have

signs and symptoms of STI's to seek medical treatment. During the campaign, 10 000 males and females condoms were distributed and health screenings were rendered for TB, Diabetes, Blood Pressure, Malaria testing and HIV testing.



Home based caregiver explaining the importance of using condoms to a motorist

BLTO And BLM Host Successful Annual Business Breakfast



Cllr H. Sehlabela; LED Manager, Mr S. Nyembe; BLM MMC, Cllr K. Mokoena and IUCMA Board Chairwoman, Ms P. Nyakane

The Business Breakfast is an annual collective effort between the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) and the Bushbuckridge Local Tourism Organisation (BLTO) to address challenges and unlock business opportunities for both the business fraternity and ordinary citizens particularly those residing in Bushbuckridge.

The Annual Executive Mayor's Business Breakfast was launched three years ago and has proved to be fruitful in many respects. This year's glamorous event took place at the Bonita Guest House at College View in Bushbuckridge on 25 February 2019.

Gracing the event was the BLM Executive Mayor, Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo; MMC Learnard Malomane; MMC Krisjan Mokoena; MMC Sylvia Mathebula; Councillors, Business community, Government Parastatals and members of the community.

This fourth Executive Mayor's Business Breakfast had a different approach with a specific focus on how to empower young and upcoming entrepreneurs, it also focused on what opportunistic avenues could these energetic and ambitious

young businessmen and women explore. With the current economic condition of our country, the Business Breakfast also intended on assisting young businessmen and women regarding what businesses they should invest on and how.

Delivering her opening statement, the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo observed the moment of silence for the late Jazz Singer Ms Dorothy Masuku who recently passed on, she further reflected on the 25 years of freedom and to how the far the democratic government has come in the development of people's lives and the delivery of services.

The Mayor further highlighted the importance of the Annual Business Breakfast Initiative and the contribution to local economic development since its launch three years ago.

This initiative helps business people, young and upcoming entrepreneurs to network, build relationships and establish new contacts. "Take the advantage of the space and opportunity both the municipality and government have created in Bushbuckridge and invest particularly in Tourism and

Agriculture as economic spin-offs, I encourage you to take advantage of the business environment and embrace it so that when the economy of Bushbuckridge begins to boom you can reap the rewards," said the Mayor.

Mr Hebert Theledi and Mr Given Mkhari who were the guest speakers on the day shared their business knowledge and acumen with the audience. Mr Theledi a son and product of Bushbuckridge opened the discussion by stating that he was once a shopkeeper before investing in a Transport and Logistics Business which failed dismally, but he never lost hope. Business needs discipline and hard work.

"I invested in various business opportunities which did not work until I found my breakthrough in Real Estate and Property, and I had to wait for almost five years before my business started flourishing. Partnering and venturing are at times useful because it helps one spread and minimises the risks in business. Some of the work we have done in my home, Bushbuckridge includes the opening of Thulamahashe Mall.

There are other projects we

are going to embark on, which include the revamping and upgrading of the old Bushbuckridge Complex with the inclusion of our own and the new development - to be built on the opposite side of the old Bushbuckridge Complex," said Theledi.

Mr Theledi, in conclusion, advised young and upcoming entrepreneurs to be vigilant and do research before venturing into any business opportunity. "It is important to bring all parties on board before putting in your investment, ensure that the legal, financial, research and other relevant parties that make up the team that will be running the project are legit.

Mr Given Mkhari, who is a Radio and Television airtime seller, the founder and owner of Capricorn FM and M Power FM, who also produces visual audio to stories and series also shared his business knowledge with the local business people.

Mr Mkhari served on various company boards and is the Chief Executive Officer of MSG Africa Investment Holdings, Director of The Jupiter Drawing Room, and Non-Executive Director for Dialogue Group Holdings.

Mayor And DPWRT Launch Tar Road Project



DPWRT Director, Mr Malatji; PA to Executive Mayor, Mr R. Tshobete; Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr B. Malandule; Cllr G. Sambo; Cllr T. Malibe and Contractor, Mr Harry du Plessis

The Executive Mayor, Cllr. S. Nxumal in conjunction with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT) officially handed over the Werwerdiend and Orpen Gate Tar Road Project

to the greater community of Hluvukani.

This project is one of the many projects implemented by the DPWRT and the Bushbuckridge Local

Municipality (BLM) within Bushbuckridge.

The contractor hand-over ceremony for the project took place on 08 March 2019 at the Manchester

Sports Ground in Hluvukani.

The hand-over followed a Sod-Turning ceremony where the road will be built.

Hluvukani Street Reform

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) continues to strive for a developmental and prosperous life for all.

Making life better for everyone is one of the municipality's goals and as a result, the municipality has taken upon itself - following an approved Integrated Development Plan (IDP) in consultation with all relevant stakeholders to deliver services in line with the municipality official blueprint IDP document.

Hluvukani is one of the remote areas in the north-eastern part of Bushbuckridge and mostly, people from this area are unemployed. They rely on the Manyeleti Nature Reserve and other privately owned game lodges for

employment.

The formalisation of Hluvukani Internal Streets will not only mean the betterment of the living standard for the people of Hluvukani but, will go a long way in ensuring that the community reaps the benefits of the hard-earned democracy.



Bricks truck offloading bricks



Construction workers paving a street

Acornhoek To Cottondale Tar Road Construction Project Launch



BLM Executive Mayor addressing members of the community during the Acornhoek to Cottondale Tar Road Project

The Executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM), Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo together with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport officially launched the Acornhoek to Cottondale tar road construction project. The 11.8-kilometre tar road project will take 14 months to complete and the contractor appointed will be on site not later than the end April 2019

The road will be done in phases owing to budget, the name of the appointed contractor is Klucs Civil JV and a 30% subcontracting to the community has been set aside. The Executive Mayor urged members of the community to look after the contractor in order to ensure the smooth completion of this tar road

construction.

The benefiting wards are 16, 17, 18,19,20,21 and 22 and the Executive Mayor condemned in all possible ways the minority group who refuse to let development take place due to their own selfish personal reasons.

Also on 05 of March 2019 the Acting Executive Mayor, MMC for Technical Services - Cllr. B. Malandule in conjunction with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport conducted a sod-turning and officially launched the Ga-Motibidi via Masakeng to Mphenyatsatsi tar road. The tar road construction project is 12.8 kilometres long and will take 21 months to complete.

The benefitting wards are ward 07 and 08 and introducing the contractor - the Director-General, Mr Malatji of Public Works, Roads and Transport alluded that three roads projects have been given to Bushbuckridge and that the Ga-Motibidi via Masakeng to has been one of the most expensive road projects to be implemented in the Bushbuckridge area due to its geographical area.

Acting Executive Mayor MMC Cllr. B. Malandule urged members of the community not to block the continuation of the road project for individual selfish gains. He further alluded that the 30% sub-contract will be given to the benefitting communities and that members of the Mphenyatsatsi community

should look after the contractor appointed and his materials for the project to be completed smoothly.

The launching of the Acornhoek to Cottondale tar road project comes after a number of service delivery protests. The Ga-Motibidi via Masakeng to Mphenyatsatsi tar road projects comes after a violent service delivery protest that led to the torching of six municipal vehicles at the Dwarsloop Municipal offices and two trucks on the R40 road.

Hluvukani Gets Revamped DTLC



Executive Mayor, Cllr S. Nxumalo and Council Speaker, Cllr R. Raganya taking a look at newly built Driver's Licenses and Testing Centre at Hluvukani

The Executive Mayor, Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo took pride in the official opening the newly built Hluvukani Driver's Licensing and Testing Centre (DLTC) which took place on 08 March 2019.

The opening of the station will definitely bring relief to Mhala and Acornhoek DLTC's and also comes with a lot of conveniences to Hluvukani community members as they will save the time by not driving long distances to access DTLC services.

Delivering her keynote address, the Executive Mayor condemned in the strongest possible way the vandalism of government properties. "Please do not burn this centre, tar roads and other government

properties when venting out your service delivery protests.

Let us also educate ourselves of the correct channels to follow when we need new developments within our communities.

This centre has created jobs for our local people during the construction and I urge you to safeguard this property, it is your property,' concluded the Mayor.

The Hluvukani DLTC was built in two phases and took the municipality 18 months to complete. The centre will render services that include amongst others: registration and licensing motor vehicles, change of ownership of motor of vehicles

The following services will also be rendered once the province has authorised, installed and activated the Live Electronic Unit Machine for: Application of Learner's Licenses, Issuing of Learner's Licenses, Renewal of Driving Licenses and Renewal PRDP.

The Bushbuckridge Driving School Association was very grateful that the centre is finally operational after a long wait. "I do not know how to express the joy we have that we have now finally realised a dream come true during our lifetime.

We are taking this opportunity to thank the Executive Mayor and all relevant stakeholders for ensuring that the

centre became a reality," commented Bushbuckridge Driving School Association representative, Mr Max Seya.

BLM Relieves Tsakani, Madile And Khalanyoni Communities



Heavy machinery moving the ground at Madile water reticulation project

The municipality has embarked on a more than R21 Million phase one and two, water reticulation and yard meter connection that comes as a relief to the communities of Tsakani, Madile and Khalanyoni.

This particular water reticulation and yard metre connection will run concurrently in the 2018/19 financial year.

This project comes as a relief to the many members

of the community who never had running water in their yards and only relied on the privileged who own boreholes.

The project does not only bring relief to the struggle of water but residents will now have enough time to run other households and family errands. The Mayor is delighted that we are making inroads with regards to the provision of clean water to our communities.



Construction workers at the Tsakani water reticulation project

We urge our communities to work together with the contractor, project steering committee and the wards

councillors to ensure successful completion of the project.

BLM Announces Formalisation of Matsikitsane

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) strives for a developmental and prosperous life for all through accountability, transparency and responsible governance.

The municipality commits itself to providing affordable and sustainable services while enhancing community participation. This means that the process and projects the municipality embarks on, like the Matsikitsane internal street upgrades were decided on through

community participation. The project will cost the municipality over nine million rands (R9 459 051.00) and covers proximity of 1.3 kilometres.

The project has created 21 jobs for the local community, it is sitting at 48% completion and is set to benefit 141 households. The municipality is working on changing the face of Matsikitsane into a notable township, this is done in phases and the area now has been electrified and has clean running water.



Street to be newly paved at Matsikitsane

Mpumalanga DCSR And BLM Celebrate Human Rights Day



MEC Ms Thandi Shongwe addressing the audience

Mpumalanga Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation (DCSR) together with the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) held a Provincial Human Rights Day celebration on 23 March 2019 at Ronaldsey Cuning More ward 35 Sports Ground under the theme "The Year of Indigenous Languages" with the aim of promoting a human right culture.

In her keynote address the Honourable MEC for DCSR, Ms B.T Shongwe emphasised the need to continue celebrating the day as it reminds us about the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of democracy in the country, as it also provides the country with an opportunity to reflect on progress already made in the promotion and protection of human rights as enshrined in the Constitution.

MEC Shongwe also reflected

on the history of the systematic defiance and protest against apartheid and racism across the country. "It was the defiance force that led the likes of Sharpeville and Langa townships across the country to embark on protest marches against pass law," concluded MEC Shongwe.

That's why our democratic government declared the 21st of March every year as a holiday to commemorate and celebrate the fight and victory against apartheid. Human Right Day is also used to honour our fallen heroes, for their gallant fight for our liberation.

The event was graced by representatives from Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Human Rights Commission, Ehlanzeni District Municipality and House of Traditional Leaders in Mpumalanga, the BLM and the DCSR.



The audience who were attending the Human Rights Day event

Health And Wellness Office Brings Hope To TB Affected Communities



Acting Executive Mayor Cllr. B.K. Mokoena addressing the audience during a TB Awareness campaign

The municipality's Health and Wellness Office in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) successfully held a Tuberculosis (TB) awareness campaign at the Ximhungwe Sports Ground on 27 March 2019. The campaign is part of a month-long programme run by the municipality and is aimed at educating members of the community at all levels to unite against TB.

World Tuberculosis Day is observed on 24 March of every year, the campaign is designed and an effort to eliminate the disease and generate public awareness about the global epidemic of TB.

The campaign was attended by various structures of the community and amongst them, Ehlanzeni District Municipality, the Department of Education, CSF and WISANI HBC all gave messages of support and urged members of the community to treat TB as one of the mainstream diseases.

The stakeholders further spoke to the audiences about the symptoms of TB.

Amongst other things the audiences were advised to:



Department of Health officials screening patients during the TB awareness campaign

- Always wash their hands with soap particularly when they are from the ablution facilities.
- Thoroughly wash their fruits and vegetables before eating them.
- Open their windows every morning for fresh air and,
- Not to default their medication because

this may deteriorate their health conditions.

Symptoms of TB include - coughing for more than two weeks,

fever and night sweat.

Delivering his keynote address, the acting Executive Mayor - MMC for Community Services, Cllr. B.K. Mokoena challenged everyone to get tested for TB and other chronic diseases. "Tuberculosis is curable just take your treatment as instructed and do not default, it is

my wish that everyone in our country, particularly in Bushbuckridge, gets tested for TB since it is one of the highly ranked killing diseases of our time," alluded the MMC.

Concluding his address the acting Executive Mayor, Cllr. B.K. Mokoena urged everyone to stand united in the fight against TB. He thanked all stakeholders for joining hands with the municipality in the fight against TB and not only that but for taking a stand in other programmes of the municipality. "The municipality is now on track in the fight against all sorts of chronic illnesses, given the commitment by the all responsible parties".

People were tested for HIV, High blood, Sugar diabetes, eyes and other diseases. Members of the community attended in their numbers while local artists, Bush boys entertained them with their music and dance moves.