



THE BLM MOUTHPIECE

Your News. Your Eyes. Your Voice.



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Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

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

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Meet The **BLM Communications Team**

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Editor's Note



Communications Manager, Mr Aubrey Mnisi

I would like to welcome our highly esteemed readers to the 2018 calendar year with the first edition of the municipal newsletter, a communication vehicle aimed at keeping members of the public informed about service delivery developments, municipal programs and projects.

Winds of change are blowing in South Africa following the appointment of President Cyril Ramaphosa, there is renewed hope and expectation of better things to come from the citizenry.

One fundamental thing that the President has changed since his inauguration into office is to start and doing things on time. We shall not take advantage of our people, we need to respect the people we serve.

In his maiden State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Cyril Ramaphosa quoted the late Bra Hugh Masikela's song – Thuma Mina "Send Me", and that has inspired all levels of government to serve its citizens with commitment and dedication.

The municipality is committed to expediting service delivery to communities however, our efforts are sometimes thwarted due to lack of financial muscles.

The municipality is hereby calling upon all residents of Bushbuck-

ridge to play an integral part in, contributing to the creation of a financially viable municipality by paying for services provided to them.

I urge all residents to pay their municipal services such as water, refuse removal and other related services for the continuation of better and quality service provision by the municipality.

We currently offer 50% discounts for all our customers when paying their accounts.

The budget that the municipality receives from the national fiscus is not enough to provide sustainable and efficient service delivery developments.

In this issue, we have decided to give our esteemed readers, a status quo on service delivery projects that are under implementation.

Lastly, we want the municipal newsletter to reflect the views of the community hence we are appealing to our highly esteemed readers to submit their letters which will be published in the newsletter.

Such letters must be sent to mnisia@bushbuckridge.gov.za.

Executive Mayor's Desk



Executive Mayor Cllr, Sylvia Nxumalo

As we continue to strive for a developmental and prosperous life for all through the enhancement of community participation, accountability, transparency and responsible governance, the municipality commits itself to selflessly and tirelessly work hard in providing clean-drinkable water, refuse removal, proper sanitation, accessible streets and roads, electricity and steer the municipality towards the achievement of clean audit and good governance.

Delivering his maiden State of the Nation Address (SONA), the Honourable President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa made a clarion call to all South Africans particularly the public servants to take the responsibility of delivering better, quality services and fight corruption.

He further thanked South Africans for their outstanding patience during the political and government leadership transition.

The President asked all South Africans to work hard in shaping the country's economy towards recovery and creating jobs.

In addressing the social and economic challenges, the municipality will focus on the National Development Plan, the Provincial Development Plan to guide the municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP), the budget to continue improving the lives of our people, stimulation of local economic growth and job creation.

In creating job opportunities in the Mpumalanga province, the Honourable Premier, Mr David Mabuza delivered his last State of the Province Address where he alluded, "we will take advantage of the bilateral economic and social relations with our African counterparts to benefit our people."

The latter was confirmed by the visit to Mozambique and Zimbabwe by the state President where bilateral

agreements were concluded.

The municipality is a grant dependent municipality however, we are looking at other avenues such as Tourism and Agriculture as our economic backbones to help grow our economy and create job opportunities.

The Agro - Processing Hub in Mkhuhlu is one of the economic opportunities we are aiming at taking advantage of, in order to enable economic and social growth opportunities.

The Agro-Processing Hub shall take advantage of the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market and sell the produce from the Agro-Processing Hub.

I am urging all residents to pay their municipal services such as water, refuse and other related services, by doing this - the community is affording the municipality a chance to provide better and quality services. We are currently offering 50% discounts for all our customers when paying their accounts.

Parliament has recently adopted and voted in favour of land expropriation without compensation as alluded by the President during his SONA, this means that government is on a drive campaign to take the land back to its rightful people in line with the constitution.

This move is also seen as one measure routes of addressing the social and

economic ills of the past because it will unlock opportunities for both the government and citizens of the country for residential and business opportunities.

There have been allegations around the country that since the adoption of expropriating the land without compensation policy, land grabs have been on the increase.

Land expropriation without compensation does not necessarily mean land invasion, it simply means that the land must be equally shared amongst the people through constitutional means. As a municipality, we condemn land-grabbing attempts by members of the community.

The national elections will take place in 2019 on a date that will be announced by the President. Let me thank all those who managed to visit voting stations on 10 - 11 March 2018 to either register or verify their respective addresses.

Finally, let me take this opportunity and remind all those who intend on or are doing business with the municipality, that the municipality is a public institution. All tenders are advertised on both the local and national newspapers, municipal website and the tender notice board.

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality Appoints Acting Municipal Manager

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) bade farewell to the outgoing Municipal Manager, Mr Canzi Lisa in a befitting and dignified manner.

The farewell function was held at Maviljan Community Hall and Protea Kruger hotel, on 2 February 2018. The outgoing Municipal Manager joined the municipality

in January 2015 and his contract lapsed in January 2018.

He passed the baton to the Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Emmanuel Mashava as of February 2018.



Acting MM, Mr Emmanuel Mashava

Mr Mashava was appointed to the acting position after Council resolved the ordinary Council meeting in January 2018.

Different speakers spoke fondly of the outgoing Municipal Manager.

ing Municipal Manager.

The MMC responsible for Corporate Services who acted on behalf of the Executive Mayor, spoke fondly of the outgoing Municipal Manager and wished him well as he retires to go and spend time with his family.

Development of the Regional Hospital Gives Birth To A New Township

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) has been identified as one of the Presidential Nodal Area, one of 13 nodes points that were declared by the former President of the country, Thabo Mbeki during his tenure.

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (MDPWRT) and the provincial Department of

Health (DOH) are building a new Regional Hospital in the Bushbuckridge area.

The new hospital will have a positive impact in the municipality in terms of the socio-economic spin-offs coming from the hospital development.

Subsequently, the municipality is developing a new township

around the hospital development.

The proposed township will come up with light industries, incubation centre, retail and commercial sites, schools, low-income houses, bonded housing and high-income stands.

The entire development is aimed at addressing the socio-economic disparities in

this municipality.

There is new architectural design and maps depicting the new township development.

The Department of Human Settlement is funding the infrastructure development in this township to the tune of R680 millions rand.

The municipality will fund the project on a multi-year funding.



Entrance Perspective

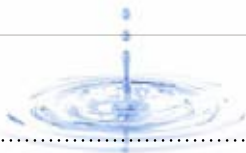


Main Entrance



Main Entrance Interior

Water Is Life



South Africa remains a water scarce country and the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Hon. Zweli Mkhize recently announced and declared three provinces as water distress disaster areas.

Bushbuckridge is not immune to the shortage of pure drinkable water. There are areas and villages where people do not have yard connected water reticulation, most of the villages purely rely on boreholes and municipal water tanks as water provision sources.

The municipality continues to consider and prioritise water provision. We have over the years committed and spent millions of rands in pursuit of making sure that every household has access to clean drinkable water.

Department of Water and Sanitation, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Ehlanzeni district municipality continues to join efforts and resources in putting both bulk water infrastructure and reticulation network for water supply.

The municipality clearly understands its role and core functions as enshrined in the Constitution.

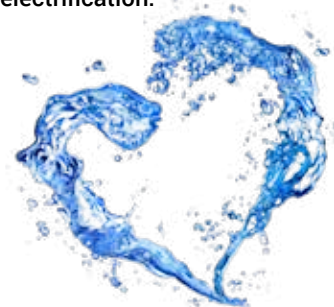
Out of the 146 720 households within the municipal area of jurisdiction, 102 443 households have been connected to the municipal water reticulation network.

The 102 443 households translate to 70% households receiving clean water from the municipality.

Out of the 70%, only 26% pays for water and the remaining 44% receive clean

water without paying.

The municipality pays over R16 million every month to Rand Water for bulk water service, hence we request clients and customers to pay for water every month in order to improve services like water, refuse removal, sanitation, street cleaning, roads and street maintenance and electrification.



Pipe laying works Maviljan A, B, C Water Reticulation Project Phase 3



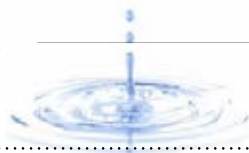
Belfast Water Reticulation Phase 2



Belfast Water Reticulation Phase 3



Isolation Valve Construction Maviljan A,B and C Water Reticulation Project Phase 3



Water is Life

The Table Below Illustrates All Water-related Projects That Are Under Implementation:

PROJECT NAME AND LOCATION	2016/17 BUDGET	STATUS QUO	JOBS CREATED
Hluvukani Phase 2: Bulk Line Water Supply	R24 891 498.72	Construction at 100% complete	32
Hluvukani Phase 3: Bulk Line Water Supply	R34 493 690.96	Construction at 100% complete	32
Acornhoek Bulk Main-Acornhoek Terminal Branch System	R11 701 546.89	Construction at 89%	23
Provision of Water Reticulation at Ceko village	R12 557 747.62	Construction at 70%	20
Maromeng Phase 2 Water Reticulation Project	R19 611 881.55	Construction at 100%	28
Provision of Water Reticulation at Matsikitsane	R49 354 055.18	Construction at 100% complete	61
Provision of Water Reticulation at MP Stream Phase 1	R27 534 687.44	Construction at 70%	30
Provision of Water Reticulation at MP Stream Phase 2	R26 169 056.36	Construction at 62%	44
Provision of Water Reticulation at MP Stream Phase 3	R28 038 064.36	Construction at 51%	63
Provision of Water Reticulation at Bushbuckridge, UN, Masana and Mphenyatsatsi Phase 1	R13 303 338.30	Construction at 57%	16
Provision of Water Reticulation at Bushbuckridge, UN, Masana and Mphenyatsatsi Phase	R18 495 000.00	Construction at 20%	16
Mathipe Water Reticulation	R9 756 272.00	Construction at 100 %	43
Mandiyana Water Reticulation	R14 985 851. 37	100 % completed	38
Belfast Water Reticulation Phase 1 and Phase 2	R 12 894 674.46; R9 647 061.00	Construction at 21% Construction at 22%	28
Soweto Water Reticulation	R36 545 024.69	Construction at 55 %	34



Completed Steel Tank Project at Matsikitsane



Connection of pipe work from the reservoir at MP Stream Phase 1

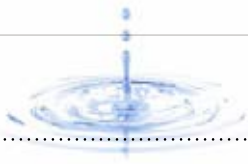


Laying of pipes at MP Stream Phase 2



Water Reticulation at Mphenyatsatsi Phase 1

Water is Life



Water Project underway at Maromeng Phase 2



Water reticulation at Sandford



Water Reticulation project at Maviljan A,B and C Mateteng Phase 2,



Water Reticulation at Maviljan A, B and C blanket compaction after pipe laying



Water Project underway at MP Stream Phase 3



Water Reticulation at Mphenyatsatsi Phase 2

Municipality Update on Water Connection

The table below depicts the total number of households not connected to the water reticulation network and the financial year the households will be connected. In total, there's over 55 000

households not connected to the water reticulation infrastructure network.

The municipality took note of new settlements within the municipal area that will

need to be connected to the bulk infrastructure and water reticulation network.

More capital projects are therefore injected into the Integrated Development Plan

and budget in the next three financial years; 17/18, 18/19 and 19/20:

17/18 FINANCIAL YEAR

- 15 000 HOUSEHOLDS TO BE CONNECTED

18/19 FINANCIAL YEAR

- 20 000 HOUSEHOLDS TO BE CONNECTED

19/20 FINANCIAL YEAR

- 20 000 HOUSEHOLDS TO BE CONNECTED

BLM Contributes Towards The Well-being of Learners



MMC of Social Development Cllr, Krisjan Mokoena handing over school uniforms to poor pupils of LM Mokoena High School in Marite

In an attempt to contribute to the well-being of destitute and impoverished pupils, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) donated 300 school uniforms to poor learners of Makgahlishe, Narishe Primary schools and

LM Mokoena High School.

The school uniforms included trousers, skirts, t-shirts, jerseys, socks and shoes - each school received a set of 100 school uniforms.

Speaking at Narishe Primary School - the MMC of Social Development, Cllr Krisjan Mokoena alluded that the municipality is committed to ensuring that even learners from disadvantaged backgrounds enjoy the fruits of

our democracy.

He said that by donating the school uniforms, the municipality hopes to improve the self-concept and esteem of learners from previously disadvantaged families.

He concluded by saying that the learners should use the donation as a catapult to greater heights.

The donation of school uniforms to learners forms part of the municipal social responsibility programme of ploughing back to the community.



Learner's of LM Mokoena during the handover of school uniforms to poor pupils, March 2018

BLM Encourages Senior Citizens To Read Through The Library Outreach Program



Senior Citizens and Bushbuckridge Libraries Officials during the official launch of Senior Citizens Outreach Program

The saying *“Age Is Nothing But A Number”* is still relevant as the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) through the officially launched Senior Citizens Library Outreach Program by the Community Services Directorate.

The main objectives of the outreach were to encourage reading and writing by senior citizens. Research has shown that illiteracy level has been high amongst the previously disadvantaged senior citizens during the apartheid era till to-date.

In reversing the damage of the apartheid government, the current government has introduced various programs including this one to ensure that senior citizens enjoy the fruits of the hard-earned de-

mocracy.

The program was launched at the Mafemani Public Library on 07 February 2018 at Dwarsoop Township.

The launch was also aimed at identifying and addressing the challenges that senior citizens face particularly in terms of acquainting themselves with reading sources like libraries.

A number of previously education deprived senior citizens have the will to study but challenges like long distances and difficulty to walk hamper them from fulfilling their study desires.

In a developing and informative country like South Africa, it is necessary that peo-

ple and not only the senior citizens keep reading and writing. Libraries and other institutions like the media houses are the sources of knowledge and wisdom that people need to utilise and gain information.

Masana High School pupils dazzled senior citizens by rendering informative and educational poems particularly on the usage of libraries.

During the launch, senior citizens expressed their gratitude for the home visits offered by library officials when bringing them books to read and other study materials for knowledge and wisdom expansion.

They further alluded that

their willingness to learn comes as a result of the support they get from the municipality and other stakeholders and that they are happy to have enrolled for library membership.

Motivational speaker, Rev. Nkosi urged senior citizens to be committed to their studies since it is not only a source of knowledge but also enlightens them and acquaints themselves with the new innovations of technologies.

In conclusion, senior citizens were showered with gifts from the municipality, that included branded towels, gift bags and other toys that will assist them to relax after long reading sessions.

BLM Embracing Hard Work Through Mayoral Excellence Awards



Ms NKhesani Masinga- Event Manager, Mr Rodgers Tshobede - PA to the Executive Mayor, MMC Cllr Sylvia Mathebula, Mr Aubrey Mnisi- Head of Communication and Ms Thembi Mathebula- Manager Council Support

In embracing and encouraging hard work and working beyond limits in very challenging circumstances and environment, the Bushbuckridge first citizen, honourable Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo will launch the Mayoral Excellent Awards for municipal employees and ordinary Bushbuckridge men and women who are doing something to encourage and build a better environment for the people of Bushbuckridge.

These awards stem from the words: *"Give credit where is due". Hi Xitsonga vari "Mintirho ya vulavula". Ka Sepedi ba re "Mošomo o tšhaba di-atla".*

The Mayoral Excellence

Awards programme was adopted by Council in its ordinary Council meeting.

The awards are meant to encourage and acknowledge hard work, Batho Pele and dedication by officials of the municipality in their day to day work.

Council appointed a team of six (6) people to oversee the process of the Mayoral Excellent Awards.

The team comprises of MMC Corporate Services, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo; MMC Sport, Arts and Culture, Cllr Krsijan Mokeona; the PA to Executive Mayor, Mr. Rodgers Tshobede, the Communication Manager, Mr. Aubrey Mnisi, the PA to the Municipal Manag-

er; Mr Solomon Mgiba, the Manager-Council Support, Ms. Thembi Mathebula and Ms NKhesani Masinga as the Events Management service provider appointed by Council to oversee the logistical arrangements.

The First ever mayoral awards will cover the following categories:

- *Certificate of Appreciation: Community Builder*
- *Certificate of Appreciation: Life Time Achiever*
- *Certificate of Appreciation: Persons Living With Disability*
- *Excellence Award in Sport*
- *Excellence Award in*

Health Organisation

- *Excellence Award in Education*
- *Excellence Award in Community Media*
- *Best Learner Award (2017)*
- *Best Circuit Award (2017)*
- *Young Woman in Business Award*
- *Business Giving Back Award: Philanthropist*

The awards presentation ceremony will be held at the Manyeleti Game Reserve, the date will soon be announced through the necessary communication channels.

BLM Holds Community Health Dialogue



Health & Wellness staff with their stakeholders during the Health Community Dialogue at Islington Village

On 31 March 2017, the South African National Aids Council (SANAC) chairperson, President Cyril Ramaphosa launched South Africa's National Strategic Plan (NSP) for HIV, TB and STIs 2017-2022.

The Health and Wellness Unit hosted a community health dialogue at the Mnisi Traditional Council in Islington village, ward 30 on 18 January 2018.

The aim of the dialogue was to discuss ways to reduce health challenges, fight and educate the community of Bushbuckridge about the importance of practising healthy living.

The municipality encouraged the community members to regularly visit health institutions.

The HIV and AIDS epidemic is high in South Africa and Bushbuckridge is not immune from this high rate prevalence.

The Millennium Development Goal 6 is targeted to halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Health education is an example of primary prevention at an individual level.

Education is designed to change people's behaviour and reduce their exposure to risk factor disease. It is important to test as early as possible because the HIV and AIDS pandemic has taken millions of lives living behind impoverished orphans.

120 people attended and the dialogue was also treated as a platform to educate

the community members of Bushbuckridge that HIV and AIDS is like any other disease and being infected by this pandemic does not mean that it is the end of the world but a person can live a long healthy life.

Those who are infected with different diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV should be treated normally, like other people.

The only thing that is needed people must follow what the Department of Health requested them to do, for example - abstaining, having safe sex (using condoms) and take treatment on a regular basis. Commissions have been established to give people the opportunity to voice out their concerns in terms of the challenges they face.

Sector departments such as Department of Health and Social Development were on site providing services to the public. Community members tested for HIV/AIDS, TB and other diseases.

Ms Ndhlovu who specialises with TB from the Department of Health stationed at Hoxane Bohlabela Region urged everyone to get tested because TB is a curable disease that continues to infect great numbers of people worldwide and it is a major cause of death around the world.

The event was graced by MMC Krisjan Mokoena under Social Development portfolio and Mr Thibela Niclaas who was the Acting Director of Community Services.

Bushbuckridge Holds Heal Our Land Prayer Rally



BLM Councillors with BMC during the Prayer Rally

The Community Services Directorate of the municipality together with the Bushbuckridge Ministry Council held a prayer rally on 16 February 2018 at Agincourt Real Home Stars Sports Ground (Ward 28). The prayer rally was held under the theme “Heal Our Land”.

First (1) Timothy, chapter two (2) in the Bible states, “Prayers, requests and thanksgiving be offered to God for all people, for Kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence to God and with proper conduct.”

The prayer rally was held to pray for: unity, peace, stability, safety and security, good leadership and governance, rain, no violence against women and children.

The Acting Executive Mayor and Member of the Mayoral Committee, Cllr Violet Nkuna, during her keynote address thanked all Christian denominations who keep on praying for Bushbuckridge and South Africa at large.

Parents were urged to take care of their children by knowing their whereabouts and give them support especially in education.

Delegates from the Depart-

ment of Health were part of the event and rendered their services during the event.

The community members had an opportunity to do voluntary testing for different pandemics. People were encouraged to continuously partake in voluntary testing.

Cllr Elizabeth Mashele under the Municipal Health and Environmental Management Portfolio, who was the

Acting Moral Regeneration Chairperson led the Pastors during the prayer, BLM Councillors and South African Police Services (SAPS).

The event was blessed by gospel artists: Vunanga Project (Themba Nyathi), Tsoletso Encha Gospel, Gracious Mahlaule and Malavutelo High School based in Marite.



Acting Exc Mayor with EDM Sen. Manager Ms. Smekie Mashego & BBR Ministry Council during the Prayer Rally

BLM Honours The Late Victor Mkhonto With Service Delivery Imbizo



Executive Mayor accompanied by Councillors during Alexandra Imbizo

In accordance with the Local Government Municipal Structures Act No. 117 of 1998 section 19 and 56, the Executive Mayor, Cllr Nxumalo Sylvia hosted a service delivery monitoring Imbizo in ward 4 in March 2018, to give feedback and present municipal future plans to the community of ward 02, 04, 05, 06.

The Imbizo was also used to honour the late Councillor Victor Mkhonto.

The community of Alexandra, Marite, Tekamahala, Oakely, Mkhuhlu and surrounding areas were given an opportunity to interact and raise their questions with the Executive Mayor.

The Mayor spoke on various service delivery issues including water, sanitation, low-level bridges, housing, street lights and boreholes.

The Department of Home Affairs represented by Mr Robert Khosa spoke to the community about early birth registration, death registration, Identity Documents (ID) and Passport issuing and registration of marriages.

The Mayor acknowledged that a lot of people are unemployed, hence they have to register with the municipal indigent register.

However, she pleaded with those who can afford to pay their municipal accounts to do so, in order to help the municipality improve service delivery.

Paying for services will assist the municipality in increasing the low supply volumes of water.

The Mayor further assured the community about the

continued work and efforts of permanently solving the water challenge through the section 78 process as a water authority institution.

She concluded her speech by asking the community of Alexandra to honour Councillor Mkhonto by registering with IEC and vote during the forthcoming by-elections.



Executive Mayor Cllr, Sylvia Nxumalo accompanied by BLM Councillors at Alexandra

BLM And BLTO Host Annual Business Breakfast

Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo on behalf of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) with the support of Bushbuckridge Local Tourism Organization (BLTO) under the chairmanship of Mr Sizile Ndlovu hosted a Business Breakfast at Kruger Culture Village just outside Mkhuhlu location on 26 January 2018.

This annual premier event is aimed at providing business people with the opportunity to network with their counterparts in the business community, as well providing a platform for expanding business contacts.

The Business Breakfast was also used to market and promote local tourism.

Mr JK Sithole one of the first black generation accountants was the main guest speaker and profoundly shared his business management experience and best accounting practices with the local business people.

Speaking at the event, the Executive Mayor Cllr, Sylvia

Nxumalo urged the business people to venture into tourism as it is one of the economic drivers within the municipality.

She said that tourism has the potential to stimulate local economic development and create additional job opportunities

DOH And BLM Unite To End TB



Home base care givers demonstrating a TB coughing Technique to curb the spread of TB when Coughing during the TB awareness campaign



A senior citizen undergoing Diabetes screening during the TB awareness Campaign

World Tuberculosis Day, observed on 24 March each year is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of Tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.

In an endeavour to curb TB within the municipal boundaries, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) with the support of the Department of Health (DOH) hosted a successful TB awareness campaign under the theme, "Let's Unite to End TB and HIV & AIDS". The awareness campaign held on 27 March 2018, at Shatale Stadium.

Addressing the community members was the Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr Phineas Selowe who said, 'In Bushbuckridge

there is high TB prevalence in Shatale, Madjembeni, Masakeng, Relani and surrounding areas.

I hope this campaign will sharply raise public awareness regarding the epidemic of TB and efforts of eliminating the disease will yield positive results", alluded the acting mayor.'

The Acting Executive Mayor expressed disappointment with the fact that TB is a curable disease, yet people are still dying in large numbers due to lack of information and stigmas associated with the epidemic.

He urged those who are diagnosed with TB to take their medication as prescribed and recom-

mended by doctors.

He concluded his address by calling upon all Ward Aids Councils (WAC's) and support groups such as ANOVA Health for Men, Department of Health, Right to Care and other equally important stakeholders to unite and join hands in eliminating TB.

During the campaign, the following health services were rendered:

- Cancer Screening
- Diabetes screening and testing
- Hypertension
- HIV testing and Counselling
- Distribution of male and female condoms
- Pap smear screening

Community members from all

walks of life took advantage of the campaign and did several health screenings as follows:

- 18 community members underwent Cancer screening
- Anova Health for men distributed 448 condoms and 168 lubricants
- 22 community members underwent HIV testing
- 56 community members underwent TB screening
- 70 community members tested for Hypertension
- 109 community members underwent diabetes screening and testing
- 36000 condoms were distributed.

BLM Empowers The Youth Through Consultative Program



Young people interacting attentively during the Youth Consultative Development Program

With the hope of creating interest in patrons to use libraries for both leisure and educational purposes on 20 March 2018, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) celebrated the annual National Library Week under the theme "Libraries: Heart of the Community" at the Shatale Public Library.

The event targeted community members, primary and high school learners, as well as academics and the main purpose was to encourage the communities at large in realising the significance of using municipal libraries for their personal enrichment and academic purposes.

During the celebration, learners from different schools rendered items on the importance of libraries in the form of speeches, poems and drama.

All these activities were done to encourage the culture of reading and highlight the in-

tegral role played by libraries in people's lives.

Libraries are at the heart of their communities to offer vital resources and to address community needs, they are places where community members gather knowledge and wisdom.

Libraries are open to the communities and provide

essential services to help people and contribute to the thriving of neighbourhoods.

From internet access and help with homework to story times and language problems, libraries provide free accessible space, information services for everyone.

The municipality has five (5) public libraries and they are

in Dwarsloop, Mkhuhlu, Shatale, Hluvukani and Acornhoek.

Community members are urged to utilise them for their own personal enrichment and academic purposes.

Soon there will be an opening of the newly constructed library in MP Stream near Thulamahashe.



Youth Coordinator, Mr Real Modipane addressing the youth during the consultative youth development programme held at Gannet place

Libraries Are The Heart of The Community



Cllr Tiny Malibe handing over certificates of appreciation to learners of Boikhutso Lower Primary School during the national library week celebration held at Shatale Public Library

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