



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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Communications Manager, Mr Aubrey Mnisi

Greetings once again!

I am delighted to bring you the fourth quarter edition of the municipal newsletter, an information dissemination tool which is aimed at keeping communities informed and updated about service delivery developments and challenges faced by the municipality.

The newsletter is one of the mediums of municipal strategic information dissemination.

The year 2017 has been a good year for the municipality in many aspects, from service delivery, audit outcome, financial accountability, good governance, public participation, stakeholder involvement and developmental communication.

We are hoping to do better in 2018 and beyond. We are determined to attain the much sought after clean audit outcome.

It is with great regret to inform you our valued readers that the Municipal

Manager, Mr. Canzi Lisa will be leaving our shores after spending over three years at the helm of the municipality. He will surely be missed as he retires to go and spend time with his family. In this edition we have included the Mayor's New Year's message to the communities of Bushbuckridge, Unqualified Audit Outcome and many more service delivery related stories.

The municipality is once again appealing to communities to pay for municipal services such as water, refuse removal and sanitation as this will enable the municipality to generate revenue and accelerate service delivery.

Failure by communities to pay for services rendered, derails the aspirations of the people as contained in the IDP, the overall strategic objectives and the mandate of local government.

The municipality is offering discounts when paying your account. Please visit your nearest municipal regional office and get your discount.

Executive Mayor's Desk



Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo

The highs and lows, positives and negatives of the year 2017 have challenged both municipal council and administration and all its stakeholders to focus on nothing less than improving service delivery and the municipality financial good standing.

This could be attributed to the latest unqualified audit opinion presented to the municipality by the Auditor General for the 2016/17

financial year.

This feat could also be attached to the number of completed water projects, access to roads and streets as well as other sectors of service delivery, that the municipality has worked on to give the people of this Bushbuckridge a better life they deserve.

As municipality, we are also aware that a lot has been done to improve the quality of

life for our people, but much more still needs to be done, particularly the with regards to the provision of clean water.

I therefore on behalf of council would like to urge members of the community to safeguard all public property, in particular, the water resources which is still a challenge for both the municipality and the public.

The municipality is however together with the relevant stakeholders hard at work to ensure that as enshrined in the Bill of Rights of the Republic of South Africa everyone has a right to clean accessible water in their yards.

I will be visiting schools during the 2018 January school quarter to handover school uniforms to the less fortunate learners. I urge all community members especially those who we

are fortunate to share with those who have no families or anything to look forward to so that they too can have a sense of belonging.

To all staff members of the municipality, may the mighty God bless you, please be well behaved and set a good example, so we can continue to deliver to our people good and quality services.

To our Municipal Manager, Mr. Lisa, we truly appreciate your good work and contribution to improving Bushbuckridge. As your contract ends in January, we wish you a good life and all of the best during your pension days.

We believe you will not be lost to Bushbuckridge but will still gain from your skills, professionalism and wisdom. On behalf of council, I wish everyone, community, councillors, staff and all stakeholders a Prosperous New Year.

BLM Achieves Good Audit Outcome

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) is proud to announce that the office of the Auditor -General South Africa has conferred the municipality with an Unqualified Audit Report for the 2016/17 financial year. It is undoubtedly an achievement for a municipality which was at one stage placed under provincial administration to attain such a feat and to

attain an Unqualified Audit Outcome. The municipality's goal of achieving a Clean Audit characterised by good governance is now one step closer to realisation.

This is a third successive time in which the municipality got an Unqualified Audit Outcome. An Unqualified Audit report means that the municipal financial statements contain no

material misstatements. We are proud to announce that the financial statements were done in-house without the use of consultants, and were fairly presented without misrepresentation.

At the annual Chartered Institute of Government Finance, Audit and Risk Officers (CIGRARO) Conference held at Cape Town International Convention

Centre, on 09 October 2017, the municipality was honoured with an award for the most improved audit outcomes under the category "Clean Administration".

The municipality is hoping to build on these audit outcomes and get a clean audit outcome in 2017/18 financial year.

Mr Canzi Lisa, the outgoing Municipal Manager of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality was appointed for a three (3) year tenure from 12 January 2015 and his employment contract expires on 31 January 2018.

Background Experience and Qualifications:

He was a former Robben Island inmate who is not a stranger to the municipality as he was the Municipal Manager from 2002 to 2007. At the end of the contract he was reappointed from July 2007 for a further five years. Unfortunately, in 2010 he left under what he has deemed a "past historical chapter". He re-joined the municipality for a third stint in January 2015 when the municipality had just come out of Administration (a constitutional imperative imposed under section 139b of the Municipal Systems Act).

1. The Municipal Manager holds the following qualifications from the University of Witwatersrand: Master of Science in Development Planning (1993), Higher Diploma in Development Planning (1992) and BA Degree in Development Planning (1990). Professional membership: Development Planning Association of SA and South African Planners Institute. Achieved Local Government Competency studies, 2017.

2. The Municipal Manager has extensive local government and additional private sector experience. Below are some of his work experience highlights:

Civil leader of the Soweto Civic Association and one of founding members of (SANCO)

Chief Executive Officer of Eastern Metropolitan Council in the City of Johannesburg from 1996 – 2001

Municipal Manager of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality from 2002 -2007

Municipal Manager of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality from 2007 – 2015

Director of Pick Stone Estate Mine in gold Zimbabwe from February 2011 – 2014

Municipal Manager of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality from 2015 - Present

Performance in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (3rd term)

In his third term, he came at a time when the municipality was unstable with protests from various communities in the municipal area of jurisdiction. He detected that most of the protests were service delivery inclined and genuine, namely, predominantly lack of water provision, particularly in rural areas where the only source of water provision are boreholes.

At the time reprioritisation of the budget was then to refurbish boreholes and drill new ones where necessary, as an intervention in service delivery, furthermore. Road and street infrastructure was also a challenge which continued to be addressed through paving, road regraveling and upgrading of provincial roads by provincial Public Works, Roads and Transport.

At the same time, various infrastructure developments were embarked on through the implementation of the IDP projects in respect of paving of internal streets, water reticulation and road infrastructure, implementing sanitation projects in certain areas, intervention by introducing water standpipes.

In a word, major service delivery imperative has been focused on basic service delivery.

- Water (bulk water and reticulation)
- Sanitation
- Electricity provision
- Roads and street infrastructure which is both provincial and local municipality responsibility, respectively.
- Refuse removal (a) in business, residents, sector departments. (b) establishing formal registered landfills.



Outgoing BLM Municipal Manager
Mr. Canzi Lisa

- Establishment of formal township through the municipal area of jurisdiction.

All the above had to be in place to strive for a “better life for all”.

With teamwork from Directors, Managers and staff in general, he further introduced new control systems, improved governance and accountability mechanisms in respect of turning the municipal finances around and that paid dividend as the municipality obtained two successive unqualified audit outcomes from the Auditor- General for 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years. On projects expenditure, the municipality received a special recognition from the Premier of Mpumalanga Honourable David Mabuza in his State of the Province Address (SOPA). A number of accolades were received by the municipality:



Service delivery challenges and ideas of intervening

He has observed major basic service delivery challenges that will continue to bedevil the municipality, due to budget constraints:

- **Water Treatment Plants** have to be added, particularly in certain rural areas to meet the reticulation program that is in the medium term 2015-2021 IDP for rural areas. Along with this challenge is the attainment of a blue drop status, a standard of excellence in providing clean water systems.

Municipal Manager,
Lisa

- **Waste Water Treatment** Plants are inadequate in growing peri-urban areas and non-existent in rural areas. Along with this challenge is the attainment of green drop status, a standard of excellence to maintain sewerage affluent.

- **Refuse collection** to meet the environment act: refuse collection plant- machinery has been purchased by the municipality.

However, it is still insufficient to meet the demand of refuse collection, particularly in the rural areas. Refuse skip bins have been delivered but the major challenge is to purchase more refuse skip trucks, to collect frequently. Alongside the latter challenge is the recruitment of appropriate plant operators.

- **On Sewerage Infrastructure Provision:** the rural areas are still utilising pit latrines as the only option in those areas. However, pit latrines have all the disadvantages, including possible pollution of the underground water system.
- **Completion and functionality** of bulk water and sewerage system is vital.
- **Waste Water Treatment** has to be in place in identified critical areas where it is lacking.
- **Major town refurbishment**, in particular Bushbuckridge town, Thulamahashe and Acornhoek have always been critical. The infrastructure challenges are still high which lead to all kinds of economic, health and disaster challenges.

Investor confidence and investment will need to be focussed to enhance job creation.

- **Budget constraints** in fulfilling service delivery will always remain a constraint unless the private sector intervenes.
- **With the Water Services Act Section 78**, the administration will inevitably face organisational reorganisation and transformation to address service delivery needs. Furthermore, the anticipated Bushbuckridge Economic Development Agency will have to be incorporated in the organisational change.

Despite the above, the Municipal Manager has laid a strong and solid foundation characterised by financial accountability and good governance.

He may not have changed the world, but he certainly has changed BLM, he is leaving it a much better place, given the budgetary constraints. Last but not least, the relationship with organised labour will remain a challenge within the context of co-existence and improved working conditions of workers. The interface with political leadership has been great which allowed a free flow of ideas and be guided where necessary.

Water Reticulation Projects: 2017/18 Financial Year

Water provision to all villages within the municipal area of jurisdiction remains priority number one for the municipality. Fourteen water reticulation projects has been appointed and commissioned by August and October 2017 and shall be completed on or before June 2018. The following wards and villages will benefit.

Project Name	House	2017/18 Budget	Status Quo	Jobs Created
Provision of water reticulation at MP Stream phase 1	2720	R 68 661 772. 11	Construction 30%	45
Provision of water reticulation at MP Stream phase 2	2720	R 68 661 772. 11	Construction 15 %	24
Provision of water reticulation at MP Stream phase 3	2720	R 68 661 772. 11	Construction 15 %	32
Provision of water reticulation at Kumani	420	R 21 661 470. 89	Construction 35 %	38
Provision of water reticulation at Ceko	497	R 11 489 014. 32	Construction 40 %	34
Provision of water reticulation at Mpenyatsatsi	1407	R 37 923 233. 62	Construction 15 %	24
Reticulation and yard meter connection at Sandford	1036	R 22 467 040. 86	Construction 25 %	32
Provision of water reticulation at Maviljan A & B and Maintenance Phase 1	4937	R 85 066 169. 38	Construction 30 %	56
Provision of water reticulation at Maviljan A & B and Maintenance Phase 2	4937	R 85 066 169. 38	Construction 25 %	50
Provision of water reticulation at Maviljan A & B and Maintenance Phase 3	4937	R 85 066 169. 38	Construction 25 %	46
Reticulation and yard meter connection at Belfast Phase 1	1514	R 24 620 000. 00	Construction 0 %	31
Reticulation and yard meter connection at Belfast Phase 2	1514	R 24 620 000. 00	Construction 0 %	31
Construction of Thulamahashe Regional Landfill	108 200	R 162 500 000. 00	Construction 10 %	23



Ceko Water Reticulation Project in Acornhoek, one of the water projects under implementation



Some of the contractors working on the water reticulation project

Mayor Presents Senior Citizens With Early Xmas Gifts



Cllr L Mhaule, Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo, MMC for Technical Services Cllr Bhunu Malandule and Chief Whip of Council Cllr Million Makaringe during the Christmas party for senior citizens held in Mkhuhlu Community Hall

The Executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM), Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo hosted an early Christmas Party for over 300 senior citizens, on 08 December 2017 at Mkhuhlu Community Hall.

The senior citizens were showered with gifts and the mayor wished them a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New year.

Addressing the senior citizens, the Executive Mayor alluded that if one needs blessings, one needs to show love and respect to their parents and the blessings will double, hence she was handing over

gifts to them. She used the platform to inform the senior citizens about the municipality's conferred Unqualified Audit Outcome and she said that by giving them gifts, she hopes the municipality will be conferred with a clean audit outcome in the 2017 /18 financial year.

The Mayor is appealing to all residents of Bushbuckridge to open their hearts and doors to the less fortunate who have nothing to celebrate this festive season by clothing and feeding them.

“Festive season is about shar-

ing and showing each other love, let us practice the teachings of Jesus Christ,” said the Mayor.

The Christmas Party for sen-

ior citizens forms part of the Mayor’s Outreach Programme to interact with them and take stock of challenges faced by them.



Senior citizens who attended the Christmas party

BLM Promotes Local Tourism Through Roadside Awareness Campaign



BLM Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo greeting tourists during the Tourism Roadside awareness campaign at Hoxani T-Junction

In an endeavour to promote local tourism opportunities and road safety while preventing the soliciting of bribes from foreign tourists by traffic law enforcement officers, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) conducted a tourism roadside awareness campaign from 06, 08 and 11 December 2017 at Acornhoek R40 Road, Ramalema R40 Road and Mkhuhlu R536 Road.

The objectives of the tourism roadside awareness campaign were:

- To promote road safety and create awareness about the

dangers of drinking and driving

- To create a platform for the civil society and tourist to raise their voice against corruption.
- To promote cooperation and collaboration between public sector, private and the local communities
- To support good governance and anti-corruption activities countrywide.

In 2015, foreign tourists wrote a pile of complaints to the ministry of tourism, this came

after law enforcement officers demanded bribes while driving on the R40 Road.

This negatively affected the local tourism sector as less foreign tourists visited Bushbuckridge.

Tourism is one of the economic drivers and it has the potential to contribute to the expansion of the local economy, create employment and develop entrepreneurs.

In a bid to curb out and uproot this rot, the municipality then decided to conduct an annual tourism anti-corruption and

road safety campaign.

The municipality is delighted to announce that its intervention has paid dividends, the number of complaints has significantly dropped.

During the campaign, pamphlets were distributed to educate tourists and communities on what measures to take in order to prevent corruption and they were a distribution of brochures that comprise of a list of tourism attraction centres in Bushbuckridge.

BLM Refurbishing Dwarsloop To Thulamahashe Route



BLM Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo delivering a message of support during the sod-turning ceremony of the Dwarsloop to Thulamahashe Road

On 11 October 2017, the Department of Public Works in partnership with Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) led by the first female Mayor of the municipality hosted a Sod - Turning Ceremony, at Athurstone in preparation of the overhaul rehabilitation of the Dwarsloop to Thulamahashe Road phase A and B.

The reconstruction of the road will cost the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport over R175 million. Speaking at the Sod - Turning Ceremony, the Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo thanked the Provincial of Department of Public Works for having prioritised the Dwarsloop to Thulamahashe road.

She made a solemn plea to community members for them to stop barricading and

burning roads when they are angry. Instead, she urged them to report their challenges to their respective ward councillors and municipal regional offices.

The Mayor took the opportunity to report about road refurbishment programmes, she also told community members that the Acornhoek - Hluvkani road is also receiving attention.

She urged community members to stop distracting appointed contractors as that will affect the completion time-frame.

The rehabilitation and refurbishment of the Dwarsloop to Thulamahashe road will ensure that motorists drive on a smooth road in a safe environment. The road is a major economic hub as it connects to the busy R40 road that

links South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

This road project will also create the much needed temporary job opportunities for community members.

The Thulamahashe road was riddled with huge potholes and the municipality hopes the reconstruction will help reduce road carnages whilst promoting road safety.



BLM Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo in a symbolic sod-turning on the Dwarsloop to Thulamahashe Road while the council Speaker Cllr Ruth Raganya looks on

Ward Committees And Councillors Learn More About GIS



GIS officer presenting the municipal GIS programmes during the GIS Day at Swadini Forever Resort



Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo delivering a keynote address during the GIS Day Event

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) hosted a Geographic Information System (GIS) Day Celebration at Swadini Forever Resort, on 15 - 16 November 2017. The main purpose of the event was to educate ward committees and councillors about the role played by GIS technologies.

The GIS technologies enable the municipality to locate pro-

jects, infrastructure, communities and resources.

Through this platform, the municipality is able to view, understand, interpret and visualise data in many ways that reveal relationships, patterns and trends in a form of maps, reports and charts.

The role of the GIS in terms of service delivery are as follows:

- Assist in identifying communities with or without infrastructure such as access to water.
- Assist in identifying the location of municipal customers in respect of rates and services.
- Helps monitor IDP projects through geographic illustrations.
- Provides coordinates which assist in the navigation of projects using smartphones.

It is a tool which that integrate sector plans to determine alignment to one another.

Speaking at the GIS Day Celebration, the Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo urged communities and young people to start looking at GIS as a career path, because there is a shortage of GIS professionals.

MEC of Human Settlements Honours Military Veterans



MEC of Human Settlements handing over a house to one of the military veterans with Cllr Inkie Dube and the contractor as witnesses

In supporting and recognising military veterans for their contribution in the realisation of a peaceful, democratic and prosperous South Africa, the MEC for Human Settlements, Honourable Speedy Mashilo handed over three (3) houses to military veterans in various Bushbuckridge villages, on 05

December 2017.

Speaking at one of the house hand-overs, the MEC said that the government appreciates the role played by the military veterans and that the government is committed to improving their living conditions.

The three (3) houses handed over by the MEC are part of the 25 houses to be given to military veterans in Bushbuckridge in which the government hopes to provide decent shelter to all veterans that were previously involved in the struggle towards the liberation of the country.

The Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo welcomed the gesture by the MEC and said the houses given to the veterans will help minimise the housing backlog faced by the municipality.

BLM Hosts Fifth Media Networking Session



From Left: BLM Head of Communications with Prof Prince Mashele, Ms Joy Themba- GCIS Provincial Office , Ms Sfundza & MP News Editor Mr Bongani Hlatshwayo

In breaking communication boundary the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) has forged a good relationship with the media through the Media Networking Sessions, the fifth session was held on 16 November 2017 BLM at Protea Hotel in Hazyview.

The main aim of these sessions are to share information, build a functioning relationship with media houses in order to break communication boundaries.

Media networking is meant to help the government find ways of effective communication and the BLM media is not the enemies of the mu-

nicipality but colleagues.

Communities need of development and in a democratic country like South Africa, the media plays a developmental role such as; acting as a mirror of the society by reflecting what is happening in the country politically, economically and geographically; promote local government developmental communication agenda and offer politicians a medium to explain government policies.

The Executive Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo during her keynote address urged all journalists, reporters and editors to publish stories

of people who have fought the pandemic and are living testimonies that being HIV positive is not a death sentence but an illness like other diseases.

The media is a crucial partner of government in a fight against this pandemic whereby most of the children are orphans because of this pandemic.

During this session, the Executive Mayor announced the municipal budget for 2016/17 financial year.

The municipality has set a budget of R1 582 980 000.00 on water projects as they are first priority, these

projects will ensure that every household has access to clean water.

She also mentioned that Rand Water reduced water supply volume to the municipality over disagreements regarding billing statements as a bulk water service provider.

The Media Networking Session was graced by the Mayoral Committee, guest speakers: Political Analyst, Professor Prince Mashele; Editor of Mpumalanga News, Mr. Bongani Hlatshwayo and Provincial SABC TV provincial News Editor, Mr. Jonathan Lungu.

EPWP Alleviates Poverty In Bushbuckridge



IDP Manager Dennis Chavane with EPWP participants

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) is using the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to alleviate poverty and provide income relief through temporary jobs for unemployed youth and poor households.

This programme enables the municipality to transfer income to poor households in short to medium term. The municipality has recently recruited 300 EPWP participants on a 12-months fixed contract and they are placed in all municipal regional of-

fices.

The scope of work for the EPWP participants inter-alia:

- Cleaning of the Central Business District (CBD), refuse removal, road maintenance and safety monitors that help reduce crime committed against tourists.

The budget for the EPWP for this financial year is R9.4 million which will be used to buy uniforms, pay stipends and the overall training of the participants.

In recruiting the EPWP participants, an advertisement was issued and placed in all the municipal regional offices, DLTC's and libraries inviting applications from interested persons.

Since its inception under the municipality, this programme has made positive changes in many people's lives especially amongst the poor and unemployed youth.



EPWP participants cleaning the environment

BLM Launches Rotary Family Health Day Campaign



The Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi delivering a keynote Address during the Rotary Family Health Day held at Thulamahashe New Stadium

03 October 2017 marked a historic day in which the 5th Rotary Family Health Day Campaign was launched in Bushbuckridge, at the Thulamahashe New Stadium by the Department of Health.

The main aim of the campaign was to bring health services closer to communities as part of the Department of Health's Outreach programme.

Delivering a keynote Address the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi alluded

that the 2016 Rotary Family Health Day Campaign was a great success and the programme ran in 120 sites in districts that have rotary branches. The Minister reported that in last year's event more than 40 000 community members were reached and he indicated that 17 000 people were tested for TB, 10 000 for HIV and 19 000 were screened for diabetes.

The Minister called upon all parents and caregivers to ensure that the entire family takes advantage of the

campaign because of free services. And he also urged caregivers to ensure that children are immunised.

Throughout the campaign the following free health services were provided to community members:

- HIV Testing and Counseling
- TB Screening and Testing
- Diabetes Screening
- Hypertension Screening
- Providing contraceptives
- Information on nutrition, physical exercise, and other healthy lifestyle choices

This campaign was run in partnership with the Rotarians in South Africa, PEP-FAR, SABC Foundation, Caxton, Gilead, Alere, YFM, Cape Community Newspapers, the University of Johannesburg, Gift of the Givers, Sesego Cares, Paprika and NCRF.

This campaign is held every year over a period of three days, from 3 - 5 October in 120 communities across the country.

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality Holds Traditional Health Practitioner Summit



Traditional Health Practitioners who attended the workshop held at OTJ Guest House

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) hosted a two-day Traditional Health Practitioners Summit at OTJ Guest House in Hazyview from 26 - 27 October 2017.

The purpose of the Summit was to discuss ways in which Traditional Health Practitioners could be incorporated into public health, strengthening referral links between Traditional Health Practitioners and health facilities as well as discussing challenges faced by Traditional Health Practitioners in their trade.

The Summit was attended by over 150 Traditional Health Practitioners from all walks and during the Summit stakeholders such as South African Police Services (SAPS), SANPARKS, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Department of Health and Traditional Health Practitioners Council made presentations.

There are over 5000 active Traditional Health Practitioners in Bushbuckridge and there are people who still rely on them for their basic health needs.

In an attempt to create an environment that enables them to demonstrate their talents and skills, the municipality will in due course establish ward and zonal forums.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has stated that up to 80% of South Africans meet their health needs through traditional medicine. Traditional healers' medicine was formalised when the Ministry of Health established the Council for Traditional Health Practitioners.

The Council includes stakeholders, consultants, South African Pharmaceutical Council and members of the Health Professions Council.

Mpumalanga Traditional

Health Practitioners Forum Chairperson, Mr. Fanie Mashaba is advising members of the public to check whether the Traditional healer that they are intending to go to is authentic or not, by visiting the African National Healers Association (ANHA) website at www.africanationalhealersassociation.org/members.

Alternatively, they can go to the Traditional healers' practice and ask to see the practitioner's card and certificate, with the healer's photograph on both, as all members of

ANHA are required to have their ANHA membership cards and certificates in their practices at all times.

Registered Traditional healers or Sangomas also provide valid sick notes approved by South Africa's Supreme Court.

South African Traditional Medicine week was commemorated in August to demonstrate how far traditional medicine has come since its formalisation in 2013.



BLM Contributes To Youth Development



The youth who attended the youth entrepreneurship workshop held at OTJ Guest house

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) with the support of the South African Youth Council (SAYC) hosted a Youth Entrepreneurship Workshop, at OTJ Guest House from 29 - 30 November 2017.

The main purpose of the workshop was to discuss challenges faced by the youth and ways in which the youth could participate in the mainstream economy of the municipality, the province of Mpumalanga, and the country as a whole.

According to Census 2016, Bushbuckridge is a youthful place with the youth constituting a huge percentage of the population and the youth

unemployment rate is at 63%. The municipality hopes that the workshop will pave the way for radical economic transformation for the youth of Bushbuckridge.

Speaking at the workshop, the MMC for Social Development Cllr Krisjan Mokoena urged the youth to take advantage of the funding agencies such as NYDA, MEGA, and SEFA to mention just a few.

He also encouraged the youth to become agents of change themselves, like the youth of 1976 who fiercely fought tooth and nail

against the Bantu Educational System. The workshop was attended by 100 young people from all walks of life and established

youth entrepreneurs within the municipal boundaries.





***I PAY MY MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT, DO YOU ?
PAY 50% AND GET 50% DISCOUNT IMMEDIATELY,
OFFER VALID FOR LIMITED PERIOD***

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality is calling upon all residents whose municipal accounts are in arrears and those who owe the municipality to come forward and make payment arrangements and settle their accounts. The municipality is owed over R900 million in unpaid municipal services rendered by both businesses and residents.

The core mandate of the municipality is to provide basic services to communities and the execution of this core mandate relies on a sound, viable and sustainable financial base. The equitable share funding which the municipality receives from the national fiscus is not enough to provide consistent and reliable infrastructure development; including water provision, sanitation, refuse removal, and better accessible roads and internal streets.

For these to be realized and attained, residents and businesses are expected to play an integral part by contributing to the creation of a financially viable municipality through the payment of municipal services provided to them.

- **Between November 2017 - March 2018, residents will be entitled to a 50% discount after paying 50% of the debt.**
- **From April 2018 – June 2018, residents who pay 60% of their debt will receive 40% discount.**

Payments can be made via debit orders, bank deposit and at service points found in all the municipal regional offices; Thulamahashe, Dwarsloop, Maviljan, Shatale, Acornhoek, Hluvukani, Marite, Mkhuhlu, Agincourt and Lilydale.

For more information, please contact the municipal Income Manager Ms Thabisile Ndhlovu via cellphone number on 072 300 2182 or email address ndhlovut@bushbuckridge.gov.za, alternatively Ms Lumka Gubudela @ cellphone number 072 300 0364 or email: gubudelal@bushbuckridge.gov.za

THE BLM MOUTHPIECE

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