INSIDE THIS ISSUE

+ BLM Opens Doors for Investors
+ Department of Public Service and Administration Advancing SMMEs
+ Municipality Revs Up Service Delivery Resources

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
Greetings once again!

Welcome to the third edition of the municipal newsletter in 2017, our quarterly information dissemination designed to keep you, our valued reader informed about service delivery developments and future plans of the municipality.

We are required by the Municipal Systems Act and the Promotion of Access to Information Act to provide information on the services and activities of the municipality in relation to service delivery.

And the municipal newsletter is one of the communication vehicle utilised by the municipality to communicate service delivery developments. Other communication vehicles include posters, social media, radio and newspapers. I am over the moon to announce that the municipality has introduced the Complaints Management System to allow community members to file their complaints to the municipality.

In this edition, we have included information on how to lodge a complaint with the municipality. We have also moved away from the traditional editorial ethics of publishing the Municipal Manager’s Desk by introducing the perspective note on Planning and Development outlook for opening up growth and investment opportunities.

We want the Municipal Newsletter to reflect the views of our valued readers hence we are appealing to them, our valued readers to submit letters which will be published. And such letters should not exceed more than 250 words.

I hope you enjoy this edition and do let us know if there are issues you would like to be covered in future.

Follow us on Twitter:@BLM7992 and like us on Facebook: Bushbuckridge Municipality.
Executive Mayor’s Desk

We are three months into the 2017/2018 Financial Year (FY) and we have wrapped up the 2016/17 FY on a high note. The municipality has been inundated with phone calls and written complaints regarding the bad state of our roads and streets. The municipality has further been under pressure to supply clean running water across the municipal area of jurisdiction. We acknowledge the challenges we are faced with and we further acknowledge the importance of supplying adequate services to the communities. It is our constitutional obligation to ensure that proper services are efficiently and effectively provided as enshrined in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

In an attempt to address the challenges and backlogs facing the municipality in terms of roads, streets, bridges, sanitation, and water, the municipality has explored all avenues ensuring that the supply of adequate and necessary resources are within reach. The municipality is working together with the Department of Water and Sanitation, Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ehlanzeni District Municipality and CoGTA in addressing the service delivery backlogs.

Bushbuckridge, like many other municipalities in the country, is faced with the triple challenge of inequality, poverty, and unemployment. In an effort to fight the latter the municipality is busy trying to gather investors to invest in agriculture, property development, steel manufacturing plants, brick-making and crusher stones initiatives.

The municipality will partner with different investors to create jobs, improve local economic development that will better the lives of the people of Bushbuckridge.

My office will continuously give feedback on service delivery through the Mayoral Imbizos. We recently visited the Agincourt region targeting Ward 27, 28, 36 and 37. This platform affords the community space to engage the municipality on matters of service delivery. There will be other three (3) community engagement covering all wards in Bush Midlands, North and South.

Municipal Manager’s Desk

In this issue of the BLM, the Municipal Manager gives his perspective on Planning and Development outlook for opening up growing investment opportunities.

Here is a brief background that highlights the importance of planning and development perspectives:

A world historical overview: When land was plenty, nomadic communal societies settled anywhere, where the resources of livelihood prevailed and infrastructure for survival was not complex. In these survivalist communities security, shelter, food availability and cultural values were at the centre of day-to-day survival.

Development was underpinned by man testing nature, for example, the friction of stones to generate fire, mining of iron to produce domestic implements and weapons, hence Stone Age and Iron Age leading to town and cities of the time as recorded and archeological work revealed to date.

However, with dynamics in development, survivalist economies soon got out of mode, overtaken by intense competition for the survival. The era of immense population growth, profound violence, and exploitation of man by man ensued leading to the era of immense population growth, profound violence and exploitation of man by man ensued with divided clans and tribes, battles and wars, establishment of nation states and class divided societies became the order of the day within scarce resources in the same space.

The spread of these phenomena and behaviour manifested themselves in divided communities. At the centre of this conflict was the fight for resources. Exploitation gained momentum giving rise to slums and poor infrastructure due to little or absolute lack of town planning.

Overcrowding, particularly in areas of development, became a common phenomenon, with diseases, crime, degradation of cultural values, lack of facilities and amenities being experienced.

It is under these circumstances, amongst others, that town planning arose to try and solve socio-economic challenges.

In a word, it is under degenerating social conditions that great town planners had to think about how to improve socio-economic conditions.

Town planning arose in these circumstances. Concomitantly, these great thinkers accepted that development was unavoidable and its form and content had to be recognized as perceived and understood at the time. Indeed the challenge was to look at production activities, living conditions of workers, health conditions, crime etc. Hence the allocation of scarce resources of land for filling of seeds (farming), industrial development and offices, housing accommodation, police stations etc.
Town Planning

Coming closer to today’s societies town planning and development will continue being critical and central in all developing and developed economies. At the centre of town planning is the utilisation of the land, a scarce and valuable resource.

Current societies are based on planning and development. Hence in South Africa the IDP at local government sphere becomes the blueprint of planning and development. At a national level, the NDP has been adopted. The IDP and NDP is the microm and macrosm of a development paradigm which must coexist in planning and development respectively.

All municipalities in Mpumalanga adopted a human settlement strategy which basically means that human settlements warrants focused planning and implementation with the municipality being at the citadel of planning: ensuring that human settlement become socially and economically viable, with amenities and facilities for development: schools, clinics, bulk infrastructure (sewer/water treatment works, electricity plus roads), streets, electricity connections, refuse removal, reticulated water provision, formalisation of township establishment.

It should be emphasised that local government is at the centre of planning with the provincial and national departments providing services according to their competencies like schools, clinics, provincial roads, police stations etc. Thus municipalities have to identify aspects of planning and development during IDP fora to enhance a better life for all. Planning outside the IDP adopted by the municipality is not acceptable. Indeed, the assertion is that planning and counter-planning against the IDP and NDP are not in order. In planning and development various stakeholders must be invited and involved in all processes, with comments and pledges to uphold such decisions. Municipalities also have an obligation to report back to communities, on progress made in implementations.

Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 2013

This law became effective in July 2015.

According to this legislation, communities are compelled to follow processes of acquiring land. In terms of SPLUMA, the municipality has to plan for all space within its jurisdiction. The planning will ensure that people will be allocated land where it is desirable to settle people, once the municipality has provided basic services, water, sanitation, electricity, land tenure, provide refuse removal services, have maintenance staff in the areas etc.

The key aspect of EIA must be conducted, which guides on areas which people should not build e.g. where there is dolomite, flood areas, existing or planned servitudes.

The EIA is conducted through various departments which check and gets different conditions for approval of any settlements. The latter takes a long time about 18 months.

The latter process involves housing, business, clinic or school development.

Development

Potential investment and economic development within the municipal area of jurisdiction is always welcomed but is subjected to the above processes as well, through the municipal town planning unit.

The development potential in the Bushbuckridge area including attracting investment is great beyond imagination.

In relation to development physical economic development need space which should be assessed through town planning, economic viability, diversification, stakeholder benefaction, job creation, skills development, the overall impact to the economy of BLM and its general economic impact and the province as a whole.

The immediate matter to be taken cognisance by all within BLM is to ensure the available space for business development towards the economic impact in the whole area. This means that spaces within the municipality earmarked for business development should be protected by all who live in the municipal area of jurisdiction.

In the above respect, communities are urged not to invade land at all. Invasion of land is counter development.

It must be always be taken into cognizance that once communities embrace the above, then investors become more attracted to such municipalities which have protected spaces for economic development with community support at the same time communities do benefit through short and long-term jobs created.

Investor Confidence

It is a well-known fact that the investor confidence about South Africa is at an all-time low. On the contrary, the potential even under these negative economic climate can be great, taking cognisance of the following:

• The potential for diverse infrastructure development remains an attraction to investors who would like to improve the lives of people in need for basic services. It must be borne in mind that the national government has been fundamental and leading in this respect, through grants and other formulas of financial assistance, through Division of Revenue (DORA) e.g. Equitable Share, Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) etc.

• Communities are the greatest strength (NGOs, CBOs, church organisations, business organisations etc.). Investors are more attracted to communities that will accept them with open hands and protected them during their landing, implementation up to the handover of projects.

• It is a well-known fact that in BLM the Traditional Authorities are also key stakeholders in enhancing all the above. In holding hands with the municipal Council the Traditional Authorities and vice versa, great conditions for investment are created for investor confidence.

Title deeds

The title deed is an essential document for ownership of property. This document is often undermined, yet it is the lifeblood for all property owners (individuals, business, government). In a word, all those who have property allocated at the moment should welcome title deeds which are issued after formalisation of land for a specific development approval.

Title deeds enhance the proof of residents that is issued by Traditional Authorities provided that SPLUMA is followed.

In some cases, the challenge of who owns the property remains the ultimate determination of the courts which takes time and money to defend the claim.

The advantage of having a title deed is that no one can ever claim or counterclaim the same property. The property belongs to the holder of the title deed as registered in the deeds registry by the municipality.

Currently, in line with obligations of establishing human settlements, the municipality has already formalised certain areas as townships and the deeds are available in the municipal offices. These will be issued by the Executive Mayor during Imbizos after the owners fill their particulars on forms available. All property owners are urged to have title deeds.

Deeds ownership is a security in current economies, without which it is difficult to survive and make progress in your life and that of your family. Consequently all communities are urged to follow processes of being allocated land portions, after town planning processes have been followed per request of individuals or groups.
Research shows that girls who are underprivileged and cannot afford basic necessities miss up to a quarter of their schooling days annually during their menstrual cycles. It has also been found that the underprivileged girl child is also at risk - health-wise as they opt or settle for a newspaper, tissue paper, socks and other soft materials during their period that may attract infections over time.

250 learners benefited from over 1000 sanitary towels that were donated to the school. The sanitary towels campaign is a national campaign aimed at keeping the girl-child in class even during their menstrual cycle.

Giving the message of support, Mr. Sthembiso Mkansi from Pumplink Engineering urged learners particularly girls to study hard and stay in class.

“South Africa is in need of engineers, pilots and other specialised field workers, therefore the towels we give to you today are meant to keep you in class and answer that you never miss a day due to lack of confidence during cycles,” said Mr. Mkansi.

Delivering the keynote address, Acting Executive Mayor Cllr. N. Tivane said that the only way which young women can develop themselves is by going to school. “But you can’t develop yourselves if there will be days where you cannot attend classes due to lack of these necessities. Hence the government in partnership with the private sector have come here to ensure that you are in class and receive quality education without missing a day,” he said.

The Acting Mayor further urged the young girls to also take note that the government has made all means possible that no child should be out of school for whatever reason. “You are here looking very beautiful and studying for free at the expense of many other young people who have sacrificed their lives during the 1976 Soweto uprising thus earning you the democracy whose fruits you are reaping today,” concluded the Acting Executive Mayor Cllr. N. Tivane.
The Department of Public Service and Administration Minister Hon. Faith Muthambi visited Casteel Thusong Service Centre on 22 September 2017, Bushbuckridge in the Mpumalanga Province.

The visitation was part of the nationwide celebration of Thusong Service Centres and Public Service Month under the theme “Advancing Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises”.

The main objectives of this visit were to monitor and assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of services rendered to the public. 22 September 2017 was also a day where the closing ceremony for the Thusong Service Centre Week was held.

Government celebrated the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week from the 18 - 22 September which aimed to inform the citizens about the services, information and opportunities available at their nearest Thusong Service Centres.

The month of September is generally used to recognise public servants who follow “Batho Pele” principles that require them to be polite, transparent and to deliver good service to the public.

Delivering a keynote address, the Honourable Minister, Faith Muthambi urged members of the community to refrain from all illegal and violent protests.

“We are living in a democratic country and the government of the day has made all channels and processes available for people to launch any sort of a complaint or grievance, peacefully without infringing on the rights of others by embarking on illegal and violent service delivery protests,” concluded the Minister.

During the question and answer (Q and A) session, community members raised various issues ranging from roads, high mast lights, community halls, and the question of National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) together with the South African Revenue Services (SARS)offices, with shortages of water supply topping up the agenda.

South African Police Services (SAPS), the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, were in attendance and also members of the community.

Flanking the Minister were the Acting Executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge Cllr. Phineas Selowe, Moreipuso Traditional Council, Government Communications Department, Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Department of Health, South African Police Services, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa and the community at large.
Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) strongly condemns illegal gatherings perpetuated by community members and concerned groups.

The municipality has experienced a spate of illegal violent service delivery protests or marches in the previous months and some marches became so violent resulting in damage to properties.

As much as the municipality respect the rights of community members to picket, assemble and march as stipulated in the Constitution of the country; the municipality will not in the same breath allow lawlessness to reign supreme.

The Executive Mayor is calling upon community members to follow the correct procedures before embarking on public protests or protest marches. In terms of the Regulation of Gatherings Act 205 of 1993 as amended by Safety Matters Rationalisation Act 90 of 1996 which regulates the holding of public gatherings and demonstrations; any organisation or group of people intending to hold a gathering shall appoint a person to be responsible for the arrangements of the gathering and to be present thereat.

The Convener shall within seven days before the date of the gathering, give notice of the intended gathering to the responsible official. Gatherings should take place peacefully and with due regard to the rights of others.

The municipality has appointed the chief Traffic Officer, Mr. Judas Chiloane as the responsible official for approving gatherings and protests applications. He is contactable on 079 874 3363 or email chiloanej@bushbuckridge.gov.za.

The municipality has developed a culture of community participation that allows the voice of the community to be heard.

And one of the mechanism is through the submission of petitions to the municipality, the petition must be submitted in the three (3) languages spoken within the municipal area of jurisdiction.

A petition is a complaint or request or a representation or submission to the municipality by individual (single petitioner), association or an individual submission mandated by association, a collective or collection of signatures from a number of people, mass groups or groups concerning the same or substantially similar complaints or requests.

The central receiving point for petitions submitted to the municipality is the office of the Speaker. Petitions may be hand delivered, posted, emailed or delivered through a march to the office of the Speaker.

Upon the receipt of the petition, the municipality through the office of the Speaker will acknowledge the receipt of the petition in writing within and seven days, contact the petitioner or representatives.

If there are any unclear matters or omitted information, please forward details of the petition to the Municipal Manager or Council committee for noting and recommendations.
Exec Mayor Uses Imbizo To Provide Service Delivery Feedback

In an attempt to give feedback on service provision while taking stock of service delivery challenges that community members from Ward 27, 28, 35 and 37 contend with, the Executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo hosted a Mayoral Imbizo, at Mazembeni Phelendaba Sports ground, on 19 September 2017.

During the Mayoral Imbizo, the Executive Mayor gave a service delivery report and future plans of the municipality in relation to the above-mentioned wards.

The Mayor reported that the reason that High Mast Lights are not working under wards 27 is due to lack of electrical connection, she said that Eskom has been engaged to provide energy to the High Mast Lights and work will commence on 26 September 2017.

On water, the Mayor alluded that boreholes are not working in Croquet Lawn, MP Stream and Cunnungmoore B and she said that a team of water technicians will be sent to the boreholes to investigate the cause of the problem.

In the same breath, the Mayor reported that all water projects including five (5) reservoirs implemented by Rand Water have been taken over by the municipality for implementation. New service providers will be appointed to take over from Rand Water.

The Mayor added that as a short-term remedy, steel tanks will be utilised whilst the municipality awaits the completion of water reticulation projects. On human settlements, the Mayor indicated that ward 27 and 28 have been allocated 100 RDP houses each. She urged respective councillors to ensure that houses are given to deserving needy people, focusing on child-headed families and senior citizens.

On internal streets, the Mayor reported that the municipality has bought four (4) extra graders to assist with the grading of internal streets and access roads. The Mayor also handed over 100 blankets and food parcels to needy community members, courtesy of Emalangeni Technologies.

The Mayoral Imbizo is a two-way communication system which is aimed at improving service delivery and involving the community in processes and decisions made by the municipality on behalf of the community. The Mayor will continue to give feedback to the communities on service delivery across the municipality.

BLM Announces Complaints Management System

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) is delighted to announce the introduction of Complaints Management System which will allow community members to file and lodge complaints to the municipality. The Complaints Management System is intended to address external complaints made by community members. The municipality will only investigate complaints against administrative actions, procedures, and practices.

The municipality only attends to complaints pertaining the following:

- Poor services
- Failure to provide basic services
- Disregard of Batho Pele Principles
- Refusal to respond to any inquiry, complaints or other correspondence

• Public consultation on matters of public interests
• Any matter that falls within the scope of the Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000

Who may file and lodge a complaint?
A complaint may be filed and lodged by any member of the public who believes that his or her right to municipal services has been violated or compromised by the municipality.

How to file and lodge a complaint?
A complaint must be lodged in writing in any of the languages spoken in the municipal area of jurisdiction. The municipality has placed complaints register books and boxes in all regional offices, libraries and Driving License, Testing and Centres (DLTC’s) and community members may use these books to lodge their complaints or alternatively email complaints to complaints@bushbuckridge.gov.za and/or send a fax to 013 799 1867.

All written complaints must be accompanied by the following information:
• Full name of the plaintiff
• Contact details and
• Nature of the complaint

What happens after lodging a complaint?
As soon as a complaint is lodged, the complainant will receive the acknowledgment confirming receipt of the complaint within 3 days. All complaints will be treated with the strictest confidence. If a complaint is against a Government Department, the complaint will be forwarded to the relevant Department for quick resolution and the complaint will be informed accordingly.

How long does it take for a complaint to be resolved?
Complaints that relate to simple matters are finalised within 14 working days but complex complaints may be finalised in a maximum of 30 days. And after the conclusion of the investigation, the complainant will be notified in writing of the outcome outlining key findings and/or recommendations.
Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) is vastly rural, with large part of its geographical areas are still under-developed.

Bushbuckridge has in the past few years been ranked as one of the adverse municipalities failing to provide proper service delivery due to its limited resources.

In an endeavour to speed up service delivery and addressing all the backlogs of the past, the municipality has taken a resolution not to outsource services like grading, gravelling, refuse collection and other minor services.

The municipality has invested millions of rands in purchasing heavy machinery to address the backlogs of the past, particularly street grading, opening inaccessible roads, bridges and refuse removal.

The heavy and light machinery purchased include amongst others four (4) earth moving graders, three (3) tipper trucks, two (2) skip loaders trucks, three twin caps bakkies, four (4) single caps bakkies and one (1) baby quantum.

“We have acquired 50 steel skip bins that will be distributed to all areas.

The municipality is adamant that these machines will add to the current fleet available and ensure that roads will no longer only be graded when there is a funeral or a wedding, rather be graded as often and as necessary needed while working on a plan of having all the roads tarred up,” said Executive Mayor Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo.

The Executive Mayor urged members of the community to not temper with the municipal or government property whenever they are disgruntled.

Such as venting out frustrations on government property like the burning of roads and buildings.

She also condemned cable theft which costs the municipality a fortune and as a result cutting off water supply thus triggering even more unnecessary service delivery protests.

“I challenge members of the community who think they might have exhausted all avenues of trying to get help to come to the table since my door is all open. I urge community members not to embark on violent service delivery protests before they may have knocked all the relevant offices for assistance.

There are policies and legislation that govern how people should conduct themselves and follow-up on issues raised peacefully,” the Executive Mayor said.

The machines purchased and placed in all the municipal regional offices as per the community’s need, are properties of the community to serve the community of Bushbuckridge.

It is, therefore, necessary that members of the community safeguard and look after these properties.

Report any form of criminal acts to the police from cable theft, water, rape, human trafficking, and electricity theft as this is necessary for a healthy community and progressive future,” Executive Mayor Cllr. Sylvia Nxumalo concluded.
BLM and Traditional Council Celebrate Cultural Values

On 9 September 2017, Moreipušo Traditional Council under the leadership of Kgoshi MO Mashego hosted uMmemo (Cultural function), at Moreipušo Sports Ground.

The main purpose of the event was to educate members of the community about the importance of cultural values in an effort to ensure that the spirit of Ubuntu is upheld every time, as well as celebrating the Mapulana tribe culture and norms.

Delivering a message of support, the Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo alluded that it is important for community members to celebrate and embrace their cultural values as this defines their origin and roots. The mayor said that a person without the knowledge of their history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.

She urged all traditional councils as custodians of culture to continue educating people and children about culture values peculiar to their tribe.

The Executive Mayor said that she was pleased that under Moreipušo Traditional Council, no initiation school death was reported.

On land developments, the Mayor said that the municipality with the support of the Department of Human Settlements has approved the establishment of Lehumo Township under Moreipušo Traditional Council.

And in the same breath, she made a solemn plea to all the traditional councils to work hand in glove with the municipal town planners before demarcating sites for residential or business purposes. The establishment of Lehumo Township is one step in realising the commitment of the municipality in land restoration and giving people dignified land for residential purposes.

The Mayor concluded by saying that the municipality values the role of the traditional leadership in communities, particularly the rural development and she committed herself to strengthening relations with them.

On land developments, the Mayor said that the municipality with the support of the Department of Human Settlements has approved the establishment of Lehumo Township under Moreipušo Traditional Council.

The event was convincingly attended by approximately 500 people who braved the hot scorching sun. The event was graced by various Chiefs from other regiments and among them was Chief Mnisi of Mnisi Traditional Council, Chief Nkuna of Hoxani Traditional Council, Chief Mogane of Kgarudi Traditional Council, Chief of Msogwaba Traditional Council, Inkosi Mahlangu the Deputy Chairperson of Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders (MPHTL), MMC of Arts and Culture Violet Nkuna, BLM councillors and community members from all walks of life.

The Mayor has already attended a few uMmemos and she will continue to grace such gatherings within the municipal boundaries.

The Mayor concluded by saying that the municipality values the role of the traditional leadership in communities, particularly the rural development and she committed herself to strengthening relations with them.

The event was convincingly attended by approximately 500 people who braved the hot scorching sun. The event was graced by various Chiefs from other regiments and among them was Chief Mnisi of Mnisi Traditional Council, Chief Nkuna of Hoxani Traditional Council, Chief Mogane of Kgarudi Traditional Council, Chief of Msogwaba Traditional Council, Inkosi Mahlangu the Deputy Chairperson of Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders (MPHTL), MMC of Arts and Culture Violet Nkuna, BLM councillors and community members from all walks of life.

Community members listening attentively to the Mayor presenting a service delivery report and future plans of the municipality.
Bushbuckridge Local Municipality Opens Doors for Investors

Bushbuckridge is undoubtedly rural and is sitting with a very high youth unemployment rate, faced with poverty, inequality, and crime. The area is also notoriously undeveloped with poor roads infrastructure, lack of industrialisation and other platforms that will allow greater economic activities to flourish. Bushbuckridge’s economic centres revolve around Agriculture and Tourism.

Bushbuckridge is the only municipality boasting the Gate-way passage to the world-renowned park (Kruger National Park). However a lot of the citizens are still living below the poverty line and the situation can only be attributed to the landscape structure of the area that has for many years, failed to attract investors in Agriculture and Tourism.

However, this situation might soon be a thing of the past with Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) opening its doors to all forms of investments, starting from Agriculture, Tourism, Mining and the Retail Industry. The municipality has since been ranked number three (3) behind Mbombela and Emalahleni municipalities in terms of the local economic contribution.

The BLM in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture has embarked on several Agricultural projects in the stimulation of the economic activity and curbing of poverty.

The Department of Agriculture has invested Five (5) million rands on a Zoeknog Crop Production Project, the project has since created 40 job opportunities for the local and surrounding communities. The project covers over five (5) hectares of land and produces various crops that go straight into the market.

The Department has also went on to invest a further Five (5) million rands which is meant to resuscitate and maintain the Allandale Citrus Farm, Fortune Forty Cooperative is utilising Five hectares meant for the production of tomatoes. The citrus is functional, irrigation system refurbished and the farm is well secured and over forty (40) have been employed.

**Tourism Projects**

Tourism is the new-age gold mining sector, having created millions of jobs worldwide with over hundreds of thousands of those jobs created in South Africa.

BLM’s economic backbones are Agriculture and Tourism, with Bushbuckridge being a non-industrialised site, that means there are no mining or firms that stimulate the economy.

As a result, Bushbuckridge has been noted as a nodal point for its inability to collect revenue but depending on government grants for rendering and delivering services.

Bushbuckridge is experiencing a high rate of unemployment, crime, illiteracy, and other social ills, addressing the challenges the BLM has explored all possible avenues to curb all the social ills, particularly in the Tourism Sector. These are the projects the municipality, government departments and all other stakeholders have explored in addressing social ills:

The Department of Environmental Affairs has set aside over 19.2 million rands for the resuscitation of Bushbuckridge Nature Reserve. Over 288 jobs have been created for the Alien plant clearing and boundary clearing.

A 53-million-rand project of upgrading infrastructure, accommodation, conference and office blocks at the Manyeleti Game Reserve by the Department of Environmental Affairs was completed. This project established over 298 temporary jobs.

In an endeavor to eradicate poverty and unemployment by creating job opportunities, the municipality and the private sector have joined hands in the establishment and development of new shopping centres and the extension of the existing ones.

The municipality and Engine have a joint venture in the construction of an integrated energy centre (filling station). The project is sitting at 80% completion.

A development and construction of Dwarsloop Mall at a cost of 400 million is underway and is expected to be opened by 26 October 2017. A total of 309 temporary jobs have been created.

Another new development at Thulamahashe at an estimated cost of 200 million rands has hit the ground running and has created a number of temporary jobs, the extension of the existing shopping complex at an estimated cost of 280 million is underway and has created 75 job opportunities.

The refurbishment of the burnt down Bushbuckridge Shoprite at 20 million rands is complete and has seen the creation of over 190 temporary jobs.

A 600 million rands new Mapulaneng Regional hospital is under construction, the first phase has so far employed 31 temporary people for fencing, access roads construction, and sewage systems.

BLM has become part of the municipalities to have created new townships establishment since 1994.

The township establishment includes the conveyance of five (5) townships: Casteel, Rolle, Rooibocklaagte, Burlington and Lillydale.

Service providers are on site with the exception of Casteel that’s been re-advertised.
BLM Hosts Heritage Day Celebration

In a bid to sustain, protect and celebrate the diverse cultural heritage, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) in partnership with Hoxani Traditional Authority hosted a Heritage Day Celebration, on 22 September 2017 at the Mkuhlu Community Hall.

The main purpose of the event was to remind and reconnect community members with their rich and diverse cultural heritage as well as fostering social cohesion and national identity amongst all residents.

Speaking at the Heritage Day Celebration, the Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo said that it pains her to hear members of the public who speak Sepulana, Xitsonga and Siswati not making an effort to speak other indigenous African languages other than their own.

And she told community members that the municipality has approved and adopted Sepulana, Xitsonga and Siswati as medium official languages and, advised members of the community to develop a strong desire to learn all the languages spoken within the municipal boundaries and understand the cultures as well, and to immerse themselves in the richness of their collective cultural heritage.

The Mayor also reiterated the call by the Deputy President, Cyril Ramaphosa during his Heritage Day speech in 2014 when he said, “Although we speak different languages, practice different beliefs, engage in different cultural practices and tell different stories, we are bound together by a common African Heritage.”

The Mayor called for unity amongst the three (3) and said that as the country celebrates the life of Oliver Tambo, a struggle icon and hero who was a firm believer in unity, it is crucially important for all citizens of Bushbuckridge to desist from looking down on other people because of the language they speak.

To emphasise her point, the Mayor quoted a Sepedi idiom, “Tau tša hloka seboka di shitwa ke nare e tlotša” loosely translated as “If Lions don’t work together, they will fail to kill a wounded limping Buffalo”. “United we stand, divided we fall,” said the Executive Mayor.

She urged senior citizens who were in attendance to share with the younger generation, their knowledge so that they don’t die with their knowledge as heritage is made up of practices and traditions that are passed on from parents to children formally and/or informally.

In the same breath, she announced that in celebration of Heritage Day next year: the municipality will introduce a cultural attire competition in which the best-dressed community member in any cultural attire will win a prize.

The Executive Mayor concluded her speech by encouraging community members to go back to their cultures of planting and eating traditional food such as taro roots, cassava, sweet potatoes, peanuts and ground nuts because they are rich in minerals and healthy too.

She also urged parents to instill the culture of healthy eating in children as junk food leads to obesity and leaves them prone to viruses.

Traditional groups entertained the crowd and traditional food was served to the community such as Samp and beans, peanuts, sweet potatoes, and corn maize. In attendance were councillors, traditional authorities and community members from all walks of life.
The municipality has spent millions of rands in the 2016/17 Financial Year (FY) in the construction of bulk water line and water reticulation in various villages.

Over a 117 250 will benefit from the construction of a Bulk water supply. The villages set to benefit from the bulk water supply projects are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>2016/17 Budget</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Status quo</th>
<th>Jobs created</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agincourt and Ireagh Bulk water supply (B22)</td>
<td>117 250</td>
<td>R 5 045 057.96</td>
<td>R 5 045 057.96</td>
<td>Construction at 89%</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hluvukani Bulk Water supply B9 Phase 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>R3 880 389.52</td>
<td>R3 880 389.52</td>
<td>Construction at 98%</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hluvukani Bulk Water Supply B9 Phase 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>R 3 018 919.19</td>
<td>R 3 018 919.19</td>
<td>Construction at 98%</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Forest and Orinoco Bulk Supply (B14)</td>
<td></td>
<td>R 6 049 568.92</td>
<td>R 6 049 568.92</td>
<td>Construction at 60%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk Water Supply to Belfast, Lillydale, Justicia (pipeline) B21A</td>
<td></td>
<td>R 373 167 60</td>
<td>R 373 167 60</td>
<td>Construction at 98%</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of a Bulk pipeline in Burlington (B2)</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>R 6 457 217.41</td>
<td>R 6 457 217.41</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of a Bulk pipeline in Buffelshoek (B2)</td>
<td>3169</td>
<td>R 7 249 488.07</td>
<td>R 7 249 488.07</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk Water Supply at Belfast (pipeline) B21A (package plant)</td>
<td>1514</td>
<td>R8 153 280</td>
<td>R 5 139 105.75</td>
<td>Construction at 45%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The municipality has spent over one hundred million of rands for the provision of water reticulation with the following villages expected to benefit from the projects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provision of Water Reticulation at Carlton</th>
<th>Provision of water re-ticulation with yards connection at Violetbank A &amp; C</th>
<th>Provision of water reticulation with yards connection at Benoni (Casteel)</th>
<th>Provision of water reticulation with yards meter connection at Malubane Mkhuhlu F</th>
<th>Water reticulation at Mkhuhlu, Calcutta A, B &amp; C with yard meter connection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>880</td>
<td>R32 310 990. 86</td>
<td>R32 310 990. 86</td>
<td>Completed 75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1112</td>
<td>R16 991 858. 80</td>
<td>R16 975 571. 75</td>
<td>Completed 64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249</td>
<td>R6 022 480. 10</td>
<td>R5 919 724. 03</td>
<td>Completed 22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2930</td>
<td>R42 979 279. 74</td>
<td>R42 979 279. 74</td>
<td>Completed 66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5512</td>
<td>R117 079 810. 51</td>
<td>R114 478 247 .54</td>
<td>Completed 244</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROGRESS MADE IN IMPROVING WATER SUPPLY: WATER REMAINS PRIORITY

NUMBER ONE. . . continues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>2016/17 Budget</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Status quo</th>
<th>Jobs created</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Water Reticulation at Dumphries A</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>R2 641 377.64</td>
<td>R2 641 377.64</td>
<td>Construction at 95%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Water Reticulation at Dumphries B</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>R5 339 366.17</td>
<td>R5 339 366.17</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Water Reticulation at Dumphries C</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>R614 057.50</td>
<td>R614 057.50</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Water Reticulation at Maromeng Phase 1</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>R5 890 000.00</td>
<td>R5 890 000.00</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Water Reticulation at Maromeng Phase 2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>R9 999 259.16</td>
<td>R9 999 259.16</td>
<td>Construction at 40%</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Water Reticulation at Acornhoek</td>
<td>2300</td>
<td>R28 817 590.84</td>
<td>R28 817 590.84</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Water Reticulation at Ludlow</td>
<td>2125</td>
<td>R9 923 109.91</td>
<td>R9, 923, 109.91</td>
<td>Construction at 96%</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Water Reticulation at Cargoinn</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>R2 328 009.09</td>
<td>R2 328 009.09</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Water Reticulation at Blackfesi, Thabakgolo and Masakeng</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>R4 923 090.91</td>
<td>R4 923 090.91</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Water Reticulation at Kjie-lang</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>R2970 773.78</td>
<td>R2 979 773.78</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of Water Reticulation at Bur-lington</td>
<td>1298</td>
<td>R18 378 200.60</td>
<td>R18 378 200.60</td>
<td>Construction at 60%</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inviation For Bursary Application For 2018 Academic Year

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality hereby invite applications for bursaries to assist learners from disadvantaged and indigent families who reside within the municipal area of jurisdiction for the academic year 2018.

Applications are invited from the following field of studies:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ENGINEERING: ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, SOUND, INDUSTRIAL, MINING AND WATER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ COMPUTER SCIENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>TOURISM MANAGEMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>B.COM ACCOUNTING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>AUDITING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENT STUDIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNER (TOWN PLANNER)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>QUANTITY SURVEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ARCHITECTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>AGRICULTURAL STUDIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>PUBLIC MANAGEMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>ECONOMICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>CHEMISTRY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>COMMUNICATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>LAW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>SOCIAL SCIENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>STATISTICS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPLICATION: Application must be submitted on the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality bursary application forms, obtainable from all municipal offices or download from the municipal website: www.bushbuckridge.gov.za Completed application forms must be accompanied by the below mentioned documents

- Mid-year examination results or grade 12 results.
- Salary advice/affidavit/pension receipt from parent or guardian.
- Certified copy of ID or birth certificate
- Proof of residence
- Letter of reference from school primary or any other than a family member

CONDITIONS: Enquiries shall be directed to the Youth Coordinator, contactable on cell number 071 675 9366. No Email, faxed and incomplete forms will not be considered. Late submission will not be considered. Correspondence will be done to successful applicants. If you are not consulted by the 10th February consider your application unsuccessful. Application should be submitted at Municipal Head Office and or nearest Municipal Regional Office.

Closing Date: 12 January 2018

BLM COMMUNICATION

Sunrise Women Awards Honours BLM Executive Mayor With Humanitarian Award

On 10 August 2017 at the Emnotweni Arena, the Executive Mayor Cllr Sylvia Nxumalo was honoured with a Humanitarian Award in the form of a trophy and framed certificate at the Sunrise Women Awards. This award serves as recognition of the remarkable contribution made by the Mayor in Mpumalanga and South Africa as a whole.

The Sunrise Women Awards were established to recognise women who have excelled in various fields ranging from arts, beauty, fashion, media, sports, environment, humanitarian services and entrepreneurship.

The municipality would like to congratulate the Mayor on auspicious achievement, and let it be known that all the hard work done by the Mayor doesn't go unnoticed.