

THULAMELA

The Official Newsletter of Thulamela Municipality



SECOND EDITION

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THE PHAPHAZELA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PUTS SERVICE DELIVERY AT THE FOREFRONT



Mayor Grace Mahosi greeting, while a local makhwaya group entertain members of the community during the Phaphazela public participation

The Thulamela Municipality Mayor Cllr. Grace Mahosi required no second chance as she laid bare her administration's service delivery priorities during her Mayoral Public Participation Programme held at the Phaphazela Sports Ground under Ward 18 of the municipality on 16th March 2012.

Public participation; formally known as Imbizo, is a coming together of government, at either national, provincial or local levels and communities to discuss service delivery and related matters. During these events, community members and their structures raise question and concerns on the services they require from their government and government responds to the issues raised. This time around the participation was taken to Phaphazela.

It is a village in the East of the Thulamela Municipality under ward 18. It has experienced problems in the provision of mostly basic services from government. But these will soon be addressed thanks to the Public Participation.

Members of the community and such bodies as the ward committee, civic organisations, traditional leaders and other community organisations were knitted together to help chart the service delivery way forward with their local government; the Thulamela Municipality. While the community touched on such thorny issues as the availability of water and electricity, poor levels of schooling infrastructure and may others, the municipality paraded plans and strategies well thought and designed to alleviate all

forms of social inequalities experienced in the area.

Top on the concerns raised by the community was the maintenance of roads and paths in the area. It was raised that the recent Summer rains washed away the whole road network to a state of dilapidation. While acknowledging the seriousness of the matter Cllr Mulovhedzi told community dwellers that; "Issues of street maintenance is still a serious concern to our municipality. As it is we have about 40 wards within our borders and only 11 tractors to clean our streets. It is a serious issue that we are working on but it is a real challenge we are faced with." He said...

Cllr. Mulovhedzi added that in order for the municipality ...**continues on page 3**



VISION, MISSION AND MOTTO

Vision:

- To provide basic services to all our people in a sustainable manner and to create an enabling environment to improve the quality of life of our people
- To turn Thulamela into a tourist destination and productive agricultural area

Mission:

We build prosperity, eradicate poverty and promote social, political and economic empowerment of all our people through delivery of quality services, community participation, local economic development and smart administration.

Motto:

We serve with dedication

EDITORIAL COMMENT



Ndwamato Tshiila
Communication Manager

We welcome you to the second edition of our enthralling newsletter, The Thulamela. It couldn't have come at a better time as we enter the last quota of our 2011 - 2012 financial year; the year we promised would be highly filled with service delivery orientated projects all over our municipality.

Having heard from the State of the Nation Address by President Jacob Zuma, the Budget Speech by Finance Minister Pravin Godharn and the State of the Province Address by Premier Cassel Mathale, our government means business and serious business this year.

Our national government's focus will over the 2012 - 2013 financial year be glued to infrastructure development that will include the building of roads, railway lines, cities and various other buildings. One mistake the Thulamela Municipality cannot afford to commit would be to fold its arms, keep quiet and not join in this infrastructure chorus. We must join and play a significant part. This is not only necessary because it is being advanced by the national government, but also because it has a capability of washing away the poverty that stinks in a lot of our villages.

The now towering intermodal taxi rank we are building in Thohoyandou, the building of the stadium in Muraga, the construction of the Thulamela Information Centre at the Indoor Sports Centre by the Pundamaria Road, the whole vision 2030 of developing our Thohoyandou into a mega city, bare testimony to our commitment as the municipality, to improve our infrastructure; thus creating much needed jobs and erasing poverty out of our lives for good.

Having conducted such a wonderful back to school campaign to mark a very new 2012 academic year, we here at the Thulamela Municipality are waiting with baited breaths, for the lovely outcomes at the end of the year. We are also enlightened by our golden son; Ndwamato Ndou; Dzindi Primary School Principal who won the Silver Achievement Award at the South African National Teacher Awards in the primary school category. We are really elevated and may his good works spread across all other schools in the municipality to ensure that we continue to be an undisputed winning municipality that we are.

We will be looking forward to commemorating two of the momentous days in our calendar; May day and June 16 with a belief that once again our people; especially workers and youths get to have their issues tackled, challenges addressed and problems mopped away. We are also looking forward to the National Policy Conference of the ruling ANC, so as to see what policy shift we as the country in general and the Thulamela Municipality in particular, will have to adopt.

Son of the Soil; the great literary producer and African Philosopher ESKIA Mphahlele once said; "Afrikans must read, and read until it hurts." We at Thulamela commits to work, and work until it hurts. Enjoy your newsletter.

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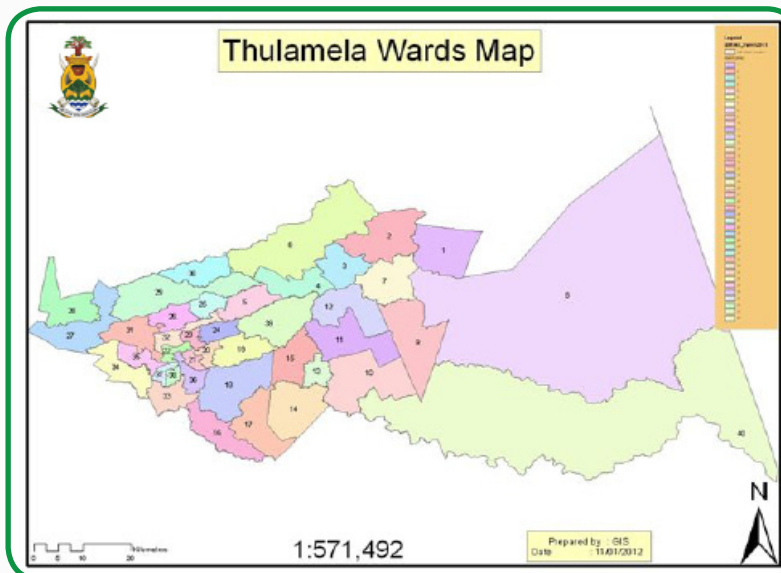
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FROM THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S DESK



Makonde Mathivha
(Municipal Manager)

As our national government urges closer to bidding good-bye to the 2011 - 2012 Financial year, we at local government level are required to complete our IDP and Budget drafts for the 2012 - 2013 financial year; the process which we have completed, all that is left is consultations with our communities for their contribution before the final draft is finalised.

It's worth noting that where service delivery is concerned, we are one of the best performing municipalities countrywide.

The massive infrastructure developments in our municipality tell a story of a municipality that means nothing but business. This, coupled with a spot on IDP and effective budget utilisation, has elevated our municipality to be amongst the best rural municipalities. It was thus by no fluke, that our national government gave us an additional R100 Million this financial year, which will give us even more vigour in ensuring better lives for all our people going to the future.

In this regard, the participation of our traditional leaders, individual community members, community based organisations and other community stakeholders comes highly worthwhile. We have over the years used every cent of all our funds to deliver crucial services our villages. And all this is because of your cooperation as community members. Massive developments in the whole municipality are just fruits of this cooperation.

We therefore further urge all community members to never stand aside but come together with the municipality so that together, we can make a team worth of all successes. This would mean that you as community members will continue to pay for the municipal services, those of you that are unemployed will come to our offices and be registered in our indigent register and attend all the meetings called by your municipality.

On the indigent register, it's highly advisable, that all the qualifying families should register so that as the municipality, we know which families are exempted from paying the municipal services. It also comes with such incentives as the Free Basic Electricity. If we do it this way, we will make a winning team of note.

Talking about winning our municipality is determined to win in its course to develop into a city by 2030. For this dream to become a reality, again we are humbly requesting you to participate in all the process devised to make vision 2030 a reality. On this note we urge specialised professionals such as engineers, lawyers and many others to play their role. We request they write their proposal in any language, suggesting how they think we can easily attain this vision. Their proposals will form part of the whole Vision 2030 draft to be used by the municipality for future proposal. This process will also give our communities an opportunity to play a role in major developments within our area.

Looking at all the development above you have no choice but to agree with us when we say; all we are doing is to ensure the ensure that our become government of the people, for the people, by the people.

Yours in local government, Makonde Mathivha.

THULAMELA MAYOR'S PLEDGE TO A DESTITUTE FAMILY



From Left to right: Cllr Maluleke S.G, Mayor Grace Mahosi, Hosi Phaphazela, House Recipient Maria Mabasa, Cllr Mulovhedzi H.P and Hosi Mukhomi

With the Winter season already on the door step the Thulamela Municipality Mayor Cllr. Grace Mahosi put the Maria Mabasa family in Phaphazela under ward 8 of the Municipality on the receiving end of the pre winter gift of a decent house. The announcement of the good news was made during a surprise visit by Mahosi and her contingent of councillors and administration workers from the municipality to the Mabasa family on Friday 17th March 2012, just few minuets before the Municipality's Mayoral Public Participation Programme popularly known as Imbizo held at Phaphazela on the day.

The dire situation as experienced by the unemployed Mabasa and her family of six was noticed and marked by the local leadership comprising the councillor, traditional leadership and the local civic structure. When presented to the municipality Mayor Mahosi required no second invitation to respond to the most basic of needs to this family.

Speaking during the visit to her house Maria Mabasa could not arrest her tears as they ran down her aged chicks. She said she was grateful God ha finally answered her prayers. It was however clear that a promise of a place to sleep really robbed her of words to describe her joy. "What can I say to express this feeling? I have never felt like this my entire life, this is the type of news I have been praying to hear all this years." She rejoiced. Mabasa whose family was sharing a thatched but water leaking hut and a separate one room house relies mainly on child support grant for survival. She told the Thulamela that she always had a serious problem during rainy weathers. "My hut here leaks like there is no roof, as a result we lost the little furniture we had as the family due to this condition, so much that when others were looking forward to a rain, we wished it never comes." She said; adding that she had already given up on a chance of having a proper house.

Having mopped the wrinkles of hopelessness away from Mabasa's ageing face, Thulamela Municipality Mayor Grace Mahosi said it was not fair for the Mabasa family to live under such conditions. "Everyone has a right to a safe and conducive shelter and what we are seeing here is not close to that. So many years into democracy, we should not be having such conditions in this country especially in Thulamela." She lamented.

Mahosi however said Mabasa's condition would once more reaffirm the caring and considerate nature of her government to the people of Thulamela. "We are the government of the people, for the people and by the people. This situation will once again prove that to the masses of our people." She concluded



THE PHAPHAZELA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PUTS SERVICE DELIVERY AT THE FOREFRONT



Thulamela Mayor Grace Mahosi addressing community members

Continues from page 1

...to attain successful road maintenance levels, each tractor will have to work within 5 wards and citizens and their local leadership including councillors would have to work together to identify streets and roads that are requiring urgent attention."With the Graders that we have, it would be virtually impossible to clean all your streets and roads all the time so the solution is to prioritise those that need quick attention and that can only be done by you and your councillors." He advised.

Part of the municipality's responsibilities is to give Free Basic Electricity especially to families registered as indigent in the municipality register, and living with a wage below R1500 a month. During the participation concerns were raised mainly on how families qualified for this service. Cllr. Mushoni Tshifhango; responsible for Housing and Electricity portfolio at the Municipality said the municipality was concerned that not all the deserving families were accessing this service. **"It is very concerning to note that free basic electricity which was supposed to be covering 500 000 people is only received by 500 people who followed proper channels of applying for it."** He complained while urging people to visit the housing and electricity portfolio office at the Thulamela Mu-

nicipality's offices in Thohoyandou. In her response, Mayor Grace Mahosi encouraged the Phaphazela community to break the silence on their dissatisfaction with her municipality's services. She reminded them that as community members and builders, they had an important role in nation building. **"This is your country and we are your government, we were sent by you to help better**

With researchers claiming that South Africa is quickly becoming a drunk country dues to alarming rates of drugs and alcohol abuses, Mayor Mahosi advised the youths against alcohol and substance abuse. **"Our youths are dying of alcohol and drug abuses. Surely if nothing is done, we are raising a nation that is heading nowhere, we therefore urge you as the communities to stop any attempts to reduce our society into a drunk society;"** she said, also commending the good work done by the Thulamela Youth Council to have the youths in the municipality sober. "Through the consultation with the forum, we have agreed that we shall no longer process any liquor trading license because as it is, we have too many shebeens, taverns and beer halls. Instead, we would love to see a reduction in the number of beer traders we have in the municipality." She added.

After much of the speeches, then came time for good news to the aspirant business men and women. The Thulamela Municipality has now embarked on business mind expansion with Nedbank. The relationship with the bank will help expand small business into reputable businesses.



Makhwaya traditional group perform for community members

your lives so it can't be reasonable that you don't rebuke us where we could be failing you. Silence does not build. Instead it destroys so we encourage you to use all the necessary channels to hold us accountable to your needs." She said....

Mahosi also lamented those who pay bribes to government officials. She warned that such tendencies often led to poor services to the public as officials would expect a bribe before they deliver, which she said could not be tolerated. "We already operate on your money as tax payers, why do you want to give us more? If you are bribing government officials including traffic officers, know that you are a problem to government because that is fraud and cannot be promoted." She rebuked

Mahosi said; **"through this co-operation, we will see our hawkers develop into bigger business people owning reputable business lords."** She boasted.

Referring to the clean job done by traditional leaders in the Municipality, Mahosi said government is thankful to the royalty as Kings and Queens were there to offer guidance and provide natural leadership to the government programmes and projects. She stopped short of lying on the ground to show honour to the royalties. But the message was clear; "We love you our leaders", she didn't have to utter it because it was written all over her face.



Community members listening to the Mayor's address



DZINDI PRIMARY SCHOOL'S PRINCIPAL PUTS THULAMELA ON THE MAP



Dzindi Primary school principal Ndwamato Ndou

Having joined the School in 2004, Ndou who also runs a Construction Company donated his company's services in building the then under resourced school four new class rooms, built a new computer lab of ten computers, started computer classes for adult community members, signed a partnership with a cellular Network MTN where the school benefits over R30 000 a year from the network, installed a water borehole and built flushing toilets and managed to raise the school's competitiveness in several competitions.

To put a cherry on top the MEC of Education in Limpopo Namane Dickson Masemola honoured Ndou with a Baobab Tree Award for representing Limpopo with flying colours at the NTA's.

All these achievements have made him one of the most sought after school manager in Vhembe. Just a year into his new job at Dzindi; Ndou has managed his path straight into the hearts of community members of Itsani where he has all off a sudden become a household name. Having built a computer lab at the school, opened a computer school for adult community members and already graduated over 150 students with Diploma, the Itsani Matieni Matieni Block 3 Sanco awarded Ndou with a Community Builder of the Year award.

Commenting to all his achievements the ever modest yet modern School Principal gives credit to all surrounding him but himself. "I am blessed with a beautiful team with

a beautiful orientated attitude. Even when am not around I always know work will be done effectively. We must also commend the School Governing Body and community members of Itsani for being there for me each time we needed them. Am quite certain with them right by our side, the sky can only be the limit." He said.

With its goodies, this award should spur him on to achieve the best. He got a R20 000 Bursary to study management at the highest level, a R15 000 cash for personal use, a R12 000 cash to develop his schools, free weekend at a hotel in Johannesburg with his spouse. "This should have been a bit more so that I can share with my beloved colleagues." He concluded.



Baobab Tree Award for representing Limpopo with flying colours

Those who doubted the idiom; "Dynamites come in small packages" should wait until they see Ndwamato Ndou, Dzindi Primary School's Principal in Itsani. He is actually a moving Dynamo in a small package that is his small body. Ndou who cut his school managerial teeth at Tshiseluselu Primary School in Khubvi was on Thursday the 23rd February 2012 the winner of the Silver Achievement Award at the South African National Teacher Awards in the primary school category. Thus putting not only the Limpopo Province on the map; but the Thulamela Municipality also.

Having joined Dzindi Primary just two years back, Ndou was awarded in recognition of his superb work in transforming both Tshiseluselu and Dzindi Primary School. But as he said it himself, his sterling work at Tshiseluselu got him this recognition.

MEC. MASEMOLA GRACES MAYOR GRACE MAHOSI'S BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN



Standing from left to right are: VDM Chief Whip Tshifhiwa Dali, VDM Acting Executive Mayor Lucas Manyuha, Mayor Grace Mahosi and Cril Maluleke S.G

the school were deafening silence and lack of school uniform roaming the school yard. All these meant one thing; academic year had begun and school work started; Much to the appreciation of the towering MEC.

Speaking at Mbilwi Namane Masemola told The Thulamela that the provincial department was very impressed with the performance of Mbilwi and other schools in the Thulamela Municipality.

"We are always happy with Mbilwi's performance every year. They have made it a culture not to disappoint. Equally so we are impressed by the performance of many other schools in the Thulamela and Vhembe areas in general, because what they produced in the recent matric results is actually above the national average." Said the emphatic Masemola.

As the first wails of different sirens marking the beginning of the 2012 academic year were heard, Limpopo Provincial MEC of Education Namane Dickson Masemola visited the Thulamela Municipality to spread the sermon of back to school. Masemola's visit marked the beginning of the Back to School campaign by the Thulamela Municipality.

Joined by the Thulamela Municipality Mayor, her counterpart at the Vhembe District Municipality; Florence Dzhombere and Thovhele Vho-Gole Mphaphuli of the Mphaphuli Dynasty in Mbilwi, Masemola took his first school visit this academic year to the colourful high flying performer; Mbilwi Secondary School. Having arrived just after 06h00 in the morning, all that was clear at

Schools that performed below par were not spared during these visits. Just in the corridors of Mbilwili is Raluswielo Secondary School. The school produced a paltry 44% in last year's matric results. After meeting the school management team and the SGB, Masemola and the contingent devised ways to address the low pass rate at the school. Among them are; "We will be expecting a turnaround strategy from the principal, police officers will be dispatched here to root out drug and alcohol abuses, there will be exchange programmes between teachers from Raluswielo and Mbilwi on how subjects can be delivered and many other measures that will pick this school up." Concluded Masemola.



MAYOR MAHOSI'S BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN KICKS TO OPEN 2012 SCHOOL YEAR



Learners participate in the motivation

School years have always been lauded as holy years where a learner would be showered with all the humanly possible attention. This was a theory, but the Thulamela Municipality Mayor Grace Mahosi put this theory to practice, almost driving this journalist back straight to the classroom to enjoy the business class attention. As part of her Back to School Campaign; Mahosi went out of her way to highlight the buttered side of education for learners, with her motherly motivational talks. Learners at such schools as Thohoyandou High, Raluswielo Secondary, Tshivhidzo Masiagwala Secondary, Thambatshira Secondary, Nkatini High and Phaphazela High were left highly motivated and positive following the mayor's art of words.

Speaking at Thohoyandou high school she said her visibility will encourage learners and teachers to work hard in unity. She encouraged teachers to stand tall to ensure that educational standard at the school is maintained. Mahosi added that their visibility at some schools as municipality personnel has produced a high working spirit in 2011 which saw Tshadama secondary school from Ngwenani-ya HaMapholi moving from 44% in 2010 to 69% in 2011.

With her primary message being mainly on committing oneself to education, respecting educators and parents, avoiding peer pressure and fight drug and alcohol abuse, Mahosi often touched softer nerves which left student nodding their heads in agreement with positivity painted all over her faces. At Thambatshira where Mahosi served as a teacher Mahosi praised commitment and discipline as the only keys to success. "You must learn that right after discipline and commitment comes your pass. A learner must be very disciplined and always dedicate time to books and nothing else." She said.

With learner pregnancy being a case for concern in South Africa, Mahosi had this to say to learners; "When you asked what you wanted to be, you never said 'I want to be a child grant recipient', u said 'I want to be a professional' so you must do your school work and become a professional and forget things that lead to you being a mother or a father. A worrying factor is that some of you bunk school to go and

receive child support grant, that is out of line, you must go receive your grants on weekends." She said to a huge round of iconic applause.

School Acting Principal at Thambatshira



Mayor Grace Mahosi motivates learners

Aluwani Mukhithi said the school that in 2009 got 21%, 2010 got 43% and 85% matric pass rate in 2011 was seriously trudging a growth path. "We are now ensuring regular class attendance by learners,

regular teaching and learning, effective time management and other measures to ensure that we grow and we believe we are on the right path." He said.

Other schools visited by Mahosi were Nkatini High and Phaphazela Secondary schools. There she was received with warm hands to offer motivation which seemed like her natural gift. Mahosi talked about passing starting on the first day of schooling.

"If you want to pass at the end of this very academic year you must know that studying starts today. You must come to school in time and never leave until the right time. You must know this is your year and make a good use of it."

She urged.

Tshivhidzo Masiagwala secondary school in Maungani with 22% pass rate, Guvhukuvhu secondary school in Phiphidi with 32% pass rate and Raluswielo secondary school in Mbilwi next to Mbilwi high with 44% pass rate, could not avoid her tongue lash and constructive criticism. The schools were declared disfunctional as they failed to reach 50% pass rate. The municipality will be working hand in hand with the schools to improve their pass rates.

There is a number of Dinaledi Schools in the Thulamela Municipality. Dinaledi School also known as Club Hundred are notorious for producing over 100 passes in Mathematics yearly. Those in Thulamela include Mbilwi, Thohoyandou, Marude, Tshivhase and many other. Mahosi told the matric class of 2012 to fight hard to add to a number of top performing schools in the municipality. "We are a winning municipality, therefore it is upon you to elevate your schools to join the winning schools that we have as the municipality." She concluded, adding that; "The word impossible is only in a dictionary of a fool. You are not a fool so you will make it."



Thulamela councillors and teachers after a visit to one of the schools



THOHOYANDOU; A MEGA CITY ON THE RISE

With transport being the leg on which economy stands on, the building of the Thulamela Municipality's Intermodal taxi rank tells a story of the municipality's dream to develop Thohoyandou into a mega city becoming a reality. The 772 M2 state of the art taxi rank that looks like the famous Bree and Noord taxi ranks in Johannesburg comes as a package together with 14 drop off points all over the former Venda capital.

The double story rank which is being built by the national Department of Transport will also have car accessory shops, restaurants, clothing shops and formalised hawker stalls. Nhlengani Maluleke, the municipality's Planning and Development Manager told The Thulamela that the rank will after completion be handed over to the municipality for management and maintenance. Maluleke said plans are afoot on how it will be managed. "We will have an entity that will on behalf of the municipality manage and maintain the facilities." He said.

He said the municipality's plans included linking the bus rank and the taxi rank to consolidate them into one public transport system. **"From next year we will be building a new 3000 M2 bus rank and our wish is to link it with our state of the art taxi rank so that we may have one formalised transport system;"** He said. On the buildings that may exist between the two ranks Maluleke said negotiations were afoot to find a possible solution. "We are talking to owners of businesses that were built between the ranks so that we can be able to link the two ranks, but negotiations are still ongoing." He said.

The Thulamela can also reveal that about eight months into the building of the rank



Intermodal Taxi Rank rises high

no notable case of injury on more than 150 men and women workforce thanks to effective safety management by the constructors. Site Manager Dave Roods of Constructors; WBHO, Edwin JV and Splish Splash said; "We have already worked over 200 000 hour with no lost time injury and that is a wonderful news to us." Roods enthused.

Roods said besides its impact on infrastructure development, the rank has already begun contributing positively to the local economy. "We as constructors are booking at hotels and lodge around here as we are

far from home, our ground men are renting at some house in Thohoyandou and we are using local suppliers for some of the material needed. If you add the fact that more jobs will be created when the facilities open, you can see we are talking about an improvement in the lives of people here and a creation of good jobs." He said.

On job creation, Cllr Nhlengani Maluleke said when the facilities are opened; there will be a lot of jobs that will be created. "We will need personnel for cleaning, security, maintenance and so on. Again private tenants that will occupy the shops there will also employ their people, so this intermodal taxi rank will also be about job creation." He concluded.



Computer Generated Imagery of the Intermodal Facility



Constructors interpret the ground plan



SENIOR CITIZEN HAVE THEIR CHALLENGES ADDRESSED



Senior Citizens busy focused during the workshop

The Thulamela Local Municipality has once again proved that age can't declare one an outcast. This time with The Senior Citizens' Workshop held at the Thohoyandou Town Hall on 23 February 2012.

The workshop which was attended by representatives from old age forums from villages across the municipality was addressed by representatives from the South African Social Security Agency SASSA, the Thulamela Municipality and the Premiers Office.

It was at the workshop where SASSA announced the Re-registration of social grants. This is to curb fraudulent activities against the department. Recently there has been reports of ghost social grant recipients.

Representing SASSA at the event was Thihanedzwi Muofhe from the Vhembe offices. Muofhe also introduced a new SASSA system called Internal Reconsideration Mechanism aimed at governing application for so-

cial grants. "With this mechanism, those whose applications are turned down will have a chance to lodge an appeal with us, with the Department of Social Services and then with the court of law. This is to ensure utter satisfaction to you as applicants." He said.

The news of the Re-registration of the process had thrown pensioners on a panic mode. The panic was on what would happen to social grants recipients during the re-registration process which starts in June this year. Muofhe told the panicking elders to calm. "During this process we will not stop your payments and you will not have to come to our offices, we will come to you villages and re-register you. While we are busy with the process, you will continue receiving your monthly grants." He assured.

Questions that were asked were mainly around the pay points system and receiving grants from the banks. One old

man asked: "Now that we are going to re register are we going to change on where we would love to receive our grants?" Like many questions before it, this one also was answered to the satisfaction of the audience. "You have a choice on where you would love to receive your grants. It can be at a bank or pay points you will make that decision and then come to our offices so that we process it for you." Muofhe answered.

Representing the Thulamela Municipality Mayor Grace Mahosi at the workshop was Cllr. Mushoni Tshifhango, who lambasted the poor service given to the elders at public institutions. "We have noted with sad hearts the ill treatment accorded our elders at government departments and offices. We criticise this with the contempt it deserves and it must stop. These people are the custodians of our culture, democracy and wisdom; therefore they do not deserve such an ill treatment." Said Tshifhango.

On municipal services Lisberth Hadzhi from the Thulamela Municipality talked to senior citizens about the need for them to register for such services as the Free Basic Electricity. While calling for more cooperation between the elders and their local government; Hadzhi said members of the communities should have constant contact with their councillors.

Doris Maswanganyi of the Premier's office applauded the Thulamela Municipality for acknowledging the rights senior citizens.



An elder asking for more clarity during the question and answers session

NHBRC OPENS A NEW BRANCH IN THULAMELA



From Left to right are: Cllr Mushoni Tshifhango, NHBRC Provincial Manager Nurse Tshabalala and Nemadzhilili of Thulamela

On its path to grow into a city, the Thulamela Municipality is keen on building quality homes first. To ensure this; the Municipality has offered offices to the building regulator; National Home Builders Regulatory Council. This means, home builders and consumers will travel to Polokwane no more, when they want to access the council's services.

The offices were officially opened by the council's provincial leadership and the municipality at the Thohoyandou Town Hall on (date). The offices will not only service the Thulamela residence, but also the Vhembe people in general.

The NHBRC is a building regulator that deals with registering individual builders, construction companies, enrolling building

structures and inspecting the process of building and quality assurance.

Speaking during the event, the NHBRC Limpopo provincial Manager Nurse Tshabalala said the council was pleased with the Thulamela Municipality's efforts in bring the offices over. "We found it challenging that such a rural municipality could see a need to have our offices located here. This will surely decentralise our services from Polokwane to even the rural areas of Vhembe." She said.

Tshabalala added that after assessing the request from the municipality, it was clear; there was a need for the council's services. "When we did our assessments there was only about 30%

of enrolled houses in this area. We found that there were too many poor quality houses and builders here were just building houses without enrolling them on behalf of house consumers." She said,

Tshabalala said South African laws prevented the building of any structure without enrolling them with her council, adding that it was legally punishable. "Those who build houses and not enrol them with us, will face a possible one year jail term or a R25 000 fine." She threatened while lamenting the poor quality of house built by private contractors on behalf of government. "Some of the houses that these contractors are building are regrettable and that's the reason why we need an office here." She said.

Responding to this launch, acting mayor of the municipality Mushoni Tshifhango said the municipality applied for these offices. "Our municipality is aiming at developing into a city and that would mean more and more high rising buildings and obviously you need super quality in building those. So NHBRC really came at a perfect time when we really need the." He said adding that the municipality was also concerned with the quality of houses being built.

"As you may attest, houses that are being built around our communities are of compromised quality and surely these offices will help curb that." A joyous Tshifhango stressed.



A PROPER AND DIGNIFIED SEND OFF TO PAUPERS



Funeral Parlours do their work

The Thulamela Municipality joined hands with the Tshilidzini Hospital, and funeral undertakers under the Vhembe Funeral Practitioners Association to give over 20 deceased homeless paupers a dignified send off to their final journey at the Mbaleni Cemetery outside Thohoyandou on 1 February 2012. The paupers lifeless bodies, had been at the Tshilidzini Hospital's mortuary with no relative coming up to claim them as theirs. Some of them are said to be coming from such neighbouring countries as Zimbabwe and Mozambique while others come are suspected to be locals whose relatives may not be aware of their passing away. Talking on behalf of VEFPA, its chairperson Patrick Mahani said his organisation was always happy to bury people irrespective of their origin.

"To us death is death, it doesn't matter whether the deceased is from Zimbabwe, Mozambique or South Africa hence we are burying these people. We believe this is a matter of national interest and we are touched." He said.

Mahani added that; "The Municipality should not be seen giving out tenders to people to bury paupers, instead, the municipality should just liaise with us and with proper time, we can assist for no pay. There is no way an organisation of over 50 funeral undertakers can be unable to bury about 20 people." He assured.

Tshilidzini Hospital's Acting CEO Mr Netshithothole encouraged VEFPA for its commitment to assist bury paupers. "You may not be thanked in person for this entire wonderful job, but god will reward you." He said adding that the hospital will be seeking to formalise a working relationship with VEFPA in transporting patients that lose their lives having been transferred from Tshilidzini to other bigger hospitals across the country.

Speaking on behalf of the Mayor Cllr T.E Risenga said it's the municipality's pleasure to assist bury the unknown paupers. ***"This is part of services we should be delivering to our people. We as the municipality are home to everyone."*** She said, while also warning against xenophobia; "None of us here know where and when they will die, therefore people should refrain from abusing our neighbours, instead we should treat them very well because our fate is only known to God." She concluded just before burial.

STATE OF THE ART COMMUTER DROP OFF POINTS FOR THOHOYANDOU

Up to scratch plans and strategies have now declared Thohoyandou as nothing but an elastic that can be stretched in any way possible. With the CBD centring around the towering Inter Modal taxi rank the former Venda capital been stretched aside with the building of 14 taxi and buses drop off points.

The state of the art points that fall closely short to emulating the Gauteng's Re ya vaya bus stops include a space for hawkers and another for commuters. This will also help disperse hawkers that are huddled together in the CBD.

Talking to the Thulamela the constructor of these points Dave Roux of WBHO, Edwin JV and Splish Splash said; ***"With more such points going to be built just outside the taxi rank, no taxi shall be allowed into the rank with passenger."*** He explained.

Roux added that having completed the building process, the points have been entirely handed over to the Thulamela Municipality.

The Thulamela talked to Maluleke; Senior Manager for Planning at the Municipality; he echoed Roux when he said the drop off points will reduce overcrowding in



Commuters off-loading at the Venda Plaza drop-off point

town. However Maluleke added that the points also had an economic outcome for street vendor. ***"This will also enhance these hawkers in terms of their business because they will have taken hawker straight to where commuters are."*** He said.

One commuter; Divhani Luvhengo said: "This was innovation at its best, we can now wait for buses and taxis with no problems of the always hot venda sun." She said.

If this is anything to go by, then the Thulamela Municipality's Project 2030 of turning Thohoyandou into a city is well within reach.



GOVERNING SIDE BY SIDE WITH TRADITIONAL LEADERS



From left are: Cllr Maluleke S.G, Mayor Grace Mahosi and traditional leaders representatives

The Thulamela Municipality reaffirmed its relationship with traditional leaders as it held its first Mayor / Mahosi / Tihosi forum in the 2012 Municipal calendar. The event which was held on 1st February 2012 focused mainly on tightening the cooperation between the two entities and strengthening service delivery.

The Mayor / Mahosi / Tihosi Forum is an avenue used by the Thulamela Municipality to address developmental needs of rural areas within the Thulamela Municipality. The forum consists of the Thulamela Mayoral team and traditional leaders of villages within the municipality.

This year's forum focused mainly on the infrastructure development in the town of Thohoyandou and the need to have the development trickling down to rural areas. Speaking at the meeting Emmanuel Maluleke Senior Manager on Planning said; "the municipality is looking at the improvement of rural areas through the development of precinct plans that will bring economical growth in our rural

areas. This will in turn improve the living conditions of people within these areas. It will also help them access municipal services within close proximity of 10km radius." He said.

Maluleke also dangled the fruits that will come with the municipality's plans. "The plans will successfully address the following: Creating a sense of the place Integration of all amenities and facilities, analysis of socio economic situations of our nodal points in general, analyze the environmental and geotechnical situation of the focal point of the node." He enthused.

He further told the men of royal leopard skins that the developmental plan was aimed at creating partnerships with different stakeholders and pay particular attention to attract commercial and industrial business in each node, with the focus of developing unique qualities in each area. This will be accompanied by the development of multi-functional Thu-

song Centre, taxi and bus ranks, retail markets, industrial and housing areas within the focal point of the identified areas or nodes.

Another issue that was raised with deserving seriousness was the high levels of crime. The answer to this was provided through the unveiling of the Safety and Security innovative plan and design. After eroding crime away, the plan will ensure sustainability of the development proposal and also bring more private investments within the municipality boundaries.

In her speech Thulamela Municipality Mayor Grace Mahosi acknowledged the importance of Traditional councils in the municipality. Mahosi indicated that the development of the Thulamela citizenry, mainly resided in the able shoulders of traditional leaders and their councils. "The roles of your councils is to ensure that services get to the people you must traditionally rule." Said Mahosi adding that; "Traditional leaders should accept the changing of times and our duty as the municipality is to ensure smooth and healthy life style, and also ensure that services are delivered to our areas and that can only be achieved through a very good corporate governance." She advised.

Mahosi further assured traditional leaders that her municipality would continue to provide such basic services as water, sanitation, electricity and roads to its development area. As part of the way forward, it was agreed that a committee comprising representatives from the municipality, traditional councils and other stakeholders will have to be established to speed up the development of nodal points. These are Tshikombani, Tshaulu, Malamulele and others.

REHABILITATION OF EX PRISONERS; A SOCIETAL OBLIGATION

"Rehabilitation is a societal responsibility." This was a theme at the Department of Correctional services Ex prisoners day held at the Mavambe Terbernacle Christian Worship Centre in Mavambe Village. The event was meant to educate members of the public on their role in rehabilitating ex offenders who a released from prisons back to the public.

Organised by the Department of Correctional Service, this event was graced by the Department of Justice and that of Police. Other organisations present at the event were New Life After Prison Community Forum, National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO) and many others.

Talking on behalf of Nicro South Africa's most surviving Non Profit Organisation; Zandile Mabunda said its main role in the rehabilitation of ex offenders was through diversion of prisoners from facing normal court processes and the reintegration of prisoners to their community. On whether Nicro was satisfied with the communities' cooperation with the rehabilitation processes of Ex prisoners,

Mabunda said they were not satisfied. "We have a situation where ex prisoners are released to their communities only to be rearrested for a different form of crime because they were never made to feel at home in the first place." She complained.

On behalf of the Justice Department; Malamulele Magistrate HW. Chauke said he was happy that finally the Correctional Service Department was sharing the rehabilitation responsibilities with communities. On whether the department was doing enough on its side to rehabilitate ex offenders he said; "look we have got schools in prison where ex offenders comes back a bit more educated and that makes it easier for them to adapt to the outside world as soon as they came back. The only part that really need improvement is on the community's side, we need more cooperation from communities." He said.

Ex Offender and Prisoner Hasani Joseph Chauke told the Thulamela that the attitude of the ex offender when re-



Ex Offender and Prisoner Hasani Joseph Chauke addressing community members

leased back into the community determines the general attitude of the public. "If you behave like an ex offender they will treat you as such. When I came back I maintained a positive mind and that disarmed members of the community;" He said.

Chauke stayed in prison for 18 full years for such criminal cases as murder, robbery and today is running a catering service had a simple message to the youths. "Crime does not pay". He said.



THULAMELA MUNICIPALITY SOUND A WARNING BELL TO ITS CITIZENS

The Thulamela Municipality strongly warned all its citizens and those that want land within the municipality to follow all the right channels as and when they buy sites for any purpose.

Talking to the Thulamela, Exco Member responsible for Land Use Management and Planning, Cllr. Obrain Malindi said the municipality was experiencing a communication breakdown with Traditional leaders on the awarding of land to possible users. “At the municipality we keep rural and urban development plans, hence we must be consulted, even by our traditional leaders before any piece of land is awarded either for residential, business or social purpose so that we can first approve the site and ensure it doesn’t contradict our plans.” He said.

Malindi said the consultation was important in dealing with land related squabbles that are becoming part of the village DNA. ***“We strongly advice that the municipality has strategies and plans that effectively work with our service delivery targets and expectations. However these are disturbed when people buy land from our traditional leaders and they end up getting occupied sites, we had for instance a case where one stand would be owned by more than 4 people.”*** He lamented.

Malindi said some areas reserved for the development of road networks were sold to stands rich people and resolving such problems cost the municipality a fortune. “This unacceptable conduct is costing our municipality lots and lots of money. The money which was supposed to help fast track the delivery of services to the people is now focusing on solving problems that are not supposed to exist in the first



Above: a stand which is allegedly owned by four different individuals at loggerheads

place.” He said.

Echoing Malindi was Manger Planning and Development Hlengani Maluleke who told the Thulamela that it has become difficult to develop villages in the municipality due to this problem. Maluleke emphasised the importance of consultation between traditional leaders and the municipality. “When you get a site you obviously need water, electricity and proper sanitation, but you find that your site is an obstacle to the delivery of such services, then we have a serious problem. The only thing that could be of value is proper consultation between us as the municipality and our traditional leaders.” He advised.

Maluleke then concluded; “people should begin to understand that without proper allocation of both business and residential sites, service delivery from us as the municipality shall be forever suffering.”

INFORMATION CENTRE TO GIVE THULAMELA TOURISM A FACE



Constructors building the Thulamela information centre

Speaking to the Thulamela Newsletter Team, Manager responsible for Local Economic Development Mulalo NemaKonde said the centre would play a central role in enhancing the economic opportunities in the tourism industry in Thulamela.

“It is here in this centre where we shall have a car hiring service so that people do not have to travel all the way to Polokwane for such, it is here where we shall have brochures about all our crafters, painters, sculptors, dressmakers and other artists for tourists to know where and how they can access these people. That way we will be increasing the economic participation by our artists;” he said.

NemaKonde added that the centre that is likely to be completed on 30th June this year, will also serve as a storage place for artistic products by the local artists. “Besides the fact that we shall have a music library where our tourists can get to listen to our local music brewed here in Thulamela we will also have painted portraits, crafted products, traditional clothes produced by our local people and many such things stored here, so that this centre exposes us as Thulamela for what we really are.” He said.

The Thulamela Exco Member and portfolio

head of IDP and LED Cllr. Matodzi Netshifhefe said besides over 50 jobs that could be created through this project, local tourism industry participants where in for alarming growths. “This centre will assist a lot in advertising and selling off our tourism sector to the outside world, it will elevate the tourism sector into more than just a sector but a rich sector in that those that are participating in the industry will experience a repeated growth of their business. Those offering accommodation to tourists will have their brochures here and thus marketing and advertising them freely. We will also arrange for bookings right here, that will be very lovely” He said.

NemaKonde told the Thulamela that already there has been businesses that have proposed to run the car hiring service on behalf of the municipality.



Holding up the ground plan are: LED manager Mulalo NemaKonde and Head of IDP and LED Cllr. Matodzi Netshifhefe together with constructors



MALAMULELE BOXING GYMNASIUM HATCHES MORE CHAMPS

**Sparring partners Akani Phuzi and Nyiko Ndukula**

If you are one of those who have already started writing the Limpopo boxing, obituary then you are wasting your ink. However, with the likes of Cassius Baloyi, Philip Ndou and Lovemore Ndou urging closer to the exit doors and very little developments coming from the likes of Takalani Ndlovu, Isaac Hlatwayo, Joseph Makaringe and Muvhuso Nedzanani you may be justified to craft a tombstone for our boxing fraternity.

But hold your breath, the Thulamela Municipality's boxing hatchery in the form of Malamulele Boxing Gymnasium will soon hatch a new crop of champs. The Gym based in Malamulele Block ... Is currently preparing over hundred young and aspirant champs under the watchful eye of the master boxing talent scout Eric Risimati Baloyi; Cassius Baloyi's father.

**Young and upcoming boxer**

With a spectator hall, a gym, sparring rings, a boardroom, ablutions and a modern type reception with attractive gallery, the gymnasium that was built by the National Lotteries Board for the people of Thulamela makes for good museum and a reliable factory for boxing talent. The day the Thulamela Newsletter Team visited the gym the sounds of sparring boxers echoed through the hall way.

Speaking to the Thulamela Eric Baloyi said he was happy the National lotteries Board has contributed so much to boxing in Thulamela. "We are able to unearth superb boxing talent thanks to this facility." He said adding that he was grateful to the Thulamela Municipality for helping with the maintenance of the facility. "The municipality has always been doing all in its power to maintain the facility and you can actually see that we are walking the same path because ours is to take children, boys and girls off the street to a boxing ring and turn them into professionals." Said Baloyi.

One would have wished to oppose a 70 years old Baloyi when talking about turning young stars into professionals. But as soon we saw three young pundits; a light fly weight Nyiko Ndukula 19, a 19 years old Welter Weight Ishwell Makhense and a big 18 years old Heavy Weight Akani Phuzi who are all going to Morocco to play qualifying rounds for London Olympics; Baloyi means business.

The young but harsh punchers who are doing Grade 11 at EPP Mhinga Secondary School had confidence they were all destined for gold in Morocco. Ndukula, four times provincial and three times national champion in the Light Fly Weight division told the Thulamela that the London Olympics will be the first of

the four Olympics he intends to take part in before becoming a boxing trainer himself. "I don't really want to be professional champ, am just so in love with Olympic games." Said a skinny real deal of a boxer who has a Bronze Medal he won fighting in the UK.

With Ishwell makhense who already is a certified boxing coach, his journey would have ended gracefully for him if he manages to have a collection of five professional belts. The 19 years old National Welter Weight Gold Medallist says his is to emulate the master jabber; Cassius Baloyi. "I want to be like him, lay some serious boxers in the ring and win championship and I believe the limit can only be beyond the sky." He dreamt.

For the uncommon lightning speed heavy weight 18 years old and the current amateur national champ Phuzi, the joy of watching boxing on TV gave birth to an inevitable passion that has lasted him since 2005. Phuzi says South Africa should just brace itself to see him at the London Olympics. "To me, victory in Morocco is no longer a matter of 'if' but 'when' because am going to the London Olympics." He boasted.

Their trainer Eric Baloyi this is his newest wine that will surely grow better and better with time. "I have worked with these boys for the part of their age and knowing them, we can expect nothing but championships from them." He said.

With so much investment into the Gym, the Thulamela can only wish these boys all the best, as they represent their land of hills, fertile soil and the beautiful bushes.

**Male and female sparring partners**