



THABA CHWEU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
SPECIAL EDITION

FOREWORD BY CLLR FRIDDAH NKADIMENG, EXECUTIVE MAYOR

Life as we know it was extremely interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We all had to adjust to the new way of doing things and the Municipality was also not spared in that regard. Upon the announcement of the national lockdown by President Cyril Ramaphosa, TCLM moved swiftly to establish the Local Command Council led by myself the Executive Mayor, which is responsible to hatch response strategies to combat the spread of the Coronavirus. The Municipality is also part of the Joint Operations Committee which is a multi-sectoral structure that develops interventions all geared towards flattening the infection curve.

Leading by example, the Municipality curtailed the normal operating hours and instructed non-essential staff to stay at home during the lockdown. Stringent measures were introduced such as screening and sanitizing members of the public visiting the municipal buildings and ensure that they observe the stipulated social distance. Various awareness campaigns were conducted through broadcasting, print and social media as well as through educational posters. I would like to applaud our community for their efforts and commitment to adhere to the COVID-19 regulations. As a direct result Thaba Chweu has recorded minimal Coronavirus infections in comparison to other areas in the province. The Municipality also identified areas to be used as quarantine sites should the need arise. At the time of going to press, according to the official COVID-19 infections dashboard, Thaba Chweu had registered 16 official cases, with 8 recoveries, 8 active cases with no fatalities.

To intensify the COVID-19 awareness campaign, and ensure the safety of the public, the Municipality in collaboration with SANTACO implemented a fumigation programme of taxis and taxi ranks in Mashishing, Sabie, Graskop and Moremela. Sanitizers, face masks, and gloves were also distributed to the taxi operators.

The needy families bore the brunt of the effects of the ravaging pandemic. In this regard, my office solicited support from the private sector and local business in a form of food parcels for the vulnerable in our community. To this effect

the local business responded to the clarion's



call and donated over 1000 food parcels. My office is forever indebted to the philanthropic gesture by the local business. It really shows that theirs is a business with a conscience that responds to the needs of the community beyond profits. The Department of Social Development also distributed food parcels to ensure that needy families do not go to sleep in an empty stomach.

Access to water is critical in the fight against the spread of the Coronavirus. Some areas in Thaba Chweu are traditionally water stressed. We therefore welcome the relief from the Department of Water and Sanitation through the donation of four water tankers and 40 Jojo tanks with a 10 000 litres capacity to service the areas with the most need.

The 'new normal' also saw the Municipality for the very first-time conduct virtual Council meetings and virtual public participation for the 2020/21 IDP and Budget to comply with statutory mandates and to the COVID-19 regulations.

The socio-economic impact of the pandemic is staggering. The dwindling in the demand for commodities has led to the threatening of jobs and the pending shutting down of the Glencore Lydenburg Smelter. The consequence of this unfortunate development will undoubtedly be dire for the economy of the town which is largely depended on the Smelter. It is our hope that an amicable solution could be reached by all concerned parties to avert what could be

an economic catastrophe for our town.

COVID-19 did not deter us from rendering services to our people. The Municipality is currently implementing the road maintenance and rehabilitation plan that saw the successful rehabilitation of the busy intersection at Voortrekker and Viljoen streets. The rehabilitation of the De Clerq and Potgieter streets has also begun done in collaboration with Booyensdal Mine. We also welcome the High Court judgement that ruled against heavy duty trucks from driving through the Lydenburg town. The heavy-duty trucks were largely responsible for the damage on our roads and other municipal infrastructure.

The Coronavirus will be with us for a very long time. As the lockdown regulations ease, we should not be complacent but continue to be vigilant by observing the relevant regulations. Let us continue to wear our face masks in public spaces, wash our hands with soap or use sanitizers and observe social distance. Walking around aimlessly should be avoided. It is indeed our responsibility to protect ourselves and others against this invisible enemy that is ravaging our country and the world.



EDITORIAL



were dispatched to staff and stakeholders. Meetings were convened in numbers of less than fifty as prescribed by the lockdown regulations on gatherings.

The institution held virtual meetings for the first time in history including our council meetings, unconventional as it is, all the meetings were a success.

Normal services provision continued with the opening and closing times adjusted to about four hours in work day. This is a major inconvenience for our clients but a necessary nuisance. At the time of printing there were 16 confirmed positive cases in the municipal jurisdiction with no deaths reported.

The work of Council had continued unabated with the IDP and Budget being approved by the Council.

We are currently on alert level 3 with many of the lockdown regulations relaxed and certain economic sectors being gradually allowed

to open. The DoH (Department Of Health) warned of a spike from the month of June and throughout the winter months which makes it imperative for all of us to take personal responsibility to protect ourselves and our families.

Despite the economic crunch brought about by the lockdown which saw many economic activities being closed down, we appreciate our people's commitment to paying the municipal bills.

In conclusion let us all continue to obey the lockdown regulations, wash our hands regularly, use alcohol based sanitizers, observe social distancing, staying at home as much as possible and only leave our homes when it is really necessary to do so.

Welcome to the special edition of our official newsletter. The president has declared a disaster with the invocation of the Disaster Management Act, the country just like many countries of the world is battling the spread of the Corona Virus (Covid-19).

The country was placed on Lockdown alert number five on the 26 March 2020, shutting down economic activities, social and normal life as we know it, citizens were instructed to stay at home in order to contain and slow down the spread of the virus.

Thaba Chweu Local Municipality also heeded the call to stop the spread of the pandemic. Cllr Friddah Nkadimeng our Executive Mayor sprang into action immediately establishing the Local Command Council and the Joint Operations Committee, chairing both high level meetings designed to respond and manage the spread of the pandemic at the local level. The Executive Mayor also embarked on a program to fumigate the town's public areas, taxis and taxi ranks.

Management took a decision to shut down certain operations and instructed non-essential services workers to stay and work at home, while our offices were fumigated and all necessary personal protective equipment



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TCLM COVID-19 RESPONSE

Thaba Chweu Local Municipality has been at the helm in the implementation of the COVID-19 response interventions in a bid to contain the spread of the virus.

Through the leadership of Cllr. Friddah Nkadimeng, the Executive Mayor, the municipality plays a leading role in the COVID-19 Joint Operation Committee in collaboration with other government departments, local business chamber and civil society organisations to hatch and implement collective strategies to fight the spread of the pandemic. The Executive Mayor also leads the Local Command Council that is comprised of members of the Mayoral Committee and senior officials of the municipality.



Some of the initial interventions by the municipality was to instruct non-essential staff to stay at home during the lockdown and by reducing the normal operating hours. Isolation and quarantine sites were also identified in preparation of the worst that could be unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Control measures such as social distancing, sanitization, screening and registering everyone entering the municipal buildings were implemented. The frontline staff of the Municipality was also trained by the Department of Health about dealing with the pandemic and the usage of infrared thermometers.

In partnership with the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO), the Executive Mayor together with the Mayoral Committee went on an awareness campaign at the various taxi ranks within the municipality's jurisdiction to ensure the safety of drivers and commuters. The campaign also included the fumigation of taxis and the distribution of face masks, gloves, and sanitizers. Taxi ranks covered in the campaign include Mashishing, Sabie,

Graskop and Moromela.

Mass awareness campaigns were also done by the Executive Mayor using the medium of radio and the municipality's social media platforms.

The accessibility of water is critical in the fight against the spread of the coronavirus. In this regard the municipality received a donation of four water tankers and 50 Jojo tanks from the Department of Water and Sanitation to ensure the provision of clean water in water stressed areas.



Working with the Department of Social Services, food parcels were distributed to needy households. Private businesses and local mines such as Anglo American also jumped into the bandwagon to assist the most vulnerable in the community with food parcels. The Muslim community assisted in the drilling of five boreholes in water challenged areas. This gesture demonstrated the impact of a collaborative approach in dealing with common challenges.

The lowering of the lockdown levels also led to movement of people especially from the neighbouring provinces that rely on the town Lydenburg for healthcare and accessing services rendered by the Department of Home Affairs. This sudden movement necessitated a rigorous monitoring of the cross-border roadblocks by the Municipality and counterparts in the Limpopo Province. The Executive Mayor visited roadblocks on the R36 and R37 roads to monitor compliance and to assess the needs by stakeholders manning these roadblocks.

Public screening is essential in the early detection of the coronavirus. The MEC

for Health, Ms. Sasekani Manzini and the Executive Mayor, joined the COVID-19 Brigades in the mass screening campaign that focused on farm areas. The MEC said that the focus of the Department is to conduct door to door screening to flatten the curve of infections. She also said that the lockdown has assisted in reducing the COVID-19 infection rate even though it had an impact on the economy, however the lives of the people come first.

During the campaign, the Transvaal Gold Mine Estates (TGME) donated 15 000 facemasks

to the Lydenburg hospital. The facemasks will be distributed to all health facilities within the municipality. Speaking at the ceremony, the MEC said that as the economy gradually opens, the role of private sector will be critical in the fight against the pandemic. "It is important that mines remain compliant so that they are not forced to shutdown but continue to operate so that the so much needed jobs are secured", said the MEC.

The Executive Mayor thanked and appreciated the leadership by the MEC of Health. "Her footsteps are everywhere in the province as she's always at the forefront leading by example in the fight against the pandemic", said the Executive Mayor.

At the time of going to press, the number of infections in Mpumalanga and Thaba Chweu were relatively low compared to the rest of the country. This trend is attributed to the strides taken by government, civil society organisations and private sector partners in the fight against the spread of the virus.



HIGH COURT RULES IN FAVOUR OF TCLM AGAINST TRUCK COMPANIES

The High Court has ruled in favour of TCLM in the legal battle with truck companies prohibiting them from driving through the municipal roads.

The municipality gazetted by-laws early this year prohibiting heavy trucks weighing in excess of 10 tons from driving through the town. Subsequent the gazetting of the by-laws, TCLM consulted with the affected parties including the truck companies to consider alternative routes that included the usage of provincial roads which have the capacity to accommodate heavy loads. The truck companies however opted to approach the court on urgent basis to interdict the municipality from enforcing the by-laws.

On 29 May 2020, the High Court ruled in favour of the municipality dismissing the matter with costs against the truck companies.

The state of the roads in the municipality have since deteriorated mainly due to the increased volumes of heavy trucks that drive through the town from surrounding mines. TCLM will continue to enforce the by-laws and reroute the trucks as they damage municipal infrastructure that include road signage, traffic lights, the drainage system, and other assets of the municipality.

Trucks coming from the Lydenburg Smelter en-route to the N4 will proceed into the R37 road to Burgersfort where they will turn left into Maria Trost road to join with the R577 Roosenekal road. From there they will proceed to connect with the R540 to Dullstroom leading to the N4. Those enroute to Mbombela, from the R540 they will proceed to the R36 road to Machadodorp (Badfontein road) to connect to the N4 at Bambi. No trucks are allowed on the Long Tom Pass.



Road maintenance

ROAD MAINTENANCE = JOBS + SKILLS TRANSFER

TCLM has embarked on a project to fix potholes and reconstruct main intersections in the Lydenburg Town. The increase in traffic volumes especially by the heavy-duty trucks, have a huge strain on the roads, and cause massive damage. The rapid destruction of the roads has become a safety hazard, and an eye sore especially for a town that is a tourist destination.

Various companies both emerging and established have been appointed to do the repairs. One such company is Pet Mack Construction from Mashishing, appointed to fix potholes in Joubert and Breytenbach streets. Speaking on behalf of the company, Mr. Lean Madire said that nine people have been employed in the project that is envisaged to take two weeks to complete. "Over and above the temporary employment, there is also the critical element of the transfer of skills, essential towards the future employment of those involved", said Mr. Madire.

The busy intersection at Voortrekker and Viljoen streets is also earmarked for refurbishment. Soon to follow will be the refurbishment of De Clerq street.

THE MAINTENANCE OF ROADS STEAMS AHEAD

The busy intersection at the Voortrekker and Viljoen streets was upgraded to the delight of both motorists and affected local businesses. The finished project was handed over to the Municipality by the contractor after months of hard work. The project was a precursor to the Municipality's road maintenance plan that will see the upgrading of roads in the major towns. The next roads to be upgraded are the De Clerq and Potgieter in Lydeburg town. Funded by the Booyensdal Mine as part of their social responsibility programme, this model will hopefully see other stakeholders contributing towards the maintenance and infrastructural development in the Municipality.



Handing over of the Voortrekker and Viljoen intersection



ROAD MAINTENANCE



Handing over of the Voortrekker and Viljoen intersection



Road maintenance



UPGRADED MASHAKENG STADIUM HANDED OVER TO THE COMMUNITY



The day started early morning with a fun-walk from the Lydenburg Civic Centre to Mashakeng stadium in Mashishing led by Cllr, Friddah Nkadimeng the Executive Mayor. Joined by government departments and civil society, the fun-walk was consistent with the National Department of Sport and Recreation's objective to promote and encourage an active and healthy lifestyle.

After the fun-walk the community gathered in a tent at the stadium where the official programme ensued. The Director General in the National Department of Sport and Recreation, Mr. Vusimuzi Mkhize, officially handed over the upgraded Mashakeng Stadium to the community on behalf of Minister Nathi Mthethwa.

The upgrades include a refurbished pitch with flood lights and irrigation system, a 500-seater grandstand, change rooms and ablution facilities, were all done through a R9 million grant funding received from the national department.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, the Executive Mayor highlighted the essential role played by sports towards facilitating social cohesion. She also said that the community will use the facilities to the fullest and see more young people participate in sports and adopting a healthy lifestyle.

The DG Mr. Mkhize appealed to the community to refrain from vandalizing public property. He said that government cannot continue to channel funding towards the same facilities vandalized by the community. "We must be vigilant and jealously look after our own facilities", said Mr. Mkhize. He also appealed with parents to allow their children to participate in sports as this is the only way to unearth new talent and future champions. The programme also included a robust interaction between the Department and the sport stakeholders where various concerns and compliments were raised. Some of the concerns raised include the lack of proper and graded training grounds for local soccer teams, lack of support for individualistic sports

such as golf and fishing and the need for talent scouts to visit the Thaba Chweu area to unearth new talent. The Department through TCLM identified local teams representing the various sporting codes in the vicinity of the stadium to receive donations of sport attire and equipment. The benefitted teams ranged from soccer, volleyball, basketball, to netball. An exhibition match could not be played on the day of the launch as the pitch was not match ready.



Sports attire donation



MASHISHING STADIUM



Executive Mayor leads Fun Walk from town to Mashakeng Stadium



Mr. Vusimuzi Mkhize DG National Dep Sport and Recreation



DG Mkhize and Cllr Friddah Nkadimeng Executive Mayor



The public making submissions to the National Department



Sports Attire Donation (2)

TCLM EXECUTIVE MAYOR COMES TO THE AID OF A GIRL WITH AN ERRONEOUS IDENTITY

For the past 19 years Shade Sibiya had been classified as a male by the Department of Home Affairs. She was born at Mapulaneng hospital on 22 May 2000, and her hospital birth card correctly captured her as female. Attempts by the family to get the Department of Home Affairs to correct the mistake had proven futile. After being taken from pillar to post, Shade in desperation approached the local magistrate office for assistance. The magistrate eventually referred her to the Executive Mayor, Cllr Friddah Nkadimeng.

“Her frustration, anger and level of hopelessness were palpable. You could see that she considered me to be her last flicker of hope”, said the Executive Mayor. Reminiscent of the Caster Semenya saga, Shade had to undergo a series of medical tests to prove her gender. “It was obvious that the experience was traumatic for her” said the Executive Mayor.

Shade was a student at Skhila Secondary school, and she wrote her grade 12 examination with documents that classified her as male. A former member of parliament, Cllr Nkadimeng was able to engage the Home Affairs Department by impressing upon them the gravity and the fragility of the matter. A new birth certificate with the correct gender was eventually issued on 05 December 2019. “I am grateful for the assistance received from the Executive Mayor to get my identity back. This matter had bothered and pained me for many years, and the Executive Mayor was able to resolve it in one week”, said Shade.

The Executive Mayor also alerted the Circuit Manager at the Department of Education about the matter so that the correct information could be captured on her academic records.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

World AIDS Day commemoration

Various stakeholders in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality recently commemorated World AIDS Day at the Lydenburg Civic Centre. The purpose was to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS, to support people living with the virus also to remember those who died from AIDS related illnesses.

The Executive Mayor, Cllr Friddah Nkadimeng, led the white candle lighting memorial, which represents hope in the fight against the virus and for the families, friends and colleagues who lost loved ones to the epidemic.

The Executive Mayor said that the fight against HIV/AIDS is top priority for the municipality. “As the municipality, we view this epidemic as not just a health issue but a social, developmental, and economical challenge that needs both proactive and reactive multi-sectoral strategies to overcome”, said the Executive Mayor. She also urged community members to learn and talk more about HIV/AIDS and its treatment in order to help reduce the stigma around the disease.

The Department of Health’s Sister L. Mdebele said that there are 7, 9 million people infected with HIV in the country. As the Department their priority is to implement the 90-90-90 HIV treatment strategy. According to the strategy by 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV should know their HIV status, 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV will receive sustained

antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression. “One of the main challenges is that people may know their status but do not take regular treatment and as the Department we would like to change that around”, said sister Mdebele.

The Department of Health had an exhibition area where counselling and HIV/AIDS testing were done on the spot and self-testing kit package

were distributed. The commemoration was also supported by other departments such as Social Development, Correctional Services, Department of Education, Department of Health, SASSA, SAPS and the NORTHAM.



WORLD AIDS DAY



EHLANZENI TVET COLLEGE MASHISHING CAMPUS OFFICIALLY OPENS



The opening of the Ehlanzeni TVET college in Lydenburg serves as a beacon of hope to the youth of Thaba Chweu. Speaking at the official opening of the TVET College late last year, Cllr. Friddah Nkadimeng, the Executive Mayor said that the college is a huge investment intended to equip the youth of the municipality with essential skills to safeguard their future and play a productive role in the economic growth of the country. She further commended the investment by Glencore Lydenburg Smelter and the Department of Higher Education and Training in making possible the planting of a seed that will yield dividends for generations to come.

The idea to establish the TVET college was revealed to a Glencore official who saw unused buildings after visiting the Department of Public Works' offices in Lydenburg looking for someone to assist with the fixing of a pothole in one of the roads in town. An official proposal was then made to the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works to make available the unused facilities to house the college. Ehlanzeni TVET College was approached to consider opening a satellite campus in Mashishing to which they gladly obliged.



Mr Japie Fullard, the CEO of Glencore Alloys SA, said that it was important for them to contribute into the project because they believe the future of South Africa lies with the youth. The company generously made an investment of about R7 million into the project. "We believe that Lydenburg Smelter has a responsibility to develop skills in our local community", added Mr. Fullard.

During the construction phase the TVET

college used the community hall in Extension 2 as makeshift classrooms and administration offices. Some of the courses offered amongst others include N1 Boiler Making, N1 Electrical Engineering, N1 Fitting as well as Business Management and Office Administration. These courses are essential and relevant in contributing to the skills requirements by the local mines. At the beginning of 2019, the campus had 191 students and aims to increase enrolment to 699 in the 2020 academic year.



CERTIFICATION OF THE AGRISETA PLANT PRODUCTION LEARNERSHIP

A total of 25 unemployed youth from Mashishing recently graduated from an AgriSETA plant production learnership programme at a ceremony held at the Lydenburg Civic Centre. The nine months programme was designed to introduce students to the world of plants, especially crops in the agricultural sector. The programme was facilitated by V.V and Mashona Projects.



Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Molefe Tsiane, Manager of V.V and Mashona Projects, congratulated the learners and said that this programme is a stepping stone towards exploring the agricultural sector which is rich with opportunities.





Cllr Tumi Letsane also encouraged the learners to go out and position themselves in the market place. "These certificates must not be kept at home but be used as a means to seek opportunities and employment", said Cllr Letsane.

EPWP CERTIFICATION CEREMONY



The certification ceremony of participants in the Expanded Public Work Programme (EPWP) 2018/2019 financial year was held at the TCLM town hall on the 29 August 2019. Those certificated had participated in the programme that started from 03 September 2018 and finished on 30 August 2019. EPWP is an annual programme, specifically aimed at unemployed youth from the ages of 18 to 35.

A total of 140 youth participated in the programme that was divided into nine projects, namely:

- Parks and Cemeteries
- Waste removals
- Water and sanitation
- Marshals
- Park Ranging
- Game Ranging
- Administrative Support
- Cleaning
- Electrical

EPWP is a great initiative that equips the youth with skills for future job opportunities as well as exposure to various careers options available in the market to pursue. Councilor Friddah Nkadimeng, the Executive Mayor said that the EPWP programme plays a pivotal role in the fight against the triple challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment that is plaguing our country. The Executive Mayor congratulated all the participants and wished them well with their future endeavours.



The EPWP coordinator, Mr. David Mkhabela, said that he is grateful to the municipality for being able to participate in such an important programme.

THE EMERGING FARMERS' OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The MMC for Local Economic Development at Thaba Chweu Local Municipality hosted an Outreach programme to engage with emerging farmers on 18 September 2019 at the Lydenburg Town Hall.

The purpose of the programme was to create sustainable, vibrant and equitable communities and also find ways to respond to some of the challenges encountered by emerging farmers hampering their growth. This can be achieved through productive farms able to respond to the challenges of unemployment and food security.



The emerging farmers benefited from presentations from various institutions such as M.Tech Training, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs (DARDEA), Rural Enterprise and Industrial Development (REID) and the Rural Development- Land Restitution.



Mr. S. Mngomezulu, a consultant from M.Tech Training addressed the farmers and shared with them the various training programmes on offer and learnership opportunities in the agricultural sector. "M.Tech not only helps emerging farmers but also capacitate the unemployed in communities with an interest in farming and other career paths", said Mngomezulu.



WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF BUSINESS

Existing and aspiring women entrepreneurs gathered at Mashishing community hall in October last year to attend an empowering seminar that focused on various aspects of business and sectors available for exploration. Initiated by the TCLM's Local Economic Development Unit, the seminar shared valuable information critical to know before establishing a business and how to expand on an already existing business.

Institutions such as such as the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), South African Women in Construction (SAWIC), and the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) were invited to share their core business and offerings with the women. Ms. Lorraine Nkuna of NYDA presented the various grant funding available for young people aspiring to start or grow existing businesses.

SAWIC encouraged women to venture into the lucrative and male dominated world of construction. Ms. Maureen Kathi made a presentation on how women can access business opportunities, funding, and training in the sector.

Mr Hastings Moeng, the marketing director from NHBRC said that his company also invests in emerging female entrepreneurs in the construction sector. They also facilitate



a business development programme offered through the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). After completing the programme, one will be equipped with networking skills essential to generate business leads.

PILGRIMS REST TO BE RESTORED TO FORMER GLORY

Executive Mayor, Cllr FM Nkadimeng together with MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism Hon. PS Ngomane and senior officials of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency recently launched the Pilgrims Rest revitalisation project.



The project under the leadership of the MTPA seeks to develop and position this heritage town back into its glory as the destination of choice for both local and international tourists. Speaking at the launch, the Executive Mayor said that the revitalized town will create new business and employment opportunities for the local people and the Thaba Chweu Municipal area in general. Pilgrims Rest is a living museum that epitomises the first South African gold rush that started in 1873.



WOMEN HEROISM CELEBRATED AND REMEMBERED

The Bambanani Sports Centre in Sabie hosted the Women's Month celebrations held on 14 August 2019. The theme was: "25 Years of Democracy: Growing South Africa Together for Women's Emancipation". The celebrations also coincided with the 65th anniversary of the founding conference of the Federation of South African Women which adopted the 1954 Women's Chapter.

Speaking at the event Cllr. Friddah Nkadimeng, the Executive Mayor said that the 25th anniversary of democracy is a milestone which calls on all South Africans to reflect on the strides that were made to ensure a society that is free of gender inequality. It was these past iniquities that compelled women to revolt against a system that was meant to control and further reduce them into passive beings at the mercy of men, said the Executive Mayor.

National Women's Day is annually celebrated on the 9th of August. This month commemorates the march by more than 20 000 women to the Union Buildings in Pretoria in 1956. Women of different races and ethnic groups marched against legislation aimed at tightening the apartheid government's control over the movement of black women within the country. The purpose of the restrictions was to maintain segregation and control migrant labour, which was all part of the apartheid policy.

These women displayed courage and brevity by petitioning the government to change these policies. "Wathint' abafazi, Wathint' imbokodo!" meaning: "You strike a woman, you strike a rock!" was chanted by these women as they protested outside the Union Buildings. Leaders of the movement included Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophia Williams who were selfless in their quest for the recognition of the rights of women and freedom for all.

The Thaba Chweu Local Municipality celebrated this day by keeping with the tradition in a colourful event that involved South Africa women from all backgrounds.



AG GIVES TCLM A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

TCLM is a step closer towards obtaining a clean audit. The municipality recently obtained a qualified audit opinion from the Auditor General (AG) for the 2018/2019 financial year albeit with two matters of emphasis. The matters derived from the TCLM's accumulated surplus and irregular expenditure. According to the AG, the municipality did not have adequate controls to prevent and detect irregular expenditure and ensure it is disclosed in accordance with section 125(2) of the Municipal Finance Management.

According to TCLM's Executive Mayor, Cllr. Friddah Nkadimeng, the opinion is a milestone given the municipality's past performance. TCLM has managed to drastically reduce most of the AG's previous findings. This must be contrasted with the eight previous financial years where the municipality received disclaimers except for the 2017/2018 financial year.

"This commendable performance is attributed to men and women who continue to burn the midnight oil to ensure that TCLM adheres to governance imperatives. We need to roll our sleeves and begin to prepare for the next financial year by taking compliance issues very seriously to obtain a clean audit", said the Executive Mayor.



CELEBRATING UNITY IN DIVERSITY



Thaba Chweu Local Municipality celebrated Heritage Day through song, dance, art, food and an expression of colour through the various traditional attires. Heritage Day is a holiday set aside to celebrate the rich history, diverse cultures and customs that unite South Africans in their diversity.

Excitement and joy filled the Lydenburg Civic Centre when Cllr. Friddah Nkadimeng, the Executive Mayor danced and sung to the rhythms and chants that were evoked by the spirit of oneness that thundered deep in the souls of those present. Speaking at the event, the Executive Mayor urged those gathered to share their cultures and beliefs with others in order to encourage better working relations and promote a culture of tolerance amongst everyone.

JP Cilliers, TCLM's Museum Curator, took everyone on a journey of discovery when he related the rich and ancient history of Mashishing that left various footprints as reference for the current generation. It is with such a history that Mashishing and other areas in Thaba Chweu can be set and positioned as heritage destinations to be explored by both the local and international visitors.

A local jazz band, "The Buddies" gave a fascinating performance with a rendition of popular traditional songs that got people on their feet and sung along. Traditional cuisine was also prepared to allow attendees the opportunity to sample and savour the various traditional foods on offer ranging from samp, tripe, trotters, dumpling, chicken feet and mashonja (mopani worms).

It was indeed a fun-filled day that saw the "Rainbow Nation" gather in one purpose - to celebrate unity in diversity.



THABA CHWEU TRADITIONAL HEALERS FORUM ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP



Cllr Friddah Nkadimeng, the Executive Mayor of TCLM, congratulated the newly elected leadership of the Thaba Chweu Traditional Healers Forum. Speaking at the Forum's elective meeting held at the Lydenburg Town Hall in October last year.

The Executive Mayor said that the Municipality recognises and respects the essential role played by traditional healers. She emphasised the need for collaboration between the western and traditional medicine. "I urged all of you to join forces with the modern doctors to help heal the nation." said the Executive Mayor.

The Traditional Healers Forum is comprised of the Traditional Healers Organisation (THO), Traditional Healers Practitioners (THP) and Bo Gogo from the jurisdiction of the Thaba Chweu Municipality. Before electing the new leadership, the meeting agreed on the characters and qualities that each office-bearer must possess. Some of these include integrity, confidence, literacy levels, eligibility and willingness to serve.

The following members were elected into the committee:

- Ms Sarah Pule (Chairperson)
- Mr. Fana Mashego (Deputy Chairperson)
- Ms. Elma Makunyane (deputy Secretary)
- Ms. Lindiwe Mdhuli (Treasurer)
- Ms. Sarah Malele (Deputy Treasurer)

The newly elected chairperson, Ms Sarah Pule urged her fellow members to work together



, learn from one another, and promote mutual respect and understanding. The committee was given a mandate to serve for three years.

TCLM TAKES THE LEAD IN THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN

The TCLM commemorated the 16 days of Activism on violence against women and children on 05 December 2019 at the Mashishing community hall. The campaign runs from the 25 November to 10 December and seeks to raise awareness on the negative impact that violence and abuse have on women and children.

Speaking at the event, TCLM Executive Mayor, Cllr Friddah Nkadimeng, said that the country is still reeling from some of the most brutal and barbaric acts of violence against women and children, like the murder of Uyinene Mrwetyana, Leighandre Jegel, Janika Mallo and Jesse Hess. "Men and young boys must be recruited to be active members of the campaign so that they may learn to respect and protect women and children. We must also encourage our people to engage in practical programmes and take active steps to fight the scourge of violence against women and children", said the Executive Mayor. She also said that relevant services must be provided to survivors of gender-based violence and ensure that perpetrators are punished.

The commemoration was also supported by other departments such as the Department of Education, CMR, SAPS, SASSA, Correctional Services, and the Department of Health.

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN





Our vision

Custodian of sustainable service delivery, economic development and good governance



Our Mission

Improving socio- economic conditions by improving service delivery and growing the economic through sound governance

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