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MUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA • MUNICIPALITY

NUUSBRIEF IPHEPHANDABA NEWSLETTER

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Van die Burgemeester From the

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Liewe Inwoners

Ons almal het met groot skok en hartseer verneem van die moord op mnr. Stefan Smit, 'n bekende en geliefde in ons landbougemeenskap. Alle moorde in alle gebiede is sinneloos en verskriklik, maar hierdie moord het skokgolwe deur ons gemeenskap gestuur, want dit lyk of landelike veiligheid nou doelbewus geteiken word. Twee ander aanvalle is ook die volgende dag gepleeg. En ons landelike ekonomie is die ruggraat van ons Munisipaliteit se ekonomie en verskaf geweldig baie werksgeleenthede aan inwoners. Dit is dus ook 'n aanval op ons hele ekonomie en volhoubaarheid. Die aanval en sinnelose moord van Mnr Smit het ook baie aandag geniet in die internasionale media en is baie negatief vir toerisme wat ook 'n groot werkverskaffer vir ons mense is.

Die dag na die aanval het ek met die 2 relevante Provinsiale Ministers, Ivan Meyer, die Minister vir Landbou en Minister Albert Fritz, Minister vir Gemeenskapsveiligheid saam met ander rolspelers van landbou vergader om die situasie te bespreek. Minister Meyer het aangekondig dat 'n Ministeriële Landelike Veiligheidskomitee gestig sal word en sal dien as 'n sub-komitee van die provinsiale kabinet wat spesifiek aandag sal gee aan landelike veiligheid. Die ministers het ook onderneem om hierdie saak op 'n nasionale vlak te dryf en die nasionale regering onder druk te plaas om die nodige aandag en optrede hieraan te gee.

Dit is tans 'n uiters sensitiewe saak en verskeie bewerings oor moontlike oorsake word oraloor gemaak, maar ek wil tog vra dat ons die polisie ruimte gee om die saak te ondersoek. 'n Bekwame span lei die ondersoek en ongestaafde bewerings is baie traumaties vir die familie en vriende. As 'n gemeenskap moet ons saamstaan en

Dear Residents,

It is with great shock and sadness that we all learned of the murder of Mr Stefan Smit, a well-known and beloved figure in our agricultural community. All murders in all areas are senseless and terrible, but this murder sent shockwaves through the community because it seems that rural communities are intentionally being targeted. Two other attacks also took place the following day. Our agricultural economy is the backbone of our municipal economy and provides many job opportunities to residents. It is therefore an attack on our entire economy and sustainability. The attack and senseless murder of Mr Smit also received a lot of attention from the international media and is very negative for tourism, another job creator for our residents.

The day after the attack, I met with the 2 relevant Provincial Ministers, Ivan Meyer, Minister for Agriculture, and Albert Fritz, Minister for Community Safety, along with other stakeholders in Agriculture to discuss the situation. Minister Meyer announced that a Ministerial Rural Safety Committee will be established and that it will serve as a sub-committee of the provincial cabinet that will specifically address rural safety issues. The ministers also undertook to push this issue at a national government level and to apply pressure to ensure that it gets the necessary attention.

It is currently an extremely sensitive situation and speculation about possible causes can be found all over, but I want to ask that we please give the police the necessary space to investigate the matter properly. A capable team of SAPS investigators is leading the investigation and unproven allegations are very traumatic for friends and family. As a community, we must stand together to prevent crime and to help improve one

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opstaan om misdaad te bekamp en help om mekaar se veiligheid te verbeter, verdagte aktiwiteite en individue aan te meld by die polisie en ook deel te neem aan alle plaaslike veiligheidsinisiatiewe. Een van die grootste probleme is dat daar skuiling gebied word aan misdadigers deur hul familie en vriende en dat gesteelde eiendom gekoop word. Meld asseblief verdagte bedrywighede aan.

Die Munisipaliteit sal deurlopend saam met die provinsiale regering werk om seker te maak ons verskerp landelike veiligheid vir al ons inwoners. Hierdie is egter ONS gemeenskap se veiligheid en juis daarom het ek besluit om n Beraad vir Gemeenskapsveiligheid te belê om alle rolspelers oor ons Munisipaliteit saam te bring om hul kennis en ervaring te deel en so ŉ beter raamwerk vir gemeenskapsveiligheid te skep. Die datum sal binnekort adverteer word en alle rolspelers uit alle gemeenskappe is welkom. Dis tyd dat ons vir misdadigers wat ons lewens uitmekaar ruk sê: genoeg is genoeg!

Dit blyk duidelik uit die groot aantal navrae dat baie mense nie ingelig is oor die onwettige besetting en situasie op Watergang, Mnr Smit se gewese plaas. Daarom wil ek graag die feite hier weergee. Die betrokke grond bestaan uit 2 plase waarvan die 1 Munisipale eiendom is. Die ander 1 bestaan uit 4 gedeeltes wat aan mnr Smit se trust behoort en tans in die proses is om oorgedra te word aan die Munisipaliteit.

Die Raad het al voor 2016 besluit om ŉ Noordelike ontwikkeling te doen wat ŉ gemengde ontwikkeling van behuising, fasiliteite en besigheid sou insluit. Dit sou ŉ groot bydrae maak tot die oplos van die erge behuisingsnood van die hele Stellenbosch. Derhalwe is onderhandelinge reeds verlede jaar voor die besetting begin om ook die 5de deel te koop om in te sluit by die ontwikkeling.

Kort na die besetting deur die groep wat hulself Azania noem, het Mnr Smit egter onverwags ŉ aanbod om te koop met ASLA gesluit vir ŉ behuisingsprojek daar. Die kontrak het egter later deur die mat geval. Na deeglike besinning oor die voor en nadele vir die breër gemeenskap is onderhandelinge weer begin. ŉ Aanbod, deur die Raad gemagtig, is van die hand gewys en ons het toe hulp gevra by die Provinsiale Behuisingsdepartement, want dit was duidelik dat ons nie die koopprys kon bekostig nie. Daarna is R45 miljoen deur die Provinsie bewillig en ŉ finale ooreenkoms is bereik. Anders as wat berig word, kom hierdie geld nie uit ons Munisipale fondse nie. Die oordragproses is tans aan die gang. Intussen word daar daagliks gemonitor dat verdere besetting nie plaasvind nie.

Die beoogde ontwikkeling sal deur spesialis ontwikkelaars gedoen word nadat alle wetlike prosesse gevolg is. Dit sal tot voordeel van almal in die breër Stellenbosch strek en sal ŉ verskeidenheid geleenthede insluit.

Alhoewel ons al lekker reën gekry het, het dit nog nie so baie gereën dat ons damvlakke merkwaardig gestyg het nie. Ons is steeds in ŉ beter posisie as verlede jaar, maar as ons nie meer reën kry gedurende die Winter nie, kan ons weer ŉ benarde posisie in die gesig staar in die Somer. Ons bly daarom vir eers op vlak 2 waterbeperkings en monitor die situasie elke week. Ek wil ŉ ernstige beroep op inwoners doen om steeds water te bespaar. Ek weet vir baie inwoners het dit ŉ leefwyse geword en dit is wonderlik om te sien! Al verslap waterbeperkings sal

another's safety by reporting suspicious activities/individuals to the police and take part in local safety initiatives. One of the biggest challenges is that criminals are harboured by friends and family and that stolen property is knowingly being purchased. Please report any suspicious activity in your area. The Municipality will continuously work with the provincial government to ensure that we step up rural safety for all our residents. This is however OUR community's safety and that is why I decided to organise a summit for community safety to bring all role-players within our municipality together to share their knowledge and experience and in that way, create a better framework for community safety. The date will soon be made public and stakeholders from all communities are welcome. It is high time that we say to the criminals: Enough is enough!

It is clear from the large amount of queries that people were not very well informed of the illegal occupation and the situation on the Watergang farm. That is why I want to give the facts here. The property consists of 2 farms, one which is owned by the municipality. The other one consists of 4 parts that belonged to Mr Smit's trust and is currently being transferred to the municipality. In 2016, Council decided to do the Northern development that will include mixed development housing, facilities and businesses. This would have made a large contribution to solving the serious housing need for the entire Stellenbosch. Negotiations were therefore started last year, before the occupation, to acquire the 5th section of the farm with the aim of including it in the development.

Shortly after the occupation by a group of residents, that call themselves Azania, Mr Smit received an unexpected offer to purchase from ASLA, to build a housing project. The contract was however unsuccessful. After all due consideration about the advantages and disadvantages for the broader community, negotiations by the municipality was reopened. An offer, authorised by Council, was rejected and we then asked for assistance from the Provincial Human Settlements Department because it was clear that we were not able to afford the purchase price. The Province made R45 million available and a final agreement was reached. The money therefore does not come from Municipal Funding. The transfer process is currently underway. In the meantime, the situation is being monitored to make sure no further illegal occupations take place.

The planned development will be done by specialist developers when all due processes have been followed and completed. It will be to the benefit of the broader Stellenbosch and will include various opportunities and a mixed-use development.

Although we have benefited from good rains so far, it has not yet rained enough to make a significant impact on our dam levels. We are still in a better situation than we were in last year, but if we do not get more rain during this winter, we might again face a serious situation in the coming summer months. That is why we remain on level 2 water restrictions and we monitor the situation closely every week. I want to urge all residents to save water. I know that for many residents, it has become a way of life and it is wonderful to witness ongoing water saving efforts! Even though the water restrictions have relaxed, we will never be able to go back to

ons nooit weer water as vanselfsprekend kan aanvaar nie, en selfs wanneer die droogte verby is sal ons moet spaar. Hou dus asseblief aan met u goeie gewoontes.

Op 1 Julie 2019 begin ons nuwe finansiële jaar. Aan die einde van Mei het ek die begroting vir die 2019/2020 finansiële jaar voorgelê. Die begroting is so versprei dat al ons inwoners 'n snytjie van die finansiële koek sal kry. Dienslewering is ten alle tye ons kernfunksie en ons is daartoe verbind om die beste moontlike dienste aan ons inwoners te lewer. Die grootste gedeelte van ons kapitale begroting word dan ook bestee aan noodsaaklike infrastruktuurprojekte wat vir te lank agtergelaat is. Die onderhoud en uitbou van ons infrastruktuur is uiters belangrik want dit verseker dat ons kan voortgaan met basiese dienslewering en ook dat ons die druk van uitbreiding en ekonomiese groei kan akkommodeer en moontlik maak.

Gedurende die GOP (geïntegreerde ontwikkelingsplan) proses was behuising een van die grootste kwessie wat deur die gemeenskap uitgelig is. Dit sal ongelukkig altyd 'n uitdaging wees omdat daar beperkte hulpbronne beskikbaar is en ons afhanklik is van die toekennings wat ons ontvang vanaf die Nasionale en Provinsiale regerings.

Sedert my termyn in 2016 begin het, het ek myself egter daartoe verbind om die behuisingsituasie in die breër Stellenbosch te verbeter. Daarom het ons in alle erns begin met die beplanning en implementering van behuisingsprojekte. Dit is vir my lekker om te kan sê dat ons reeds besig is om verskeie projekte te implementeer en dat heelwat in die finale fases van beplanning is. Ek weet dat ons gemeenskappe die onderskeie projekte met 'n jaloerse oog dophou, maar ek kan u verseker dat die ontwikkeling regoor die breër Stellenbosch versprei is. Jamestown, Idasvallei, Kayamandi, Cloetesville, Klapmuts en Vlottenburg is ingesluit.

Na die GOP insette het ek ook addisionele operasionele fondse beskikbaar gemaak om die beplanning van maatskaplike behuising (woonstelle) te bespoedig en so veral ouer inwoners en agterplaasbewoners te akkommodeer. Die besonderhede is nog sensitief, maar die beplanning gaan veral fokus op geleenthede vir Cloetesville en Idasvallei.

Ons gaan ook veral aandag gee aan van ons huureiendomme in Cloetesville. So is R14,5 miljoen begroot vir die opgradering van Steps/Orleans Lounge, R5,5miljoen vir Smartie Town en R4,5 miljoen vir die opgradering van die munisipale woonstelle in Langstraat.

Die behuisingsnood neem jaarliks toe, maar as 'n Munisipaliteit en Raad bly ons daartoe verbind om alles binne ons vermoë te doen om seker te maak waardige behuisingsgeleenthede word so vinnig as moontlik geskep.
Met die voorlegging van die 2019/2020 begroting, het die Munisipaliteit elektrisiteitstariewe vir die nuwe finansiële jaar met 13,07% verhoog.

Ons is bewus van die swaar ekonomiese omstandighede waaronder baie van ons inwoners gebuk gaan en die impak wat so 'n verhoging het. Ongelukkig word die verhoging van elektrisiteitstariewe deur NERSA en ESKOM bepaal en goedgekeur en nie deur ons nie.

taking water for granted and even when this drought passes, we will have to continue saving. Please continue with your good habits.

On 1 July 2019, we begin our new financial year. At the end of May, I presented the budget for the 2019/2020 financial year ahead. The budget is distributed in such a way that all our residents get a slice of the financial cake. Service delivery is at all times our core function and we are committed to delivering the best possible services to our residents. The largest part of our capital budget is therefore being spent on critical infrastructure projects that was neglected for some time. The maintenance and expansion of infrastructure is critically important because it ensures that we are able to continue delivering basic services and allows us to absorb the pressure and accommodate expansion and economic growth.
During the IDP (Integrated Development Plan) process, housing was one of the key issues highlighted by the community. This will unfortunately always be a challenge because the resources available are limited and we are dependent on the allotment we receive from National and Provincial Government.

Since the beginning of my term in 2016, I committed myself to improving the housing situation in the broader Stellenbosch. That is why we have started in all earnestness with the planning and implementation of housing projects. It is wonderful for me to be able to say that we are already busy implementing various projects and that there are several in the final phases of planning. I know our communities are jealously watching the various projects, but I can assure you that development is spread across the broader Stellenbosch. Jamestown, Ida's Valley, Cloetesville, Kayamandi, Klapmuts and Vlottenburg are included.

Following the IDP inputs, I also made additional operational funds available to speed up the planning for social housing (flats) to specifically accommodate older residents and backyarders. The details are still sensitive, but our planning will focus on opportunities for Cloetesville and Ida's Valley in particular.

We will also be giving attention to rental properties in Cloetesville. R14.5 million has been budgeted for the upgrading of the Steps/Orleans Lounge, R5.5million for Smartie Town and R4.5 million for the upgrading of municipal flats in Langstraat.

The need for housing increases annually but as a Municipality and a Council, we remain committed to doing everything within our power to make sure that proper housing opportunities are created as quickly as possible.

With the presentation of the 2019/2020 budget, the Municipality increased electrical tariffs to 13.07% for the new financial year.

We are aware of the difficult economic circumstances impacting on many of our residents and the impact an increase like this has. Unfortunately, the escalation of electricity tariffs is determined and approved by NERSA and ESKOM and not by us.

We buy electricity in bulk from ESKOM. That is why we

Ons koop die elektrisiteit in grootmaat by ESKOM. Daarom moet ons gehoor gee aan NERSA en ESKOM . Met die voortgeslepe voorsieningkrisis wat die land in beurtkrag gedompel het, het ESKOM en NERSA 'n 15,63% verhoging aangekondig op grootmaat verkope aan munisipaliteite. Ons voorgestelde tariefverhoging is laer - 13,07% in plaas van NERSA se voorgestelde 15,63%, maar NERSA moet nog ons tarief so goedkeur.

Ander tariefverhogings sluit ook in:

- **Eiendomsbelasting 6,50 %**
- **Water 6,5%**

- **Sanitasie 6%**
- **Vullisverwydering 16,5%**

Ek het reeds in 'n vorige nuusbrief aangedui dat ons stortingsterrein binnekort kapasiteit sal bereik en dat ons reeds besig is met stappe om die situasie aan te spreek. Ons werk reeds sedert 2016 hieraan, maar dit is ongelukkig iets wat reeds 10 jaar gelede aandag moes geniet, want dis 'n komplekse en tydsame proses. Die vergroting van die bestaande terrein asook die kostes om vullis intussen na alternatiewe terreine te vervoer totdat die werk by ons bestaande fasiliteit voltooi is, het ongelukkig 'n groot impak op ons tariewe.

Verskerpte herwinningsprogramme sal binnekort begin word en so sal ons probeer om die tariewe af te bring. Ek wil inwoners aanmoedig om aan te hou herwin en hergebruik waar moontlik en ook huishoudelike afval te verminder deur projekte soos kompostering. Ek het self begin navorsing doen oor kompostering by die huis en daar is wonderlike produkte op die mark wat dit maklik maak vir inwoners om hul eie komposemmers te begin, sonder enige onaangename reuke.

Met die verkiesings agter die rug, het daar ook 'n paar veranderings plaasgevind in die Raad. Twee raadslede is onderskeidelik verkies tot die nasionale en provinsiale parlement. Raadslid Jan De Villiers (DA) word nou 'n lid van die nasionale parlement en Raadslid Ntombezanele Bakubaku-Vos (ANC) word 'n lid van die provinsiale parlement. Met die vertrek van Raadslid De Villiers is daar tans 'n opening op die Burgemeesterskomitee en dit word tydelik waargeneem word deur Raadslid Quintin Smit totdat 'n nuwe lid aangewys is.

Ek hoop dat almal 'n geleentheid kry om 'n ruskans te neem gedurende die Wintervakansie! Vir die wat beplan om te reis, kom asseblief veilig terug ! Elkeen van u is kosbaar vir ons gemeenskap.

Beste Wense
Burgemeester Gesie

must give heed to NERSA and ESKOM. With the continuing supply crisis that resulted in load shedding, ESKOM and NERSA proposed a 15.63% increase in the purchasing price of bulk electricity sales to municipalities. Our proposed electricity tariff increase (13.07%) is less than the 15.63% NERSA proposal. This is because we are trying to absorb as much of the increase as possible to shield residents against higher tariffs, in this case absorbing 2.56% of the proposed increase. NERSA still needs to approve the tariff.
Other tariff increases include:

- **Property Rates 6,50 %**
- **Water 6,5%**

- **Sanitation 6%**
- **Refuse Removal 16,5%**

I already indicated in an earlier newsletter, that our landfill site will soon reach capacity and that we are busy with steps to address the situation. We have been working on this since 2016 but unfortunately it is something that needed attention 10 years ago, because it is a complex and time consuming process. The expansion of the site as well as the costs of transporting refuse to alternative sites until the existing facility is completed, unfortunately has a big impact on our tariffs.

Improved recycling programmes will start soon and we will try to curb tariffs this way. I want to encourage residents to continue to reduce, reuse and recycle. Reducing household waste through projects like composting is easy and makes a big difference. I have done some research about composting at home and there are wonderful products on the market that makes it easy for residents to start their own compost buckets, without any foul smells.

With the elections behind us, there have been some changes in Council. Two councillors were respectively elected to the national and provincial parliaments. Councillor Jan De Villiers (DA) is now a member of national parliament and Councillor Ntombezanele Bakubaku-Vos (ANC) is now a member of provincial parliament. With the departure of Councillor De Villiers, there is a vacancy on the Mayoral Committee and it is temporarily being filled by Councillor Quintin Smit until a new member has been appointed.

I hope you all have the opportunity to take a break during the winter holiday! For those of you who plan to travel, please come back safely! You are all precious to our community!

Best Wishes
Mayor Gesie