



**STELLENBOSCH**

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MUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA • MUNICIPALITY

# STELLENBOSCH MUNICIPALITY NEWSLETTER / NUUSBRIEF / IPHEPHANDABA

May 2022



## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

### #MAYORGESIEATWORK



We may be slowly edging towards the end of our municipal financial year, that ends on 30 June 2022, but the pace of work at the municipality has been phenomenal over the last two months. April is traditionally a very busy month at the municipality as we finalise the draft budget and IDP, start with our IDP Public Participation process in which we have meetings across all wards of the municipality, gather inputs from residents on their needs and priorities and in between, we celebrated quite a few milestones!

A massive highlight was the installation of our first Solar Panels (PV-panels) at several municipal properties. This is a small but significant step in our goal of becoming a more resilient municipality that is able to keep the lights on when load shedding hits. South Africa's energy crisis is an economic crisis, and it has become imperative for municipalities to start investing in alternate energy sources. The facts are clear.



Solar power is a clean and affordable source of electricity that can be used to generate at the scale required by large economies, while emitting insignificant amounts of carbon. It is sad that we have come to accept load-shedding as a fact of life in South Africa, as we've been living with rolling blackouts for 15 years.

Solar Panels were installed at several key municipal properties. As part of our plans of reducing our reliance on Eskom and co-generating electricity in a sustainable manner, the municipality has appointed a service provider to install solar panels at several municipal properties including the Van Der Stel Sport Grounds, Stellenbosch Town Hall, administrative buildings, municipal depot and the Traffic Department. Work should be concluded by the end of June 2022, after which we will start with the next phase.



'n Ander groot hoogtepunt vir my was natuurlik die terugkeer van die Oesfees. Die Oesfees was inderdaad 'n fees! Dis 'n dag vol musiek, kleur, dans en joligheid om ons plaaswerkers en boere te bedank vir die harde werk wat in die oes ingaan. Vanjaar was dit vir my 'n groot voorreg om Beyerskloof aan te wys as die plaas met die beste vlot, terwyl Kaapzicht weggestap het as die span met die beste gees. Dankie aan die Stellenbosch Wynroetes vir hul uitstekende samewerking om hierdie viering 'n sukses te maak en dankie aan elke inwoner wat ons plaaswerkers kom ondersteun het. As wynmaker weet ek self, sonder die opofferings en lang dae wat plaaswerkers tydens die oestyd insit, is daar geen oes en dus geen wyn! Julle is die ruggraat van ons wynbedryf – 'n bedryf wat soveel inwoners in diens neem en 'n groot rol speel in ons plaaslike ekonomie.



*Die Oesfees was 'n FEES!*



At the start of April, it was once again time for the Mayoral Golf Day at the Stellenbosch Golf Club. This day is aimed towards raising funds for some of the most vulnerable residents in our community. The Mayoral Fund plays an exceptionally important role in our municipality as it offers me as the Executive Mayor the opportunity to help communities in extreme circumstances where assistance is not possible under the Municipality Financial guidelines.

Most requests for assistance or financial support are dealt with through the normal Grants-in-Aid Policy, but some deserving requests fall outside the ambit of this policy, and are then dealt with through the Mayoral Fund. The Mayoral Golf Day is an important event that raises money for the Mayoral Fund.

As Burgemeester ontvang op 'n gereelde basis versoeke vir hulp van inwoners wat in nood verkeer of hulp nodig het. My fokus met die fonds is absoluut om inwoners te help en by te staan wat deur uiterse moeilike omstandighede gaan of graag 'n geleentheid wil skep binne hulle gemeenskap, maar nie die hulpbronne het om dit te doen nie. Ons hulpbronne is egter beperk en ons oorweeg elke aansoek baie deeglik. Dankie aan Raadslid Rikus Badenhorst vir sy puik organisering van hierdie samekoms. Ons het op een aand R110 000 ingesamel vir die fonds. Dankie ook aan elke borg, speler en weldoener vir hul groot harte en oop beursies. Dit word opreg waardeer.



*It was wonderful to attend the Mayoral Golf Day again. Thanks for coming out to support this important fund.*



**"Hope you all had a happy Easter celebrating life & all its blessings."**



*The bark of Cinnamomum Camphora (The Camphor tree) is generally targeted for its bark. We recently took the decision to once again paint some of the stems as a deterrent - to protect the old giants. The paint used is a water-based paint that isn't toxic to the trees and doesn't harm the environment.*





*Dit was wonderlik om saam met Raadslid Elsabe Vermeulen en inwoners van Wyk 16 in Cloeteville Pinestraat te help opruim. Omwettige stortings is 'n groot probleem en samewerking soos hierdie is goud werd!*

Between 4 – 28 April, residents were encouraged to participate in the IDP and Budget process by providing inputs on the IDP – our key planning document that outlines our plans for the next year. Residents were able to provide inputs by visiting our IDP offices for verbal/written submissions, could send a WhatsApp to our dedicated IDP line (0674271556), could make use of a specially designed IDP form on our municipal website ([www.stellenbosch.gov.za](http://www.stellenbosch.gov.za)) or by simply emailing submissions to our IDP email address ([idp@stellenbosch.gov.za](mailto:idp@stellenbosch.gov.za)). As has been the case in the past, online IDP public participation meetings were also held between 20 – 26 April across all 23 wards of the municipality. Thank you for participating in this important process. It is your democratic right to participate, to make your voice heard and to have your say on how your money should be spent.

Now that President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced an end to the National State of Disaster (at least for now), in terms of COVID-19, we can hopefully be assured that life will start to return to normal. Our streets, cafes, shops, restaurants and bars are filling up as more and more residents and visitors see the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic subsiding.

Ek moedig jou egter steeds aan om na jouself te kyk. Wees eerder veilig, kry u inenting so gou as moontlik en was gereeld u hande.

Ek vertrou dat u 'n veilige en geseende Paasfees beleef het waar u opnuut verseker was van God se genade, liefde en verlossing. En na 'n maand van Ramadan het baie inwoners ook aan die begin van die maand Eid al-Fitr gevier. Ek hoop hierdie was vir u 'n tyd van vrede, goeie dae en groei.

Please join me in keeping our fellow South Africans in KwaZulu-Natal in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to recover from the devastating torrential rains experienced in the province recently.

May you have a blessed and prosperous month ahead!

Until next time,

*Mayor Gesie*

