



Date: 17 November 2017

Version: 0001

MUNICIPALITY PUBLIC UPDATE

The Municipality see the need to update communities on fundamental matters that affect all of us as citizens of Thembelihle Local Municipality.

The community is a critical component within the affairs of the Municipality. The Municipality's intention is to provide communities with regular updates on Municipality affairs.

The updates do not replace the work of Councilors and/or the Ward Committees.

1. **Appointment of Municipal Manager:**

The Council appointed Mr. Michael R Jack as from 02 November 2017, on a five (5) year Fixed Term contract. The Municipal Manager appointed has 19 years local government experience. His vision is to contribute to grow Thembelihle Local Municipality to a formidable force in Government, able to deliver quality and professional services to the people and to foster sustainable public relations. Let us together rise to solve the current challenges facing the Municipality.

2. **Financial Management:**

The Municipality continue to apply measures to ensure proper management of our finances. The Municipality is hard at work to analyze our financial position and this would include cost containment measures that would be presented to Council for approval. It will affect our expenditure patterns to ensure savings and revenue increase. The Municipality remain committed in meeting our commitments towards creditor payments.

In October 2017 we have noticed a decline in payment for municipal services. The Municipality request service users and/or owners to continue to pay for services. None payments will worsen our current financial position. The Municipality continue to deliver services within our serious limitations.

3. **Electricity situation:**

At this stage all sections of the community (Hopetown and Strydenburg) is aware of the situation of ESKOM. Where the Municipality has an outstanding debt with them.

The current interruptions are not good for the entire community although certain ESKOM supplied areas are not affected. The Council is working around the clock to find sustainable solutions to correct the situation. It would take increased and/or stable revenue base and controlled and decreased expenditure.

What happened to date?

- Members of the public in Hopetown has voiced their dissatisfaction and called for an end to the current situation.

- Continued engagement with ESKOM, Provincial Treasury and COGHSTA (department responsible for municipalities)
- Follow up meeting was convened with ESKOM to discuss possible payment arrangement
- Had a meeting with the Community Forum, to provide them with an update.
- Assessed possible problems with electricity (checking on electricity losses, illegal connections, and etc.)
- Planned assessment to determine reasons for high level of water losses.
- Planned engagement with the Municipality banker (finding possible solutions).
- Agreed with SALGA on assistance to the Municipality relating to capacity improvements.
- Management implementation of cost containment measures.
- Improve public relations.
- **Municipality staff continue to ask Account Holders to Pay for Services without fail** (Residents and Business must continue to pay)

Council will convene in the next two weeks to consider the options available. The final decision will be communicated.

During this difficulties the Council ask households and business to keep paying for municipal services. Payment arrangements must be taken up with the financial department of the Municipality to ensure uninterrupted services. Where ESKOM is supplying electricity the Municipality humbly request households to **PAY THEIR ACCOUNTS.**

The work of the Municipality must go on and scheduled projects will continue. Church Street resurfacing remain high on the agenda of Council, and will be addressed.

The Council do call for unity, cooperation and enormous support from everyone.

The Honourable Mayor – Councilor Brenda Mpamba, Council and Administration do apologize for the current inconvenience and do ask that people prepare in advance for interruptions to avoid occurrences.

Any suggestions can be forwarded to the Municipal Manager Michael R Jack at mrjack@thembelihlemunicipality.gov.za or contact the offices.

ISSUED BY

**Michael R Jack
Municipal Manager**