WITZENBERG NEWS

Municipality • Munisipaliteit • U Masipala Wase

A municipality that cares for its community, creating growth and opportunity!

January - March 2024



Executive Mayor Cllr Trevor Abrahams

We are experiencing technical difficulties on our elephone lines. Kindly use below numbers for the interim: **24-hr Emergency Control Room:** Line A: 072 851 8294 Line B: 072 852 2362

From the Mayor's Desk

Good day All

What a start to 2024! Council is back from recess, and Administration is ready to service our community best we can. Despite the fires raging around us, and across the greater Western Cape, I am finding myself in a hot seat as the head of Council. Rest assure, we are ready and up for any challenge that may come our way. Thank you to everyone for the support thusfar!

I would like to wish all the learners, teaching and support staff a prosperous academic year. Congratulations to the class of 2023, and we wish you all well with your future endeavours. To those who need a second chance to improve marks, make the most of the opportunity.

Due to the ongoing wildfires raging in various districts, Anton Bredell, Western Cape Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning announced that the Provincial Government (WCG) has approached the National Disaster Management Centre for a Provincial Disaster Classification as a result of several wildfires burning across the province. This will allow for greater collaboration and utilising resources more optimally and quicker. Thank you to ALL the roleplayers, aerial support and ground teams for their resilience and hard work, especially during this challenging fire season, and for all the generous donations.

I urge all to take care in the extreme temperatures we are experiencing, stay hydrated and be careful in nature and around water masses. Use drinking water sparingly and report wastage to our 24-hr Control Room on 023 316 2328/9.

With great dedication and discipline, and by working together, we will achieve so much more and improve the lives of communities. Looking forward with great expectation!



Class of 2023's Top Achievers awarded - For the past four years, the Witzenberg Matric Fund (WMF) has helped several matriculants from the Ceres area to further their studies. Recently the top matrics in the Witzenberg were celebrated during an special matric award ceremony held in Ceres. Executive Mayor, Cllr Trevor Abrahams, as well as the WCED Circuit Manager, Ms J Harker, and Ms P Dangala, a former recipient, shared a word of motivation with the Class of 2023, their parents and teachers who attended the event. Over the years, the bursary fund supported deserving students with amongst others, transport, food, books and laptops. The WMF is a registered Non-profit organisation and the principals of the eight high schools serve on the management. Individuals and businesses can donate to the fund. The banking details: FNB Cheque Account; Account name: Witzenberg Matric Fund; Account number: 62590819565.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY

023 316 1854 (office hours)



CERES: 023 316 8600/24 TULBAGH: 023 230 8100 PA HAMLET: 023 313 3133

WOLSELEY: 023 231 8000



AMBULANCE: 023 346 6000



023 316 2328/9 (all towns) **112** (from any cellular phone)





PREMIER, MAYORS VISIT KLUITJIESKRAAL FIRE SITES

The ongoing wildfires that has been ranging in the Witzenberg and greater Cape Winelands since 22 January 2024, has to date (end of January) destroyed more than 22 000 ha. Recently Executive Mayor of Witzenberg, Cllr Trevor Abrahams, together with District Mayor Dr Elna von Schlicht, Western Cape Premier Alan Winde, and various roleplayers visited the affected areas to witness the firefighting activities and devastation due the multiple fires first-hand.

The delegation also visited the Incident Command Post (ICP) and complimented the Operational team for their sound management in difficult circumstances, as well as thanked the aerial resources and ground crews and all other roleplayers for their dedication and hard work, and assistance from the communities and for all donations.

As fires continue to rage across the Western Cape region as well as fire fighting efforts, the hotspots are currently in the Cape Winelands, Overberg and Cape Metro regions.

Although wildfires can have devastating effects on people's lives, property and animals, they're also important for local ecosystems. For example, the heat generated by fires, help certain types of fynbos plant seeds to germinate.

The public should note that during the hot and dry summer season, wildfires are more prevalent and are difficult to control. Wildfires (also referred to as veld fires) are bush fires both within and outside urban areas that have the potential to spread out of control. Most wildfires are started by people, compared to a small amount which is started by natural occurrences such as lightning.

Early fire warnings remain critical to controlling fires quickly. The public is therefore implored to report any signs of fire, regardless of how insignificant it may appear, to their local fire service by dialing 112 or call the **Witzenberg 24-hr Control Room on 023 316 2328/9**.

Images: <u>NCC Wildfires</u> and Leading Edge Aviation; Supplied by CWDM Fire Officers and various ground teams on the lines







IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEBT COLLECTION & CREDIT CONTROL POLICY

Suspending or disconnecting supply the supply of electricity-

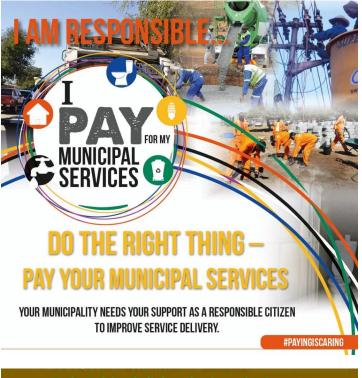
Where a domestic consumer electricity supply has been suspended or disconnected, the following must be in place before electricity services is reconnected:

1. Households

- 1.1 Conventional meters:
- 1.1.1 Amount equal to one months' debits must be paid;
- 1.1.2 An agreement must be entered into for the payment of the outstanding balance;
- 1.1.3 If an agreement is not entered into an amount equal to two months debits must be paid;
- 1.1.4 If there is already an agreement in place, the agreement amount in arrears is payable to a maximum amount equal to two months' debits must be paid.
- 1.1.5 The electricity meter will be replaced with a prepaid meter if the agreement is not fulfilled.
- 1.2 Pre-payment meters:
- 1.2.1 Amount equal to one months' debits must be paid;
- 1.2.2 An agreement must be entered into for the payment of the outstanding balance;
- 1.2.3 If an agreement is not entered into an amount equal to 1.5 months debits must be paid;
- 1.2.4 If there is already an agreement in place, the agreement amount in arrears is payable to a maximum amount equal to one months' debits including interest raised in addition to the amount mentioned in 1.2.1.
- 1.2.5 A portion of electricity purchases to be set off against arrear debt. (Auxiliary 30%)
- 2. Indigent households:
- 2.1 Portion of pre-paid electricity purchases to be set off against arrear debt. (Auxiliary 30%)

2.2 Indigent households may be moved from conventional electricity to pre-paid electricity.

Together we can SAVE WATER! +(



Batho Pele is a belief set that is used to improve service delivery in the public service.

In Sesotho it means *"People First"*, an approach to get public servants committed to serving people and to find ways to improve service delivery.





VANDALISM, THEFT OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE COSTING MILLIONS

The ongoing vandalism and theft of municipal property and crucial infrastructure is costing the municipality millions in repairs and replacements.

As a result of these criminal acts, budget that was earmarked for community development and upliftment projects will have to be redirected and utilised to repair and replace costly infrastructure to ensure we can provide and sustain basic service delivery. In December the Pumpstation 4 in Ceres was vandalised. Damages amounts to

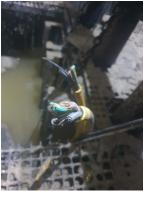


R 750 000. Last year, this pumpstation was refurbished at an amount of R 1.2 million including security upgrades.

In addition the refurbishing of the Ceres Boreholes was completed in September 2023 also at an amount of R 1.2 million, including security upgrades. However, two of the boreholes were vandalised on Monday, 17 January 2024 including the booster pump station. Estimated damages are about R700 000. We urge the public to report all illegal activities, especially vandalism and theft of municipal infrastructure to SAPS immediately, or call our 24-hr Control Room on 023 3162328/9.







FINANCE NOTICE: All residents and business are requested to submit alternative contact details, email addresses and/or cell phone numbers with their relevant account numbers to account@witzenberg.gov.za as accounts are not delivered on time

PREPAID METER SOFTWARE EXPIRES IN '24

When the current prepaid meter software expires in 2024, any meter which has not been recoded will be unable to upload prepaid tokens, resulting in residents without electricity supply and residents will not be able to recharge their meters with new electricity tokens. Witzenberg Municipality is set to inspect, test and upgrade all prepaid electricity meters' software across the Witzenberg area changing the meter coding to ensure that all encryption key numbers are reset before the October 2024 deadline.

The municipality's appointed contractor, Ontec Services will visit your neighbourhood as from 19 February 2024, on weekdays from 08:00-19:00. It is important to remember that while entering any property, the municipal contractor, data collector, or any other authorized individual is required to present their identity card upon request from any property owner.



CONTRACT C1116.01

NOTICE OF LANE CLOSURES DUE TO ROAD CONSTRUCTION ALONG **R46 - WOLSELEY TO TOUWSRIVIER**

Traffic lanes on the R46 between Wolseley and Touwsrivier will be intermittently closed during daytime closures with limited closures during night. Accommodation of traffic is to be carried out by closing off one lane of traffic at a time and accommodating unidirectional traffic on the other lane.

Temporary lane closures as part of the Traffic Accommodation plan have commenced during September 2023 and will most likely continue up until July 2024.

The Western Cape Government is working hard to maintain our roads. Please drive carefully during this period of construction. Let us work together to ensure that our roads are safe. **For You.**





Witzenberg Traffic Department and Vehicle testing Station will be offering FREE Vehicle Safety Screening checks as part of a road safety campaign.

Available from Monday, 22 January 2024, during office hours.

NOTE: This is not a full roadworthy test and no roadworthy certificate shall be issued. The test is also not compulsory. No booking needed.

> For more details, contact the Witzenberg Traffic Department on 023 312 5897.

For municipal updates and news

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GOOD PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON ROADWORKS IN THE WITZENBERG AREA

CONTRACT NO. C1216 – THE PERIODIC MAINTE-NANCE OF MR310, DR1458 AND DR1487 BETWEEN CERES AND OP DIE BERG

Good progress is being made by the Western Cape Government on roadworks in the Witzenberg municipal town of Ceres. The contract commenced in November 2023 and is scheduled for completion in March 2026. The department has set aside a budget of R378 million for the completion of this project.

"The success of the road network in the Western Cape has always been evident through our strategy of a rigorous preventative and periodic road maintenance programme," said Advocate Chantal Smith, acting Head of the Western Cape Infrastrucutre Department. "What further makes me proud is that we have set high contract participation goals which includes 40 000 person-days of work created which translates to 350 work opportunities through the length of the programme," she added.

The department is ensuring that the project creates tangible job opportunities, for the local communities. The provincial Minister of Infrastructure Tertuis Simmers said, "Labour-intensive methods are preferred over mechanised methods wherever practically possible to maximise the employment of local labour and to ensure that the contract participation goal for local labour is met. The elements of work that were identified where people can be used instead of machines include traffic accommodation, crack sealing, rut filling, seals, structures, sidewalks, side drains, road signs, weed eradication, grass cutting, route patrols, and finishing the road reserve".

The Western Cape Government is committed to creating an enabling environment for economic growth through infrastructure and the department's contractor development initiatives respond to this. "Of interest is that the Department also set a target of 14 contracts for local enterprises for contractors graded at 1 or 2CE (Civil Engineering) while also setting a target of emerging contractor development of 12 contracts to 3 to 5 CE contractors. This is part of the provincial government's commitment to use infrastructure investment to upskill and develop emerging contractors," Minister Simmers concluded.

Media release by: Western Cape Department of Infrastructure; Date: 31 January 2024





The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate and maintain sections along MR310, DR1458 and DR1487 between Ceres and Op Die Berg in the Cape Winelands District Municipality of the Western Cape. The boundary of the site includes the following roads:

- MR00310 from km 1.91 to km 57.75
- DR01458 from km 6.00 to km 10.92.
 DR01487 from km 102.53 to km 102.83
- DR01487 from km 102.53 to km 102.65.
 DR01487 from km 105.93 to km 123.3.2

The following is the current envisaged work:

MR00310 km 1.91 to km 12.50

To repair surface and base failures where required, by means of asphalt patches, and to apply an A-E2 asphalt surfacing overlay.

MR00310 km 12.50 to km 20.10

To repair surface and base failures where required, by means of asphalt patches, improve riding quality through skimming and application of scratch coat whereafter applying an A-E2 asphalt surfacing overlay. Through the pass, localised curve widening on the inner curves shall be applied through the use of bitumen stabilised material base and subbase construction. Drainage shall be improved through the Gydo Pass through a retrofitted side drain against the cut face.

MR00310 km 20.10 to km 37.90

To repair surface and base failures where required, by means of asphalt patches, crack sealing, rutfilling and applying a slurry texture seal to the entire extent of the road to be resealed and to seal the road using a 14mm single seal using a bitumen rubber (S-R2) tack coat.

MR00310 km 37.90 to km 50.60

To improve the vertical and horizontal alignment, widen the existing road from 6.6m to 8.6m, rehabilitate the existing pavement through reworking the base as a selected layer, widening the cross section, construction of a new cement stabilised subbase, new base layer and seal with a temporary armour seal followed by a final 14mm single seal using a bitumen rubber (S-R2) tack coat.

MR00310 km 50.60 to km 57.75

To repair surface and base failures where required, by means of asphalt patches, crack sealing, rutfilling, and applying a slurry texture seal to the entire extent of the road to be resealed, and to seal the road using a I4mm single seal using a bitumen rubber (S-R2) tack coat.

DR01458 km 6.00 to km 10.92

To widen the existing road width from 6.6m to 8.0m through granular materials, repair surface and base failures where required by means of asphalt patches, crack sealing, rutfilling, and applying a slurry

texture seal to the entire extent of the road to be resealed, and to seal the road using a 14mm single seal using a bitumen rubber (S-R2) tack coat.

DR01487 km 102.53 to km 102.83 and km 105.93 to km 123.32

To repair surface and base failures where required, by means of asphalt patches, crack sealing, rutfilling and applying a slurry texture seal to the entire extent of the road to be resealed, and to seal the road using a 10mm single seal using a bitumen rubber (S-R2) tack coat. Rehabilitation of the section of road between km 105.93 to km 107.50 on the right-hand side through in situ recycling of the base layer surfaced with a temporary armour seal followed by a final 10mm single seal using a bitumen rubber (S-R2) tack coat.







Cilr Jonathan Nel PR (ICOSA)



CIIr Warrick Alexander PR (PA)

PR (ANC)

CIIr Isak Swartz PR (EFF)





CIIr Noluthando Nogcinisa PR (ANC)





Cllr Katriena Robyn PR (GOOD)



Important prepaid meter software update (TID Rollover)

Kindly note that when the current prepaid meter software expires in 2024, any meter which has not been recoded will be unable to upload prepaid tokens, resulting in residents without electricity supply and residents will not be able to recharge their meters with new electricity tokens.

Witzenberg Municipality is set to inspect, test and upgrade all prepaid electricity meters' software across the Witzenberg area changing the meter coding to ensure that all encryption key numbers are reset before the October 2024 deadline.

Therefore, Witzenberg Municipality request all residents to allow or grant access to the appointed service provider who will visit residences and business during office hours on weekdays. Where it is not possible to grant them access during these hours, appointments can be made to conduct the meter upgrade after hours.

TOKEN IDENTIFIER (TID) ROLLOVER FOR ALL STS PRE-PAYMENT METERS - FREQUENTLY ASK QUESTIONS?

What is TID?

TID is a unique token identifier that is coded into the token that you purchase from any vending point or outlet. The current identifier is calculated as the number of minutes that have elapsed since the base

date of 1993

How will this affect my STS pre-payment meter?

All STS pre-payment meters will require to be recorded by means of a Key Change Token (KCT) that will reset the base date of the meter. This will have to be done by November 2024 after which any token generated on the "old" base date will not be accepted by the meters.

What needs to be done?

A Key Change Token will be generated on the vending system and will have to be physically entered into the meter.

Will the meter require replacement?

The initial step is to change the base date by means of the Key Change Token of the existing meter. If, for any reason, the meter does not accept the token then it might have to be replaced.

What happens to tokens that I have purchased and not used?

Tokens will have to be entered into the meter before the upgrade takes place

Will the units be cleared?

No - The process will have no effect on your credits on the meter.

Is this a real threat?

Yes it is. If the KEY CHANGE TOKEN is not entered into the meter before November 2024 then the meter will not accept any vending tokens

APRIL

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DECEMBER

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FRIDAY

PA HAMLET TOWN.

WATERVAL AREA AND

SWANEBERGPARK

INCLUDING ALL BUSINESSES

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