



**Leading Witzenberg into the
Future**

A Municipality That Cares



Success is not achieved overnight, but through a well-designed strategic plan, accompanied by a realistic and achievable operational plan. You can have the best plans, but they do not implement themselves, you need a well-oiled team of dynamic politicians, staff and competent administrative leadership. The achievement highlighted in this document speaks to the promises we have made to our citizens within the Witzenberg.

From a business perspective our picturesque and fertile Valley, Witzenberg, is best known for its fruit and wine products. The region is also well-known for producing other agriculturally-linked products such as olives and grain, as well as for producing beef and pork products. Horse and cattle stud farms are also found within our municipal area.

Good governance, affordable services, community safety, housing, local economic development, job creations and a blossoming environment was always the mission for the Witzenberg area. We have not achieved all our goals, but we have achieved the most important milestones in terms of our priority listing. This document will highlight these achievements during this term of governance, keep it and be proud of it.

We as citizens of the Witzenberg are faced with severe challenges. Just to mention a few of these challenges - seasonal work, escalating criminal activities, school drop outs, social ill manifesting rapidly in our communities, gangster activities and financial hardship. This is what we are faced with as part of our daily lives, but we must acknowledge this is ills that is inherent to a predominant rural area. Through all of this as a collective we ensure that a bouquet of quality services is being rendered to the whole of the Witzenberg with assistance of our paying customers big or small.

Our vision should always be to improving the quality of life for everyone, a Municipality that cares for its community, creating growth and opportunities in abundance. I want to say thank you to every business, every citizen, and every community leader for your contribution you have made during our period of governance.

Someone once told me, the most unstoppable machine once it gets moving, is a train. The only way to stop it, is to derail the train, let us not derail what we have achieved, "lets steam forth to a brighter future".

Our Profile

Witzenberg Municipality is a municipality burgeoning with investment potential and experiencing rapid rural/urban development. Our picturesque landscape consists of Ceres, Wolseley, Prince Alfred's Hamlet, Tulbagh, Nduli, Bella Vista, Op-die-Berg and the Ceres Karoo. Development in these areas can largely be attributed to tourism, fruit orchards, viticulture and an emerging commercial sector. However, rural communities serving agrarian regions are often susceptible to seasonal employment, a skills deficit in the workforce and poverty. These social ills also affect parts of Witzenberg Municipality, but this is regarded as an opportunity for economic growth and social transformation as opposed to a dire consequence.

Witzenberg Municipality strives to achieve exceptional service delivery to draw investments to our district and can only achieve maximum efficiency and progress if the public that we serve can enjoy basic living standards and have adequate employment options.

We launched a partnership, spearheaded by prominent business leaders, to focus upon and guide the local financial infrastructure thus creating a forum for growth and shared ideas. Our partnership led to the expansion of existing markets and the exploration of emerging ones. We aspire to implement innovative methods to eradicate poverty and provide redress for the historically disadvantaged.

We are resolute about providing the youth with marketable skills and on the job experience through temporary work schemes and mentorship.

Nurturing the spirit of entrepreneurship, we offer assistance to local contractors so that they can flourish and become nationally competitive. We made great strides in service delivery through the improvement of water quality and waste management with the objective of becoming nationally and internationally competitive as a premium tourism destination and a first-rate investment option for the agricultural and business sectors.



Creating a Better Future for All

Our Municipality is committed to openness and transparency and by focussing on healthy fiscal practices, we were able to attain 8 consecutive clean audits. Our steadfast approach on focusing on our Key Performance Areas aided our goal of maintaining the healthy fiscal practices we pride ourselves in and are as follows:

- Essential Services
- Governance
- Communal Services
- Socio-Economic Support Services

Led by our Culture and Principles our Municipality subscribes and are committed to the Batho Pele Principles of putting people first. We engage with our communities on strategic planning. Endeavour to adhere to service delivery standards, which if not reached, entitles the public to an explanation and/or remedial action. We will strive to ensure that our services are as accessible as possible.

Most importantly we strive to ensure that all persons and organisations are treated with dignity and respect at all times.



Our Top Success Stories:

Essential Services & Infrastructure:

We spent close to R268 million on maintaining and ensuring the sustainable provision and maintenance of basic infrastructure since 2016 including electricity, water, roads and storm water upgrades.

In line with our vision we upgraded roads in Tulbagh to the value of R16 million and upgrading of the Van Breda bridge in Ceres to the value of R50 million will commence soon.

We placed a strong emphasis on infrastructure development planning and execution. Since 2016 a total of 14 masterplans were drafted and developed which included Water & Sanitation, Electrical, Roads & Storm water, Tulbagh CBD and Solid Waste.

Material Recovery Facility:

We invested R30 million in the upgrading of our waste collection fleet, the establishment of public drop-offs and a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in order to contribute to conserving our beautiful environment.

Our MRF will ensure in future that waste from our other towns be taken to Ceres where recyclables will be extracted, tailings consolidated and thereafter transported to the regional waste facility.



Reducing and Conserving Water

As we all know, water is a priceless commodity that cannot be replaced if lost. Water is life! The Western Cape as a whole had recently just overcome one of the biggest droughts it has experienced in years. We are committed to not only doing our part in preventing water losses but consistently urges our community members to save water.

Due to our Water Demand Management Plan we achieved a 15% water loss during the past financial year, well below the national norm of 37%. The preceding three years during the peak of the drought in our Province our average water percentage losses amounted to 17%.

In line with the Water Demand Management Plan we focussed on building a new water storage dam in Tulbagh to the cost of R40 million.



Community Safety

We enhanced community safety by increasing and improving street lightning and to enter into partnerships regarding the installation and monitoring of CCTV cameras.

We increased security to prevent illegal land invasions, both public and private and to assist both law-enforcement and police in maintaining law and order in our towns.

Visible law enforcement and traffic officials endeavour a safe environment.

We enhanced sport and recreational facilities to in our attempts to eradicate various social ills with visible success.

Walkways was built to the value of R5 million to provide for pedestrian safety and to prevent the possible loss of lives.



Human Settlements

Providing for the needs of human settlements through improving our services is of utmost importance to us. Thus we invested enormously in human settlements in our municipal area. The two main projects we focused on are:

- Vredebes Housing Project - To date we transferred 229 housing units, serviced 635 sites and are currently focussing on an additional 512 sites. We provided for an additional 600 sites for GAP housing.
- Bella Vista Housing Project- To date we transferred 307 housing units.

Our own contribution to the abovementioned projects till date amounted to nearly R90 million. We ensured fair housing opportunities by auditing our waiting list and regularly updating it. Our housing allocations are also being advertised in the community to ensure transparency. We further ensured that our elderly community members were accommodated first.

We delivered 169 historic title deeds during this period.



Creating Opportunities and Jobs

Major emphasis was placed on creating an enabling environment to attract industrial initiatives. An emphasis was placed on job creation to negate the impact of high poverty levels within our areas. Strategic land was made available, red tape reduced and incentives provided to accommodate industrial developments and expansions to the value of R1,1 billion. The aforementioned unlocked nearly 600 permanent and 800 seasonal employment opportunities.

We created 1698 employment opportunities through our Municipal EPWP projects and spend R27 million over the past four years. The Municipality was successful in being awarded the AgriPark due to negotiations and a hands-on approach with The Department of Rural Development. Roads as well as the electricity network were upgraded in Skoonvlei (Ceres) industrial area under the AgriPark initiative. Although we invested R2,2 million in Local Economic Developments in Prince Alfred Hamlet and Bella Vista our shortage of electricity due to Eskom caused a suspension in further projects.

Responsive Local government

Supporting our poor and vulnerable residents through programmes and policies is integral to the progression and development of our people. In order to assist our communities an average of 5 000 households per annum benefit from our indigent subsidies.

We adjusted our indigent policy during this term thus creating a new subsidised category supporting 2000 households within the income bracket of between R3000-R5000 per month. Our indigent subsidy relief for the past five years amounted to R112,2 million and property rate exemptions to the value of R36,7 million was granted to our citizens.

We did not increase our residential water consumption tariffs during the Covid 19 period and no basic charge increase took place for the past four years. In order to further assist our community, we subsidised electricity for our residential households.

We supported ECD's, Youth, Gender, Substance abuse and Disabilities programmes with training and support.



Good Governance

Witzenberg Municipality and our staff embraced the importance of Good Governance and accountability. Good Governance to us does not stand alone in this regard.

Supporting Institutional Transformation and Development, ensuring Financial viability and maintaining and strengthening relations are just as important to us. Our investment in the following areas was crucial:

- Supporting Institutional Transformation & Development: We upgraded the Ceres Library and a New Traffic Test Centre was build.
- Ensuring Financial Viability: We attained Clean Audits without any findings over the past eight years. We implemented a Revenue Protection policy for illegal electrical connections in our Municipality.
- Maintaining and Strengthening Relations: The Twinning agreement with Essen, Belgium was renewed with the focus on waste management and youth development. Youth ambassadors

were appointed to educate communities on waste management. We actively promoted and trained our youth in plumbing, carpentry and artisan skills programmes.

We partnered with CBI to assist with a mentorship programme with small businesses entrepreneurs. The partnership provides 10 businesses annually to be funded with seed capital of R30 000.00.



Community Services

Providing and Maintaining Facilities for public use is of utmost importance for our Municipality:

Sports Facilities:

- We upgrading the Lyell Street sports grounds in Ceres to the value of R7 million;
- We further upgraded various netball courts and sportsgrounds to the value of R1, 850 million.

Ablution Facilities:

- A new public ablution facility was developed in Op-Die-Berg to the value of R1,3 million to provide specifically for the needs of our farming communities.

Environmental Clearing:

- Keeping our environment clean for our community members as well as our tourists is imperative. We cleared up the environment by removing alien vegetation throughout our area.



Tourism within the Area

The Tourism Industry has recorded a very strong growth and has become an important element of the local economy. Our key tourism activities include wine tasting, 4X4 routes, hiking, game reserves, camping, horse riding, fishing, annual community festivals, snow in Ceres during the winter months, agricultural tourism attractions, fruit tours, zip-slide, San cave, museums and historic buildings. Witzenberg Tourism caters for Cape Town and other Western Cape day- and weekend tourists, as well as up-country seasonal tourists.

To accommodate the ever growing tourism scene we partnered with the Tourism sector and provides funding to assist in the ever increasing tourism demand.

We actively supported the upstart of the train that travels from Cape Town to Ceres weekly with tourists wanting to explore the Witzenberg.





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