



Taking the City Back to the People

COUNCIL BULLETIN

e-edition

Blantyre celebrates 50 years of twinning with Hannover

Blantyre City will this year join Hannover City in celebrating 50 years of Sister City relationship.

Activities to mark the climax of the celebrations will take place in Hannover on 20 June and Mayor of Blantyre City Wild Ndipo will attend the celebrations.

The relationship between the two cities promotes cultural

COUNCIL PASSES 2018/19 BUDGET

On Thursday, May 3, 2018, Members of the Council passed a proposed 2018/19 budget at a Full Council Meeting presided over by His Worship Councillor Wild Ndipo, Mayor of Blantyre City.

In his remarks, Ndipo said he was confident the budget was crafted in a manner that reaffirms that the Council was concerned with the plight of the people it serves.

Said Ndipo; "We want a

budget that seeks to restore the confidence of the residents in their City and also a budget that aims at rebuilding and improving the basic requirements for a functional, responsive, accountable, effective, and efficient developmental municipality."

"Let me seize this opportunity and thank the residents who religiously pay for services. We make yet another clarion call to them to continue doing so, so that we can sustain



Mayor Ndipo



Mwachangati

Town Planning and Estates Services Dept

Any city is first defined by its topography which is mostly the arrangement of features such as buildings (personal, residential and commercial), roads, parks and other varying facilities. For this reason

technocrats are at the heart of making sure that a city has necessary infrastructure in the right places so as to aid conducive habitation, mobility and human activity. Blantyre City too has a Town Plan-

ning and Estates Management Services department solely for this purpose.

Town Planning and Estates Management Services is one of the eight



Chanza: GIS has become a very important tool

“Let us all make Blantyre a City of choice by constructing modern buildings.”



One of the buildings demolished under the Red Star Campaign

Red Star Campaign to modernize Blantyre City

departments of Blantyre City Council.

The department is headed by Costly Chanza who as Director reports to the Chief Executive Officer. He is deputized by Matthews Mwadzangati.

The Department's major objective is ‘to provide a well-planned and coordinated urban built environment for the City. One of the key tasks, therefore, is to ensure systematic planning and design of infrastructure in the City.

Town Planning department among others is also responsible for the planning of the road network. It is the desire of the City Council to reduce traffic in the City in all its roads by constantly engaging all and sundry to achieve this dream. Currently the City is embarking on design of bypasses as one way of ensuring a hassle free trafficability. The department is also mandated to guide development in the City.

Development projects that have been approved are guided throughout the entire construction period up to the issuance of Occupation certificate.

Under the department of Town Planning is the newly created section of Geographical Information System (GIS) which ensures that land management systems are up to date.

The GIS has become a very useful tool in the identification of idle land for creation of serviced plots for its residents.

Urbanization of the City of Blantyre has been on a steady rise and with it has come the sprouting and extension of squatter settlements. The Department of Town Planning therefore undertakes the improvement of these slum/squatter settlements.

“The upgrading of slum settlement involves provision of road infrastructure, water, sanitation

services, plot demarcation and relocation of displaced settlements,” says Chanza.

The department is currently carrying out the Red Star Campaign whose aim is to redevelop the urban “decay” areas of the City through rehabilitation and demolition of buildings that do not meet the minimum standards of the City and poses danger to the users and are an eye sore to the public.

“Other business owners in Blantyre CBD and Limbe CBD have complied with the Council’s request and some have started painting, maintaining and demolishing their buildings,” says Deputy Director of Town Planning and estate services Matthews Mwadzangati.

He added that “if all property owners would comply with the Campaign we will have modern buildings and Blantyre will be an elegant City.”



Council implements tree planting project

Deputy Mayor Joseph Makwinja on Tuesday led thousands of pupils and teachers from 21 schools in Blantyre City in tree planting exercise marking the launch of a project funded by Hanover City Council.

Through the Department of Education, the Council has received a grant of Euro 5 000 from Hanover City Council to implement a tree plant-

ing project in 21 schools in the City.

Launching the project, Makwinja stressed the need to care for the planted trees because Blantyre which used to be called a green city, was now bare.

“As pupils, you need to be in the forefront caring for these trees because they are your future,” said Makwinja.

In her remarks, District

Education Manager Evelyn Mjima thanked Hanover City Council, which has a twinning relationship with Blantyre City Council, for the financial support.

Over 1 000 seedlings are to be planted under the project implemented as part of celebrating 50 years of twinning between the two cities.



Makwinja planting his tree

Council inspects events gardens

Blantyre City Council has started inspection of events gardens to determine their suitability to continue hosting public events such as weddings. In 2015, the Council is-

sued a public notice banning the holding of events in residential areas in open grounds.

The ban was issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 64 of

The Public Health Act and Paragraph 4 of the Second Schedule of The Local Government Act.

However, owners of events gardens obtained an injunction stopping

the Council from enforcing the ban.

Following the court ruling last year which vindicated the Council, the garden owners have been sensitised and inspection of various gardens done.

2018/19 budget passed

From front page

the quality of services we provide,” he said.

The Mayor also challenged the Council secretariat to explore possibilities of broadening the revenue base considering that the residents expect improved service delivery.

“We need to be innova-

tive and create new avenues of revenue collection. The job at hand is so enormous that maintaining the traditional ways of raising finances will not be sustainable,” he said.

The budget is formulated through a consultative process which include conducting Budget Participatory Conference

Court defers Red Star case ruling

The High Court which was on May 2, 2019 expected to deliver a land mark ruling on the injunction obtained by developers to frustrate the Red Star Campaign has deferred the judgement.

Justice Healey Potani has been holding on to the ruling for over a

year after the Council applied for vacation of the injunction which restrained the Council from implementing the recommendations to demolish the structure marked with a red star. Potani is expected to deliver the much awaited ruling on May 21, 2018.



Nkolokoti Primary School on Saturday beat Namame Primary School 2-1 in football game to win the 2018 edition of Mayor's Trophy during the finals played at Blantyre Youth Centre. While in netball, Mbayani Primary School emerged the winners after beating Nkolokoti Primary School. In his words, Mayor Wild Ndipo the aim of the Mayor's Trophy competition is to unearth the raw talent and develop skills among the youth. He thanked FDH and FMB for supporting the competition. In the picture, Mayor Ndipo presents a cheque to Mbayani School Netball team captain

Mayor's Trophy: A respite to primary school learners

Heroes are made not only in class; others are made in sporting fields. Sport has been part of our culture bringing unity and entertainment for years.

The Mayor's Trophy, a competition where primary school learners do battle in football and netball in the Blantyre City, has produced such heroes.

After long periods of learning in their classrooms, primary school boys and girls in Blantyre City will now be engaged in sports activities following the return of the Mayor's trophy.

Since the abolition of physical education in primary schools which was helpful amongst learners in building their bodies and developing their mental capacity, the coming of the Mayor's trophy is very beneficial in their education.

The trophy, which started in 1968, has produced numerous football and netball stars. They have graced the countries national teams helping put the country on the map.

Joseph Kamwendo is one of the football stars whose talent was unearthed courtesy of the Mayors trophy. Shakira, as Kamwendo is

popularly known, has played professional football in Denmark, South Africa, and DRC and currently plies his trade in Mozambique.

Kamwendo is all praises for the re-introduction of the Mayor's Trophy: "It's very important because this is where you can get exposure."

He adds: "It was nice and a great feeling to take part in the Mayor's Trophy competition because this is where I realised that I can make it big in this game. It's going to be a great opportunity for some of the players (participating in the competition) because in this football game, you can't tell."

Chairman for the trophy's organizing committee for 2016 edition Councillor Mike Mambo says the Mayor's Trophy is like a talent hub.

"The trophy pits together talented boys and girls who will represent the country at different levels in the future," he says.

Mambo adds that the trophy has always been bankrolled by the Council but this year they are calling on the corporate world to help them sponsor the prestigious trophy.



Football player lifts a trophy

phy.

He says; "We have a very tight budget as a council so we are calling on companies to partner us in sponsoring the trophy."

The Mayor's Trophy acts as a talent identification exercise where youthful footballers and netballers are scouted.

The trophy will act as a ground for talent identification for teams in the FMB Under-20, Southern Region Football League and even the TNM Premier League, formerly known as the Super League.