



Jacques Blaauw
Voorsitter / Chairperson
083 303 9230
jnblaauw@gmail.com

Riana Bekker
Ondervoorsitter / Deputy Chairperson
072 671 9710
riana@elbrobluestar.co.za

Thabazimbi Chairpersons' Forum

10 May 2025

**To: Dr Terence Nkhwashu, CEO – Community Transformation Accelerator Program (CTAP),
Registration Number 2021/764949/08**

Cc:

Mr André Rheeder

Mr Andrew van Zyl

Members of the Chairpersons Forum

SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL

ENDORSEMENT FOR A NEW MODEL TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Our forum represents various sectors of the Thabazimbi community. Thabazimbi, meaning "mountain of iron," is a town and iron ore mining area in the Limpopo Province of South Africa, near the Botswana border. It's known for its significant iron ore deposits, discovered in 1919, and is a major contributor to the Waterberg district's economy. The town is also surrounded by areas known for platinum production and has a history of iron and steel production dating back to the 1930s. Marakele National Park, located within the Waterberg Mountains, is also a notable feature in the region. However, mining is finite and local development efforts should be focused on life after mining.

Although local economic development is a defined function within the local economic government structures, the local authority is struggling in delivering even basic services such as electricity, water and sanitation to the community. This is due to a combination of factors, but financial mismanagement emanating from a lack of governance and a consistent skills shortage due to cadre appointments are major reasons for the year-on-year decay in our towns.

As community stakeholders we've constantly tried to engage authorities in a constructive manner, putting forward suggestions for improvement and offering alternative solutions to the problems at hand. However, if the receiver's intent is not

The Thabazimbi Chairpersons' Forum represents the Thabazimbi Business Chamber, Thabazimbi Rate Payers Association, Waterberg Tourism – Thabazimbi Hub, Wildlife Ranching South Africa (Thabazimbi Chapter), Sentrum Boerevereniging, Northam Boerevereniging, Matlabas Custodians, Saamwerk Boerevereniging, Koedoeskop Boerevereniging, Northam Rate Payers Association, Rooiberg Residents' Association & Leeupoort Residents' Association

to improve, but rather plan how more resources could be steered towards personal gain, one is left at a juncture to reimagine a way forward for our struggling communities.

We are currently seeking and lobbying for community-steered economic development models. Models where local economic development projects are funded, governed and implemented by a 'community trust' to ensure delivery to our communities in need. Projects that will help create much needed job opportunities and drive more sustainable economic growth over the mid- and long term.

The role of the local authority would be redefined as an enabler rather than financial custodian and implementer, as no credible track record of the latter exist over the last 15 years.

The Thabazimbi Chairpersons' Forum therefore endorse any discussion and initiative aiming to facilitate community movement in such a direction and we would be more than willing to collaborate with such organisations / stakeholders / role players.

Much more detail on what is required can be provided when our message reach visionary ears.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacques Blaauw', written over a circular scribble.

Jacques Blaauw
Chairpersons' Forum