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## **BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY WELCOMES NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR: TECHNICAL SERVICES**

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“I believe in the constitutional right of services for all”.

So says Denwin van Turha, the newly appointed Director: Technical Services at Bergivier Municipality. He assumed office as of 3 January 2023. The legacy that he would like to leave behind is that he helped create sustainable communities within the Bergivier Municipal Area.

“My role is to be the custodian of municipal infrastructure on behalf of the community and through this, deliver effective services to all the communities we serve,” said Van Turha.

Van Turha mentioned that his main goal is to place Bergivier Municipality’s Technical Services Department in a better position than it was before, through building positive partnerships, making sound technical decisions, and working towards achieving the strategic goals of the organisation. During his first month, he is encouraged to see how residents cooperate with the Municipality and is of the view that that is the reason why Bergivier Municipality is able to deliver effective services to its communities.

Van Turha was born in De Aar, a beautiful Karoo town situated within the Northern Cape. He matriculated in 1988 at William Pescod Secondary School in Kimberley. Thereafter, he decided to further his studies and obtained several tertiary qualifications which includes the following: Master of Business Administration (MBA) – 2004 (University of the Free State); BTech Civil Engineering – 2009 (Central University of Technology); and Bachelor’s of Science (BSc) Hons – 2014 (University of Pretoria).

In 1997, Van Turha began his career as a student at a consulting engineering firm in the Free State. Thereafter, he ventured into various sectors such as: consulting engineering; local government; developmental sector; contractors; and even spent a short while attempting to start his own business. Most of the experiences he gained was within a municipal environment,

however, Van Turha's career highlight was within the developmental sector. He mentioned that this is the sector where he felt he had the biggest impact in his vision of service delivery. It is for this reason that he wants to build partnerships with all residents living within the Bergrivier Municipal Area, so that everyone can work together to accomplish all community goals. In this way, Van Turha believes, a prosperous community for all will become a reality.

"The Technical Services Department is critical for the provisioning of potable water, sanitation services, roads and storm water services, refuse collection and the maintenance of municipal infrastructure. Therefore, my vision is to ensure a Technical Services Department that is functioning from a developmental platform," said van Turha.

When he first entered the area, Van Turha said he was pleasantly surprised by the majestic mountain range surrounding the town of Piketberg. "It is very rare that you will see a mountain so beautiful and so close to a place of work," he said. The pristine natural landscape also caught his eye whilst driving to Piketberg. He added he keeps discovering gems within the Bergrivier Municipal Area. On the other hand, added Van Turha, he is not normally used to being in such extreme heat and mentioned it will take time to adapt.

Outside of Van Turha's professional life, he loves collecting scale model cars. "Hobbies are the things you do that fascinate you beyond compare and awaken feelings of excitement that simply can't be explained, neither does it have to," said Van Turha.

"It is an honour to work together with the community of Bergrivier Municipality, where all people really wants to live, work, learn and play in a dignified manner," he concluded.



**Caption:** Denwin Van Turha, newly appointed Director: Technical Services.

[END]

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**THE COMMUNICATION UNIT IN THE OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY.**

