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## **ADVOCATE LINDE BEGINS HER THIRD TERM OF OFFICE AS MUNICIPAL MANAGER AT BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY**

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"I was born to serve communities. It is my main goal and the reason why I get up in the morning, dress-up, show-up and the passion with which I do my work".

So says Adv. Hanlie Linde, Municipal Manager of Bergrivier Municipality, who recently (16 August 2022) signed a new five-year contract, keeping here at the helm of the organisation until 2027. Linde, who has built up 25 years of experience and knowledge in local government and law in South Africa, has now entered her third term of office as Municipal Manager.

As a Municipal Manager, Linde is the Head of Administration and the Accounting officer of Bergrivier Municipality. Her role is to support the strategic vision of our Council and ensure that the organisation delivers good governance and sound management for all towns that fall within its jurisdiction.

Under her leadership, since 2012, she guided and transformed the Municipality into a top performing organisation. Over the past eight years, Bergrivier Municipality was ranked in the top 10 best performing Municipalities in South Africa, an achieved unqualified audit opinions for several consecutive years.

Linde was born on 11 April 1970. She matriculated at Huguenot High School in Wellington in 1988. Over the years, she has obtained various qualifications including a Master's Degree in Business Leadership, a Bachelor's of Law (LLB) Degree, an Honours in Labour Law, Honours in Political Science and has several other accolades. She is also a qualified Business and Executive Coach and did a Post Graduate Diploma in High Impact Leadership.

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Linde started her local government career at Stellenbosch Municipality in 1997, as a Labour Law Specialist, in the office of the Chief Legal Advisor. Thereafter, she was promoted to Chief Legal Services in 2001. Then, in 2005, she was appointed as the Executive Director: Social Development Services at Stellenbosch Municipality.

Linde says that the legacy she's most proud of is the creation of a well-functioning Municipality, where all staff and councillors serve with pride, adhere to 10 core values and support the strategic vision of the Council, which is to be "a prosperous community where all want to live, work, learn and play in a dignified manner".

"My vision is directly linked to the vision of Bergrivier Municipality and that is to facilitate a living environment where everybody can prosper with dignity. It does not matter whether you engage with a women's group in Kayamandi, business leaders in Stellenbosch, the fishing community in Laaiplek or a school in Eendekuil, we all want to raise our families in a peaceful and clean environment, be able to provide the best possible education to our children and be content and happy in a caring community. We all want the same things", said Linde. She said she loves God and that she finds her balance within Him and which is her leading motivation to conducting her work to the best of her abilities.

Linde is a nature-lover and an avid traveller. This is how she loves to spend her free time. She loves mountain biking and did the To Hell and Back Challenge 7 times. She also loves doing other outdoor activities such as river rafting and hiking. One of her greatest joys is the fact that she is well-travelled, visiting 58 different countries across the globe. In 2010, Linde broke her leg during a river rafting expedition in Uganda, and decided to slow down on her adrenaline seeking adventures. Now, she is more prone to be found bird-watching, walking and chasing sunsets. Camping is one of her favourite activities to do with her friends and family, however, when she receives service delivery queries from the public, she prioritises it immediately.

After the adoption of the Constitution in 1996 and after the first Local Government election in the new dispensation on 5 December 2000, Local Government began its journey as development agent to rebuild the new South Africa. When Linde started working in Local Government in 1997, there were more than 800 municipalities in South Africa, which provided basic services to their respective communities, namely clean potable water, sanitation, roads, refuse removal, town planning, cemeteries, libraries, community halls, play parks, fire services, traffic services and a few more. Nowadays, Linde mentioned that local government has become a more complex environment with several unique challenges that requires innovative and creative solutions. "It is an exciting, yet rewarding field to work in, coupled with the fact that we need to perform our duties within the legal framework of 144 pieces of legislation. One of the main challenges we are currently facing as a country is that of a failing state, and the list of challenges and functions are growing by the year/" said Linde.

"When I stayed and work in Stellenbosch, I thought I lived in a Utopia and thought I would never find better, but then I came here and the people, the beauty, the tranquillity, the sense of community and the hospitality of everyone just blew me away. It's difficult to describe, you just



have to experience it for yourself. At Bergrivier Municipality, we strive to deliver excellent services, we never stop learning and growing, we speak our minds and we are passionate about our communities", said Linde.

Linde would like to sincerely thank the Council of Bergrivier Municipality for re-appointing her for another term as Municipal Manager.



**Caption:** Adv. Hanlie Linde, Municipal Manager of Bergrivier Municipality

**ISSUED BY: THE COMMUNICATION UNIT IN THE OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY**



