



# **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2019-2020**

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2019-2020 has certainly been eventful to say the least. I can honestly say it has made us all more aware that man proposes and God disposes.

My report below shall certainly illustrate this.

In October 2019-Project Gateway approached BFC for assistance in trying to approach municipality in respect an overnight shelter for the homeless. The idea was for them to at least have a place to sleep overnight and a place to wash up. This then culminated in a joint presentation with BFC, "Project Gateway", "BESG" (Built Environment Support Group) and "Youth for Christ" to Council on 17/02/2020 in respect of this. We were then requested to get all relevant stakeholders involved and revert to Council with the details of how we would manage this, as well as the possible sites we had in mind to have the shelter. This did not go any further as Covid 19 changed the whole status quo on this matter. I shall discuss this further below in my report.

In November 2019 the SAPS Horse Unit, based at Townhill Hospital requested sponsorship towards the installation of a new wooden boundary fence, as the old metal one had been stolen. This posed a risk both for the community as well as the horses. Historically BFC have always assisted the unit, more particularly with the building of the stables. We then contacted Mr. Mike McDonald of "Build it, who kindly sponsored the material for the fence. SAPS have undertaken to build the fence themselves, and wood was suggested as the material to use to ensure that the fence would not get stolen again.

In December 2019 Project Gateway also requested assistance from BFC in respect of feeding the homeless on Christmas Day. BFC is very grateful for the generosity received from members in this regard, most especially from Magesh Naidoo of Komisha's for her kind sponsorship towards the meal. I must also thank Jason Herbert from Safe City, who was amongst those that assisted me to get the meals prepared on Christmas morning and to serve the meals to them. See photo attached.

December 2019 also saw an increase in business burglaries through the roof of the premises, as a result crime tip warnings were sent to all members in this regard. We appeal again to all businesses, to ensure that key holders report to their premises. Alarm companies' hands are tied unless the business is open and once opened, they can then check the roof and perimeter of the premises. We also encourage businesses to have security equipment installed in their ceilings, as break-ins through the roof are very prevalent, and having this equipment would alert the business immediately.

Subsequent to our aforementioned presentation at Council in February 2020 Covid-19 arrived resulting in Council heeding to the Presidents call and thereby finding a shelter for the homeless. In April 2020 during Lockdown Jason Herbert and I went out to the shelter, which

is in the old Transnet building in Mayors Walk. We engaged with Council to ascertain what was needed and concluded that food and mattresses were required. I then made an appeal to businesses, and the community at large via social media, and was overwhelmed with their support given. We were able to buy food and groceries for the shelter for approximately R10,000-00. We were also blessed with a sponsor for the mattresses. See photo attached.

The easing of the lockdown has brought about complacency with people not adhering to social distancing as well as wearing masks; this was reported to us by Safe City at our meeting in July 2020. BFC then took a decision to go on a Covid-19 awareness campaign by making public announcements on the Safe City mike system as well as to put awareness posters in the City both in English and IsiZulu. Council has, as of the end of September 2020, granted us permission to put these posters, free of charge, for a period of 30 days. This will be rolled out as of 07/10/2020. The posters have been sponsored by several businesses, who get to have their Company logo, website and contact details listed on the poster itself. A sample of same is attached hereto.

Safe City upon our request for the above then approached BFC requesting sponsorship towards another amp and mike system to place at a high crime area in the City, which also has high foot traffic. BFC then via Eblitz called upon business for sponsorship towards this. We are extremely grateful to BEE Novation and Gaydons Midas PMB for their sponsorship towards this. The system was handed to them on 06/10/2020. See photo attached.

September 2020 unfortunately also saw the severe fire at the Jika Joe settlement. Many people were displaced, with their homes having burnt down and many had no food to eat, let alone something to even cook food in. Upon my visit to the site on Heritage Day (24/09/2020) with the Councillor for the area, we ascertained that what was most needed were hot meals. A call was made to business and the community at large in this regard. We are most grateful to Asmall's for their contribution towards the supper for the displaced for that night. See photo attached.

This year that has passed has sadly seen the loss of a stalwart member of Chamber and who assisted us at BFC, Mrs Lorna Jones. BFC pays tribute to her for all the assistance she gave us over the years, may her soul rest in eternal peace.

BFC's current financial position sees us with a deficit of R25,773, which is slightly more of a deficit than 2018. The reason for this is because in the previous year the events that we sponsored did not reflect in the last financials and are now reflecting in these financials. We are most thankful to all our sponsors that we continue to receive contributions from as well as others who have sponsored for specific projects. Without your support we will not be able to do what we do. We have for the year ending 2019, received donations totalling R14000, which is much more than what we received last year. We have come to see that sponsorship does come through if they are project related. We must however ensure that our operating expenses are paid for, and these donations therefore also contribute to the payment of same. The detail of this can be found in the financials.

I thank Moore Stephens RB Incorporated, for preparing the annual financials and for ensuring that BFC is always transparent in respect of same.

To the staff of PMCB and the BFC committee I wish to say thank you for your continued support. Times have been tough for us all over the past few months, but we have stood united as a team and have continued to move forward in fulfilling our duty to our members. I must place on record that I am very proud to be part of this team!

I am confident that as a team we can go a long way in contributing to a safer PMB!!!

Kantha Naidoo

BFC Chairperson



**Meals being prepared on Christmas 2019 morning**



**Food and Groceries donated to the Homeless shelter during Lockdown**





**Amp and Mike system being handed over by sponsors to Safe City**

# ZULU

IZINGA 1 LISHO UKUTHI KUMELE  
**UGQOKE**  
ISIFONYO SAKHO

**SINDISA**  
IMPILO YAKHO  
NEZIMPILO  
ZABANYE

**YEKA UKUSABALALA**  
KWEGCIWANE LE-CORONA

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# ENGLISH

LEVEL 1 STILL MEANS THAT YOU MUST  
**WEAR**  
YOUR MASK

**SAVE**  
YOUR LIFE  
& THE LIVES OF  
THOSE  
AROUND YOU

**STOP THE SPREAD OF**  
THE CORONA VIRUS

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Sample of Covid19 Awareness poster



**Feeding on Heritage Day to the people displaced at the fire at Jika Joe**