

AGM highlights mammoth role of KLCBT

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At the recent 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Kruger Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism (KLCBT), it once again became evident that this organisation is pivotal to not only Ehlanzeni's continued growth across various

platforms, but to the Mpumalanga province in its entirety. With COO Linda Grimbeeck at the helm and the assistance of a small and devoted permanent team, our local Chamber's role in growing the province has become the mainstay and backbone of the Lowveld.

As the only official representative body of business and tourism in the Kruger Lowveld (Ehlanzeni District), tremendous strides have been made in promoting tourism and investment. As a result of its close liaison with local government, KLCBT manages to play a crucial and determining role in service delivery. Never was this more evident than earlier this year when Mbombela and its surrounding towns were almost left in the dark as Eskom threatened to discontinue electricity to this area. With KLCBT's assistance, local government could avert the disaster. If not, the cost of electricity cuts would have resulted in millions of income lost in business and tourism in Ehlanzeni.

Nine major advocacies driven by the Chamber are without a doubt the mainstay of this beautiful part of the country we call home. The organisation is assisted by various committees of devoted men and women who, without any personal compensation, freely give of their time and expertise. KLCBT plays a major role as guardian of our regional water supply, our roads and the safety and security of residents. With regards to the state of the region's public attractions which have deteriorated as a result of budget cuts, (Pilgrim's Rest is a sad example), the organisation is working on permanent solutions to challenges and assist local government in the process.

Monumental strides have been made to keep business local with the Buy-Local drive and KLCBT's Integrity and Anti-Corruption Campaign have seen core values such, as ethical and moral issues become non-negotiable in local affairs. The success of this venture was highlighted recently when various corrupt local traffic officers were arrested with KLCBT keeping track of court proceedings. The newly selected Board has also adopted anti-poaching as another area in which to make a difference.

With men and women of exemplary character such as Grimbeeck, president, Oupa Pilane and chairman, Pastor TJ Mare and the supporting management team at the helm of KLCBT, God's blessing on the Lowveld will continue to benefit future generations.