

NEWSLETTER



WM Takes Delivery of New Multimillion Rand Compactor. Read more on page 2.



CLLR TREVOR ABRAHAMS
EXECUTIVE MAYOR

From the Mayor's Desk

Good day Witzenbergers,

A blessed 2026 to all! May this new year bring much joy, happiness and prosperity.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025. You did us all proud. Best wishes with your future endeavours. To the learners, support staff, teachers and parents for the new academic year that is already in full swing, best wishes to you too.

I am pleased to announce the arrival of our new purpose-built landfill compactor, valued at R5,14 million. This major investment represents an important step in strengthening waste management operations at the Prince Alfred's Hamlet landfill site. An action plan has been developed to address the ongoing water quality and infrastructure challenges we are experiencing in Tulbagh.

The Municipality also celebrated the top Matric Achievers in Witzenberg for 2025 and we honour Mr Sarel Brown for founding the Witzenberg Matric Fund.

We achieved our 13th Consecutive Clean Audit from the Auditor-General after a long and intensive audit process. Our sincere gratitude to all involved in ensuring our finances are healthy and in order.

With the high temperatures and heat wave warnings we are currently experiencing, take care and stay hydrated. Continue to use water sparingly and responsibly and report any misuse and or service delivery issues to our 24-hr Control Room on 023 492 0181/2 or send a WhatsApp message to 081 896 5480.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY
023 316 1854 (office hours)

24-HOUR EMERGENCY CONTROL ROOM
023 492 0181/2

CERES: 023 316 8600/24

TULBAGH: 023 230 8100

PA HAMLET: 023 313 3133

WOLSELEY: 023 231 8000



CERES HOSPITAL:
023 316 9600



AMBULANCE:
023 346 6000



FIRE SERVICES:
023 492 0181/2 (all towns)
112 (from any cellular phone)

WM'S ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS WATER QUALITY ISSUES IN TULBAGH

Witzenberg Municipality wish to address the Witzenberg Justice Coalition and residents of Tulbagh regarding the ongoing water quality concerns affecting the area.



The current situation is largely the result of seasonal pressure on the water system. During the hot summer months, water demand increases significantly, while winter months typically see much lower consumption. This pattern,

combined with the rapid and largely uncontrolled growth of the population, has placed tremendous strain on Tulbagh's existing water infrastructure.

Residents have asked why this issue is particularly affecting Tulbagh and not other towns. The reason is that each town operates on different water sources, treatment processes, and storage systems. In Tulbagh's case, the town has a comparatively lower reservoir storage capacity to meet peak demand. As water flows into the system, it is used almost immediately due to excessive consumption, leaving limited reserve storage.

When reservoir levels drop too low, sediment at the bottom becomes disturbed and is drawn into the system along with the remaining water. This may cause occasional discolouration. Residents are therefore advised that intermittent discolouration can occur under these conditions.

Although water quality has improved substantially following the installation of new filters, the flushing of affected areas and streets, and additional technical interventions, the inadequate storage capacity remains a key challenge. Continuous water testing is being conducted by the Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation, and independent laboratories. Test results confirm that the water complies with SANS standards and is safe for human consumption. Tulbagh's current storage capacity is approximately 1 megaliter. However, significant improvements are planned. A new 3-megaliter reservoir is anticipated through MIC funding, and the refurbishment of a previously decommissioned 800-kilolitre reservoir is underway. Once completed, Tulbagh's total storage capacity is expected to increase to nearly 5 megaliters within the next year.

The Western Cape Government and the Department of Water and Sanitation are also assisting in exploring further funding opportunities to strengthen long-term water security.

The Municipality's action plan is as follows:

Short-term:

- Ongoing maintenance of the existing reservoir
- Continued flushing of water lines
- Rapid response to water quality complaints, especially in Tulbagh
- Ongoing overall maintenance and monitoring

Medium-term:

- Successful awarding and construction of the new reservoir

Long-term:

- Implementation of advanced technology upgrades, including a telemetry system.

The Municipality commits to more regular communication and transparent updates as advised by our technical experts. We thank residents for their continued patience, cooperation, and understanding as we work to resolve these challenges and strengthen Tulbagh's water system for the future.

Should you experience any water quality and or supply issues, kindly report it to our 24-hr Control Room on (023) 492 0181/2 or WhatsApp us on 081 896 5480.

WM Takes Delivery of New Multimillion Rand Compactor

Witzenberg Municipality is pleased to announce the arrival of a new purpose-built landfill compactor valued at R5,14 million. This significant investment marks an important step towards improving waste management operations at the Prince Alfred's Hamlet landfill site and forms part of the Municipality's ongoing commitment to environmental safety, compliance and long-term site stability.

A landfill compactor is specially designed to compress municipal solid waste to reduce its volume. By compacting waste more effectively, the machine improves landfill lifespan, enhances site stability and supports better environmental performance. Importantly, improved compaction reduces the likelihood of smouldering and fire outbreaks, an issue that has recently affected the Prince Alfred Hamlet landfill and raised understandable concern among residents.

Executive Mayor Cllr. Trevor Abrahams welcomed the arrival of the compactor, noting its importance in resolving long standing challenges at the landfill. "We invested in this landfill compactor as a meaningful part of the solution to the many fire outbreaks we have experienced in the past at the site. Our hope is that, in addition to alleviating the fires, we will also reduce any health concerns that may have arisen because of the smoke and smouldering. This investment reflects our ongoing commitment to safeguarding our communities and improving the way we manage waste in Witzenberg."

While landfill fires are complex incidents that require specialised management, a range of interventions has already been implemented to stabilise the site and mitigate further risk.

These measures include the following:

- A targeted operation was carried out to remove illegal and unwanted occupants contributing to unsafe conditions on the landfill.
- Additional manpower has been deployed, and Law Enforcement officers have been stationed on site to prevent unauthorised access.
- Steps are being taken to clear surrounding fynbos where practicable, with due consideration for environmental sensitivity and necessary regulatory approvals.
- Maintenance of the access road is being prioritised to support faster response times and more efficient operational access.
- Local farmers have volunteered their assistance as first responders should any future fire occur, strengthening community-based readiness and cooperation.
- All calls to the 24-hour Emergency Control Room continue to be treated with the highest urgency and escalated immediately.
- The newly delivered landfill compactor will play a crucial role in clearing, levelling and compacting waste more effectively, ultimately reducing the risk of ongoing smouldering.

The delivery of this heavy-duty machine is a welcome boost for the waste management team and forms part of a broader plan to stabilise operations, enhance environmental safeguarding and improve long-term site management. Technical teams will continue to monitor conditions closely and refine their approach as required.

Witzenberg Municipality expresses sincere appreciation to residents, stakeholders and the agricultural community for their patience, cooperation and willingness to assist during this challenging period.

The Municipality remains committed to open communication and will continue to provide updates as progress is made.



WM Celebrates Matric Achievers and Recognises Mr. Sarel Brown for Establishing the Witzenberg Matric Fund

The Witzenberg Matric Fund (WMF), established more than a decade ago, was born from the passion and commitment of educator Mr. Sarel Brown. His steadfast belief in the power of education continues to shape countless futures as young people pursue their tertiary studies.

Through his tireless efforts, genuine care for his community, and unwavering dedication to creating opportunities for learners without financial means, Mr. Brown has given hope to the youth of Witzenberg. His energy, compassion, and determination have opened doors for children with bright futures, empowering them to pursue their dreams and build sustainable pathways forward.

He leaves a living legacy of hope, opportunity, and an enduring belief in the potential that lies within every child. As a municipality, we proudly congratulate the top performing matriculants of 2025 in our region for their outstanding academic achievements. In the words of the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Trevor Abrahams, "Keep God by your side; your faith and discipline are key to achieving your goals. And congratulations to the parents and guardians, your dedication and continued involvement in your child's academic life is key to making their futures a success."

A special WMF awards ceremony was held at the end of January 2026 to honour the achievements and resilience of our top learners. This initiative continues to make a meaningful impact by celebrating excellence and encouraging learners to reach their full potential.

Witzenberg Top Matric Learners for 2025:

- Skyler Meyer from Wolseley Secondary School
- Samantha Ruiters from Tulbagh High School
- Charl Conradie from Charlie Hofmeyr High School
- Jamalene Jafta from Bella Vista High School
- Vuyela Mohololola from Lingcinga Zethu Secondary School
- Shirley Rooi from Ceres Secondary School
- Jasmine Muller from Skurwerberg Secondary School

We commend all our top learners for their exceptional achievements and extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Sarel Brown for his invaluable contribution to uplifting education in the Witzenberg region.

For more details, contact the Director: Community Services, Seon Swartz, on (023) 316 1854.

