



HESSEQUA

Munisipaliteit / Municipality / U Masipala

From the desk of the Mayor

Liewe Hessequa-gemeenskap

Hierdie uitgawe se voorwoord skryf ek vandag met 'n hart vol dankbaarheid.

Dankbaar teenoor God, want dit is deur **Sy genade** dat ek die voorreg gehad het om vir tien jaar my gemeenskap as Burgemeester te kon dien.

Tien jaar van ontmoetings, groei, uitdagings, besluite, moeilike dae en besondere oomblikke wat vir altyd deel van my lewensverhaal sal wees.

Dit was vir my 'n **groot eer en 'n onbeskryflike voorreg** om Hessequa te kon dien en deel te kon wees van die pad van vooruitgang wat ons saam gestap het.

Ons het nie altyd maklike tye gehad nie. Ons het rampe, uitdagings en moeilike omstandighede beleef. Maar telkens het ons saamgestaan. Ons het mekaar opgetel, mekaar bemoedig en sterker anderkant uitgekom.

En dan was daar die mooi tye.

Die oomblikke waar ons saam kon vier. Die projekte wat suksesvol uitgerol is. Die geleenthede wat aangebied is. Die planne van verskeie projekte wat eens net op papier was en uiteindelik werklikheid geword het.

Agter elke projek was daar mense.

Agter elke vergadering was daar ure se werk.

Agter elke besluit was daar verantwoordelikheid.

En agter elke sukses was daar 'n span en 'n gemeenskap wat geglo het dat **ons dit kan doen**.

Aan elke persoon wat op een of ander manier deel was van my tien jaar in diens van Hessequa:

Dankie!

Dankie dat julle my vertrou het.

Dankie vir die geleenthede wat aan my gebied was.

Dankie vir elke gebed.

Dankie vir elke woord van ondersteuning.

Dankie vir elke keer wat julle my herinner het waarom ons doen wat ons doen.

Ek stap weg uit hierdie besondere hoofstuk met **geen spyt gevoelens nie, maar met 'n hart vol vreugde**.

Ek weet dat ek my alles gegee het om Hessequa te dien met die kennis, krag en vermoë wat God aan my gegee het.

Deur alles heen het ek vasgehou aan my geloof en aan die wete dat God groter is as enige uitdaging.

Hessequa, dit was my voorreg om julle te dien.

Mag julle voortgaan om te groei.

Mag daar nuwe geleenthede oopgaan.

Mag daar wysheid wees vir elke besluit wat geneem word.

Mag ons gemeenskappe aanhou om saam te staan.

Mag ons nooit vergeet dat ware vooruitgang gebeur wanneer mense saamwerk en omgee nie.

En bowenal:

Mag God se guns op Hessequa rus.

Mag Hy ons dorpe, ons gemeenskappe en elke huishouding beskerm.

Mag Hy voorspoed, vrede en hoop bring.

Mag Hy die pad vorentoe verlig.

Wanneer ek terugkyk op hierdie tien jaar, sal ek nie eerste aan die titel **Burgemeester** dink nie.

Ek sal dink aan die **mense van Hessequa**.

Aan die mense wat my toegelaat het om 'n klein deeltjie van hul stories te deel.

Aan die kinders, jongmense, ouers, senior burgers, organisasies, besighede, munisipale personeel, raadslede en gemeenskapsleiers wat elkeen op hul eie manier deel geword het van hierdie reis.

Tien jaar is 'n lang tyd.



Maar wanneer jy iets doen waarvoor jy lief is, saam met mense vir wie jy omgee, voel dit soms asof die jare in 'n oogwink verbygaan.

So, as ek hierdie laaste brief as Burgemeester afsluit, is daar eintlik net twee woorde wat oorbly:

Dankie Hessequa!

Dankie vir die voorreg om te dien.

Dankie vir die vertroue. Dankie vir die reis.

Dit is 'n voorreg om Hessequa my huis te noem.

Mag God julle ryklik seën.

GRANT RIDDLES

Uitvoerende Burgemeester

2026 Municipal Performance Awards

Ratings Afrika once again partnered with the South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA) and The Banking Association South Africa (BASA) to recognise municipalities demonstrating exceptional performance in financial management, governance and service delivery.

The awards celebrate municipalities that go beyond meeting the basic requirements of local government and demonstrate a sustained commitment to excellence. Hessequa Municipality received third place for the Best Performing Municipality for the second consecutive year.

While relatively small in size, Hessequa has consistently demonstrated strong leadership, sound management practices and fiscal discipline which demonstrates that size is no barrier to achieving high standards, to lead with purpose, innovate with courage and deliver with excellence.



Riversdale Solar Plant an energy first for South Africa

Premier Alan Winde officially inaugurated the Riversdale Solar Plant on 30 September 2026. The facility consists of a **10 MW solar photovoltaic plant** coupled with a **10 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS)**. The plant is capable of generating approximately **15 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually**. Riversdale's peak electricity demand is approximately **7 MW**, with an average demand of around **4 MW**.

While the municipality remains connected to the Eskom grid, the solar plant significantly reduces reliance on traditional / conventional sources by generating electricity locally and storing excess energy for use during periods of higher demand. The battery storage system enables the municipality to optimise the use of renewable energy and reduce dependence on conventional electricity supply. Between 25 to 30% of the energy requirements of Riversdale is expected to come from the plant.

This energy project will be critical in strengthening Riversdale's energy resilience by diversifying its energy supply, while supporting long-term energy security, economic growth, investment, and job creation in the region. The project is expected to deliver financial benefits through reduced electricity purchases from Eskom, improved management of peak-demand periods and more efficient use of locally generated renewable energy. The battery storage system allows for energy arbitrage.

Residents are expected to benefit from the project. The solar plant projections have helped reduce the impact of Eskom's latest tariff increase in Hessequa, by absorbing 2% tariff increase from **9% to 7%**. The project also contributes to greater energy resilience and a more secure electricity supply for residents and businesses.



ELECTRONIC ACCOUNT PAYMENTS (EFT)

Clients that paid their municipal accounts through ABSA and Capitec Bank whose payment does not reflect on their municipal account are requested to submit their proof of payment to Ms Christelle Miggels at:
christelle@hessequa.gov.za

DUE DATE FOR PAYMENTS

The **due date** for payment of municipal service and property rates accounts is the **7th** of each month.

INCORRECT REFERENCING FEE

This fee serves as a penalty to encourage residents to ensure that they use the correct reference to allocate deposits / payments accurately and timeously.

Accountholders must use their **municipal account number** as reference as reflected on the invoice when paying via any banking platform.

METER READINGS

Residents must provide easy access to meters, including cleaning of meters, for the purpose of obtaining accurate readings.

When reporting incorrect meter readings on accounts, accountholders are required to provide a clear photo of the current meter reading.

PENALTIES

Payments for accounts must be received at a Municipal pay-point by the close of business on the due date.

In the case of any electronic payments or payments via agents, the money must be received in the municipal bank account on or before the due date and not later than the close of business.

Failure to do so will result in penalties being levied at the prime lending rate plus 1%.

CUSTOMER DATA

It is the responsibility of the consumer to ensure that his / her postal address and other contact details are correct to ensure that accounts / notices and any other communication are received timeously. Accountholders are therefore encouraged to update their personal details at the local municipal offices.

COMMUNICATION

Accountholders can lodge disputes on account billing or valuations to the respective e-mail addresses below to ensure a quick turn-around time.

TYPE OF ENQUIRY	E-MAIL ADDRESS
- Property Valuations - Supplementary Valuations - Objections - Appeals	valuations@hessequa.gov.za
Formal disputes pertaining to account billing.	disputes@hessequa.gov.za

INDIGENT SUBSIDY

Hessequa Local Municipality provides a subsidy to residents with no or lower income, provided that the approved qualification criteria is met. Applicants are expected to complete their application truthfully. If the applicant is dishonest about his / her personal circumstances or has provided false information regarding indigent status, the following will apply:

- All arrears will become payable immediately;
- Stringent credit control measures will apply; and
- The applicant will not be eligible to apply for indigent support for a period of five (5) years.

Providing false information to benefit from the subsidy is a fraudulent and criminal offence.