



LET'S CHANGE BA-PHALABORWA

2025: A Year of Community, Courage, and Accountability

As 2025 draws to a close, we pause to reflect on a year that tested our community, strengthened our resolve, and reaffirmed why Let's Change Ba-Phalaborwa exists. This year was not easy. Ba-Phalaborwa faced ongoing service delivery failures, deepening water and sanitation challenges, environmental risks, and a growing sense of frustration among residents who simply want safe, dignified living conditions. Yet, in the face of these realities, something powerful also emerged – unity, courage, and a refusal to accept the unacceptable.

FOR the Community, BY the Community: None of this would have been possible without you.

To every resident who reported an issue, signed a petition, attended a meeting, shared information, or offered encouragement – thank you. To the volunteers who gave their time, often quietly and without recognition – we see you. To those who challenged us constructively and held us to high standards – you helped strengthen our work. LCBP is not a building or a committee. It is people. And in 2025, the people of Ba-Phalaborwa showed resilience, compassion, and determination.

Standing Firm for Water, Health and Dignity

Water and sanitation remained at the heart of our work throughout 2025. Communities endured repeated disruptions, contamination concerns, sewage spillages, and a lack of transparent communication from authorities. LCBP continued to document incidents, support independent testing, compile evidence, and amplify community voices where they were being ignored.

These efforts were not about confrontation for its own sake. They were about accountability, public health, environmental protection, and the future of our town.

Advocacy, Engagement and Community Action

In 2025, LCBP reached several critical milestones that marked meaningful progress in holding institutions accountable.

One of the most significant achievements was the NERSA / Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality (BPM) case, which was won, resulting in a court-ordered tribunal. This outcome affirmed that community concerns, when properly documented and pursued, can lead to formal oversight and legal consequence.

In addition, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) sanitation matter advanced to the point where it will proceed to court. This step represents an important escalation in addressing long-standing sanitation failures that pose serious risks to public health and the environment.

While direct community participation in organised actions was limited, residents continued to play a crucial role in another, less visible but equally important way. Ongoing reporting of service delivery issues and the consistent obtaining of official reference numbers became a cornerstone of LCBP's work. These reports significantly strengthened the evidence file, providing verifiable records that underpin current and future legal and regulatory processes.

Every logged complaint, reference number, and documented incident contributed to building a factual, credible case for accountability – ensuring that concerns could not be dismissed as anecdotal or isolated.

Together, these actions sent a clear message: **Phalaborwa is documenting, Phalaborwa is persistent, and Phalaborwa is watching.**

Another significant development in 2025 was that the Auditor-General's Office, through its environmental and financial audit departments, conducted site inspections in Ba-Phalaborwa during 2025. These inspections marked an important step in independent oversight of both environmental compliance and financial governance.

The Auditor-General's report will be shared once it is formally published in the new year, and LCBP will ensure the community is kept informed.

Community Voice and the Path Forward

As part of the ongoing effort to protect Ba-Phalaborwa's future, a current community petition calling for a moratorium on further development was initiated. This petition reflects growing concern about the cumulative impact of governance failures, environmental risk, and infrastructure collapse, and represents a call for decisive intervention while sustainable solutions are pursued.

The petition is not an end in itself, but part of a broader process aimed at safeguarding public health, the environment, and long-term economic stability.

Looking Ahead

While we reflect on how far we have come, we are under no illusion about the road ahead. The issues facing our town will not disappear overnight. But 2025 proved that informed, organised, and principled community action matters.

As we move into a new year, LCBP remains committed to:

- Advocating for safe, reliable water and sanitation
- Promoting transparency and accountability
- Protecting our environment and public health
- Ensuring community voices are heard, not sidelined

Together, we carry forward the lessons of this year – with clarity, integrity, and hope.

On behalf of Let's Change Ba-Phalaborwa, we thank you for standing with us throughout 2025.

MERRY
Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR