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MAYOR THEBOLLA LEADS TEAM TO CONDUCTS CITY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT



On the 5th of June 2023, Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla launched the Operation Siyahlola, a programme that looks at Infrastructure challenges with a purpose of unclogging service delivery challenges within and around the City. The Mayor was joined by Deputy Mayor, Speaker, Chief and Councillors on a walkabout in a bid to address and improve service delivery in the City.





NEW ADDITION TO CITY FLEET

Mayor Cllr Thebolla welcomed two brand new compactors at the City Engineers, which is an addition to city fleet.

The purchasing of these waste trucks was included in the 2022/23 budget plan, which prioritised waste management, where the Mayor made a commitment to purchase compactors to improve waste collection in Msunduzi which is a basic service delivery. The Municipality believes that this will further contribute in generating much needed revenue.

Acting GM Community Services, Wilson Mhlongo confirmed that the Municipality checked the technicalities of the vehicles and is certain that they will play a major role in collecting large quantities of refuse in-terms of the turnaround time, and that he emphasised to be one of the advantages of the new compactors.

"We are very delighted to welcome the new compactors, we had to make sure we keep what is contained in the constitution which is to provide basic services to our people", said Thebolla.

The Mayor also stressed that the purchasing of the new fleet indicates that the Municipality is headed to the right direction in terms of improving service delivery.

2023 COMRADES MARATHON HEALTH & WELLNESS DAY



In preparation of the comrades marathon which took place on the 11 of June 2023, the Municipality hosted the comrades health and wellness day at the Carbineers Gardens.

Numerous participants took part, including representatives from Planet Fitness, Famactive Studio, Creative Art College etc. , with instructors demonstrating workouts. The Municipality used this opportunity to call on everyone to maintain a healthy lifestyle, abstain from drugs and alcohol, and turn out in large numbers on comrades marathon day to support the athletes competing in this historic marathon.



MUNICIPALITY ENGAGES WITH MEC HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND PUBLIC WORKS

Honorable SC Nkosi who is the MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works was joined by the Municipality's top officials including those from the human settlements department in an engagement where matters of the Jika Joe Community Residential Units were discussed.

This construction began in January 2019, management of project provided a detailed report of the current phase of the Jika Joe CRU Project, challenges encountered while indicating plans moving forward to ensure the progress of this housing project.

Human Settlements explained that there is 35 projects under planning, 21 are under implementation stressing that more financial allocation or funding is required to speed up the completion of projects.

MEC Nkosi said there is noticeable improvement by the Municipality's department of human settlements. Nkosi said areas such as Midlands and beyond Tugela River experience blockages of services and the Municipality needs to prioritise these areas. "Challenges have been noted, and plans will be reviewed and adjusted. We aim to speed up service delivery. Completion of project phases is long overdue, but working together we will be able to oversee that phase 2 commences as soon as possible".

The MEC continued to say that Jika Joe needs to be handed over to the people in June. "I salute the Mayor and his leadership for their determination in ensuring that those who were affected by floods get proper housing."

MEC Nkosi spoke highly of how the Municipality responded to the aftermath of the previous year's flood which left many without homes. Msunduzi Municipality plans to hand over the housing unit to Jika Joe residents in July. The national government and the municipality as local government will work together to make preparations for Jika Joe community residential unit hand over, confirmed MEC Nkosi.

Mayor Thebolla said that "before the second of July we should have something that says the first group of people are being moved to the new housing. Our team has thus far displayed commitment to hit the ground running in ensuring that we meet deadlines and these projects completed within the required time frame."



MAYOR LEADS TEAM ON LOCAL BUSINESS VISITATION



Mayor Cllr Thebolla together with the Business Development Unit and various departments visited M.A.J Petroleum where they had an engagement with the purpose of discussing the challenges faced by the business. This is part of the business retention and expansion strategy by the Municipality, that seeks to establish and maintain close relationships with local businesses. This strategy is used to engage with entrepreneurs to learn their challenges, and have meaningful discussions on how the Municipality can address their challenges.

M.A.J Petroleum raised various challenges including road infrastructure, traffic congestion during load shedding hours, petty theft of solar flood lights and copper pipes as well as billing issues. The business was assured that the Municipality will communicate with the various relevant departments to solve all issues brought forward.

The Mayor assured MAJ Petroleum that all issues raised will be dealt with and further thanked the company for having their business operations in the City of Choice. He added that all departments need to work together as well as local businesses and SAPS to ensure that businesses receive quality service delivery hence improving business retention in the city.

"Our intention is to make sure that we keep businesses in this city and for us to do that we have to make sure that we provide businesses with reliable and sustainable services."

ABC MOTSEPE LEAGUE SOCCER TOURNAMENT



2023 COMRADES MARATHON



Above: Dubbed the 'Human Race', the 2023 Comrades Marathon kicked off successfully at the City Hall with runners waiting in anticipation for Mayor Thebolla to fire a shot of the starting pistol. This year's comrades marathon was a down-run, and it attracted over 2300 international runners from 84 countries.

On the 15th of June the Youth Office hosted a career exhibition that invited local high schools.

The aim of the exhibition was for learners to source information by interacting with exhibitors so that they can get guidance as to which programs to register for next year, 2024.

Deputy Mayor Mkhize was present at the exhibition, making a stop at each stand to speak with exhibitors and learners. "We are honoured by your presence and how you responded to our call to join us in making this exhibition a success. These are our kids, we need to support them so that they are equipped with all the necessary information that they will need next year when they go to institutions of higher learning."

A representative from the NSFAS took learners through how to make applications to get funding for courses that they will be enrolled for in 2024.

"You need to prepare yourself mentally, as we have had learners commit suicide when they realise that their matric results are not what they expected.

Not getting distinctions and not qualifying to register for a particular course at your desired institution should not discourage you.

You are young and there will still be another chance for you to rewrite your subjects", said Thoba Mtshali, Senior Co-Ordinator at the Municipality Youth Centre

YOUTH OFFICE HOSTS CAREER EXHIBITION





GANDHI KING MANDELA CONFERENCE

The City of Pietermaritzburg was host to the Gandhi King Mandela Conference which took place at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal from 8-9 June 2023. The conference was officially opened by Ela Gandhi. The City Hall was brightly decorated amidst the words of peace from dignitaries which includes the welcome by Mayor, Cllr Thebolla, UKZN DVC, keynote address from Prof Clayborne Carson from the USA, Deputy High Commissioner: India & many other peace loving guests.

Deputy Mayor Mkhize was part of the proceedings at the Pietermaritzburg Railway Station holding the 130th commemoration of Mahatma Gandhi's eviction off a train. Mkhize participated in a wreath laying ceremony of Mahatma Gandhi in commemoration of 130th anniversary of the heroic eviction off the train in Pietermaritzburg Railway Station.



MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES HONOR YOUTH DAY



The Municipality offices were filled with giggles and laughter on the morning of 15th June 2023 as employees showed up in full school uniform. This gesture was done to celebrate the 16 of June which the country yearly recognizes as the National Youth Day.

This day commemorates the June 16 1976 Soweto Youth Uprising where large numbers of students took to the streets to march against the Bantu Education Policy. At least over 10 000 black students mobilised themselves embarking on a peaceful march to demonstrate and protest against the Apartheid Government educational system which was oppressive to black students and proved education inequalities.

While protesting, police fired teargas followed by live ammunition which resulted to a number of students losing their lives. Municipality employees wore school uniform to pay tribute to the June 1976 students who lost their lives fighting for the liberation of a black child and fair education.



UMGUNDUNGLOVU LED YOUTH SUMMIT



uMgungundlovu District Municipality Mayor Cllr Zuma welcomed attendees of the Day one of the LED Youth Summit taking place in Richmond.

This summit invited youth from seven local municipalities.

Mayor Zuma in his opening address has mentioned that uMgungundlovu District Municipality initiated this program with a clear vision of developing the youth economically, directing them to opportunities available to them to contribute to local economic development.

"This program will motivate you to come with resolutions that will address the issue of unemployment that is facing our district. We are seating at over 34 % unemployment rate in our district, now we need to discuss what can we do to make sure that homes are able to sustain themselves," he said.





MUNICIPALITY, UMGENI WATER CELEBRATE WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL MONTH

In celebration of World Environmental Month, uMgeni Water in partnership with the Municipality conducted a community engagement and clean up campaign in Ward 21 FJ Sithole Road Imbali, Edendale.

The purpose of this day was to provide the community and the local youth with environmental education, inspire them to learn about the negative effects of plastic pollution, and encourage them to participate in the clean-up campaign. Various stakeholders had presentations and engaged with the community.

"Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world, we hope everyone found this beneficial and will adopt the right ways to keep our environment clean," remarked Cllr Ngwenya in appreciation of everyone who participated in this outstanding campaign."





NEW HIRES INDUCTION PROGRAMME

Day 1 to day 3 of the municipality's induction programme was successfully hosted at the Athletics Stadium.

Municipal Manager Lulamile Mapholoba welcomed new hires at the induction program which kicked off from the 19th to the 21st of June 2023. The program aimed to assist the new employees with their transition and ensure that they have the necessary information and support they need to carry out their duties.

Several departments provided a strategic overview, reviewing the municipality's operating environment, their services, and defining the municipality's goals and objectives.

They underlined the importance of service delivery, emphasizing that as a municipal employee, one should be able to meet customer expectations, contribute to the improvement of service delivery, and significantly enhance people's lives.

The Municipality plans to achieve Metropolis and Smartcity status by 2040. This can only be done if the workers band together.



MAYOR WELCOMES HANDOVER OF GYM EQUIPMENT TO LOCAL FITNESS CLUBS



Mayor Cllr Thebolla welcomed a handover of the aerobics and indigenous games gym equipment by the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture. The handover took place at the City Hall where representatives of local clubs who are beneficiaries were present namely the Lwandle Fitness Studio, YAN Fitness Gym, Inkanyezi Fitness, Nandipha Fitness and Thabiso Fitness.

Youth Office Manager Sibongile Mchunu addressing the guests on the purpose of the day thanked the Mayor and the department for making this day possible. "Mayor Thebolla continues to be in partnership with the sports, arts and culture department, and they are collectively promoting a healthy living." She said that the mayor asked the department to donate sport equipment adding that Thebolla wants to ensure that all Wards have sport clubs, so that young people can be active and refrain from other activities that do not benefit them.

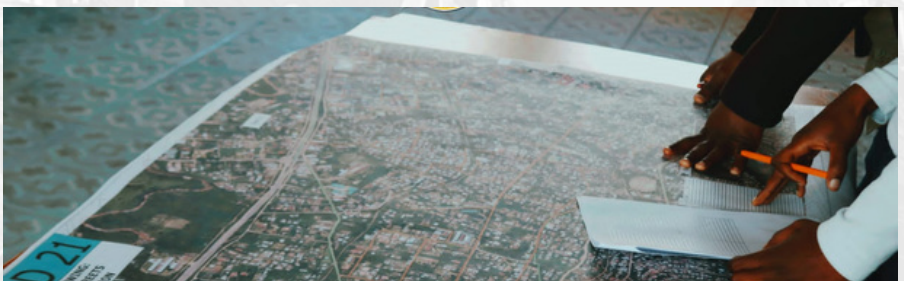


Sport, Arts and Culture representative mentioned that the MEC instructed them to deliver sport equipment since the department also believes that sport brings the youth together. "We will hand over the equipment to Msunduzi Municipality as you will be responsible for ensuring that the equipment is delivered to the right people."

In his remarks, Mayor Thebolla said the municipality saw the need to establish the youth office that will address the needs of local youth and their challenges. It also speaks to the development of young people. "We thank the sport clubs in Msunduzi, as sport brings people from all walks of life together. We have a vision of a successful and prosperous society. Sport should be treated as a culture, it should know no race, it must not classify people or group them according to ethnicity but it must be used to bring unity." The Mayor once again thanked the department for assisting the municipality in promoting a healthy living and being with the Municipality in this journey of building a better community through sport.



STREET NAMING PROCESS UNDERWAY IN DIFFERENT WARDS



Above: The Municipality has passed a policy that allows community members to be part of the Public Place and Street Naming Process, which is currently ongoing. Officials from the Office of the Chief Whip started visiting different wards to consult and engage with residents to propose names for streets in their respective wards.

This process will enable the municipality to improve service delivery in different wards with easier identification in order to deliver appropriate services for the community. The municipality has also emphasised that naming streets to acknowledge individuals will be permitted on condition that the community provides reasons or motivation for that individual's nomination. However, no payments will be made by the municipality in the street naming process for the recognition of certain individuals.

IZINTOMBI ZOMHLAMGA CAMP



Above: MEC Social Development Mrs. Nonhlanhla Khoza addressed young maidens at an event where senior maidens who are now specialists in different fields including medicine, chemistry, mining etc. The Municipality partnered in this event with the Nomkhubulwane Organisation which is the brainchild of Dr Nomagugu Ngobese. MEC Khoza touched on many issues in relation to womanhood and the importance of preserving one's virginity.

SCM PRACTITIONERS AND BID COMMITTEES WORKSHOP



The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) together with the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA) held a workshop at City Hall for the purpose of providing infrastructure procurement support to Msunduzi Municipality's SCM unit, as per the challenges identified in the state of local Government report.

The workshop covered areas including infrastructure procurement delivery strategies, governance issues, existing SCM policies and delegations (with an intention to align them with legislation), assistance needed with SCM bid committees (tender documents, evaluation methods and governance), Framework Agreement contracts (background, policies, procedures, risks and solutions), and other issues faced by the municipality. The workshop further provided best advice on construction procurement strategies available. This is a part of a strategy to improve the performance of local government.

OFFICIALS REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL DRUG COMMITTEE PROGRAM AND LOCAL AIDS COUNCIL

Mayor Thebolla led the Local AIDS Committee to Azalea Hall in Ward 10 where there was an engagement to report on the progress of the Sukuma Sakhe and the Local Drug Action Committee program.

The Department of Social Development gave a report on the master plan in reducing the use of drugs in various areas in Msunduzi. The next meeting for the LDAC is scheduled to be on the 13th of July to further the discussion and pave a way forward in implementing all the resolutions taken that will assist in reducing drug usage in Msunduzi.

It is reported that functional war rooms have increased from 39 to 41. Cabinet day will be on the 27th of July in Ward 12, 21, 23, 13, 18 and 41.

Senior Manager of the political office, Mr. Zondi and ward councillors discussed the betterment of war rooms and the communication necessary for the effective management of zones in the municipality.

The LAC is determined to continue to fight and minimise the number of people who are living with HIV/AIDS and to encourage them to get tested for HIV.

The Msunduzi HIV/AIDS social services and other relevant departments gave reports on the progress made by the Ward AIDS Committee (WAC) and how it has resolved most of the issues raised.

Residents are encouraged to start the 10 day counselling course by Msunduzi. For more information regarding this course, people are advised to visit their Councillors.



EAP HOSTS MEN'S CONFERENCE

The Municipality's Employee Assistant Programme together with Occupational Health and Safety hosted Men's Conference (breaking the cycle of unhealthy relationships) at the City Hall.

Welcomed by Deputy Mayor Mkhize, in appreciating and applauding all stakeholders and employees who have made this day a success. Mkhize emphasized the importance of being a man that deals with bio-psycho-social issues and their role in their homes, workplaces and the community. "I would like to encourage all men to deal with their issues and seek help if need be to create a better social lifestyle."

The purpose of this programme is to support each other on mental health issues, relationships and business/ work goals. Educate men on taking roles and responsibilities and being accountable for their actions. Create a non-judgmental environment where men can be able to share their thoughts and feelings. Advice men to make appropriate financial decisions, also to educate men to have a better understanding to draw relationship boundaries in terms of respect for women within society. The programme also provided health-related activities such as Cancer screening, Chronic diseases screening (BP, Diabetes Mellitus, TB, Cholesterol) healthy lifestyle living and visual acuity.





The Municipality ensures the delivery of services to the residents of Pietermaritzburg

