

# Msunduzi

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# News



## MSUNDUZI STRENGTHENS WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Page 2



## SPEAKER SHARES HER WISDOM WITH OTHER WOMEN

Page 4



Pictured are students whose applications will be paid by benefactors together with officials from the Office of the Mayor. Picture: Igunundu Agency/Siyethaba Mhlongo

# Msunduzi empowers matriculants

By Siyethaba Mhlongo

**T**HE Covid-19 outbreak dented most of the plans as some of the programmes had to be rescheduled or postponed indefinitely. However amongst the annual plans that did not change is the period during which matriculants submit their applications to further their studies at tertiary institutions. The Mayor of Msunduzi, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla deployed a team from his office to invite the different stakeholders to go to schools to assist the pupils as they prepare to submit their applications.

The delegation visited the Bongudonda and Georgetown High Schools where they were joined by representatives from two tertiary institutions, the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT). They were also accompanied by officials from the Mwelase Foundation and Mondi, a pulp company.

The representative from the Mayor's Office, Mr Lucky Mbatha told the pupils that their schools are amongst those that are close to Cllr

Thebolla's heart.

"Bongudonda High was the only local school that represented uMgungundlovu District in the virtual debate that was held at the Provincial Legislature. The learner that represented our district is Sibahle Mndima.

"What we brought for the learners today is the most powerful weapon of them all and that's knowledge," said Mbatha. Mr Lungelo Sithole advised them on the importance of choosing the right academic stream one wanted to further their studies in. He said: "We encourage learners to use the platforms set up by Government. They must go to the Youth Centre office situated at 19 Gallway Lane to get guidance on which academic programmes they can choose." That office provides support on sport development, business empowerment and other sectors. He also appealed to pupils to always be prepared for anything because the Covid-19 outbreak showed everyone that the future is full of uncertainties. He also advised them not to look down on centres of technical vocational education and training (TVET).

Mr Ayanda Blose from MUT spoke to the learners about the different faculties the university has which include Engineering, Movement Sciences and Natural Sciences. He also explained what high school subjects they need to pass to qualify to study in each faculty. In engineering, Blose said they needed to have Mathematics, Physical Sciences and English. He said they need to have a pass mark of more than 50% in each subject and a total of 30 points.

To study Natural Sciences, he said they need Life Sciences or Physical Sciences, Mathematics or Maths Literacy and English. They also need to have at least 28 points. He warned the learners not to underestimate the number of points required saying this academic programme only enrolls 60 students so they select those with top points.

In Movement Sciences the university requires applicants to have at least 25 points and the prerequisite subjects are Accounting, Maths and English. He advised the pupils to indicate on their application forms if they are going to need National Student

Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

"Previously NSFAS was a loan but now it's a bursary. Since there is Covid-19 and you can't visit institutions please use the internet and search for MUT on Google."

Mr Michael Zulu from the DUT told the pupils that their institution only accepts students who apply through the Central Application Office (CAO). He appealed to pupils to seek guidance about the submission of applications. "The mistake that applicants often make is not to list courses according to preferences on the form so they put the ones they really want at the bottom of the list.

Also my appeal is for applicants to choose courses that are considered as scarce skills here in South Africa but it's important to choose something that you really like. Here in South Africa we have 100 job skills that are considered to be scarce."

Zulu emphasised that it is not just in the science sector where there are shortages but also in the catering sector but not because people in this country cannot cook, they just do not have the necessary qualifications as a results qualified

professionals are brought in from other countries.

He also stressed that pupils must put in their applications through the CAO adding that the Government provides all the support students need to succeed.

Miss Nomfundo Dubazane from the Mwelase Foundation said as part of encouraging young people to further their studies she was going to pay the application fees for four pupils.

Miss Nangomuso Qgejane said she was going to pay for another four. The eight that got the assistance were quizzed in front of their peers and they answered their questions correctly. The deadline for the submission of NSFAS applications is on November 30. This year the CAO will not be taking applications for Tvet colleges but only for the University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Zululand and also the MUT and DUT.

All these universities only accept applications made through the CAO office and not walk-ins. Applications for the University of South Africa (Unisa) have to be submitted through its website.

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## WASTE MANAGEMENT

# Msunduzi restores landfill site

by **Siyethaba Mhlongo**

**S**INCE the eruption of the fire recently at Municipality's landfill site various government departments have been working non-stop to find a lasting solution to ensure that the health of Msunduzi residents is not at risk.

The City's Senior Manager: Waste, Mr Wilson Mhlongo, recently had a no-holds-barred interview with Msunduzi News on the plans that the Municipality, together with other government departments, have to upgrade the landfill site.

Mhlongo said after the eruption of the blaze a committee was established focusing on the landfill site and it met on daily basis. The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) was leading this committee. Mhlongo said the Department assisted in the analysis of the problems at the landfill site and the non-compliance notice that was issued in terms of Section 31(L) that spoke directly to the concerns raised by the Department following the fire that broke out early this year in February.

"The first problem that was identified was with the machinery called the Yellow Plant, which is the equipment that is critical for the daily operations at the landfill site. Another problem that was identified is the regulation of the landfill," he said.

He said as part of the solution, they followed the directive that was issued by the Department, which had to do with the regulation of the facility. The first being to check all the waste that is being brought into the landfill site to ensure that there is no hazardous material. Secondly, the staffers have to monitor the number of vehicles coming into the facility and the third measure is for the officials



Entrance to the New England Road Landfill Site (Picture: Andile Mahlaba)

to direct the vehicles where to offload their waste.

Mhlongo said all these problems are a thing of the past since the weighbridge has been repaired, which is one of the equipment that helps in the sorting of waste streams that come into the site.

He said another problem that was identified is the saving of the soil that can be used as cover material because if the waste is compacted and covered the risk of fires erupting is eliminated so is the problem of pests such as rodents.

"We've already started to do that and we started with filling up all areas where there were spaces and also levelling the surface and this will help with the movement of liquids as well along with making sure with drainage system works because we have to make sure that liquids coming off the landfill site don't end up in the Msunduzi River but go to the dam that was built specifically for that purpose," he said.

On the health-related issues, Mhlongo said there is a specified distance for a buffer zone between a landfill site and residential buildings therefore people are not supposed to erect dwellings on that land.

"That's why as a Municipality we've been forcing people living on the border of the landfill site to actually move from there. We were doing that to protect their lives," he said.

Mhlongo said another challenge they faced had to do with the recycling activities within the site as there are waste pickers who make a living from this.

"It wasn't just that the people there were recycling but there were a lot of criminal activities that were taking place while the scavenging for recycling continued. We also had to come up with strategies that spoke directly to the reduction of waste that is disposed at the landfill."

He said they needed to register all the waste pickers and also ensure

that they work where they should at any given time because there is a lot dangerous machinery that operates within the site that is why the legislation requires that there are trained operators working with them.

"The waste pickers are still there and the Municipality is still working on identifying a place where they can do their recycling. They are being regulated now so when the clock hits 4pm the security guards go around and use the loud hailing telling them to leave the site and they do so," said Mhlongo.

Mhlongo said the Department of Economic Development is guiding the Municipality on how the waste pickers can be assisted so that they can work in safe conditions and also not be at risk of losing their material. He said the Municipality benefits from having waste pickers because they reduce the amount of waste that has to be landfilled and that helps in extending the lifespan of the site.

"The waste pickers will also contribute towards the GDP because they will be legally registered," he said.

In the matter of the shortage of equipment, he said the Municipality has started the procurement process in order to avoid the repeat of the situation that happened under Section 30.

"We re currently busy with a skills audit which is part of trying to fill the gaps that are there in terms of employees that don't have experience of working in a landfill site so that they get the necessary training.

"We are also working with the Department of Home Affairs to remove the dwellings that have been erected on the boundary because there are people who are not from this country who are living there but the police are also assisting with monitoring there in case of anything happening."

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

# Msunduzi strengthens waste management strategies

by **Siyethaba Mhlongo**

AFTER a long period with a vacancy in management of this department in April the Municipality appointed Miss Nokubonga Kunene (pictured) as the Manager for the Domestic Waste Division. Her task is to ensure uninterrupted refuse collection from Msunduzi households and businesses, the sweeping of streets, the clearing of illegal dumping as well as the cleaning of public ablution facilities.

The challenge she encountered when she joined Msunduzi, she said, was the regulation of vehicles.

"This unit did not have contact with the fleet management unit to report things like accidents they might have had and where those happened, which led to them not getting assistance with things like insurance claims."

She also found that some of the staffers did not take responsibility in terms of looking after the tools of trade in their care as such trucks broke down all the time.

"As part of the solution we've strengthened our relationship with those who are responsible for vehicle repairs and whenever one of ours has a problem we contact them right away so that they can do what they need to do to fix it and we are then able to continue providing the service to the community. They now also make sure that the turnaround time is quicker than before because they know that the management is also involved

unlike before," she said.

She added that other challenges that this unit was faced with was the lack of proper reporting.

"Now we can see a change and the supervisors are able to account for the whereabouts of all the workers in their teams and what they're doing at that particular time. That way we are able to collect more waste and do that timeously."

She said these new changes will help curb the problem of illegal dumping because the workers are now accountable and they have also restored the work ethic so staff now do what they were employed to do. She revealed that they discovered that workers previously went wherever they wanted to go because it was more beneficial for them than doing what they were employed to do. For example someone who was hired to collect refuse would go and work with the street sweepers because that was less strenuous on them.

"Our appeal to the residents is for them to only take out their refuse on the scheduled collection days because the mistake some make is to take it back inside their properties when they don't see municipal workers. Sometimes when we have problems with our vehicles we are forced to rotate the trucks between teams which create delays.

"The way we work now ensures that a day never passes without us picking up refuse where we're supposed to collect that day because we don't want any backlogs, that's

why we even collect at night in the areas where we couldn't get to during the day," she said.

She also appealed to residents not to mix household refuse with garden waste. Msunduzi has seven sites which are designated for garden refuse. Residents can visit these sites any day of the week because they are always open but they do not accept household refuse.

Kunene added that it is the responsibility of residents to take their building rubble to the landfill site.

She said they came up with a new strategy of keeping the CBD clean because it experiences an influx of people every day and there is also a problem of littering. She said they decided to have teams working day and others night shift focusing on just cleaning the CBD.

"What we also found to be making our CBD look untidy even when it's clean is the lack of street markings therefore we felt it was

important to work with other units within the Municipality on this one so that we can all make a difference. We also decided to revive the programme of planting on traffic islands to beautify them," she said.

She said they plan to buy 200 bins from this year's budget allocation. She said they also resurrected the peace officers division where members of the public can report acts of misconduct such as illegal dumping so that the perpetrators can be charged.

"We appeal to the residents to take out their refuse by 7am. They must take it out even on holidays because it will be collected even on Christmas Day.

We must apologise for waking them up early but this is going to continue because some residents complain about missing the refuse collection truck. Our workers are motivated so they will not drive pass the property if they are no refuse bags outside, instead they will wake people up," she said.



# Resurrection of the Resolution Committee

By **Siyethaba Mhlongo**

**A**S part of the health guidelines for curbing the spread of Covid-19, initially long meetings and gatherings of more than 50 people were not permitted. However, government could not stop functioning or delivering services to the people just because there are lockdown restrictions.

Meetings of the different Council structures and the Administration as well as those that connect the City with the residents are now convened on virtual platforms. On the 18th of August the Local Task Team for Operation Sukuma Sakhe (LTT) held its first meeting since the lockdown started. This committee is made up of representatives from various government departments. During the meetings each department reports on what they are doing for the community and the challenges they are facing in their service delivery programmes. Community organisations are also part of these meetings. The Chair of the committee is Musa Kunene who is an employee in Msunduzi's Community Services Business Unit.

The recent meeting was held at Gezibuso Community Hall where they discussed issues affecting the community living in Vulindlela. Mr Kunene kicked off the meeting by seeking a report on whether the War Room worked for the benefit of the community. Amongst the challenges that the residents presented was that some of the government departments did not deploy representatives to attend the meetings, the need of social workers and the police by the Community Health Workers (CHW) as well as the alleged refusal by officials from the Department of



**Meeting of the Local Task Team under Operation Sukuma Sakhe** Picture: Igunundu Agency/Siyethaba Mhlongo

Education to come.

The official responsible for the War Room in Msunduzi, Miss Sthabile Mbanjwa, said: "The War Room is functional but we urge other officials to also visit so that we people can get service delivery. The Department of Health and Department of Social Development always make sure they are part of the meetings because that's where they are able to find out what

problems the community of Ward 5 is facing."

Representative from Umzansi Youth in Business (UYB), Nonjabulo Khuzwayo said: "We have a community awareness programme that's specifically focused on Covid-19. We have social workers and field workers who go around to communities to identify where the gaps are. The aim of our organisation

is to work in all the wards across Msunduzi. We spend a month in each ward."

Hlengiwe Dlomo-Phoswa from the Department of Health said: "In Ward 5 the situation is bad because the infection numbers are going up. This is just based on the numbers of the people who use our clinic but you can just imagine how bad the numbers are if you start adding those who

use other health centres and private doctors.

"We need to come with a strategy to arm our communities on how to protect themselves. Every day we test about five people and of those three come back positive for Covid-19. The District Director, Sindi Mbambo also issued a directive that all those who have come into contact with anyone who tests positive must also be tested even if they are asymptomatic.

Another issue that was raised during the meeting was a challenge in the parks department in Edendale. The meeting was told that they only had one tractor that was working which made it difficult for them to respond to all the community reports timeously such as those of overgrown grass on sports grounds around Vulindlela, Edendale and Imbali as well as the reports on overgrown verges.

On water provisioning in Vulindlela, the departments and community appealed to the Municipality to come with a solution that would ensure uninterrupted supply because they were not enough water tankers and static tanks were a temporary measure. The affected areas were said to be marred with infrastructures challenges which required substantial funding to ensure that water as it is a critical service, is indeed delivered to the community.

The Chair of the committee, Mr Kunene: "I would like the Department of Social Development to engage their national office on some of the issues raised so that rural communities can also be assisted. Community leaders also have a right to visit others to find out more about how the War Rooms work. There's a lot that can be learned that can lead to improving service delivery in Vulindlela."

## LAND INVASION

# Msunduzi issues a stern warning to land invaders

By **Siyethaba Mhlongo**

**RECENTLY** there was an outcry following the actions of the Eastern Cape Department of Public Works where it demolished large homes they were built on its land next to the East London Airport. Around the same period more demolitions were seen in Gauteng when the City of Johannesburg also had to act against invaders to protect its land.

Msunduzi's senior official in the Development Services Unit, Mr Mthobisi Khumalo, has also come out to warn those plotting to invade the City's properties saying they could also find their houses being demolished. He said the Municipality is strengthening its policies to make sure that it is legally protected as this is a sensitive matter.

Mr Khumalo said: "Of late the Municipality has found itself dealing with an increase in the cases of invasions. It's actually in two folds because you find some who are invading private land and then there are also cases where Government land is being invaded. There are in fact a lot of properties that have been identified as amongst those that have been invaded."

Amongst the areas where Mr Khumalo said land invasion is rife is in the South of Msunduzi it was Ambleton 3, The Farm Shenstone, Marikana, Herewood, Azalea Cemetery, Unit H War works and Shortts Retreat. In the north of the City he said it was Glenwood,

Bishopstowe, Site 11, Ottos Bluff, Peace Valley 3, Signal Hill, Yellowwood, Nhlalakahle, Beacon Hill Farm as well as Ezinketheni.

Mr Khumalo said some of the areas that have been invaded were earmarked for government housing developments that are being funded by the Department of Human Settlement and now those are now being stalled. Other affected properties were earmarked for other service delivery projects such as water infrastructure.

He added that the challenge of land invasions is now a countywide problem where people mobilise in groups for different reasons known to them but this ends up negatively affecting of other people who buy sites from them.

"According to our investigations most of the invasions are as a result of people wanting to live closer to town, delays in housing developments, people wanting to live closer to their places of employment as well as poverty and scarce job opportunities," he said.

Mr Khumalo said the Municipality is now aware that there are bogus committees that have been formed of people who are illegally selling plots of land and defrauding residents. He said some of these committees even have some chiefs in them.

"Chiefs have no authority to sell municipal land. The community has been warned against buying plots from these bogus committees because they can't even give a buyer any documentation as a proof of ownership which leads into the



**Mr Mthobisi Khumalo** (Picture: Igunundu Agency/Siyethaba Mhlongo)

rightful owners of the land taking legal action and the buyer loses their money," he said.

He said the public must be aware that the Municipality will not hesitate to take stern action against anyone who illegally occupies its land.

"Warnings have been issued to some of the invaders and others have been given demolition notices where the court ruled in favour of the Municipality. In other areas where there are also invasions the Municipality has lodged high court applications in order to get interdicts against the perpetrators as well as be able to demolish any of the buildings that were constructed without the

necessary permissions from the City and the protect those properties from and future invasions. "He said amongst the reasons people illegally occupied municipal and government land is because they did not want to pay property rates. Some of the areas where they invaded land and built mansions but want the Municipality to give the free services include Ambleton, Shenstone and Henley Dam. Last month Msunduzi resolved that the dam area should to be fenced because the land invaders have built too close to it.

Mr Khumalo went on to say that land grabs are also disruptive to the town planning strategies that have

already been approved by council because they delay government housing developments as well as the provision of services to residents across the City.

"The Municipality planning towards the adoption of a new Anti-Land Invasion Policy (2020) that is aimed to combat land grabs, curb the increase in the number of shacks and also speak to strategies of human settlement as well the development of areas around the City," he said.

Amongst other plans to curb land invasions, the Development Services Unit is has identified pockets of land that can be used for economic development and attracting investors to Msunduzi which will also create job opportunities for the locals.

Khumalo concluded by reiterating his warning to residents who are invading government land as well as those who were misled to buy properties that are illegally sold to them without any proof of ownership.

"The Municipality has established a Rapid Response Unit which enforces the bylaws related to the protection of Municipal properties and that includes dealing with land grabs, he said.

He said those who want information on the sale of land in Msunduzi can contact his office directly on 033 392 2493 or email him on [mthobisi.khumalo@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:mthobisi.khumalo@msunduzi.gov.za).

Residents are also urged to report incidents of land invasions on the emergency hotline on 033 845 5911/ 033 392 3725.

# Speaker shares her wisdom with other women

**Society needs to look at the way it raises children so that they treat each other as equals from a young age**

**By Siyethaba Mhlongo**

**T**HE Speaker of the Msunduzi Council, Cllr Eunice Majola-Zondi, wishes that proper engagements on issues affecting women would not be constrained to just one month, in August, but instead be done throughout the year.

“If you look back in history you’ll see that the 9th of August day is an important day in this country’s politics. There are people who fought, blood was spilled and some lost their lives which led to this day be declared as National Women’s Day. Leaders like Mrs Lillian Ngoyi, Mama Albertina and Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela put their lives on the line and fought so that as women could also get the recognition they deserved as South Africans,” said the Speaker.

She said they fought against all forms of oppression and discrimination that was there at the time. Majola-Zondi said it was the

unity of the men, women and youth at during the struggle that led to them beating the oppressive system of those days.

She added today women still have struggles they need to overcome like becoming major players in the South African economy, something she said has been a major challenge in this country.

“At the moment we have certain people that everyone know they control the South African economy and they are mostly white and male. As women we also want to be part of the mainstream economy.”

The Speaker said there are several other difficulties that women still face and gender-based violence is amongst them. She said they will not stop talking about the abuse of women until they see a difference and are satisfied that there’s a lasting solution to this problem. She said they will also continue fighting for the recognition and respect of women.

“On the issue of gender-based violence we often just focus on the physical abuse where a person is assaulted then we report that to the police. But there’s also emotional abuse where as woman you are belittled, you are made to feel worthless and that kind of pain can hurt more than the physical one. That kind of abuse requires us as women to come together and come up with strategies on how we need to deal with it. The challenge with emotional abuse is that it’s difficult to prove in a court of law because there’s often no evidence in a form of scars to show,



**Councillor Eunice Majola-Zondi** (Picture: Andile Mahlaba)

“she said.

She said society needs to look at the way it raises children so that they treat each other as equals from a young age. She said the problem starts when people are still young where a boy child is allowed to go out but a girl child is made to stay at home at all time. She said parents also made a mistake where chores are not distributed equally between boys and girls which leads to children growing up with the mentality that genders are not equal. Majola-Zondi said in the professional environment there is an

attempt to ensure that there is a gender equality in terms of the percentages of people hired and salaries paid but there is still a lot of work that needs to be done in that regard.

She said what is also important is for people to understand what gender equality and the concept of 50/50 actually mean because there are still some that are not sure what it entails.

“As women we sometimes use it in the wrong context. We should be using 50/50 in areas like a work setting where as woman I should be given the same recognition as a man

for my hard work and dedication. We should also be paid the same salary for the same amount of work and promotion opportunities should be fair to both men and women,” said Majola-Zondi.

She concluded by saying women should not use 50/50 to divert attention from the wrong things they have committed. “What’s important is for us is to look to respect family values and then we will truly understand how to use the 50/50 concept for what it was meant to achieve.”

## COVID-19

# Campaign to fight Covid-19 virus intensifies

**by Anathi Mtaka**

MSUNDUZI is one of the areas that recorded high number of those infected with Covid-19 with cases confirmed in the CBD, townships and even in the rural areas. This resulted in an increase in the number of lives lost due to the virus. The Department of Health and uMgungundlovu District Municipality then decided to intensify the awareness campaign to warn the residents of Msunduzi about the risk of getting infected.

The programme, which is led by the District Municipality, kicked off at Mafakatini Clinic, then it was taken to the taxi ranks as the objective was to reach many people. Mrs Nelisiwe Nxaba, who is a senior official at Edendale Hospital, as well as Ms Simangele Zondi from the clinic were part of the team that conducted the awareness activities.

Ms Zondi said the reason they decided to have the campaign in Mafakatini was because they had a high number of confirmed cases and there was also a misconception that Covid-19 only affected those in the urban areas yet the number of infections were going up even in the rural areas.

“We are trying to teach them about Covid-19 and the need to follow the health guidelines in place to protect themselves. They are also taught about the symptoms of Covid-19. When they get to the clinic they are screened for the symptoms by checking their temperature and

filling in the health questionnaire, so that we can identify those who might be infected.”

She said some of the residents still did not believe that Covid-19 existed but as health professionals they did not give up so they continued to spread the message that the virus is real and what people should do to keep safe.

She said they worked closely with a team from Edendale and a non-profit company named CAPRISSA. During the awareness campaign they tested 61 residents after teaching them about the symptoms which resulted in some suspecting that they could have the virus.

“If someone is found to have Covid-19 we trace the people who had direct contact with them so that they can be tested as well. Most of the people get tested in Edendale because they have the resources to follow up on those infected.

“What I think could still be leading to an increase in the number of infections, even though we’re in a rural area, is some of the beliefs that most people have like those who are very traditional in their belief systems. For example when they get chest pains they are likely to believe that someone has given them deadly muti.

“The other issue is funerals because in this area residents still come out in large numbers when one of their neighbours die. Also many still don’t think it’s critical for them to wear masks when they travel by taxi or to adhere to social distancing



**Community members at the Mafakatini Clinic** (Picture: Andile Mahlaba)

when they are standing next to someone,” she said.

Ms Zondi added that they also educated people about what was expected from them when self-quarantining at home like being alone, not sharing the dishes as well as not getting close to other people. She said it was easier for one to self-isolate in the rural areas because they had several rondavels in one homestead so the person affected could just lock themselves in one of them.

“When one person was infected and had to self-isolate we never had another family member getting infected,” she said.

She said the clinic had a role in a

fight to curb the spread of this virus because all those who visited it were educated about it and the guidelines issued by the Department of Health so they believed that the knowledge they gave the community would eventually resonate in them and the message would stick.

She said since they were in the rural area they also educated the public about the phrases that became popular after the outbreak of Covid-19 such as screening, quarantine and isolation.

“They use to be scared when we pulled them aside for the screening until we explained how it worked and the aim of the health questionnaire.”

She appealed to communities to

adhere to the lockdown regulations and not gather in crowds. She said the residents needed to also know that it was not just traditional medicine that could make people sick.

Nxaba appealed to members of the community not to believe hearsay but to go to consult health professionals.

“I know people believe in using African wormwood but there are some who could fall ill after taking it. African wormwood has not been proven to be the cure for Covid-19. That’s why you find others vomiting or getting sicker after using it because the one we get from the bush has not been tested. Also we don’t know what the right dosage is because everyone is guessing so one may tell you to drink a cup but someone else could just be drinking a spoonful,” said Nxaba.

She also encouraged residents to seek medical help when they were not feeling well. She went on to say that the vaccine for Covid-19 had not yet been found and added that those on chronic medication must continue taking it. She said people must use technology such as social media to connect with their loved ones during this period.

Community member Mr Sabelo Mthembu said: “We have a problem of stigmatisation here in the rural areas to such an extent that a person gets really angry when you advise them to go to the clinic when they are exhibiting symptoms. My plea to the community is that we must stop discriminating one another.”

# Msunduzi tackles gender-based violence

by Siyethaba Mhlongo

**M**AYOR Mzimkhulu Thebolla, Member of Parliament, Mina Lesoma and Ward 2 Cllr Sibusiso Mtshali led the community and members of the Umzansi Youth in Business (UYB) recently participated in a five-day walkathon to Durban to raise awareness about scourge of gender-based violence.

The journey kicked off at in Ward 2, in Sweetwaters, the group then came to the City Hall where the Comrades Marathon route starts. As part of the activities planned for the five days, the group had debates as well as engagements with community members on the route.

“With this walkathon our aim with the UYB, is to raise awareness about the scourge of gender-based violence. We want to reach as many people as we can so that they are aware of the dangers and we also work together on fighting this so that we can curb the abuse of women, the abuse of children and also the abuse of men,” said Mayor Thebolla.

He went on to say that there was a perception that men could not be victims of abuse. He said the objective was to get victims to come forward so that they could get assistance.

Mayor Thebolla said as part of the preparations for the walkathon they went out to asking for donations for sanitary pads and personal protective equipment for Covid-19. These were then distributed to needy communities

along the route to Durban.

He said he always heard people saying “Happy Women’s Month” in August but for him this month was not just about the celebration but also paying tribute and honouring the role that women played in the fight against the oppressive system they faced at the time.

“I believe that as a country we still have a long way to go in dealing with a problem of the separation of people according to gender. Remember our vision as a country is the creation of a non-sexist society, and the best way to do that is not discriminate against women but uplift them because they are also South African citizens. What I can say to the community is that we need to work together and treat women well,” he said.

Member of Parliament, Mrs Lesoma, said she joined the walkathon because she was encouraged to see young people taking on such a campaign as it showed that they remembered what happened in the past and they also had the passion to take on the challenges faced by today’s society, such as Covid-19.

“This journey alone is a mind opening and it also says as a woman you must not think of yourself as a victim, but you can be involved in community empowerment programmes like these. We as the Government also have to open our doors and put ourselves in the shoes of the perpetrators so that we can understand how they think,” she said.

She said it was a conscious decision to call it a gender-based



**Walking against gender-based violence**

(Picture: Igunundu Agency/Siyethaba Mhlongo)

violence and not just the violence against women because men, boys, girls and even the elderly were also sometimes victims.

“We think of women as managers of their homes because they are able to raise even children that have been abandoned by their fathers. That is why as government we have to ensure that they are supported so that they can look after the children in their care,” she said.

Lesoma said they also had to

empower women with knowledge because “knowledge is power.”

“The different government structures can work together, we can see that our communities need us all. Just like you can see today where you have all the three spheres, which in national government, provincial government and the local government but we are all working together on this problem with the same objective – which is to fight the scourge of gender-based violence.

“Women’s Day is every day and the same can be said with the Human Rights Day but we have those specific days where we highlight their importance.”

As a local government representative that works closely with the community, Cllr Mtshali said they were grateful for organisations such as the UYB which ensure that young people played a role in such important programme.

“What I witnessed today gives me hope that we have young people who don’t just think but also act and directly confront challenges faced by the society. “In this community, I’m talking about Ward 2 alone, we’ve had five cases of gender-based violence where five people lost their lives. This should give you an indication of how bad things are nationally when we add all the gender-based violence across the country.

“We need more people to take a stand and fight this scourge, and that includes our youth,” said Cllr Mtshali.

Miss Nontuthuko Ntshangase, who is a UYB member, said they did not join the walkathon because they wanted to show off but they were pushed by the spike in terrible trend of gender-based violence.

She said they wanted to live in a Msunduzi that is free of gender-based violence. She requested Mayor Thebolla to ensure a rollout of more programmes geared towards fighting the scourge.

“We would also like to see the leadership being at the forefront in this battle.”

# Msunduzi staff fight against gender-based violence

by Siyethaba Mhlongo

CITY employees led the walk from Msunduzi to eThekweni that was aimed at raising awareness about the gender-based violence (GBV). The journey, which followed the route Comrades Marathon down run from Pietermaritzburg to Durban. They left the City at 5am and they reached their destination just after 7pm.

Committee Officer in Msunduzi’s Secretariat Unit, Miss Silindile Khumalo said she decided to plan the walkathon as part of the fight against the scourge of GBV.

“We also invited other people because gender-based violence doesn’t just affect Municipal employees but the whole of Msunduzi and South Africa,” she said.

Amongst Msunduzi’s employees that were part of the walkathon was Miss Ntokozo Xaba from the Sustainable Development Business Unit, and Miss Simenyiwe Majola who works in Secretariat Unit. Miss Khumalo said their aim was to raise awareness about GBV. They did not have engagements with the public on the route but the message they wanted to communicate was displayed on their clothes.

“We saw that this problem is not too far from us, in fact it’s quite close and we also found out that most people have been victims of gender-based violence. What we also found out is that GBV was not just about physical violence but there are other forms of abuse, including emotional abuse,” she said.

She said their aim was to make

the communities aware that people could still be victims of GBV without being assaulted and they wanted them to come forward and report even other types of abuse to the police.

“We also want residents to know that they can come to the municipal offices and we will be there ready to help them. We will not just be there to talk to them but we will climb those mountains with them, give them the necessary help and support each other emotionally.”

The City employees contributed their own money to fund the campaign and they sought some of the funding privately. Miss Khumalo said they knocked on many door to get help to make the journey a success. She said in order for one to be heard they sometimes had to take from their own resources and from those close to them if they really believed in something. She said one had to forge forward even if it meant sacrificing their own needs such as food and other necessities.

“We really believed in this campaign and that’s why we put in our own money so that our communities can reap the benefits. Our wish is to see the police listening to the victims of GBV when they come forward to report these cases and for the South African justice system not to protect the perpetrators of these vile acts,” she said.

She said by walking from Msunduzi to eThekweni they wanted to show that they were willing to do anything within their power to fight gender-based violence.

Khumalo said the health and



**Participants in the Walkathon** (Picture: Igunundu Agency/Siyethaba Mhlongo)

safety of participants was prioritised throughout the route.

“All of us, and those we tried to recruit, knew that we were not going to profit from this. We got a Samaritan, Samkelisiwe Zulu - an employee at works at Ramsay - who is trained in first aid. We wanted to make sure that whoever joined us on this journey was safe.”

Miss Khumalo said they had observed that most anti-GBV programmes focused on women.

“The focus has been on women because of the high numbers of female victims but we would like to

encourage men who are victims not to keep quiet, their lives also matter.”

Meanwhile, Miss Majola said she decided to take part in the campaign because she wanted to show that women can support and stand up for each other.

“The perception is that us women don’t support each other and this was the call to all women that we need to stand together and lift each other up.”

Miss Xaba said as the municipal employees some people did not take their walkathon seriously, they thought it was as game.

“For us this means we rise

together, we carry each other when another is too tired, we help each other when another is hurt and that is the only way we can beat the challenges we are faced with, that is humanity. This also shows our commitment that we will always be there for each other and if one of us is suffering, all of us will be hurting,” she said.

She said they were happy to see men also showing interest in being part of their campaign because that showed unity amongst genders.

“The message that I would like to send to the people of Msunduzi is that silence is not golden. They must not stay in silence, they must speak up until they get help. We must also not wait until we see a person with scars to offer help to those who need it. We must open our hearts so that out residents and colleagues can get the support they need.”

She said there was only one man who joined them on the walk to Durban and that was Mr Mthoko Sibiya who works as a guard at Ramsay, but there were other men who made donations to the campaign. Donors who are employed at Msunduzi included, Mr Phumlani Gumede who is a Manager in the Human Settlements Unit, Mr Njabulo Mthembu who is also a Manager, Mr Mfundo Ngubane who is a Town Planner, the MPAC Manager Mr Hlalani Zondi, Miss Nomkhosi Mahlaba who works in the Sustainable Development Business Unit and Mr Khuleka Xaba. The popular Midlands sporting organisation, Amaqhawe Athletics Club, also made a contribution to the walkathon.



## THE MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY TENDER NOTICE

CONTRACT No. SCM 29 OF 20/21

### APPOINTMENT OF A CONTRACTOR (6CE) FOR THE EXTENSION TO WATER RETICULATION IN MVELWENI AND BALENI, WARD 3- VULINDLELA

Tenders are hereby invited from suitably qualified and experienced Contractors for the extension to water reticulation in Mvelweni and Baleni, Ward 3 - Vulindlela. To have a CIDB grading of 6CE.

It is compulsory for all interested tenderers to download a Tender Registration Form in order for the tender document to be emailed to the interested tenderer. The Tender Registration Form is available on the Municipality's website [www.msunduzi.gov.za](http://www.msunduzi.gov.za) in the Tenders Folder. The Tender Registration Form must be completed and emailed to the following email address: [procurement@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:procurement@msunduzi.gov.za) for registration. The registration will start from **Tuesday, 10th November 2020** until **Monday, 16th November 2020 at 23h59**.

No tender registration will be considered after the above closing date and time for registration. Tenderers who fail to register within the registration period will not be eligible to receive the tender document and to submit their respective tender documents when the tender closes.

Tenderers will thereafter receive an email from Mellissa Nero with the tender document and the date of the Virtual Briefing Meeting. Tenderers that do not receive this confirmation email within 24 hours of sending the registration form, an email request must be forwarded to [procurement@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:procurement@msunduzi.gov.za) or alternatively call 033-392 3018

The Municipality will continue to advertise its Tender Notices in the National Treasury eTender Portal and Municipal website, but the tender documents will be emailed to potential tenderers that submitted their Tender Registration Form on time.

Tenders must be submitted both in hard copy and on a CD/USB Flash Drive contained in sealed envelopes and marked with "Contract No. SCM 29 of 20/21" and the Contract Description must be placed in the Tender Box located in the **Foyer, Ground Floor, City Hall, 169 Chief Albert Luthuli Street (Commercial Road), Pietermaritzburg**, not later than **12h00, on Friday, 11th December 2020**, when they will be publicly opened. Only tenders placed in the Tender Box shall be accepted.

**Tender Validity Period:** Four (4) months commencing from the closing date of tender.

**Tender Evaluation Criteria:** The tender shall be evaluated on a 80/20 Preference Point System in accordance with the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017, issued in terms of section 5 of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, Act No. 5 of 2000.

The Msunduzi Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender, and reserves the right to accept the whole or any part of a tender. Each tenderer will be informed of the tender result. The Msunduzi Municipality expects businesses within the Pietermaritzburg and Midlands Region to support its contract and BEE/SMME initiatives.

Mr. M. KHATHIDE (CITY MANAGER)

## THE MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY TENDER NOTICE

CONTRACT No. SCM 28 OF 20/21

### APPOINTMENT OF A CONTRACTOR (6CE) FOR THE UPGRADING OF RESERVOIR 12 BULK PIPELINE AND UPGRADE OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN WARD6, VULINDLELA

Tenders are hereby invited from suitably qualified and experienced Contractors for the upgrading of reservoir 12 within ward 6, Vulindlela. To have a CIDB grading of 6CE.

It is compulsory for all interested tenderers to download a Tender Registration Form in order for the tender document to be emailed to the interested tenderer. The Tender Registration Form is available on the Municipality's website [www.msunduzi.gov.za](http://www.msunduzi.gov.za) in the Tenders Folder. The Tender Registration Form must be completed and emailed to the following email address: [procurement@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:procurement@msunduzi.gov.za) for registration. The registration will start from **Tuesday, 10th November 2020** until **Monday, 16th November 2020 at 23h59**.

No tender registration will be considered after the above closing date and time for registration. Tenderers who fail to register within the registration period will not be eligible to receive the tender document and to submit their respective tender documents when the tender closes.

Tenderers will thereafter receive an email from Mellissa Nero with the tender document and the date of the Virtual Briefing Meeting. Tenderers that do not receive this confirmation email within 24 hours of sending the registration form, an email request must be forwarded to [procurement@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:procurement@msunduzi.gov.za) or alternatively call 033-392 3018

The Municipality will continue to advertise its Tender Notices in the National Treasury eTender Portal and Municipal website, but the tender documents will be emailed to potential tenderers that submitted their Tender Registration Form on time.

Tenders must be submitted both in hard copy and on a CD/USB Flash Drive contained in sealed envelopes and marked with "Contract No. SCM 28 of 20/21" and the Contract Description must be placed in the Tender Box located in the **Foyer, Ground Floor, City Hall, 169 Chief Albert Luthuli Street (Commercial Road), Pietermaritzburg**, not later than **12h00, on Thursday, 10th December 2020**, when they will be publicly opened. Only tenders placed in the Tender Box shall be accepted.

**Tender Validity Period:** Four (4) months commencing from the closing date of tender.

**Tender Evaluation Criteria:** The tender shall be evaluated on a 80/20 Preference Point System in accordance with the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017, issued in terms of section 5 of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, Act No. 5 of 2000.

The Msunduzi Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender, and reserves the right to accept the whole or any part of a tender. Each tenderer will be informed of the tender result. The Msunduzi Municipality expects businesses within the Pietermaritzburg and Midlands Region to support its contract and BEE/SMME initiatives.

Mr. M. KHATHIDE (CITY MANAGER)

## THE MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY TENDER NOTICE

CONTRACT No. SCM 26 OF 20/21

### APPOINTMENT OF A PANEL OF SERVICE PROVIDERS TO UNDERTAKE AD-HOC PROFESSIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR PROJECTS ON AN "AS AND WHEN" REQUIRED BASIS

The Msunduzi Municipality hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified and experienced Service Providers to undertake ad-hoc professional planning and development services for projects on an "as and when" required basis over a period of three (3) years.

Interested tenderers are required to submit a Bid Registration Form of which is available on the Msunduzi Municipality's website [www.msunduzi.gov.za](http://www.msunduzi.gov.za) in the Tenders Folder / Database Forms. The registration will begin from **12 November 2020** and end at **23h59 on 20 November 2020**. The Bid Registration Form must be completed and emailed to [procurement@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:procurement@msunduzi.gov.za) (and copied to [vinay.mohanlal@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:vinay.mohanlal@msunduzi.gov.za)). Tenderers who fail to register within the above registration period will not be eligible to submit a tender document.

Tenderers will thereafter be informed in due course of the mode and details of the Tender Briefing Meeting once potential tenderers have submitted their Bid Registration Forms. Tenderers that do not receive any confirmation within 48 working hours at the end of the above registration period must request such via email to [procurement@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:procurement@msunduzi.gov.za) (and copied to [vinay.mohanlal@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:vinay.mohanlal@msunduzi.gov.za)).

The Msunduzi Municipality will continue to advertise its Tender Notices on the National Treasury e-Tender Portal and Municipal website. Tender documents will only be emailed to potential tenderers that have timeously submitted their Bid Registration Forms.

Tenders must be submitted both in hard copy and on a CD/USB Flash Drive contained in sealed envelopes and marked with "Contract No. SCM 26 of 20/21" and the Contract Description and must be placed in the Tender Box located in the **Foyer, Ground Floor, City Hall, 169 Chief Albert Luthuli Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201**, not later than **12h00 on Tuesday, 15 December 2020**, when they will be publicly opened. Only tenders placed in the Tender Box shall be accepted.

**Tender Validity Period:** Four (4) months commencing from the closing date of tender.

**Tender Adjudication/Evaluation Criteria:** The tender shall be evaluated on a Two Stage Evaluation System – Stage One: Functionality and Stage Two: 80/20 Preference Point System in accordance with the Preferential Procurement Regulations 2017, issued in terms of section 5 of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, Act No. 5 of 2000. The Functionality for Stage One shall be evaluated on the following criteria:

No.	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points
1.	Project Team Experience	50
2.	Similar Projects	10
Total Functionality Points		60
Threshold to Qualify for Stage Two		75%

The Msunduzi Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender and reserves the right to accept the whole or any part of a tender. Each tenderer will be informed of the tender result. The Msunduzi Municipality expects businesses within the Pietermaritzburg and Midlands Region to support its contract and BEE/SMME initiatives.

Mr. M. KHATHIDE (CITY MANAGER)

## THE MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY

- CONTRACT No. SCM 23 OF 20/21:** PROPOSAL CALL FOR THE LONG TERM LEASE OF 30-50 YEARS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ERF 2218 EDENDALE CC BEING 2HA IN EXTENT ALONG FJ SITHOLE ROAD, IN IMBALI STAGE 1, PIETERMARITZBURG.
- CONTRACT No. SCM 24 OF 20/21:** PROPOSAL CALL FOR A LONGTERM LEASE OF 30-50 YEARS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS PORTION A (OF 3) OF ERF 2295 EDENDALE CC, PIETERMARITZBURG BEING AT THE CORNER OF THWALA AND FJ SITHOLE ROAD, BEING 5062 m2 IN EXTENT.
- CONTRACT No. SCM 25 OF 20/21:** PROPOSAL CALL FOR A LONG TERM LEASE FOR A PERIOD OF 20-50 YEARS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCOTTSVILLE BOWLING CLUB SITE LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS PORTION A OF ERF 1913 PIETERMARITZBURG BEING AT THE CORNER OF NEW ENGLAND AND SAINT PATRICKS ROAD, BEING 5802m2 IN EXTENT, SCOTTSVILLE, PIETERMARITZBURG.

### TENDER NOTICE

The Msunduzi Municipality hereby call proposals for long term lease for development of above sites. It is compulsory for all interested tenderers to download a Tender Registration Form in order for the tender document to be emailed to the interested tenderer. The Tender Registration Form is available on the Municipality's website [www.msunduzi.gov.za](http://www.msunduzi.gov.za) in the Tenders Folder. The Tender Registration Form must be completed and emailed to the following email address: [procurement@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:procurement@msunduzi.gov.za) for registration. The registration will start from **Thursday, 12 November 2020 until Friday, 20 November 2020 at 23h59**.

No tender registration will be considered after the above closing date and time for registration. Tenderers who fail to register within the registration period will not be eligible to receive the tender document and to submit their respective tender documents when the tender closes. Tenderers will thereafter receive an email from Phivwe Mthlane with the tender document and the date of the Virtual Briefing Meeting. Tenderers that do not receive this confirmation email within 24 hours of sending the registration form, an email request must be forwarded to [procurement@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:procurement@msunduzi.gov.za) or alternatively call 033-392 2486.

The Municipality will continue to advertise its Tender Notices in the National Treasury eTender Portal and Municipal website, but the tender documents will be emailed to potential tenderers that submitted their Tender Registration Form on time.

Tenders must be submitted both in hard copy and on a CD/USB Flash Drive contained in sealed envelopes and marked with "Contract No. SCM 23, 24 & 25 of 20/21" and the Contract Description must be placed in the Tender Box located in the **Foyer, Ground Floor, City Hall, 169 Chief Albert Luthuli Street (Commercial Road), Pietermaritzburg**, not later than **12h00, on Friday, 11 December 2020**, when they will be publicly opened. Only tenders placed in the Tender Box shall be accepted.

**Tender Validity Period:** Four (4) months commencing from the closing date of tender.

**Tender Evaluation Criteria:** The tender shall be evaluated on a Two Stage Evaluation System – Stage One Functionality and Stage Two 80/20 Preference Point System in accordance with the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017, issued in terms of section 5 of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, Act No. 5 of 2000.

No.	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points
1.	Project Development experience of residential development, mixed use development or Similar Developments	10 Points
2.	Lease duration period	5 Points
3.	Access to funding	10 Points
4.	Submission of development proposal that conforms to the Municipality's vision as outlined in the Msunduzi Spatial Development Framework, City Development Strategy and the Integrated Development Plan etc.	15 Points
Total Functionality Points		40 Points
Threshold to Qualify for Stage Two		(28 Points)

The Msunduzi Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender, and reserves the right to accept the whole or any part of a tender. Each tenderer will be informed of the tender result. The Msunduzi Municipality expects businesses within the Pietermaritzburg and Midlands Region to support its contract and BEE/SMME initiatives.

Mr. M. KHATHIDE (CITY MANAGER)



## THE MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY

# CALL FOR PROSPECTIVE TENANTS AT YOUTH ENTERPRISE PARK

The Msunduzi Municipality Sustainable Development & City Enterprises, Development Services Sub-Unit wishes to call for prospective youth - owned enterprises within the jurisdiction of the municipality to apply for a container space at the new Youth Enterprise Park. Youth Enterprise Park Centre is a Small Medium Micro Enterprises (SMME's) Incubation Centre that will be used to provide development support services to youth owned enterprises to trade.

### ELIGIBLE CRITERIA AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

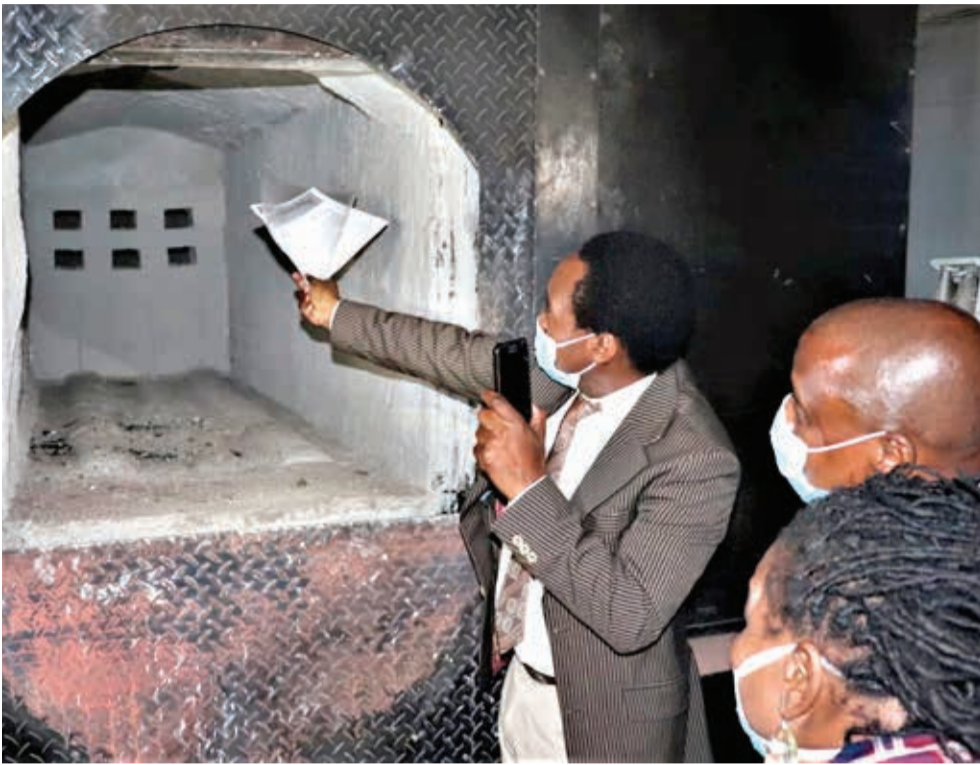
The applicant must meet the following criteria:

- The business must be located within the boundaries of Msunduzi Municipality, preferably located in Greater Edendale.
- The business must be 100% youth owned (18-35 years)
- The owner must be prepared to sign a one (1) year lease agreement with Msunduzi Municipality and should demonstrate intent to abide by all rules.
- The business must have been operating and show some sort of profitability for at least 1 year or more.
- The tenant enterprises should be able to operate within the confined floor area provided by the containers.
- The tenant enterprises need to co-exist with each other and therefore cannot be competing for the same target market and can share the common space.
- Business owners must be South African citizens.
- Applicant must submit completed application form, Business Plan & Portfolio of evidence of operation, ID Copy, proof of residence.

Msunduzi Municipality reserve the right to select the suitable SMMEs to participate in the facility. Application forms are available on the Municipal website and offices. Applications must be submitted at the 9th Floor, Professor Nyembezi Centre, 341 Church Street, Pietermaritzburg or scanned to email [simtholile.miyeni@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:simtholile.miyeni@msunduzi.gov.za). **The closing date for submissions is on the 11 December 2020, before 16:00.** For all enquiries, kindly contact Mr. Simtholile Miyeni (Manager: Local Economic Development) No. 033 392 2842 or Mr Mthobisi Khumalo (Senior Manager: Development Services) telephone No. 033 392 2493 or email: [mthobisi.khumalo@msunduzi.gov.za](mailto:mthobisi.khumalo@msunduzi.gov.za)

Yours in Economic Development  
M. Khathide  
City Manager

# Refurbished Mountain Rise Crematorium is now fully operational



Senior Manager, Mandla Zuma demonstrating the refurbished crematorium which is already operational. (Pictures: Igunundu Agency/Siyethaba Mhlongo)

by Siyethaba Mhlongo

**W**HILE the country anticipates a spike in deaths due to Covid-19, government is expected to put measures in place to ensure that those who have passed away are given a dignified resting place, in a case of those who may want to be buried. The Covid-19 outbreak coincided with Msunduzi's plans to refurbish its Mountain Rise Crematorium which has not worked for some time which inconvenienced the families of those who wanted to be cremated. Losing a family member is a painful experience but the bereaved often find closure by giving their loved one a dignified send off. The Community Services Portfolio Committee recently visited the City crematorium to assess the progress on the work being done to refurbish this critical facility so that it can

resume operations for the benefit of the people of Msunduzi. Committee Chairperson, Cllr Linda Madlala said: "We are in the final stages of the refurbishments at our facility which has not been operating for a while because of the challenges it had. We are glad that the people of Msunduzi who wish to be cremated will now get what they want in their hometown. This is part of service delivery." Cllr Madlala said those who wanted to be cremated had to be taken to Cato Ridge because of the problems at Msunduzi's crematorium. "Amongst the challenges we had was that bodies could not be properly cremated. The staff would put in the body inside the cremator and when they checked after an allocated time they would not find ashes as expected but the body would not have been completely cremated - some body parts would still be intact. This had a negative impact even on the staff's

psychology," said Madlala. He said the members of the committee felt that it was important for them to visit the crematorium to assess the extent of the work being done. The committee is made up of 13 councillors from various political parties. "The questions that the members of the committee wanted answers to is when the crematorium will be open to the public and what work still needs to be done? We are glad that most of the critical work has been done and the refurbishments are in the final stages because now that are just doing the enhancements so that the place looks nice," he said. He added that the committee is satisfied with the work that the contractor has done. "Our officials have assessed the progress of the work done and they told us that between 70% and 80% has been completed. Cllr Madlala said the City's decision to refurbish the

crematorium had nothing to do with the Covid-19 outbreak. "Yes it was a coincident that we started the work while there is Covid-19. We decided to move swiftly in doing the necessary repairs here because we understand the burden that it is on the residents of Msunduzi who have had to travel from here to Cato Ridge for cremations when there is a crematorium in their City." Senior Manager in the Community Services Business Unit, Mr Mandla Zuma said: "The inner walls inside the cremators were collapsing because of the extreme heat during the cremation process. The doors also had problems, which could have led to a number of problem maybe even parts of the body falling out during cremation. Also, previously there was no insulation to protect the roof from catching fire but now it's been installed." He said the service provider told the Municipality that while they

may have repaired the cremators now the City will have to buy new ones to replace them after some time because the models they have are old. Member of the portfolio committee Cllr Mehmood Oumar asked the owner of the contracted company if he can give the Municipality an assurance that the cremators will not stop working after a few cremations. The contractor committed to maintain them for a 12-month period from the date of reopening for cremations. Cllr Madlala concluded by saying: "We would like to apologise to the community members for the inconvenience and pain they suffered due to this place not working. As the Municipality we will do everything in our power to ensure that services such as these are delivered to our communities."

## INFRASTRUCTURE

# Roads are the economic lifeline for the City of Choice

By Anathi Mtaka

**R**OADS are of great importance in the economy of any community and they play a crucial role in the provision of essential services. Roads in Msunduzi are often congested due to large volumes of traffic and pedestrians, which puts pressure on traffic officers. Speaking to this newspaper, Senior Superintendent Bheki Xulu outlined strategies they are using to minimize traffic congestion. He said it is the wish of the Municipality to minimize travelling time from Scottsville to the CBD to five minutes or ten minutes if there are obstructions, 20 minutes from Edendale or 30 minutes under unbearable conditions. It should be 20 minutes to travel from Northdale or 30 under uncontrollable circumstances. Xulu said this was possible if traffic officers and road users could



Superintendent Bheki Xulu (Pictures: Andile Mahlaba/Jonathan Burton)

work together. He added officers should be deployed all over Msunduzi not only in Edendale where major road construction is underway. "It is not wise to focus in one area, it is important to keep our roads opened because this will ensure a smooth

flow of the economy and the delivery of services in Msunduzi," said Xulu. He said it was unacceptable that people arrive late at work due to traffic congestion. Referring to working hours for traffic officer, he said: "Msunduzi traffic officers work from 6am till



6pm. Those who do morning shifts start at 6am and knock-off at 2pm, the night staff start at 11am to 6pm." He said the issue of transport used by the officers was still a challenge and was hoping it would be resolved soon. Xulu said the employment of 25 officers was a huge relief.

"The arrival of these officers helped us a lot in that we are now able to reach as many places as possible within a short space of time and we can deploy members in the intersections to allow free flow of traffic. We are now closer to where we want to be," concluded Xulu.

# City's airport passes the highest standard

Assessment of safety at Oribi Airport has produced positive results.

By Luvuyo Thahla

**P**EOPLE usually think that safety measures at local airports are not up to standard compared to international airports such as King Shaka International and OR Tambo International.

The Msunduzi Municipality has proved this could not be further from the truth.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), a statutory body which oversees and regulates all aspects of the civil aviation sector, has confirmed that safety at the Oribi Airport is up to industry standards.

The CAA, which reports to the Department of Transport, lays regulations for airports to operate and to ensure the safety of passengers and the community.

Acting Manager at the Oribi Airport, Mr Mazwi Mngwengwe said that the safety of the community was of paramount importance to the Municipality.

"We put the safety of the community first and we do not want to put the lives of the people who make use of this airport in jeopardy, that is why we adhere to the regulations put in place by the CAA and we do not take short cuts," he said.

Explaining further, he said



Oribi Airport which has passed stringent safety requirements (Picture: Andile Mahlaba)

recklessness on their part could lead to a disaster which would adversely affect the local economy, safety of passengers and the lives of community members residing in the vicinity of the airport. Currently the airport has five departure flights and another five in-coming flights daily.

It feeds OR Tambo International Airport. It also acts as an avenue for important business meetings.

This airport has created job opportunities for locals and some economic activity for local

companies.

Mr Mngwengwe appealed to Msunduzi residents to make use of the Oribi Airport because it is a source of revenue for the municipality.

"Every member of the community benefits when people make use of this airport. The proceeds from this airport are used to provide the community with basic needs, therefore if locals visit the airport, we generate more revenue which in turn helps with service

delivery," said Mngwengwe.

He further stated that the Municipality was planning to attract more airlines as they currently have one in the form of Airlink.

"Our wish is to attract more airlines so that passengers will have a choice and be able to book in line with their affordability levels. We know that infrastructure is our biggest challenge at the moment in order to accommodate other airlines at Oribi Airport. Other planes require a longer runway

whereas ours is very short but we are prepared to fix it," he said.

He said people believe that flights at their airport are expensive and as a result, they opt to drive to Durban in order to fly from King Shaka International Airport.

"People believe that our flights cost R200 more but they do not consider fuel costs, tollgates and parking fees which in total cost more than what we charge. By using this airport they also save on time," Mngwengwe explains.

## LOCAL BUSINESS

# The Oribi Airport supports business marketing efforts

By Siyethaba Mhlongo

Business experts say that advertising is one of the critical components of a running a thriving organisation. In order to make it easier to advertise within its jurisdiction, Msunduzi Municipality has also entered the digital advertising space.

Ms Nontobeko Mofokeng, who is the Manager of the Oribi Airport, said they decided to install television screens around the facility as one of the media to connect with the residents of Msunduzi.

"We highlight all the great things that are happening in Msunduzi and also promote campaigns whether they are about safety or other things happening around the airport. These screens will also help the Municipality generate revenue because they will also be used for external advertising," she said.

She said businesses are permitted to advertise their products on the screens as they do on billboards so they encourage companies to also use the digital advertising platforms that the City has to offer.

"Digital advertising is cheaper and it also last longer that adverts printed on paper because it depends on how long the company wants their adverts to be displayed for, the minimum number of days we allow in a week."

She said they now want to use the airport as one of the businesses that generate income for the Municipality. She said they did not

just want to focus on the travellers but also other revenue-generation streams.

"We've seen that the airport has potential to become an advertising hub because there are many people who use it on a daily basis even those who come to pick up passengers but we also get business people and pupils, which means that we get people from all walks of life," she said.

Only registered businesses will be allowed to advertise their products at the airport but each application will also be scrutinised to ensure that it is in accordance with the advertising regulations before the contract is signed.

Ms Mofokeng said the Municipality's programme is aimed at ensuring that even small businesses are able to advertise on its platforms.

She used one of the advertisements that is in front of the airport as an example saying the company that is currently advertising there does not pay more than R3000 a year.

"We want to empower businesses so that they can grow but the policy requires us to assess what industry that organisation is in. How much the company pays is dependent on the size of the advertisements, whether it is going to be posted on the wall or printed on paper and the type of advert the company wants," she said. She reiterated that digital is cheaper than other forms of advertising that are



Ms Nontobeko Mofokeng (Picture: Andile Mahlaba)

available in Msunduzi because it only requires electricity.

She said it is the responsibility of the advertisers to come and check their advertisements on a weekly basis in order to ensure that it is still displayed correctly.

"We encourage Msunduzi residents to use their local airport and also advertise here because big companies do use this opportunity

but the small companies that need it the most should also be engaging the Municipality on this.

"Most businesses were badly hit by Covid-19 so it's important for them to market themselves during this period if they want to attract customers.

The Municipality wants to see businesses thriving as well because that is critical for the growth of

the local economy. We are also willing to negotiate advertising rates because we understand that most businesses are financially strained at the moment," said Ms Mofokeng.

On the 3rd of July Transport Minister Mr Fikile Mbalula announced that Oribi was amongst the airports that were ready to resume operations as precautionary measures were already in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Before the airport reopened it

submitted its report on the state-of-readiness to the South African Civil Authority in which it outlined all the measures that had been implemented to ensure the safety of the users of the facility, including the staff.

Ms Mofokeng said planes operated for two weeks after the reopening but had to be suspended because there were not a lot of travellers due to the lockdown restrictions on the movement of people.

She said there are some businesses that closed during the lockdown resulting in vacant commercial spaces at the airport so whoever wants to rent them can contact the Municipality for more information.

"The selection process for the companies require us to look at their products and whether they're suitable for selling at a facility like an airport and also whether that business is going profit from operating here," she said.