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## THE RE-LAUNCH OF OPERATION QOQIMALI

Municipal Manager Lulamile Mapholoba addressed senior municipal officials and employees at the re-launch of #OperationQoqimali program.

In his opening statement MM Mapholoba thanked CFO Neli Ngcobo for being a great personification of a leader. "First and foremost, let me thank the CFO for heading this project and making it a success". The Municipality is celebrating 12 months since the implementation of operation Qoqimali, which is the municipality's aggressive strategy of collecting revenue.

"We have learned a lot from this project and still have a lot of issues to work out, but what makes us happy is that we were able to collect an average of 452 million, which is a significant amount of money that the residents haven't paid".

MM Mapholoba explained that through this project the municipality discovered that a number of residents use devices to bypass meters so they may avoid paying for electricity and water. "We also know that some people can afford to pay but choose not to, even though they still use municipal services. The law states that the municipality is not like other spheres of government and that it must collect money directly from residents".

The teams that were deployed in the Qoqimali project encountered challenges including threats and intimidation by individuals who refused to operate. "Our employees have received threats at their homes and on their phones, but we are grateful that they were able to respond truthfully and uphold the dignity of the municipality. We won't tolerate anyone refusing to pay for services, so as the municipality, we must go to residents and collect money to keep providing services".





## MAYOR THEBOLLA LEADS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ASSESSMENTS

As part of ongoing assessments of infrastructure rehabilitation projects. Mayor Thebolla visited Dambuza and Shayamoya area where major roads construction are currently taking place.

This is the Municipality's response to the concerns raised by residents of these wards about the state of the infrastructure.

In Dambuza, local subcontractors were sourced and this project managed to employ local residents. "We are impressed with what we have seen today, the project has been successful and I am impressed with how the contractors were able to meet the completion deadline of each phase of the road construction", said Mayor Thebolla referring to the Shayamoya Road.

"It's in the residents hands to ensure that they maintain these roads, and to refrain from littering so that drainage blockages can be prevented", said Mayor Thebolla.





## MUNICIPALITY ENGAGES ON IPTN PROJECT



Msunduzi Municipality held a workshop to discuss the IPTN project at the Council Chamber, which was chaired by Madam Speaker Cllr Majola, which is aimed to deliver integrated, sustainable, accessible, and affordable public transport.

The Msunduzi Municipality's vision is to achieve Metropolis and smart city status by 2040.

With this in mind, the Msunduzi Municipality has applied for re-admission, and developed and proposed an integrated Public Transport Network project to substantially improve the current public transport system, improve the economic state of the city, and provide high-quality services to residents.

"As significant stakeholders in the initiative's success we are requesting full participation and collaboration from all the council members to ensure there is high performance and we are able to achieve our goals," said Municipal Manager Mapholoba.





## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO FUND NPOS

Msunduzi Municipality's Speaker Cllr Eunice Majola welcomed the Department of Social Development MEC NM Khoza, government officials, members of non-profit and non-government organisations to the Southern Cluster Roadshow on Quarterly Tranche Payments to NPOs.

This event was to engage with founders of local NPOs on strategies that the social development department has developed to assist non-profit organisations to remain sustainable. The DSD further looks to improve and strengthen relations with these organisations so that both these sectors are able to roll-out programs that will assist the most vulnerable in communities.

"The Department of Social Development understands all the challenges that non-profit organisations face when rendering services to our people, you became people's hope during the Covid19 outbreak when families lost jobs that gave them an income, you were there when our people experienced a great loss due to the storms, you hit the ground running and reached out to those families", said MEC Khoza.

The MEC went on to say that the government has noted all the challenges that these organisations are faced with that limit them from serving the communities. Therefore, the non-profit organisations will be receiving quarterly tranchised payments from DSD to continue rendering services to the needy. "We need to work together in addressing social ills, and I am of the belief that doing the work that you do as non-profit organisations it's a calling and as the department, we appreciate you and we are committed to supporting you".





## HOUSE HAND-OVER IN NORTHDALE



Mayor Cllr Thebolla, Human Settlements Unit officials and other stakeholders were welcomed by Ward 31 Cllr in a house handover in Northdale.

The house construction started in 2020, with the assistance from the ABM team, the council including Cllr Sokhela and other senior officials.

Mayor Thebolla has expressed his excitement to the official handover of the house to the beneficiary. "We are advocates of human rights, we understand that people are obliged to a house that is comfortable and safe."

Mayor Thebolla said the government wants to ensure that all citizens enjoy basic human rights, he further thanked the family for practicing patience while the house was still under construction.



Cllr Sokhela thanked everyone who was involved in the project and also Mayor Thebolla for overseeing that such projects are a success and ensuring the delivery of services to all.





## SPEAKER CLLR MAJOLA ENGAGES WITH WARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Speaker Cllr Majola was joined by representatives from her office, the Area Based Management Officials and Msunduzi ward committee members in an engagement at AF Wood Community Hall.

She thanked all ward committee members for availing themselves for the meeting. Speaker Cllr Majola used this platform to address some of the issues facing ward committees and also gave a feedback on other issues that were raised in previous meetings. "After having discussions with the municipal senior management and council, there will be a stipend increase for committee members, and we have instructed councillors to submit signed registers for each meeting". Speaker Majola said the Municipality wants to take action against ward committee members who are not fully active in their wards, who fail to attend meetings adding that a POE submission is important moving forward in order for the Municipality to be informed of all the work that is being done by ward committee members.

Members were advised to create strong relations with councillors of their respective wards to address the lack of communication between all parties and other problems that occur as a result of councillors not working closely with ward committee members. The Municipality is also in the process of finding ways that will ensure that ward committee members are also identifiable in their wards, this will be done through the provision of name tags including other items that will be presented by the Municipality in due time.





## MEC CONVERSES WITH YOUTH AND WOMEN ON THEIR DEVELOPMENT



Above: MEC Social Development continues to have conversations that advocate for youth and women development.



## CRICKET SA MEN'S 1ST & 2ND DIVISION LAUNCH



On Saturday, the 26 of August 2023, the Cricket South Africa Men's 1st & 2nd Division Launch took place for the AET Tuskers team at the Cricket Oval Stadium. Mayor Cllr. Thebolla was in attendance and wished the team all the best of luck for the season and commended the Tuskers on the work they will be doing in "developing all the youngsters across all corners in the city of choice".





## BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION STRATEGY BEARS FRUITS



*Above: The Municipality adopted the business expansion and retention strategy with the aim of creating a relationship with local businesses, to enable entrepreneurs to have discussions about challenges they face when conducting business in and around the City. The Mayor leads business visitations together with the LED Unit and as the result, Mayor Thebolla received a pair of shoes from a local business as a token of appreciation.*



## SPAR WOMEN'S CHALLENGE

Mayor Cllr Thebolla officiated over a Spar Women's Challenge Race which saw 3000 participants taking part in the 5km and 10km races after a three-year COVID-induced hiatus. The race concluded at The Oval Cricket Stadium with this year's theme being #ItsPersonal, encouraging participants to run the race at their own pace to achieve their personal goals.

The race included various prizes, the open category first prize being for R20 000, second position R15 000 and third R10 000, and various other age category prizes across the board were up for grabs. This year the CHOC House Pietermaritzburg, which supports children with cancer and their families, was the official race charity and R5 from every entry was donated to CHOC, with an official check of R20 000 being handed over in the prize giving ceremony..





## BUSINESS LICENSING UNIT ENGAGEMENT WITH BUFFER COMMUNITY



Residents of Buffer (ward 13) received business licensing information on an engagement organized by the Municipality's business licensing unit.

These engagements are organized by the municipality in an attempt to assist local businesses to be able to register and obtain trading licenses so that they are able to adhere to city bylaws. Msunduzi Municipality also provides a question and answer session, for those who seek clarity in other matters including lease agreement, license renewal, business plan, etc.

For more business licensing information residents are advised to visit the business licensing unit at AS Chetty building.



## THE ROLE, STRENGTH OF WOMEN CELEBRATED

In honour of Women's Month, the Municipality, the Msunduzi Pietermaritzburg Tourism Association and the Creative Art College hosted a Women in Tourism program at the Tatham Art Gallery.

This event's goal was for women to celebrate their achievements while networking and exchanging information in relation to business. Additionally, they had a chance to learn how to start businesses, manage their finances, and support one another in the industry. "Women have to balance their homes and their businesses to get success in life, and you have done it so well, we recognize the roles you play. May you continue to grow and take up space," said Madam Speaker Cllr Majola in her message of support to all women.

Thuli Mseleku, manager of the Tatham Art Gallery expressed gratitude to all the stakeholders and attendees who took the effort to make this event successful





## HUMAN SETTLEMENT UNIT LADIES CELEBRATED ON WOMEN'S DAY



**Above : The gents from the human settlement department organized lunch to celebrate female colleagues in their department. This was done in celebration of Women's Month.**





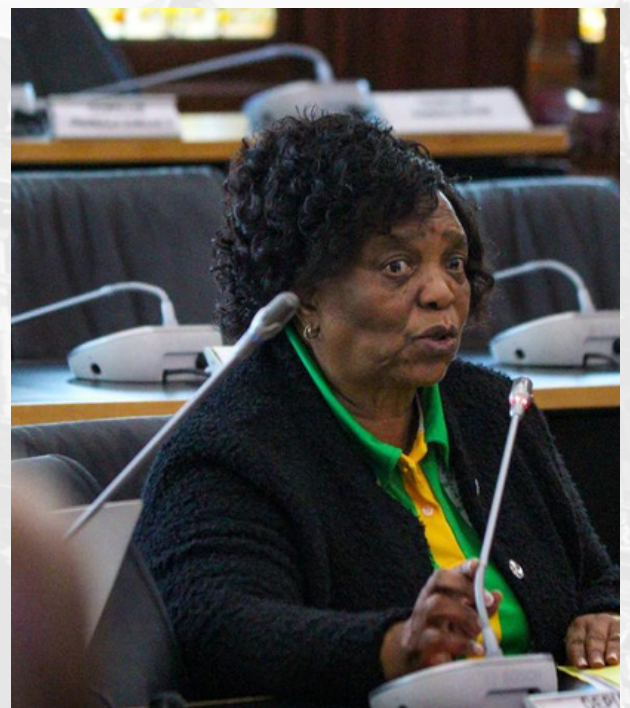
## MUNICIPALITY DISCUSSES IPTN PROJECT

The Municipality senior leadership joined the Deputy Minister of Transport Mr Lisa Mangcu and other government officials in an engagement regarding the progress of the Msunduzi Integrated Public Transport Network project.

Mayor Thebolla mentioned that the IPTN project is a great deal for both the Municipality and its residents. "Transport remains one of the main contributors to economic development, these developments will allow residents to move easily around the city". The mayor further explained that the city receives complaints from motorists regarding the difficulties of travelling during peak hours and the IPTN project has proven to be the solution to the public's outcry over road issues".

A presentation on the state of readiness was done, which further highlighted some of the challenges that has previously frustrated its implementation. The Municipality has however managed to address those issues and also established a relationship with the local taxi industry, other critical units within the Municipality and a positive working relationship with the transport department.

"This project aims to bring our people closer to the cities and it further contributes to job creation", said Deputy Minister Mangcu. The Minister also commended the municipality's leadership and all those involved for showing commitment and dedication in ensuring that the IPTN project becomes a success.





## MUNICIPALITY REMEMBERS LATE CLLR MABHUNGU MKHIZE

*Mayor Thebolla, DM Mkhize MM Mapholoba, Speaker Cllr Majola joined by other senior officials of Msunduzi Municipality took a moment of silence in honour of the late Cllr Mabhungu Mkhize. Msunduzi Municipality Cllrs who are saddened by this tragedy have passed their condolences to the family and friends of Cllr Mkhize*





## A DIGNIFIED SEND-OFF FOR CLLR MABHUNGU MKHIZE





## MSUNDUZI SENIOR CITIZENS PREPARE FOR GOLDEN GAMES



Msunduzi Municipality is hosting the Local Selections for Golden Games at the Athletics stadium. The Golden Games are for senior citizens over 60 years of age. This programme is aimed at improving physical and mental health amongst older persons and to promote exercise and a healthy lifestyle. The Golden Games included soccer, athletics, brisk walk, duck walk, passing the ball, rugby throw, and goal shooting.

Teams from different local teams will move on to play in the district selections. The Municipality wished Msunduzi's senior citizens the best of luck.





## AMAZWI OMAME BOOK LAUNCH

Msunduzi Municipality's Library Services in partnership with Amazwi Oame hosted a book launch at the Lay Centre, in Edendale.

This event celebrated the first day of Women's month and women of different paths of life came together to celebrate the stories based on true events of Amazwi Oame, women that went through apartheid.

The Journey started ten years ago (2016), where it was published on a newspaper for women to come together and tell their stories and experiences through the struggle. Amazwi Oame managed to produce 5 booklets altogether, Amazwi Esigodini, Amazwi Oame Dambuza, Amazwi Ashdown, Amazwi Oame Caluza and Amazwi Oame Imbali Slangspruit.

The story telling is very critical because it creates history, "our role as the library is to serve the society through the record of human thoughts, ideas and expressions by making them available to all" said a Municipal Representative.

The booklets are available for purchase for R300.





## CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN PLANNING MEETING



Clean Up Campaign Planning Meeting was held at COGTA Wadley Building chaired by Inkosi K Zondi. The aim was to develop and implement an ongoing community based natural resource management and environmental action programme within the uMgungundlovu Local House of Traditional Leaders.



## WARD 13 WAR ROOM MEETING ON OSS PROGRAM



Msunduzi Municipality was joined by uMgungundlovu District Municipality Mayor Cllr Zuma along with various department officials in a War Room meeting at Ward 13, Buffer. This was regarding the Operation Sukuma Sakhe (OSS) program.

The purpose of this meeting was also to report on and respond to the service delivery-related issues that were brought up at the meeting that was led by Mr. S. Hlomuka in the Ward on Cabinet Day, specifically the lack of a clinic in the community, damaged transformers, water scarcity, unfinished sanitation, illegal dumping, and substance addiction.

The departments got an opportunity to respond to each of these concerns and offered solutions they had developed to deal with the problems identified.

"We hope for prompt action and improvement on the issues brought up, that they are addressed with urgency, and for the community to work together with the municipality to create a better living for everyone", said Cllr Zuma.

The next meeting will held on the 7th of September to further discuss processes.





## WARD 35 ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECT ASSESSMENT

The Mayor Thebolla conducted a sight visit to Grimthorpe Road in Lincoln Meade, Ward 35 to assess the progress of the road rehabilitation project. An investment of over R150 000 000 was made for this project which covers up to 11 300 M3, for the reconstruction of new layer works in some sections, resurfacing the entire road and the upgrading of existing culvert as well as milling/removing of existing surface layers.

Mayor Thebolla said "Sikubantu everyday, we speak service delivery none stop. This confirms the commitment of the council to improve the infrastructure".



**Below:** A Provincial e-Recruitment system was officially launched by the KwaZulu-Natal government, led by Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube. This is an online job platform that publishes all vacant posts and job opportunities of the provincial government. A multitude of job openings are already available on this online platform, which is accessible from anywhere. Over 2,000 positions have been advertised so far from a variety of departments and public entities.

Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, during his closing remarks at the launch of the S'yathesha Wayawayo Programme at Harry Gwala Stadium, in the presence of hundreds of CWP workers, said he is grateful that this program has been launched at Msunduzi Municipality today and he hopes it will positively impact the city.

"I am thankful for the people of Pietermaritzburg that will benefit from this and joy will come not only at the end of the month when they receive their paycheck, but also when they realize that they have made a difference in the community by cleaning, pruning trees, and all that involves these opportunities," said Thebolla.

In addition, applicants can access all KZN Government and State-Owned company jobs at [www.kznoline/kznjobs](http://www.kznoline/kznjobs).





## HARRY GWALA STADIUM BECOMES HOME FOR ROYAL AM



Above: Live from Harry Gwala - Msunduzi Municipality Mayor, His Worship Cllr Mzi Thebolla with the Hon. MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr. Siboniso Duma enjoying the home game of Royal AM



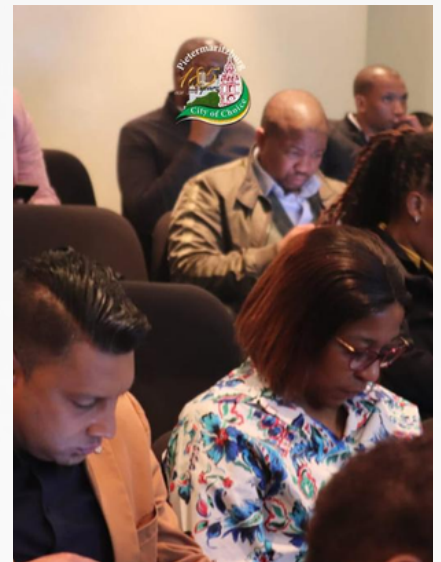
Above: Municipality senior officials were honoured to welcome Royal AM Football Club to Harry Gwala Stadium which is now an official home ground for this soccer team. The Municipality is now a proud sponsor of Royal AM as the municipality believes that this investment will benefit the city in-terms of attracting tourists and contributing to the local economic development particularly whenever there are soccer matches involving Royal AM. The City is ready to welcome soccer fans and residents, business people into the stadium when there are soccer matches involving this football club



## STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT ON THE FUNCTIONALITY OF MUNICIPALITY

Municipal Manager Mapholoba together with Deputy Municipal Managers, and Senior Management held a Management Committee of the Municipality (Manco) workshop at the Bessie Head Library Auditorium.

The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the 20 top keys of risk management of a municipality. The engagement included the discussion of some of the elements that are regarded as the mismanagement of a municipality namely, the abuse of municipal vehicles which leads to financial loss, poor revenue collection, a number of critical vacant posts, the non-enforcement of bylaws and appearances and dress code policies etc.







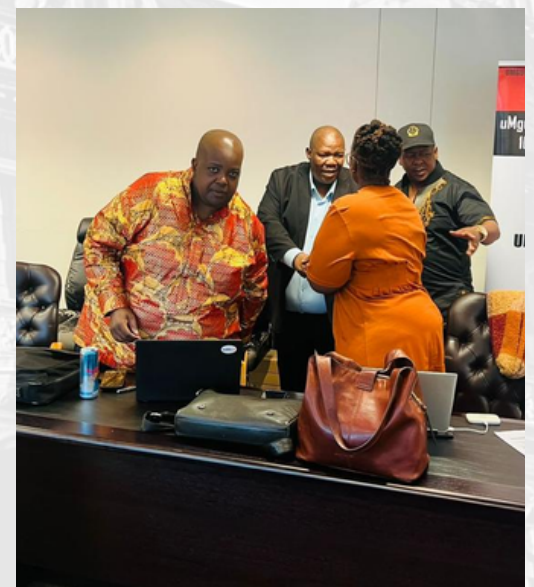
## UMGUNGUNDLOVU FM GOES DIGITAL

Mayor Thebolla welcomed guests including members of Umgungundlovu FM, board members of the MDDA, and all relevant stakeholders to the Umgungundlovu FM launch of a new studio.

This event celebrated the radio station's milestone of moving from analogue to digital broadcasting. "It gives me honour to be part of this remarkable event. We recall this radio station from its humble beginnings, we would not have imagined it to grow into what it is today in terms of its reach and the relevant content it provides communities."

Mayor Thebolla further congratulated the radio station for being on air since 2006, surviving all challenges and for having a female station manager. "As a radio station, remember that you are so powerful, you are able to tell stories of our local people, thank you also for providing a platform where different people share information and their experiences and for using this radio station to create social cohesion."

Mayor Thebolla acknowledged Umgungundlovu FM for having good relations with Msunduzi Municipality, "I believe that the growth of the radio station means the growth of your relationship with the Municipality since you are the heart of the City."





## MSUNDUZI LIBRARY SERVICES CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY

Msunduzi Municipality's Library Services Southern Branches together with various stakeholders held an Arbor Day celebration at Sikhululwe Secondary School in Elandskop under the theme "Trees are Terrific".

This day was set aside to honor the value and the beauty of trees, as well as to inspire learners to plant new trees. Officials from various departments gave educational presentations on the importance of trees and how learners can help promote sustainable environmental movements for generations to come, this was then followed by tree planting.

The school's principal, Mrs. N. Hadebe, delivered a vote of thanks to everyone that played a role in making this event successful.





## SUCCESSFUL CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN IN FRANCE, WARD 18



**MEC Social Development NK Khoza was joined by Mayor Cllr Thebolla and other officials in a clean-up campaign in France, Ward 18.**



## COLLEGE STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO START BUSINESSES

An entrepreneurial workshop for TVET college students was held by Msunduzi Municipality's Local Economic Development unit in collaboration with uMgungundlovu TVET college.

The purpose of this engagement is to promote entrepreneurship amongst students to help reduce the unemployment rate and create job opportunities. It also aims to provide them with opportunities whilst helping them with registering their businesses as they have the essential skills to launch businesses.





## CITY POOLS READY TO OPEN



Mayor Cllr Thebolla, Acting Director Community Services Wilson Mhlango and Cllr Nokuthula Msimang who is the Chairperson of the Community Services Portfolio Committee visited Buchanan, Berg Street, and Woodlands Swimming Pools.

These officials assessed the state of these swimming pools, accessibility, the security, the availability of lifeguards etc. The visit coincided with this today being the 1st of September which is regarded as Spring Day.

Mayor Cllr Thebolla said he is impressed with the work that has been done to improve the conditions of city pools, with other swimming pools set to re-open in the coming weeks including Alexandra Swimming Pool.





## EMPLOYEES HONOURED FOR THEIR LONG SERVICE AND WISHED WELL ON RETIREMENT

Mayor Cllr Thebolla together with the chairperson of Msunduzi community services portfolio committee Cllr Nokuthula Msimang and Municipal Manager Lulamile Mapholoba honored Mr. Pillay and Mr. Mshengu in the community services department for their long service and retirement from the municipality.

The Municipality appreciates their devotion to the municipality and their dedication over the years. It deeply values the work and effort they have put in throughout the years. We want to congratulate them on reaching this service milestone and retirement, We would also like express our pride in having you as a member of our team.





## COGTA, UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

COGTA Traditional House together with uMgungundlovu District Municipality Mayor Cllr Zuma, Msunduzi Municipality Waste Department, Umgeni Water, and Correctional Services, led a clean-up campaign around the Pietermaritzburg CBD. The purpose of the clean-up was to raise awareness and promote a cleaner, greener City.

"As a community, this clean-up campaign is something that we need to practice now and again. We don't need to wait for a disaster to say that we need to get together and clean the city. It is evident that the efforts by the municipality to keep the city clean has benefitted the community. We are grateful to COGTA and we encourage them to continue creating these initiatives. We are also very grateful to the EPWP staff for being hands-on in helping keep the city clean. These initiatives show an improvement not just in Msunduzi but in KZN as being a cleaner province", said Wilson Mhlongo, Acting Director of the Msunduzi Waste Department.





## SERVICE DELIVERY IN PICTURES

