

THE NEWS DISPATCH

01 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2022 | ISSUE 13

ETHIOPIAN DIPLOMATS VISIT THE CITY



ENGAGEMENT WITH H.E AMBASSADOR DR. MUKTAR KEDIR ABDU

The Msunduzi Municipality today had a courtesy call from H.E Ambassador Dr. Muktar Kedir Abdu Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The courtesy call is planned under the framework of Ethio-South Africa bilateral relations, strengthening the existing people-to-people relations.

This engagement was attended by Mayor Mzimkhulu Thebolla, DM Mxolisi Mkhize, ACM Nelisiwe Ngcobo, and GM Sandile Zondi. Dr. Muktar Kedir Abdu said that this relationship is based on true Africanism and Pan-African history.

Dr. Muktar Kedir Abdu expressed his gratitude for the warm welcoming they have received from the South African communities they have so far visited. "South Africa is a great country, we want to strengthen the sisterhood and brotherhood between these two countries". He said Ethiopia sees great potential in the municipality based on service delivery and the infrastructure. "We look forward to creating a relationship between our cities, learning from each other, and also helping our people who are based in the City to not violate bylaws and be law-abiding residents.

Mayor Thebolla said that this relationship will yield positive results since the City will be engaging with Ethiopia to identify best practices that can be adopted to make sure that Ethiopian business people in the city continue to conduct business legally.

DM Mkhize said that the municipality acknowledges this first visit to the City by diplomats. "Your presence will symbolize unity between South Africa and Ethiopia".

MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY FOLLOW-UP ON KZN LEGISLATURE SCHOOLS FUNCTIONALITY PROGRAMME

Following the KZN Legislature Schools Functionality Programme conducted alongside the Department of Education and Msunduzi Municipality in January this year at a number of schools, follow-up visits are being done today to assess the progress on challenges raised and whether they are being addressed.

Nsikayethu Comprehensive School is the last school to be visited today. One of the main challenges of this school is that of improving matric marks, measures to help improve the situation we're suggested such as improved extra classes and having tutors in place to assist.



BESSIE HEAD LIBRARY CELEBRATES ARBOR WEEK IN STYLE



The Msunduzi Municipality's Bessie Head Library representatives visited Zweliyazuza Primary School in Ward 8 today to create a relationship between the school and library services. This visit coincides with Arbor Week which is celebrated from the 1st to the 7th of September annually.

Mr. Langa from the Bessie Head library said Zweliyazuza Primary School will be receiving assistance from the municipality library services since it is based in a rural area and a lot of learners come from underprivileged homes.

Other stakeholders that were in attendance were representatives from the municipal Parks Unit and the Department of Agriculture. The Principal of the school Mrs. Mkhize said they are fortunate for the visit adding that the planting of the trees will brighten the school environment and teach learners about the importance of caring for plants and the environment.



MSUNDUZI BUSINESS LICENSING UNIT EDUCATES LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

The Msunduzi Municipality's Business Licensing Unit held an awareness campaign at Mpande Community Hall to educate local business owners about the importance of acquiring a business license from the municipality.





BUSINESS INFORMATION DAY AT WARD 14

The Msunduzi Municipality together with the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), and the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) hosted a successful Business Information Day / Workshop for Ward 14 in Bhakabhaka Community Hall, Willowfontein.

A welcome from Cllr. S Mkhize of Ward 14 kicked off the program, which provides business-related information for entrepreneurs and those who aspire to start their own businesses.

Presentations were given from the departments mentioned above, and attendees had the opportunity to ask questions. The municipality officials and other stakeholders encouraged the community to visit their offices for more information or to seek assistance.

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COMMUNICATIONS & IGR ENTERING INTO HERITAGE MONTH LIKE...





THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UNIT LOCAL BUSINESS VISITATIONS

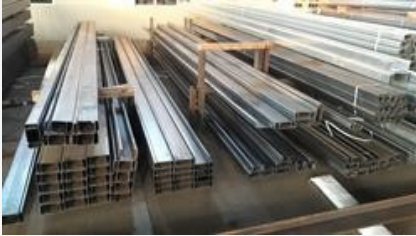
Baked PMB

Date of the Business Visit: 13 September 2022

Baked PMB is Located at Unit 2, Oldfield Business Park, 1 Haworth Rd, Mkondeni area. They provide tasty treats which can be used as a natural healer, combat anxiety, and provide relaxation and pain relief. These baked products are specifically designed for different uses. Baked PMB started operating in September 2021 and is employing five (5) people locally. The Baked PMB is operating in a rented business industrial park.

Generally, the challenges encountered by businesses in Mkondeni are infrastructure related which include road maintenance, potholes affecting the delivery of goods and services, and electricity blackouts which detrimentally affect production. Baked PMB was very appreciative of the support given to them and having such engagements with the municipality (BR&E Visitations). They were also introduced to the Development Facilitation Committee existence where they present their new ventures and diverse projects.





THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UNIT LOCAL BUSINESS VISITATIONS

Steel CO: Steel Supplier PMB
Date of the Business visit: 29 September 2022

Steel Co is located at 15 Sheffield Rd in Willowton Industrial area. Steel Co, are a leading Pietermaritzburg steel supplier and distributor of a wide range of steel products to contractors, competitors, and end users.

They have a wide selection of steel products in stock, distributed within 100km of PMB. Their products include steel bars, steel tubing, rebar, mesh, angle iron, and more. They have their own in-factory lip channel rolling machine and can cut and bend to size. Steel Co is highly recommended as your go-to steel supplier in Pietermaritzburg.

Flat steel bars play a vital role in the construction of Pietermaritzburg building frames. Commercial and industrial structures in PMB make use of flat bar steel to extend and improve the life of buildings and to ensure it remains safe. Steel Co currently employs 40 local people and expansion can create 10 more job opportunities.

Challenges raised at the business meeting visit:

The significant request and challenge from Steel Co are expanding the business either on the Willowton property or in a newly purchased property in Mkondeni. Steel Co urged the municipality to reduce the red tape and turnaround time of the clearance certificate issue, maintenance of infrastructure generally including drainage, water pipe leaks, and waste management to avoid Steel Co relocation to Ballito.

An emphasis on the BR&E visitation program is that it is a team effort that expresses interest in and concern for the issues faced by local businesses in the community.



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MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY DETERMINED TO CREATE SAFER CITY

Police flexed their muscles as they went on a major crime blitz in Pietermaritzburg arresting dozens of people for various crimes, including possession of drugs. This was done during a multidisciplinary operation organized by the uMgungundlovu District.

The operation started with a large parade at Alexandra Police Station where police and traffic officers were placed in groups before heading to the city centre. Msunduzi Municipality deputy mayor Mxolisi Mkhize, municipal traffic officers, security personnel, RTI officers, and the departments of Home Affairs and Labour were also part of the operation. Almost every corner in the CBD had a police van and traffic officers out in numbers issuing fines and checking on suspicious cars. *source: The Witness*





TOTAL GARAGE RE-OPENING AT BOSHOFF STREET

Mayor Mzimkhulu Thebolla attended a Total Garage re-opening event on Boshoff Street. The filling station also has an OK Express store that will be operating for 24 hours. "What makes up happy as the City is that the owners of this petrol station have an interest towards investing in the City. This will further result in job creation for most of our residents", said Mayor Thebolla.





BUSINESS LICENSING ENGAGEMENT AT POYINANDE COMMUNITY HALL

Msunduzi Municipality's Business Licensing Unit had a brief engagement with residents at Poyinande Community Hall.

This engagement was to educate local community members about business registration and obtaining a business license. These entrepreneurs were advised to ensure that their businesses are in the municipality's data base to avoid penalties for failing to register their businesses with the municipality.

Information about business licensing requirements was also shared, and residents were encouraged to visit the AS Chetty building, where the Business Licensing Unit is located for further information.



GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE CLASS OF 2022 FROM MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY

MIC Training and Development together with Local Government Sector Education Training (LG SETA) held a graduation ceremony for the class of 2022 which comprised graduates from Msunduzi Municipality, uMgungundlovu Municipality, uThukela District Municipality, Greater Kokstad Municipality, and Ray Nkonyeni Municipality at the Pietermaritzburg City Hall. This event was aimed at congratulating the graduates for their hard work and dedication given that they are employees from these municipalities. "Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do." - Nelson Mandela.



UMTELEBHELO HORSE RACING EVENT



UMTELEBHELO HORSE RACING EVENT



HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION CONTINUED

Msunduzi Municipality's Bessie Head Library Services hosted a Heritage Day Celebration event at Elandskop Library. In welcoming the educators and learners, Cllr Ntombela acknowledged Msunduzi Library for hosting an event that encourages young people to celebrate their culture and heritage.

Different traditional music items were performed by young girls and boys from Primary and High Schools around Vulindlela.



DONDA ARTIST CONFERENCE

Donda Artist Conference took place at Msunduzi Municipality Voortrekker Museum. The idea of this conference came about following the Covid19 outbreak. "Many artists were largely affected by Covid19, so we asked ourselves as to what can we do to assist City artists to push their craft during the pandemic", echoed Lwazi Nsele.

Various stakeholders supported this initiative and important guests were present to showcase their works of art, and skills and to do presentations on topics such as innovation, growth, and the digitization of arts.

