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PUBLIC PLACE AND STREET NAMING PROCESS



The Municipality continues to engage residents on the Public Place and Street Naming Process. Public consultations have been hosted in a number of wards where roads will be re-named. This project is being led by the Office of the Speaker and that of the Chief Whip.

The Municipality outlines the advantages that will come with officially naming public places and streets in wards including the improvement of service delivery considering that areas will be easily identified using the names that will be recorded in the Municipality's data base.

The Municipality also gives residents permission to name public places and streets after certain individuals to acknowledge them, however no payment will be made to such persons. Families whose names will be used in the street naming process will be given consent forms.

Residents are given an option to compile a list of names, hand it over to the ward councillor who will then present it to council. They can look out for these names which will be published by the Municipality with a 30 day window period to object or approve proposed names.



A PLACE CALLED HOME FOR IMBALI UNIT 14 RESIDENTS



The Human Settlements unit under the Msunduzi Municipality handed over 5 houses to families in Ward 41, Imbali Unit 14. This is part of an ongoing revamp project, where a number of houses will be renovated and handed over to identified beneficiaries. "Building people houses, means the restoration of dignity. What we are witnessing today is the true definition of service delivery".





MAYOR ENCOURAGES IMBALI RESIDENTS TO APPLY FOR INDEGENT STATUS, TO PAY FOR SERVICES



Mayor Cllr Thebolla, the Chief Whip, the Municipal Manager Mapholoba, the Chief Financial Officer, councillors and other officials convened a community engagement at the Imbali, Unit 13 community hall.

Prior to this engagement the Ratepayers and Residents Association met with the Mayor and raised issues faced by the community of Imbali. The purpose of this engagement was to address issues such as service rates and property rates.



The Mayor spoke about the indigent status adding that everyone within the jurisdiction of Msunduzi qualify for the indigent, and this applies to households with an income below the amount of R5700 every month.



TITLE DEED HAND-OVER PROGRAM

Madam Speaker Cllr. Majola, Chairperson of the Sustainable Development Portfolio Committee, Cllr. Sokhela and the municipality's Human Settlements unit handed over a title deed to the Govendar family in Northdale.

"Ours is to congratulate you and prioritize you as one of the elderly in Msunduzi", said Speaker Cllr. Majola.

Mr. Govendar thanked the municipality for the title deed. "I can now rest well knowing I am the owner of this house that I have been living in for the past 42 years" said Govender.





LAC, WAC ON FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

The Local Aids Council (LAC) and Ward AIDS Committee (WAC) were joined by government departments, NGOs, and other organisations that are involved in a fight against HIV/AIDS in Msunduzi. This engagement took place in Ward 18, where Cllr Buthelezi said he appreciates such engagements as they will bring a way forward on the issue of HIV/AIDS in every ward within Msunduzi's jurisdiction.

"I think we need more campaigns where we will educate people about HIV/AIDS, people need to know where to get tested and the support that exists to support those who test positive, there is a lot of work that still needs to be done in our Wards and this meeting will assist us in paving a way forward in all issues that ward committees are facing when dealing with matters concerning HIV/AIDS", said Cllr



MUNICIPALITY CONSTRUCTS BOREHOLES TO ADDRESS WATER CHALLENGES

Below: The construction of boreholes in Elandskop, Esanti/ Khokhwane, which will address water challenges in wards, 7,8, and 39. The Municipality also fixed a transformer that was stolen, which contributed in the delay of the completion of the project.



Below: Ward 6 boreholes project underway, which the Municipality has implemented to ensure that residents have access to clean water.



ORIBI FIRE STATION RECEIVES FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla joined Mayor Cllr Zuma of uMgungundlovu District Municipality, SANTAM to a handover of the Hazmat Trailer and firefighting equipment for the Oribi Fire Station.

"We would like to extend a warm welcome to you on behalf of the Msunduzi Municipality at this esteemed event. We consider this equipment to be extremely important as it can save lives, and we are happy that our city has seen such a significant intervention to better serve its citizens", said Thebolla in his opening remarks.

The country has seen a steady increase in the number of disasters triggered by severe and extreme weather events across the country, the KwaZulu-Natal province received significant amounts of rainfall in April-May 2022 that resulted in significant loss of lives, unprecedented damage to infrastructure and disruption of livelihoods. With the uMgungundlovu District Municipality, SANTAM had focused on supporting the fire service to improve its capacity to manage fire risks.

"Our sincere gratitude goes out to SANTAM for their assistance in the community we serve and for their ongoing support in helping us continue to save lives", said Mayor Cllr Mzi Zuma.



RESIDENTS BENEFIT FROM UMNOTHO KUBANTU PROGRAMME



The MEC of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr S. Zuma was joined by Mayor Cllr Thebolla, and other municipal senior leadership in the hosting of uMnotho kuBantu programme in Imbali Unit 14, ward 41. The Mayor of uMgungundlovu District Municipality Cllr Zuma was also present including Cllr Zondi of uMshwathi Municipality.

The purpose of this programme is to bring the government closer to the people and resolve issues the community is facing. The officials handed over genetic improvement bulls which was given to the local farmers.

“The fight is against poverty and unemployment, we want to be a part of food security and encourage more youth to get involved in agriculture and start farming” said Mayor Thebolla.

The one home one garden is a programme initiated to combat the issue of food security in households, this initiative will be extended to churches and schools where individuals are able to plant and harvest vegetables.

Msunduzi Municipality’s Local Economic Development unit under the Small, Micro, Medium Enterprises programme (SMME’s) gave 5 recipients tuck shop equipment and groceries, also a lease agreement to trade which was voiced and requested during one on one engagement with the Mayor.





JOY AS IMBALI RESIDENTS RECEIVE TITLE DEEDS

Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mkhize welcomed the MEC Human Settlement, Mr Nkosi at a title handover event that took place in Imbali Unit 14, Ward 41. The MEC was accompanied by iNkosi Mkhize, the officials from the municipality's human settlements unit, government departments and other stakeholders.

"I would like to welcome the MEC, our guests and the community. This event is important to us as the Municipality, as it seeks to change the people's lives through giving them title deeds", said DM Mkhize.

The Deputy Mayor further encouraged the safekeeping of title deeds, emphasizing that the document is not only a piece of paper but confirms ownership of homes.

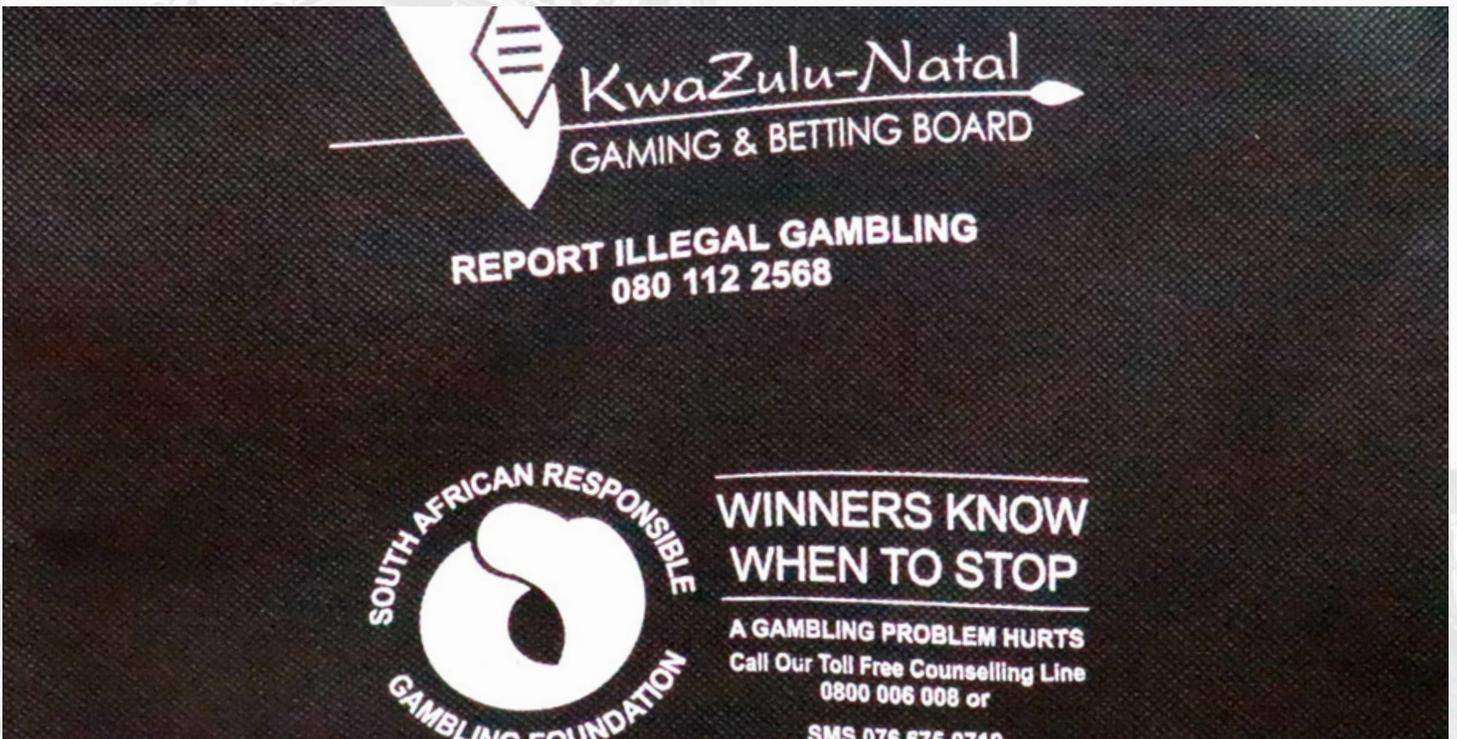
"The dream of those that fought for our liberation has finally come true. Our late leaders fought for a better life for all. The Human Settlements Department is doing a good job by ensuring service delivery and taking care of the needs of the people", said iNkosi Mkhize.

MEC Nkosi mentioned that the Title Deed Tuesday is the government's brainchild. He said that the government runs this program with the aim of ensuring that people have legal ownership of land and houses through the handing over of title deeds. "Having a title deed is a process, and people attempt to bypass that process by buying houses when they do not have title deeds, and as the department we have come to warn against the selling and buying of RDPs", said MEC Nkosi.

At least over 300 title deeds were handed over to beneficiaries.



MUNICIPALITY SUPPORTS RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



In honor of Responsible Gambling Month, The KwaZulu-Natal Gaming and Betting Board held a responsible gambling public awareness campaign outside the City Hall.

The purpose of these campaigns is to make people aware of gambling addictions and how they can seek help and gamble responsibly.

The Board's strategic objectives are to license, investigate and roll-out new gambling initiatives; conduct revenue and compliance monitoring audits within the gaming industry; ensure effective legal services and risk management; ensure good governance and compliance; minimise illegal gambling, fraud and corruption; and ensure effective management of the Board's financial resources in line with the statutory requirements.

The KwaZulu-Natal gaming and betting board also offers treatment and counseling services for problem gamblers free of charge, the call to the counseling line is (0800 006 008)

'WOZE MARITZBURG' BRIGHT SUMMER CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED



The Municipality's Tourism Hub hosted a Bright Summer Festival Launch event at Alexander Pools.

Amongst the important guests was the Mayor Thebolla, Municipal Manager Mapholoba, Portfolio Chairperson and EXCO Cllr Sokhela, City Entities Senior Manager Mofokeng, Cllr Phahla, representatives from the KZN Botanical Gardens, MTN, other stakeholders including various media houses.

This remarkable event was to promote the City of Pietermaritzburg, the fun activities, tourists attractions and all that the city offers to its residents and visitors.



The Municipality's vision behind the Bright Summer Festival is to promote the City by sending a message to residents and all those interested in visiting PMB, that the capital city is all set to welcome holidaymakers.

"The Municipality acknowledges the tourism unit for this initiative, the upcoming summer events will not only attract visitors, but it will further contribute to the growth of the local economy, job creation, and will be a reminder of all the treasures found in our City", said Mayor Thebolla.



Pietermaritzburg event organizers will be hosting a series of events this summer to create a festive atmosphere that will excite residents and expected visitors.

Tourism Hub Manager, Mrs. Mvelase in her vote of thanks acknowledged the event organizers who have committed themselves in working together to create a vibrant Pietermaritzburg through the Bright Summer Festival.





TALKS ABOUT NATIONAL DRUG MASTER PLAN

The Municipality's Local Drug Committee joined by Ms Mwelase from the Department of Social Development had an engagement about the National Drug Master Plan at the Municipality's Bessie Head Library.

The DSD is working with the Municipality to find effective ways to address the challenges that are a result of the abuse of drugs by the young and old within Msunduzi. Ms Mwelase outlined the purpose and the goal of the National Drug Master Plan. "The master plan will guide us on how we can rehabilitate those who are victims of drug abuse. There are measures put in place that will respond to questions of what happens after a person has recovered from drug abuse, what assistance do we offer to prevent a relapse of a recovering drug addict, and how do we prevent the emerging of new drugs in our communities" Mwelase said.

She also said that the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture working together with the Department of Social Department are further working on campaigns and other programs that will create a drug free society. A number of government departments including other organisations will also form part of the National Drug Master Plan to tackle the scourge of drug abuse in communities.

Areas that are identified as hotspots will be visited and prioritised by the LDAC.





TOURISM SOCIAL FRIDAY



Mayor Cllr Thebolla, Msunduzi Councillors and officials joined the tourism unit for the Msunduzi Municipality Tourism Social Friday itinerary bus tour.

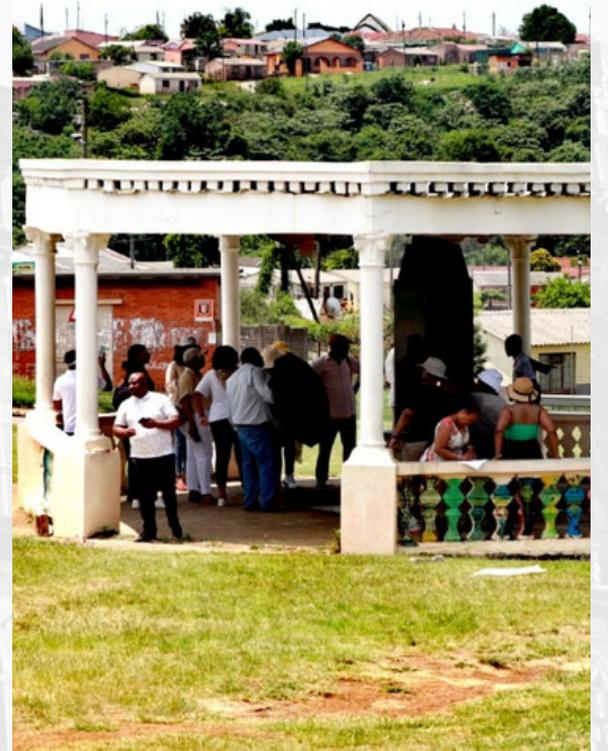
Social Fridays is a tourism initiative to promote and create awareness for tourism establishments .

The bus tour commenced at the Tourism hub where attendees were transported on a bus to the Bisley Nature Reserve.

The bus then proceeded to the Peace monument for victims of political violence, and Heroes Acre at Imbali township which is the resting home of struggle icons.



The last stop was at Manaye Hall which is part of KZN Freedom Route, which was initiated by various KwaZulu-Natal tourism stakeholders to highlight freedom struggle icons such as Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, John Langalibalele Dube, Alan Paton and Chief Albert Luthuli.



WAR ON WATER LEAKS LAUNCHED IN COPEVILLE TO ADDRESS WATER CHALLENGES



Mayor Cllr Thebolla, Deputy Mayor Mkhize, the Chairperson of Sustainable Development Portfolio Committee Cllr Sokhela, Ward 34 Counsellor Roy Ram and officials from uMngeni/ uThukela Water launched The War on Leaks program.

The purpose of the engagement is to combat the water leaks crisis within the district working together with the uMngeni/Thukela Water and sanitation.

Mayor Cllr Thebolla thanked uMngeni Water for the exceptional service it provides to the community in the continuation of providing safe drinking water. He also emphasized the importance of water retention.

MAYOR LAUNCHES FESTIVE SEASON SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Mayor Cllr Thebolla officially launched the Festive Season Safety Campaign today at the Old Mkondeni/ Sobantu Taxi Rank.

As the festive season draws near, the Municipality is dedicated to preventing crime and places citizens' safety as first priority. Dedicated drivers, partners from the non-governmental and the private sector will assist law enforcement officials in protecting and serving travelling communities throughout this season.

Mayor Thebolla thanked all stakeholders from the Public and Private sector in the important work they continue to do and working collaboratively in ensuring the safety within the region.

The mayor stressed the importance of everyone using the road safely and complying with traffic laws during this festive season, and went on to discuss the protection of women and children.

"We will continue preventing, combating and, at the same time, countering serious and violent crime during the holiday season and beyond" added the Mayor in his address.

Various law enforcement personnel from the municipality and private sector were in attendance to give their commitment to ensuring that all visitors and residents are safe throughout the season.



THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



The annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony took place outside the Tatham Art Gallery. This marks the beginning of the festive season in the City of Choice where a great line up of events under the Bright Summer Festival and the Msunduzi Art Festival set to take place in the city.

His Worship the Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, on behalf of council, wishes residents a warm, joyous and peaceful festive season.

#DestinationofChoice #CityofChoice

MUNICIPALITY COMMEMORATES WORLD AIDS DAY

Msunduzi Mayor Cllr Thebolla, the Municipality Library Services and other stakeholders led a candle lighting ceremony in commemoration of World AIDS Day on the 1st December 2023.

This event which took place at Market Square, invited the Department of Health, different units from the Municipality, non-profit and non-governmental organisations etc. Mayor Thebolla spoke on the significance of World AIDS Day, saying that HIV/AIDS calls for people to work together to fight the stigma that exists in communities. He further said that those who are infected need to be supported and not discriminated as this is one of the many ways in which the HIV/AIDS war can be won.

“Let us normalize getting tested, so that we can be enrolled on the HIV treatment as early as possible, we will achieve an HIV/AIDS free community by being more responsible by knowing our status and taking treatment to ensure that the virus is undetectable therefore making it less likely to be passed on to the next person”, said Mayor Thebolla.





NYDA, SA YOUTH OPPORTUNITY ROADSHOW



Mayor Cllr Thebolla welcomed the NYDA, SA Youth Opportunity Roadshow and all exhibitors at Caluza Hall, Ward 20.

The purpose of SA Youth Opportunity Roadshow is to bring youth empowerment in terms of the different opportunities and skills development programs which are available to utilize for their benefit and growth within their communities and the region with the aim of contributing to the economy.

Mayor Thebolla welcomed this initiative which brings information and opportunities close to the youth and also encourages the youth to open their horizon, take up space, and venture into entrepreneurship to combat the unemployment within the region.



The Mayor further encouraged the youth on utilising the opportunity of funding in the form of vouchers from the Municipality to assist in establishing small businesses.

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and other organisational bodies representing the youth encouraged young people to opt for courses that will make them employable, further advising them to also consider venturing into entrepreneurship.



Representatives from higher learning institutions were also available to take the youth through courses that are available in universities and colleges.





KPCA CELEBRATES THE CITY'S 185 ANNIVERSARY IN STYLE

Keep Pietermaritzburg Clean Action presented 185 sewn and knitted elephants in celebration of our city's 185th anniversary. In addition to celebrating the city as Umgungundlovu (the place of the elephant), the ladies also knit elephants to symbolize their love for the city.

KPCA received elephants from all over South Africa and created a unique Anniversary Campaign called the 'Ellie Trail' to remind residents of who we are and what we can be. The elephants will be given to children in PMB's clinics.

Elephants are featured throughout the City Hall embedded in the floor of the entrance hall, embossed on the glass doors and even incorporated into the stained glass windows.



MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS HARD AT WORK



Municipal Manager Mapholoba alongside Ward Councillor Buthelezi of Ward 14, municipal officials from various departments conducted a site visit to Shenston/ Ambeleton and Imbali Unit 14 to assess and come up with plans to improve the area.

The municipality seeks to bring service delivery in these areas and also to address the issue of land invasion.



Above: Deputy Mayor Mkhize led a team from the electricity unit, conducting disconnections of illegal electricity connections that were discovered in some of the buildings in the city, and apprehended suspects of the above mentioned crime.