



IN THIS ISSUE

Mayor's sentiments	page 01
Mayor briefs the media on water curtailment system	page 02
Mayor celebrates birthday in style as he hands-over school uniform, laptops	page 03
Municipality receives applause from Cogta	page 03
The demarcation board and disaster management summer planning workshop	page 04
Department of Social Development, Municipality commemorate World No Alcohol Day	page 04
Reading is a passport to countless adventures	page 05
Call centre employees participate in an intense training workshop	page 06
Sounds of musical instruments filled city during The Msunduzi Diwali Festival	page 06
Learners display a burning desire to become future firefighters	page 07
City rally behind provincial Golden Games finalists	page 07
Municipality sends stern message through aggressive joint operation	page 08
Road Rehabilitation projects to recognise Transport Month	page 09
Matriculants get a pep talk from deputy mayor	page 09
Learners armed with information pre- final exams	page 10
The Annual Amashova Durban Classic Race	page 10
City welcomes first leg of Maritzburg Show	page 11
Municipality attempts to address water outages	page 12
Safety assessment extinguished to reduce fire disasters	page 12
Municipality engages with taxi industry	page 13
LAC, LTT address social ills	page 13
Elandskop Innovation Centre to stimulate young minds	page 14
Celebrating 30 years of democracy	page 14
Bessie Head Library collaborate to host Nozincwadi International Storytelling Festival	page 15
Housing project receives a nod from Inkosi yase Maqadini	page 15
City remembers late Italian prisoners of war	page 16
Msunduzi fosters relations between South Africa and India	page 16
Traditional games to influence better choices	page 17
Service delivery in pictures	page 18



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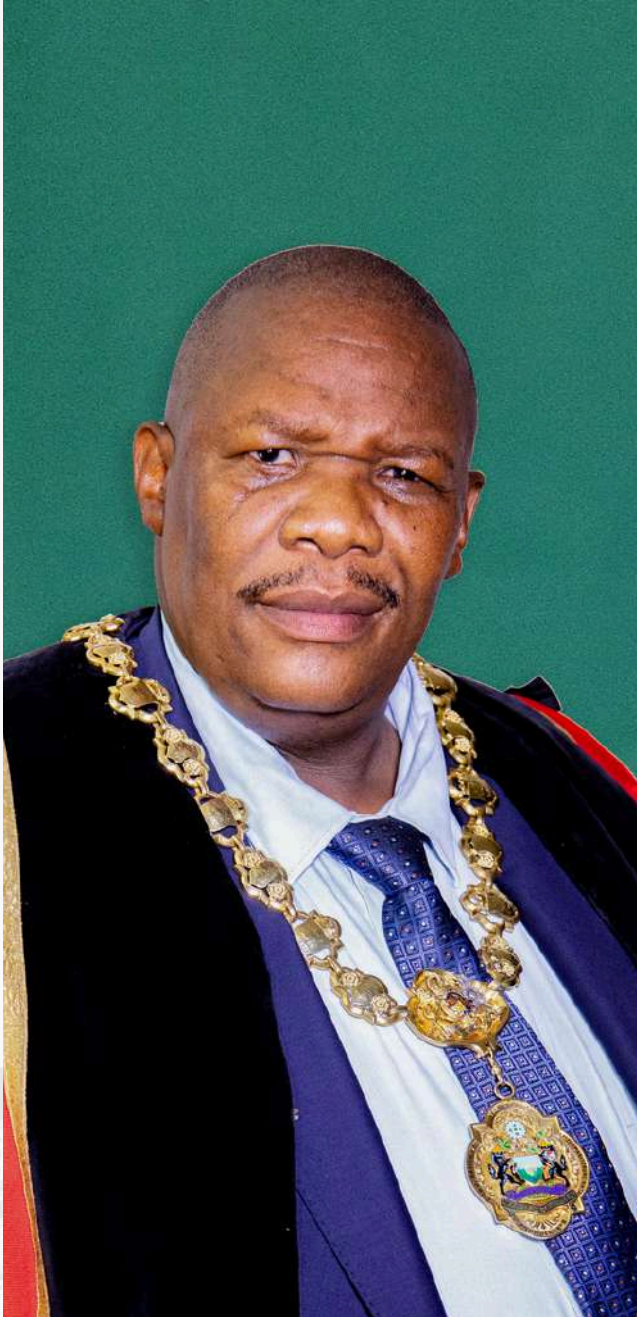
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MAYOR'S SENTIMENTS



As we close the month of October, I want to reflect on a month filled with significant themes and activities that underscore our commitment to progress and community well-being.

October is recognized as Transport Month, and I am pleased to report that many road projects are currently underway in Msunduzi. These initiatives prioritize safety and aim to improve our infrastructure for all residents and visitors. Your patience and support during these projects are greatly appreciated, as they are essential for creating safer, more efficient travel in our city.

Additionally, October is dedicated to raising awareness about cancer. It is a time to honor those affected by this disease and to promote health education. I encourage everyone to participate in local initiatives that support cancer awareness and fundraising efforts, as together we can make a difference in the lives of those battling this illness.

This month also marked a landmark event for our city—the inaugural Pietermaritzburg Show. It was a fantastic celebration of our community, showcasing local talent, businesses, and culture. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to making this event a success. Your enthusiasm and support truly highlight the vibrant spirit of Msunduzi.

As we celebrate 30 years of democracy this year, let us reflect on the progress we have made together and the importance of continued engagement in our democratic processes. Our freedoms and rights have come at a great cost, and it is our duty to uphold and protect them.

As we approach the festive season, I want to encourage all businesses in Msunduzi to embrace this time with creativity and collaboration. Let us work together to promote local products and services, enhancing our community's economy while ensuring a warm and welcoming atmosphere for visitors.

Finally, I urge everyone to prioritize safety during the upcoming festivities. Whether you're shopping, traveling, or celebrating, let's all do our part to keep our community safe and joyful.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Msunduzi. Together, we are building a brighter future.

MAYOR BRIEFS THE MEDIA ON WATER CURTAILMENT SYSTEM

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) issued a directive to Umgeni-UThukela Water to reduce water supply in order to align with licensed limits. To ensure long-term sustainability, this reduction will be gradually implemented over the next 12 months, with effect from the 10th of October 2024.

This phased approach is crucial for keeping water abstraction from the Mgeni system within the prescribed limits. The bulk of water supply to Msunduzi Municipality comes from the uMgeni /uThukela Water catchment system; therefore, The Umgeni-Uthukela Water Board has implemented water curtailment throughout Msunduzi Municipality, to reduce the volume of water abstracted from the uMgeni system.

The average abstraction amount from the System over the past 12 months amounts to 219 MI/d. This value will have to be reduced to 197MI/d which is a reduction of 22 MI/d in order for Umgeni-Uthukela Water Board to meet the conditions of the Water Use Licence of 470 million m³/annum. This will mean a reduction on the current sales and abstraction volume of 10.04%.

The curtailment is aimed at enabling continued water availability, including during periods of below-average rainfall. The risk of not enforcing the abstraction limit is that, in the event of a drought, there may not be enough water in the system for uMgeni-uThukela Water to consistently supply Msunduzi Municipality with a reliable water source.

The pressing issue of escalating water demand has already resulted in water shortages in various parts of Msunduzi. The demand far exceeds the available supply, and we continue to urge all stakeholders—both our residential and business customers—to collaborate with us in addressing this challenge. Factors contributing to the high water usage include rapid urbanization, aging infrastructure leading to leaks, and illegal connections.

The water curtailment is critical in ensuring long-term water security and lowering overall demand. The reduction is being carried out in accordance with the directive from the Department of Water and sanitation and a long-term strategy that was recently adopted by the Msunduzi Municipality. Throughout this process, our teams from water services will be monitoring the system, managing excessive demand and making overall improvements to the system.

As the leadership of the city, we want to apologise to the residents of the CBD, Northern and surrounding areas for the water outages they experienced over the weekend. We assure residents that the water curtailment is not water shedding where there will be a schedule for water cuts at in certain areas and at certain times. However, the purpose of curtailing water, is to avoid a water crisis by bringing down the total volume of water used in a controlled manner. As a proactive and preventative measure, and in order to ensure that our residents are not negatively impacted, the city will be implementing the following measures:

- Installation of restrictors in water metres to consumers
- Reduction of pressure in the reticulation network
- Physical consumer restrictions
- Removal of illegal connection



MAYOR CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY IN STYLE AS HE HANDS-OVER SCHOOL UNIFORM, LAPTOPS



As part of his birthday celebration, his Worship the Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla, along with Ward Councillor T. Zondi and external sponsors, visited Sibongamandla Junior Primary School in Ward 22. They handed over uniforms to ten students in need and provided two laptops for the principal and school through a joint collaboration.

During the visit, the Mayor held a question-and-answer session, rewarding the children with gifts for their participation. He emphasized the importance of a strong educational foundation and the significant benefits it brings for their future.

"We came here to celebrate and give back as an appreciation of life and to share my birthday with the kids," he remarked.

MUNICIPALITY RECEIVES APPLAUSE FROM COGTA



Municipality Mayor Cllr Thebolla welcomed government officials on an engagement between the municipality and COGTA at the Council Chamber, City Hall. This engagement looked specifically into matters of service delivery.

The Portfolio Committee on Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs addressed reports as submitted by the auditor general with regards to the overall functions of Msunduzi Municipality.

The Municipality was applauded for its recovery plan that has resulted in an increased revenue collection. This recovery plan has also seen the city addressing irregular expenditure in financial year 2023/24. COGTA further noted that recruitment processes of senior management positions have been finalised.

During the oversight visit by the portfolio committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COTGA), a community engagement session was held at the City Hall.

The engagement aimed to foster communication between residents and officials, ensuring that their voices are heard in the decision making process.



THE DEMARCATION BOARD AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT SUMMER PLANNING WORKSHOP



Speaker Cllr Majola hosted The Demarcation Board and Disaster Management Summer Planning Workshop held at the Council Chamber, City Hall. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the process of the delimitation of wards for the 2026 Local Government Elections (LGE). This workshop was a crucial platform for discussing ward delimitation processes and challenges. Ward councilors engaged in comprehensive planning to ensure effective responses to potential hazards, and the event aimed to foster collaboration between key stakeholders in both fields.

Session 2 of the workshop focused on Disaster Management Preparedness for the upcoming summer season. This session aimed to equip local municipalities with the operational requirements necessary to ensure functional and effective disaster management systems. The session emphasized the importance of proactive planning and implementing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures that will contribute to long-term community safety and preparedness during the summer season.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, MUNICIPALITY COMMEMORATE WORLD NO ALCOHOL DAY



Above: The Municipality Speaker Majola attended an event by the National Department of Social Development, to commemorate World No Alcohol Day. Issues pertaining to alcohol abuse took centre stage, as the department of social development and other stakeholders had representatives took to the stage to address issues affecting communities within Msunduzi as a result of alcohol and drug abuse.

READING IS A PASSPORT TO COUNTLESS ADVENTURES

The Area-Based Management (Vulindlela) handed over mobile library facilities, donated by Mancosa, to Dindi Primary School in Ward 6.

This initiative highlighted the importance of investing in books to cultivate future writers and highlights the value of literature in education. Students from KwaMsinga Primary, now published authors, presented their book titled "KwaMsinga Primary School Through the Eyes of Children," showcasing the impact of these programs and encouraging their peers to embrace reading for knowledge expansion.

In his closing remarks, Ward 6 Councillor Madonda expressed gratitude for the mobile library and the dedication of the organizers. He also donated 200 school jerseys to the students, further supporting their educational journey.





CALL CENTRE EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN AN INTENSE TRAINING WORKSHOP



Above: The Municipality's call centre employees attended a workshop, where they received training on a new system that will be implemented to improve the daily operations of the call centre.

SOUNDS OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FILLED CITY DURING THE MSUNDUZI DIWALI FESTIVAL

Amidst the rain, the Msunduzi Diwali Festival shined brightly at the Golden Horse Casino Grandstand Area, bringing Light and Hope to the City of Choice.

His Worship the Mayor, congratulated the participants and winners of the floating parade that took place from the City Hall.

"In our diversity, we find strength and unity, lighting the path towards a brighter future. As we celebrate 30 years of democracy, we embrace the spirit of hope that unites our communities. Thank you to the Midlands Hindu Society for your unwavering commitment and dedication for the betterment of our communities. May the festival bring happiness to our homes and illuminate our paths ahead." Said Mayor Cllr Thebolla.

The festival features an abundance of live entertainment, showcasing local musicians, singers, and dancers.

"Let's continue to grow the City of Choice, socially and economically".





LEARNERS DISPLAY A BURNING DESIRE TO BECOME FUTURE FIREFIGHTERS



The Municipality's Fire and Rescue Unit hosted Sithebe Primary School at a program aimed at sharing information on how to respond to fire incidents, and other preventative measures to ensure that children do not play with hazardous materials that can result in the occurrence of fire.

These learners engaged in fun activities, while being taken on lessons concerning the duties of fire fighters, and the overall operations of the municipal fire and rescue department.

Officials from the transport department were also available to demonstrate road safety tips.

CITY RALLY BEHIND PROVINCIAL GOLDEN GAMES FINALISTS



His Worship the Mayor Thebolla, officially sent off the finalists for the provincial Golden Games that were set to take place in Mandeni until the 6th of October. "I'm here to wish you the best of luck. Don't forget to come back with trophies!" the Mayor encouraged the senior citizen competitors.



MUNICIPALITY SENDS STERN MESSAGE THROUGH AGGRESSIVE JOINT OPERATION

The Senior Manager Public Safety, Sandile Zondi led a brief joint infringement operation in Pietermaritz Street in an effort to instill municipal bylaws in the City. At least ten fines were issued to businesses that were trading without a license.





ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECTS TO RECOGNISE TRANSPORT MONTH



In celebration of Transport Month, the Mayor conducted a site visit to the ongoing construction on Church Street. The project involves milling and replacing the top layer of asphalt to improve the roadway, covering a distance of 1.3 km.

This initiative is part of the broader regeneration of the CBD and aims to reduce the risks associated with potholes, ensuring safer travel for residents.

“As part of the Transport Month celebration and 30 years of democracy, we are committed to providing the people of the city with a reliable transport network,” stated the Mayor.

MATRICULANTS GET A PEP TALK FROM DEPUTY MAYOR

At Smero Secondary School’s examination prayer, the Deputy Mayor, Ward Cllr Phungula, SAPS members, and other dignitaries gathered to encourage the Grade 12 Class of 2024 ahead of their final exams.



Warrant Officer Maphumulo from SAPS Plessislaer outlined a safety plan for “cross-nights” study sessions emphasizing the need for students to be vigilant, walk in groups, report suspicious activities, and avoid risky behavior.



A social worker also addressed the students, highlighting the importance of mental preparation and self-care during exams. She encouraged students to seek help for issues like substance abuse and directed them to mental health services available on Jabu Ndlovu Street.

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Mayor inspired students to stay focused and not be swayed by external factors. “Your future is in your hands, and your background does not determine your destiny. Study hard, and return to Msunduzi as experts so that we can sit together and solve our city’s challenges.”



Top performing learners received certificates and gifts to recognize their outstanding achievements. The day provided students with a powerful blend of support, advice, and motivation as they approach this crucial chapter of their academic journey.



LEARNERS ARMED WITH INFORMATION PRE- FINAL EXAMS



Area Based Management (ABM) in Vulindlela, in partnership with various stakeholders such as UKZN, Sappi, DUT, and local faith ministers, hosted a special Grade 12 Pre-Exam Prayer event.

The gathering aimed to provide support and guidance to students from Mtholangondo, Mpande, Zuzulwazi, Sbanesihle, and Qoqisizwe High Schools.

Cllr S. Makhaye also graced the event, delivering the purpose of the day and reinforcing the importance of education and perseverance.



In addition to the prayer, students received valuable career advice to help them navigate their future beyond matric. Special guests were present, adding to the significance of the event, as they motivated and encouraged learners to excel in their upcoming exams.



The Annual Amashova Durban Classic Race took off from the City Hall to Durban. The Mayor wished all participants a good and safe race.



CITY WELCOMES FIRST LEG OF MARTZBURG SHOW



Municipal senior officials visited the Pietermaritzburg Showgrounds, where the Maritzburg Show took place this year. The Municipality is amongst a number of stakeholders who invested in this event, and the City had done thorough preparations for the Maritzburg Show which invites a number of exhibitors, artists and boast endless entertainment.

Learners from local schools were eager to explore the different exhibits, learning about how the municipality works and the various services it offers to the community. Their curiosity and enthusiasm filled the space as they interacted with the displays and asked insightful questions.

MUNICIPALITY ATTEMPTS TO ADDRESS WATER OUTAGES

The Deputy Mayor and Infrastructure Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Cllr Mkhize, along with other councillors, visited Morcom Road, Caluza, Smero, and the Ashdown Upper reservoir to investigate the ongoing water shortages affecting residents in these areas. "We have been actively engaging with Umgeni-Uthukela Water to address this pressing issue. Our municipality's water department is also on board, working tirelessly to find swift solutions to the water outages," said Deputy Mayor Mkhize. This visit is part of our continued effort to restore reliable water supply for all affected communities. A dedicated team will be working around the clock to ensure that every resident receives the water they need.



SAFETY ASSESSMENTS EXTINGUISHED TO REDUCE FIRE DISASTERS



The Municipality Disaster Management, in collaboration with the internal Fire Department, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Disaster Management Centre), uMgungundlovu District Municipality, Department of Education, Department of Health, the South African Weather Service (SAWS), Old Mutual, Santam, and the Durban University of Technology, hosted an informative and practical safety assessment event at Peter Pan School (LSEN).

Hon. Cllr Msimang expressed sincere gratitude to all participants, particularly the special needs schools that were invited. She highlighted that the event, held in October, marked the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) 2024. Cllr Msimang emphasized the importance of educating people with disabilities, especially children, on how to respond to disasters, ensuring they are included in disaster preparedness programs. The event featured "edu-tainment," with special needs schools showcasing talents in dance, poetry, singing, and piano.

The program aimed to teach learners how to recognize dangerous weather signs, while also providing fire safety education through demonstrations and exhibits.



MUNICIPALITY ENGAGES WITH TAXI INDUSTRY



The Deputy Mayor who is also Chairperson Infrastructure Services Portfolio Committee , along with Madam Speaker and officials from the Msunduzi Municipality, had an engagement with Msunduzi taxi associations at Grange Hall to discuss the Msunduzi IPTN Project.

The municipality has been readmitted to the IPTN project, which aims to provide integrated, sustainable, accessible, and affordable public transport in collaboration with the taxi industry. This engagement focused on reintroducing the project to the associations and outlining its benefits.

Ongoing processes are in place to ensure proper procedures are followed.

LAC, LTT ADDRESS SOCIAL ILLS

Political Office Senior Manager Zondi chaired a Local Task Team and Local AIDS Council meeting at Imbali Community Hall, Unit 1.

In attendance was Cllr Vusi Ngwenya, the municipality’s human settlement unit, Vusi Ngenywa, the Human sciences Research Council(HSRC), officials from Mbalenhle and Harry Gwala health care centers, the science and innovation department etc. The discussion addressed the importance of community centers in providing comprehensive care and officials provided reports on how task teams are implementing programs to address HIV/AIDS in the local communities.

This engagement also discussed access to healthcare services including medical, social, and support programs and initiatives aimed at preventing and reducing stereotypes against those living with HIV/AIDS.

The discussions also emphasised that there needs to be more educational and awareness programs that will allow different departments to reach targeted groups in communities so that people receive more information on HIV/AIDS and the importance of staying on treatment to prevent a further spread of the disease.

“Thank you to all stakeholders for this engagement as it allowed us to address pressing issues facing our communities”, said Cllr Ngwenya.





ELANDSKOP INNOVATION CENTRE TO STIMULATE YOUNG MINDS



The 14 October 2024 marked a significant milestone for the community of Elandskop with the grand opening of the Elandskop Innovation Centre, an inspiring initiative spearheaded by Deputy Mayor Cllr Mkhize.

This center is dedicated to bringing technology closer to the people, providing essential resources and opportunities for education that will empower our youth and enhance community development.

In his heartfelt keynote address, the deputy mayor spoke about the pride he feels in giving back to the community that nurtured him. He emphasized the importance of making education accessible to all, highlighting that this innovation center will serve as a hub for learning, creativity, and technological advancement.

This center will be free to use and will serve the entire community, offering resources for CV writing and additional support. It will be open to all community members from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, it will cater specifically to learners.



In celebration of 30 Years of Democracy, we are honoring the heritage sites that played a vital role in our journey to freedom within uMgungundlovu District. A roving bus tour, led by the Government Communication and Information System, is traveling across the country to highlight this milestone.

As part of the initiative, students from a rural school in KwaShange were selected to participate, recognizing the challenges they face in accessing information. They learned about Nelson Mandela, a key figure in the fight for freedom, and visited significant sites like the Mandela Capture Site and the Old Prison Museum. This experience aims to deepen their understanding of our history and inspire a sense of pride in our democratic achievements.



BESSIE HEAD LIBRARY COLLABORATE TO HOST NOZINCWADI INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL



The Library Special Project Organizing Committee (LSPOC), in collaboration with Nozincwadi (Mother of the Book) and Gcinamasiko (Art and Heritage Trust), KwaZulu Natal Museum hosted the Nozincwadi International Storytelling Festival at City Hall.

Dr. Gcina Mhlophe welcomed guests from around the world who came to celebrate the event, as well as students from various primary schools and other stakeholders. She highlighted the importance of reading and learning through books.

The event aimed to inspire both students and teachers to foster a love for reading and learning, helping to expand their knowledge and nurture young minds through literature and storytelling. The festival featured entertainment, with performances from different schools showcasing their talents, and included storytelling in multiple languages. The Nozincwadi International Storytelling Festival was a resounding success, blending education and entertainment.

HOUSING PROJECT RECEIVES A NOD FROM INKOSI YASE MAQADINI



The Mayor and Cllr. M Mkhize visited Inkosi yaseMaqadini in Inanda, accompanied by officials from the municipality's human settlements unit.

The purpose of their visit was to seek authorization and bring in local traditional leadership for a new housing project and to discuss the upcoming housing development planned for Ward 39, upon which the land is owned by Inkosi yaseMaqadini. This initiative aims to address local housing needs and improve living conditions in the area.



CITY REMEMBERS LATE ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR



The commemoration of the Italian prisoners of war who died in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal was held at the Mater Divinae Gratiae Church.

This programme commemorates the Italian prisoners of war who passed away in KwaZulu-Natal during World War II and recognizes the historical ties between Pietermaritzburg and Italy. Following the war, when the POW camp closed in 1946, the grounds and Mater Divinae Gratiae Church, where many of these Italian soldiers were buried or honored, within Msunduzi Municipality.

Councillor Phungula highlighted Pietermaritzburg's rich heritage and its enduring international connections, particularly with Italy. This commemoration is part of the municipality's efforts to preserve and promote historical ties, making the city a focal point for heritage tourism and fostering international relations.



MSUNDUZI FOSTERS RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND INDIA



His Worship the Mayor welcomed Consul General Dr. Thelma John David of India to the City Hall to explore ways of strengthening the relationship between India and South Africa through collaboration with the city. "We discussed several initiatives, particularly in skills development, providing opportunities for our students to study in India, exchange programs, training, and capacity building, as well as fostering connections between our communities," said the mayor.



TRADITIONAL GAMES TO INFLUENCE BETTER CHOICES

The Municipality Library Service's Special Project Organising Committee (LSPOC) partnered with the Next Level Youth Movement to host a Morabaraba Game event at the Bessie Head Library.

This initiative aimed to engage and develop young minds, demonstrating that anyone can participate in the Morabaraba Game. By promoting strategic thinking and creativity, the program also encourages learners to stay mentally active and avoid negative influences.





SERVICE DELIVERY IN PICTURES

