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Deputy Mayor encouraged maidens to continue preserving their virginity and to pride themselves in setting an example of good behaviour in their communities.

DM Mkhize was addressing girls who were heading to KwaNongoma, eNyokeni for the annual reed dance that takes place annually in September.

Deputy Mayor, Municipal Manager and other officials gave a message of support to the maidens, adding that the municipality was proud to sponsor the trip to eNyokeni, so that the girls focus on going there to represent their communities.

"I want to also applaud the women who encourage our girls to be a part of this initiative, they instill discipline in our children, they will grow up to be dignified women of tomorrow", DM Mkhize



PIETERMARITZBURG HIGH SCHOOL REUNION 2023

Deputy Mayor Mkhize attended a media briefing for Pietermaritzburg High School reunion by Zazi media in partnership with various stakeholders.

This prestigious event was held at Woodburn stadium on the 16th of September 2023, with the goal of bringing people together, expand professional networks and share memories of student life in a fun setting.

"This event is the first of its Kind" said Msunduzi Municipality Deputy Mayor Cllr Mxolisi Mkhize. "It will host everyone who previously attended Pietermaritzburg schools. We expect highly esteemed individuals from businesses to political activists, high profile artists and many people from all the corners of the city".

"We would like express gratitude to Zazi Media and its Partners which includes CMH Nissan Pietermaritzburg for showing your support to this initiative. This year marks the City's 185th anniversary, let's make it memorable by attending this event in large numbers", urged the Deputy Mayor.

Msunduzi Municipality was at the forefront of supporting such initiatives as they contribute to tourism and local economic development.



NEW ESTATE HOUSES TO BE BUILT AT HESKETH ESTATE IN LINCOLN MEADE

A special SOD turning was held by Mayor Cllr Thebolla and Deputy Mayor Mkhize to mark the start of construction on 40 new estate houses at Hesketh Estate in Lincoln Meade, part of the City of Choice facelift.

The Mayor congratulated the team for coming this far and also positioned the project as a catalyst project that will enhance the city's economy as well as give the people of Pietermaritzburg a safe place for growing families and create a vibrant environment for residents. "We are not the City of Choice for nothing, this is one of the projects we pride ourselves with as it will contribute to growing and retaining lot of businesses in the city and also help residents with a vibrant environment stay, shop and unwind." said Thebolla.

The Mayor also assured the public that the municipality will strongly provide services as required.



SALVATION ARMY PRAYS FOR MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY



The Salvation Army held its Territorial Officers Council at City Hall. Part of the programme was a Special Prayer for Msunduzi Municipality by the organisation led by Colonel Fikile Khoza. The prayer was to bless the leadership of council and the municipality as a whole in order to carry out its work in delivering service delivery to the people. Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mxolisi Mkhize delivered the words of welcome to the Salvation Army and welcomed the prayer and blessings.

MAYOR THEBOLLA WELCOMES MISS WORLD FINALIST



Mayor Thebolla met with Pietermaritzburg born, Miss World SA Finalist, Ms Alyssa Joan Smith. She expressed plans to do a lot of community work for an orphanage in her area, Woodlands, and hoped the Mayor would support her cause so she can reach out to more community orphanages in need.

"We support you and we wish you all the best, bring it home." The Mayor said.

PUBLIC PLACE AND STREET NAMING PROCESS

The Municipality has been visiting different wards to engage with residents about the Public Place and Street Naming Process. A total of 103 roads are to be named. This project is 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 the 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.

Msunduzi Municipality 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.

Residents are then advised to look out for these names which will be published by the Municipality followed by a 30 day window period to object or approve proposed names.



SPRINGBOKS FAN EXPERIENCE



Pietermaritzburg - Donda Africa in partnership with Msunduzi Pietermaritzburg Tourism Association hosted the Springboks Fan Experience - Fan Park at SANBI Botanical Gardens, supported by Msunduzi Municipality.

"We are the City of Choice for everything! Entertainment, sports, music, you name it. We are happy to be supporting these initiatives where the people of the City of Choice can come together and enjoy themselves in this setting." Said Mayor, Cllr. M Thebolla during the fan park where the South African rugby team, springboks, won their first World Cup 2023 match against Scotland. "We will continue to realise our Vision of Pietermaritzburg being a vibrant city as celebrate its 185 years of existence."

SPEAKER'S OFFICE ENGAGES WITH WARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Officer of The Speaker in partnership with the Youth Centre had an engagement with ward committee members, who are also considered youth representatives to discuss matters involving the youth in different wards.

This engagement was to look at issues affecting young people, and to further provide a job preparedness workshop so that ward committees members are able to tackle challenges facing young people in their respective wards. Office of The Speaker's Manager, Mr. Madlala mentioned that on behalf of Speaker Cllr Majola they are thankful and acknowledge the role of ward committees who accordingly represent the youth in the Municipality and who are able to put forward issues affecting young people.



MSUNDUZI TOURISM HOSTS SOCIAL FRIDAYS



In celebration of Heritage Day, Msunduzi Tourism hosted Social Fridays, providing a tour of landmarks in the City. A short briefing was held in Tourism Hub after which the group proceeded to the first stop which is the iconic City Hall

SALVATION ARMY VISITS SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

The Salvation Army visited the municipality's shelter for the homeless project on Havelock Road where the champion of the project Infrastructure Portfolio Committee Chairperson Deputy Mayor Mkhize presented the project and its purpose of housing, rehabilitating and helping the youth get off the streets and after completing the course be assisted in being re-integrated into society.

The Municipality is providing the infrastructure and services while various NGOs under the Homeless Network and other stakeholders will provide the various services for the youth required in their rehabilitation course. The Salvation Army has committed to working with the Municipality in providing assistance in the project



WARD 1 YOUTH ASSISTED WITH TERTIARY APPLICATIONS



The Municipality's ward 1 in KwaMpumzuza hosted a University and TVETs application drive. Stakeholders from different universities came out to assist young people with their application processes following a Career Expo held previously for the youth of Ward 1. Those who lack the means to apply used this drive to get support and assistance to find a space in TVETs and universities.

"We want to deal with the famous Triple Challenge, Unemployment, Poverty, and Inequality. We felt we should bring the services closer to our ward" said Cllr Khululekani Msomi.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY CELEBRATION

In celebration of International Day of Democracy (15 September) the Bessie Head Library has hosted a film screening of the film 'Storm Lake' at the American Corner.

Guests engaged in a question and answer session with Guest Speaker Alumna Ayanda Melansi from Gagasi FM on Press Freedom and why protecting media freedom is a critical component of a healthy democracy.

Ms Melansi spoke on protecting media freedom which is being able to write factually on a topic as being in the media industry means serving the public and it is important to put out material that is truthful. "In every story there are two sides and then there is the truth," said Ms Melansi.



MAYOR, MUNICIPAL MANAGER VISIT PIETERMARITZBURG AIRPORT



In advance of the airport's annual licensing audit, the Mayor, Cllr Thebolla, Chairperson for the Sustainable Development Portfolio Committee, Cllr Sokhela and the Municipal Manager, Mr. Mapholoba, visited the airport. This visit aimed to check the airport's compliance with the law. Finance portfolio committee members visited the airport in March to address critical issues facing the airport, and some of those challenges have been resolved since then, such as water, electricity, and the coffee shop.

In terms of Civil Aviation Regulations, Pietermaritzburg Airport operates as a Category 6 airport, a regional airport primarily serving scheduled and non-scheduled flights.

In his remarks, the mayor expressed confidence in the airport's development and again reiterated that in order to ensure that this airport becomes more tourist-friendly and more friendly to all KZN travelers, it will only take the support of all relevant departments. In executing our mandate of the Pietermaritzburg airport, part of our responsibility is to ensure absolute accountability, such as ensuring compliance, safety, operational continuity, and extending the current operating model," said Thebolla.

INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), together with the Municipality and various stakeholders conducted a workshop program on Integrated Environmental Management in Sakhamuzi community hall at KwaDambuzza, Ward 21 which targeted the youth in line with Operation Sukuma Sakhe.

"We hope that through this program, all the stakeholders present will be able to assist our youth in every way possible and open their minds to new opportunities", said Cllr. S. Zuma as he gave an opening speech and welcomed everyone in attendance.

The purpose of this program was to provide the people of KwaDambuzza with information and opportunities for career advancement in environmental related fields while also raising awareness of environmental challenges and management.

The presentations from each department described their services, employment opportunities and ways that individuals might further their education



OPERATION SIYAHLOLA SITE VISIT

Deputy Mayor and Chairperson of Infrastructure Portfolio Committee Cllr Mkhize was joined by various departments officials from municipality and members of the ward committee in Ward 41 to conduct a site visit at Umbali Unit 14, 13, & 2.

This visit was made in order to carry out Operation Siyahlola, which was initiated by Msunduzi Municipality and would visit all 41 wards beginning with ward 41. The municipality carried out an inspection where each department identified challenges the ward is currently facing, following the identification of these challenges, each department will return to the drawing board, submit reports and then return in 2-3 weeks to address the challenges before moving on to another ward.

Amongst the issues noted were illegal dumping, a lack of water, illegal water connections, sewage problems, poor road infrastructure and the lack of drainage protection. Cllr Mkhize said, "We promise the community members that all the issues identified today, will be attended to and resolved."

The deputy mayor also said that this shouldn't simply be a formality, it should also work to resolve problems that our communities are facing.



UMEDA, OTHER STAKEHOLDERS DISCUSS ECONOMY AND TRADE IN AFRICA



UMEDA convened the Pietermaritzburg & Midlands Chamber of Business, Dept. of Trade, Industry and Competition, KZN EDTEA, NAFCOC and Msunduzi Municipality on growing the economy and trade in the African continent

MUNICIPALITY HOSTS BOTSWANA UNIFIED REVENUE SERVICES DELEGATION

A delegation from the Botswana Unified Revenue Services was hosted by the municipality's Finance Business Unit. The delegation engaged with the unit in order to benchmark and gain insights into the inner workings of finance management of the organisation



BOOK REVIEW SESSION

A Book Review session took place at the Msunduzi Bessie Head Library, where *God Woman* and *Good Girl Gone Bold* books were reviewed.

The writers of these books Nomonde Ndlovu and Ongeziwe Jaka introduced these phenomenal pieces of literature to the audience, explaining their journey as young female writers while emphasizing that there is still enough space for more people especially women who aspire to be published writers.



MAYOR THEBOLLA HANDS OVER MEDALS TO SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

City of Choice - KwaZulu Natal descended on Pietermaritzburg on the 9 - 10 September 2023, the swimming world was in Msunduzi as KZN Aquatics and uMgungundlovu District Aquatics Association hosted the KZN Junior Swimming Champs at Joliffe Pools.

His Worship, the Mayor, Cllr Mzi Thebolla was present to catch all action and handover medals to the winning swimmers.



LIBRARY SERVICES CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY



Municipality Library Services with various stakeholders conducted an International Literacy Day celebration program and handed over shelves and books to KwaMsinga Primary School.

This event aimed to remind the learner's of the significance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, as well as to raise awareness and concern for literacy issues that exist within KwaMsinga Primary School.

Books and shelves were donated to the school as part of honoring this day and to develop their literacy.

Ward Councillor Cllr. Mr. K. Madonda expressed gratitude to the stakeholders involved for investing their time and effort in making the event successful, advancing the school and assisting it in overcoming some of its current challenges.



LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM ENGAGEMENT

A Msunduzi Local Development Forum took place at the Bessie Head Library. Different businesses that were invited conducted presentations on the type of products and services that they offer.

The engagements that followed looked to discuss how to source funding, business mentorship, the role that can be played by women and youth in the business sector and how the public sector can also assist by offering financial services to small businesses. The Municipality's LED unit also did a presentation on the Msunduzi Municipal Employment Initiative Fund.



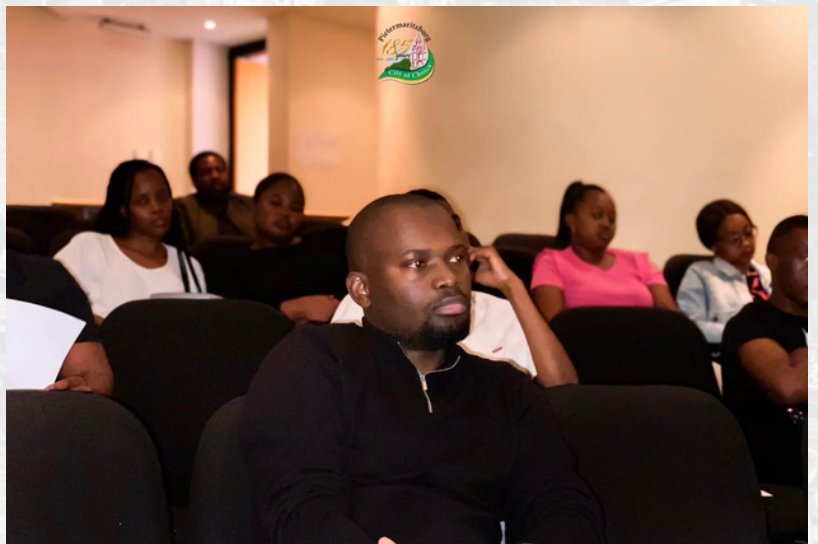
IMBALI YOUTH ENTERPRISE PARK ENGAGEMENT

The Sustainable Development and City Entities Development Services held a special planning session to discuss the Imbali Youth Enterprise Park (IYEP).

The purpose of the session was to discuss the ways going forward in terms of the functionality of IYEP and attracting new investment into IYEP in order to ensure that it is a success.

Amongst the topics discussed was attracting investments, agreements, issues of electricity, water, and maintenance of the park.

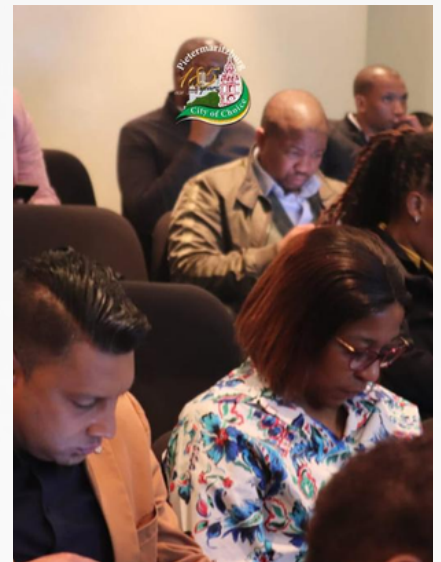
It's was decided that weekly meetings would be held to discuss possible solutions and ideas for challenges that are currently faced by the IYEP as well as advertising for an advisory board to oversee the implementation of plans and ideas.



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.



LIBRARY SERVICES HOSTS HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION

Msunduzi Library Services: Southern Branches in partnership with Ofeleba Traditional Group hosted a Heritage Day Celebration in Elandskop at KwaMafunze Hall. Learners who are on school holidays participated in the celebrations showcasing traditional Zulu dance. The event was part of a two day celebration with the second day hosted on the 30th at KwaMafunze Sportsground.



TOURISM UNIT QUARTERLY ENGAGEMENT

The Tourism Unit hosted their quarterly tourism forum meeting chaired by Executive Councillor Ntombizethu Sokhela (Portfolio Chairperson: Sustainable Development and City Entities). The engagement session was aimed at reconnecting the sector and re-shaping the current state of tourism in the city and how to move the city forward in terms of tourism recovery. Repositioning Pietermaritzburg as a preferred destination. Various challenges plaguing the sector were acknowledged and Manager: Tourism stated that, in order to overcome those challenges, there had to be a joint and coordinated effort between the Municipality and the Tourism sector.



GANDHI PEACE WALK

The peace walk through the city of Pietermaritzburg took place on the 1 October 2023. The peace walk commemorates and Celebrates the birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the Mahatma. The Peace Walk takes place annually and peace lovers walked from the Old Prison to the statue of The Mahatma and then to the Railway Station.

The program is hosted by the Pietermaritzburg Gandhi Foundation. The occasion was graced by the presence of the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mkhize, Minister Shri Teli from India, Consul General of India, Dr Thelma David, Mr Gengan and over hundred peace lovers.

"We pray that every step taken during the walk brings peace and harmony to the city and the citizens."



CITY OFFICIALS SUPPORT CRICKET HOME GAME

The International Cricket Match between the Proteas Women's Team and New Zealand took place at the Pietermaritzburg Cricket Oval stadium.

Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mkhize was in attendance and was welcomed by CEO of KZN Inland Cricket Mr. Jason Sathiaselan and President of KZN Inland Cricket Mr. Shaun Van Der Byl. The Deputy Mayor said more still needs to be done to promote these games, so that people especially within the City can come in their numbers to support home games.



SERVICE DELIVERY IN PICTURES

